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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session - Cent soixante-trois session -
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Sixty-Third Session Cent soixante-troisième session 163.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 2-6 December 2019 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019</p>
<p>FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>2 December 2019</p>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:45 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

I call the First Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this Session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. Furthermore, the European Union will be participating in the Drafting Committee in accordance with the aforementioned paragraphs of Article II of the FAO Constitution and, on matters within its competence, will be exercising, on an alternative basis, the Membership rights of the European Union Member States elected to the Drafting Committee.

The declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document *CL 163/INF/3*.

Allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Director–General, Dr Qu Dongyu, who is taking part in his first FAO Council after being elected by the Conference in June 2019. Since he took office in August, there can be no doubt that we have all felt the positive energy that he has brought to the halls of FAO.

The recent meetings of Council Committees have also displayed a new form of open dialogue, built upon the drivers of transparency, shared accountability and innovation. As a result, I am sure a positive sense of opportunity will also permeate our discussions during the Council.

Indeed, with regard to innovation, I am pleased to announce that for the first time at FAO, this week Council Members will benefit from information sharing by means of a new Mobile Application which has been developed by the Secretariat.

Dr Qu is the fifth Director–General that I will have had the honour to work with over my 50 years at FAO. Already in his 100 plus days in office he has shown us his eagerness to engage with both staff and Members to understand their priorities and expectations of FAO. In addition, he has brought a much needed sense of renewal to the Organization; I would know, I have been here a long time.

It has been a remarkable start and I am certain that with his determination and relentless energy, he will continue to bring the constructive changes that the Organization needs.

It is my honour to invite him to address the Council.

DIRECTOR–GENERAL

I welcome you to the 163rd Session of the FAO Council. It is my pleasure to be here with you today as Director–General of FAO.

Since being in this office, time has been busy and flying. Let me provide Council with a brief update on decisions, activities and initiatives taken in the past four months in office. Today is just the fourth month.

I will start with our biggest initiative, so far: the Hand–in–Hand Initiative. It is an evidence–based, country–led and country–owned Initiative to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, eradicating poverty and SDG 2, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition in the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, it also contributes to reaching all the other SDGs.

In addition to the *Information Note* and the technical documents we made available, the Council will receive further explanations and clarifications about the different aspects of this Initiative during this Session from myself and my Senior Representatives.

Let me just share with you some fundamental points:

The Hand–in–Hand Initiative is fully in line with the UN Development System Reform (UNDS). The Initiative contributes to the integrated approaches of UNDS Reform by achieving greater cooperation and deepening partnership among many actors across the UN System along with the private sector,

civil society and academic institutions.

This is a logical consequence to the Initiative's vision of addressing areas of food and nutritional security, trade, agro-food systems and agro-value chains, as well as areas of protracted crises. It provides a technical foundation by bringing in a full spectrum of tools for the UN to achieve what needs to be done.

The Initiative will complement ongoing major development activities and provide them with much needed data. In that aspect, we are already collaborating closely with some, like the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CADDP), and Central American Integration System (SICA) and are talking to many others. Even the private sectors, they are really interested in what we are doing now and offer to them.

The Initiative needs buy-ins from countries and partners. That's why it is called Hand-in-Hand. FAO will gather and present all the necessary data and information as a seed to start a process. This will then evolve into a system of collaboration with countries and donors, so that everyone has access to and ownership of the information. FAO is ready and able to play the role of promotor and facilitator.

The Initiative is also an engine for internal change. Its successful implementation will require breaking down silos and increasing efficiency. It will be a tool to focus and sharpen FAO's existing work to be more tangible and results-oriented at the country level.

I am confident that this Initiative will unleash the immense power of FAO to push forward international rural and agricultural development through a comprehensive approach and multi-partnership.

A number of measures were taken internally that focus on improving FAO governance, modernizing our methods of work and boosting staff morale. After an in-depth review of internal FAO administrative procedures, I approved the delegation of specific functions related to clearance and approval processes to the Deputy Director-General's (DDGs). The DDGs are my right and left hand, they should be empowered and also take responsibility.

I appreciate that you are willing to take on this role of responsibility together with me. As I said, FAO is not my own, it is owned by Member Countries and ran by my Senior staff, and supported by all staff. This substantial delegation of authority is sound management. It introduces a much needed modern understanding of accountability to the Organization.

Accountability and transparency are two sides of the same coin. We have therefore worked hard at improving transparency within FAO, starting from a revamped web page, where all my meetings, interactions and speeches are already publicly available. In due time, within half an hour, or within one day for speech.

I will ask my Senior staff to follow my lead as well, so that means Director level 1 (D1) and above, all activities and travels, they should put their reports on the web later. Then you do not need to ask the Office of the Director-General (ODG) or relevant departments for that.

You can search what they are doing and talking about, so it is visible to the Member Countries. This is what we call the Crowd Power, it is real power. All the crowds, all the Member Countries; the farmers, they can visit the website to see what they have done travelling to the Middle East for example, what they said and what they did there, and how many meetings they had there.

If one sleeps there, and has no meetings, then you will make an adjustment, and then we will have a real 360 degree evaluation by Member Countries. It is a big step to revamping the webpage. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the new FAO homepage was launched yesterday. If you visit the page today, it is different from others. We used interactive technology and there you can add more new information at a certain time. The information is automatically updated. December 1 is important for International HIV/AIDS Day, but it is also important for FAO's website and it is the starting day of Digital FAO. The new website, which will follow in the next months, will introduce FAO, its mandate and major activities to the broad public in a more modern and attractive way along with more involvement and promotion of Member Countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all the Member Countries here, if you want to promote your products, your beautiful villages, your experience-sharing, or support documents with a beautiful photo, share them with the Office of Corporate Communications (OCC) and Information Technology Division (CIO) or ODG. They will put them up in a proper way. They will have a structure for you or room for you to promote and be involved.

To our Member Countries and other stakeholders, the website will offer transparency and accountability for many of the projects and programmes we are working on. I will ask the departments to publish their ongoing projects, and their progress. For many years, that is what Member Countries have asked for. To build up accountability and transparency. Therefore, you will make your own judgment, you have experts from your country, internationally and nationally. What programmes are really good? Tangible, or not? With defined budgets.

All the project managers at FAO, they have to think, they have to deliver, what they have done. The global eyes are watching them.

The website will also give visibility to FAO's Senior leadership at the level of Assistant Director-General (ADG) and above. You see we will start publishing all *curriculum vitae* for DDG, ADG, as we start from the ADG and above. Maybe later we will bring in the Director level 2 (D2). Being a D2 is a big honor and also a bigger responsibility. You have to be responsible for your international image. This is key to creating an organizational culture of accountability and transparency as One-FAO, both intra and inter.

Boosting staff morale is another aspect I have been focusing on.

I have dedicated special efforts to ensure that the HR Senior Team is more professional, transparent and effective. You heard we have opened a Vacancy Announcement (VA) for Director of Human Resources (HR). It is at D2 level, I saw the shortlist and all of them at least five years of HR-professional experience. Then we will have two Professional level 5's (P5), Professional level 4's (P4), so with six to seven people who are real professionals. I will really trust them, and they can build up a real professional career and the quality to make sure FAO is a professional Organization.

We will also have a thorough look at HR processes and procedures. FAO needs to become a merit-based Organization, where experience is valued and favored. If you don't have enough experience it is not good, it is not good for the Organization, and not for yourself. We need to make it clear to staff that working hard has its merits: work hard and you will be recognized.

Staff need to see that there are chances for Career Development and Internal Promotion. We adapted maternity leave to the duration recommended by WHO and aligned long-range duty travel conditions with those of the UN System. We specifically considered the implementation at WFP, for example.

Young people are our future. They are catalysts for changes and help build a more dynamic FAO. We have established a Youth Committee charged with tapping into the potential of young employees to create a more dynamic workforce. This volunteer-based Committee of FAO staff, from Headquarters and field offices, is chaired by the Chief Economist, because he is the youngest Senior. The Executive Chief is from my Office.

On the International Day of Rural Women we launched the first-ever FAO Women's Committee, providing an inclusive, safe space that reflects the diverse and energetic nature of FAO's female workforce. The Women's Committee is chaired by DDG, Madame Semedo. Its Executive Chief comes from my office too.

Both Committees will play an important role internally, but also serve as bridges and new platforms on policy consultations with our Membership, ensuring that FAO's work on women and youth is made more visible and more helpful and more tangible to individuals and to Member Countries.

For the first time in FAO history, we have introduced an annual recognition and celebration of the diversity of FAO employees and of their contribution to our work around the world. The Organization will recognize 100 Employees and 100 Young Employees, before Christmas.

The selection of these colleagues is done through a selection committee and a currently on-going inclusive electronic poll as a reference, for the entire FAO workforce. That not only includes staff, it

also includes consultants and general staff and National Programme Officers (NPOs). It is a very inclusive recognition.

I am looking forward to 18 December, when we will celebrate those who will be recognized this year. We hope to have the UN Secretary–General, Mr Guterres with us at this event. We try our best, he will be here that week in Italy, in Rome and in other places. I am willing to try, because it will be the first time in the UN System. We want to celebrate our team, recognize outstanding contributions by individuals, and stress that every part of the work force is important.

Externally, we worked hard to strengthen collaboration with Member States, the private sectors, academia and civil societies; and to increase FAO's international engagement, visibility and reputation. Since 1 August, I have met global key players and leaders of Member Countries, either, here at FAO headquarters, or during my missions abroad.

In Japan, I attended the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development. I said to my friends, someone who helps Africa, is my real friend. That is why I made my first trip to Japan and where I met top Japanese officials and several African heads of state.

In Moscow, I met with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and other top officials and presented FAO's activities and initiatives. On the first day in history, Russia now they have the Russia–Africa Partnership, that is very good.

In Washington D.C., I had a series of meetings with national authorities including the United States of America's Secretary of Agriculture and his Senior staff. In the same visit, I also met with the Administrator of United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In a historical first visit of an FAO Director–General to Belgrade, I met the Prime Minister of Serbia and several Ministers.

I also participated in the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo, where I had interesting exchanges with the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Aid, Fisheries and other Members of the Norwegian Government.

In Beijing, I had a series of fruitful discussions with Chinese Ministers and Senior Officials, presenting our initiatives and exploring areas for future collaboration. Especially, we are designing COP15 next year, because, FAO was marginalized, and now we bring FAO back to that big stage.

I created a satellite meeting together with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and others from biodiversity to food diversity. I want to create a dialogue with the Agricultural Minister of Food and the Minister of Environment, because that meeting is supposed to have 70,000 participants. FAO should be there.

FAO also enjoys excellent relations with its host country Italy. I was pleased to be invited by Italy's Prime Minister only four days after starting the job. Prime Minister Conte also honored FAO by delivering the keynote speech on FAO's Birthday and World Food Day.

A few days ago, I had the pleasure of being invited by Italy's President of the Republic, to his residence. President Mattarella accepted my invitation to mark the 75th Anniversary of FAO and celebrate World Food Day next 16 October 2020 with us here at FAO headquarters.

I was also deeply honored by an invitation of the Pope to the Vatican, on my 100th day in office, where we had a very private inspiring conversation, looking eye to eye on so many issues that touch humanity as a whole. I felt energized and confirmed in my dedication to work and sacrifice for the noble goals of our Organization.

When I was participant at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, I was invited by the Chair Professor Von Braunto deliver a keynote speech. After that, the Holy Father had a special arrangement for me and it was very much appreciated.

I am happy to report that the Pope has accepted my invitation to attend the 75 year celebrations of FAO next year on FAO's Birthday and World Food Day. Because it is a big event for the UN to celebrate the 75th Anniversary, of course for FAO it is also the 75th anniversary. We are planning ahead.

Concerning our relation with the United Nations, I have always believed in the importance of FAO's role within the UN family. I have therefore participated at a number of UN events, including the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Chief Executive Board, the World Cotton Day at WTO in Geneva and I will attend the Inter-Agency Standing Committee this week.

Together with Dan, we are travelling in the evening and we will come back the next afternoon, because I promised you I will cover all the major activities for the Council Meeting here. At the same time, I have also promised the Under-Secretary Lowcock, it is the first time for an FAO Director-General to attend that meeting, so I did my best to keep that promise.

During these events and others, I have met several times with the leadership and Senior officials of the UN Secretariat and most Agencies and Organizations, including the UN Secretary-General Mr Guterres, twice, and the Deputy Secretary-General Ms Amina Mohammed.

In that respect, we are looking forward to playing a central role in the preparation for the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. I know a lot of Member Countries are interested and pay much attention on that. Still we are waiting for the announcement. Under the guidance of the UN Secretary General and in close collaboration with his Special Envoy.

As you can see, our outreach activities are energetic and fully engaged. Overall, I have met 20 Heads of State and Government, more than 40 Ministers, around 50 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, as well as about 40 Officials and Leaders of UN Agencies, and the Academy.

For FAO, this is an unprecedented number of meetings, interactions and encounters in such a short time span. A new wave from FAO has been emerging in the digital and the real world. That is why I want to send a signal to you. The new results-oriented business model of FAO puts emphasis on strong partnership with the private sector. This is clearly reflected in my strong engagement with the private sector since taking office.

On the margins of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, I met with representatives from major multinational companies, to outline the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which foresees an important role for partnerships with private-sector players.

We hosted Bill Gates at FAO's New York Office for in-depth discussions on concrete collaboration. He expressed his strong support and the readiness of his foundation to partner with FAO, particularly around big data and innovation.

In our effort to partner with the private sectors and work together on improving food safety knowledge, and promoting responsible agricultural value chains for more sustainable food systems, we signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) such as the ones with the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank FMO, and with the Chairman and CEO of Danone, France.

During my participation at the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I met with the Private Sector Mechanism to discuss concrete proposals to translate the Hand-in-Hand Initiative into actions.

We are also working on strengthening the close links of FAO with civil societies, academia and research institutions. I had interesting discussions with my friend, Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the University of Columbia, who delivered a lecture at FAO Headquarters.

Following excellent talks with Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum in Geneva, we are now preparing FAO's participation in Davos early next year.

I also had fruitful discussions with Dr Robert Bertram, Principal Scientist of USAID on future cooperation and potential synergy.

Since taking office, I met numerous academic and research institutions, including Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (CGIAR), the University of Wageningen, Mississippi University, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, as well as the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences etc.

At meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples, I underscored the importance FAO gives to

learning from each other and working together. We welcome the Initiative from Canada and other Members in creating the Group of Friends of Indigenous People and I reassure you of FAO's full support.

Raising FAO's profile as a knowledge center and promoting its global normative work on food and agriculture is among my top priorities. In New York, I signed a USD 28 million funding agreement with the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, to build more resilient food systems in protracted crises.

My visit to Washington D.C. was an occasion to hold a series of meetings with the World Bank Group and other International Financial Institutions to increase collaboration with FAO. These included the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Corporation, the Global Environment Facility, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In Oslo, I attended the signature of a EUR 40 million, five-year programme between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), where FAO will boost the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, the Caribbean Region and the Pacific.

In Beijing, I attended the Second Philanthropy Summit for Sustainable Development, where FAO received a donation of USD 15 million from the Ningxia Yanbao Charity Foundation. The donation will be used to establish a Joint FAO/Yanbao fund to support talent in agriculture and, in particular, facilitate research to achieve food security and nutrition.

As you can see, our outreach to the Private Sectors, Academia, and Civil Society is also an unprecedented approach for FAO, and we already see the first fruits of these concentrated efforts. We will definitely continue our outreach on an even larger scale, in line with FAO rules and guidelines.

Allow me now to turn to the proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). I have reflected the decisions and guidance of the Conference in the adjustments to the PWB 2020–21.

The proposed adjustments are based on the vision that I presented to you during my campaign, of building a dynamic, inclusive, transparent and efficient FAO, while remaining committed to the original aspirations, mandate and mission of the Organization.

As requested by the Conference, I have increased funding for FAO's work on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme for Codex, on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Additional resources are dedicated for mainstreaming biodiversity at FAO.

I have proposed a new Office for Innovation to consolidate and strengthen FAO's innovative spirit, including innovation of policy, science and technology, innovation of cooperation models, and capacity building.

I would like to underline that the creation of this office will not further erode the capacity of FAO's technical departments. It will just team-up synergy by breaking small silos. We need a more comprehensive team to face the challenges by innovation, which can even strengthen the technical departments.

The proposal reflects sound budgetary management within the context of a flat nominal budget, and will result in cross-fertilization of new knowledge, approaches and ideas.

Having a dynamic pool of changing experts will create fertile ground for the development of innovative methodologies, approaches and programmes across disciplines and sectors. The new Office will play a platform role to strengthen innovation of the FAO system, marshal international centers of excellence for innovation and build-up even closer cooperation with Member Countries.

There will be an increase and harnessing of FAO's knowledge and expertise, while promoting a more holistic and coordinated approach to addressing the complex and interconnected challenges facing agriculture and food systems, thereby facilitating the nexus approach to look at sustainability issues in an integrated manner. Through the rotating pool of experts' proposal we will also create a growing number of "innovation champions" who foster, promote and incentivize innovations.

I have also proposed a new Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to ensure that the special needs of these vulnerable populations and countries are met.

This overarching structure is aimed at coordinating existing resources, cutting across all technical departments and decentralized networks to ensure comprehensive attention to and a coherent approach towards SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs. The Office will unburden technical departments by allowing them to focus on their specific technical tasks related to SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, as the coordination, internal outreach and monitoring process across the Organization will be the responsibility of this new Office.

The two Committees that I have established, on youth and on women, will help drive women and youth career enrichment, engagement within FAO to achieve FAO's Strategic Objectives as well outreach to Member States. We can assist the Member States to establish a better policy on women and youth, especially in the rural areas.

I am also strengthening the Regional, Subregional and Country Offices in knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, to help decentralized offices further adopt a programmatic approach in their work and unleash their potential for problem-solution oriented service for Member Countries through a 360 degree evaluation. I would take the first trial of evaluation at the country level for Representatives of FAO to see what the certification is from Member Countries, relevant ministers and also FAO Headquarters. That is a 360 degree evaluation.

These measures aim to empower country offices to rise to the challenge and increase their energy, efficiency and self-determination.

Of course, I am also ensuring that we have efficient and effective oversight functions in place, as well as strong financial control and human resource management. Therefore, on one hand, we offer decentralized offices empowerment, on the other hand we establish a modern traceability. It is a model for risk management.

This is why I have added additional resources to the Office of the Inspector General, strengthened the Finance Division, established a post for the Ombudsman role, and proposed moving the Office of Human Resources under the Corporate Services department.

I am pleased to report that the funding required for the proposed changes is covered from cost savings and efficiencies. Exhibiting better performance will attract more additional support from key-players for both voluntary contributions and donations. No programmatic cuts were required nor is there any negative impact to the agreed programme of work.

I have presented to you my first set of proposals, and I look forward to Council approving the new organizational structure as well as the revised budgetary appropriations. In the next Council Session in June of 2020, an additional consistent proposal will be submitted containing further adjustments to FAO's Organizational Structure and the Programme of Work and Budget.

Allow me to stress that the Reform of FAO Management and structure is and will be crucial to the success of our mandate and mission. During my campaign I emphasized the need for FAO to focus on a number of actions.

Focusing on food security and targeted poverty eradication.

Focusing on weaknesses in tropical agriculture.

Focusing on bottlenecks by devoting more attention to dryland farming.

Promoting digital farming and digital rural development.

Promoting actions to improve agricultural environment for sustainable development.

All the actions, initiatives and measures taken so far as well as the proposals presented to you today are based on these fundamental goals. I already promised you what I read out in my campaign that I will take action to implement, step-by-step.

You will see, all in my scope. Maybe some is earlier and some is a little bit later. However, sooner or

later it will come. That is what your expectations are for me. All written down in my Manifesto, during my campaign. That Manifesto is not only my own, I consulted all over the world, about a thousand experts.

Now I can tell you, it is not my personal team, or idea. Because I know so many experts in the world. Personally, I got a lot of emails from them during my campaign. I also met 160 more Ministers and Vice–Ministers in the world, during the past four years. I have already talked to them about the concerns for your country and your area.

Together, we will eradicate hunger and improve the livelihoods of people through better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life. I am committed to improving our ways of working through even greater inclusiveness, efficiency and accountability thereby strengthening the Organization to serve Member Countries and work for consumers and farmers.

We are in the same boat. My success is your success and your expectations fuel my determination to achieve concrete results that bring real transformation in peoples' lives.

FAO's success means sustainable food systems, prosperity for farmers and a healthy planet for future generations.

Thank you very much for your attention. I am looking forward to your comments and suggestions, at any time during this week.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director–General for providing us with a comprehensive overview of your vision and your objective of bringing improvements in the Management and business processes of FAO, which would contribute, as you said, to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as well as introduce comprehensive accountability.

I open the floor if Members have any comments or questions on the Director–General's statement. The floor is open.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

It is a pleasure to be here and a very warm welcome to the Director–General for his first Council. I will be very brief.

As you said, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), it is very helpful to have the Director–General set out his vision and his plans. I wanted to focus on one particular part of that, and his commitment to improved transparency and accountability, it is very welcome. I very much look forward to reading about both his meetings and speeches and those of his Senior staff.

I would also like to request that FAO provides information on all of its projects, to make that more transparent as well. In particular, we would very much welcome financial and performance information on all of FAO's projects and we would welcome if that could be published on FAO's new website as well.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Quisiera agradecer al Director General por sus palabras durante su primera participación en una sesión del Consejo, y por haber compartido sus principales actividades en este lapso en su encargo. Su dinamismo y su ánimo de redoblar la lucha contra el hambre y malnutrición cuentan con todo nuestro apoyo. Las tareas en curso a favor del personal en cuestión de supervisión, la promoción de la tecnología en sus diversas formas y las iniciativas que ha propuesto, particularmente las de Mano de la mano, son elementos que refuerzan la confianza en la FAO.

Queremos que la FAO se mantenga como un referente en la lucha contra el hambre y en la promoción de la nutrición y las mejores prácticas agrícolas, y que ayude a los gobiernos a contar con las mejores

herramientas para el cumplimiento del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2 (ODS2) de la Agenda 2030. También, queremos que la FAO mantenga su universalidad apoyando a todos los países, desde los países en desarrollo, los Países en Desarrollo sin Litoral, los Pequeños Estados Insulares y también a los Países de ingresos medianos donde existen enormes retos, sobre todo en el ámbito de la nutrición.

En estas primeras semanas en el cargo, hemos tenido un diálogo fluido con el Director General. Estamos seguros que esta nueva relación continuará. Juntos tenemos que abordar varios desafíos, no solo los relacionados con el hambre, la nutrición y los sistemas alimentarios, sino también el contar con una FAO que esté apta para alcanzar sus Objetivos estratégicos que nos permita contar tanto con su asesoramiento científico y creación de estándares, al igual que sus valiosos Programas de Cooperación técnica, y poder contar con el poder generar resiliencia ante situaciones de emergencia de diversa índole y que su personal sea el mejor calificado.

Estamos seguros que contaremos con espacios para discutir con el Director General y su equipo, estos y otros retos.

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer la presentación del Director General en el que nos presentó sus iniciativas y actividades desarrollados en estos cien días de su gestión. Hacemos propicia la ocasión para expresar satisfacción por el documento de ajuste al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21 que refleja las orientaciones de la membresía en la pasada Conferencia, así como algunos de los compromisos asumidos con el Grupo latinoamericano en ocasión de los encuentros que tuvimos en el proceso de elección del secretario.

Destacamos y alentamos a la Secretaría a continuar con la mejora de la transparencia, la gobernanza interna y el fortalecimiento de supervisión y rendición de cuentas. Haciendo énfasis en el tema de la innovación, acogemos con satisfacción la iniciativa de crear una Oficina para la Innovación. Para la República Argentina es un tema esencial que, a través de esa oficina van a quedar reflejados todos los enfoques para alcanzar una agricultura sostenible en el marco de la FAO, y también todas las políticas e iniciativas para mejorar la moral del personal de esta Secretaría.

Por último, quisiéramos destacar también la última versión del documento Iniciativa Mano de la mano. Observamos con gran satisfacción que se ha incluido la mención a los países de ingresos medianos y que, en el futuro, se va a incluir a toda la membresía. Eso nos parece realmente muy loable y muy importante para nuestra región en general, y para Argentina en particular. Argentina también ha informado su disposición a otorgar la cooperación Sur-Sur y cooperación Triangular a un grupo de países de diferentes regiones. Así que, agradecemos los trabajos desarrollados hasta el presente por la nueva administración y manifestamos nuestra disposición para continuar colaborando en todo para desarrollar el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We appreciate FAO's Director-General for his introduction and we appreciate the Director-General's systematic presentation about his thinking of FAO. He took office four months ago and we have been witnessing his increasing communication and engagement with Member States and his improving internal Management.

Also, he proposed a Hand-in-Hand Initiative and has been working hard to make the Organization more transparent, accountable, inclusive and highly efficient. For this we really welcome all of this and we will work together with all Member States to continue to support the Director-General. We will firmly support him to perform his work.

China has always attached high importance to the cooperation with the United Nations (UN) FAO and we will increase the strength of our cooperation with FAO in the future. China supports the 2020-21 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) adjustment. We support the establishment an Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC), as well as the creation of an Office of Chief Scientists and Innovation, and the Biodiversity Cluster as well as FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative and other practical cooperation initiatives.

We are willing to work with Member States to make greater contributions to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals such as Zero Hunger and the eradication of poverty. We hope that through further in-depth discussions in the Council we can build more consensus and we can ensure better implementation of FAO's work, and achieve practical and concrete results.

M. Boumedienne MAHI (Algérie)

Ma délégation intervient à l'occasion de l'ouverture de cette session, premièrement, pour vous remercier de son excellente organisation, mais aussi pour souhaiter la bienvenue au Directeur général à sa première session du Conseil et rappeler qu'il fut élu sur la base d'un programme et d'engagements qu'il nous a révélés lors de sa campagne électorale.

C'est aujourd'hui avec grand plaisir que nous assistons, après quatre mois depuis son élection, à un état des lieux, une évaluation des premières décisions prises, premièrement, pour mettre en œuvre ces engagements et deuxièmement, donner une orientation beaucoup plus efficace à cette Organisation; l'on sait combien elle est importante pour les pays en développement, notamment les pays africains que ma délégation représente au sein de ce Conseil, aux côtés d'autres collègues africains; importante aussi pour mon pays, qui est pleinement engagé dans une réforme du secteur agricole, secteur primordial pour son développement.

J'ai suivi avec satisfaction, comme tous les membres de cet auguste Conseil, les premières décisions qui sont effectivement révélatrices d'une très bonne orientation. Nous soutenons celle-ci à travers le Directeur général, qui a engagé avec transparence une bonne gouvernance dans la gestion de son équipe, par la remobilisation de ses cadres et, comme il l'a si bien dit, leur responsabilisation.

Je dirais aussi que l'évaluation de tous les secteurs se base sur des critères donnant plus d'importance, dans la gestion interne, au mérite, ainsi qu'au renforcement du travail de la FAO avec les différentes organisations internationales et du système des Nations Unies de façon générale. Toutes ces décisions s'ajoutent à celle de la création des deux bureaux auxquels le Directeur général a fait référence, dont le bureau des petits États insulaires en développement (PEID), des pays les moins avancés (PMA) et des pays en développement sans littoral. À ce propos je souhaiterais que le Directeur général précise mieux si les pays en développement sont inclus dans ce bureau, ou si ce bureau sera spécifique aux PEID, PMA et pays en développement sans littoral.

Ainsi, à travers ces décisions, on ne peut que se réjouir et exprimer encore une fois notre soutien au Directeur général, en espérant que les jours, les mois qui viennent nous révéleront d'autres orientations et décisions en appui aux pays en développement.

Mon pays accorde une très grande importance au travail de la FAO. Le travail que nous avons déjà fait avec elle à travers les différents directeurs généraux, notamment votre prédécesseur, Monsieur le Directeur général, a été un travail très important. Nous souhaitons renforcer encore plus avec vous ce travail de coordination et voulons vous dire encore une fois que notre pays vous assure de toute sa confiance et de son soutien. Je suis sûr et certain que tous les pays africains se félicitent des résultats atteints jusqu'à maintenant, qui ne sont que les premiers indices.

Nous ne sommes pas encore dans le cœur de l'action, car vous êtes au début de votre mission, mais nous espérons que la FAO continuera d'appuyer et sera toujours d'un grand soutien aux pays africains qui ont vraiment besoin d'elle. Ma délégation sera sûrement appelée à intervenir lors du programme de ce Conseil, mais nous voulions vous communiquer notre sentiment, Monsieur le Directeur général, pour ces premiers travaux que vous avez accomplis.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Egypt would like to express its gratitude and appreciation for the detailed statement delivered by Dr Qu after assuming his duties and also in the first FAO Council after his election as a new Director-General of FAO.

Egypt would also like to assure you of our commitment to work closely with you, hand in hand, to fulfil your vision to make FAO a more dynamic transparent efficient Organization to better serve Member States in their endeavours to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 and SDG 2. Egypt supports your Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

In addition, we would also to welcome you Mr Director-General to Egypt very soon.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

We are also a Member of the Council, as the European Union.

Director-General we wish you a very successful first Council. We were also very pleased with the record of what you have been able to achieve within the first months of being in office.

I wanted to touch upon the issues that several colleagues have already being addressed. This question of transparency. The question of transparency it is fine and is very welcome for every thing that has already been done. We would also add to this transparency, the need to publish all the country programs and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with different organizations including the private sector. However, it would also be good to have a look into what the upcoming events are. Therefore, transparency does not only refer to past events, but also to having a kind of a vision of what you wish to do in coming weeks, what are the visits that you are planning, and what are the engagements that you are about to take.

The second point that I wanted to touch upon is the question of FAO's strategy. We have been in a strategy that ended up in 2019 and extended to 2020. We should be engaged in elaborating the new strategy for FAO for the coming two years. It would be good if we engage rapidly into this work and we try to align FAO's new strategy with Agenda 2030, with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to see how we collectively could contribute to the success of this global endeavour to eradicate hunger, and to fulfil what we have agreed all upon, in the United Nations (UN) under the SDGs.

Welcome and thank you very much for your presentation and we are looking forward to a successful Council.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Nigeria) (Observer)

We thank you Director-General for all you have been able to do since your arrival in Rome. The first 100 days, and the account you have given, gives us a clear understanding of what you want to do. Like you said, we have to do it together to succeed. Your success is our success and we all want to succeed.

FAO has come to a point where we must constantly remember that we are working for millions of people out there. The smallholders, the fisherfolks, name them so as to get a better life.

On behalf of the African Group, we want to fully support and appreciate knowing fully well all the necessary elements that will make us successful in Human Resources, in Decentralized Offices, and here at Headquarters. You have put in place some additional things that needs to be done and you have able to get some savings from the system.

We therefore support you fully for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) adjustment 2020–21. We support the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC) to give a better life to more people, ahead. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative is also new, and without doubt it is getting better understood, and in all probability it shall work into FAO programmes and all of us will see a better FAO. It is much appreciated and in-line with what is going on in the world to digitalize FAO in all its aspects. Doing that means a new culture and a new attitude.

Director-General, it is important, like you have said, to transform biodiversity into food diversity. Getting the Ministers of Agriculture, Ministers of Environment and Water Resources into a dialogue, so that we can get a better world.

Finally, we want to support and appreciate all that will be done in the different new committees you have established and of course, at the end of the day, the United Nations System, the Sustainable Development Goals, should be the success of all of sum.

The African Regional Group is in full support of what you are proposing, and working together we are determined to do.

Mr Ringson CHITSIKO (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe would like to thank the Director-General for not forgetting his promise during the campaign for election.

It is always the case with many people that campaign for office to immediately forget that once they are elected into those particular positions. Certainly, the call for an inclusive participatory and transparent Organization going forward is a position that is strongly supported, like the others have said, also by Zimbabwe.

Thank you very much Director-General and we are together going forward.

Mr Vincent Frerio BAMULANGAKI (Uganda)

I bring you greetings from Uganda. I want to use this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, for hitting the ground running and for the innovativeness he has started with at FAO. We appreciate his vision and the focus on building a dynamic FAO for a better world while remaining committed to the original aspirations mandate the mission of FAO.

Uganda welcomes the allocation of more funding to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and mainstreaming biodiversity at FAO.

We are glad that the guidance that we provided at the Conference in June has been incorporated in the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). We thank you your Excellency Director-General.

Uganda welcomes the structure and the programmatic adjustments presented to this Council. We appreciate the importance given to innovation as depicted in the creation of a new Office for Innovation. We are sure that it will be headed by a Chief Scientist.

There is no doubt that our world today has been connected to become one village by the driving force of science and innovation. It is science and innovation that is bringing us together more closely. We are glad that FAO is moving further to unleash the massive benefits and solutions that come with innovation.

Uganda commends the creativity of establishing an Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC). This office will go a long way in enhancing FAO's ability to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially SDGs 1 and 2. Of course, on this point, when I get a change later on during the course of the Council I will expand on it.

As I conclude, I want to make it clear that the few issues above, which I have just highlighted, do not diminish the importance of other issues presented by the Director-General.

Mr Hee-seog KWON (Republic of Korea)

My delegation wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu for his comprehensive presentation on the main programmes and the important housekeeping matters.

This is your first Council session since your assumption of the Director-General position. We recognise that thus far you worked with the enthusiasm to improve the *modus operandi* of the agency and instil transparency and accountability as you set out in your presentation. You also brought in the new idea of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to help achieve Zero Hunger of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030. We commend your noble efforts on this. Given the multifaceted and complicated nature of this important endeavor, many Council Members have been seriously deliberating this important issue. We hope that we could find an optimal fast forward on this important project in due course.

My delegation is confident that with your outstanding leadership this Council Session will be productive and fruitful.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (South Sudan)

South Sudan would like to appreciate the diligence of the new Director-General to manage his proposal within the overall approved budget level with regard to the proposed *Adjustments to the*

Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21.

We note that the establishment of the Office of Innovation may provide FAO with an educated structure to deal with more consistent and coherent scientific– and advanced–based approaches to agriculture in their complex relations with the different realms, such as healthy diets, sustainable food systems and climate change.

We support the Hand–in–Hand Initiative, which is designed to accelerate the importance of the 2020, as most of the developing countries are behind this schedule. Director–General, thank you very much for your support and your plan for 2020 and 2021.

CHAIRPERSON

I have no other request for the floor. I thank the Members and pass the floor to the Director–General for any comments he may have.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to start by saying thank you all for your questions, some guidance for me to go further and your encouragement for me to work hard for you.

It comes to transparency, as some Ambassador’s asked me, from the United Kingdom, from the European Union (EU) and others. For me I am a very transparent person. I want to build an FAO that is more transparent, by more traceability, by innovation, by digitalization. You will see how transparent.

Of course, we will start from the project, justification, implementation, project efficiency or assessment and then clean the whole story. Not only Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), you say you sign so many MoUs, but nothing is happening. I will put all the MoU on the web and after two years nothing is happening. Maybe the reason is we did not prepare well, or maybe you did not commit.

Therefore, it is bilateral. MoU with other organizations, with the private sector, should be traced a bit. Not 100 percent I know for sure, but we will push them to deliver and to do concrete things. As I said repeatedly, we design bigger and do concrete and better. That is always my philosophy.

Second, thanks for your support for the two offices. An Office for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Land Locked, and also, food crises countries.

We said that we are starting with the Hand–in–Hand. Hand–in–Hand, we are starting with vulnerable people in vulnerable regions first, and then we can come and move to the middle–income, and then we can move to the Europeans.

I said I want to build One–FAO. It is not just words, we can share a lot. Even European, United States of America, what is the future in 20 years later, for rural development. We need to learn from each other. Among Europeans, among the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) or among others. For that we have a lot to share.

Two years ago we had the cherry production farmers from the United States of America and Chile. They came through e–commerce, for export to China. In China, they consider cherries a very special fruit. They are willing to pay four times as much compared to orange or apples. Different culture and food culture, they have different values. We can create those kind of complementary arrangements through FAO.

That is why next year we will speed up the process of digitalization of FAO. Not only by e–commerce, also by governance and also by digital farming and digital rural areas. As I said, the digital world is composed of three parts. Digital governance, digital economy and digital society. These three parts will fit well with FAO’s mandate and business.

The third issue, I also appreciate that we are ready to improve the Codex and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and others. Because all the developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, you need to upgrade your economic growth. For middle–income, for developing nations, you have to upgrade your growth. What is the most powerful engine of reversed power? We call it

reversing power. We have to introduce, adopt, international standards or national standards, or entrepreneurial standards.

We have to learn from the developed nations. They have already accumulated a lot of experience. Of course, we have to be ready, preparing ourselves with the assistance of Europe, United States of America, from new emerging countries that can offer capacity building for developing nations in Africa, in Asia or Latin America. We need to build up, also, some Hand-in-Hand Initiative in Codex, or IPPC and even for transboundary disease.

That is why we are going to have a satellite meeting for Fall Armyworm Action Plan. I will Chair that Committee. Together with Ms Maria Helena Semedo and others from different regions.

We really wanted to have something real happening, tangible results against transboundary diseases like fall armyworm. I wish you can support through voluntary contributions. We got support from the United States of America, from China, from EU. Two days ago, USD 4 million was allocated. I think that is very good for 70 countries, and most important is 30 to 40 countries for fall armyworm. I am just taking this as an example, also others, foot and mouth disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and others. We have to start one by one.

With a concrete Action Plan we can have tangible results within years or months. As I said, again, let us learn together, work together and contribute together.

Thank you for your support and for your suggestions.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director-General for your responses to the comments made by Members.

Before continuing, in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a short video presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

(CL 163/1; CL 163/INF/1; CL 163/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on Item 1. The first item on the Agenda is the *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable* as set out in documents *CL 163/1*, *CL 163/INF/1* and *CL 163/INF/3*.

Before moving to adopt the Agenda, I should like to propose the addition of three subitems under Item 16, *Any Other Matters*.

I should like to propose Sub-Item 16.1, *Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*, as one seat has become vacant due to the departure of one Member.

I should then propose to add the third additional Item 16.3, *Statement of a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies*.

If the Council is in agreement, each of these items could be addressed on Wednesday morning under Item 16, as per the Provisional Timetable.

There is one more item and that is Item 16.2, *Appointment of the Deputy Director-General*. This

would all be for discussion on Wednesday morning.

With regard to the Provisional Timetable, I would like to draw the Council's attention to my pre-session letter of 28 November proposing that Item 3, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*, be deliberated under its own Item and not when we consider the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, or of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

For ease of reference, the relevant paragraphs in the Reports of the Committees are included in the Provisional Timetable under the respective items.

With these comments, may I take it that the Council approves the Agenda and Timetable for the session?

There is no comment, so the Agenda and Timetable are adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

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

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

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

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice Chairperson have been received: Ms Ananga Messina Clémentine of Cameroon; Mr Hisham Mohamed Badr of Egypt; and, Ms Marie Therese Sarch of the United Kingdom.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Now we move on to the Membership of the Drafting Committee. The Regional Groups have proposed: Ms Delphine Borione of France as Chairperson, and the following countries as Members: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Japan, Russian Federation, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Before we move on to Item 3 of the Agenda, I wish to remind Members to submit a copy of their statements in advance, if possible, to assist the interpreters and *verbatim* reporters. Statements should be submitted to the email address projected on the screen behind the podium.

I also wish to remind Members that following the discussions on each of the Agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the Report of this session. In this regard, in line with the practice implemented at our previous sessions, the draft conclusions will be projected on the screen behind the podium after the close of the discussions on each item.

This will enable Council Members to see the draft text while it is being read out and react with comments more easily. Non-English speakers of Council will be able to follow and provide comments through interpretation.

In this regard, I wish to emphasize that my conclusions will be concise and focus on decisions by the Council, with some flexibility afforded to the Drafting Committee in finalizing the Draft Report, while not re-opening substantive discussions which remains the prerogative of the Plenary Meeting.

With this we can move on to Item 3.

Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21

Point 3. Ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 2020–2021

Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020–21

(CL 163/3; CL 163/3 Information Notes 1 and 2; CL 163/3 Web Annexes 2 to 7; CL 163/4 (paragraph 5); CL 163/5 (paragraphs 12 and 13); CL 163/6 (paragraph 6))

CHAIRPERSON

We begin our substantive work this morning with *Item 3, Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*.

Before we start our deliberations I wish to urge that Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, with preference given to Regional Group statements rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

I noticed in your earlier interventions that you did comment on some of the issues on the budget adjustments and we have got a record. Perhaps they do not need to be repeated again.

For this Item, the documents before the Council are *CL 163/3, CL 163/3 Web Annexes 2 to 7, and CL 163/3 Information Notes 1 and 2*.

I will now invite Ms Beth Crawford, the Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to present the Report.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

It is my pleasure to speak to you this morning about the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21*. The Director-General has already discussed, in some detail, the proposals that are in there, so I will go briefly into the main elements and also focus on what is requested of Council in this meeting, this time.

First, to take a step backwards, as you know the Conference reviewed the *Medium-Term Plan 2018–21* and the *Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21* which was document *C 2019/3*. They also had before them, document *C 2019/LIM/4 Rev.1*. That document outlined the strategic programmes of the Organization and in particular the priorities and focus for 2021, moving forward. It outlined the Results Framework, in particular the outcomes and outputs under our Results Framework. It outlined implementation arrangements, including the Organizational structure, positions, and resource levels. This was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees, and their Joint Session in March 2019, and by the Council in April 2019.

The Conference, in June 2019, approved the programme of work, and the budget of USD 1,005.6 million and provided some additional guidance, which is found in the Report of the Conference. The document before you, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21* is the last item in that series of proposals that come before you, before we move into the new biennium, 2020–21.

The adjustments to the PWB reflect adjustments arising from Conference decisions and guidance provided in June, it reflects initial adjustments in line with Director-General's vision, as we have just

discussed. It provides an update of cost increases and efficiency savings, and it provides an overview of the updated Results Framework, including outputs indicators and targets.

This document was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in November this year, just last month, and is now before you, including with the guidance of those two Committees.

The Conference, in its decisions and guidance in June of this year, appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objects with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Conference, also supported the areas of de-emphasis, the priorities and the resource allocations. It requested increased funding for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and requested increased resources for biodiversity.

The Conference, also requested that we continue monitoring assumptions behind the cost increases and continued to review any further opportunities for savings and efficiency measures.

The Conference, welcomed the flat nominal budget level including the share of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) at 14 percent of appropriation, and it approved the programme of work and the budget level proposed by the Director-General, with this guidance.

I would like to provide an overview of what is specifically in the adjustments to the PWB.

The first two sections provide the background that I just gave to you. Section three focuses on structural adjustments and programmatic adjustments.

The Structural adjustments are also shown in Annex 1, which is the organigramme of the Organization. I would also like to highlight and emphasize that we have *Information Note 1*, which provides further details on these structural adjustments that are being proposed.

Those adjustments are the following. There is the Office for Innovation, which is headed by a Chief Scientist is one of the key changes proposed by the Director-General to make the Organization more open, inclusive and flexible. This office will further consolidate and strengthen FAO's innovative ethos, producing tangible results- and issue-based solutions.

A next new item, is the new Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC). This office is proposed as one of the apex units of the Organization to strengthen the coherence of FAO's work in supporting these countries that are vulnerable to unique and complex food security and nutrition challenges that transcend any one specific Strategic Objective.

We have also established the new Biodiversity Cluster in the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department. Just to highlight again the *Information Note* presented provides further detail on these three areas, for example in the Biodiversity Cluster it outlines the scope and functions of the Biodiversity Cluster, its links with the Biodiversity Strategy, and its place in the Organization.

Two other changes that you will see in the organigramme in Annex I is that Office of Human Resources has been moved from the apex to the Corporate Services Department. The Legal and Ethics Office that previously were one office, has now been split into two offices, the Legal Office and the Ethics Office.

These are the changes to the Organizational structure that the Council is requested to endorse at your meeting this week.

The programmatic and operational adjustments have already been mentioned; they were the increased resources for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, as requested by Conference. We have strengthened the Regional Office with an additional position for monitoring and evaluation in particular to support Country Offices.

We have a new position for the Ombudsman. In the PWB that went to Conference we had resources for an Ombudsman, now we have also established a post for that position and we strengthen the Office

of the Inspector General (OIG) with additional resources and the Finance Division with an additional position.

The Youth Committee and Women's Committee have also been established and are explained in that section.

In Section IV, which outlines cost increases and other efficiency gains and savings, there we highlight that indeed, as requested by Conference, we continue to monitor the assumptions behind the cost increases that were presented to the Conference in June. We are pleased to report that we are now recording a downward adjustment in those cost increases of about USD 5.4 million compared to what was presented in the PWB presented to you in June. Therefore, cost increases went from about USD 20 million to USD 14.4 million is the estimate for the biennium. This reduction is mainly from changes in staff cost elements and the detail for that can be found in *Web Annex 2*. This was of course reviewed by the Finance Committee at their session last month.

We have also found some other efficiency gains and savings, partially through the increase in support cost recoveries, and partially through some streamlining of posts in non-technical units, which together provided another USD 4.1 million in savings.

Section V of the document, provides an overall summary of the proposed adjustments. The total cost of the proposed adjustments is USD 9.5 million for the biennium; this is visible in the *Table 1* of the document. We are pleased to report that through the additional savings that were found under the cost increases, as well as from improved cost recoveries for income, and some streamlining of non-technical units, these additional cost of USD 9.5 million are fully covered by these cost savings and efficiencies. These costs are managed and are therefore fully within the approved budget level and there is no negative impact on the agreed programme of work.

These adjustments, that I have just outlined, are reflected in the budgeted post establishment, which is in *Table 2* of the document, with details of the post provided in *Web Annex 5*. The Council this week is asked to endorse this budgeted post establishment.

The budgetary chapter distribution of net appropriation has also been realigned based on these proposals, in *Table 3* of the document. The Council is requested to approve the budgetary chapter distribution of the net appropriation.

Finally, Section VI outlines the Results Framework. In *Web Annex 4*, you will see the output indicators and targets. This is new information that was not available at the time of Conference, but is provided to you now. This will provide the Framework against which we will monitor and report to you during the 2020–21 biennium. In Section VI, we have also provided additional information on antimicrobial resistance and gender under the Strategic Objectives (SOs), and we have outlined how they are measured under the Strategic Objectives. There is also a new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) on harassment, sexual harassment and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) that was also reviewed by the Finance Committee.

In Summary, the decisions required from the Council this week are:

The Council is requested to take note that the guidance and decisions of the Conference have been implemented. To take note of the programmatic and operational adjustments, the revised cost increases, the further efficiency savings, and to take note of the Results Framework.

The Council is requested to endorse the revised budgeted post establishment in *Table 2* and *Web Annex 5*, and endorse the structural changes in *Annex 1*, the organigramme.

The Council is also requested to approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 3*.

The Council may also wish to note that we have updated the estimates of extrabudgetary resources for the next biennium, and you may wish to encourage Members to continue to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate the achievement of the Strategic Objectives and the implementation of the integrated programme of work.

As the Director-General also said, the Governing Bodies will have the opportunity to consider a

broader review and adjustment to the implementation of the PWB, at your next session in June 2020.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson of the Programme Committee and of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, to report on the discussions on this Item during the 127th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands) (Chairperson, Programme Committee)(Chairperson, Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees)

As you are aware, this topic was discussed separately in the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as together by the two Committees in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I was honored to Chair the Joint Meeting of the two Committees, which looked at the overall context of the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21*.

I think it was a very positive setting, the Meeting of the Joint Committees. We saw renewed energies, not only from the Director–General, but also from Members of the Programme and Finance Committees. This new energy is necessary as we are working for the implementation of Agenda 2030, and, especially, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We know that everything we do here, not only within the Council, but with all the Governing Bodies and Committees, is about implementing the SDGs, and the Strategic Framework and Objectives of FAO, as they are all related within the framework of the SDGs. We also know that we are lacking far behind the implementation of the SDGs, and especially SDG 2. Therefore, we know that we have to step up our efforts, certainly not only here in Rome, but especially at the country level.

With this context, the Joint Meeting addressed several items on the Agenda related to the PWB. The Joint Meeting welcomed the initial adjustments proposed by the Director–General, and appreciated the stronger focus on scientific– and evidence–based approaches. The Joint Meeting welcomed the additional resources allocated to FAO’s work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, named Codex, and to mainstreaming biodiversity.

The Joint Meeting appreciated in principle the establishment of the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Country (LLDCs). It highlighted the need for innovation and appreciated in principle the establishment of an Office for Innovation and the position of a Chief Scientist. However, the Joint Meeting requested more information about these Offices, which are now reflected in the *INF* documents, and of course, the *INF* documents could not have been discussed in the Joint Meeting.

The Joint Meeting also highlighted the need that FAO work for all countries, least developed countries, but certainly also countries including middle–income countries and upper–middle–income countries. The Joint Meeting appreciated and welcomed the establishment of the Women’s and the Youth Committees and aligned the need to avoid duplication of work and also stressed that these Committees have no programmatic responsibilities.

The Joint Meeting also noted the clarification for the Biodiversity Cluster, especially on its role and function in a position of the Organization in staffing. Also for this Item, we have seen an *INF* document, which provides further clarification.

The Joint Meeting noted the updated organizational structure and the revised budgeted post establishment and supported the revised distribution of the net appropriations by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 3*.

The Programme Committee contributed from its review with additional guidance. We took up the issues that have already been reflected when it comes to the IPPC, Codex and biodiversity, about the Office for SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs, as well as the Office of Innovation and the Biodiversity Office, but added some extra guidance.

The Programme Committee endorsed the output indicators and targets for 2020–21 as presented in

Web Annex 4, and emphasized the need to strengthen the visibility of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance and welcomed the agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan Results Framework in FAO's Strategic Results Framework.

The Programme Committee looked forward to examining the *Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) 2019 Report*, and stressed the importance of the evaluation of the TCP.

It also welcomed the support for FAO's activities to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, and encouraged that FAO supports countries in implementing sustainable food systems where necessary.

The Finance Committee focused on the financial structure aspects of the adjustments and my colleague from the Finance Committee will inform you about these aspects.

I really would like to thank all of my colleagues in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the Programme Committee, for their dedication, energy, support, but also for their critical questions and positive and critical remarks, because we need them all to bring a better future for FAO, but certainly for those who need it the most.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite, Ms Imelda Smolcic, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to report on discussions on this item during the 178th Session of the Committee.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas)

Me complace presentar las deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones sobre los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020–21. Las deliberaciones del Comité se exponen en el documento *CL 163/5*, en los párrafos 12 y 13.

El Comité expresó su satisfacción por el hecho de que los ajustes propuestos se gestionarían sin superar la cuantía global del presupuesto aprobado mediante el ajuste de los aumentos de los costos y eficiencias, sin afectar negativamente la ejecución del Programa de trabajo acordado.

El Comité acogió con beneplácito los recursos adicionales asignados a la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y el Programa Conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos.

El Comité solicitó que en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2020 se le presentara un nuevo indicador clave del rendimiento reforzado en relación con el Logro 10.3.E (Dirección) respecto del acoso sexual.

El Comité hizo hincapié en la necesidad de destinar financiación suficiente a la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG), dentro de los recursos existentes, para hacer frente al mayor volumen de trabajo y solicitó que se le otorgara prioridad en los futuros ajustes o transferencias presupuestarias que se presentaran al Comité de Finanzas.

El Comité examinó los ajustes propuestos a la estructura orgánica y la plantilla y tomó nota de que la estructura orgánica actualizada (*Anexo 1* del documento *CL 163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente)*) y la plantilla presupuestada revisada (*Anexo 5 para la Web* del documento *CL 163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente)*).

El Comité recomendó que el Consejo aprobase la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulo presupuestario presentada en el cuadro 3 del documento *CL 163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente)*. Deseo señalar el excelente clima de trabajo y de confianza mutua en que se trabajó en el Comité de Finanzas. Espero que ese mismo espíritu de trabajo y colaboración y transparencia se mantenga en futuras sesiones. Quedo a disposición de los Miembros del Consejo para proporcionar cualquier aclaración o explicación adicional.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor to Members for their comments on this Item.

Ms Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA (Cameroon)

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the Members of the Council and particularly the Africa

Regional Group for my election as one of the Vice-Chairs. It is a great honour for myself and for my country, Cameroon.

Cameroon, together with Cape Verde speak on this Agenda Item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Our Regional Group welcomes the preparation of document *CL 163/3*, including the two *Information Notes* and the six *Web Annexes*. It is a comprehensive document in itself in that it provides information on both the international context in which FAO operates, as well as the planning and monitoring framework for FAO's work. It provides information on what needs to be done or actions already taken to strengthen the delivery of the programmes. It provides also detailed information on the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21*. In the document, the Director-General has responded to the request and guidance of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in June 2019.

We welcome the reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee whose guidance is essential to the Council's decision-making process. We therefore take note of their comments.

The Africa Regional Group notes that the guidance and decisions of the June 2019 Conference have been widely considered in the adjustments to the 2020–21 programme of work and budget, including priority and de-emphasis areas that are revised within the context of efficiency and cost savings. We have also thoroughly examined the additional proposals in the PWB put before the Council, for approval.

For Africa, the priority remains the three regional initiatives namely: one, the accelerated action by Member Countries in the fight against hunger; two, the promotion of sustainable proven innovative practices and principles of production and post-production processes; and three, strengthening of resilience among vulnerable farming communities and pastoralists.

We also reiterate the priorities set by the 30th Regional Conference for Africa that took place in February 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan, as summarized in the Ministerial Declaration contained in the Report of that Conference referring to: one, the commitment to achieve Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 and continue to pursue policies and programmes that will redress the deteriorating trends in undernourishment and malnutrition in all its forms in Africa; two, welcomed the engagement of an FAO dedicated programme in addressing the needs of Small Islands Development States (SIDS) and; three, supported further action to address the needs of land-locked food-deficit countries.

We further stress the importance of addressing the issues of the employment of young people in agriculture, urbanization and migration, intra-regional trade, equitable development, climate change and resilience to shocks, sustainable intensification of production and development of value chains, and building resilience in arid areas.

With regard to the updated organizational structure, we take note of the fact that no major changes will be made to the apex, except the slight but necessary adjustments, and that the Office of Human Resource (HR) is moved to the Corporate Services Department to bring the full range of HR management and servicing functions together under one Department, and ensure better integrated services.

We endorse the idea of the creation of a Chief Scientist and Office of Innovation headed by an Assistant Director-General, as well as the additional Office for Small Islands Development States, Least Developed Countries and Land-Locked Developing Countries, and the Biodiversity Cluster to mainstream biodiversity in all sectors of FAO.

We continue to stress the importance of having a relatively wide network of Decentralized Offices in our region, fully staffed and sufficiently resourced.

We therefore support in the Regional Office for Africa, the creation of a Monitoring and Evaluation position, which could be based either in a Subregional Office or in a Liaison Office.

We understand two Committees, Women and Youth, will be established within the Office of the Director-General. We await to get more information on the functioning of these Committees.

On the Hand-and-Hand Initiative, we take note of the deliberations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on the matter and look forward to receiving detailed programmatic proposals on the way forward considering FAO's mandate.

With regard to programmatic and operational adjustments, we support the proposed work and budget increase for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme.

Considering the update of cost increases for 2020–21, and other efficiency gains and savings, we take note of the updated estimate for 2020–21 of total cost increases of USD 14.4 million, and a total estimated savings of USD 29.7 million. We salute the efforts made by the Secretariat to find supplementary savings of USD 2.2 million and encourage further efforts as long as the technical programmes are not negatively impacted.

We approve the new budgetary chapters redistribution revised on the basis of the Conference approved net appropriation.

We also note the updated version of the Results Framework and output indicators and targets for Strategic Objectives and expect their impact to be reported as part of the programme evaluation in 2020.

We also take note of the updated estimates of extrabudgetary resources, while encouraging Members to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the programme implementation and achievement of Strategic Objectives.

In closing, we look forward to consider a broader review and adjustment to the implementation of the PWB during 2020, including at the 164th Session of the Council in June 2020.

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Agradecemos la elaboración del documento que se está considerando ya que refleja los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el período 2020–21. La Argentina valora positivamente el establecimiento de una Oficina para la Innovación, ya que se espera que esta consolide y fortalezca el espíritu innovador de la FAO, en particular, la innovación en los ámbitos del pensamiento, los modelos de cooperación y la aplicación por digitalización.

Se aprecia que esta oficina ayude a garantizar la aplicación de la ciencia y tecnología modernas, así como la adopción por parte de la Organización de enfoques innovadores, a la hora de afrontar nuevas situaciones y desafíos.

Los enfoques innovadores cumplen una función central en el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, siendo la tecnificación de la agricultura y la inversión en diagnósticos, por ejemplo de la calidad de los suelos y de los eventos climáticos, algunas de las herramientas necesarias para incrementar la producción y la productividad al mismo tiempo que se conservan los recursos naturales. Por tal motivo, resulta relevante que la FAO apoye las iniciativas de los Estados Miembros y los esfuerzos de estos por mejorar los sistemas productivos y alimentarios actuales, por ejemplo impulsando la sostenibilidad a través de una agricultura que fomente y adopte las buenas prácticas agrícolas. Entre ellas, cabe mencionar la siembra directa en combinación con la rotación de cultivos, el muestreo y monitoreo de suelos para ajustar los manejos agronómicos, la nutrición balanceada de cultivos a través de la fertilización para mantener y mejorar la fertilidad de los suelos.

Consideramos que la revolución en materia de tecnología agrícola es clave para que la agricultura dé un paso fundamental hacia adelante y en particular resaltamos el rol que desempeña la biotecnología. Esta herramienta permite reducir costos y mejorar la eficiencia, lo cual coadyuva a un uso más sostenible de los recursos, la prevención de riesgos y el aumento de los volúmenes de producción como la calidad del producto final. De esta forma, la biotecnología tiene un papel de gran relevancia en los esfuerzos en pos de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, la biotecnología tiene un rol central en términos de preservación del medio ambiente. En muchos casos, los cultivos mejorados no requieren la aplicación de agroquímicos, lo que implica que tampoco resulta necesario el uso de maquinaria para su aplicación reduciendo así las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Asimismo, la biotecnología posibilita un mayor uso de bioinsumos que reemplacen a los agroquímicos.

Se aprecia además que el documento señala la importancia de incrementar los recursos en el próximo Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21 en lo que se refiere a la labor de la FAO en relación a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y al Programa Conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos, ya que permitirá a la Organización avanzar la labor normativa en estos importantes aspectos.

Asimismo, consideramos de manera positiva el incremento de los recursos destinados a incorporar la biodiversidad en la Organización, destacando la importancia de contar con la referencia clara dentro del organigrama de la FAO, en cuanto a la responsabilidad de implementación de estos trabajos.

En lo relativo al incremento de las actividades que aceleren la transformación hacia sistemas alimentarios más sostenibles, resilientes, sensibles a la nutrición e inclusivos, quisiéramos mencionar que referirse a la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios puede entenderse en el sentido de que resulta indispensable pasar de un sistema alimentario a otro. Premisa que no necesariamente se aplica a todos los casos, ya que muchos sistemas alimentarios ya son sostenibles en sus tres dimensiones.

En este punto, quisiéramos hacer propicia la ocasión para señalar que, en el documento de Ajustes del Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21, se remite a la nota al pie 8 al programa de trabajo aprobado en la Conferencia. En esta solo se alude a la promoción de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles, resilientes y diversos y no a la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios. Entonces, desearíamos que la Secretaría tome nota de este señalamiento que fue resaltado en el Comité del Programa, atento a la importancia que reviste utilizar conceptos acordados por todos los Miembros de la Organización y reflejados en este documento oficial de la FAO.

Ms Helena MALIKYAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan has the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group welcomes the adjustments proposed by the Director-General and wishes to underline the following points.

One, increases in net appropriation for Strategic Objectives 2 and 4, to the tune of USD 4.5 million combined.

Two, mobilization of additional USD 50 million in voluntary contribution.

Three, maintaining the level of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) unchanged, at USD 140.8 million. However, it should be noted that the demand for TCP assistance is likely to increase due to new starters like innovation, Hand-in-Hand Initiative and requests addressed to the new Office for Small Islands Development States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

Four, the nine proposed adjustments with a combined net appropriation of USD 9.5 million as per *Table 1, paragraph 67*.

Five, the creation of the Office of Innovation and the Biodiversity Cluster from which both developed and developing countries can benefit.

Six, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the Committees for Youth and Women; looking forward to receiving additional information about its conceptual make-up and its linkage with the Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

Seven, welcoming the creation of the Committees for youth and for women in the Office of the Director-General;

Eight, the transfer of the Office for Human Resources to the Corporative Services Department.

Nine, although the overall increase in posts is small, seven posts, there has been a notable increase in the number of posts at Director and Professional level, 25 posts or an increase of 1.6 percent before the Adjustment, and the bulk of the increase is for units at Headquarters.

Finally, the Near East Group wishes to seek clarification on three issues.

First, there is no clear statement in the adjustments on FAO's strategy for intervention in middle-

income countries, despite the fact that the majority of the rural poor live in lower–middle–income countries and there are pockets of poverty in several the upper–middle–income countries.

Second, the terms of reference of the new Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, and its linkage with other UN Agencies where such programmes exist such as the Vienna Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action for the LLDCs, as well as the work done by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Third, the *modus operandi* of the Hand–in–Hand Initiative within the Result–based Framework of FAO and its interface with the new Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

With these observations, the Near East Group endorses the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21* as submitted by the Director–General for the approval of the Council.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

Malaysia has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia Regional Group.

Asia Regional Group supports all effort to improve FAO’s work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030. As such, we welcome the Director–General’s proposed *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21* that aims to improve inclusiveness, implementation, delivery of programme, and deliver better results to end global hunger while remaining committed to FAO’s mandate and missions.

In terms of structural adjustments, we welcomed the establishment of special setups to coordinate specific focus of the Organization. The Office of Innovation is important to promote and integrate innovative approaches to improve our delivery and the quality of our deliverables.

We also appreciate that FAO is giving emphasis to vulnerable populations with the establishment of the Office of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Land–Locked Developing Countries (LLDC). Some of these countries are located in Asia, and continue to face challenges in realizing food security and nutrition, among others caused by climate change. Therefore, the establishment of the new office could strengthen FAO’s effort to help these countries achieve SDG 1 and SDG 2.

We also hope that these two new offices would be provided with adequate support, human resources and expertise they need. In addition, we request FAO to ensure appropriate reporting line and to avoid adding layers to decision–making process, for example, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) under the Office of Innovation.

The introduction of a Biodiversity Cluster is important as a functional group, to mainstream biodiversity in FAO’s work. This is also timely, with the finalization of the *FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors*, as a guiding document. Asia supports the idea and looks forward to receiving more information on the operational aspect of this cluster.

With regard to the programmatic and operational adjustment, we welcome the additional funding to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme. We also appreciate the strengthening of oversight function with the additional funding and the new post for Ombudsman under the Office of Strategy Planning and Resources Management (OSP).

The Asia Group supports additional posts for monitoring and evaluation at Regional Offices to improve implementation of our programmes and activities. On the relocation of regional auditors back to Headquarters, we hope that the support mechanism from the Headquarters is strengthened to avoid the adverse effect to the work at Decentralized Offices.

We welcomed the formation of Women and Youth Committees under the Office of Director–General, to provide platforms for dialogues with these groups, with the aim to address their needs and increase their contribution to FAO. We view that the groups can also assist FAO in sharing ideas to increase women and youth involvement in FAO’s programmes and activities.

Overall, we find the adjustments responding to the Conference’s decisions and guidance from Member Countries. There are a number of transformative moves in the adjustment, which we hope could make

FAO more effective and adaptive to the changing environment. We support FAO's plan to manage these adjustments within the approved budget level through cost savings and efficiency measures, as well as adjustments to the existing posts.

With these comments, the Asia Regional Group supports the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I asked for the floor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, however after this statement, I would ask to pass the floor to Sweden to deliver the statement by the Nordic Countries.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

As the Executive Body of the FAO Conference, the Council has a key function to provide oversight and strategic guidance to FAO's work. With a number of important items on the Agenda this week, we very much welcome your presence Director-General, Dr Qu, at the opening of this Council session, and during our discussions on the key Agenda items throughout the week.

We welcome the adjustments that the Director-General has proposed to FAO's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2020–21. We see these adjustments as a clear acknowledgement of the importance of the scientific basis of FAO's work and we would like to thank the Director-General for that.

We appreciate the increase in core funding for FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and for mainstreaming biodiversity. It is important to ensure that these additional resources are sustained beyond the 2020–21 biennium. We expect FAO to deliver additional results with these additional resources. Furthermore, we welcome the Management's commitment to address the food safety scientific advice backlog and we look forward to further information on the scheduled activities in this regard.

We welcome and encourage FAO's Tripartite collaboration with its partner organizations, the WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and their work on antimicrobial resistance. We also welcome the Management's agreement to add an indicator to FAO's Strategic Results Framework for the 2020–21 period, reflecting FAO's work within the Tripartite. We would appreciate further information regarding the timeline for this indicator to be set.

Regarding the proposed new Office for Innovation, the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), as well as for the establishment of a Biodiversity Cluster, we welcome the Secretariat's note with additional information and clarifications, as requested by the Programme Committee. The new information about the proposed staffing of the two new offices raises, however, concerns with regard to the proposed secondment of seven to eight Professional staff from the technical divisions. Those secondments would come on top of the existing secondments to the Strategic Programme teams and would result in the further erosion of the technical capacity of the technical divisions. These concerns should be addressed.

Furthermore, we fully support the request for a new, stronger Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 10.3.E related to sexual harassment.

Finally, we strongly support the Committee's request to ensure adequate funding, within existing resources of the Office of the Inspector General and look forward to the presentation of respective budgetary adjustments to be presented to the May 2020 Session of the Finance Committee.

With these comments, we endorse this part of the Programme Committees Report.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

Thank you very much for allowing me to step into Finland's shoes and speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statement delivered by the EU.

A particular strength of FAO is its normative and standard setting mandate, which provides a shared framework for action and links to its technical cooperation. Therefore, we particularly welcome the increase of the budget for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, Codex, and for mainstreaming biodiversity.

Regarding the establishment of a Chief Scientist, an Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC), and an Office for Innovation, we underline that the staffing of the two offices must not lead to an erosion of technical capacity in other parts of the Organization.

We note with great interest the establishment of a Women's Committee. We expect the Committee to be a tool in improving gender mainstreaming both in the Organization itself and in its activities. Its Membership should include key staff representatives, women as well as men, who are in a position to make change possible. Equality in an organization is a matter of both the right to equal opportunities and a stamp of quality. Within the Organization, particular attention should be given to gender parity at Senior staff level and Management.

The Nordic countries would like to express serious concern about the negative trends with regard to hunger and all forms of malnutrition. We strongly welcome the Food System Summit in 2021 to raise alarm about the lack of progress, the challenges in reaching the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to provide guidance for the transformation needed. We stand ready to engage and contribute to make a true difference.

Supported by a strong and coordinated UN System, it will be up to Member States, alongside local actors, the private sector, academia and international and civil society organizations, to follow up the practical and bold commitments that we hope to see take shape ahead of the Summit.

We believe that an inclusive planning process strengthens the ownership and possibility of having a transformative impact. The Nordics would like to hear management's initial views and ideas on how FAO should work to ensure such a process. We also welcome a close cooperation between all the relevant UN entities, including the Rome-Based Agencies, in the preparations of the Summit.

Sr. Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO (Perú)

El presente período de sesiones reviste especial importancia, en tanto nos permite examinar las propuestas iniciales del Director General, para hacer de la FAO una Organización más dinámica, eficiente y transparente. Mi delegación las ha venido examinando con atención a partir de su consideración en las recientes reuniones del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas y en la reunión conjunta de dichos Órganos.

El Perú quiere expresar su apoyo a los ajustes propuestos al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21, pues se enmarcan en el mandato de la FAO, así como con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular con relación a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 1 y 2. Somos conscientes que, ante la brevedad del plazo disponible para cumplir con los ODS, se deben desplegar todos los esfuerzos posibles y asumir compromisos firmes por parte de todas las partes involucradas.

Saludamos también el cuidado para que las medidas propuestas no tengan un impacto en el presupuesto ya aprobado por la Conferencia y apreciamos los esfuerzos de la nueva administración para mejorar la eficiencia, buscando la aplicación de enfoques innovadores y sostenibles en la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios.

Entre los retos más ambiciosos propuestos por el Director General, destaca la Iniciativa Mano de la mano, que ha establecido una lista priorizada de países que necesitan de un mayor apoyo para no quedar rezagados en el cumplimiento de los ODS 1 y 2, bajo el compromiso de “no dejar a nadie atrás”. No obstante, debemos reiterar que los países de renta media alta requieren también de una atención particular que no puede quedar de lado.

Estimamos importante que el equipo a cargo de la Iniciativa, haya sostenido reuniones con los diferentes Grupos regionales y con el G-77 más China para ofrecer mayores alcances. Sin embargo, hubiéramos deseado disponer con mayor anticipación el documento que se presenta en este Consejo como *Nota Informativa n.º1* del documento CL 163/6 sobre dicha Iniciativa, la cual ofrece

información más precisa sobre las prioridades, enfoque, criterios e implementación. En particular, es de nuestro interés conocer el papel de los países de renta media y media alta en esta Iniciativa.

Para el Perú, como país de renta media alta, sigue siendo de particular importancia el apoyo de la FAO, dado que aún existen situaciones de alta vulnerabilidad que pueden conducir a grandes retrocesos en la senda de los ODS.

De otra parte, en el marco de dicha Iniciativa podremos realizar una valiosa contribución en términos de capacidades técnicas, redes de protección social y resiliencia al cambio climático. Cabe mencionar que en el ámbito de la Cooperación Sur-Sur, el Perú viene ofreciendo asistencia técnica a algunos países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe que han sido considerados en la lista priorizada de beneficiarios de la Iniciativa.

El Perú cree firmemente que el desafío de la seguridad alimentaria debe enfrentarse preservando los recursos naturales; adoptando medidas para promover la agricultura, la alimentación, el manejo forestal, la pesca y la acuicultura; mejorando los mercados alimentarios - integrando a los productores de alimentos en el suministro nacional y mundial y en las cadenas de valor- y reduciendo la pérdida y los desechos de alimentos.

El Perú es uno de los 10 países megadiversos del mundo, con 71 por ciento de los glaciares tropicales, con 84 de las 104 zonas de vida identificadas en el planeta. No solo el cambio climático está afectando gravemente esta mega biodiversidad, sino que existen otras amenazas que afrontar y el Perú requiere para ello el apoyo de la FAO. En este sentido confiamos en que el establecimiento del Grupo Traversal sobre Biodiversidad fortalecerá la labor de la Organización en esta materia de suma importancia, tanto para la agricultura como para la seguridad alimentaria.

Igualmente, deseamos destacar la creación de la Oficina para la Innovación que favorecerá la transversalidad en la labor de la FAO. Sin duda, la innovación es un elemento clave para responder mejor a los grandes desafíos que tiene hoy el sector agroalimentario. Por ello recomendamos aprovechar la experiencia de cada uno de los actores en la cadena alimentaria, promoviendo el intercambio de conocimientos en todos los niveles.

Para concluir, consideramos fundamental que la FAO siga haciendo esfuerzos por trabajar en línea con el nuevoposicionamiento del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo, que tiene por objetivo garantizar un mayor nivel de coherencia, de rendición de cuentas y eficacia en apoyo a la Agenda 2030. En ese sentido instamos al Director General y a la Organización a continuar trabajando con los demás Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) de manera coherente, coordinada y conjunta.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents. China supports the joint statement by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Group.

China noticed that the Secretariat has updated the 2020–21 cost increase and through effective cost saving measures ensured all the structural and pragmatic adjustments are managed within the approved budget level.

China encourages the Secretariat to continue to monitor measures of costs increase and saving to further expand resources channels and save expenditure to improve the capacity of resource mobilization and business delivery to ensure all the output indicators and targets of 2010 and 2021 be realized as scheduled.

China appreciates FAO's technical work as a global knowledge forum. The most significant outcome of this work is reflected in the publications, reports, books, policy suggestions with flagship publications as the mainstay.

We have noticed that many of the outstanding outcomes of FAO have not yet been benefitted to the mass of farmers who need help the most. Why? Because most of the publications only have the English version or the translation in one or two languages. These publications have not been translated into all official languages of the United Nations. For these work outcomes, their value could not be fully tapped because of the inaccessibility of the translation resources. We need to pay high attention to this issue, therefore, I suggest adding the following sentence in the Report: "The Members of the

Council emphasize the importance of the translation of the publications of this Organization and encourage strengthening related work”.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En relación a los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el bienio 2020–21, permítame hacer los siguientes comentarios. Agradezco a la Administración que, dentro de los límites presupuestales aprobados por la Conferencia, se hayan podido asignar recursos adicionales para la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF), el Programa Conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico, así como a la integración de la biodiversidad. Apoyamos la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulo presupuestario presentada en las sesiones conjuntas y las del Comité de Finanzas.

La reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones solicitó más información sobre las propuestas para establecer la Oficina para la Innovación y para el puesto de Científico Jefe. También pidió aclaraciones acerca del Grupo Transversal sobre biodiversidad. En este sentido, agradezco la *Nota Informativa n.º 1* del documento *CL 163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente)* que contiene la información solicitada, la cual es de suma utilidad y hubiera sido un excelente insumo durante la reunión conjunta de hace unas semanas.

Respecto a la Oficina para la Innovación, parece muy interesante en cuanto a que la innovación es fundamental para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, y la propuesta de valor de esta Oficina es ambiciosa. A partir del carácter neutral de la FAO, esperamos que esta Oficina base sus trabajos en la ciencia, pero también incluyendo distintos enfoques agrícolas sostenibles como los mencionados en el párrafo 12 de dicha Nota Informativa.

La información respecto al Grupo Transversal sobre Biodiversidad aclara varias de las dudas que teníamos como las funciones que tendrá y el personal en este Grupo. Sin embargo, falta aclarar la relación con el trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (CRGAA). Además, si bien se aclara que este Grupo reportará directamente al Subdirector General responsable del Departamento de Clima, Biodiversidad, Tierras y Aguas, ¿sus integrantes estarán ubicados dentro de este mismo Departamento? ¿Nos podrían dar un poco más de información sobre el grupo de trabajo interdepartamental que apoyará a este Grupo mencionado en el párrafo 33 de la Nota Informativa?

En suma, agradecemos la información recibida y esperamos que facilite la aplicación de la estrategia para la integración de la biodiversidad en la labor de la FAO. De igual manera, apoyamos la conclusión de la reunión conjunta en el sentido de que la FAO debe tener en cuenta las prioridades de todos los países, incluidos los de ingresos medios y los países de ingresos medios altos. Finalmente, apreciamos los recursos adicionales destinados a la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG), pero como se mencionó en la reunión conjunta, quizá estos no sean suficientes por lo que esta cuestión se debería revisar en las siguientes sesiones del Comité de Finanzas y del Consejo.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is 12.30 and we still have a long list of speakers. My suggestion would be to suspend our discussions for the moment and we break for lunch. We will continue our deliberations in the afternoon.

The Council will resume at 14.30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

2 December 2019

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.48 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 48
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.48
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21 (continued)**Point 3. Ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 2020–2021 (suite)****Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020–21 (continuación)**

(CL 163/3; CL 163/3 Information Notes 1 and 2; CL 163/3 Web Annexes 2 to 7; CL 163/4 (paragraph 5); CL 163/5 (paragraphs 12 and 13); CL 163/6 (paragraph 6))

CHAIRPERSON

I call to order the Second Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council. We can commence discussions.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

With regard to the proposed *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21*, we appreciate the efforts made by the new Director–General to manage the proposals within the overall approved budget level.

We would like to express our satisfaction with the allocated additional resources to FAO’s work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme.

Brazil thanks the Secretariat for providing us with more detailed information on the structural and programmatic adjustments previously presented to the Programme and Finance Committees. Besides its objectives and the conception presented in the *Information Note*, we note that the establishment of an Office of Innovation may provide FAO with an adequate structure to deal more consistently and coherently throughout the Organization, and including in the conclusions of its different reports with scientific– and evidence–based approaches to agriculture in their complex relations with different realms such as trade, healthy diets, sustainable food systems, and climate change.

Brazil also supports the establishment of a new Biodiversity Cluster in the Office of the Assistant Director–General (ADG) of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department. We thank FAO for the extra information provided, which helped us clarify on the scope and role of the cluster. We believe this innovative structure has potential to address such cross–cutting issues in an efficient and flexible way. At the same time, we expect the Cluster to build on the existing work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and technical departments, ensuring collaboration, complementarity and maximizing synergies. We believe FAO can also help to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the context of preparation for the post–2020 Framework on the Convention on Biological Diversity, and hope the Biodiversity Cluster can contribute to that as well.

Considering the complex food security and nutrition challenges in this group of countries, Brazil supports the creation of the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land–Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

We would like to underline the importance of FAO for middle–income countries. As stated in our PWB, over half of the extreme poor live in middle–income countries (MICs). MICs still face many challenges toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2. They provide an important link in the cooperation framework, as both recipients and donors, which is important to maintain. In this context, we could also recall the South–South and Triangular Cooperation that has been recognized as an important tool in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

M. Gilberto Correia CARVALHO SILVA (Cabo Verde)

Permettez-moi tout d’abord de saluer les participants à cette session et, au nom du Cabo Verde, de s’associer à la déclaration faite par le Cameroun au nom du Groupe Afrique. Je félicite le Directeur général de la FAO et son équipe pour le travail accompli au cours des quatre mois de son mandat. Je félicite également le Président pour sa réélection. Cela témoigne de la reconnaissance de la qualité du travail que vous avez accompli.

Pour mon pays, *les'ajustements au programme de travail et budget 2020–2021* reflète la vision souhaitée d'une FAO de plus en plus efficace et dynamique face aux défis d'un monde meilleur.

Nous apprécions beaucoup l'initiative «Main dans la main» et la création d'un bureau dédié aux petits États insulaire en développement, aux pays les moins avancés (PMA) et aux pays en développement sans littoral, ainsi que la création d'un autre bureau tel que celui de l'innovation et des Comités. Cela reflète l'attention particulière que ce groupe de pays mérite, compte tenu de sa plus grande vulnérabilité et de son exposition au changement climatique.

Dans ce contexte, permettez-moi de souligner que le Cabo Verde, pays insulaire et sahélien, est confronté à la troisième année consécutive de sécheresse et à ses conséquences: perte de production, pénurie d'eau, augmentation des ravageurs, salinisation des aquifères, dégradation des écosystèmes et détérioration de la situation alimentaire et socio-économique de la population, en particulier dans les zones rurales.

Par conséquent, nous exhortons la FAO à accélérer ses actions pour aider les pays à accroître leur production, à diversifier leurs sources d'alimentation et à s'adapter au changement climatique, notamment en adoptant des politiques et des pratiques durables, l'innovation dans les technologies de production, le développement des chaînes de valeur et la numérisation de l'agriculture.

Je pense que le Programme de travail et le budget ajustés 2020–2021 reflètent ces priorités et sont conformes à la vision et à la mission de la FAO. Le Cabo Verde réaffirme par conséquent son soutien à l'approbation des ajustements proposés dans le document.

Mr Victor VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We support the FAO Secretariat's intention to implement the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget proposed in document *CL 163/3* in the framework of the budget set by the Conference and through expected internal savings. It appears that such savings has been calculated using the most optimistic development of FAO's financial situation. In this connection and in our view it is important for the Secretariat to also look at alternative scenarios of how events could unfold.

Many of the proposed adjustments are related to FAO's Director-General's Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We believe that the initiative is interesting and timely.

Considering the slow progress towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 1, we believe that it would be wise to make adjustments to the Organization's activities aimed at assisting countries in need in order to achieve concrete results at country level. We believe that the proposed focus on countries in specific situations and countries facing food crises is warranted. Agenda 2030 calls directly on the international community to pay particular attention to the needs of this category of countries. We believe that the Initiative will help strengthen FAO's existing workstream in the interest of beneficiary countries whilst also taking into account the wishes of the donor countries as well.

Three working days before the start of this Council's Session, at the request of the Programme Committee, the FAO Secretariat circulated about six new documents. We understand that the documents are information documents, but the Council's reaction to the content of these documents will largely impact the Organization's future work. In order to make informed decisions, it is important that we as Members of the Council have the opportunity to closely study the proposals put before us. In these current conditions, it has been rather challenging to do this. Moreover, this is not the first time that this has happened.

In addition, a rapid analysis of the documents has shown that there are some inconsistencies. In particular, for example, in *Paragraph 26* of document *CL 163/INF/3* there is a list of the expected outcomes of the implementation of FAO's biodiversity strategy. However, these outcomes are not fully in-line with the outcomes that were defined by the Member States themselves in the Strategy. We request, yet again, that due consideration be given to the need for a timely provision of substantively important documents to Council Members, and the need for documents to be prepared fully.

Document *CL 163/3* largely details adjustments to FAO's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) in areas related to the financial and administrative aspects of the upcoming work. However, to facilitate the assessment of progress and implementing the programme of work, it would be useful to have a comprehensive document, which would reflect all of the different changes, substantive, financial, administrative and editorial, which have been proposed by Member States during the initial

preparation stage. We would like to avoid a situation where Member States have to refer to many different documents to be able to fully understand the final version of the Programme of Work, which the Organization will follow.

We would like to call on the Secretariat of FAO to pay attention to this in our future joint work and to include amendments, which are of fundamental importance to Member States directly in the documents being discussed by publishing updated versions or by clearly reflecting amendments in a separate document, which summarises all adjustments and amendments. If new adjustments to the Programme of Work are planned, for example, for the June 2020 Session of Council, we would ask that this be taken into account.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La délégation française s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 28 États Membres. La France apprécie que des économies et des gains d'efficacités aient pu être réalisés sans effet négatif sur l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget, et elle rappelle l'importance qu'elle attache à ce que le financement des activités normatives, que nous saluons, du Codex Alimentarius et de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux (CIPV), soit pérennisé à l'avenir.

Elle salue la prise en compte systématique de la biodiversité dans les activités de la FAO. Elle rappelle également l'importance d'un travail tripartite entre la FAO, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) sur la lutte contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens. La France suivra par ailleurs avec attention les effets et les développements ultérieurs de la réorganisation de la fonction Ressources humaines à la FAO. Nous remercions également la FAO pour les informations détaillées fournies suite à la demande du Comité conjoint sur le poste de scientifique en chef et sur le Bureau de l'innovation.

Nous apprécions le fait que l'innovation ait été appréhendée au sens large et qu'une grande attention soit portée à la durabilité de l'agriculture. En effet, cette notion de durabilité, qui est au cœur de «l'Agenda 2030», dont le nom est bien Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, est aussi au cœur de la vision de la FAO. Un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition, dans lequel l'alimentation et l'agriculture contribuent à améliorer le niveau de vie de tous, en particulier des plus pauvres, d'une façon durable sur les plans économique, social et environnemental, et nous savons qu'il est urgent d'agir.

Nous avons en effet beaucoup progressé pour mieux définir ces approches durables et nous savons, à ce titre, l'importance de l'agroécologie, qui a fait preuve de son efficacité, démontrée tant au niveau scientifique que par le nombre d'agriculteurs qui appliquent ces pratiques avec succès. Nous prenons ainsi note des éléments fournis sur le groupe de travail interdépartemental sur la biodiversité, qui devra être au centre de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie de la FAO relative à l'intégration de la diversité biologique dans l'ensemble des secteurs de l'agriculture.

Enfin, concernant le Bureau des petits États insulaires en développement (PEID), des pays les moins avancés (PMA) et des pays en développement sans littoral, les objectifs finaux et les moyens financiers et humains qui seront accordés à ce Bureau, ne nous semblent pas encore être suffisamment clairs, et nous aurions besoin d'éléments supplémentaires, en particulier sur le lien avec l'initiative Main dans la main.

Pour terminer, comme la délégation chinoise, nous soulignons l'importance du multilinguisme dans l'Organisation. Nous rappelons la nécessité de disposer des documents dans toutes les langues en même temps et, comme d'autres, nous avons noté que les documents pour cette session du Conseil ont été mis très tardivement en ligne, en particulier pour les versions linguistiques autres que l'anglais, limitant ainsi la meilleure préparation possible de cette session par les différentes délégations.

Nous sommes persuadés que le Secrétariat fera le nécessaire en ce sens à l'avenir.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (South Sudan)

South Sudan is delivering this joint statement on behalf of the Group of G77 and China.

We appreciate and congratulate the Director-General on his effort to manage his proposals within the overall approved budget, with regard to the proposed *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and*

Budget 2020–21.

We would like to express our satisfaction with the allocated additional resources to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme.

We welcome the establishment of an Office of Innovation that will provide FAO with an adequate structure to deal more consistently and coherently with scientific– and evidence–based approaches to agriculture in their complex relations with different realms such as trade, healthy diets, sustainable food systems, and climate change.

Considering the complex food security and nutrition challenges in this group of countries, the Group of G77 and China welcome the creation of the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land–Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). We would like also to highlight the importance of the FAO for middle–income countries. Over half of the extreme poor live in middle–income countries, which still face many challenges towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2.

Middle–income countries provide an important link in the cooperation framework, as both recipients and donors. In this context, we recall that South–South and Triangular Cooperation has been recognized as an important tool in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We welcome and support the Hand–in–Hand Initiative that is designed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as most of the developing countries are behind the schedule.

The Group of G77 and China also supports the establishment of a new Biodiversity Cluster in the Office of the Assistant Director–General (ADG) of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department. We believe this innovative structure has potential to address such cross–cutting issues in an efficient and flexible way. We expect the Biodiversity Cluster to build on the existing work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and technical departments, ensuring collaboration and maximized synergies. We believe the Biodiversity Cluster can contribute to FAO to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the context of the preparation of the post–2020 Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We welcome the creation of the Women and Youth Committees under the Office of the Director–General that will serve as platforms to voice these sectors' concerns and protect their rights and interests. It would act as conduit to drive their career enrichment, as well as engagement within FAO, and gather ideas and approaches to accelerate the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives.

Finally, taking into account the ever–increasing proportion of voluntary, with respect to, assessed contributions, we request the Secretariat to present this Report on a regular basis. In relation to this, it would be crucial that the Organization ensures timely, efficient, and effective delivery of projects and programmes funded by extrabudgetary and Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) resources.

With these comments, the Group of G77 and China endorses the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Mi delegación se adiere a todos los puntos que acaba de tratar la delegación del Sudán del Sur a nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China.

Al ver este tema en la agenda nos preguntamos “¿por qué se plantea a esta sesión del Consejo Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto? Apenas en junio, hace cinco meses, la Conferencia adoptó un Programa de Trabajo y presupuesto (PTP) para dos años: esta es la lógica presupuestaria de la Organización.

El planteamiento del PTP es un proceso de extraordinaria complejidad que involucra a todas las áreas técnicas de la FAO; la aprobación de ese documento implica a todos los Estados Miembros, porque todos sus componentes son debatidos en el Comité del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y el Consejo, desde donde se remite al Órgano Rector supremo, que es la Conferencia.

En su discurso de apertura, el Director General se refirió a los Estados Miembros como los dueños de la Organización. Es así, ni más ni menos. Nosotros, los propietarios de la institución, nos ponemos de acuerdo para indicar los pilares estratégicos y las áreas de labor que nos interesan, en tanto países, regiones y comunidad global. El PTP es, entonces, la destilación de un proceso.

Este punto de agenda tiene precedentes cuando cada nuevo Director General ha tomado posesión. Como es obvio, los candidatos al cargo no participan en la preparación del PTP que implementarán en los dos primeros años de su mandato. Durante la campaña, los candidatos expresan la visión que —de resultar electos— llevarían a la administración de la FAO.

El candidato Dr Qu expresó que su eventual gestión pondría énfasis especial en una serie de temas, incluyendo el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza, que son los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, ODS 1 y 2, de clara interdependencia y que requieren apoyo cruzado, la crisis climática (y sus consecuencias), la innovación (incluyendo nuevas tecnologías), y acciones hacia el desarrollo sostenible y sustentable. La elección del Dr Qu fue, entonces, una decisión de los Estados Miembros sobre su visión para conducir el trabajo de la FAO.

Es razonable, entonces, que la visión del nuevo Director General quede reflejada en ajustes que incorporen su enfoque para construir una Organización cada vez más dinámica, eficaz y efectiva. Cada nuevo ejecutivo debe tener la flexibilidad para fortalecer la administración y la cultura organizativa, pues ello facilitará una gestión fluida, para garantizar la adecuación de la Organización a su mandato y aspiraciones, en un mundo cada vez más complejo.

Las Agencias y los paneles científicos del sistema de Naciones Unidas nos dicen que estamos en una crisis climática, y basta ver los noticieros para comprobar la persistencia de los conflictos armados. El más reciente informe sobre *El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo (SOFI)* nos dice que el clima cambiante y las guerras, así como los flujos migratorios que resultan de ellos, son los principales responsables del aumento en el número de hambrientos y malnutridos. Cabe recordar aquí que un número desproporcionado de quienes sufren hambre y malnutrición son mujeres y niños que sobreviven en países del llamado sur global.

Por todos estos motivos, apreciamos y apoyamos los ajustes propuestos, y deseamos referirnos a algunos aspectos particulares.

Nos entusiasma la idea de que la FAO pueda tener una Oficina para la Innovación; recuerdo que durante su campaña el hoy Director General repetía que la FAO debe “utilizar todas las herramientas disponibles” —en inglés me dijo: “FAO must use all the tools in the toolbox”.

Nos gustaría ver una estrecha sinergia entre quienes estén envueltos en la creación e implementación de la oficina para el impulso de la innovación, y el proceso de convergencia de políticas que tiene lugar en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) sobre la agroecología y otros enfoques, prácticas y tecnologías innovadoras.

Apreciamos también que se destine una suma a acelerar la transformación hacia sistemas alimentarios más sostenibles, considerando que el CSA avanza en un proceso de convergencia de políticas que culminará con las Directrices Voluntarias del CSA sobre sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición, a ser aprobadas en octubre del año próximo.

Es oportuno también llamar la atención al hecho de que los Comités internos de género y juventud tendrán la oportunidad de crear lazos sustantivos de apoyo mutuo con las líneas de trabajo del CSA para el cuatrienio 2020-23 en materias de género y de juventud, con la meta de lograr la convergencia de políticas en ambos temas, que también son dos pilares del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Agricultura Familiar.

En general, celebramos que —gracias a ahorros y eficiencias— los ajustes propuestos no superarían el presupuesto recién aprobado. Aprovechamos para recordar que el presupuesto ordinario de la FAO se ha mantenido congelado a lo largo de varios bienios.

Este estancamiento no se debe a la escasez de recursos financieros, porque la humanidad no ha conocido un volumen total de riqueza mayor que el presente. El presupuesto estático tampoco es el resultado de decisiones políticas para disminuir o debilitar la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición,

porque el volumen de las contribuciones voluntarias a la FAO continúa creciendo año tras año.

Esta es una conversación que debemos tener —en este o en otro momento, pero mejor más temprano que tarde— porque el presupuesto ordinario, que se ha mantenido invariable por casi una década, es el que sustenta las actividades que la FAO realiza en la implementación de un PTP que es negociado de modo transparente y es aprobado en votación abierta de todos los Miembros. Los generosos aportes extrapresupuestarios, que exceden los recursos del presupuesto ordinario hasta duplicarlo, no siempre van a un fondo general, y no siempre financian de modo proporcional el abanico de labores específicas y generales que acordamos todos juntos.

República Dominicana valora, desea y contribuye a una FAO que disfrute de solidez financiera vigorosa y duradera, porque la solidez financiera garantiza la excelencia de los recursos humanos y esto, a su vez, garantiza la relevancia de la FAO como entidad de conocimiento.

Hablamos con toda franqueza sobre asuntos presupuestarios desde la autoridad moral de estar al día con nuestras cuotas al presupuesto general (incluso hemos adelantado una importante suma a la cuota de 2020) y por las sustanciales contribuciones voluntarias que venimos realizando para capitalizar la red descentralizada, tanto en apoyo a la Representación de la FAO en mi país, como para facilitar la labor que la Organización materializa en la subregión de Mesoamérica y el Caribe.

Para concluir, apoyamos la Iniciativa Mano de la mano, tanto en su enfoque prioritario a los países que tienen más urgentes necesidades, como su ampliación a otros que —siendo de renta media o media alta, como ha sido mencionado por otras delegaciones y grupos regionales— requieren, como es el caso de mi país, del acompañamiento de la Organización.

La universalidad del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en general y de la FAO en particular es el principio básico sobre el que se levanta la arquitectura internacional. La FAO sirve a todos sus Miembros, incluyendo a los países más desarrollados, como han expresado varias delegaciones hoy y como demuestra la labor desplegada en múltiples áreas, como la inocuidad alimentaria, la resistencia antimicrobiana o la lucha contra enfermedades de plantas y animales, entre otros muchos ámbitos.

Aprobamos los ajustes propuestos y, de ser este el sentido de la decisión del Consejo, como esperamos, acompañaremos la implementación de tales ajustes y del PTP en su conjunto, con especial atención a las actualizaciones sobre la ejecución de estos a ser presentadas en la próxima sesión del Consejo en junio de 2020.

Mr Kip TOM (United States of America)

The United States of America thanks FAO for maintaining a flat budget and finding additional savings and cost efficiencies. We also welcome FAO allocating additional resources to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, Codex. We are pleased to see Director-General, Dr Qu's team, respond to the request from the Membership. We also commend FAO for allocating a permanent staff Member to the Ombudsperson Office and allocating additional resources to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

The United States of America is also interested in learning more and ready to engage further with FAO Management on the Chief Scientist role, and the scope of the Office for Innovation. We urge FAO to keep the scope of the Office as broad as possible to facilitate work and research on emerging sciences, technology, and innovation, and the associated policy recommendations.

The United States of America notes that the new Office of Innovation should establish quality assurance procedures for corporate science-based decision-making and the use of evidence to underpin FAO's policy recommendations and application of standards for appropriately collecting, analyzing and disseminating scientific data. At the same time, it is critical that the Office of Innovation strictly adhere to, and guided by international agreements regarding, the protection of intellectual property rights. The Office of Innovation should coordinate across multiple scientific disciplines where subject matter experts converge to prioritize and build scientific capacity and advocate evidence-based policy in the context of broader science agendas.

Concerning the Biodiversity Cluster and the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, it should clearly be directed at achieving FAO's strategic goals and visions, focused on agricultural

activities. It should engage with FAO's Technical Committees and other departments and utilize FAO's strength in convening relevant sectors, providing technical support and supporting the use of data

Finally, we will welcome FAO's focus on applying modern science, technology, and innovation to agriculture in order to provide sound evidence-based advice to policymakers and farmers. If implemented properly, this office will put FAO at the forefront of science and innovation, helping us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with Asia Regional Group Statement delivered by Malaysia. I have several additional comments I would like to highlight.

Japan welcomes the proposed *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21* within a flat nominal budget. We expect the Director-General and his team to ensure efficient, effective and transparent Management and operations of the Organization.

In general, Japan is supportive of the idea of creating an Office for Innovation, and the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and we understand adequate supports to those two offices are needed. However, we, share the concerns expressed by Finland on behalf of the European Union, about the secondment of seven to eight Professional staff from the technical divisions to those two offices.

Japan would encourage Management to make sure that FAO maintains its technical capacity and comparative advantages as a knowledge-based specialized international Organization.

Mr Aaron FOWLER (Canada)

Canada welcomes FAO's commitment to efficiency and cost savings and appreciates the transparency with which the proposed adjustments are presented. In our view, the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) should continue to be balanced by savings that do not jeopardize the delivery of the technical work of the Organization.

Canada welcomes the strengthening of oversight mechanisms, which underpin effective, transparent and accountable multilateral governance and action. Canada also welcomes the budget increase for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). This work is very important to Canada and we appreciate that the recommendations from FAO's Conference were heard.

That said, Canada would like to take this opportunity to note that it is not clear that the proposed additional funding will be sufficient to fully meet requirements. We would encourage the Membership to continue to consider additional resourcing for this work. In a similar vein, we would propose that the additional funding be sustained into the next biennium and beyond.

Canada joins others in welcoming the creation of the Chief Scientist and an Office for Innovation. In addition to ensuring the consistency of scientific work across the FAO, the creation of such a position and office should serve to emphasize the primacy of science over perception in key areas of FAO's work.

Canada welcomes initiatives such as the Youth Committee and the Women's Committee. On gender, we hope that this will help strengthen the organizational culture for effective gender mainstreaming and gender parity at all levels. We look forward to receiving the revised gender policy and would appreciate an indication as to when we may expect to see it. We also stress the importance of the action plan to more effectively implement the policy, achieve impact and monitor progress, building on the evaluation of FAO's work on gender, and Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration on promoting gender transformative approaches.

Finally, we join with others who have expressed support for the concept behind the Hand-in-Hand initiative. Canada appreciates that FAO has been responding to calls for additional information about this initiative. Before closing, Canada echoes the comments of China, Russia and France on the importance of timely translation of all official documents into all official languages of this

Organization.

Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)

I would like to make four points in relation to the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*, for which with these comments, we support.

Firstly, the establishment of the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). As a region that comprises of many SIDS, the Southwest Pacific very much welcomes the establishment of this office. We note the information that is being provided in *Information Note 1* with regards to the office's focus on accelerating the implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS, as well as, the involvement in activities associated with the Hand-in-Hand initiative. In managing the role of the office moving forward, we urge the Management to ensure equitable focus on activities, which will benefit all SIDS, LLDCs and LDCs. We would also appreciate the ongoing provision of information to better inform Members of the evolving priorities and of any outcomes that the office achieves.

Secondly, as a strong advocate behind the call for additional resources for the International Plant Protective Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, like many who have spoken before me, we very much welcome the adjustments made to support these programmes. However, we too remind everyone that the call was for sustainable funding and, with this in mind, we trust that there will be ongoing consideration of, and appropriate funding allocations for these programmes in future budget cycles.

Thirdly, as it has been mentioned by delegations before me, with regards to the establishment of the new offices, we also call for consideration of appropriate staffing models, which do not lead to the erosion of FAO's technical capacity.

Finally, while we welcome the additional budgetary allocation for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), we would also like to emphasize the need to ensure measures are put in place to allow this office to address its increased workload.

M. Boumedienne MAHI (Algérie)

Notre délégation s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée au nom du Groupe des 77 et la Chine par le délégué du Soudan du Sud. En complément à notre intervention lors de l'ouverture de cette session, permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer ma profonde gratitude à Monsieur le Directeur général pour les efforts qu'il a déployés au cours de ces premiers mois pour lancer une nouvelle dynamique inclusive dans la gouvernance de cette Organisation, combien importante pour nos pays.

Aussi, nous avons pris note, avec beaucoup d'appréciation, des ajustements apportés à travers la nouvelle approche, cohérente et innovatrice, ainsi que les premières décisions prises par le Directeur général en conformité avec les orientations de la dernière Conférence.

En ce qui concerne le document *CL163/3*, portant sur *les ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 2020-2021*, l'Algérie soutient les révisions organisationnelles et budgétaires proposées dans ce document, qui visent à renforcer la gouvernance, à améliorer la transparence et à optimiser l'efficacité et l'efficience dans le fonctionnement de la FAO.

C'est dans l'esprit de cette approche novatrice, que nous avons pris note avec satisfaction et appuyons: premièrement, le renforcement de la transparence et l'accès aux données de la FAO par la numérisation des activités, informations, données et décisions de l'Organisation, et qui sont à même d'améliorer l'exploitation de son expertise au profit des agriculteurs et pêcheurs; deuxièmement, la création d'un Bureau de l'innovation, élément et initiative importants pour le développement de l'agriculture, des normes et de la qualité, et d'un Bureau dédié aux pays les moins avancés (PMA), aux pays en développement sans littoral et aux petits États insulaires en développement (PEID). S'agissant de ces derniers, nous proposons que la dimension de la coopération Sud-Sud et la coopération triangulaire soit mise à profit afin de permettre aux pays en développement de partager leur expérience; troisièmement, la création de deux Comités pour les jeunes et les femmes rurales: ceci permettra, sans doute, le renforcement de l'implication directe de ces catégories dans les activités de

l'Organisation; et enfin, le renforcement des Bureaux régionaux et nationaux, qui assurent un accompagnement direct des pays dans leur programme de développement.

À ce titre, nous soulignons l'importance des axes prioritaires d'appui technique que les Bureaux régionaux et nationaux devraient fournir, notamment en matière: premièrement, d'élimination de la faim, de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la malnutrition, à travers des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires efficaces, en vue de réduire la pauvreté rurale; deuxièmement, la protection phytosanitaire et sanitaire vétérinaire; troisièmement, la modernisation du système d'appui-conseil et communication agricole et rurale, et aussi la conservation et la gestion durable de la faune sauvage et des aires protégées, ainsi que le développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, et enfin, le développement durable et l'adaptation au changement climatiques, qui constituent une menace pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Monsieur le Président, parler du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et de la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) constitue un sujet d'importance stratégique pour notre pays et pour la majorité des pays du continent africain.

L'Algérie, à l'instar d'autres pays africains a présenté, en juillet passé, son Rapport national volontaire sur la mise en œuvre des ODD en Algérie, qui a dressé un diagnostic des politiques publiques nationales mettant en relief leur alignement avec les ODD, notamment en matière de développement social et économique. Ces rapports ont mis également en relief les défis que les pays devront relever dans les domaines de la diversification économique et de l'adaptation aux répercussions des changements climatiques, de même que l'impératif de la mobilisation des ressources financières pour maintenir et consolider les acquis capitalisés.

La réduction de la pauvreté et l'élimination de sa forme extrême, objet de l'ODD 1 sont au cœur des priorités gouvernementales de notre pays.

C'est ainsi que, tout en prenant la mesure de ce que la pauvreté ne se limite pas à l'insuffisance du revenu monétaire, il convient néanmoins de souligner que notre pays a réalisé des performances notables en matière d'élimination de l'extrême pauvreté. Elle figure parmi les 35 pays au monde qui ont réduit en 2011 le pourcentage de la population vivant au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté international à moins de 0.5 pour cent.

Toutefois, nous estimons, à cet égard qu'il n'existe pas une politique de lutte contre la pauvreté mais que des résultats tangibles ne peuvent être que la résultante d'un ensemble multidimensionnel de politiques économiques sociales et environnementales. La réalisation de l'ODD 1 est en effet assujettie à des progrès dans la sécurité alimentaire (ODD 2), à la création d'emplois productifs et décents (ODD 8), au développement d'une économie dynamique et résiliente aux chocs externes (ODD 9), mais aussi une économie qui soit au service de tous à travers la création et la distribution équitables des richesses (ODD 10) assurant, en particulier pour les franges vulnérables de la population, une protection contre les aléas économiques et environnementaux.

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de souligner l'appui précieux qu'apportent les organisations onusiennes, notamment la FAO, dans la réalisation de ce Programme, et leur rôle dans l'accompagnement, notamment des pays africains en vue du renforcement de leurs capacités institutionnelles et surtout techniques et technologiques, afin de leur permettre de relever les défis et les difficultés auxquelles ils sont en train de faire face.

Ces contraintes sont, en effet, en train d'influencer négativement tout progrès dans la mise en œuvre des ODD, comme mentionné ce matin par le Président du Comité du Programme de la FAO.

Ceci nous ramène à solliciter le renforcement de la coopération dans une approche multidisciplinaire et la construction d'un mécanisme commun et continu pour la bonne gouvernance de la FAO en faveur de la mise en œuvre des ODD.

CHARIPERSON

That brings us to the end of the interventions from Members, now I'll go to the Observers.

Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Switzerland) (Observer)

Switzerland would like to share some observations on document *CL 163/3*, and on its *Information Note 1* that provides more detail on the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21*.

With regards to Chief Scientist and Office of Innovation, we would like to make the following observation. Switzerland believes that accelerating and scaling up innovation in food and agriculture is fundamental for achieving the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

In October 2018, Switzerland and FAO launched the International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture to reward the scaling up of winning innovations, which contribute to the global efforts to reach Zero Hunger.

The first award ceremony took place during FAO's Conference 2019. The prize will be awarded every other year during FAO's Conference, and an update by the awardees on the progress of scaling up will be provided to the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at the following session.

The document *CL 163/3, Information Note 1* gives information on the scope and organization of the Office of Innovation. We would like to see the office take into account, and promote all types of innovations, be it entrepreneurial, financial, social or organisational, in a balanced way.

With regards to the Biodiversity Cluster, we would like to make following observations. As shown by the results of the first publication of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* as well as the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report*, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Goals for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity can only be achieved through transformative change. This requires urgent and concerted efforts of all sectors. By promoting the sustainable use of all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture, agriculture will be part of the solution and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

For these reasons, we therefore think that the development and even more important implementation of both the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the FAO Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture will require stronger engagement of FAO in the future, both at the normative level, with FAO as the leading Agency, as well as in technical cooperation to support Member States.

In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Biodiversity Cluster as a first step to primarily reinforce collaboration within FAO in support of FAO's Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity.

We see the Biodiversity Cluster as a mechanism to strengthen the coordination of FAO's work on biodiversity of all relevant instruments and bodies, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as also highlighted by Mexico, Brazil and South Sudan.

Sr. Edward CENTENO GADEA (Nicaragua)

La Delegación de Nicaragua se une a las declaraciones realizadas por el Grupo de los 77 y China. Expresamos nuestro reconocimiento al Director General y a la Secretaría por la preparación y presentación del documento *CL163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente) Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2020-21* y respaldamos todas aquellas acciones que contribuyan al cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

La Delegación de Nicaragua considera que los ajustes presentados en el Plan de Trabajo y Presupuesto (PTP) se corresponden a una visión de la FAO de conformidad con el mejoramiento de su función y ámbito de acción en todos los Estados Miembros, principalmente aquellos en vías de desarrollo. La aplicación de modelos innovadores funcionales y operativos, más eficientes y eficaces, generará resultados positivos en la medida que estos procesos sean gobernados, evaluados y, eventualmente, ajustados a fin de mejorar el impacto de las acciones de la FAO en los países.

Recibimos con mucho interés la creación de la Oficina para la Innovación y la nueva Oficina para los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID), los países menos adelantados (PMA) y los países en

desarrollo sin litoral (PDL) confiando que esta Oficina cumplirá con las enormes responsabilidades que le serán asignadas. De igual forma, considerando las grandes problemáticas globales relacionadas a la alimentación, salud humana, animal y vegetal, acogemos con satisfacción el aumento, tal como lo solicitó la Conferencia de la FAO, del aporte al presupuesto de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y del Programa conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos.

Este aumento debe tener el objetivo final de llegar directamente a los Miembros de cara al fortalecimiento de sus capacidades fitosanitarias nacionales, asegurar la inocuidad de los alimentos, la mejor nutrición de las poblaciones y favorecer el acceso de estos a mayores y mejores mercados. Estas acciones deberán ser realizadas directamente, proporcionando ágilmente el asesoramiento científico, técnico, oportuno y apropiado con particular énfasis en los aspectos relacionados con las problemáticas presentes y más complejas. Ejemplos de esas problemáticas son la peste porcina clásica y el *Fusarium Raza Tropical 4* (Foc R4T) que están afectando y representan una real amenaza para muchos de nuestros países. En tal sentido, solicitamos, además, continuar fortaleciendo las colaboraciones entre la FAO y los organismos especializados sobre esos temas.

Es fundamental considerar que durante el año 2020 se realizarán las Conferencias Regionales de las cuales seguramente surgirán nuevas prioridades, retos y expectativas de los Miembros que deberán ser tomadas en consideración en las programaciones presupuestarias a corto y mediano plazo.

Por último, consideramos indispensable el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de las oficinas nacionales ya que son el primer canal de comunicación de los países con la FAO, para mejorar su funcionamiento. Para alcanzar esos resultados se debería potenciar de una mejor forma la colaboración directa de la FAO en el cumplimiento de nuestros programas.

Vemos con mucho interés la Iniciativa Mano de la mano para la transformación agrícola, la cual estamos seguros contribuirá a erradicar la pobreza y el hambre. En Nicaragua estamos preparados y dispuestos y a la orden para avanzar en el cumplimiento de los ODS.

Ms Teresa TUMWET (Kenya) (Observer)

Kenya joins the other delegations who have spoken before us in congratulating the Director-General for his first FAO Council Session.

The Kenyan Government aligns itself with the statement given by Cameroon on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, and also aligns itself with other delegations in supporting the issues highlighted in *Item 3, Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*.

Kenya believes that the proposed structural and programmatic adjustments will go a long way in transforming rural livelihoods for sustainable development. We, however, would like to see the Organization pay more attention in the implementation of these strategies so as to achieve the intended outcome.

Indeed, there is a need for FAO to empower its Country, Subregional and Regional Offices in Africa with the appropriate caliber of human resources and capacity, with programmatic and operational experience coupled with solid knowledge of the continent's countries and subregions. This is one of the ways to contribute effectively towards the huge food and nutrition security challenges facing the continent. We also encourage FAO to engage more in continental partnerships with the African Union, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, among others.

We commend FAO for establishing two Committees to address the issues of women and youth. Indeed, Kenya has taken the lead in this area and recently, in Nairobi, co-hosted the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 25, with Denmark and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), whose outcome has been lauded by the world.

The Kenyan Government is implementing similar strategies in the *Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy 2019–2029*, and the *Kenya Big 4 Agenda 2018–2022*, by offering an enabling environment where the public sector engages the private sector for smallholder agribusiness transformation. Indeed the Government believes that all stakeholders are key for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 on poverty eradication, and SDG 2 on

ending hunger.

Agricultural transformation is critical in growing the economy, reducing the cost of food, alleviating poverty and delivering 100 percent food and nutrition security. The Government of Kenya is committed in transforming the agricultural sector for the wellbeing of Kenyans and economic growth. Indeed, these strategies' implementation framework bring together stakeholders in all the sectors to work hand-in-hand and build synergies.

In conclusion, the Kenyan Government appreciates the support extended by FAO and is committed to continued cordial working relations. We also appreciate other development partners supporting the agricultural sector and indeed rural transformation, to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger, and hence achieve the ultimate goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in the country.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Sénégal) (Observateur)

Tout d'abord, le Sénégal s'associe à la déclaration faite par le Soudan du Sud au nom du Groupe des 77 et la Chine et à celle faite par le Cameroun au nom du Groupe Afrique.

À notre tour, nous accueillons avec bonheur les ajustements proposés par le Directeur général dans le Programme de travail et budget 2020–2021, qui nous paraissent appropriés pour renforcer les capacités de la FAO pour la réalisation de son mandat et des objectifs qui lui ont été assignés dans le cadre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Nous soutenons ces ajustements opérés dans le cadre des ressources budgétaires déjà allouées.

Nous saluons particulièrement l'initiative Main dans la main, récemment lancée par le nouveau Directeur général, pour la réalisation effective des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) dans les petits États insulaires en développement (PEID), aux pays les moins avancés (PMA) et les pays en développement sans littoral. À cet égard, nous nous félicitons de la création d'un Bureau destiné aux PEID, PMA et pays en développement sans littoral.

Nous applaudissons également la mise en place d'un Bureau de l'innovation avec, à sa tête, un scientifique en chef, qui aura rang de Sous-Directeur général (SDG). Nous croyons que ce double réajustement dans la structure interne de la FAO la propulsera sur l'orbite des organisations les plus modernes du système des Nations Unies et lui permettra de mieux fonder ses initiatives et programmes sur des données scientifiques probantes.

Nous accueillons favorablement la création du Groupe transversal sur la biodiversité et soutenons cette mesure qui contribuera, sans nul doute, à une plus grande intégration de la biodiversité dans tous les domaines de l'agriculture.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Chile se adhiere a la declaración realizada por Sudán del Sur en nombre del Grupo de los 77 más China (G-77). Queremos referirnos al documento *CL 163/3 Nota Informativa n.º2* referido al uso de contribuciones voluntarias a lo largo de los últimos tres bienios, desglosada con arreglo a las dimensiones programáticas y geográficas en la aplicación del Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020–21. Recordamos que este documento fue requerido por el 161.º período de sesiones del Consejo en relación a la discusión sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) y, en particular, debido a que algunas delegaciones señalaron que habían significativos recursos de las contribuciones voluntarias que iban al PCT.

Si analizamos el documento *CL 163/3 Nota Informativa n.º2* a la luz de esta motivación, vemos que no nos otorga mayor claridad por lo que sugerimos que en su próxima versión se desglose la información por capítulo presupuestario, tal como está en los párrafos 3 y 4 del documento *CL 163/3/Rev.1 (en español únicamente)*.

Recordamos que el Comité del Programa en su sesión de otoño de 2020 revisará el documento de evaluación del PCT y nos parece que esta información sería de gran utilidad.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings to an end the list of speakers.

I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen, Ms Smolcic and the Secretariat to comment on any of the questions raised by Members.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee) (Chairperson, Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees)

I think that when you listen to all the interventions and comments made by the Members of the Council, you see a convergence of many points. There is a consensus on many points when it comes to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and it is very much in line with the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the Programme Committee. I think the welcoming of the actual budget for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as well as Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, Codex, is clear. It is also clear that there is a strong need for more scientific-based evidence when it comes to the policymaking of FAO.

In that respect, I think that when you speak about innovation, and of course it should be about innovation for all forms of sustainable agriculture, we should not only look at what we see here in Rome, but, especially assess what is available at the country level and accessible for farmers. In that respect there was strong support for the Office of Innovation and the Chief Scientist in principle. However, many questions about the exact role and the terms of reference are remaining.

When it comes to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, you also see a clear consensus about the needs for adopting the private sector strategy, but mainstreaming the biodiversity strategy in all sectors, all forms of agriculture, and other sectors. However, again, seeing the *Information Notes* that were given at a very late request, they provided further information and I think those need to be further studied and discussed.

When it comes to the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), it is clear there is a strong support, but still some questions remain on how to relate it to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and how it will be implemented, also related to the staffing. The signal that the Members of the Council are giving are very important. They are willing to approve the PWB, they are willing to approve the innovations and the proposals of the new Director-General. However, I think it is work in progress.

When it comes to the implementation, based on the *Information Note*, and what was requested by the Russian Federation was clear, that we need to have some time to reflect further on the information provided in the *Information Notes* on several topics like the Office of Innovation, the Office for SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs and mainstreaming biodiversity. Of course, we can still approve the PWB and we can go ahead with these initiatives.

It is also important that when we look at the priorities, we look at the priorities of all countries, especially at country level. Of course, the countries who need it the most, because for that we have clear indications on guidance from New York, but also that we look into middle-income countries and upper-middle-income countries.

The Youth and Women's Committees are strongly supported. It is now up to the implementation of those Committees. You know my favourism for the youth and I believe it is important that we have a Youth Committee, but it is even more important, how we can work with youth in job creation in agriculture in the countries.

Last but not least, the food systems. The word "food systems" was used many times and of course we are going to work together. It was addressed in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Finance Committee, as well as, the Programme Committee, to work together, the Membership and the Organization, on the World Food System Summit. However, it is important that we are being careful in our wording for food systems.

It is important that we speak about investments in food systems, but be careful when we speak about transforming food systems because in preparation for the Council, we had a six hour discussion and we are careful that if we speak about transforming that we do not say that we need to transform all

food systems, because some food systems need investment but could already be sustainable. Therefore, sometimes, you will see the terminology “transforming food systems” as appropriate, but be careful that we do not overdo it. This is because that investing in sustainable food systems is the key message that we have to give and especially investing in food systems for those who need it the most.

With that, I am very positive, not only about the proposals of the Director–General but also of the reply by the Members of the Council. We want to work hard on these proposals, implement them and, where needed to further develop, and if needed, we see new proposals for adjustments next year.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

No hay muchos elementos más para agregar a lo que el Presidente del Comité del Programa ha expuesto. Básicamente, lo que se ha tratado en la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones, ha desarrollado los temas que el Presidente del Comité del Programa ha expuesto acerca de la necesidad de tener presente y extremar cuidados en cuanto a los recursos humanos, y que los Miembros del Consejo han explicitado en sus declaraciones.

Otro asunto a considerar, y que fue presentado por el distinguido Representante de República Dominicana, tiene que ver con la revisión del presupuesto, que se ha mantenido sin cambios y que ameritaría una discusión por parte de los Miembros del Consejo. Obviamente es una discusión que tiene que ser considerada por su parte y que es muy difícil en momentos en que no se puede elevar la contribución de los Miembros.

Todos los otros temas que se han considerado durante la Sesión Conjunta han sido resumidos por el Presidente del Comité del Programa, por lo tanto, no creo que haya mucho más para agregar.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I give the floor to Ms Beth Crawford to answer some of the questions.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

Thank you, Members, for all of your very interesting and positive comments.

I think it is really useful and helpful for us to hear your thoughts and your feedback on these proposals. Not only for the implementation of these adjustments, but also as we move forward, and as we present in June 2020, further proposals to you, that we also have a strong understanding of the types of areas where you would like more information. Thank you really very much for the strong support.

I think that most of the interventions focussed on the appreciation of the proposed adjustments and in particular that they reflected the Director–General’s vision as he presented during his campaign, to build the dynamic inclusive, transparent and efficient FAO. That is really what we are aiming to do here.

We are pleased that we were able to provide the additional funding for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), as well as for mainstreaming biodiversity, all as requested by the Conference. We have taken note of several of the comments for Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, Codex, and the IPPC, that there should be sustainable funding. We aim to do the best we can within the flat budget that we have been working on under for the last many biennium.

We were also pleased that we were able to present the new proposals within the existing levels by finding the efficiency savings and the adjustments to the cost increases. I just want to confirm that, of course, throughout the biennium we continue to monitor the cost increases and continue to report back on that through the Finance Committee in the *Annual Report on Budgetary Performance*. This is where we review any further changes in these types of levels. We will also, in that context, report to the Finance Committee on the funding for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which has been raised by a few of you and was also raised during the Finance Committee.

Now, as far as the new offices, again we appreciate your support for these offices. There were a number of questions on the importance of ensuring that the technical knowledge would not be

hindered through the establishment of these new offices. I know that my colleague, the Deputy Director–General, will speak on these topics in more detail, but I just wanted to underline, as the Director–General also outlined this morning, if anything, we really believe that these offices would create the opposite effect. Therefore, we believe that these new offices, for example the Office of Innovation, will really ensure cross–fertilization of new knowledge and approaches and ideas and breaking down silos, and that when we have rotating officers, that we will have innovation champions throughout the Organization to foster, promote and incentivize innovations.

Similarly, for the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land–Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the core structure of that office will be focused on the coordination and the internal outreach and monitoring process that will be happening and in some ways that will be freeing up some of the technical time and allowing the technical officers to really focus on the key technical areas.

There were some specific questions on the Biodiversity Cluster, on the technical support or the technical officers, and on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). With your approval, Mr Chair, the Deputy Director–General would like to respond further on those items.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director–General, Programmes)

I am very pleased to pick up on the point that Ms Beth Crawford made on the technical capacity and the implications of these new offices. We certainly share the concern on the erosion, or eventual erosion of technical capacity. Similarly, there is always a need for a balance between those who are, let us say, combining ideas and those who are generating ideas. In this particular case, I think that we are far from reaching a dangerous balance in that regard, and where we see the problem is actually quite differently.

Where I think the danger is, or where the risk is, is in not having the right mix at the right level of specializations for what we are called on to do today. The last time we did a serious analysis like this was some years ago. Periodically we need to do it. If we do it soon, we will have to do it again, probably in another decade. What you are demanding, what we are producing in terms of results requires a level of expertise across a variety of areas that changes over time and that is, I think, where we really have to put the emphasis.

Otherwise, in terms of combining things and moving forward, remember that what really we are doing is producing results. We are asked by you, mandated by you, to produce results in three big areas: eradication of hunger, reduction of poverty, and to do this in a way that promotes more sustainable natural resource management. Those are our three main goals and we have to produce results on those and we have to, as we move forward, derive the results, and this new Strategic Framework will be derived from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and indicators in Agenda 2030. What we have to do is produce results and there we are not doing well enough, as you know, and as we discuss quite frequently.

One of the perhaps greatest pleasures of working as an FAO Representative at the country level is, in fact, to pull together all of the information, ideas and expertise that FAO has in all of the areas and apply those to the priorities and the issues in the country where you are working.

It is really what the FAO Representative role is all about. Working with others you are in constant contact with your other colleagues on the United Nations (UN) teams, in Government, Civil Societies, and often the private sector and so on. However, what you are tasked to do is to pull all this together. Historically, we do not, or, we have not had a similar pulling together at the Headquarters level and this has always been a challenge. This has always been a challenge, not only for us, but for any Organization that has technical disciplinary–based divisions, which we will continue to have and which we need to have.

Therefore, the challenge in producing results is how you pull these things together and how you combine the information that we have in order to produce results which, as you have pointed out, and we recognize, are not sufficient. We are not making progress on the SDGs at the rate we should and we have a greater role to play in that regard.

Of course, the Subregional Offices and the Regional Offices have a role to play, but when you look, for

example, at the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), they are not region-specific, they pull together or they pool countries from various regions. It has been very difficult for us, for example, to come up with a coherent global strategy on SIDS, given the fact that there are some countries, some SIDS, which, in fact, are the only ones in their region. It has been difficult to pull together the Caribbean, the African, East and West, and the Pacific SIDS in a way that we would have liked to have done, in what we were hoping to do, so that I think, adding staff to look at how the information, how the knowledge, how the technology, the global public goods are applied to that set of countries is, I think, mandatory. We do not do that well enough and that, in fact, should be a priority and that it is less of a problem in erosion of technical capacity than other aspects.

When you look at the innovation side, a similar thing happens. When I think of who would be a good candidate for Chief Scientist, I think of Mr Peter Kenmore, a good colleague who I am sorry more of you did not know. However, he was the head of our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme for a long time. He retired, I think, about four years ago.

The United States of America has a prize called the MacArthur Prize. Quite a sizeable one, which is given for innovation and creativity. Largely or originally a lot of scientists, also for artists. Mr Peter Kenmore is the only FAO staff who has ever received the MacArthur Award and he received the MacArthur Award for his work in FAO. He was or is, still a brilliant scientist, but he was a Programme Manager of the IPM Programme for many years. After that, he was the Deputy Head of the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), and then he was the FAO Representative in India when he retired.

I think he would be an ideal Chief Scientist and he was not, he was on the Management side. He was probably our best scientist, but he was one who really pulled things together in a way that was especially productive and he is kind of who I had in mind of someone who would be really good in a role like this that we need, even though he is not necessarily the one generating the technical knowledge in that sense.

Also, I can think of a number of names, which I am sure we will, if you approve, I will pass on to the Director-General, of particularly younger people in the Organization who are excellent scientists and who I think would really be good in this Office of Innovation. The reason that they are good is because they are really good networkers. They read the newsletters, they keep up on things. I think their training, relative to my own, for example, they work better in groups naturally, they deal better with digital technology. They just have, let us say, a different outlook on innovation and science and they would be really good in this. I think even though they are very good scientists, which I know, their greatest contribution to producing results would probably be in this office and not working, let us say, in the technical division where they are now. On the contrary, it would not be a deterioration of the technical capacity but, in fact, I think would increase our technical capacity in the sense of delivering results.

I would be happy to keep talking on this because I think it is a really important point, on how we produce results, but I will pass on.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General Climate and Natural Resources)

We can give you other names. We have a pool of good scientists in FAO. What is important is to create the environment where they can be fully utilized and bring their knowledge and all the energy they have to develop innovation.

I would like to reply to two or three main questions and thank you for all the support you provided to the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

I will start with the indicator on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Since we finished the Programme Committee we started doing our homework and started thinking about what the appropriate indicators could be. I think we have identified one or two, but we are still discussing this internally. However, since a timeframe has been asked, I think, in the next Programme Committee we will be able to present an indicator to be approved by the Programme Committee. Let us see at the spring Session of the Programme Committee where we will have a proposal on an indicator for AMR in the Strategic

Framework.

Regarding the Biodiversity Cluster, I believe and I can read that we have consensus on the importance of having the Biodiversity Cluster in FAO. Allow me to provide some information on how we work on biodiversity nowadays, in FAO. FAO hosts the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and hosts the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Biodiversity is done in the technical departments; the Forestry Department, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. Now we have a Department for Biodiversity. However, we need to have better integration and better coordination. We have our Strategy and the Strategy is the base upon which we will be developing FAO's work on biodiversity for food nutrition and agriculture. I think this is where FAO should work.

The platform will facilitate the coordination, the integration and more structured coordination inside the Organization. Internationally, we will be dealing with the Convention on Biodiversity and other international organizations working on biodiversity. We will be implementing the strategy at global level and at country level.

Allow me to tell you that several countries have already requested information on how we are going to implement the Strategy at country level. We also need to provide the support, the guidance on how we have a science policy interface on biodiversity, and on how the cluster will be. The Office of Innovation will be in charge of supporting this normative work, the science work, and this interface with policies.

With regard to the question on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The last Programme of Work, an investment plan on IPPC, is around USD 8 million by 2021. Surely, FAO provides a contribution but it is not enough. I believe we have a Resource Mobilization Plan but we need extra budgetary resources. FAO has done its part and we need better contribution from our Members. Thank you as we have already received some contributions, but I think all of us should better contribute to achieve the USD 8 million and to have a sustainable contribution to the resources needed.

I believe those are the questions I had from my side, and the same for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, Codex, scientific work.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I would like to compliment the intervention of my colleagues on two points.

The first point is the point raised by Canada regarding the gender policy. The question was on when the revised gender policy would be issued. This matter was discussed at the Programme Committee and Management, the Secretariat, committed to having the revised gender policy ready by the end of the year. We are still in line with the plan and we hope to have the revised policy ready by December, where January would be the latest; therefore, it is under control.

Within this gender policy there will be a section on gender parity, which is being developed right now to improve the figures. I want to give you at this occasion the latest figures that we are working on. As of November 2019, speaking of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), 44 percent our Professional staff is female. From the Professional staff level 1 (P1) to Professional staff level 4 (P4), 51 percent are female staff. At the Professional staff level 5 (P5), and when we increase the level it is here that the problem starts, only 30 percent are female staff. At the director level (D) and above, figures show that 26 percent are females. Therefore, progress is to be made and we are committed to work on this, to improve the gender balance, particularly on Senior positions in the Organization.

The other point I want to make is regarding the comments made by Canada, France and by the Russian Federation regarding the distribution of documents. We are not complacent and we are going to try to improve. We know how important it is to generate fruitful a debate in the Council, to have a timely distribution of documents. I can tell you that this Council has been probably, in terms of our internal performance indicators, the best in terms of distribution of documents since 2011. It is not enough. To give you an indication, we had the 17 main documents, of which three are Conference documents. Thirteen (13) of these 17 were dispatched four weeks before the Council in all languages. This is a deadline which is stipulated in our Council multi-year programme of work. The remaining four

documents were not distributed on time because they needed input from the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, which took place from 4 to 8 November. In fact, they were distributed in all languages the week after the Finance and Programme Committees.

It was agreed to have a number of *Information Notes*. In fact, six *Information Notes* were produced as a result of the request by the Programme Committee and Finance Committee. Regarding these *Information Notes*, the issue was not so much a problem of translation but a problem of producing them, their content. Some of them you saw, for example, the one on Hand-in-Hand Initiative was quite elaborate. They were distributed in English on 26 November and in other languages one day after, for five of them, five out of six, on 27 November.

What I am saying is that we are improving and it is not good enough. We aim to improve further for the next Session of the Governing Bodies.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

As you know, FAO is a big, old, poor Organization. I should tell the truth. You are the real owners and you know how poor this Organization is, how old and how big it is.

The first time I had a talk with the UN Secretary-General (SG) and the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), they said “you have so many Country Offices, 154”. Then they asked, “How can you manage them?” I said, I am investigating how. That was three months ago.

A lot of Ambassadors come to see me to say “You have to strengthen the Country Representatives”. Then we started to stop any Professional staff level 4 (P4) to go to the Country Office. For that, there is still some misunderstandings. They say, “Ok we want to promote the good ones”. No.

I said we want to select a Professional staff level 5 (P5), at least, who has experience, who thinks strategically, and more sociable people, because you need to talk with the Member Countries and different Ministers. If you meet some Deputy Director-General’s (DDG) from the International Cooperation Department in the country, you start talking and they look down on you like a junior who cannot be trusted.

For that, it takes time, because as I have said, FAO is big, old and poor. That is my real observation.

For Codex, you have talked about it for years and years, but you did not increase any code. During my campaign I had a personal discussion with the United States of America Representative, Duffy, who has gone back now. I asked him, “Would you give me your pocket money, USD 1 million for increasing Codex?” There is zero increase, but for most things there is consideration, but you did not increase any code.

That is how, also for biodiversity, for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), all these norm-settings work. We do need money, not big money, but maybe I can increase USD 1 million, you can increase by USD 1 million, so we can make USD 2 million. That’s a levy we have learnt from Australia, 20 years ago.

We should build up those kind of levy systems, if we really consider it a priority, let us shift a little bit the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) budget, next time, for innovation, also.

A lot of people talk about this Organization as a knowledge-based Organization. Where does knowledge come from? Not from the air. It should come from the mind, from innovation of your mind set, thinking, and brain. We need persons there closely thinking of innovation and business and the global challenge, holistically.

Also for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), from the United Nations (UN) at Headquarters, where they have an Under Secretary. A Madame from Tonga. She has about ten people, and no other professional Organization of the UN has a SIDS Office.

That is why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation was not as good as Member Countries expected, during the evaluation presented in New York before the General Assembly. That is why FAO is aligned with UN Development System Reform.

We are concentrating our focus on the most vulnerable people and in the vulnerable regions, first.

Then of course, as I have said, we can come to the middle-income countries and higher income countries, and even Europe. I always ask Europe, in twenty years what will your rural development be?

We have to start preparing now, because if you start now, maybe ten years later our experience is good for middle-income countries that is a way of development. You cannot change history, you can speed up the steps. Therefore, many bigger heroes wanted to change history, finally history showed him or her.

We have to follow the history well, and speed up the process in what we can do.

Thank you for your support. I do hope you understand what my holistic design is, and then we start one by one. Then we end, finally, with a lump sum of what you expected.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now try and summarize your discussions. My summary conclusions, they will be on the screen and this will enable you to adjust areas where you think it does not accurately reflect your discussion.

Item 3: Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21

1. The Council endorsed the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in respect to the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–21*.
2. The Council:
 - a) Welcomed the document reflecting the guidance and decision of the Conference and the initial adjustments proposed by the Director-General;
 - b) Expressed satisfaction that the proposed adjustments would be managed within the overall approved budget level of USD 1,005.6 million through cost saving and efficiencies without negativity impacting the delivery of the agreed programme of work;
 - c) Stressed the importance of multilingualism at FAO and underlined the importance of maintaining the integrity of language services capacity within PWB 2020-21;
 - d) Reiterated the guidance from 163rd Session on the need to take into account priorities for all countries, including middle-income and upper-middle-income countries;
 - e) Welcomed the additional resources allocated to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and to mainstreaming Biodiversity;
 - f) Looked forward to adequate funding for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) from within existing resources;
 - g) With regard to FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance, welcomed the Agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan Results Framework in the FAO Strategic Results Framework;
 - h) Appreciated the establishment of the Women's Committee and the Youth Committee, as a means of providing platforms for dialogue and outreach;
 - i) Welcomed the additional information received regarding the Office for Innovation, Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and the Biodiversity Cluster. Noting that their staffing will have no negative impact on the capacity of technical units, approved their establishment;
 - j) Endorsed the updated organizational structure in *Annex I* and revised budget post establishment, *Rev. Annex 5* and *3*, the Council approved the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 3*.

That is the end of the summary and the floor is open for Members to comment on the various paragraphs.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Just one suggestion with regard to letter (i), the last part of the sentence that starts with, “noting that the staffing would have no negative impact,” we would suggest replacing “noting” with “provided that the staffing would have no negative impact.”

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

One issue, which the European Union (EU) raised was the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme. We asked for further information from the Management regarding the scheduled activities. We did not see, really, that that was taken up.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Dans la section (e), notre demande se réfère au fait que beaucoup de délégations ont demandé que ces ressources allouées à la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux (CIVP) et au Codex deviennent permanentes.

Donc, il faudrait rajouter après « scientific advice programme », l’expression suivante « and asked that these additional resources become sustainable. » ou choisir le terme « permanent » plutôt que « sustainable ». « This additional [...] become permanent ».

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Con respecto a esta última sugerencia que acaba de hacerse al punto (e), no estoy entendiendo bien, porque, en mis notas yo tengo que no se están incrementando los recursos presupuestarios, que no se está incrementando el monto del presupuesto. Escuchamos del Secretariado que 9.5 millones de dólares estadounidenses se han insertado en una serie de capítulos, y que este dinero proviene no de una nueva ronda de contribuciones sino de ahorros por eficiencia y de otros ámbitos en los cuales el Secretariado ha identificado sumas que pueden ser reutilizadas.

Entonces, si en alguno de los puntos, y mi delegación no tiene nada a favor ni en contra de que se haga esto en el punto (e) o en otros puntos, va a decir el Consejo que estos recursos van a ser permanentes, pues entonces mi delegación necesita aclaraciones.

¿Esto que significa?, ¿Que ese monto se va a buscar en futuros presupuestos como ahorros o como eficiencias? o ¿que los presupuestos en el futuro se van a incrementar por este monto en particular y esto va a ser asignado para este destino? Querriamos que nos lo aclaren para poder entenderlo bien.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Please allow me to propose adding at the very end of paragraph (b), , “in accordance to Resolution 13/2019”.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

The recommendation we made today was regarding the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–2022 and I would avoid to make recommendations on other biennia. Therefore, I cannot go along with the proposal of making a “permanent” recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON

There are a few questions that have been raised, so I'll give the floor to the Secretariat. First to Ms Beth Crawford, and then to Ms Maria Helena Semedo, if you could take up the question from Finland.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

On the question of the addition in paragraph (e), which currently reads, “and ask that these additional resources become permanent,” indeed at this time it is difficult to forecast what may happen in the future. I would suggest that perhaps we could use wording along the lines of “and ask that these additional resources become incorporated in the ongoing Programme of Work.”

The reason why I am using that language is because what would happen in the future then is that we start from that ongoing Programme of Work, which you will be approving here now, and if we were to

make changes in that in future, either up or down, we would need to explain that to you. Because we always explain changes that are coming into subsequent versions of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

Therefore, I think that might be a way to ensure that this is as an ongoing part of the Programme of Work, which would mean that therefore it would be discussed in the future if changes came in in that way.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director–General Climate and Natural Resources)

If I understood well, the question is, in the Scientific Programme of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), what activities are to be promoted?

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

If I may clarify, we mentioned that we will come at Management’s commitment to address the backlog of the Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and we asked for further information regarding the scheduled activities.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director–General Climate and Natural Resources)

I do not have the schedule here, but I will provide the information later today or tomorrow morning. I will request it to the Codex.

CHAIRPERSON

On Paragraph (e), the wording proposed by Ms Beth Crawford “incorporated in the ongoing Programme”, is that acceptable? I see no other requests for the floor, so I take it that we can adopt?

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I think the issue on paragraph (e) is about these resources. What we are looking for is a confirmation that these resources will be used to address the backlog that the Scientific Advice Programme is experiencing. It will be good to have that confirmation and perhaps have that reflected in the language, if indeed that is the case.

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

En el literal (i) se dice que se dió la bienvenida a la información adicional recibida respecto de la *Oficina para la Innovación*. Nosotros deseáramos que se estableciera que se dió la bienvenida a la conformación o a la creación de la *Oficina para la Innovación*.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the wording proposed by Argentina on paragraph (i) acceptable? It is acceptable.

Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)

Can we go back to the sentence about the importance of multi-linguism? As the Chinese delegation emphasizes it is not only about language services but also translating FAO’s flagship publications into other languages, because we think such translations will effectively enhance FAO’s effectiveness and visibility. As these publications could reflect the outcomes of the work of FAO. If translated to other languages, then more people can use these results and fully tap into the value of these publications.

CHAIRPERSON

Any comments on this amendment? I see none.

Dominican Republic, does the amendment proposed by Ms Beth Crawford answer your question? Thank you.

We still have one point outstanding raised by the United Kingdom about the backlog. Ambassador, would you have a proposal?

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I am happy to make a proposal. I was just seeking confirmation from Management that the backlog would be addressed, and if that is the case, then it would be good to have it reflected in the text.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director–General Climate and Natural Resources)

I just wanted to confirm that the money will be used to reduce the backlog. The backlog cannot be eliminated in one year and particularly that is not only with FAO resources; it is FAO and WHO.

What I cannot say in this moment, what the programme will be, which backlog will be reduced in the first, second year and third year. I request to my colleagues. I hope I will receive it before we close today, otherwise tomorrow and I will share with you. What I can confirm, yes, indeed, it will be to reduce the backlog.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the revised wording fine?

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

That is very helpful to have that confirmation and, yes, almost. I just do not like the words “*inter alia*”. If we could delete those and leave it as it is, that would be great.

CHAIRPERSON

I see “*inter alia*” has been deleted.

I also see no other request for the floor, so we can consider the summary adopted.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

México sugiere que el tema de biodiversidad quede incluido antes de la última parte que se anexó.

CHAIRPERSON

Is this revised text acceptable? I see it is.

With this we can adopt this summary and move on to the next Item.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2019)**Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent vingt-septième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixante-dix-huitième session) (novembre 2019)****Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2019)**

(CL 163/6; CL 163/6 Information Note 1; CL 163/12; JM 2019.2/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Item 4, which is the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee*, held on 4 November. The documents before Council are *CL 163/6*, *CL 163/6 Information Note 1*, *CL 163/12*, and *JM 2019.2/3*.

I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, who also Chaired the Joint Meeting, to introduce the Report.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee) (Chairperson, Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees)

At this late afternoon, we are now going to address the Report of the Joint Committee and allow me to briefly present the outcome of the discussion of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee.

Again on the outset, I really would like to thank my Co–Chair, and certainly all colleagues of the Programme and Finance Committee. Not only for the hard work, but also for the excellent work and for the very constructive, positive and friendly atmosphere in which we conducted our Joint Meeting,

since it has been different in the past. It was not only during the Monday Session of the Joint Meeting, but also when we adopted the Draft Report on Friday on a fast track.

I also would also like to thank the Director-General for the time he spent in the Joint Meeting; not only on Monday but also on Friday. The Joint Meeting appreciated and welcomed the Director-General's many accomplishments as well as his new proposals, his energy and his focus on implementation and results, as when he was taking office. The Joint Meeting appreciated his comprehensive, informative and encouraging presentation delivered during the meeting. He presented, what he presented this morning, his initiatives, his willingness to work with the Membership, seeing that the Membership is the owner of the Organization, but also his mood for change and get things done on the ground. The Joint Meeting welcomed in particular the Director-General's important tone he set from the top on transparency, accountability and teamwork; the measures on improving internal governance including the delegation of authority, which he also mentioned this morning; and the strengthening oversight and accountability. We were very positive about his policies and actions to boost staff morale; the emphasis on making FAO much more digital, including digital technologies and digital agriculture; as well as measures to increase FAO's international visibility and reputation, not only here in Rome, not only in New York, but I think at the global level.

I would like report briefly on four matters.

First, on the annual Report on *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*. First of all, the Joint Meeting welcomed the progress made in alignment of FAO's activities in these matters and the revised the Whistleblower Protection Policy programme. Especially nowadays, I think it is important that we have these improvements in the policies. The Joint Meeting welcomed and looked forward to the staff satisfaction survey, including harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse to be carried out in 2019 and the engagement of Staff Representative Bodies in the preparation of the survey.

On the proposal for the use of unspent balances of the biennial appropriations, we had long discussions about the advice of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), but we also looked especially at Article 4.2 of the Financial Regulations. The Joint Meeting invited the Council to further discuss the compliance with Financial Regulation 4.2 in relation to the current practice prior to the implementation of the proposal, taking into account, in particular, the need to ensure transparent and proper budgetary processes and procedures.

On the *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration*, we had quite a discussion in a positive atmosphere, but we of course made some critical remarks. The Joint Meeting recommended that future Reports focus on strategic issues and lessons learned, especially to reflect collaboration at the country level; looked forward to further discussion within the broader repositioning of the United Nations Development Reform System (UNDS) and this should be a standing Item of the Informal RBA Governing Bodies Meetings every year.

The Joint Meeting appreciated the efforts of the RBAs in preparing for the World Food System Summit under the direct leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG), and emphasized the need for Members to be fully involved. It also emphasized and welcomed the joint efforts on joint countries' strategies in pilot countries and looked forward to reporting on these pilots and more countries following very soon. It also requested FAO to get together with WFP and IFAD to assess the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and a greater collaboration in some of the oversight functions.

Of course, as we already saw this morning and this afternoon, there have been long discussions in the Joint Meeting about the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and we already made some conclusions on it. The Joint Meeting, as well as the Programme Committee, had a first more in-depth discussion on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and requested additional information of details to be further submitted to the Council. Of course, we have seen that these *Information Notes* were distributed to the Council before this Council Meeting. The Joint Meeting also clearly stated that it is work in progress, and that we should be supporting in principle the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Let the Initiative grow, nourish it, and let it become major so we can implement it. However for that, we need further discussions, and we also have to see whether or not the Hand-in-Hand Initiative leads to further changes in the

Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and those will be discussed next year.

Overall, the Joint Meeting was very productive and, in particular, a number of important issues facing the Organization were discussed and addressed. If you look to the Agenda for the next Meetings, these Agenda's are even more ambitious. With that, Mr Chairman, I would like to conclude my report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

La Presidenta del Comité de Finanzas no tiene nada que agregar al informe realizado por el Presidente del Comité del Programa.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for Members to comment on the Report.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

We would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees, and all their Members for their active participation and for having made available to us this concise Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Egypt is making this statement on Item 4, on behalf of the Near East Group, and we would like to highlight the following points.

The Near East Group supports the vision of the Director-General to build a dynamic, transparent and efficient FAO and to improve staff morale that will certainly have a positive impact on the effective delivery of the Programme of the Organization that will reflect on achieving tangible results at the country level. In this regard, the Near East Group welcomes the progress made in the alignment of FAO's activities in corporate policy, processes and measures on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment, and authority abuse within United Nations System-wide initiatives. We appreciate the clear message from the top on zero tolerance for all types of harassment and wrongdoing acts including authority abuse.

We would like also to support the organization of a staff satisfaction survey, including a section on harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse during 2019, taking into consideration lessons learned from such processes, which have taken place at WFP, and ensuring the engagement of the Staff Representative Bodies in the preparation of such survey that should be expanded to all staff both at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices.

The Near East Group welcomes the current recruitment process of an Ethics Officer and of an Ombudsperson, and we look forward to concluding the recruitment process and filling those two positions at the beginning of 2020. The Near East Group supports also a new stronger Key Performance Indicator 10.3.E to be discussed at the next session of Finance Committee next May 2020.

With respect to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Near East Group welcomes the Initiative that aims at accelerating the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and SDG 2 in some priority countries; such as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Least Developing Countries (LDCs), and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and countries in state of food crisis', since it is the case of some countries in our region. In this regard, the Group seeks additional information about the Initiative, such as its terms of reference, its mandate and its connection with the Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

The Near East Group underlines that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative should not create any additional financial obligations or negatively affect the delivery of programme of other countries, in particular middle-income countries that are still facing major challenges in eradicating poverty and ending hunger.

With respect to the *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration* the Near East Group appreciates the continuous commitment of FAO, IFAD and WFP Principals to strengthen collaboration based on synergies and complementarities of the Rome-based Agencies. In this regard, we look forward to having concrete outcomes and results of such collaboration, and we believe this

could be accomplished if such commitment were dispatched at the country level to implement joint ventures to address resilience building and root causes in a way to support governments in achieving food security and fighting poverty and hunger.

In conclusion, the Near East Group is looking forward to an active participation of both RBAs and Member States, in the preparation of the World Food Systems Summit in 2021, after nominating the special envoy for the Summit by the Secretary–General since we believe that working hand in hand between RBAs and the Member States is crucial for the success of the Summit that should focus on achieving food security and SDG 1 and SDG 2.

With these comments, the Near East Group supports the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Meeting of Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

I respectively would like to pass it on to the Philippines who will be delivering the Statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. I am not able to see the speakers on the screen, so if it allowed I would like to speak after that.

Mr Rodolfo VICERRA (Philippines)

The Philippines has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Regional Group highly appreciates the presentations by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Secretariat, as well as their hard work, with the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Members of both Committees on this Agenda Item. In this regard, we would like to highlight the following points.

One, on *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*, we welcome FAO's progress in aligning its activities with UN System-wide initiatives and support the establishment of separate Action Plans with clear timelines and targets. We re-emphasize the importance of the effective implementation of these Action Plans and continued efforts for awareness raising and training among staff Members. We welcome FAO's confirmation that the staff satisfaction survey with a section on sexual harassment and authority abuse will be undertaken in 2019. We encourage FAO to make maximum efforts to raise awareness among the staff and raise response rates.

Two, on the proposal for the use of unspent balances, we request FAO to further discuss its consistency with Financial Regulation 4.2, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and considering guidance from the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

Three, on the *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration*, we request that future reports focus on strategic issues and lessons learned, challenges faced, impacts, concrete achievements and financial benefits arising from RBA collaboration, which can contribute to synergies and complementarities, particularly at the country level.

Four, on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, as discussed under Agenda Item 3, we strongly support the effort by FAO to focus on countries that need the most assistance. We appreciate the information shared, thus far, and request FAO to provide further opportunities for clarification through regular briefings and written documents, including details about programmatic and budgetary consequences, the match-making functions, the scope for involving stakeholders, monitoring and evaluation, as well as conceptual relationships with the UN Development System Reforms and FAO's Strategic Framework.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Phillipines on behalf of Asia Regional Group, and would like to add the following points.

Regarding the annual Report on *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*, Malaysia welcomes the renewed focus of the Organization to boost staff morale, with a tone from the top in demonstrating FAO's commitment to

create safe and harmonious working environment for its staff.

The issuance of FAO's Whistleblower Protection Policy in August 2019 is an important milestone to increase confidence among FAO's staff to report cases of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power. The development of separate Action Plans for Prevention of Sexual Harassment, and for Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, allows customized actions to prevent these issues more effectively. Ultimately, all efforts should lead to creating a culture of zero tolerance to any form of harassment and abuse of power. On this note, FAO must continue to monitor and report the implementation of the policy and the Action Plans, as well as strengthening its reporting mechanism and investigative capacity.

We welcome the *Progress Report of the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) Collaboration*, appreciating the strong commitment of the RBAs to strengthen their partnerships. We call for a more strategic and structural approach towards planning and reporting of RBA collaboration, focusing on outcomes, challenges and lessons learned. On joint programming, Malaysia is pleased that the RBAs have committed to developing a joint strategic planning and programming at country level, starting with three pilot countries. We hope that this pushes for stronger collaboration, better alignment of our work at the country level and meets the country's needs.

We note that RBA collaboration at the country level has evolved in very positive ways, but we believe this might vary between countries due to different capacities, priorities and business processes. Therefore, RBAs at the country level should push ahead faster with aligning and sharing their country strategic processes to create synergy and deeper cooperation than just at the project level.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I would like to ask your permission to pass the floor after my statement to Sweden to deliver the Nordic statement.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We would like to thank the Members of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees for their Report. As regard to that Director-General Qu has proposed in the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21, we have already made our detailed comments under Agenda Item 3. Let me just reiterate our appreciation for the increase in core funding for FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, as well as for mainstreaming biodiversity. We would, however, echo the concerns of the Joint Meeting that the additional resources allocated for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are not sufficient to cover the increasing workload of the Office.

We recognize and encourage the Director-General's commitment to preventing and responding to harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse. We welcome the alignment of FAO's corporate policies and processes with those of the wider United Nations, and we urge FAO to continue its commitment to reporting on progress made in this area.

We strongly support the Joint Meeting recommendation to strengthen the Key Performance Indicator 10.3.E. We also support the Joint Meeting request and management agreement to proceed with a staff satisfaction survey this year that includes harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse. We would like to know if this survey is now underway.

On the use of unspent balances of biennial appropriations we fully share the Joint Meeting's concerns that the long-standing practice of carrying forward unspent balances is inconsistent with Financial Rule 4.2. In this regard, we regret the non-transparent way in which, without any preparatory discussion, a proposal was introduced at the last Conference in July 2019, authorizing the Director-General to carry forward any unspent balance from the current biennium. This has resulted in another decision that is not in line with Financial Rule 4.2. We consider it essential to return to a normal situation, whereby we have the consistent application of Financial Rule 4.2. Therefore, we support the recommendation to have a more profound discussion about compliance with Financial Rule 4.2 prior to the implementation of the proposal reviewed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

While recognizing that some progress has been achieved on RBA collaboration, we would like to underline the importance of the Joint Meeting and last year's Council request for a more strategic and structured approach to planning and reporting on RBA collaboration. We would like to ask Management to confirm that next year's Report will focus on strategic issues, lessons learned, challenges faced and concrete achievements, including financial savings, as requested by the Joint Meeting.

Furthermore, we urge the Council to endorse the Joint Meeting's request that FAO, together with WFP and IFAD, provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration into some oversight functions, and report back to the Council. In line with the decision taken by the WFP Executive Board on 19 November 2019, this assessment should also include an analysis regarding the potential added value of making available for all three RBAs a common specialized expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. We would like to suggest including in the report of this Council's Session wording in line with that adopted by the WFP Executive Board.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for the Director-General's commitment to reverse the negative trends of global food and nutrition security, which is the central tenet of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. In relation to the Initiative, we emphasize the importance of a multilateral and holistic approach to country situations and aligning the Initiative with existing plans, frameworks and coordination platforms, and building on existing data. We underscore the leadership of partner countries to ensure the sustainability of the Initiative, and emphasize close collaboration with the RBAs and with other United Nations Actors. Furthermore, once the design of the Initiative has reached a sufficiently advanced stage, it would be important to discuss if the Initiative has consequences for the Programme of Work and Budget, approve the Initiative by FAO's Governing Bodies, to ensure alignment with FAO's regular work and avoiding stretching its financial and human resources.

We look forward to working with you on shaping it further in the months to come.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

I give this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries; Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement.

The Nordic Countries would like to express their appreciation for the improvements made with regards to Human Resources and staff motivation. We expect this positive trend will continue, and will follow the developments with great enthusiasm.

We welcome the commitment of the Director-General in tackling harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse and the actions taken in this regard. We support the important recommendation of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to strengthen the Key Performance Indicator 10.3.E, and to proceed with the staff satisfaction survey.

The Nordics are strong supporters of multilateralism, and an effective and efficient United Nations (UN) System. The litmus test for the success of the UN Reform will be a UN that operates in a more coherent, effective and efficient way. The Nordic countries therefore support the request for FAO to strengthen its engagement with the 2030 Agenda, and the UN Development System Reform.

We look forward to reviewing a new revised Strategic Framework, aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets at Council in June 2020. We also urge FAO to use the SDG indicators, where applicable and relevant, in its Results Framework.

The evaluation on gender found that the results of FAO's work are mixed. We therefore look forward to an updated strategy, and welcome a new Gender Action Plan. We expect that the new action plan emphasizes gender disaggregated data, where relevant, for all of FAO's work.

The Nordic countries have examined with interest the Director-General's Hand-in-Hand proposal. We support the strengthened focus on vulnerable countries, its systematic approach and the aim to deliver on SDG 2, but there are still some issues that require further clarification.

before we go into an operation and this subsequent survey will give us where FAO is now on all kinds of abusive conduct. In this regard, we cannot help pointing out the response rate of the previous survey which was taken in 2018, because only 14.6 percent of staff and non-staff employees participated. Unfortunately, this is a very low participation and we suggest the Management thoroughly consider what could be the reason to this number. We hope to hear improved participation rate through various considerations, including activities of benchmarks to other United Nations (UN) Agencies.

Secondly, the Republic of Korea welcomes the revised Whistleblower Protection Policy, which will make employees feel more comfortable to report misconduct without fear of retaliation. We also appreciate the establishment of two separate Action Plans, one of prevention and the other one protection. We would like to highlight the significance of education in this regard as well as the qualification of the Ethics Officer and Ombudsperson.

Generally, whenever a staff, as well as a non-staff working on the Management decides to speak up, their first listener can be one of their close colleagues or immediate seniors or officers in the Ombudsperson or Ethics Office. We encourage them to speak out but we should admit that it is an action requiring a great braveness, even close to boldness. The first listener, whoever the person in the FAO is, has to be very considerate in their first response because this is the key to step up and move forward, not only for victims but also for the whole Organization. In order to give an appropriate first response to the victim who is in distress, in need, everyone has to be ready for every reaction and we should stress again that education is one of the basic tools.

Last but not least, we would like to appreciate a general tolerance message from the top and my delegation expects to see this real action and outcomes as well as in the culture of the FAO. With these comments, the Republic of Korea endorses this Report.

CHAIRPERSON

At this stage I would like to say that we are nearing 17.30, and will need to adjourn as I wish to remind Members that there is a side event entitled, the Launch of the International Year on Plant Health 2020, which is to take place at 18.00 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

Therefore, I think we will adjourn our meeting for today. We have quite a few speakers left on our list and we will resume our work tomorrow morning at 09.30 sharp.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17:26 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 26

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.26

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 December 2019

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.41 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 16. Any Other Matters**Point 16 Questions diverses****Tema 16 Auntos varios.**

- Item 16.2 Appointment of the Deputy Director-General*
Point 16.2 Nomination du Directeur général adjoint
Tema 16.2 Nombramiento de la Directora General Adjunta
 (CL 163/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Third Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before continuing our discussions on Item 4, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee*, which we had not finished yesterday, I should like to propose that we address Item 16.2, *Appointment of the Deputy Director-General*, which we agreed to add to our Agenda yesterday morning. The document before the Council is CL 163/LIM/5.

I will now pass the floor to the Director-General who will introduce the Item.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

We have a busy Agenda. All of you are very serious; yesterday I listened to a lot of people who were talking, with the longest intervention at about ten minutes, shortest one at two minutes. It is good! That is the United Nations (UN) System; you have the flexibility to express what you want.

I know all of you are looking at any Senior appointment. Now the beef has come, the appointment of the Deputy Director-General (DDG). As you know, several months ago, my predecessor already made the announcement in June, before I came, that Mr Dan Gustafson would be replaced.

I think it is in my power, your power, and your authority. Therefore, I postponed it for two months to get another round of the vacancy announcement and I am happy to get a very active reaction from Member Countries and more than 300 applicants for DDG. More than 300.

It is not such an easy job to compete with Mr Dan Gustafson. I ask you to give a big applause to Mr Daniel Gustafson.

Applause (Standing Ovation)

Applaudissements (Ovation debout)

Aplausos (Ovación de pié)

We have to appreciate loyalty, contribution, long commitment for FAO, for UN multilateralism, as shown by Mr Daniel Gustafson. He spent so many years in the FAO system. I do not want to give him a final judgement or remarks, today. Maybe I will do so before Christmas or after his retirement.

Of course, he already promised that he would continue to work with me, part-time. He will stay here for a long time as part-time.

You have in front of you a document on the appointment of the Deputy Director-General. I did not say Deputy Director-General of Programmes (DDP) because, as I have said repeatedly, I do not like those kinds of small silos that are created among the DDGs, like DDP, Deputy Director-General of Operations (DDO) Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources (DDN). No. They are all DDGs. They are DDGs approved by you, and recommended by myself. As you will see, I have selected a candidate for the position of the Deputy Director-General and, as required, I am inviting the Council to confirm this appointment.

First of all, I wish to inform you that I have made this selection decision through a very rigorous competitive process. Through a thorough review of a long list of candidates, as I said more than 300. Actually there were 380 something, I remember, who had applied for the position. Eight were identified for an interview.

The interview was conducted by the three Deputy Directors–General of FAO, supported by the Assistant Executive Director of WFP, Ms Valerie Guarnieri. After the interview, the Panel unanimously agreed on the top two candidates. Then myself, personally, I interviewed them through a video interview, both of them, the top two candidates, supported by the Deputy Director–General, Mr Dan Gustafson. After my interview, reference checks were conducted for these two candidates.

Based on the Panel interview of the selected eight candidates, my personal interview of the top two candidates as identified by the Panel, as well as feedback from the reference checks, I am pleased to inform you that I have selected for appointment to the position of Deputy Director–General, Ms Elizabeth A. Bechdol, who, I believe, is the most suitable candidate and who, I am confident, would be capable to perform the functions of the Deputy Director–General with great competence and effectiveness.

Ms Elizabeth A. Bechdol is a national of the United States of America who has a Master’s Degree in Agriculture Economics from Purdue University, a Bachelor in International Organizations, Law and Organization from Georgetown University. Her educational background is well fitted. The Bachelor’s is in International Organizations and an MSc on Agriculture Economics. She did academic work in International Politics in Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, in Germany. I see the Ambassador of Germany is happy.

Her full *curriculum vitae*, that she submitted, we will put it on the web. They will be fully and carefully investigated by the public, so do not worry you can read her *curriculum vitae* on the document. As you will see from her *curriculum vitae*, she is a very young senior professional, 46 years, who has done tremendously well in her professional work to rise up to a position of major responsibility.

She impressed me with her broad understanding and global perspective of the food and agriculture issues, agro, bioscience, innovation, fundraising, policy guidance on agricultural policy issues, in addition to having a vision in addressing global poverty and hunger issues. I found her to be highly energetic and enthusiastic to put her knowledge, experience and professional network to the service of FAO.

As you can see we are preparing for the younger generation, a strategic arrangement, as that is what I said. Therefore, we start with a DDG who is younger than 50, a woman.

I can recommend Ms Elizabeth A. Bechdol unreservedly for the confirmation of the Council for appointment as the Deputy Director–General.

It is my vision, it is my hope, as I am preparing for my leave. I am not that young anymore, even if I am the youngest Director–General in FAO.

As I said yesterday, I think FAO is big, old and poor. Therefore, we want to change it to be more efficient. Big is good, but it needs to be more efficient and effective. Old, FAO should be a little bit younger. Not only in age, but also psychological, physically, and efficient and younger.

We want to bring new blood to change, because she is from the United States of America and she has many years in Washington D.C. That is her advantage.

Thank you for your consideration and we wish we have a good performance from her.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to open the floor should Members have any comments.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

On behalf of European Union (EU) and its Member States, we welcome the appointment of Ms Bechdol as Deputy Director–General and of course we would like to congratulate her. The Organization will no doubt greatly benefit from her comprehensive management experience in both the public and private sector.

We welcome this appointment as the EU has, many times, highlighted the gender balance of the Management of FAO. We wish Ms Bechdol every success and we look forward to a fruitful

cooperation with her.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We have full confidence in the choice of the Director-General, Madam Elizabeth Behdol, as the DDG. We have examined her *curriculum vitae* and we see that she has a wide-ranging experience in the areas that the FAO is concentrating in, such as agriculture and investment in agriculture.

We were thinking that the candidates for the Deputy Director-General (DDG) would be presented to the Council before we confirmed their nomination. This candidate, Madam Behdol, we would have liked to have met her before she is confirmed. When will we be able to have a chance to meet her?

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

We welcome the Director-General's selection of Ms Behdol as the new Deputy Director-General and we look forward to working with her.

I just wanted to take a moment on behalf of the United States of America to thank and praise the important work and lasting impact of Deputy Director-General Mr Dan Gustafson. Mr Gustafson has always given wise counsel to many of us and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Organization and all of the people it assists worldwide. We thank Mr Gustafson for his service and we look forward to working with him in the future in his part-time capacity. We know there will be more chances to celebrate his achievements but given that this is his last Council Meeting in his current role, we just want to thank him for his many years of service.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

México ve con agrado la designación de la Señora Elizabeth Behdol y anticipadamente la felicita. De igual manera, agradece los servicios del anterior Director General Adjunto, Señor Dan Gustafson.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

We as South Africa, and in particular as a Director-General myself in South Africa, we appreciate the opportunity.

I just want to register that if you look at your Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2, most of the affected are in rural poverty. If you look at the progress, year to date, we have in fact, not seen a movement in the reduction of rural poverty. Part of the reasoning for this, is a lack of representation of that rural poverty in Council. Therefore, we request that perhaps attention be given to rural appointments and farmer appointments in this type of Organization. We have witnessed and seen that when that happens, we begin to have a real representation of the real problems and solutions on the ground.

As we appreciate the appointments, we also would like that the Council note that rural poverty has continued to increase, and that we seem to suggest and think that it is because there is a lack of representation at this level of the farmers and those who are languishing in rural areas.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation du Congo prend la parole, d'abord pour saluer le travail que M. Dan Gustafson a accompli depuis qu'il a pris ses fonctions. Je l'ai vu à maintes reprises au Comité du Programme et me suis émerveillé devant sa capacité de travail. Nous tenons à bien le dire publiquement au Conseil parce qu'il a été pour nous une boussole nous montrant la route à suivre pendant toutes ces années. Je prenais également la parole pour dire un mot à l'adresse de Mme Elizabeth Behdol, car son *curriculum vitae*, que j'ai lu avec une attention particulière, m'a beaucoup impressionné.

Tout d'abord, elle a une formation en économie rurale, qui est actuellement un domaine où la FAO travaille énormément et va dans le sens du mandat de la FAO, notamment dans le cadre des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Je pense que le Directeur général a regardé aussi avec une attention particulière ce *curriculum vitae*, qui rejoint l'objectif de la mission qu'il prônait durant sa campagne, notamment celui de faire de la FAO une Organisation plus dynamique pour chercher à obtenir l'éradication de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la délégation du Congo appuie le choix du Directeur général.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

On behalf of Japanese Government, I really appreciate Mr Dan Gustafson's long-time dedication to FAO.

I welcome Ms Bechdol's appointment as the Deputy Director-General and look forward to closely working with her in the near future.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Mi Delegación se va a limitar a suscribir todo lo dicho por la Delegación del Congo, que nos ha precedido en el uso de la palabra. El Congo se ha expresado con gran elocuencia sobre el Sr Gustafson y también sobre su sucesora en la posición de Dirección General Adjunta, una de las Direcciones Generales Adjuntas de esta Organización.

Solamente quería, más allá de lo que dijo la Delegación del Congo, decir que tuve la oportunidad de conocer al Sr. Gustafson cuando se desempeñaba como Representante de la FAO en la Oficina de Estados Unidos de America, en Washington. En los años que han transcurrido desde entonces, no puedo decir otra cosa que ha sido realmente cuanto ha dicho el representante de Congo. Ha sido un pilar, ha sido una base sólida, ha sido un puente entre la Organización y sus Miembros. Lo mismo puedo decir de los otros dos Directores Generales Adjuntos.

En este caso, estamos despidiendo al Sr. Gustafson y quisiera que él supiera que mi Delegación y personalmente quien habla le desean lo mejor y agradecen todo el trabajo que ha hecho. Deja una FAO mejor que como la encontró. Gracias, Dan.

Mr Shri Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

On behalf of Government of India, I would like to place on record our deep appreciation to Mr Gustafson who also worked as a Country Director for FAO in India for five years. He has done tremendous work there and also here as Deputy Director-General (DDG) he has contributed a lot.

We also welcome Ms Bechdol and we would like to work with her in the future.

M. Boumedienne MAHI (Algérie)

Permettez-moi d'abord d'adresser nos vives félicitations et remerciements à M. Dan Gustafson pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli au sein de cette Organisation. J'espère que le dévouement de son successeur sera au même niveau que le sien et de ce qu'il a donné à l'Organisation.

S'agissant de votre proposition, Monsieur le Directeur général, en exprimant toute notre confiance en votre choix concernant Mme Elizabeth Bechdol et tout en espérant que cette candidature répondra effectivement à tous les besoins, notamment des pays en développement, et à leurs attentes par rapport à cette Organisation, nous souhaiterions que pour les nominations à venir, Monsieur le Directeur général, une représentation géographique équitable soit prise en considération pour voir à ce niveau de représentation des experts du continent africain.

H. Vincent Frerio BAMULANGAKI SSEMPIJJA (Uganda)

The Ugandan delegation wish to thank Mr Dan Gustafson for his long and dedicated service to FAO.

The Director-General assured us yesterday that he does everything after consulting widely. We know that he has consulted on Madam Bechdol. We have also read the *curriculum vitae* of Madam Bechdol and we feel that she fits very well in this service of serving the communities, including the rural poor. Therefore, the Ugandan delegation really supports the suggestion by the Director-General.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

It is about my inexperience, I really forgot to say the most important thing first. Of course, on behalf of the whole European Union (EU) and its Members, we very much appreciate the work of Mr Dan Gustafson in this Organization and especially his unique experience, which we have been very happy to take benefit of and hear his advice, experience and guidance on these kind of issues. Thank you very much Mr Gustafson.

Mr James BREITHAUPT (Canada)

Canada would like to join what appears to be an emerging consensus in expressing heartfelt thanks to Deputy Director–General, Mr Gustafson, and his long service here at the Organization. Many Canadian delegations have benefitted from his counsel, we thank you.

We will also take this time to say we too reviewed closely the *curriculum vitae* of Ms Elizabeth Bechdol, and believe she brings the skill set and experience that this Organization needs. Therefore, we fully endorse her appointment. We have also continually called for greater gender parity at Senior levels at FAO, and we would like to register that.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

We too would like to join the delegations who have expressed their deep gratitude to Mr Gustafson who has really served this Organization well. When I came in in 2012, he was just appointed as Director for the Office of Support to Decentralized Offices, if I remember right, and from then on he has already worked for the strengthening of Country Offices and Regional Offices, and that is really one of the things that would characterize perhaps his stay and his work here in FAO. We wish that would be continued in the future. We would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

We also take this opportunity to welcome and endorse the appointment of Ms Elizabeth Bechdol, as the new Deputy Director–General and we also look forward to working with her and collaborating towards the achievement of the core mandate of this Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Members for their positive comments, not only for Ms Elizabeth Bechdol's, but also for the very appreciative comments for Mr Daniel Gustafson. Mr Gustafson, in fact, has been a pillar here in FAO, whether he has been serving FAO in the field or at Headquarters, and as Deputy Director–General (DDG), so your comments about him are well deserved.

Since there are no other comments on the candidate for the Deputy Director–General (DDG), can I take it that the Council confirms the appointment of Ms Elizabeth A. Bechdol?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

That concludes this Item.

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2019) (continued)

Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent vingt-septième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixante-dix-huitième session) (novembre 2019) (suite)

Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2019) (continuación)

(CL 163/6; CL 163/12)

CHAIRPERSON

I think the Chair of the Finance Committee will be joining us soon, but in the meantime we can go ahead with *Item 4, Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee*. We had interrupted our discussions yesterday, so just want to remind you that the documents before you are *CL 163/6, CL 163/6 Information Note 1, CL 163/12, JM 2019.2/3*.

Our next speaker when we adjourned was Argentina, so we will pick up from there.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina acoge con agrado la *Iniciativa Mano de la mano* en el entendido que la misma constituye una forma innovadora de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), principalmente los ODS 1 y 2. Este es un momento significativo para emprender iniciativas encaminadas a erradicar la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición. Apreciamos que la implementación no conlleva ajustes presupuestarios.

En aras de contribuir con esta Iniciativa, la Argentina ya ha identificado regiones y países como potenciales receptores de cooperación triangular técnica.

Atento al valioso aporte que esta Iniciativa podría significar para el logro de los ODS mencionados, Argentina aprecia la referencia en la *Nota informativa n.º 1* del documento *CL 163/6* a que se incluirá a futuro a los países de renta media, a todos los países miembros y incluso a todos los desafíos que enfrentan las áreas rurales.

La ampliación de la Iniciativa a los países de renta media cobra sentido, ya que en muchos de ellos pueden co-existir zonas rurales donde se evidencian altos niveles de pobreza rural, así como grandes desigualdades regionales. En muchos de esos países los productores enfrentan problemas relacionados con niveles de producción y productividad escasos, superficies cultivables limitadas y poco fértiles, además de tenencia poco segura de la tierra. Tales desafíos requieren inversiones, asistencia técnica, acceso al financiamiento y a la tecnología, así como nuevas estrategias para poder salir de la pobreza de manera sostenible.

Finalmente, quisiéramos hacer referencia a la mención de la *Nota informativa* a que la FAO trabajará en el marco de esta iniciativa en colaboración con la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC). La Argentina celebra esta labor conjunta atento a la importancia que tiene para el logro de los ODS 1 y 2 fomentar el comercio internacional y resolver las trabas que suponen las barreras no arancelarias. De este modo se logrará que los productores se integren mejor a las cadenas globales de valor, brindándoles la oportunidad de diversificar la producción y aumentar la productividad, los ingresos y el empleo de manera sostenible.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina brinda su apoyo al *Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones, CL163/6*.

Ms Ursula SCHWARTZ (Austria)

Allow me to pass my speaking time to Malta who wishes to deliver a statement on behalf of the Europe Regional Group.

Mr Adam KUYMIZAKIS (Malta) (Observer)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Europe Regional Group (ERG). At the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee, held on 4 November 2019, a number of important topics were discussed.

I would like to focus our intervention on the *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration*. We reiterate the importance of this joint cooperation, in particular in the Sahel, and look forward to receiving the document detailing concrete action of collaboration on the ground, complementing the RBA Sahel Action Plan. On RBA corporate services, the ERG notes that the three RBAs have been working together, and that collaboration is ongoing, and additional areas have already been identified, especially at country level.

The Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, found in document *JM2019.2/3*, highlights several examples of ongoing RBA collaboration. We would like to receive more information on this topic, particularly on three matters, namely: one, the efficiency savings from the current RBA collaboration; two, the status of the additional service agreements that are expected to enter into force, which are referred to in paragraph 53 of document *JM2019.2/3*; and three, the result and follow up of the oversight meetings, highlighted in paragraph 54 and 55 of the document.

The ERG believes that more should be done at Headquarters level in the areas of common administrative services and oversight functions. This will most likely result in efficiency gains that are not only of a financial nature, but will also lead to greater efficiency, consistency and coherence in the

execution of the mandates of each of the RBAs. Enhanced cooperation at Headquarters level will spillover and facilitate the work already being undertaken at all the other levels.

It is for these reasons that the ERG is asking Council to request FAO Management, together with WFP and IFAD, to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions. This assessment should also encompass an analysis of the potential added value of a common specialized expertise for all three RBAs on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Rome-based Agencies collaboration in corporate services should not be a request made by the Governing Bodies of the RBAs but should happen automatically. The Europe Regional Group supports the work of the Business Innovation Group and looks forward to the implementation of its recommendations. As Member States it is in our interest that the three RBAs execute their mandates in the most effective and efficient manner as the outcome will benefit us directly. However, this will only occur if the RBAs align their common work methods.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the Hand-in-Hand Initiative as a tool to accelerate the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2 in countries that need it the most, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and countries in a state of food crisis.

We thank for the information note prepared on this subject and appreciate the Hand-in-Hand Initiative being a country-led and country-owned Initiative.

The Brazilian South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects with FAO, IFAD and WFP already work with partners from these groups of countries that are being prioritized in this Initiative. The Brazilian Government will work with FAO to identify ways to reinforce activities that meet the objectives of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and actions that can be expanded in coordination with all partners, in order to accelerate the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2.

Sra. Amarilli VILLEGAS CORDERO (Costa Rica)

En vista de que esta es nuestra primera intervención nos unimos a los Miembros que nos han precedido desde el día de ayer para felicitar al Director General por su primera participación en este Consejo, augurándole el mejor de los éxitos.

En esta oportunidad nuestra delegación desea referirse concretamente al documento *CL 163/12, Informe anual sobre la política, los procesos y las medidas institucionales relativos a la prevención del hostigamiento, el acoso sexual y el abuso de autoridad, incluidos los resultados de la encuesta sobre satisfacción del personal*, punto 4 que en este momento estamos discutiendo.

En este sentido celebramos los esfuerzos que se realizan a lo interno del sistema de Naciones Unidas para crear un ambiente libre de discriminación, hostigamiento y abuso en todas sus formas. En particular, reconocemos los esfuerzos coordinados que se realizan entre los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) para tratar este tema.

Nuestro país aplaude la labor y reitera el apoyo a las acciones llevadas a cabo por el Director General de la FAO, el Director Ejecutivo del PMA y el Presidente del FIDA junto a sus funcionarios, tanto en Roma como en el exterior, quienes trabajan día a día por consolidar una cultura de *cero tolerancia* ante toda conducta incompatible con los principios de equidad y respeto, promovidos por el sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Manifiestamos nuestro beneplácito por el progreso realizado en relación a las recomendaciones del documento *2021/5 B, Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2018 Parte B: Informe del Auditor Externo*: dotarla de definiciones claras a los conceptos de abuso sexual, explotación y abuso sexuales, y demarcar las diferencias que existen entre ellos, es central para la construcción de una política institucional transparente y objetiva. Ante este logro nuestro país extiende su felicitación.

Al mismo tiempo, incentivamos al Director General de la FAO, Dr. Qu, a mantener su activa

participación en el Equipo de Tareas de la *Junta de los Jefes Ejecutivos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para la Coordinación (JJE)* sobre la lucha contra el acoso sexual y lo instamos a continuar promoviendo acciones complementarias a estos esfuerzos, como se realizó con el estudio de tercer nivel solicitado a Deloitte, luego de la encuesta general sobre estos temas. Este estudio adicional enriqueció el análisis y dotó una lectura esencial para entender el estado real de estos temas a lo interno de la Organización.

En esta misma línea, la Delegación de Costa Rica aprovecha la oportunidad para recalcar el valor de los instrumentos de medición que buscan cuantificar el avance en la lucha contra el acoso y hostigamiento en todas sus formas. Por lo que instamos y urgimos a la Organización, a redoblar los esfuerzos para mejorar la participación de los funcionarios en dichos instrumentos de medición. La baja participación de ellos en la encuesta de 2018 es una marca que debemos superar. Por lo que saludamos con entusiasmo las medidas anunciadas para reforzar la sensibilización, orientadas a promover un ambiente de tolerancia cero, donde el hostigamiento y el abuso en todas sus formas no encuentren cabida en la estructura de la FAO. Confiamos en el beneficio de estas buenas prácticas que se verá reflejado de manera contundente en los próximos procesos de evaluación.

Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you to the Chairs of the two Committees for the presentations. We participated in the discussions and we would like to support what the Philippines has said on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We would like to also say that we are very happy to see the support of the work of the Rome-based Agencies and we would also like to support the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2020–2021. We would like to see an increase in efficiency and concentration, both at the Headquarters and in improving the efficiency at all levels.

Mr James BREITHAUPT (Canada)

Canada is pleased to support the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and would like to thank the Committees' Members for their work. I will be brief and just mention a few points.

Canada, like others, would like once again to express its support to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We greatly appreciate the *Information Notes* and the various presentations that have been made on the topic. These all demonstrate the complexity and the ambition of the Initiative. We understand that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is currently cost-neutral, but given its scope and scale, we know that we may have resource implication questions moving forward.

Canada would also like to support FAO's focus on areas in which it has a comparative advantage. In this vein, we would like to highlight the planned data and Geospatial Information (GIS) special labs that are part of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. Using this approach is consistent with FAO's renewed investment and focus on innovation and digitalization, and it would be a great contribution towards improving FAO's activity at country level. Canada would also like to echo Argentina's comments supporting the importance of alignment and cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in this endeavour.

Finally, in regards to Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration, like others, we would like to request a more results-focused progress Report, which clearly identifies lessons learned and best practices.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

Japan fully aligns itself with Asia Regional Group's statement delivered by the Philippines yesterday. I have several additional comments on Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration.

Japan commends the RBA Management for having regular informal consultations with Members after each Senior consultative group meeting. We believe this practice is a good opportunity for both Members and the RBA Management to discuss progresses and challenges of RBA collaboration.

I concur with the comments delivered by Malta, on behalf of the Europe Regional Group. Japan

expects to see further RBA collaboration and tangible results on the ground, especially in the Sahel Region.

Japan believes that more should be done in other administrative services and oversight functions at Headquarters. Japan requests FAO Management together with WFP and IFAD to provide a first assessment of the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions.

Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)

Australia very much welcomes the collaborative and positive spirit in which the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees was conducted, and we support the recommendations made. In particular, we welcome the commitment by the Management to perform a staff satisfaction survey during 2019 and their agreement that this survey will include harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse.

Further, on behalf of the South West Pacific, I can advise that we also align with the call for the FAO Management, together with WFP and IFAD, to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to the Director-General for his attendance at the Joint Meeting. It was noted and it was appreciated.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Mi delegación apoya la aplicación de una política de tolerancia cero a toda persona que se valga de una posición de superioridad jerárquica para hostigar, acosar o de cualquier modo abusar de su autoridad.

En cuanto Miembros también tenemos la obligación política y el deber moral de asumir las responsabilidades que sean oportunas para colaborar —ex-ante y ex-post— con la lucha contra toda forma de hostigamiento, acoso o abuso en esta y en todas las instancias del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Sobre el uso de saldos no utilizados al final de cada bienio, mi delegación ha dado seguimiento a la práctica que ha tenido lugar por más de una década. En varias ocasiones, incluyendo durante el presente período de sesiones del Consejo, hemos escuchado que el artículo 4.2 del Reglamento Financiero debe ser respetado, lo que implica o insinúa que alguien ha propuesto que esa norma sea violada.

Cuando leemos el Reglamento Financiero, encontramos que el artículo 4.2 da una indicación que, a continuación, queda sujeta a numerosas excepciones, contenidas en los artículos subsiguientes, del 4.3 al 4.6.

En todas las legislaciones nacionales de los Miembros hay un artículo de tránsito que indica que los vehículos deben detenerse en la luz roja. Ese artículo siempre viene seguido de excepciones como necesidades de orden público para que las ambulancias, los bomberos o la policía puedan atender emergencias y otras situaciones especiales.

Es la Conferencia, el Órgano rector supremo y soberano, la instancia que ha tomado decisiones sobre los saldos en el pasado; somos nosotros, los Miembros, quienes hemos aprobado una y otra vez —mediante resolución unánime— el uso de los saldos. Según el estudio que hemos hecho en mi delegación, esto siempre ha sido hecho con estricto apego a las normativas aplicables del Reglamento Financiero. Y por eso solicitaría al Asesor Jurídico que confirme o que rectifique esta análisis.

Si la conformidad legal queda comprobada, la solución a cualquier otra consideración sobre la conveniencia de la decisión sobre los saldos es de naturaleza política. Mi delegación parte de que la disponibilidad de recursos financieros de la FAO no es proporcional a la importancia de su mandato, ni a la complejidad de alcanzar la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición.

Cuando en el día de ayer tratamos el tema 3 del *Programa Provisional, CL 163/1*, escuchamos al Director General quejarse, con razón, de que la FAO es una Organización pobre. Si la FAO no existiese, y la tuviésemos que inventar ahora, apenas tomando en cuenta el marco de los Objetivos de

Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), el presupuesto general para su primer programa de trabajo de seguro sería al menos igual a todos los recursos financieros con los que la FAO cuenta hoy, sumando los ingresos presupuestarios y los voluntarios.

Lo que correspondería, entonces, sería iniciar una discusión política sobre el alcance y la flexibilidad del artículo 4 del Reglamento Financiero. Adelanto que República Dominicana no tiene mecanismos para recibir sumas de dinero a título de devolución por concepto de saldos no utilizados por el sistema de Naciones Unidas. Por ello agradeceríamos que algún Miembro que sí haya contemplado semejante procedimiento en su ordenamiento legal comparta con nosotros su experiencia en ese ámbito.

Sí queremos que la FAO tenga finanzas sólidas y que invierta y reinvierta los magros recursos financieros con que cuenta. Para acelerar los esfuerzos nacionales, regionales y globales hacia la erradicación del hambre y de todas las formas de malnutrición tenemos que tener esa discusión política.

En cuanto a la colaboración entre los tres organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), reiteramos la importancia de que los líderes de cada una juntos con los Miembros prosigan explorando todas las áreas donde pueden estructurarse sinergias.

La Cumbre Mundial sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021 —cuyos detalles aguardamos con gran expectativa— servirá para ampliar y profundizar la colaboración entre la FAO, el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA).

Más allá de la colaboración que se estructure para la organización de la Cumbre, esperamos que de esa experiencia puedan surgir áreas concretas de colaboración institucional permanente.

Si bien en la sesión vespertina de hoy el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) presentará el *Informe del 46º período de sesiones*, es oportuno mencionar en este punto de nuestra agenda que la colaboración entre los tres Organismos tiene una vigorosa plataforma institucional en el seno del CSA, donde la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA han sido designados como miembros permanentes del Grupo Asesor de la Mesa del CSA, según consta en el párrafo 26 del documento *JM 2019.2/3, Informe sobre la marcha de las actividades de colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma*.

Desde ese órgano, los tres Organismos participan de manera activa y constructiva en la orientación estratégica del CSA —tanto a título individual como en espíritu colaborativo.

Para concluir, en cuanto a la *Iniciativa Mano de la mano*, sobre la que nos expresamos de modo positivo el día de ayer, también deseamos sugerir que los productos de convergencia de políticas sobre seguridad alimentaria y nutrición que emanan del CSA sean incorporados a la Iniciativa para información de los Miembros, de manera que puedan considerar de incorporar directrices y recomendaciones a nuestros programas nacionales de lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of the List of our Speakers, unless there is any other request from the Floor.

I see none, so I will pass the floor to Ambassador Hoogeveen for any replies or comments to the points that were raised.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee) (Chairperson, Joint Committee)

Before I react to the interventions from the Members of the Council, I would like to congratulate Ms Elisabeth Bechdol for her appointment as Deputy Director-General and moreover, as acting Chair of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, but, certainly as Chair of the Programme Committee, I would really like to thank Mr Dan Gustafson.

Many have already said it, but, we in Programme Committee worked very closely with Mr Gustafson for the last couple of years. The positive thing of Mr Gustafson was that he was always open, listening to remarks of the Members of the Programme Committee, he engaged and saw how together we could make the Organization much better. He was trying to take over any of the recommendations of the Programme Committee, and with that he showed clear interest in working together with the

Membership.

He always clearly advocated that the Membership leads the Organization, and that the Management tries to do its best to support the Membership. What I always remember from Mr Gustafson, when it becomes a little bit difficult and you ask him a difficult question, especially how we would act also now for the future, he always says “maybe” or “perhaps”. What I think is going to be a very important endeavour, which we are going to engage in 2021, and I do hope that “maybe” we will become “certain”, but I leave that up to the Director-General.

Mr Gustafson, thank you so much for your constructive spirit, the positive attitude you have always had and the smile you had on your face. Thank you so much.

With that, I come back to the remarks of the Report of the Joint Meeting, what we saw, both my Co-Chair and myself, was that many of the remarks concur with the conclusions of the Joint Meeting, especially the remarks related to supporting the vision of the Director-General for the future of FAO. In addition, the tone from the top showing how we should approach the strategic role FAO plays in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2. In that respect, the tone from the top is crucial when it comes to fighting sexual harassment and abuse of power in the Organization. Indeed, he not only took bold action but he is implementing actions to avoid these things from happening in the Organization, and certainly the survey which is being held in 2019 will help in that.

It is also clear that, as we already discussed yesterday, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is appreciated in principle, but more work has to be done. All the interventions clearly show that indeed it is a complex issue, however we have to take it up, to see how we can get a country-led approach, where countries benefit the most, and an inclusive-approach too. Of course, there is a focus on the countries that are most in need, however the approach has to be inclusive, wherefore we have to look at all regions, also including middle-income and other countries.

When it comes to the Rome-based Agencies collaboration, everybody clearly states that we should have much more strategic reporting about the challenges, the lessons learned and how to improve it. Many of you referred to the possibility of having a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, and greater collaboration in some oversight function, for instance, including of course the HASAP functions. It is very important to have a strong Rome-based Agencies collaboration, not only here in Rome but also showing results on the ground and looking into joint programming of projects in countries.

I would like to conclude my remarks based on the remarks of the Council, and I am very positive about the support which the Council has given to the conclusion of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and, again, I thank the Members of the Council and certainly the Members of the Joint Meeting for all their hard work.

CHAIRPERSON

Chair of the Finance Committee, do you have anything? No.

I will then pass the floor to the Secretariat, Mr Dan Gustafson, you have the floor.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

First let me say how much I appreciate your kind words and the enormous pleasure it has been for me to interact with you, Permanent Representatives and your staff for most of the years.

I started in FAO in 1994 and in most of those years my interaction was with one country at a time, or even in the places where I covered more than one country, but still one country at a time. Seeing how we apply FAO's support to you in your country, achieving your objectives and how we could be helpful. However, in these last eight years here in Rome, really looking at the collective and how the Membership works together, it has really just been an enormous pleasure for me to interact with all of you, particularly the Programme Committee, which has been more intense. Also, the Council meetings, of course, at Conferences, and the spirit of collaboration and consensus in looking for the best way forward in what has often been difficult circumstances. However, it has just been really an honour, a privilege and enormously gratifying to interact with all of you. Thank you, again, very much.

I will not actually be leaving until the end of January and then, as the Director-General mentioned, I will not be leaving Rome immediately. I do not know quite when that will be. This is certainly not the end, but it is the last Council and I appreciate it very much.

With regard to the comments, I think the ones for me that are particularly relevant relate to Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration, which is a big topic, one where we have in fact moved on to a higher plain of interaction and it is going quite well. I think in the next Report you will, in fact see something that is much more results-oriented, results-focussed and the lessons learnt.

The difficulty for us has been, and continues to be, that there is really an enormous amount of work that takes place outside of the larger corporate collaboration on a global basis. In the case of IFAD, for example, last year, as I mentioned I think earlier, 45 percent of the projects approved last year were formulated by FAO and our Investment Centre. Therefore, we continuously have a lot of collaboration. Similarly, with WFP, the other United Nations Agency that we collaborate most with on the ground, through the individual country actions, and also through joint activities in a number of projects through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, through the Emergency Director's Meetings and so on. There is a lot of collaboration around country-specific or region-specific activities, but particularly around country-specific activities.

The challenge, of course, is how to elevate that into something that is much more strategic and global. How we do that, and a lot of that, will relate to administrative services and common services and Mr Laurent Thomas will pick up on that. However, I think in the case of the Sahel, for example, it is a very good example where we are moving forward on that, and the Report that you will see early next year, led by our Regional or Subregional Offices in Dakar, in response to the Sahel, I think is a very good example of that.

Another one that we are still working through, and as the Director-General mentioned, as we wait for the announcement from the Secretary-General that, we expect this week, although we have said that before, but it will be coming soon, the announcement of the Special Envoy and more details on what the Secretary-General is thinking for the Food Systems Summit. That is an area also where we have been collaborating a lot in a more informal way on thinking, how each of us contributes individually and collectively and how we can support the Membership in moving that forward.

Therefore, I think that your comments on what you are looking for are certainly well understood. That is the path that we are on and I look forward to reading that. I will not be presenting it, but I look forward to reading and hearing about what comes out of that. I think you will be pleased with what it reports.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

A few comments on some matters that were repeated in the interventions.

The first one is regarding the staff or rather the Employee Satisfaction Survey. It is something very important, obviously. I can confirm to you that the survey will be launched before the end of the year. We are hoping to have the survey launched on 16 December 2019. It will be addressed to all FAO employees, irrespective of the contractual arrangements. We have signed a contract with the company that was previously contracted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is a good example of the value of the statements signed by the Director-General of mutual recognition of administrative processes that allows us to use administrative processes of other organizations. To build on this, it is particularly useful for the procurement area. It allows us to shorten the tendering process.

The survey will be launched and I can assure you that this survey will probably be the best in the United Nations (UN) System, since we have built it from the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit Report on Whistleblower Protection Policy. We have also built on surveys launched by WFP, UNDP, the UN Secretariat, and IFAD. Finally, this was discussed with the Staff Representative Bodies and this reflects the common views of Management and Staff Representative Bodies.

There is a large section in the survey on the matter of sexual harassment, harassment and authority abuse with very detailed questions. Therefore, this survey should provide us with a baseline to understand the situation of employee satisfaction in all dimensions of FAO.

The second point I want to highlight is regarding the comments made on the *Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*. We have taken note of your very encouraging comments and I can assure you that we are already working on the formulation of the new indicators that will be presented and discussed at the next Session of the Finance Committee.

We are also progressing on important appointments for oversight functions. The Ethics Officer selection is almost completed and a decision of the Director-General is imminent. The Ombudsperson vacancy announcement was launched and we will start the selection as soon as possible, it is a matter for January. You may have noted that on Friday a vacancy announcement was launched for a new position for the Office of the Inspector-General.

With regard to Rome-based Agencies (RBA) partnership, as Mr Gustafson has mentioned, there is probably much more than what is reported. Beyond the format of the Report, we have taken good note of your recommendations to make this Report more strategic, more results-oriented, with costing of the partnership and we have already started to work on this. On the administrative and operational side, while there is a lot happening, and in fact, I realize that we could have reported much more in the Report on what is happening, we intend to do much more. I have started consultation with our counterpart in IFAD and WFP to really be more proactive. We see much more space for collaboration on administrative and operational matters. On our side, we are preparing what could be the key areas where we could make a difference on the so-called low hanging fruit. We intend to have some meetings in January with WFP and IFAD to pursue the conversation and prepare for a leap in the partnership.

I agree, although, that there is scope for better collaboration on oversight matters. For example, speaking of investigation, there may be an up surge of investigation needs in one Organization or another at a given time. That may not justify to a full continuous staffing of the investigators but we could rely on capacities available in other RBAs for this purpose. For example, right now we are relying on a better capacity that WFP is having on a forensic search, an electronic search in our Information Technology (IT) Systems. This is a type of thing we would like to develop more in the future.

Therefore, what I want to confirm to all of you is that indeed we are working on this and I am sure that you will see the difference with the next Report to be submitted at the November 2020 Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Counsel)

I would have preferred, in fact, not to have to answer this question and the last thing I would wish to have is a debate on the carry forward of funds. However, I am addressing the question of the representative of the Dominican Republic.

I would wish to say very briefly that the issue that he has raised has been very much discussed at the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). I believe, and some Members may also believe, that the review by the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees, did not do justice to a very detailed analysis that was made by the CCLM, by the Members of the CCLM, the same Members that were in the Joint Meeting. In a way we assume that the Members represent their respective constituencies.

Without reopening this matter, let me answer the question asked by the Representative of the Dominican Republic by addressing three points.

The first point is that we consider that, of course, we have Financial Regulation 4.2. However, there has been a very, very longstanding practice on the part of the FAO Conference, which has approved the carry forward of unused funds, of unobligated appropriations. That has been a very longstanding practice of some 40 years at least.

We submitted a few years ago a document listing all situations where the Conference has approved the carry forward of funds. I cannot accept that the Conference for the past 40 years, and the Members, which are here, have acted in an illegal manner. Therefore, for me these have been valid decisions, decisions of the Conference. There has been a very consistent practice on this matter. Of course, there

may be other considerations and I am aware that there could be political considerations involved in this matter. However, the decision of the Conference at the last session was a valid decision and the Conference has taken decisions for many years on the matter.

Just two words, without interfering with the review that may take place. When considering the Report of the CCLM, there were two requests for the CCLM and the Joint Meeting to look into this matter. One request by the Council and one request, one instruction, by the Conference.

The CCLM reluctantly, I mean, I must say that the Secretariat reluctantly, took the matter to the CCLM and to the Joint Meeting, as we are obliged to do. The CCLM, after a long debate, also suggested a proposal whereby we would have a decision to carry forward unused funds taken by the Conference, building on this longstanding practice.

Then, under the proposal that the CCLM reviewed and, which was submitted to the Joint Meeting, the Council, benefiting from inputs from the Programme Committee, would approve the purposes for which the carry forward of unused funds would be used, so the decision would be entirely one for the Council and for the Members.

Then, under the proposal that was proposed by the CCLM, if the Council could not approve the proposals for the use of funds, the unobligated appropriations would go to the general fund. We would be under the scheme for financial regulations.

Therefore, I just wanted to provide these elements of information. I do not believe, coming back to the question asked by the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic that the Conference, in approving the carry forward unused funds for the past 40 years has acted in an illegal manner. However, I quite understand that the matter, being a complex one, the matter being a sensitive one, we may have and need additional discussions on this topic. It would be appropriate maybe to continue to look into this matter and to also look at what other agencies do and we also looked into what other agencies have done.

I will stop here. I do not believe that this would require, subject to the views of the Members, additional discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

I have one request from an observer country, Ethiopia, to make a statement.

Ms Zenebu Tadesse WOLDETSADIK (Ethiopia) (Observer)

We have been waiting for a chance for observers to intervene, but unfortunately it was not given. That is why I am requesting the chance to give a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Ethiopia and Mali are honoured to deliver the statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Regional Group welcomes the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees findings and recommendations on the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee*.

The Group appreciates the commitment of FAO towards the realization of zero tolerance to harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power, which will create an enabling work environment where everyone is respected and treated with dignity. By recognizing the staff satisfaction survey conducted in 2018, the Group supports calls for a periodic survey to be conducted and staff representatives to be included in the survey.

The Group also shares the Joint Meetings concern about FAO carrying forward unspent balance of biennial appropriation, which is not in line with Financial Regulation 4.2, and, which may be an exception becoming the rule. Therefore, by recognizing the longstanding practice of the Conference in carrying forward unspent balance, the Group welcomes the urge for the Council to have a deep discussion in a way that ensures transparent and proper budgetary processes and procedures.

We also appreciate the continued commitment of FAO, IFAD and WFP to strengthen partnership and collaboration, focussing on the synergies and complementarities of Rome-based Agencies (RBAs).

The Africa Regional Group supports the request of the Joint Meetings to assess the feasibility of

integrating administrative functions, greater collaboration, and some oversight functions of the FAO, WFP and IFAD. While recognizing the key role of RBAs in the food system, we request that the Africa Member States be fully involved in the preparation of the World Food System Summit.

With these comments, the Africa Regional Group endorses the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees Report.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

I would like to take the floor after the explanations we have heard from the Legal Counsel, fully in line with the statement previously delivered by Finland on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

Thank you very much for your explanations, however, please allow me, I cannot fully agree with this explanation. First, you talked about a 40 year standing practice. As far as I remember, we are now going into the 12th year, so it is six biennia in a row, not 40 years.

The very fact that we now, for the sixth time, carry over funds, unspent balances, is what worries us in in consideration of the clear rule established in Financial Regulation 4.2, which reads indeed that unobligated appropriations are cancelled. That means they are returned to the Member States and this is a second objection I have with your explanations, when you state that these funds would then go back to the General Fund. This has not been discussed, as far as I know in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and we do not agree with this practice. It is normal practice in other organizations and even at United Nations Headquarters, and that was also mentioned by other colleagues yesterday, I think Mexico referred to this, they returned to the Members.

Therefore, we acknowledge that, again, very unfortunately a proposal was submitted to the Conference, therefore it was slipped into the Report more or less, therefore in a way we cannot change that. We have to look into the future, on how to deal with this problem. We think it is high time to re-establish budgetary discipline by cancelling the unobligated obligations and return it to the Members.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would like to turn to the statements on Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration that have been made by the European Union and its Member States, the Europe Regional Group and just recently the Africa Regional Group. In particular, I would like to thank the Deputy Director-General, Mr Laurent Thomas, for his enthusiasm in searching for greater ways to collaborate in administrative services; that is very welcome and we very much look forward to the assessment, that we have requested, being included in the next report on RBA collaboration next autumn. Very much looking forward to that.

I would also like to say that we also very much welcome the confirmation that the survey of employees will start later this month. That is very welcome. I did want to ask Mr Laurent Thomas when the results of that survey will be made available and whether they will be shared with Member States and when we might expect to, in particular, see the results, but also, the actions that will be taken in response to the findings from that survey.

CHAIRPERSON

I have two questions. One, Mr Antonio Tavares, I'll give you the floor to respond to points raised by Germany, and then I give the floor to Mr Laurent Thomas.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Counsel)

No, we are not opening this issue. We take the point again, that we need to look into the matter. As far as I am concerned, for the few months during which I am still around, we will be looking into this matter again and we will be making an in-depth review of all the issues.

Two specific points of clarification.

One is that, indeed, there has been a practice for more than 40 years. After this meeting I will be circulating, to the Representative of Germany, a paper which lists the situation since the middle of the 1970s. I will be leaving after 38 years of service at the end of next January, but this started well

before I joined FAO. There have been very many situations of carry forward. Therefore, we have had a consistent practice. Of course, I mean, we can argue whether a practice makes law or whether we should regularize the matter through an amendment of the rules.

The second point is the financial flow. The funds go indeed into the General Fund, and then they could be credited to the countries; if there is no deficit in the General Fund. The process that we will be discussing later on will be this one. The unobligated appropriations will be returned to the Members, provided, however, that there are no other issues to address. One of them is the deficit in the General Fund. There has been a longstanding deficit.

These issues will be addressed later on. I do not think that we should, at least as far as we are concerned, address them now. However, I thought it would be useful to put forward these elements of information.

CHAIRPERSON

I give the floor to Ms Dilek Macit to respond to the UK.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services Department)

With respect to the staff engagement survey, this will be launched, as Mr Laurent Thomas mentioned, in the middle of December and it will be open until, I think, about 7 February. The reason for the long open time is to encourage as wide of a participation as possible. A lot of the staff, as you probably know, will be on mandatory contract breaks, for about a month over the holiday period, hence the reason for the long participation period.

Thereafter, we hope to have the results analysed by the end of Quarter One. It is anticipated that with a wide participation rate, where we can protect the anonymity of the participants, and have the trust and confidence of the staff, that we are not revealing any confidential information, we will be able to share the results of the survey with you. It is anticipated that that could be at the next Finance Committee, if not the one thereafter. However, certainly we will give you the analysis of the survey, if not the full disclosure of the survey. We just do not know at this point how wide the participation will be.

CHAIRPERSON

Any further comments?

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

It is just to pursue the issue on unspent balances and seek some clarifications.

Firstly, we also would like to appreciate the explanations provided by the Legal Counsel. I think gradually all of these issues are coming into the fore and perhaps in line with the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees Report's recommendation for a more fundamental discussion, we would welcome more information about that. It is just that, as also pointed out by Germany, perhaps the concern by Members stems from that in the recent 12 years or so, this has already become the practice, this practice being referred to, of approving carryover of unspent balance has been successively approved or considered by the Council in the Conference.

If you are referring to the 40 years, perhaps you could also enlighten us on if there is such 12 years of successive practice because there might be breaks, like there is one in the 1970's but then the next occurred in the 1980's or something like that. However, now Members are calling for a more fundamental discussion, because of our disconcert is with this 12 years.

Also in the conclusion of this Council discussion, we would like to know the direction on whether, indeed, a fundamental discussion will continue not only here in the Council but more so in the Technical Committees because as mentioned by the Legal Counsel, there has not been much substantive discussion even in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and it would really benefit the Committee and also the other Committees, if we could have more information on the practices of the other Agencies. That would really be helpful.

That is why we would recommend that this would continue in the discussions in the CCLM as well as in the Programme and Finance Committees, and we look forward to the conclusion of these

discussions.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

Just a quick question back on the follow-up to the survey results. Why would it possibly take such a long time to share the results with us, not at the next Finance Committee, but the second one after? This is basically in a year's time, if I am not wrong. I just want to understand the forward process and why we may need to wait for almost a year for results of a survey, which is being launched now but has, for the well explained reasons, a long duration to foster a wider participation.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services Department)

Perhaps I was not clear enough. We anticipate to share the results with you at the first Finance Committee that follows our analysis of the results. We just do not know when the survey company will come back to us after the closure and whether they will be ready for it. If it is, then by all means we will be able to share these with you at the next Finance Committee, and certainly by the next Council.

CHAIRPERSON

I think that brings our discussion to an end and I could try and summarize the discussions on this Item. The text is on the screen. *Item 4: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th session of the Finance Committee.*

1. The Council endorsed the report of the joint meeting and:

- a) Noted the outcomes of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CCLM, and the Joint Meeting on the systematic use of unspent balances and accordingly requested the Secretariat submit, for the benefit of a more fundamental discussion by the Council, a related paper which takes into account the need for consistency with Financial Regulation 4.2;
- b) Commended the progress and exalted continued efforts in the Organization's Corporate Policy Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse as well as on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and looked forward to a strengthened indicator, a related staff survey and an analysis regarding the potential added value of making available for all three Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) common specialized expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;
- c) Looked forward to further discussion on RBA collaboration within the repositioning of the United Nations Development System and progress on strengthened partnerships and collaboration, including in strategic, administrative and financial areas and requested an assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating RBA administrative functions be submitted to the Council for consideration;
- d) Appreciated the additional information received on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, welcomed its use as a tool to accelerate realization of the Strategic Development Goals and endorsed its furtherance.

That is the end. Now for your comments.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

If we look at paragraph (a), the very last line, it refers to Financial Regulation 4.2. During our intervention, my delegation brought up the example of the traffic light system that every country has, and because of this, there is an Article, in every country in the world, which says on the red light you must stop. There are other Articles saying that an ambulance carries someone who immediately needs medical care, or the firefighters are racing across the city to put out a fire, or if the police are pursuing some malfeasance, then these other Articles provide caveats for running the red light.

Therefore, we would argue that the proper way to frame this exercise, that the Legal Counsel has referred to and my delegation and others have asked for, should refer to the applicable Financial Regulations, because we are doing a holistic review of what is applicable and not just one single Article that if taken out of context, then puts us all in the wrong path.

With regards to paragraph (b), if I could look at it, please, I do not see, very quickly, any reference to zero tolerance and not just my delegation, but I heard many others express, in one way or another, the

need for having a zero tolerance policy with regards to all types of abuse of authority and harassment and so on and so forth.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Could I see letter (c), please? Yes, thank you very much.

Germany would like to suggest a minor but not unimportant amendment. As the European Union (EU) in its statement said, the wording in the Report of the Session should be as much as possible in line with the respective decision adopted by the WFP Executive Board on 19 November.

If I recall the statements delivered by the Europe Regional Group, by Japan, Australia and the United Kingdom, then they all spoke very carefully about a first assessment and, indeed, we had a discussion at the WFP Executive Board, on this issue and we decided there to include the word “first” because of the fact that this is in a way under the overall United Nations System-wide competence of the business innovation group and we should avoid the impression that we are here overtaking, basically, New York competences. Therefore, it should be a first assessment of the feasibility, and the wording that we chose at the Executive Board was to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrated administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions. Therefore, “first” should be added, as well as “regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions.”

No, not collaboration. We are speaking about the option of integrating, “[...] and in some oversight functions to be submitted to the Council for consideration.” Exactly. That is one point.

Then coming back to the intervention of my dear colleague from the Dominican Republic with regard letter (a), as a lawyer I have a problem understanding the suggestion that he made. Financial Regulations are as such, of course, applicable, and we are interested, in particular, in Financial Regulation 4.2. Therefore, we would, indeed, want to refer to Financial Regulation 4.2, as it was originally suggested. Financial Rule, is it? Yes.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

We would just like to take off from the intervention by both the Dominican Republic and Germany with regard to paragraph (a). As we also see the rationale of not only limiting the discussions in Financial Regulation 4.2, but at the same time, we see the importance of highlighting Financial Regulation 4.2. That is why perhaps one option is to have the original formulation, consistent with Financial Regulation 4.2, and other applicable regulations or other relevant regulations. I think that would take care or cover both concerns.

In addition, we would also, perhaps, like to add in the third line, “fundamental discussion by the Council and its Technical Committees,” because what we, as do other delegations, have just mentioned, the discussion and the paper that will be released by the Secretariat, and the Legal Counsel, would benefit the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). That is why I think it would be good to mention its Committees.

Then just to clarify that in the paper that is saying “it takes into account the need for consistency”, that would include the practices from other United Nations and relevant Agencies.

CHAIRPERSON

I think before I give the floor other Members, we need to conclude on this paragraph because there are a few options listed there. Therefore, could we deal with this specific paragraph first, before I carry on? Or would you prefer to take the floor and put everything in and then we go over the whole Report? Could we deal with this paragraph? Is anyone requesting the floor for this paragraph?

I think we will go through the whole list of speakers and then come back.

Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)

In paragraph (d), I would like to suggest replacing the language “endorsed its furtherance” with “looked forward to the further development of the Initiative.” The reason for our request to change is that we have heard, of course, throughout our discussions, widespread support for the Hand-in-Hand

Initiative, although I would note a lot of it is still developing and evolving to better reflect the nature of our discussions on it, we prefer “looked forward to the further development of the Initiative.”

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

We were also wondering to maybe use different wording. Actually, one which we highlighted was to emphasize “a number of expectations in relation to Hand-in-Hand Initiative”. I could imagine that it could fit after this “information received on the Hand-in-Hand initiative and the number of...” Yes, something like that. “Expectations in relation to it”.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would, first of all, like to turn to paragraph (b). Earlier this week the Director-General called me the Indicator Ambassador and I am going to prove him right. Where we talk about a strengthened indicator, I would like to be a little bit more precise. Can that read, “a strengthened key performance indicator in the 2020-2021 Strategic Results Framework”. The reason that is important is because it is important that it is a time-bound indicator.

I would then like to turn to paragraph (c). Here I think it is important to use as close language as possible to the language that was used in the WFP Executive Board decision. In particular I think what this paragraph is missing is the nature of the request, which was that FAO works with WFP and IFAD to develop that assessment together. Therefore, if I may, I would just like to read the specific language that was agreed in the WFP Executive Board and it said “request FAO together with WFP and IFAD to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions.”

CHAIRPERSON

United Kingdom, could you repeat your proposal at dictation speed?

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

In the WFP Board language it said, “to provide a first assessment of integrating administrative functions.” It did not mention Rome-based Agencies (RBA) and I do not think it needs to, it is obvious that is what the subject of the paragraph is, “[...] and greater collaboration in some oversight functions.”

Now, at WFP, we did not ask for it to be submitted to the Council for its consideration. I mean, the assumption is that that assessment will be in the Report, the Annual Report that is provided on RBA collaboration that I think initially is first seen by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in November, so, it is ultimately submitted to Council for consideration. However, I wonder for consistency, if we should also say, “submitted to Council and the Governing Bodies of IFAD and WFP,” just to make sure that it really is a joint initiative. Or perhaps “the Executive Board of IFAD and WFP.”

The other key part of the language that was in the WFP decision was “this assessment should also encompass an analysis of the potential added value of a common specialized expertise.” Now, that is already covered in paragraph (b) and I think I am happy to leave it like that. However, just to note that that is our expectation, that that particular part of it will be included in this Report as well.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

We have some comments on paragraph (d), the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We would like to see some language here regarding what we have received from the Management, which is a lot of confirmation, a lot of assurances that this Initiative will not have or create any additional financial obligations on Members. Therefore, we would like to have this language in paragraph (d). Also to take into consideration the other needs of other Member States, including middle-income countries, and I think our delegation on behalf of the Near East have already raised this, and so have other Members in their interventions. Therefore, I would like to have a language in paragraph (d) about this.

One more proposal, I think most of the delegations here raised the issue of more engagement between Rome-based Agencies (RBA) and Member States in the preparation for the Food System Summit and we did not see any language here, and we insist to have this language also included in the Report of

the Joint Meeting of the RBA.

CHAIRPERSON

Egypt, do you have a text? Would you like to propose a text?

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I would prefer to have the same language we already endorsed in the last meeting of the Executive Board of WFP, to be consistent also with the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) and as this issue has already been discussed during our deliberation on RBA collaboration.

CHAIRPERSON

If you have the WFP wording, could you propose it to us? We do not know.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

I have the text. The text we adopted at the Executive Board on 19 November is as follows:

“Acknowledging the necessary active role of the RBAs in preparing for the World Food Systems Summit under the direct leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Council likewise emphasizes the need for Member States [...]”.

Not Members, Member States, and that is a very important distinction because we are of the view, at least we were at the WFP Executive Board of the view that this inclusion should not only refer to Members of the Board but to the Member States in general.

“[...] the need for Member States to be fully involved in the preparatory process from the beginning.”

That was the decision that we adopted at the Executive Board.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

For us, just for Germany, it is principally important to understand Financial Rule 4.2 and follow that rule. Here when we are providing for the return of carry-overs and in particular we have to make sure that this money is returned at the end of the budget cycles. To this end, in paragraph (a), we would like to reflect very clearly the Financial Regulation 4.2.

Now as to paragraph (d), we would like to draw your attention to the wording of the Strategic Development Goals. Is it possible that here we are talking about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)? If so, we would like to add to that phrase, “in particular SDG 1 and SDG 2” in accordance with the *Information Note* that was presented to the Council Session.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Quisiera hacer referencia al inciso (c), que las Delegaciones de Reino Unido y de Alemania han mencionado respecto a lo acordado en la pasada Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) en noviembre de 2019. La Junta Ejecutiva pidió a la Dirección General Adjunta (Programas) que le informara respecto a su segundo período de sesiones ordinario de 2020. Con lo cual, al finalizar el inciso (c), nos gustaría que se hiciera mención que este primer informe debería presentarse en las sesiones de fin de año de los tres Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), tal como se acordó en la pasada Junta Ejecutiva de noviembre de 2019. Las sesiones de fin de año del año 2020 del Consejo, el PMA y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA).

Por otro lado, con respecto al inciso (d), apoyamos la consideración que hizo el colega de la delegación de Egipto respecto a la ampliación de esta *Iniciativa Mano de la mano* a otros países, no solo a los países menos adelantados (PMA), países menos adelantados sin litoral (PEID), países con crisis alimentaria y países menos desarrollados, sino también a los países de renta media. Nos gustaría que esto también estuviera incluido en el inciso (d).

CHAIRPERSON

Is that okay, Argentina? Okay.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

My delegation would like to verify what Argentina just said about the points that they made and as previously outlined by Egypt. My delegation was among the many that referred to those points on Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration and the middle- and upper-middle-income countries and so on and so forth.

Back to our regional comments on paragraph (a). We welcome what Mr Lazaro from the Philippines said, of course, he is informed by his tenure as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and he has been through these discussions. It is important of course, to take into account the Financial Regulations holistically. Allow me, please, to go back to the traffic light thing. If we only focus on the Article that says that red is for stopping, then we would need to have a body of policemen out in the street stopping all the ambulances and the fire fighters and their fellow policemen as they rush to get problems resolved. We need to look at the traffic light law as a whole and we need to look at the Financial Regulations as a whole as well. We do not have a problem in mentioning Financial Regulation 4.2 even though Financial Regulation 4.2 is included within the Financial Regulations that are applicable. If other Members of the Council wish to insist on spelling out Financial Regulation 4.2 that is fine. However, at the same time, mentioning all applicable Financial Rules and Regulations of the Organization, because what we are doing is an analysis of everything that is applicable and not just one Article that again, could be taken out of context and then not fully explained what we are obliged to do.

Another point that might be minor to some, but it is very important to us, in his intervention the delegate from the Philippines said on the third line, “and its Committees”. Then we see on the screen, “through its Committees”. This is very important, because we do not want anyone who is not attending this debate to read this document and somehow believe that the Council has delegated this authority to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Finance and the Programme Committees. Of course, they are all welcome to have this discussion, but the Council as well. Therefore, the Council is not getting itself off the hook here. The Council is asking all of its Committees to have a go at this, to read the analysis, discuss, debate, and reach recommendations and then this comes back to the Council.

In addition, of course, the Conference is the supreme Governing Body. We do not need to spell this out here, because it is in the constitution of the Organization and even if we do not say it here, and I am not saying that we should, we all know that and everybody will know that the Conference will have the final word on this as it has for the past 40 or so years according to the long memory of the Legal Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I give the floor to the European Union, we are becoming more and more like a Drafting Committee. I am beginning to think, what would the Drafting Committee do on Wednesday afternoon? That is what I always say, that if I bump into a Member outside in the corridor with a big smile on his or her face it is bound to be a Member of the Drafting Committee, because all the work is being done here. Can't we just deal with concepts and leave the wording to the Drafting Committee?

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I have two points. One is indeed on this paragraph (a), but I just want to make a comment and not a drafting proposal. I think the situation is, that in Financial Regulation 4.2 there is the Rule expressed and everything else is an exception to the Rule. That should be somehow reflected in the text and that is not we currently have. We are having a relativation between what is foreseen as a rule and what are the exceptions to the rule that this Organization has been practicing, as we have learned for more than 30 years, and kind of having an exceptional practice that has become the Rule contrary to the Rules. Therefore, that is something that we should definitely reflect in the text.

As it is a hot issue and it might be, perhaps, useful to spend a little more here to have it sorted out and not have a big problem in the Drafting Committee. That is my thinking.

I have another point on paragraph (d), on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative but this is just editorial. First, many thanks for Russia for bringing us back to the Sustainable Development Goals. In the second line,

this might read better, “noted the related expectations including with regard to avoiding incremental financial obligations”. I think that reads better. That was my only point on that paragraph.

CHAIRPERSON

However, do you have a proposal for paragraph (a)?

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I would need a little more time to take into account all that has been said, I can draft something.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Well frankly, I think all of what we have discussed so far is really substance and nothing that the Drafting Committee should deal with. I am quite happy that we have this time to discuss these matters.

My reference now is definitely one that is just a reference for the Drafting Committee. In letter (a) it should read “Financial Rule 4.2”.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I need more time, perhaps we can come back at a later moment.

CHAIRPERSON

Right, Ok. Therefore, under this Item all the paragraphs have been agreed, but there is one that is outstanding. We are waiting for some proposals on paragraph (a) from the European Union, so we could move on to the next Item and then we could see.

Item 11. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Point 11. Évolution des débats au sein d’autres instances intéressant la FAO

Tema 11. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO

(CL 163 INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

The next Item is *Item 11, Developments in For a of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information. The relevant document is *CL 163/INF/4*.

The Council will be given presentations on FAO’s participation and contribution in other international fora, which are of relevance to FAO’s mandate. Following the delivery of all the presentations I will open the floor for questions.

The first topic, the 14th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in India 2 to 13 September 2019, will be presented by Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director of the Land Water Division.

Mr Eduardo MANSUR (Director of the Land and Water Division)

It is my honour to present the first Item of the document *CL 163/INF/4* regarding the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) that was held 2 to 13 September in New Delhi, India.

The Conference adopted the New Delhi Declaration which is titled, *Investing Land and Unlocking Opportunities*, in which Parties expressed commitment for a range of issues including gender and health, ecosystem restoration, drought preparedness, sand and dust storms, taking action on climate change, private sector engagement, youth engagement and the need to secure land rights.

FAO has been reflected in ten of the decisions of the COP, of which there were 36 decisions. Five of the decisions of the Committee of three of the Scientific and Technical Committee and two for the Committee for the review of the implementation of the UNCCD Convention.

I would like to highlight a few that I think are relevant for your appreciation. Decision 2023 COP 14 of UNCCD deals with drought and established a UNCCD Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought. FAO was invited by the UNCCD secretary to continue the cooperation on this topic including through the Global Framework on Water Scarcity (WASAG).

Let me refer also to Decision 25 that invites that United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms of which FAO is a part of, and all the relevant United Nations Entities, as well as, Member Agents of the United Nations Coalition to continue their collaboration to assist affected countries and parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms, and explore the potential elements for broader sand and dust storms initiatives.

A historical decision taken at this COP was Decision 26 on land tenure. The decision requests the Secretariat and invites FAO and all the relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)* in the context of national food security, our VGGT, and the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality.

I am pleased to inform that this decision was also brought to the attention of the Secretariat of the Committee on Food Security and together with the Secretariat of the Convention, FAO, NCFES are busy organizing experts, multi-stakeholder experts, consultation meeting to start the development of this technical guide. There are other decisions where FAO is referred, especially in supporting Agenda 2030, strengthening relationships with different international organizations, procedures for communication, and information especially on the land degradation neutrality target and SDG 15.3. On the science policy interface on UNCCD in which FAO participates as observer, and on the co-operation with other intergovernmental scientific panels, FAO is particularly liaising with the intergovernmental technical panel on soils, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), with the UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI).

COP14 in India, hosted the first public consultation of the upcoming United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021/2030 which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly last March. The resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which was submitted by El Salvador, supported by over 70 countries invited FAO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to lead the implementation of the Decade.

In this regard, at the COP in India, I would like to refer that the Prime Minister of India presented a raised commitment to enlarge the restoration of land in India from 21 to 26 million hectares by 2030.

CHAIRPERSON

Our second speaker is Mr Peter Wobst, Senior Officer in the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division who will make a presentation on the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour 2021.

Mr Peter WOBST (Senior Officer in the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division)

I am very pleased to report on FAO's planned engagement in the International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour in 2021 and the related process on the elimination of child labour in line with the two relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and the series of Global Conferences that started in 1997.

To clarify on the onset, not all work undertaken by children is child labour. In general, child labour is engagement in activities that interferes with education, that are hazardous, or for which the child is too young. Some involvement of children in agriculture can actually support their learning and skills development, support intergenerational knowledge transfer and contribute to family livelihoods. However, United Nations (UN) and ILO Conventions put some, international legislation, clear limits to this.

Child labour is not a phenomenon impacting only poor countries, developed countries also carry their share of the incidence of child labour. However, the African, and the Asian and Pacific region account for 88 percent of child labour and the incidence in Africa is at 20 percent; meaning that one out of five children is actually in child labour. Between 2012 and 2016, most regions have observed a decline except for sub-Saharan Africa despite a number of targeted policies implemented by African governments to combat child labour.

The ILO estimates that with 71 percent child labour is overwhelmingly concentrated in agriculture. While child labour declined by one third in non-agricultural sectors between 2012 and 2016, it has

increased by an additional 10 million in agriculture during the same period. Furthermore, the majority of child labour is unpaid family labour which stresses the need to address the phenomenon within the context of small scale farming, but of course, not exclusively.

There is a global momentum to towards the elimination of child labour and the SDG 8.7 aims at the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all forms by 2025. The ILO led Alliance 8.7 was launched in 2016 to support this Goal and FAO actively participates in the Global Coordination Group of the Alliance. Earlier this year the General Assembly declared 2021 as the International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour and invited United Nations Organizations, and of course other organizations and stakeholders, to observe the International Year through activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of eradicating child labour and to share best practices. The International Year will culminate in the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour at the end of 2021 where countries will share knowledge on policies and good practices and aim at adopting an outcome declaration to guide further efforts towards 2025.

Agriculture stakeholders have a decisive role in eliminating child labour in agriculture and FAO is working to untap this potentially, especially as regards safe agricultural practices and labour saving technologies. A corporate framework is under preparation aiming to provide FAO's Decentralized Offices and technical divisions with a solid understanding of what kind of interventions and partnerships can make a difference in eliminating child labour in agriculture.

An expert meeting is planned and will be organized in 2020 during the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June, and with a High-Level Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture that FAO will host in 2021, we will provide the opportunity for agricultural stakeholders to share their experiences and address child labour and share their good practices. The results of this will then actually feed into the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour increasing agricultural stakeholders' voice and their influence.

For more than a decade FAO has been working on child labour in agriculture. For example, as a leading Member of the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture in collaboration with ILO, with the Alliance 8.7 and many more partners. Providing policies for support at national, regional and global level, technical support to FAO's units, FAO Country Offices and respective governments, and engaging more in strategic technical support to large agricultural programmes so that we can actually mainstream the issue of child labour into major work areas of FAO. An example for this is, for instance, the Rotterdam Convention and the collaboration between the Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the Economic and Social Development Departments on reflecting child labour in the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management; also in collaboration between the Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Economic and Social Development Departments on the Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries; also, external collaborations with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains where child labour is reflected. Or, indeed, in FAO-ILO guidance on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture.

We are working on capacity development issues, especially on an FAO-ILO e-learning course on ending child labour in agriculture, a handbook for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and of child labour in family-based agriculture that guides development practitioners in addressing child labour in agricultural programme and planning. I would claim that FAO is the place to go when it comes to child labour in agriculture.

Just to conclude, two thirds of child labour worldwide is in agriculture and hence the progress, or the failure, to achieve SDG 8.7 will be decided in agriculture. FAO, Ministries of Agriculture and the private sector have a decisive role to play and FAO will facilitate their participation and their contribution within the related processes.

We would, therefore, invite a broad range of relevant stakeholders to contribute to the FAO Conference in 2021 including the Ministries of Agriculture, producer organizations, agricultural workers, researchers, policy formulators and others. We hope that many Ministers of Agriculture will attend this event to give it the profile it deserves.

CHAIRPERSON

Our third speaker today is Mr Dorian Navarro, Programme Advisor in the Office of the Chief Statistician, who will make a presentation on recent developments in the Intergovernmental Processes for Sustainable Development Goals, Monitoring and Reporting an Outlook for FAO's work.

Mr Dorian Kalamvrezos NAVARRO (Programme Advisor, Office of the Chief Statistician)

I would like to update you on the latest developments in the Intergovernmental Process on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and the key decisions that have a bearing on FAO's work.

The tenth and latest meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators, took place on 21 to 25 October 2019. The IAEG approved the reclassification of four SDG indicators under FAO custodianship to the Tier 1 category; meaning that more than 50 percent of countries have data. One indicator moved from Tier 1 to Tier 2 as fewer countries are reporting data in recent years. As a result of these changes a majority of SDG indicators under FAO custodianship are now in the Tier 1 category.

The key focus of the last meeting of the IAEG was the *2020 Comprehensive Review of the SDG Indicator Framework*. This is one of two comprehensive reviews foreseen before 2030. The next one is scheduled for 2025. During these reviews it is possible to add, delete, replace or substantially revised existing indicators. Although it is called the 2020 Review, relevant consultations began in April of this year, and two key decisions were taken at the latest IEAG meeting in October.

Regarding the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, the IEAG approved FAO's proposed minor methodological revisions to the following indicators: SDG 2.4.1 on sustainable agriculture; SDG 2.5.2 on the risks status of livestock breeds; and SDG 5.8.2 on legal frameworks to protect women's land rights. FAO had also presented a proposed additional SDG indicator on credit to agriculture, but this was not approved by the IAEG, despite the fact that the IAEG itself had requested an indicator on the private element of investment. The group explained that although the proposal fulfilled all the formal criteria they were now more concerned with not expanding the current list of SDG indicators beyond its current scope.

Regarding SDG 2.4.1, in particular, earlier this month the Programme Committee was appraised of the details of the revisions to the indicator's methodology. You may recall that this indicator had been discussed at the latest Council meeting in April where certain countries had voiced concerns over specific aspects of the methodology. The Chief Statistician, from this very podium, had made an open invitation to countries to join a working group to review those aspects. This informal working group was eventually comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Russia and the United States of America and was tasked with identifying alternative sustainability criteria for one of the 11 sub-indicators, namely, the biodiversity sub-indicator. By August, the group of countries prepared a proposal that was shared with the Secretariat and after some further adjustment the final proposal was submitted to the IAEG for formal approval. The IAEG unanimously approved the proposed changes.

As we will hear later today in the review of the Programme Committee's Report, the Programme Committee welcomed FAO's efforts in this regard and requested the Secretariat to organize a seminar on statistics focused on SDG indicators for permanent representatives in the first half of 2020.

At its latest session, the IAEG also outlined its future priority working areas. These include working on data segregation techniques, leveraging new and alternative data sources, mainstreaming the use of new automatic data collection tools, working on now-casting and forecasting techniques to provide more timely and actionable data and working with United Nations Agencies to develop a common approach to measuring progress and analysing trends. Regarding this point, FAO has volunteered to be part of an Inter-Agency Group that is working on a reflection paper to be drafted by January 2020 whose main focus will be on improving the first progress chart prepared by the United Nations Statistical Division for the September meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

This progress chart, an extract of which you can see on this slide, combined information on the status of the indicator in writing and the direction of the indicator based on a four colour traffic light scheme. The United Nations Statistical Division prepared the chart rather hastily and it is admittedly not very

clear or intuitive. Incidentally, only one out of the 38 targets examined are identified as being on track at global level. These findings are echoed by FAO's own SDG progress report published for the first time this year ahead of the July HLPF. The report paints a grim picture of progress in the food and agriculture domain. The most recent evidence available suggests that the world is indeed, not on track to meeting most of the SDG targets related to sustainable agriculture and food security.

In any case, the IAEG's priority areas are very much in line with FAO's own priorities for SDG indicators, particularly with regard to capacity development. These include scaling the implementation of integrated survey programmes, assisting countries in developing agricultural data quality assurance frameworks, developing country capacities in the use of new and alternative data sources, and improving the coordination of statistics data production at country level. To this end, FAO is pursuing an integrated capacity development strategy for SDG indicators consisting of three main initiatives. The 50 X 2030 Initiative for empowering and supporting 50 low-income and lower-middle-income countries to build strong national agricultural data systems; the Umbrella Programme on SDG Indicators to support national SDG monitoring and reporting; and the Action Plan of the Second Phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics.

The second of these initiatives, the Umbrella Programme on SDG Indicators, is the first project listed on FAO's 2019 business development portfolio. Since the Programme's launch earlier this year, USD 1 million out of an envelope of USD 21 million, have already been mobilized by one resource partner and efforts to mobilize additional funds are ongoing. With the available funds, however, only a reduced number of activities under the broader Umbrella Programme are currently being implemented.

The international community is at a critical crossroad. We will soon be entering the ten year countdown to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the track record so far is not encouraging. Statistics is perennially underfunded attracting a mere 0.32 percent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and is thus, unable to fulfil its role. To get back on track we need internationally comparable data and SDG indicators able to guide the policies and investments needed for transformative change.

CHAIRPERSON

Our final speaker today is Mr Marco Sanchez, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Development Economics Division who will make a presentation on the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*, which addresses economic slowdowns and downturns impacting hunger.

Mr Marco SANCHEZ (Deputy Director of the Agricultural Development Economics Division)

As you all know the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) was launched in July 2019 at a High-Level event while the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) was supposed to be happening. I will focus this presentation on a brief review of the topic of how economical slowdowns and downturns are affecting food security and nutrition. I will place that summary within the trilogy of SOFI's, as we call it that has been tackling the issues of conflict, climate and nowadays economical slowdowns and downturns.

Very briefly, to put it into context, as you all know, world hunger is still not going down after three years. Over 820 million people are still hungry today. Looking beyond hunger this Report shows that over 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe nutritious and sufficient food. Therefore, there is a problem of moderate food insecurity as well in the world as this Report shows. Child stunting is decreasing, but the Report also shows that the level of decrease is very slow to achieve the targets by 2030. In addition, as you know there is a growing global epidemic of overweight and obesity that is affecting all regions in the world. Now the question is, what do these trends have to do with economical slowdowns and downturns and what does this year's SOFI try to unveil with details and evidence.

Let me explain what I already said about the trilogy. SOFI 2017 addressed the issue of conflict, and a year later, SOFI 2018 addressed the issue of climate extremes and vulnerabilities. This year we address the issue of economical slowdowns and downturns. We call it the trilogy, because essentially what happens is that these trends are related to the underlying causes of food security and malnutrition, which are poverty, inequality and marginalisation. However, these three drivers come to

affect all of those underlying causes.

Therefore, I will focus on the economic slowdowns and downturns for essentially two reasons. The first reason is the latest global economic prospects were all food is low and it stalls economic growth in many countries. Therefore, the outlook is not so promising, so, we have to watch out for that as well. At the same time, SOFI exposes the evidence that tells us that there is a problem. Essentially, what we observed is that hunger is increasing in many countries where economic growth is lagging. Particularly this is happening in middle-income countries, for countries that rely heavily on international trade of primary commodities, and importantly we have observed that the impacts of economic growth, its stagnation, reductions and so on and so forth, are larger where inequalities are more significant.

Just to give you a sense of evidence, this graph is very simple to read, essentially it is showing us the countries that experience both: an increase in undernourishment and economic slowdown or a downturn in the period 2006 and in 2017. You can see an increase in trend. It basically means that increasingly more countries that have experienced an economic slowdown or an economic downturn, are also experiencing an increase in undernourishment. Just to give you a sense of statistics, of evidence, as this is an evidence-based Report. Out of the 77 countries that experience a rise in hunger, 65 of them saw their economy slowing or contracting. Fourty-four of these 65 countries are middle-income countries. Thrity-two out of these 65 countries are in Africa.

Now the Report of course, presents the evidence and tries to suggest what needs to be done against this threat. Of course this is important because FAO with the partner Agencies producing this report is saying that, we need to look at economic policies once again for agriculture and food, particularly as we move towards a food systems approach. Therefore, the key issue here is how to increase economic resilience, how to strengthen economic resilience to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. Here we have to talk about two types of policies. We need policies in the short-term and we also need policies in the long-term.

In the short-term the Report is very clear about the evidence that shows what we could do. Countries need to protect incomes of course and purchasing power in the short-term, and for that the Report based on evidence suggests the use of a number of things. For example, social protection programmes, public works programmes, health sector policies and policies to reduce excessive volatility of food prices. At the same time it is very important that we look at the long-term, the outlook, the development. Here it is very important that countries need to reduce economic vulnerabilities and inequalities. It is important to build capacity to withstand shocks, create healthier food environments and also pursue a structured transformation that enables many countries to get away from commodity dependence, which is one of the causes of extendable vulnerability.

Of course this is not easy, because all of these policies require a funding counterpart. Therefore, the Report is also very thorough on explaining that it is important to strengthen saving capacities, particularly when there is economic booming, where there is economic growth. It is important to strengthen capacities and we offer a number of recommendations on what instruments are used in the world successfully to increase savings capacity. However, the Report is also very critical in saying, you need to invest these savings properly, and it is not just about increasing savings.

The last point I want to make is that this is not only about economic growth. We need to transform to grow more, but the Report is very critical in saying that building economic resilience is not only through a structural transformation that increases economic growth, but it also requires economic and social inequalities to be tackled at all levels, and, once and for all.

Today, some of the recommendations are already being implemented through policy support at FAO and all their partners around them going in a number of countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now open the floor for any questions or comments on the presentations you have just seen and heard.

Mme Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA (Cameroun)

Nous apprécions la présentation de ces quatre thèmes dans le cadre de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour, relatif à «l'Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO». Je vous prie Monsieur le Président, de bien vouloir passer la parole au Kenya, qui parlera au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Ms Teresa TUMWET (Kenya) (Observer)

Kenya and Cabo Verde have the pleasure to present this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

With regard to the 14th Conference of the Parties on the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Africa Regional Group supports the work on land tenure, sand and dust storms, drought preparedness, ecosystem restoration, and land degradation neutrality. We call upon FAO to speed up the already existing knowledge and promote the scale-up of country initiatives in this area.

The Africa Regional Group recognizes the importance of integrating the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* in the Context of National Food Security in the Implementation of the Convention on Land Degradation Neutrality and thus we support the production of a technical guide. We commend the initiative for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, coorganized by FAO. Our group sees this as an opportunity to expand ecosystem restoration in Africa, particularly in areas highly subject to climate changes, like the Sahel and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour in 2021. We commend FAO on the initiative to publish FAO Framework on Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture in 2020, and hosting a High-Level International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in 2021. This is an important contribution towards the elimination of Child Labour in agriculture while promoting safe and sustainable labour practices, agricultural policies for integral growth and development of children in agriculture settings.

On the issue of recent developments in the intergovernmental processes for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring and reporting and outlook for FAO's work, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the progress made. We note the need for enhancing capacity for sustainable development indicators reporting and, in particular, applying now-casting and forecasting techniques to SDG indicators. We welcome the establishment of a dedicated working group to guide the international statistical community in the preparation of reports in this field. We congratulate FAO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) who volunteered to be part of the working group. We encourage FAO to support countries in monitoring SDGs.

The State of Food and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2019 paints a very gloomy picture. In the past three years, the number of hungry people in the world has been continuously increasing. The situation does not seem to change anytime soon, especially given the climatic shocks and economic slowdowns. We call upon all Member States and especially the developing countries to urgently invest in both short-term and long-term strategies to eradicate poverty and end hunger. We also call upon FAO and other development partners to enhance support in this area.

In conclusion, the existence of a threat posed by climate change to many Member States, is a troubling challenge to societies and nations that can precipitate crises and conflicts contributing towards food and nutrition insecurity. We should all join hands to avoid such threats, and it is with this in mind that the Kenya Government seeks your support as a Member States of the United Nations in her candidature for the Non-Permanent seat of the UN Security Council 2021–2022, whose elections will be June 2020.

CHAIRPERSON

We will take one more speaker and then we will adjourn for the lunchbreak and take up the Item again after at 14:30.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

I will add to my Kenyan colleagues.

It is becoming clear that we cannot progress forward if we cannot do a pragmatic view of the success of our strategies and plans to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2. It is clear from the presentations. All of them point to one thing, that the so called developing regions, especially Africa are affected by economic downturns, particularly, the ability to have shock absorbers on climate change.

The question, which I will leave for answers is whether there is a positive co-relationship between the statistics on poverty, which seems to be pretty much in the developing regions such as Africa, and the allocation of resources. In addition, we plead to FAO, and South Africa especially, to begin to do this research and also allocate resources accordingly, because if we can continue with an understanding and a description of the problem, for example, we can take drought in particular, land care where they deal with land degradation, or smart agriculture, Africa is the worst affected.

Consequently, if you look at the budget that was presented previously, and these presentations it seems to us that there is a dichotomy, there is a complete disjuncture between the resource allocations and the understanding of poverty. It is our plea that may it occur that FAO would allocate the resources according to the research and the results of all the presentations that point to one thing, that about 826 million people are living with poverty. Of those 8 billion, let me just get my statistics right, 2.2 billion have no access to food, half of those are in Africa. Therefore, the question arises whether from a human equality standpoint. Are we allocating resources to the right places to ensure that there will be a time in which the Council sees a Report on progress in achieving SDG 1 and 2, in particular and with specific reference to the geography of where this poverty is occurring.

CHAIRPERSON

I have still got about six speakers.

We will continue with this item at 14:30 when we reconvene. I now adjourn the meeting.

The meeting rose at 12:31 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.31

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 December 2019

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:37 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 11. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (*continued*)
Point 11. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (*suite*)
Tema 11. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO (*continuación*)
(CL 163 INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order. As agreed before lunch, we will continue with Item 11, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*.

There were still six speakers on my list before the break, so I will start with the first one.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

First I would like to thank the colleagues who have intervened and informed us about the recent developments, I wanted to ask, perhaps on behalf of all Members, it would be great to receive the Power Point presentations, that they are uploaded and that we can access them.

I would then like to directly speak on the issue of Child Labour, and thank Mr Peter Wobst for the overview you gave us. The European Union (EU) are well aware that ending child labour is a global challenge. We have heard from you the prevalence of it in rural Africa. Child labourers compete with adults in the labour market, and thereby drive down working conditions and earnings. They miss out on full-time education, and cannot develop skills that they need to access decent and productive employment later in life. This perpetuates rural poverty. Child labourers in agriculture are difficult to reach, and have so far received little or no attention.

Child labour takes place for a number of export commodities such as cocoa, cotton, coffee, flowers and tea. Strategic and comprehensive interventions in value chains for export commodities, like cocoa can significantly contribute to reducing child labour. Companies should be accountable on how and where they source from. They experience challenges when managing sustainability across supply chains, and collaboration is essential so that companies can move to sustainable supply chains overtime.

The EU has taken measure to address the issue. At policy level the European Consensus on Development commits the EU and Member States to combat child labour in an integrated approach. Fighting child labour is covered by the EU's Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. The Plan also focuses on promoting socially responsible behavior of enterprises. The EU also has dedicated *Guidelines for Promoting and Protecting the Rights of the Child*. At project level, the EU supports strengthening capacities of partner countries to combat child labour. To improve regulatory and legislative frameworks, build awareness, strengthen community prevention mechanisms and social support structures, and provide alternative training for decent jobs and income generating activities.

Recently the EU has been orienting support to promote decent work in responsible supply chains. In the last ten years, the EU has supported more than 150 actions worth EUR 190 million to specifically combat child labour across 65 countries. For instance, the EU funded the Clear Cotton project. It tackles child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru. The International Labour Organization (ILO), in cooperation with FAO and Civil Society Organisations, implements the project.

In addition, the EU trade policy promotes sustainable development. Values and principles such as high social standards are at the core of EU trade policy and it can also be instrumental in combating child labour. Recent EU Free Trade Agreements systematically include provisions on trade and sustainable development. The EU and its trade partners must: follow international labour and environment standards and agreements; effectively enforce their environmental and labour laws; not deviate from environmental or labour laws to encourage trade or investment; and promote practices such as corporate social responsibility.

The main trade policy instruments for promoting core labour standards are the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and in particular the special incentive arrangements for human rights, sustainable development and good governance (GSP+). The Trade for Decent Work project supports targeted countries in implementing core labour standards and addressing main decent work deficits.

The new Commission President, Von Der Leyen, who started her mandate on 1 December has emphasised her commitment to a “zero-tolerance policy on child labour” in every new trade agreement alongside highest standards on climate, environmental and labour protection.

The European Union will be pleased to continue to cooperate with FAO and its specialised department on Decent Work and Child Labour and to benefit from its livelihood expertise. FAO research results and data in partner countries will be precious for the EU, to target interventions tackling decent work deficits and to bring systemic remedies to prevent child labour, particularly in agriculture.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, European Union. Just for your information, the PowerPoint presentations are on the Member’s Gateway.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Sobre la Convención de Lucha contra la Desertificación, llamamos la atención a la adopción por parte de la COP 14 de las *Directrices voluntarias sobre la Gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, la pesca y los bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional*. Esta fue la decisión 26, a la cual se refirió el Señor Mansur.

Este paquete de Directrices, que llamamos VGGTs, es el más usado de los productos de políticas del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA). Su adopción y el encargo formulado a la FAO y al CSA de organizar una consulta de expertos para preparar una guía técnica de implementación son pruebas nuevas y contundentes de la relevancia global del CSA en la lucha contra el hambre y todas las formas de malnutrición.

Sobre la eliminación del trabajo infantil, deseamos expresar que República Dominicana se encuentra en el más alto nivel de ratificación de los instrumentos internacionales sobre la materia.

Mi país opera una Comisión Interinstitucional contra el Abuso y la Explotación Sexual Comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes y un Comité Directivo Nacional de Lucha contra el Trabajo Infantil. Estos órganos aplican una hoja de ruta donde instituciones del Estado, la Sociedad civil, el Sector privado y otras partes interesadas colaboran para garantizar el cumplimiento de las normas.

Me complace compartir con mis colegas que, por mi formación en derecho laboral, he tenido la oportunidad de asesorar la formulación de políticas en esta materia —*pro bono*— para el Ministerio de Trabajo.

La Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (RLC) reportó, durante el Día Mundial contra el Trabajo Infantil, que la mayor reducción en el trabajo infantil peligroso a nivel global se dió en América Latina y el Caribe, y mi país se congratula de haber contribuido a esa importante estadística junto a otras en la región.

Tomamos nota de los interesantes indicadores de la Agenda 2030 que la FAO custodia. Cabe recordar aquí que el tema del 46.º período de sesiones del CSA fue “acelerar los progresos hacia el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 2, hambre cero, para alcanzar todos los ODS”. El CSA puso especial énfasis en la interconexión entre los 17 ODS a partir del hambre cero y la agricultura sostenible.

En cuanto al infomre *El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo (SOFI)*, deseamos resaltar uno de sus muchos datos alarmantes: la prevalencia de la inseguridad alimentaria grave en países con alta desigualdad de ingresos, la cual triplica la observada en países con poca desigualdad de ingresos.

Llamamos la atención de este reto en el contexto, de nuevo, del CSA, que en su 46.º período de sesiones de octubre de 2019, aprobó lanzar un proceso de convergencia de políticas en materia de desigualdades y el impacto que dichas desigualdades tienen en la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

Sra. Maria Carolina CARRANZA NUÑEZ (Perú)

La DFporelegación del Perú desea agradecer por la información presentada que se desarrolla en *Novedes en foros de impotancia para el mandato de la FAO*, y en particular le gustaría referirse a la segunda presentación sobre el *Año Internacional para la Eliminación del Trabajo Infantil 2021*.

Como se ha indicado, el 71 por ciento del trabajo infantil tiene lugar en la agricultura, lo que representa 108 millones de niños en esa área. Conocemos todos que el trabajo infantil pone en peligro la salud y la educación de los niños, comprometiendo su futuro, y de esa forma, se convierte en un desafío al desarrollo agrícola sostenible y a la seguridad alimentaria.

En ese sentido, agradecemos a la FAO por la labor realizada, su colaboración con la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) en la erradicación del trabajo infantil en la agricultura, así como su participación en el Grupo de Coordinación Mundial de la Alianza 8.7 de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

El Perú reitera su compromiso expresado como país pionero de la Alianza 8.7 y en el impulso a la Iniciativa Regional América Latina y el Caribe Libre de Trabajo Infantil, de la cual somos miembros fundadores.

Finalmente, expresamos nuestro apoyo sobre los planes de la FAO para organizar una Conferencia Internacional de Alto Nivel sobre Trabajo Infantil en la Agricultura a principios de 2021, en cumplimiento del mandato del Año Internacional para la Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand) (Observer)

First, I would like to express my appreciation to all speakers this morning for updating us the relevant activities of FAO's mandate.

Regarding the summary presentation made by Mr Eduardo Mansur, the Director of Land and Water Division at FAO, water scarcity and drought are very important for food security and sustainable agriculture. Water resource management is one of top priorities of the Government of Thailand, and other countries in Greater Mekong Subregions. We encourage FAO to continue supporting the work on water scarcity and water resource management, and our countries will also continue support FAO in this particular issue.

With regard to the Decision 26 of COP14 on Land Tenure, Thailand welcomes the request, and invitations of other relevant partners to collaborate with FAO and the Committee of World Food Security (CFS) to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* in the context of national food security into the implementation of the Convention and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

As you may know, the goals of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure* are to achieve food security for all, and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. In addition, the Guidelines are also intended to contribute to achieving sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, rural development, environmental protections, and sustainable social and economic development. The Guidelines are meant to benefit all people in all countries, although there is an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people.

In the capacity of the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I would like to encourage Members and FAO to emphasize in investing more on monitoring the uptake of global policies and recommendations made by the CFS at the national level. I do hope that FAO and other Rome-based Agencies will inform and disseminate the CFS global policies and recommendations to technical staff at Regional and Country Offices. Together we can make a better impact by translating the policies into actions at the national and ground level.

M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)

Ma délégation remercie les collègues qui ont produit ce travail et s'associe aux déclarations que les autres collègues ont faites ici sur la question à l'ordre du jour.

Sur la question précise des énergies à déployer pour l'accélération de la croissance et de la transformation de l'agriculture afin de relever le défi de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle face au changement climatique et ses répercussions sur la productivité agricole, il y a le problème de la mobilisation des financements climatiques.

Le dialogue de Kigali du mois d'août 2019, qui a réuni les partenaires multilatéraux et les décideurs politiques a souligné l'urgence d'accélérer ce processus.

Les pays du bassin du Congo en général, et notre pays le Congo en particulier, avec ses 25,5 millions d'hectares de forêts, s'est engagé dans le processus d'atténuation, à travers une gestion durable de ses écosystèmes forestiers et, à ce jour, nous attendons toujours de voir ces efforts récompensés.

A contrario, les méfaits du changement climatique n'attendent pas. La lutte contre les changements climatiques gagnerait davantage et vite, si les efforts dans le sens de la mobilisation des financements climatiques étaient faits à un rythme adéquat.

Nous félicitons la FAO pour les efforts qu'elle a consentis jusque-là pour mobiliser les financements et nous attendons de voir qu'ils aboutissent.

Mr Chu Van CHUONG (Viet Nam)

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to thank and commend FAO for the good Report on combating desertification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the *Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2019)*.

With regard to the issue on child labour I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that, due to small-scale farming systems, new and emerging threats of disasters and the impact of climate change, Viet Nam still has a substantial number of children, 67 percent of whom are more or less engaged in agricultural activities to help their family earn a living.

The early labour force affects the harmonious development of children. This also causes negative impacts on socio-economic development and reduces the quality of human resources in the long-term of the country. Early labour participation also prevents children from moving towards physical and psychological development and hindering appropriate access and enjoyment of culture and education. To address and curb this, child labour needs comprehensive and drastic solutions from the Government, Ministries and communities. Especially when Viet Nam has been chosen to be among the pioneer countries in Alliance 8.7.

The Government of Viet Nam is committed to addressing child labour issues through the review and revision of the legal system, policies on child labour prevention and reduction to ensure coherence and harmony with international standard and commitment. Capacity building and awareness raising strategies are implemented across the country. National investment programmes including a National Target Programme on New Rural Development, a National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction and Agriculture Restructuring Plan are carried out to support agriculture and rural development, as well as livelihood development to improve quality and accessibility of vocational education and training services for children.

Viet Nam was among the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour, for immediate action and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour with a view to end child labour by 2025.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam highly appreciates and fully supports the FAO Plan to host a High-Level International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in early 2021, in observance of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, contributing to the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour to be organized by ILO in late 2021.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

Thank you, very much, to colleagues for all of the updates. I would like to take this opportunity to focus on the update on progress with monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which FAO is the custodian. This update was very useful and when the Council turns to discussing the Report of the Programme Committee, I very much hope that the Council will agree on the need for a Seminar on that issue.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the very powerful intervention that we heard from South Africa before the lunch break. The comment of the Director-General from the South African Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries really struck a chord with me and I think he is right when he asks, how can we achieve progress if we are not reviewing how we are doing? What I would like to do

is to propose that, at every Council, we review its progress and in particular, progress with the 21 SDG indicators for which FAO is responsible. I think that would be useful for its own sake, but I think it would also be useful to build our capacity as Permanent Representations to understand how the SDG indicators work and, in particular, the 21 indicators for which FAO is the custodian. I think it would be very helpful to have a quick review on the progress with that, under this Item, at every Council.

CHAIRPERSON

That brings us to the end of Members interventions. Now I will invite the presenters to respond to some of the comments made. The first one is Mr Mansur.

Mr Eduardo MANSUR (Director, Land and Water Division)

We welcome all the comments and the support provided by Member Countries. I think there is no question addressed to us, and I would just like to highlight the point raised by the distinguished representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, which highlights the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and highlight the importance for its implementation in the Sahel. We took note of this detail.

It is a global movement to scale-up and to enhance ecosystem restoration. As we know, about one-third of all the land used by agriculture and livestock is degraded and about 25 percent of this degradation is heavily degraded. The opportunities of bringing back this land to productivity, to sustainable production, can address food security and improve food production in a significant way. Our hope, with the implementation of the United Nations Decade, is very strong. We are working very closely with the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions, especially with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, but also with the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department at FAO and the Climate Convention, to support the implementation of this Decade.

Mr Peter WOBST (Senior Officer, Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division)

We welcome the comments of the Africa Regional Group, the European Union, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Viet Nam, in particular. I feel there is a consensus in the room that we should go ahead with this work and with the preparation of the High-Level International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in 2021.

Let me refer to a couple of issues that were raised in this context to assure that the poverty context and household poverty, for us, is the starting point to address this and work towards more sustainable agriculture and rural development by addressing child labour issues in agriculture and respective value chains. The global value chains, just to underline, is a context within which we are working, but I also want to point towards the duality, within global value chains, that we need to look at. More plantation agriculture and smallholder agriculture, as we have seen, is where the majority of child labour is located.

The Clear Cotton Programme is certainly one step in this direction and we will engage with further partners to expand this Programme and this area of work. I would like to underline that the trade and the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) context is important and we will work more in engaging with the private sector to address this and we appreciate the European Union's zero tolerance in terms of child labour.

The achievements in Latin America and the Caribbean are appreciated. I am very happy to hear about your personal background and we can take up a dialogue on how to learn from the lessons in Latin America and maybe in the Dominican Republic, in particular. Regarding Peru, as one of the so-called Pathfinder Countries, we clearly intend to work very closely with Pathfinder Countries in order to get agriculture into the process of combating child labour.

Regarding Viet Nam's comment on its Government's actions towards capacity and advocacy, but also the development of strategies and related Action Plans, this is exactly how we typically support our Member governments' in combating child labour and we are looking forward to expanding our work programme jointly with you on this.

Mr Dorian Kalamvrezos NAVARRO (Programme Advisor, Office of the Chief Statistician)

I welcome all the positive feedback from all Members. I would like to refer, in particular, to the comment by the United Kingdom. We too look forward to the Council supporting the Programme Committee's recommendation to hold a Seminar on statistics, especially focused on SDG indicators, in the first half of 2020. We will work to that end. Moreover, we would be very eager to provide a more thorough update on the progress on all 21 indicators under FAO custodianship on a regular basis.

As I mentioned, we did publish, for the first time this year, a Progress Report on the indicators under FAO custodianship and every year we hope that this Report will become more informative as more data are available.

Mr Marco SANCHEZ CANTILLO (Deputy-Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

There were no specific comments on the issues relating to the economic slowdowns and downturns affecting hunger and food security and nutrition. However, there was an interesting comment from the floor on the mismatch between resources and research. This is the first time I hear such a comment. Precisely what we are trying to do with reports such as SOFI is to provide the evidence, not only globally, but also regionally, and presenting concrete country cases. The idea is that this evidence is being taken more and more up to the country level, where each of the country offices are trying to address some of the policy recommendations and work with the governments to implement them.

We are trying to close that gap between the evidence that can be generated and moving that evidence where it is most needed at country level.

CHAIRPERSON

That brings us to the end of this Item.

Item 11 of the Agenda was for information only, it was presented to the Council for information. The list of the presentations will be included in the Draft Report. In addition, as I mentioned earlier, the Power Point presentations we saw this morning will be on the Members Gateway.

This concludes Item 11.

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2019) (*continued*)

Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent vingt-septième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixante-dix-huitième session) (novembre 2019) (*suite*)

Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 127.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 178.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2019) (*continuación*)

(CL 163/6; CL 163/12; CL 163/6, and Information Note 1; JM 2019.2/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We can move on to Item 4, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2019)* as we had an outstanding issue there. I will return briefly to our discussion on the conclusions of Item 4. We will project the conclusions on the screen with the revised language in the hope that Members will find it agreeable and we can conclude Item 4.

You will see the amendments in paragraph (a). I hope they are acceptable and we can move forward. I think I have no requests for the floor, so this is a positive sign.

Do I take it that we agree with this paragraph?

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

Just to clarify, the way it is phrased right now, "and its Committees" that is okay. Is there a period

there? There might be something that would need to be fixed there, Maybe “and it is Committees.”and then “a related paper shall be taken into account the need for consistency,” something like that.

CHAIRPERSON

I think it should go out and it should be “taken” not “takes.” “[...] shall be taken into account.” The “s” is out.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 5. Report of the 127th (4-8 November 2019) Session of the Programme Committee

**Point 5. Rapport de la cent vingt-septième session du Comité du Programme
(4-8 novembre 2019)**

**Tema 5. Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa
(4-8 de noviembre de 2019)**

(CL 163/4; CL 163/4 Information Note 1 and 2; CL 163/11 Rev.1; CL 163/13 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

The next Item is *Item 5: Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee*. The documents before Council are *CL 163/4, CL 163/11 Rev 1, CL 163/13 Rev 1, CL 163/4 Information Note 1 and CL 163/4 Information Note 2*.

I invite Ambassador Hooegeveen, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the report.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I am pleased to present the outcome of the discussions of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee. At the outset, let me highlight the very positive environment of this session. It was a real privilege for me to work with my colleagues who were so dedicated to their work, to the discussions and to the outcome. We had very substantive but also very intense discussions in the Programme Committee on different areas of the Organization, and we always could reach a consensus on the conclusions.

I would also like to thank and compliment Ms Maria Helena Semedo and Mr Dan Gustafson, for their participation, because of the open dialogue and discussion we had with them. The reaction of the Management of the evaluations, but also to ideas that were floating in the Programme Committee, was very constructive, we achieved a lot. It was also a very heavily loaded Agenda, as you could see from the many conclusions we took on several issues.

Before I go into the substantive issues, I would also like to mention that the Programme Committee unanimously elected His Excellency Mohammad Hossein Emadi as Vice–Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the term of the Committee from July 2019 to June 2021. I am pleased that I can count on Mr Emadi, not only because of his passion and his commitment to the work of FAO, but also because of his experience in a number of issues, certainly agroecology and other issues related to Committee on Agriculture (COAG). Therefore it is an honor, not only for me, but also for the Members of Programme Committee, to have him as our Vice–Chairperson.

I now briefly present the outcome of the discussions of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee. First, in relation to the Evaluation of FAO’s Strategic Results Framework, the Committee appreciated efforts of the Director–General and Management in steering FAO into a more strategic Organization and orientation.

The Programme Committee noted with concern conclusions of the evaluation related to the Strategic Results Framework, especially that the Strategic Programmes have been less effective in transforming FAO’s delivery in the field. The Committee welcomed this evaluation and emphasized the importance of involving Members in the process of implementation of the recommendations and it stressed the need to strengthen the work of the Decentralized Offices and improve linkages between Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices.

The Programme Committee recommended a roadmap for consultations on the implementation of the recommendation of the FAO Strategy for Agenda 2030 and the United Nations Development System (UNDS) Reform. It is very important that the Strategic Framework should be placed within Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as that is our overall framework within which we have to work.

You have seen the *CL 163/4 Information Note 1 and CL 163/4 Information Note 2* containing the roadmap and an update provided by the Management. As it was said by the Russian Federation yesterday, there was not ample time to study these *Information Notes* and they indeed need to be studied. One element that was addressed in the Programme Committee that has not been included in the roadmap yet is the request to have informal consultations with the Membership on this Item and the Strategic Results Framework. We have seen how fruitful the informal consultation could be when we see the results for the Strategy for Mainstreaming Biodiversity as well as the Ten Elements of Agroecology. We will certainly speak with the Secretariat and Management to include informal consultations in the roadmap.

Regarding the Evaluation of FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy, the Programme Committee welcomed this evaluation, but also the Management response that clearly stated that it would take over all the recommendations, also as the Programme Committee agreed with recommendations and conclusions. The Committee stressed the importance of partnerships with the private sector to mobilize knowledge, technical tools, technologies and capacities that can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs besides, as we are always looking for, the mobilization of funds.

The Committee underlined the balance to be sought between the due diligence process, on one hand, and transparent partnership with the private sector in alignment with the best practices within the United Nations (UN) System, on the other hand. We really need the cooperation with the private sector if we want to be successful in the implementation of the SDGs, not just here in Rome, but also in New York and Nairobi. Last but not least, the Committee requested the development of a new vision for the private sector partnerships, and requested to organize informal consultations so that we can have an inclusive approach on the strategy.

Regarding FAO's Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, following the request of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference, I would like to thank all Members who participated in the inclusive Consultation Meetings for your inputs and efforts to reach consensus on mainstreaming of biodiversity strategies. It was with that result that we could bring a document for review by the Committee on the Strategy. The Committee reviewed the proposed Strategy and recommended to the Council that it should adopt the Strategy.

Regarding the Ten Elements of Agroecology, again, I would like to thank all the Members who participated in the inclusive Consultation Meetings for your inputs, efforts and dedication to reach consensus on a very technical and complex issue of agroecology. After intensive negotiations, we could reach consensus on the Ten Elements of Agroecology. Therefore, the Committee reviewed the proposal and proposes that the Council adopt the Ten Elements of Agroecology.

The Committee also reviewed the Progress Report on the main features of the draft updated Gender Strategy. The Committee appreciated that an Action Plan will be prepared in 2020. It stressed the importance of refining the requirements for gender mainstreaming as defined by the Policy's minimum standards. The Committee requested a consultative process to be put in place to finalize the updated Policy and welcomed that an Action Plan will be prepared in 2020.

On the follow-up Report, *Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 4: Enabling Inclusive and Efficient Agricultural and Food Systems*, the Committee welcomed the progress reported, it stressed the important entry point that food systems provide in accelerating the achievements of the majority of the goals under the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 1 and SDG 2. The Committee recognized FAO's role in supporting countries in improving their food systems in making them even more sustainable.

In addition, the Committee welcomed a presentation by Management on SDG 2.4.1, Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture, as my colleague from the United Kingdom said this afternoon, it looked forward to the seminar for Members on FAO's statistics work

to be held in the first half of 2020; this was a clear request of the Programme Committee.

The Programme Committee also welcomed a Progress review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and looked forward to a new FAO Action Plan on AMR for the period from 2021–2025, to be submitted for guidance by Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and Committee on Fisheries (COFI) along with an inclusive process with Members. The Programme Committee looks forward to receiving this after it has been dealt with in the Technical Committees.

To conclude, I would like to thank all those who participated in the Informal Consultations in making them so successful, and also my fellow colleagues from the Programme Committee for their hard work, their dedication, flexibility and certainly while focusing on concrete actions where possible.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for comments from Members.

Mr Laith OBEIDAT (Jordan)

I am delighted to speak on behalf of the Near East Group on Agenda Item 5, *Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee* and related documents. At the outset I would like to extend my regards to the Director-General and thank him for his robust efforts to push forward the Organization's programmes and commend him on his high spirits, energy and effective interaction with Groups, Committees and Member States. The Report touched upon a multitude of issues; however I will keep this intervention brief and comment only on issues of focus.

The Group welcomes the evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework, however, we are concerned that the Strategic Programmes implemented have failed to transform FAO's delivery at country level and the field. Therefore, it is imperative that a new Strategy and Action Plan be put in place to remedy this, and re-calibrate the Organization's engagement with Agenda 2030 and the repositioning of the United Nations Development System, including the strengthening of strategic synergies and partnerships. It is of high importance to involve Member States, benefit from lessons learned, and improve linkages between Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices to improve the response to needs.

The Group welcomes the evaluation of FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy, but more light needs to be shed on their definitions, levels, scope, issues, needs and contexts via the creation of a new vision that steers these partnerships and governs them.

On FAO's Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, the Group concurs with the recommendations put forward by the Programme Committee. The implementation of the strategy and Action Plan must include indicators, solid deliverables and timelines for delivery. Action Plans should also include next steps such as capacity building in FAO's Decentralized Offices, and should be reviewed by Technical Committees.

Regarding the Ten Elements of Agroecology the Group agrees fully with the outcomes put forth by the Programme Committee. We also see the Ten Elements as an important analytical tool to aid countries to operationalize agroecology and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Group supports the Programme Committee's take on the draft updated Gender Strategy and we emphasize the importance of aligning the policy to the most recent international frameworks on gender equality and women's empowerment. We also see fit the improvement of FAO's performance on gender parity especially at Management level, and we wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of a Women's Committee.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

I take the opportunity to thank the Director-General and colleagues for what I consider a broad presentation and an effort towards dealing with poverty. However, if you were to try to compare the previous presentations on drought, gender mainstreaming, child labour, you start asking the question as to what is the positive core relationship between factors of success or failure, for not achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2. The positive correlation is visible to some of us who have worked, and continue to work, in the rural areas in poverty alleviation and mitigation in some

instances.

The issue of drought is directly linked to poverty increases. The issue of child labour and trafficking in rural communities is directly linked to not achieving one of those, which is SDG 1 in particular because that is the first one.

I would like to bring forward my concern on the issue of sustainable food production. More importantly, an independent Monitoring and Evaluation Committee that is independent of us that looks at whether the strategies we present are working or are not working. They can come and provide a presentation on evaluating and monitoring at country level, district level, showing whether the strategies and money are following the strategies. That independent body takes time to present to us, whether or not we are achieving the SDGs. I think that is the area that remains grey and it becomes greyer when it is not clear what we mean by public private sector partnership. Are we talking about NGOs? Are we talking about private companies? What are the profiles of these companies in relation to the profiles of our strategies? What are we talking about here?

Until we begin to address the issues at the level of districts and villages, in other words, we begin to deal with the human being as he or she is in a village when they wake up in the morning, we are not going to be able to deal with these things, we have seen it. We appreciate that there is a global strategy, but if that strategy lacks monitoring, evaluation and measurement, at an independent level, I want to make it clear that over the next three decades, we will still talk about SDG 1 and SDG 2.

The reason that that would be the case is that it seems to me that the issues are not being addressed. There are issues of trade, in the trade regime, sanitary and phytosanitary issues that are simply blocking developing countries from exporting to other countries. Those issues impact poverty and nutrition and those are issues that, if we begin to address what the causes are and how we deal with poverty alleviation and food security we begin to have some clarity.

I do not know whether I am misplacing this debate because I tend to have a confusion as people ask questions and as they present, whether we are at a Committee level or we are at a Framework level, or at a Guidance level. Therefore, excuse me if I walk all over because I am not sure where we are. When you look at the content of the way we are discussing, at one point I think it is so detailed that I think it is a Sub Committee. At one point I think we are at a framework level because the presentation is broad. At one level, the questions become like guidance questions.

Looking at a person like me, who comes from a poverty environment, and I am grappling with those issues day-in, day-out, I, therefore, would like to see it at the level away from policy and see it at a pragmatic level of evaluation, monitoring and measurement and I wanted to present that with respect to that presentation in particular.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

Brazil would like to comment on the following subjects addressed by the Programme Committee.

On the Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework, we noted with concern some of the findings of the evaluation regarding the fact that donors and governments, the two main drivers of FAO's investments, do not follow a programmatic logic, a constraint that should be recognized and addressed. The evaluation document further states that donor support for programmatic approaches and lightly earmarked funding has been uninspiringly low in the past few years.

In the design of Brazil's Trilateral and South-South Cooperation projects implemented in partnership with FAO, efforts are made in order to identify the fulfilment of partner countries' priorities and the contribution of each initiative to FAO's Strategic Outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is necessary to ensure that all initiatives actually respond to the priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the countries involved. We also underline the need for strict and unambiguous alignment of programmes financed with extrabudgetary resources, with the priorities of FAO's Programme of Work and, in particular, of the recipient countries.

Brazil endorses the recommendations of the Programme Committee on the Evaluation, especially the need to strengthen the work of the Decentralized Offices, in particular in supporting the achievement of the SDGs, and the acknowledgement that unearmarked voluntary contributions can promote an

effective programmatic approach at country level. In this regard, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the *Information Note 2* on voluntary contributions, detailed by programmatic and geographic dimensions. Taking into account the growing proportion of voluntary, with respect to assessed contributions, we would certainly support the presentation of this Report on a regular basis.

Regarding the Evaluation of FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy, Brazil endorses the recommendations of the Programme Committee, especially regarding the development of a new vision. In this process, we request the provision of a clear restriction on the use of financial and in-kind contributions from private sector entities to FAO's normative work. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors is a good example in this regard.

We support the adoption of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors. There has been significant improvement in the Strategy since its first version, and the inclusive consultation process with Members has helped shape a clear, balanced and fit for purpose document. We look forward to collaborating in the design of the Action Plan as well, to be submitted to the Technical Committees in 2020.

We commend the transparent and inclusive process that led to the current text on the Ten Elements of Agroecology and are glad to lend our support to the document. We hope it will help operationalize the approach, setting a framework for Agroecology, as well as for the inclusion of science and innovation within agroecological approaches.

We appreciate the Programme Committee's conclusions on the *Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 4 (SO4): Enabling Inclusive and Efficient Agricultural and Food Systems*.

Regarding the topic of food systems, we believe this is an area with great potential for coordination with other United Nations Agencies, including through the One Planet Initiative, given the concept's comprehensiveness and multisectoral nature. In particular, we welcome the decision to establish a clear definition of food systems. We are of the view that such a definition could improve the work done under SO4 and further strengthen connections between food and agriculture areas. In this context, FAO's Regional and Country Offices could be encouraged to identify links between projects developed on the ground with the widest perspective offered by the concept of food systems. We believe it could be helpful for our own cooperation activities with FAO in Latin America and Africa, creating further opportunities for the expansion of coordination with other Agencies in projects already aligned with the overall perspective of food systems.

At this point, it is important to note that Brazil supports the adoption and development of the concept of "sustainable food systems", a holistic concept which embraces the completeness of the food chain, including production, processing, transportation, marketing, consumption and disposal. The consumer, as the main agent of food choices, should follow, primarily, nutritional, traditional and cultural aspects of the diet intake.

Regarding nutrition, we welcome the work in progress on the Strategy and Vision for FAO's work in this area. We support the more holistic view of the Organization on this matter, in order to encompass and tackle the emerging forms of malnutrition, especially obesity, which affects every country in the world, with worse consequences in terms of public health to the more fragile economic and social contexts.

We endorse that the terminology of the updated FAO Nutrition Strategy be based upon agreed language within the United Nations, including the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

Concerning indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, we support the request made by the Programme Committee for the organization of a Seminar in the first semester of 2020. In addition to the request by the Programme Committee, we propose that said Seminar not only focuses on the methodology for the 21 SDG indicators for which FAO is the custodian agency, but also on the following related topics: assessment of countries' statistical capacities and needs for monitoring and reporting on those SDGs; and resource mobilization to support SDG monitoring. We recall that the Chief Statistician has already provided preliminary information on those topics to the Council at its 161st Session. It is paramount to support countries in actually understanding, using and monitoring

those indicators. Capacity building and financial support are essential to that purpose.

As for antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Brazil recognizes the importance of FAO's work in supporting countries to adopt measures to prevent and control antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture. Still, we would like to recall that in many developing countries access to antimicrobials for use in human and animal health remains a major challenge. In this regard, we recall Conference Resolution 6/2019, which recognizes the importance of addressing AMR through a coordinated, multi-sectoral, One Health approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda. We appreciate FAO's cooperation with WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and welcome FAO's commitment to the Tripartite Joint Secretariat. We reiterate the importance of the scientific principle in risk analysis on AMR, in order to avoid any unjustified restrictions on trade.

Furthermore, we would like to receive clarifications on the recommendation regarding the evaluation of a project funded by the Fleming Fund, as we understand that requests for project evaluations carried out with extrabudgetary resources should not be deliberated by the Council.

Mr Shri Bommakanti REJENDER (India)

India has the privilege to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group would like to congratulate the Chairperson, the Members and the Secretariat of the Programme Committee for their in-depth discussion on various agendas, and for providing fruitful recommendations to the Council. The Asia Regional Group supports this Report and would like to share the following observations.

Firstly, regarding the Evaluation of the FAO's Strategic Results Framework, we echo the call for a Strategy and Action Plan to engage with the Agenda 2030 and a repositioning of the United Nations Development System, while emphasising the need to strengthen partnerships. All of these three elements are important to FAO in terms of providing guidance in fulfilling its core mandate. We also acknowledge that unearmarked voluntary contributions can facilitate an effect to a programmatic approach at country level with a transparent, as well as independent monitoring and evaluation system. The Asia Group is looking forward to hearing many positive outcomes from FAO through its unearmarked voluntary contributions.

Secondly, the Asia Group would like to highlight the Committee's review on the evaluation of FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy. We acknowledge the private sector's significant role in food systems and welcome FAO's action on setting up a one-stop shop and an online partner's portal, with the expectation of improving efficiency and effectiveness in the process of engagement and working with the private sector. FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy should aim for collaboration with the private sector, particularly mobilizing their knowledge, technical tools and capacities as part of our integrated efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe this can be achievable with a clear strategy, as well as FAO's continuous efforts to maintain its integrity and neutrality.

Thirdly, the Asia Group would like to highlight the Committee's review on the documents of FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors and the Ten Elements of Agroecology. We commend the overall inclusive consultation process undertaken during the course of preparation. This process truly resulted in a high quality output and improved the Member States' level of understanding on these issues, including their objectives. The Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming will provide a good guidance to FAO in integrating biodiversity consideration in its work across the agriculture sectors as biodiversity plays a crucial role towards achieving more sustainable agriculture and food security. The Strategy needs to be supported by a concrete Action Plan, including indicators, corresponding procedures and timelines, in order to assist its successful implementation. My Group also regards the Ten Elements of Agroecology as a useful document, which will provide us with technical guidance in applying agroecology to many areas with the notion that this is a living document that will be updated periodically in light of new evidence.

Lastly, on the progress review on antimicrobial resistance, the Asia Group appreciates the work of the Tripartite collaboration between FAO, WHO and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the progress shown so far at country level. We underscore the importance of capacity building and awareness in terms of promoting decision makers to develop and implement National Action Plans and for farmers to make their behavioural changes in antimicrobial use.

With these observations, the Asia Regional Group endorses Council's approval of the Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

In this Item, I would like to ask if you could you pass the floor to Sweden to deliver the statement on behalf of the Nordic countries.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We would like to thank the Programme Committee for their efficient work and their Report. We agree with the Programme Committee that FAO Members need a better understanding of FAO's work on statistics and, in particular, the roles and responsibilities of Member States in monitoring the 21 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators for which FAO is the custodian. We look forward to the Seminar early next year and regular updates thereafter. We would also emphasize the need for an inclusive process.

We welcome the evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework. Its findings are robust and its recommendations are timely. We welcome Management's agreement to implement them, in particular, we would appreciate the Director-General's commitment to the rapid implementation of recommendation one, which is to develop a new strategy and action plan for FAO to engage with the 2030 Agenda and the repositioning of the United Nations Development System, and of recommendation two which is to review and update FAO's Results Framework. We look forward to the timetable for broad consultations on this with Members and within FAO, in particular the Decentralized Offices. We endorse the next steps set out in the Report of the Programme Committee.

We welcome the new vision of the revised FAO Nutrition Strategy on all forms of malnutrition and the proposed outline on food systems approaches, enabling sustainable and healthy diets for all. This work will play a key role in positioning FAO for the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Summit on Food Systems in 2021. We fully endorse the Programme Committee's recommendation and the relevant decision adopted by the WFP Executive Board on 19 November 2019, that Members should be strongly involved in preparing for the Summit from the beginning and defining what its outcomes and deliverables will be.

We would like to thank FAO Members for the inclusive process that was used to develop and agree on the Ten Elements of Agroecology. We fully support those Ten Elements and urge the Council to endorse the document.

Similarly, we would also like to thank Members for the inclusive process used to develop FAO's Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors. We look forward to seeing the action plan for implementing the Strategy and, importantly, outcome indicators or targets for the strategy. We confirm our support for the Strategy on the understanding that indicators and targets will be included in the first draft of the Action Plan to be presented in January 2020, as set out in the Programme Committee Report.

Finally, recognising the central role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs, we endorse the request to develop a new vision for private sector partnerships and underline the balance to be sought between the due diligence process and facilitating transparent and responsible partnerships and cooperation.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

I give this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement. Our statement will focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Nordic countries welcome the Progress Report on the FAO Action Plan on AMR. We need to step up efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance in a coordinated, multi-sectoral, One Health approach. We urge FAO to continue prioritizing, developing and coordinating its AMR portfolio. In particular, the Progress Report shows that we need to do more to improve good production practices and promote the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics to ensure effective and life-saving antibiotic drugs in the future for both animals and humans.

We therefore welcome FAO's leadership in improving implementation on good practices and prudent use of antimicrobials in food and agriculture systems. The practical manual on prudent and efficient use of antimicrobials in pigs and poultry, recently launched by Sweden and FAO, and the publication on *Tackling Antimicrobial use and resistance in Pig Production: Lessons Learned in Denmark*, published this year by Denmark and FAO, are good examples that we would like to highlight.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Mi Delegación desea agradecer por el *Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, CL 163/4*. En particular, damos la bienvenida a la versión revisada del borrador de la *Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas*.

Este borrador es resultado de un proceso de consultas conducido por el Secretariado de manera abierta e incluyente a lo largo de varios meses. Gracias a este proceso, contamos hoy con una estrategia clara, con actividades y objetivos concretos que permitirá avanzar los trabajos de la FAO en favor de la biodiversidad de manera coherente y coordinada. No es tema menor cuando consideramos que la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición dependen de la biodiversidad, sin ella no puede haber desarrollo sostenible.

Por supuesto, existen aspectos que hubiéramos querido que fueran incluidos o incluso una mayor ambición en algunos puntos. Por ejemplo, profundizar en el tema de monitoreo de la biodiversidad para considerar los efectos de su integración sobre ecosistemas y poblaciones.

Sin embargo, entendemos que la estrategia propuesta es solo el comienzo de un proceso que llevará a la elaboración de un plan de acción y que este proceso seguirá abierto para que los Estados Miembros continuemos enriqueciéndolo. De igual manera, valoramos que contemple un proceso de seguimiento y evaluación para dar cuenta de sus avances. Ello nos dará también la posibilidad, en su momento, de reforzar o ajustar el contenido de esta estrategia.

El gobierno de México integra de forma comprometida el uso sustentable y la conservación de la biodiversidad en sus planes, programas y acciones, con el fin de garantizar las aportaciones del sector a la seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo del país, contribuyendo a su vez al bienestar de la sociedad, y a la conservación y uso sustentable de la biodiversidad. Esta visión está en concordancia con la visión y los objetivos señalados en esta estrategia.

En ese sentido, contamos con experiencia acumulada sobre prácticas de producción que favorecen a la biodiversidad y los servicios ecosistémicos, y podemos compartir con otros Miembros de la FAO dichas experiencias, en apoyo a las actividades 1.1 y 1.2 que la estrategia contempla.

También tenemos un importante avance en actividades de coordinación intersectorial. En particular, se han sostenido diversos foros de diálogo a nivel nacional cuyos resultados pueden servir como un insumo para los diálogos a nivel nacional que la Estrategia de la FAO plantea en su actividad 1.1.

De esta manera, no solo apoyamos decididamente la aprobación de la Estrategia de la FAO en materia de biodiversidad, sino que también estamos dispuesto a seguir acompañándola y a apoyar su instrumentación.

En cuanto a la versión revisada de *Los 10 elementos de la agroecología*, consideramos que se trata de un documento que enmarca de manera integral estos elementos como herramienta analítica para ayudar a los países a poner en prácticas sistemas productivos agroecológicos. En ese sentido, es un buen documento de partida que, sin embargo, en su intento por ser sucinto deja fuera componentes importantes de considerar.

En todo caso, entendemos también que se trata del inicio de un proceso que tiene contemplado su actualización en el 2022 y deberá mantener coherencia con otros procesos sobre este tema. México respalda esta versión revisada.

Ms Ekaterina NOSKOVA (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

Allow me to comment briefly on the separate decisions and recommendations of the FAO Programme Committee.

We support the FAO work plan on the evaluations presented in the Annex to document *CL 163/4*. We

agree that the idea of offering support to countries in need to attain Sustainable Development Goal 2, combating hunger, must remain at the centre of the Organization's attention, paragraph 18 (b). We call on the FAO Secretariat to write this clearly into the Draft Strategy documents of the Organization, such as the Programme of Work, the Medium-Term Strategic Plan, the Strategic Framework and others.

We agree with the recommendations of the Programme Committee in evaluating the implementation results of the FAO Strategic Framework. We intend to participate in reviewing this document, planned for 2020-21. We call on the FAO Secretariat to ensure the conditions to involve all Member States in preparing the Strategic Framework. The process of agreeing it must be clearly structured, including its timeframe. It should be inclusive and transparent.

We support confirming the Ten Elements of Agroecology, which determines the issues to be examined in the agroecological context. We also support the draft FAO Strategy that considers biodiversity in the agriculture sector. We are ready to contribute to the upcoming preparation of the Action Plan in the Biodiversity Strategy. We positively evaluate the Initiative on holding, in 2020, an FAO Seminar for Member States to give concrete examples of the main areas of the Organization's activity and statistics. We believe that our main attention should be paid to the calculation methods for the 21 indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals, which the FAO contributes to.

We are interested that FAO's statistical work should, as always, remain of a professional nature, without any politicization of the issue.

We are grateful to the Secretariat for the information on the updating of the FAO Nutrition Strategy. We support the fact that the Strategy is oriented on resolving issues of malnutrition in all its forms. We agree with the comments of the Programme Committee, paragraph 22 (g), on the inappropriate use of terminology, which is not harmonized with the intergovernmental format, the so-called sustainable diet. As it appears, it is important for the Nutrition Strategy to take into account such thematic components as ensuring food safety and quality, decreasing food loss, combating non-communicable diseases, education and outreach for healthy lifestyles, and combating antimicrobial resistance.

We would like to ask the FAO Secretariat to explain how the document will be agreed upon. We must provide a realistic timetable so that Member States have enough time for expert consideration of the document and to present their comments and proposals.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina valora positivamente que el Comité del Programa haya apoyado las actividades de la FAO tendientes a promover los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles y, en particular, que se hubiera alentado a la FAO a ayudar a los países a transformar los sistemas alimentarios según procediera. Esto así en el entendido que no todos los sistemas alimentarios necesitan pasar por una fase de transformación al haber ya sistemas sostenibles en sus tres dimensiones.

En otro orden, con relación a la mención en el documento al trabajo realizado en torno a *Los 10 elementos de la agroecología*, apreciamos los trabajos y esfuerzos realizados por las delegaciones en este tema, y que han permitido arribar a un texto consensuado. Asimismo, quisiera agradecer la labor de los Presidentes del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Agricultura en el proceso de consultas con los Estados Miembros. En especial, destacamos el consenso alcanzado respecto a que la agroecología es solo una de las herramientas disponibles para alcanzar sistemas alimentarios sostenibles.

Por otra parte, y con relación a la mención en el documento al concepto "dietas sostenibles", quisiéramos indicar que dicho concepto no ha sido consensuado a nivel multilateral, por lo cual resulta importante que en la *Estrategia en materia de nutrición* se utilice el término "dietas saludables", el cual sí fue acordado en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2). Asimismo, no queda claro el valor agregado del concepto dietas sostenibles, ya que consideramos que la referencia a sistemas alimentarios sostenibles para dietas saludables abarca todos los elementos necesarios. En ese sentido, subrayamos el consenso logrado en el Comité del Programa sobre la necesidad de armonización con el lenguaje acordado a nivel multilateral.

Así como lo mencionó recientemente la Delegación de la Federación de Rusia, y por eso solicitamos que en las conclusiones de este debate se incorpore el párrafo 22(g) del *Informe del 127.º período de*

sesiones del Comité del Programa, CL 163/4.

Asimismo, y con relación a los progresos realizados en la actualización de la *Estrategia en materia de nutrición*, expresamos nuestra satisfacción con respecto a la recomendación del Comité del Programa de llevar a cabo un proceso inclusivo de consultas con los Miembros, a fin de tomar en cuenta las visiones de todos los países.

En lo relativo a los trabajos destacados en el documento en torno del desarrollo del “Indicador 2.4.1 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) sobre: Proporción de la superficie agrícola en la cual se practica una agricultura productiva y sostenible”, agradecemos la labor estadística llevada adelante por la FAO y el reconocimiento en el documento respecto de la importancia de un proceso inclusivo en la FAO respecto de la metodología para los indicadores de los ODS. Reiteramos lo manifestado en el Comité del Programa respecto a la importancia de mantener informadas a las Representaciones Permanentes acreditadas ante esta Organización sobre las consultas estadísticas, ya que éstas representan el canal al que debería recurrirse para distribuir la información a las autoridades competentes en cada tema de sus respectivos países.

Finalmente, respecto de la referencia en el documento al *Examen de los progresos realizados en materia de resistencia a los antimicrobianos (RAM)* y la propuesta de creación de una plataforma de datos sobre RAM, nos complacería contar con información más detallada sobre esta eventual plataforma, en particular, sobre qué tipo de datos se recolectará, sus fuentes, así como la finalidad de la misma.

Con estos comentarios apoyamos la aprobación del *Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa*.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

En relación a la *Evaluación del marco de resultados estratégico de la FAO* deseamos destacar las recomendaciones 2 y 3, en el sentido de la importancia y el soporte que se tiene que dar a las oficinas a nivel país. Muchos países de ingresos medios y medios altos accedemos a recursos mínimos que no reflejan de modo adecuado los desafíos que enfrentamos.

Sobre la *Evaluación de la estrategia de la FAO para las asociaciones con el sector privado*, apoyamos un diálogo cada vez más amplio y profundo. Más que una asociación para movilizar recursos financieros, ámbito sobre el que tenemos algunas reservas, este tipo de alianza sirve para generar conocimientos, aprender lecciones e identificar buenas prácticas. Sugerimos reflexionar acerca de cómo utilizar la exitosa experiencia inclusiva del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) en sus relaciones con el Sector privado.

En lo referente a la *Estrategia sobre biodiversidad*, deseamos ver énfasis en la claridad de objetivos y la creación de capacidades en la sede y en la red descentralizada. Vemos que varios productos de políticas del CSA pueden alimentar la estrategia: las directrices sobre tenencia o las *Directrices voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, la pesca y los bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional*, como hemos mencionado por ejemplo, así como las recomendaciones sobre actividad forestal sostenible.

En el *Informe de seguimiento de la evaluación de la contribución de la FAO a sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios inclusivos y eficientes (OE 4)* encontramos iniciativas relevantes para el proceso del CSA en curso, sobre convergencia de políticas en sistemas alimentarios y nutrición. Vemos un vínculo claro también entre este tema y la Cumbre Mundial sobre Sistemas Alimentarios.

Aplaudimos los *Progresos en la actualización de la estrategia de nutrición*, tema que también posee estrechos lazos con la labor que desarrolla el CSA.

Mr Vincent Frerio BAMULANGAKI SSEMPIJJA (Uganda)

Uganda is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group with regards to the Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee. We thank the FAO Secretariat for putting together such a quality document to facilitate decision-making by the Council. The Report dealt succinctly with quite a number of issues relating to programme planning and evaluation, as provided in the executive summary of the Report. I will delve into a few of them in the interest of

time.

The Africa Regional Group is happy to learn that the principle of establishing an Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), was appreciated. We think that with this FAO is positioning itself to scale up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 and SDG 2. Uganda is categorized by the United Nations as a Least Developed Country and by nature as a Land-Locked Developing Country. This poses challenges that are peculiar and only unique to countries of this nature. Therefore, we think that the creation of the above Office will help us to address such challenges in many countries across the globe that find themselves in a similar situation like Uganda.

We welcome and support the recommendation of strengthening the visibility of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the Agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan results framework in FAO's Strategic Results Framework. Antimicrobial resistance effects pose growing threats to human, animal and plant health. It affects food production and food security, the environment, and economic development in all countries. No one is safe, though some countries are more affected than others. In Africa, it is a real challenge. The cost of drug resistant diseases is posing a huge cost to individual families and governments. FAO is a major stakeholder in efforts to reverse the effects of AMR and must work with other International Agencies to deal with this problem.

With regards to the evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the recommendations of the Committee. We look forward to considering and approving the roadmap for consultation on the implementation of the two recommendations: recommendation one, on the FAO Strategy for Agenda 2030 and the United Nations Development System repositioning, and recommendation two, on the Results Framework.

Africa supports the recommendation made in the report on FAO's Private Sector Strategy. Many countries have achieved tremendous results in using the Public Private Partnership Model. In Uganda, like in many other countries in Africa, we operate a liberalized economy with the private sector as an engine of growth. By adopting the private sector approach, FAO would be moving in tandem with the current trends in the world. We support the importance the Committee gave to the fact that the private sector partnerships should be implemented to support priorities of national governments and with their agreement. This is a coherent way to approach this and it enjoys our support.

With regard to the Ten Elements of Agroecology, we welcome the inclusive and transparent manner in the consultation process. The Open-Ended Working Group, which was Co-Chaired by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), had Representatives from each Regional Group. Many African Representatives together with other countries had an opportunity to participate in these long processes and discussions. This facilitated consensus on the text of the Ten Elements of Agroecology, which we are glad to consider positively in this Council for approval. We commend FAO for transparency and inclusiveness and we recommend this good practice for similar future work.

As I said at the beginning, the Report dealt with several issues, all of them important. In general, the Africa Regional Group observed that the Report presented issues that are well linked to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. However, as we enter the period of the last ten years before the 2030 target, time is not on our side. Therefore, we must scale up our efforts and react with urgency in terms of implementation of policies and programmes that are intended for the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 1 and SDG 2.

The Africa Regional Group looks forward to working with other Members to consider these issues, fine tune them and where necessary and approve them.

I want to thank the Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, for his innovativeness, ideas, and we call upon the FAO Members to embrace them.

The Africa Regional Group, therefore, endorses the Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Aaron FOWLER (Canada)

Canada appreciates the advice and recommendations provided by the Programme Committee on a wide range of important topics for this Organization, and takes this opportunity to highlight a few key elements of the Report from our perspective.

We note the recommendations related to the evaluation of the FAO's Strategic Results Framework, as well as the related *Information Notes* providing an overview of the process for consultation on the development of a new Strategic Framework. In Canada's view, this evaluation provided significant material for our collective reflection.

Canada would like to highlight the finding that the Organization's normative work is not captured strongly enough in the five Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the current Framework. Canada views the technical and normative work of FAO as an important, and unique, contribution of FAO to sustainable agriculture, food security and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We look forward to working with the Organization and other Members to better incorporate the results of these activities into a new Strategic Framework.

Canada notes the revised Ten Elements of Agroecology document, and thanks Members for their work in developing it. Canada is pleased to endorse the revised document, as a living document that reflects current understanding and that will be revised as necessary. Canada is supportive of agroecology as one of many approaches towards sustainable agriculture. We encourage Members and FAO as an Organization to take an expansive approach to sustainable agriculture, by actively developing and assessing the full range of potential approaches, technologies and systems, to ensure that we can provide farmers with accurate, science- and evidence-based advice on their effectiveness, including advice on the often complex trade-offs among the three pillars of sustainability.

Canada appreciates the information provided on FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and encourages regular dialogue between FAO and Members on this important topic. It supports the Programme Committee's recommendation for an inclusive process with Members on the Work Plan on the Tripartite Memorandum (MoU) on AMR. Canada considers this to be a key way for Members to provide the support and guidance necessary for effective action on AMR in agriculture and fisheries.

Canada appreciates the Progress Report on the draft updated Gender Strategy. We continue to consider mainstreaming gender to be a key determinant of success for FAO's projects and programmes, given the significant role played by women and girls in agriculture and food systems.

Canada supports the work on the SDG 2.4.1., and we emphasize what has previously been said about some of the sub-indicators being challenging to assess. Canada is of the opinion that this indicator was designed for reporting on country progress and that is all it should be used for. It is not appropriate in our view to form the basis of more in-depth scientific or economic analyses.

Finally, Canada notes the evaluation of FAO's Private Sector Partnership Strategy. Canada sees the private sector as an essential partner in achieving the SDGs. We emphasize that the private sector's contribution goes well beyond resource mobilization into broader themes of working collaboratively, fostering responsible investment and also innovative financing for greater impact. Food and agriculture systems that effectively and sustainably deliver on the SDGs depend on properly functioning markets at the local level yes, but at the regional and the global level as well, and the private sector is critical in this respect. As the development of a new vision for the private sector strategy moves forward, we look forward to a comprehensive process of structural engagement with the private sector across a wide range of areas.

With these comments, Canada is happy to endorse the Report of the Programme Committee.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La France était honorée de participer à la session du Comité du Programme, où tant de sujets si essentiels ont été discutés et permettez-moi de féliciter l'Ambassadeur Hans Hoogeveen pour sa présidence inclusive et efficace!

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres. Nous insistons

notamment sur le point concernant la préparation, suite à l'excellente évaluation du cadre stratégique, d'un nouveau cadre stratégique aligné sur le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et issu de larges consultations au sein de la FAO ainsi qu'avec les Membres. Nous souhaitons à ce propos avoir plus d'informations sur le processus de consultations interne à la FAO, notamment des bureaux décentralisés, qui n'est pas mentionné dans l'agenda distribué aux membres du Conseil. Pouvez-vous nous dire ce qu'il est prévu?

Sans revenir sur tous les sujets si importants abordés dans ce rapport, permettez-moi de mettre l'accent sur quelques sujets essentiels.

La promotion d'une agriculture et de systèmes alimentaires plus durables est une priorité essentielle pour atteindre les objectifs du développement durable. Nous encourageons ainsi un engagement actif du Directeur général dans la transition vers une agriculture plus durable, au travers notamment du soutien à l'agroécologie, à la biodiversité ou à l'agriculture familiale.

La biodiversité et les services écosystémiques, comme l'ont mentionné beaucoup des interlocuteurs aujourd'hui, sont indispensables pour permettre une production durable dans les secteurs agricoles, en rendant les systèmes de production et les moyens de subsistance plus résistants aux chocs et au stress, y compris aux effets du changement climatique. Cependant, toutes les recherches montrent que la biodiversité connaît un déclin extrêmement préoccupant, en particulier vis-à-vis des services que la biodiversité rend à l'agriculture, par exemple en matière de pollinisation. Elles disent aussi qu'il y a urgence à renverser la tendance.

Nous apprécions hautement le travail accompli jusqu'à présent par le Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (TIRPAA) et la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Nous nous félicitons également de la Stratégie de la FAO pour l'intégration de la biodiversité, qui contribuera à réduire les impacts négatifs des pratiques agricoles sur la biodiversité, à promouvoir des pratiques agricoles durables et à conserver, améliorer, préserver et restaurer la biodiversité dans son ensemble. Nous espérons que la Stratégie servira de référence pour la préparation du Cadre mondial pour la diversité biologique pour l'après-2020 et contribuera au succès de la COP 15 à Kunming en Chine. Nous souhaitons que la FAO continue à mettre fortement l'accent sur cette question de la biodiversité dans tous ses domaines d'activité. À cet égard, l'élaboration d'un plan d'action en 2020 constituera un élément clé et nous en attendons beaucoup.

Nous considérons par ailleurs l'agroécologie comme l'une des meilleures approches pouvant fournir des réponses innovantes et rentables, au Nord comme au Sud, à des exploitations de différentes tailles. Elle peut contribuer à nourrir durablement une population en augmentation et aider les pays à atteindre leurs objectifs de développement durable, tout en maintenant une rentabilité économique et en apportant des solutions aux défis de l'emploi et des moyens de subsistance en milieu rural, en particulier en Afrique. Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis par la FAO, en particulier les 10 éléments de l'agroécologie, ainsi que du processus en cours au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale visant à élaborer des recommandations politiques. Nous encourageons le Directeur général à poursuivre et à favoriser ces efforts et à contribuer à mieux mesurer les performances de l'agroécologie.

Nous pensons enfin que la science et l'innovation font partie intégrante du développement d'approches agroécologiques. En effet, l'un des 10 éléments de l'agroécologie comprend la co-crédation et le partage de connaissances et de pratiques, de la science et de l'innovation, conçus pour s'adapter à différents contextes environnementaux, sociaux, économiques et culturels. Les nouvelles technologies en général et toute autre innovation doivent être disponibles, accessibles et abordables, y compris pour les petits exploitants, si nous voulons réaliser des progrès significatifs. Mais ces technologies peuvent aussi être porteuses de risques potentiels d'un point de vue social, économique, environnemental ou de la santé humaine. Elles peuvent également comporter de nouvelles dimensions d'exclusion pour les agricultures les plus vulnérables et les plus pauvres. Il convient donc d'analyser ces risques avec attention.

En conclusion, nous voudrions féliciter la FAO pour le travail accompli jusqu'à présent sur la durabilité des systèmes agricole et alimentaire et lui demander de poursuivre et d'accélérer ses efforts.

Nous souhaitons que la FAO soit l'émissaire, le « champion », de ces sujets, et notamment dans la perspective de la préparation du Sommet mondial des systèmes alimentaires de 2021.

Sr. Gustavo MOSTAJO OCOLA (Perú)

Queremos agradecer al Comité del Programa por las interacciones que se han llevado a cabo con los Estados Miembros,. El Perú quiere expresar su reconocimiento principalmente a los Presidentes del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Agricultura, y al grupo de composición abierta del cual esta representación formó parte, para llegar a un acuerdo en el documento *Los 10 elementos de la agroecología*. Concordamos plenamente que la agroecología es uno de los enfoques que contribuye al desarrollo de sistemas sostenibles agrícolas y agroalimentarios, y esperamos que este documento, una vez aprobado, sea una herramienta útil que oriente a los países, principalmente a salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria teniendo siempre presente las tres dimensiones de la sostenibilidad.

Apoyamos la aprobación de la *Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas* y estamos seguros que a través de este enfoque se logrará optimizar la labor de la FAO, desde sus departamentos técnicos y sus líneas de trabajo, evitando la duplicación de esfuerzos, y consecuentemente apoyando a los Miembros a disminuir los efectos negativos de las prácticas agrícolas en la biodiversidad, fomentando la gestión de la diversidad biológica, promoviendo sistemas alimentarios y agrícolas sostenibles bajo un enfoque territorial y ecosistémico.

Finalmente, respaldamos el *Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa*, sobre los progresos de los principales aspectos del proyecto de la estrategia de género y que esta se encuentre en concordancia con los marcos internacionales sobre igualdad de género. Por lo que instamos a la FAO a seguir logrando progresos sustantivos en este tema.

Ms Esperança DOS SANTOS (Angola)

Angola would like to support the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document and to thank also the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the excellent presentation.

Angola would like to strongly support the Ten Elements on Agroecology, and we urge the Council to endorse the document.

We support mainstreaming biodiversity, gender equality, recommendations 1 and 2 and would like to give our support to the endorsement of this Report.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Nous soutenons la déclaration de l'Ouganda faite au nom du Groupe Afrique et relevons l'importance de la question des petits ruminants aussi appelé l'élevage durable. À la cent ving-cinquième session du Comité du Programme, il était dit qu'une réunion de représentants permanents devrait se tenir pour traiter la question de l'éradication de la peste de petits ruminants. Toutefois, le 04 Octobre dernier, la question n'a pas été reprise par le Comité du Programme. Les petits ruminants représentent des capitaux économique, culturel et environnemental. Par conséquent, il s'agit bien là d'un enjeu de durabilité. À cet effet, nous pensons que pour l'année prochaine, le thème du Comité de l'agriculture (COAG) devrait s'articuler autour de l'élevage durable.

La question des petits ruminants et de l'éradication de la peste du petit ruminant se pose avec beaucoup d'insistance. Par conséquent, nous demandons que cette question soit inscrite à la prochaine session du Comité du Programme et également à passer en revue les résultats de la réunion et à mettre à jour le plan d'éradication de la peste du petit ruminant. Deuxièmement, nous saluons et encourageons la collaboration entre la FAO, l'Union Européenne et le groupe des amis de la peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

CHAIRPERSON

This brings to an end the list of Members. Now I give the floor to the Observers.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Sénégal) (Observer)

Le Sénégal s'aligne sur la déclaration faite par l'Ouganda, au nom du Groupe Afrique, et souhaite intervenir sur certains points figurant dans le rapport soumis à l'attention du Conseil pour examen.

Mais avant tout je tiens à féliciter le Président du Comité du Programme, l'Ambassadeur Hans Hoogeveen, pour son leadership et sa coordination des différentes activités de ce Comité.

Je commence par le point 7 relatif à l'agroécologie. Il ne fait aucun doute que nous devons revoir et transformer nos systèmes alimentaires et agricoles afin que ceux-ci contribuent à préserver nos ressources naturelles pour les générations présentes et futures, tout en étant économiquement et socialement viables.

Dans ce chemin vers des systèmes alimentaires durables, l'agroécologie est la voie royale. Elle représente à notre avis l'approche durable par essence pour transformer fondamentalement nos systèmes alimentaires et notre agriculture, et nous mettre sur les rails du développement durable et de l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Le Sénégal salue le travail effectué par la FAO pour arriver à formuler les 10 éléments de l'agroécologie, sur la base d'études scientifiques largement reconnues. Nous nous félicitons de ce qu'un consensus ait pu être atteint dans le cadre du Comité du Programme sur les 10 éléments de l'agroécologie, à la suite de consultations inclusives, sous le leadership conjoint des Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité de l'agriculture.

Nous appuyons fortement l'approbation de ce document par le Conseil et son opérationnalisation, à travers l'initiative de passage à l'échelle supérieure de l'agroécologie au service des ODD.

Le Sénégal appuie également l'approbation de la Stratégie de la FAO relative à l'intégration de la biodiversité dans tous les secteurs de l'agriculture. Nous croyons qu'aucune politique, aucune action visant à instaurer des systèmes alimentaires durables ne peut prospérer si la biodiversité continue à s'effriter et si les espèces animales et végétales continuent à diminuer au rythme que nous connaissons actuellement.

Le Sénégal se préoccupe également du phénomène de la pénurie d'eau. Ce fléau est de plus en plus troublant et particulièrement préoccupant pour le Sahel où l'on note l'assèchement et l'ensablement de plusieurs cours d'eau. Ce problème figure parmi les causes profondes des conflits qui gangrènent le Sahel.

Nous lançons donc un appel, avec insistance, pour que la FAO élève la lutte contre le phénomène de la pénurie d'eau au rang de priorité mondiale et la fasse figurer en bonne place dans son Cadre stratégique, en vue de mieux lutter contre les changements climatiques et réaliser pleinement le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 des Nations Unies.

Avec ces commentaires, le Sénégal approuve le Rapport de la cent vingt-septième session du Comité du Programme.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen to respond to any questions that there may have been.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

First of all, I would like to thank all the Members of the Council for their strong support of the conclusions of the Programme Committee. Especially I would like to thank them for adopting the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, as well as the Ten Elements of Agroecology. Not only because of their importance, their substance, but also for the process of how we came to consensus on those strategies, also on the Ten Elements of Agroecology.

I think it is important when we speak about Membership involvement that via these inclusive process of consultation we, all Members of FAO, can really influence the outcome of the work of FAO not only here in Rome, but especially at the country level. I also think that it is important that we follow these processes for the revision of the new Strategic Results Framework of FAO, as well as the new Private Sector Policy and perhaps for others as well. It is important we have this inclusiveness in the

processes to get the best results we want.

I will not go into all the Items, but I think it is important to focus on how we can achieve results on the ground, for example, via the World Food System Summit with the involvement of the Membership is crucial. Additionally, we have to look at how we can cooperate with the Private Sector and Civil Society, and the leading role of FAO in this endeavour is crucial as well. This leading role means that Rome, together with IFAD and WFP as well, should give a clear Framework for developing concrete deliverables for the Summit, alongside the Members.

It is important when we talk of the Nutrition Strategy, that we work on the basis of broadly recognisable definitions, to avoid confusion for new interpretations.

When we speak of the Evaluation, we have the Independent Office of Evaluation, it is always difficult to find a balance with how much funding we have for evaluations, and how deep we can go when it comes to country level. When it comes to the country level, I fully understand what was said by my colleague from South Africa, that we have to see how we can evaluate the results on the ground and how we can evaluate the need to make food systems and food production more sustainable. For that, it is a combined effort, not only of FAO but for the related governments as well.

It is very important, and we are looking forward and I thank you for your support, that we should indeed organize a Seminar on the indicator, and also look at the functions of indicators and how we can work with them, so not to make them too broad, but how we can measure results in the future. I promised my dear friend from Congo that in our next Programme Committee meeting, we will take up the Progress Report on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) because indeed it is very important that we show that we can make results together, in fighting this terrible disease.

Last but not least, antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Even in my previous life, I have seen how crucial, transparent, and open a collective approach is needed to fight antimicrobial resistance. International Organizations like FAO play a leading role at the international level. When it comes to fighting diseases on the ground, we need to support governments working together with the private sector and civil society organizations. Only then you can get concrete results on the ground. It is great that we now have the Tripartite Partnership, where we can work on one health approach, and that should be measured by indicator. Therefore, we are looking forward to the next update report on AMR, in one of the next Programme Committee Meetings.

Especially what we do need, when it comes to results on the ground, we do need champions. Champions when it comes to Biodiversity and when it comes to Agroecology, and I think that with your remarks and inputs on those Items, we can show that FAO will be a champion on those Items, not only here in Rome but champion in the United Nations family.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Mr Gustafson and other Members of the Secretariat if they want to take the floor.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director–General, Programmes)

Just a few general comments that cover a number of your comments. We appreciate all of the comments. I think we are in all of these areas moving in a very interesting direction in the development of the next Strategic Framework that, as you know, needs to be more than aligned with the Strategic Development Goals. It needs to be derived from the Strategic Development Goals and the targets that are set out within the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), serving as the basis for country level programming of the United Nations (UN) Country Teams, together with the Governments that address national targets within the overall framework.

Moving towards a strategic programme, the Country Programming Framework, part of the United Nations (UN) Country Teams work and it also applies all the way up to the Food Systems Summit, all the way through the Nutrition Strategy, the Gender Strategy and so on, the new Framework may look in many ways similar to what we have, but it needs in its detail to be derived from the SDGs, and I think it is really quite an exciting time. Ms Beth Crawford, perhaps could say a few quick words on what is coming up next, in terms of the consultation process. However, that process as it goes forward

will be inclusive and will require the input of you as Members. We did not include, perhaps as a footnote, Informal Consultations in the roadmap, but, of course, there will be a number of Informal Consultations along the way that we included in the roadmap. Specifically, the ones that are the more formalized ones, where the Membership has a strong voice.

The underlying theme in all of this is sustainability in the sense of thinking of, not just in the immediate term, but also in what happens next and what comes into the future. When we were successful, all of us collectively, in eradicating Rinderpest, it was a one-time eradication, except for potential terrorist attacks or intentional contamination, but Rinderpest was eradicated. While we hope that hunger will be eradicated by 2030, it is always a continuous process. It is not a one-time thing and, in the case of nutrition for example, we know that the diets have to be healthy diets, but they have to be affordable, they have to be culturally appropriate, they have to be good on a path that achieves the objectives today and achieves the objectives into the future.

I can see, in terms of the language we do need to be quite clear on that, on what we mean by it. I am sure that this will come out as we go forward with the development of this Strategy, which will come out in December of 2020 in its full form, together with the other issues, including with the development of the Strategic Framework.

Before Ms Maria Helena Semedo speaks, Chair, if perhaps Ms Beth Crawford could highlight a little bit of what is coming next.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

This is also described in the *CL 163/4 Information Note 1*. It describes the process for consultation on the development of the new Strategic Framework. As you know, it was at the 36th Session of the FAO Conference in November 2009 that this programme and budget approach was agreed. That included a Strategic Framework of the Organization, which is to be prepared for a period of 10–15 years and reviewed every four years. We are now at the time for the review of that document that will be presented to the next Session of the FAO Conference in 2021. It is an important period, for all the reasons that we have been discussing, including with the Agenda 2030, with the focus on the normative work, and with all of the recommendations that are coming out of the evaluations that we have been receiving. It is a chance to really have a fresh and new look at that Strategic Framework.

Just to highlight then, that in the first quarter of 2020 we have the Regional Conferences. In the first meetings of the Programme Committee and in the Council there will be two documents, one that will summarize the regional priorities coming forward out of those Regional Conferences, and one document that will give you a high-level or a summary overview of the Strategic Framework. In the third quarter of next year, we will have the Technical Committees and then coming to the Programme Committee and the Council at the end of next year there will be a document that summarizes the Technical Committee priorities, and that gives a more detailed outline of the Strategic Framework, and an outline of the new Medium-Term Plan for 2022–25.

We believe that the end of November 2020 through March 2021 would be a good time for Informal Consultations. This could be earlier as well, but this will be the point when we will have input from all of these various processes, and from which we prepare the actual document of the Strategic Framework that will go to you in your first session in 2021 before it goes to FAO Conference. Together with that, there will also be the new Medium-Term Plan that will be derived from that new Strategic Framework.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General Climate and Natural Resources)

Let me start by thanking the Members of the Programme Committee, in particular Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen for his leadership throughout the process on the approval, approval is now, but the process in formulating the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors. Also, Ambassador Hoogeveen and Ambassador Emadi, for their leadership in the discussion of the Ten Elements of Agroecology.

However, this process was even larger than the Programme Committee because we had a series of discussions with true Open-Ended Working Groups, where all the Members were able to contribute. I think if it was endorsed today without major discussion, it is because of the inclusive process. The

process was discussed here in Headquarters, however it was discussed at the regional level. We have a series of regional consultations. However, as it has been said, we have now the Strategy, but more importantly is how we are moving to the implementation of the Strategy, otherwise it will be a very nice document.

Then, the next step will be to prepare the Action Plan. As it has been required by the Programme Committee, we will be presenting a draft in a meeting, maybe January or February 2020, of the Programme Committee, an Informal Meeting where we will share with you the first draft of the Action Plan, with its outcomes and indicators as requested.

We also envisage bringing the Strategy to the Regional Meetings, the Regional Conferences. I think it is important that we go to the lower levels to discuss the content of the strategy with Ministers of Agriculture and we would bring, as requested for the final approval and endorsement, to the Technical Committees. We believe that we will have the outcomes of the Technical Committees in the next Council, in November. We will be able to endorse the Action Plan. This, as you can see, has been an iterative process.

However, we have another important deadline, the COP 2020, which is approaching where we will bring FAO's Strategy on Biodiversity and what its contribution, how we can integrate biodiversity for food and agriculture in the outcomes of the new Global Biodiversity Framework. As the Director-General had informed Members of the Friends of Biodiversity and Agroecology, we envisage to organize a meeting before the upcoming meeting, where we can really bring our contribution to the outcomes of this big event. It is not yet decided when it will be, however we envisage to have this meeting where we will bring the Ministers from the Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries and Forestry sectors together to see how we can mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors in a way that we can have the sustainable use of biodiversity. We need to produce more, but at the same time, we should preserve and conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Regarding the Ten Elements of Agroecology, as it has been said, agroecology is one among other approaches to achieve sustainable agriculture production. The Ten Elements tell us how we can transition towards more sustainable agroecological systems. Also, agroecology brings science behind, it brings technology and this is what we have been discussing, how we can have science-based approaches, how we can have evidence-based approaches, where we have the local knowledge and the innovation together. We will be working with countries on how to implement the Ten Elements of Agroecology, and how we will be operationalizing with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that is also discussing the agroecology approach, and how we can have the normative aspect of the Ten Elements of Agroecology.

The third point was on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As it has been said, FAO has been supporting countries, in the framework of our Action Plan, throughout the Tripartite with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the WHO. As I informed yesterday, we are working on an indicator which we expect to present to the spring Session of the Programme Committee, where we can all agree on what should be the long frame for the AMR and which indicator. We have had some ideas, but I think we need to discuss and to see what indicator will be in the 2021 Strategic Framework. I have already discussed this with Ms Beth Crawford.

We have been working with several partners and I think this is the moment to thank all of you. However, as Sweden said, we launched together some guidelines on how to use antimicrobials in peaks and I cannot remember the other one, but this is what we are saying. We are working with the countries, where we can support, through guidelines, on how we can have a sustainable and prudent use of antimicrobials. I think this is what is very important. We also look for better support coming from the countries, technical support and financial support. As has been said, the task is enormous, we need to support the developed countries, but mainly the developing countries where the use of livestock is part of the livelihoods, and if you do not protect and we do not have the prudent use and biosecurity measures, we will not be able to reduce the use of antimicrobials and we will be increasing the resistance to antimicrobials. We will continue to support the Director-General, as he said, he is very committed on antimicrobial resistance. We will continue to work on the Tripartite Framework and we will be reporting to you through the indicator, but not only through the indicators, but through the Programme Committee and the Council together.

Regarding the Peste des Petit Ruminants (PPR). As it has been said, we organized a meeting under the leadership of the Chairperson of the Group of Friends, the Ambassador of Ivory Coast. We reported on what we are doing, we received some guidance from the Members, but we also envisage to organize an event in Ethiopia, in the margins of the African Union Summit, where we will be launching an important vaccination campaign. I believe this is also another important launch of a reinforced campaign towards the PPR eradication. We have our goal, we hope we will be able to reach our goal. However, even today, as I was discussing with the Canadian Mission and one of the things we discussed, and Mr Gustafson referred to that, is the eradication of Rinderpest. However, now you have to sustain the eradication of Rinderpest. It is not that we eradicate it and it is achieved, but we need to be careful that we are not going backwards on what we achieved, and this is what we need to do with PPR. We will have to eradicate it, but we need to sustain the eradication of the PPR.

I think we can report to the Programme Committee, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee has already agreed on that. We will see in the next meeting or whatever meeting is discussed in. You know that we have some additional resources coming from the European Commission and we will be able to reinforce and to speed up all our efforts on this very large programme on PPR eradication.

Thank you, again, for your support. Thank you, again, for approving the Biodiversity Strategy and the Ten Elements of Agroecology. The next step is how we will be able to implement and to report to you on the implementation and the results achieved.

CHAIRPERSON

I have a request from the United Kingdom.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to FAO Management, particularly Deputy Director-General Mr Daniel Gustafson, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, and Beth Crawford as well, for your responsiveness to the many requests that Programme Committee makes of you. It is very much appreciated.

I am going to focus on one in particular, although all of your responses are very much appreciated. In particular, I would like to focus on your very welcome commitment to an inclusive process for the development of FAO's new Strategic Results Framework. That is very welcome and I was very pleased to hear you confirm that there will be Informal Seminars for all Members to participate in, that is great news. I really welcomed Beth Crawford's explanation of the process and certainly my request is that we have those Informal Seminars much sooner than this time next year.

In particular, I noted that there is going to be an overview of the new Strategic Framework presented to the Regional Conferences and I think it would be helpful to have an Informal Seminar beforehand, so that all of us can prepare for the Regional Conferences, when we get that overview of the new Strategic Framework.

I would also like to say that I very much welcome Mr Gustafson's confirmation that the new Strategic Framework will be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. I think that is really important and I look forward to seeing it and having the opportunity to debate and discuss with Members.

Lastly, I just hope that the commitment to the Informal Seminars and the inclusive process can be reflected in the Report of this discussion.

Ms Ekaterina NOSKOVA (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

We are very happy and thankful for the recommendations, but we would like to repeat what we had said. We had asked the Secretariat to explain the timetable and order of how the Nutrition Strategy would be agreed upon and developed.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of discussions of this Item. I would like to try and summarize the discussions. We are just making one amendment.

Mr Gustafson, you have the floor to comment.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director–General, Programmes)

Just to respond to the Russian Federation, the Nutrition Strategy will go to the Programme Committee in November of 2020 and then to the Council in December of 2020. Prior to the Programme Committee session, once there is a draft has been prepared, we will start preparing the strategy throughout 2020, but when we have a reasonably complete draft, there will be an Informal Seminar prior to the Programme Committee in November of 2020.

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now try and summarize our discussions.

Item 5: Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee

1. The Council endorsed the report of the Programme Committee and;
 - a) Concurred with the recommendations of the evaluation of FAO’s Strategic Results Framework, noting in particular the need for a strategy for FAO to engage with the Agenda 2030 and the repositioning of the United Nations Development System, and on the process for development of the new Strategic Framework, including Informal Seminars with Permanent Representatives and welcomed the additional information provided in document *CL 163/4 Information Notes 1 and 2*.
 - b) Welcomed the evaluation of FAO’s Private Sector Partnership Strategy and encouraged FAO to further integrate the partnerships with the private sector in its work underling the need for due diligence processes, balanced with transparent partnerships and cooperation in this regard.
 - c) Welcomed the progress on the updated Gender Strategy for the Organization, recognized the importance of alignment with international frameworks and look forward to the FAO Agenda Action Plan, to be prepared in 2020.
 - d) Welcomed the updated strategy envisioned for FAO’s work in nutrition, in particular with regard to enabling sustainable and healthy diets, noting in this regard the need for harmonizing terminology within the United Nations.
 - e) Welcomed the progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and appreciated FAO’s cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in the Tripartite Joint Secretariat.
 - f) Requested that progress on efforts for eradication of Peste des Petites Ruminants (PPR) be considered by the next session of the Programme Committee.
 - g) Commended the inclusive consultation process conducted following the request of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference and adopted the FAO’s Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors.
 - h) Commended the inclusive consultation process conducted following the request of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference and approved the revised version of the Ten Elements of Agroecology as a living document.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Could you please scroll up to paragraph (a)?

In the second line, toward the end, I think we should replace the word “engage” with “align”, to properly reflect the discussion we have had. It was not just to engage with, but to align with the Agenda 2030.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

In paragraph (a), at the very end of the paragraph, we would suggest that we not use the word “welcome”, taking into account the fact that this is *Information Note* and independently of its content, the Council usually takes note, but they do not usually welcome information documents.

As to the paragraph having to do with the Nutrition Strategy, we would like to cut out the term “sustainable diets” and, in general, bring this wording into accordance with paragraph 22 (g), where it

says that this terminology is not consistent with international formulations.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

If we could go back to paragraph (a), Germany made a very interesting suggestion. My delegation had noted that, where it originally said, “the need for a Strategy for FAO to engage with Agenda 2030”. Again, maybe we are self-referencing here, but anyone reading this from outside of this room would rightly ask why FAO had not engaged with the 2030 Agenda so far and the point is that FAO is a custodian of a number of objectives and measurements, but then also “align” might give the wrong message because FAO is doing its own stuff and there is the Agenda 2030 and someone came up with the idea that FAO should align itself to it.

Therefore, I am not in a position right now to come up with language, but I will ask the Secretariat if someone could come up with a formulation that conveys the fact that FAO is very much engaged and aligned with the 2030 Agenda, but that the evaluation had pointed out issues and adjustments that need to be taken into account in order to make that alignment and engagement better.

CHAIRPERSON

Dominican Republic, you have a point and we will look into it.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

In paragraph (a), there is no mention of the strengthening of the Decentralized Offices that we requested, so, we would like to see it on the decision regarding the Strategic Framework.

On paragraph (b), there is no mention of our request that the provision of a clear restriction on the use of financial and in-kind contributions from private sector entities to FAO’s normative work. We also gave an example on it and would like to see it on the decision.

We also noted that there is no mention, at least I did not see it by now, of the request of a Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals indicators, there is no decision on that and we think this is important.

Regarding the report of voluntary contributions on Item 3, the Group of G77 and China made a request for this report to be done on a regular basis and we repeat it now, so I would like to see it either on the Item 3 decision or on this Item.

CHAIRPERSON

Would you be kind enough to make a proposal for a text for some of these proposals you are making, on all of them?

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

I will work on that.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would like to turn to paragraph (a) and, first of all, I would like to strongly support Germany’s proposal to use the word “align”. I think it is important that current Strategic Framework is partly aligned, but what we are looking for is a Strategic Framework that is closely aligned with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals indicators. Therefore, I would very much support the language that Germany has proposed.

I would also like to insert the word “results” where it says, “the development of a new Strategic Framework”, I would like that to say, “a new Strategic Results Framework”. I think that is the quickest way of pointing out that what we are looking for is a consultation on the Strategic Framework, but also the Strategic Results Framework, which was the subject of the second recommendation of the evaluation of the current Strategic Results Framework.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Dans le même sens que la proposition du Brésil, nous suggérons pour la préparation du nouveau Cadre stratégique, des consultations internes importantes, y compris auprès des bureaux décentralisés, ce qui

serait une façon d'associer les pays. Nous proposons donc de rajouter à l'avant-dernière ligne le terme « and » après l'expression suivante: « permanent representatives »; enfin, après « seminars with permanent representatives », nous proposons de rajouter « and large internal consultations, including with decentralised offices ».

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Quisieramos apoyar la propuesta mencionada recientemente por la Federación de Rusia en relación al párrafo (d) sobre los *Progresos en la actualización de la estrategia en materia de nutrición*. Acerca de eso, cuando nos referimos a esta estrategia mencionamos en nuestra alocución que se receptara tal cual como se había acordado en el *Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité de Programa*, párrafo 22 (g), toda vez que tiene un balance adecuado que permite receptor claramente todas las discusiones que se dieron en ese Comité respecto a la terminología que refiere el literal (d).

CHAIRPERSON

If it is in the Programme Committee, we are endorsing the Programme Committee's Report. Are you talking about the document which was submitted or the Report?

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Estaba hablando del *Informe del 127.º período de sesiones del Comité de Programa*, CL 163/4, párrafo 22 (g).

CHAIRPERSON

I just wanted to raise a point. Our first sentence is usually, and here too, "the Council endorsed the Report", then do we need to pick and choose and put paragraphs in our Report as well? Once we have endorsed the Report that means that paragraph is endorsed. Do we need to reproduce, because Members also have very often said that the Council's Report should be concise and focused. Therefore, if we keep reproducing paragraphs from the various Committees, then we will not be concise. If we have endorsed the Report of the Programme Committee, everything there is the Council's decision.

Members are nodding yes, so, Russian Federation, it is your point, so let us hear you.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

First of all, I would like to say that many delegations noted and recalled this particular paragraph during their statements. Moreover, this recommendation of the Programme Committee is vital for our future work. Therefore, we would be pleased if the Council agreed to repeat it here, again, in the Report, as also proposed by Argentina. If my memory does not fail me, Brazil also made this kind of statement.

Another question is about the new insertion in paragraph (a), about the Strategic Framework. Can we ask the Secretariat to clarify the difference between Strategic Framework and Strategic Results Framework, taking into account that in our memory the official title of this document is Strategic Framework? We would be pleased for some clarification from the Secretariat.

CHAIRPERSON

Ms Beth Crawford, can I give you the floor to answer the Russian Federation?

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

Indeed, my intervention previously, and *Information Note 1*, refers to the consultation process on the development of the Strategic Framework, so, that is FAO's Strategic Framework. It is a process that has been agreed by Conference back in 2009 and indeed the official title of that is the Strategic Framework. Therefore, in *Information Note 1*, table one, you will see the documents that will be coming to the various sessions of the Programme Committee, Technical Committees, etc. that relate to that development of the Strategic Framework.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

On paragraph (b), we would like to see the word "vision" also in this because we were talking about

developing a new vision for the private sector partnership, “to develop a new vision”.

One possibility is to say, “a vision for private sector partnerships and integrate those with the private sector”.

Another issue, on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), if I am allowed to pass the floor to Sweden.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

I was wondering if it would be possible to put some stronger language in this paragraph. We could, after “welcomed the progress report on the implementation of the action plan,” after the comma, say, “and urged FAO to continue prioritizing developing and coordinating its AMR portfolio,” and then comma, and then keep the sentence as it continues.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

If I may return to paragraph (a) again. I think I take the point from the Russian Federation and Ms Crawford. I would like to propose an alternative, perhaps it could say, “on the process for development of a new Strategic Framework,” as it was, but then in brackets afterwards put, “including the Strategic Results Framework,” just to clarify that point. I think it is important because that was one of the recommendations of the evaluation, which Management has accepted, and it is important that we are consulted on that Results Framework.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

I understand your call for a concise Report, but I think the exercise we are making in this Council is to give our priorities and our ideas, to contribute to the decisions of the Programme Committee, as they are recommendations.

Therefore, we would like to come back to paragraph (a), to suggest that after, “the need for a Strategy for FAO,” and I would like to highlight, “and the need to strengthen the work of the Decentralized Offices.” Therefore, maybe it could go after “Development System”? “and the need, to strengthen the work of the Decentralized Offices.” It is not exactly to include the Decentralized Offices in the process of deciding a new Strategic Framework, so it is a different thing. This is what we would like to see in the text.

Regarding the private sector strategy, I do not remember which word it is. Maybe after we could put something like, “the Council requests the provision of a clear restriction on the use of financial and in-kind contributions from private sector entities to FAO’s normative work”.

Regarding the voluntary contributions, maybe this could be a letter, a separate one, stating “The Council welcomed *Information Note 2* on voluntary contributions, detailed by programmatic and geographic dimensions and requests the presentation of this Report on a regular basis.”

On antimicrobial resistance (AMR), we would prefer to have the text as it was before the last request for modification. We think that FAO has many important subjects to deal with, so we do not think there is an urge to prioritize this subject in particular.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

If we could just return to the comments on the private sector partnership. With all due respect to my Brazilian colleague, the comments that were just added on are quite specific on previewing what might come out of any future private sector strategies. Whereas our understanding of the Programme Committee’s discussion was just on the evaluation of the private sector discussion.

It is clear that there will need to be discussions about private sector strategies as we move forward and as FAO Management and the teams look at the private sector processes, but we believe that this language is too prescriptive at this stage in the discussion and does not necessarily reflect a consensus view on the next steps ahead on the Strategy and so we would request that we reserve conversations about this for future discussions on any changes to private sector strategies.

Mr Aaron FOWLER (Canada)

My comment was going to be along the same lines as the one just made by the United States, so I will leave it at that for now.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

Also in paragraph (b), like Canada and the United States of America, I think this is dictating a result of which we do not know whether we want to have it. This is precluding any reflection on what needs to be done to possibly engage with the private sector. This is in my opinion like the others have said, too prescriptive. However, it expresses a concern that probably many of us in the Membership share that if there would be support from the private sector to the normative work, we would need to have a very detailed discussion on that, under what conditions this could possibly, or not possibly, be the case in the future.

I want to come back to paragraph (a). I think it is a bit exaggerated to have the Decentralized Offices now mentioned twice in the paragraph. I wonder whether we really need to have that focus on the Decentralized Offices on the way forward and whether we cannot drop it on one or the other side. Perhaps other Members can think about it and whether they find it appropriate to have that strong focus on the Decentralized Offices.

CHAIRPERSON

Brazil, any comment on that?

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

I think the first mention is enough for us, there is no need for the second one. However, the first one is important.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Sorry for taking the floor for the third time. Could you scroll down to the new paragraph proposed by Brazil about the welcoming of the *Information Note*? First of all, it is not clear enough what kind of information note we are referring to and second, as we said previously, usually Council does not welcome Information Notes. We propose to make the language softer and take note of the *Information Note*, otherwise, we have to discuss what is inside this *Information Note*.

Coming back to paragraph (a), we are grateful for the new suggestion from the United Kingdom, but still it is very complicated to say the development of the new Strategic Framework, including the Results Framework. We could probably say, “which is result-oriented,” something like that, or I would kindly ask our colleagues from United Kingdom to explain to us what Results Framework concretely means in the context of Strategic Framework.

CHAIRPERSON

May I suggest to Members that this text is going to the Drafting Committee. Can they not discuss whether we should include Strategic Framework? I mean, words are discussed there, the concept is discussed here, they put words on that concept. Otherwise I am beginning to think, what will the Drafting Committee do on Thursday when they meet? I thought we should agree on concepts here and the exact words and you are represented in the Drafting Committee, it is not a group extraneous to the Council.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Still on paragraph (a), I agree, the Drafting Committee should do a final cleaning up, but here there are some very important inclusions now being made that are really very substantial and need to be discussed here. To start with, the insertion, in the fourth line, the words, “the need to strengthen the work of Decentralized Offices,” we can go along with this only if we add to this a qualifier, “without negatively impacting the technical capacity at Headquarters”, this is one thing.

Then, in the second line, “to align more closely” we think it should read, “to align fully” instead of more closely.

Maybe in the first line, “Strategic Results Framework”, I think “Results” should go out, but this is something that really could be clarified in the Drafting Committee.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Quería apoyar nuevamente a la delegación de la Federación de Rusia y quisiera ver cómo ha quedado redactado, entonces, el párrafo (d) toda vez que lo que está reflejado en ese párrafo sería la base para después analizar cómo se va a delinear la estrategia sobre la nutrición.

Estoy de acuerdo con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo en como tendríamos que seguir trabajando.

Sra. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Aunque yo pudiera hacer comentarios sobre todos estos puntos, me voy a limitar a un único punto, porque todavía no estamos satisfechos. Quisiera que se tomara en consideración el literal (a) en cuanto sobre esto, la embajadora del Reino Unido hizo una intervención hace unos momentos.

Continues In English

Being a native born speaker of English, I was expecting the United Kingdom to perhaps come up with some language to better reflect, I have made an effort, I went back to the Evaluation Report and perhaps this language could better reflect what we want to do because what we are referring to is basically for FAO, and let me direct the cursor to where it says, “noting in particular the need for a strategy for FAO to further develop its engagement”. We can go back to engagement but in a different formulation. Now I understand where the word engage came from in the first place because it comes from the actual Report. Therefore, “the need for a strategy for FAO to further develop its engagement with Agenda 2030” and so on.

If I may, there was one other point, not as a proposal, but as a general comment. My delegation pointed to the experience, to the ten year long experience that we have, through the Committed on Food Security (CFS), with a private sector mechanism and sadly no one has mirrored that or repeated that. However, we are not just parachuting into this. There is a ten year long experience, engaging the private sector and the Council could very well look at that because one thing is to look at good practices that have been put in place, and another thing is to invent something from zero and we are not doing the latter, we are doing the former.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Au niveau de la ligne 2, nous proposons la formulation suivante « a strategy for FAO, aligning with Agenda 2030 ». Cela répondrait à la préoccupation de la République dominicaine de ne pas préjuger l'état actuel d'avancement, mais plutôt de dire que la stratégie doit être alignée et s'inscrire dans la continuité. Deuxièmement, nous soutenons l'avis de l'Allemagne que le renforcement du travail des bureaux décentralisés ne doit pas se faire au détriment de la capacité technique. Concernant la proposition de rajouter « including informal seminars » pour la formulation des consultations, nous pensons qu'il faudrait plutôt des consultations avec les représentants permanents dans les comités techniques et les conférences régionales. En effet, ces dernières ne sont pas seulement destinées aux séminaires informels, mais sont également pertinentes dans les cadres plus formels.

Donc, nous proposons de supprimer le terme suivant « informal » et de rajouter « consultations with permanent representatives in the technical committees and FAO's Regional Conferences ». À la suite des termes « extensive internal consultations », nous proposons de simplifier la formulation en rajoutant « at all levels », et de supprimer les termes « including with decentralized offices ». Finalement, concernant la stratégie sur les secteurs privés, nous sommes d'avis qu'il ne faudrait pas juger de la conclusion, et restons néanmoins d'accord avec le Brésil qu'il s'agit là d'un sujet très important, le financement des activités normatives de la FAO, qui doivent absolument garantir toute son indépendance. Par conséquent, il nous faudrait la possibilité d'en discuter, car il s'agit d'un sujet vraiment important.

Sra. Benito JIMINEZ SAUMA (México)

Intervengo para apoyar la propuesta que hizo Brasil sobre el documento *CL 163/3 – Nota informativa n.º 2 sobre Contribuciones voluntarias en los bienios 2014-15, 2016-17 y 2018-19*, creo que es el párrafo (i). Compartimos el espíritu de la propuesta.

Pero, como dijo el delegado de la Federación Rusa, hay varias Notas informativas, pero quizá los colegas en el Comité de Redacción podrían poner algo más sencillo, como simplemente “solicito continuar recibiendo información sobre las contribuciones voluntarias en los bienios anteriores”. Espero que el Comité de Redacción pueda llegar a un acuerdo en este tema.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I feel that Russia invited me to come back again anyway. If we can go back to paragraph (a), thank you. I would like to tackle this issue about alignment or engagement and they are fundamentally two different things. What we are asking for, and I think how the debate has moved on in Council today is that we are asking for alignment with Agenda 2030 and I have not heard anyone disagree with that. Therefore, I would prefer the fully aligned language that we had before.

However, here we could say, “strategy for FAO that is aligned with”. Fundamentally, the point is about the alignment with the Agenda 2030, not engagement with because, as we have already understood, engagement with Agenda 2030 is ongoing. We are looking for it to go beyond that and align with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular.

Now, coming back to the Results Framework, I know it is getting late and I am looking forward to the Chairperson’s advice on how much longer you think we will be continuing, I could briefly explain what a Results Framework is. It would take me a couple of minutes, or I could just perhaps suggest that maybe the Drafting Committee would like to just include the words, including the “Results indicators” as a bit more specific.

Essentially, a Results Framework is a series of different levels of indicators that start at output indicators that lead to outcome indicators and then objective indicators and the Framework talks about all the different levels of achievement. We would perhaps just use the word “indicators” here if you prefer and that would avoid repeating the word “Framework” twice. I will leave that to the Drafting Committee.

Just one other note for the Drafting Committee, assuming they have the verbatim, after the word “Headquarters”, it says, “technical capacity at Headquarters,” I think it then should say, “and for an inclusive process”, and then the words, “and on”, can be deleted. I think that helps to make it follow the sentence.

CHAIRPERSON

You asked a question about how we are going to proceed. I think we are quite far behind in our Agenda and, therefore, I would suggest that, once we have agreed on this summary we could break for 10–15 minutes and come back.

We have to catch up with our Agenda as we are far behind. In fact, I would suggest that Members in the next Items be more concise in the interventions.

Also, if the Regional Groups have made a statement, I have noted various countries from the region who then take the floor and I have noted that there are similarities between what they are saying and what the regional statement has said. Therefore, for the future Items, if there is a regional statement, can we stick to that? If the country takes the floor, then it must make a point which is not in the regional statement. After saying, we align ourselves with the regional statement, then there is a whole lot of points which are similar to the regional statement.

Therefore, can we proceed with this once we agree we break for 10–15 minutes?

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

Again, I would suggest to give the floor to Sweden because antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is very strong in the Nordic statement.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

I was wondering if we were coming back to this, as there were different opinions about it.

In order to be flexible, I have a slightly different suggestion that I am hoping would be acceptable to colleagues from other parts of the world. If we could say, “urged FAO to continue developing its antimicrobial resistance, AMR, portfolio and working on improving good production practices and promoting the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics.”

CHAIRPERSON

At dictation speed, please? Very slowly.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

“...urged FAO to continue developing its Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) portfolio and working on improving good production practices and promoting the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics.” We would still include our point, but perhaps using slightly milder language, which is more palatable for other countries.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

If we come back to paragraph (a), we fully support the proposal of France in its intention to provide more officiality to the consultations, which we are going to have.

At the same time, in the roadmap provided by the Secretariat, there are different steps on how this Strategic Framework will be elaborated and during the debates Member Countries supported this roadmap in general. We think it is very important to leave additional space for just stand-alone consultations, not only in the Technical Committees and FAO Regional Conferences, but also stand-alone consultations, as proposed by the Secretariat. Therefore, yes, the text which we are going to see is something that we wanted to see.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

Regarding the Private Sector Strategy, I have a textual proposal, “and underscore the need for due consideration of issues related to conflicts of interest when it comes to contributions from private sector.” Maybe this would address the concerns of other Members.

Regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR), we think that there is no clear definition of the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics. We would like to avoid any mention of these concepts. Maybe instead of “urge FAO”, “invited FAO to continue developing its AMR portfolio and working on improving good production practices”. However, avoiding, again, “promoting the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics,” because there is no consensus or definitions on what it means.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

Originally, I just wanted to ask if you could give us the timing for this evening’s session so that I can arrange the rest of my life to fit in with it. It would be helpful.

On the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) point, I just want to really, strongly support the Swedish proposal. I think the whole concept to prudent use of antibiotics is something that was part of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Group Report, which the United Nations Secretary-General has approved. In addition, fundamentally, it should be a priority for FAO. Hundreds of thousands of people are dying of tuberculosis all over the world. They are dying of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. A lot of the drugs that they are resistant to are antibiotics that are used in livestock production. It really should be a priority and I am really upset to hear that we do not think it should be a priority. It really should be, lives are at stake.

CHAIRPERSON

Actually, I was thinking that because the amendments to this particular summary are so many, I was thinking that the final step would be going paragraph by paragraph, because now there is a bit of confusion as there are so many amendments proposed.

Then, breaking for 15 minutes and going until eight o'clock. Therefore, maybe we can go paragraph by paragraph to agree. We adopt after the Drafting Committee. Because, at the moment, especially paragraph (a) is replete with amendments. Words here and there, so let us go para by para. So paragraph (a), is it acceptable, the text as it is?

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

The delegation of the United Kingdom proposed to use new wording, results indicators, so we fully agree with this new wording in the bracket.

CHAIRPERSON

Could we say that we have a final paragraph (a), following that? Good.

Let us move to paragraph (b). In this paragraph, the text in yellow has two different options. Which one is the one that we should go forward with? Brazil, which one is your proposal now?

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

My proposal was the last one. The restriction, but I understand that there is no consensus in the room regarding this proposal. I propose to underscore "the need for the considerations of issues", this one. That's my last proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Can we go forward with this? Okay.

Paragraph (c), there no problem.

Paragraph (d)?

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Just a short proposal to correct this paragraph. We did not receive the updated Strategy. We received an update on the Strategy. It would be more appropriate to say, "Welcome the update on the Strategy and vision."

CHAIRPERSON

With that amendment, could we go forward? Yes.

Next one. Paragraph (e)? Here, in the beginning is it "urged or invited"?

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je crois que nous avons tous entendu l'appel de la délégation du Royaume-Uni, et je comprends que même si tout n'est pas précisé, il est difficile d'être contre la prudence et l'usage responsable. C'est quand même une formulation extrêmement générale qui peut être contre une utilisation prudente et responsable. Vraiment j'en appelle à la délégation du Brésil, s'il pouvait adhérer à cette formulation très large. On sait tous les enjeux qu'il y a derrière ces politiques.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

We understand the importance of this subject, but I would like to recall that there are many problems around the world for different regions and I would like to recall that hunger, that is killing many people, and poverty. Of course, FAO should cover all problems of the world, but we still think that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is not the biggest priority for the Organization. Regarding the promotion of the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics, unfortunately I cannot go along with this because there is no consensus on this concept. We do not know exactly what it means. We know, in general, of course, we would support it but we would like to have further discussion on this subject before making a recommendation in this sense.

Again, I think that AMR already has a good space in FAO. There is a paragraph, especially on this subject in the Council's decision. We think that it has its space, it is being prioritized somehow, but we prefer for the Council to invite FAO to continue developing its AMR portfolio. We think it puts the word content and the importance it should have in this context. This is the position of my delegation.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

With all respect to the position of Brazil, I would to remind the colleague that antimicrobial resistance (AMR), according to scientific prognosis will be killer number one in 2050. There cannot be any dissent on the need to promote the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics. We have the collective responsibility here. This is too serious to struggle about with words. I really appeal to Brazil to agree to this wording and it has nothing to do with the concept. It is a no brainer "promoting the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics".

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I have been consulting with my colleagues next to me and I have a proposal that reflects the language that we all agreed to in the Resolution at Conference this summer. I bet you all are really pleased we had a Resolution then because it is going to provide the way forward. My proposal would be that we say instead of "urge to invite" we say "underline the importance of FAO's antimicrobial resistance (AMR) portfolio and its responsibility in promoting prudent and appropriate uses of antimicrobials in the environment and the agriculture sectors" which is the wording that we agreed in the Resolution, "Its responsibility in promoting prudent and appropriate uses of antimicrobials in the environment and the agriculture sectors."

In the Resolution it talks about how all of us have a shared responsibility, so that means that FAO and all of its Members have a shared responsibility. We could perhaps say, "its shared responsibility in promoting the prudent and appropriate uses of antimicrobials [...]" That was in the eighth operational paragraph of the Resolution.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

It is good to know that antimicrobial resistance will be the first killer in 2050. I think that, then, by 2030 we are sure that we are going to reach our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2, and I think those are the main problems that we are facing right now. We agree with the last proposal from the United Kingdom.

CHAIRPERSON

We can go forward with this wording, so, next paragraph.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

I'm very glad the issue is solved.

CHAIRPERSON

Paragraph (f). There is no problem there.

We move to paragraphs (g).

Paragraph (h).

Can we go forward in paragraph (i) with this language? Okay.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I think that we have done it and we can break for 15 minutes.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 18:01 to 18:28 hours
La séance est suspendue de 18 h 01 à 18 h 28
Se suspende la sesión de las 18.01 a las 18.28

- Item 6. Reports of the 176th (20-22 May 2019), the 177th (30-31 October 2019) and the 178th (4-8 November 2019) Sessions of the Finance Committee**
Point 6. Rapports des cent soixante-seizième (20-22 mai 2019), cent soixante-dix-septième (30-31 octobre 2019) et cent soixante-dix-huitième (4-8 novembre 2019) sessions du Comité financier
Tema 6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 176.º (20-22 de mayo de 2019), 177.º (30 y 31 de octubre de 2019) y 178.º (4-8 de noviembre de 2019) del Comité de Finanzas
(CL 163/5; CL163/5 Information Note 1; CL 163/9; CL 163/10)

Item 6.1 Audited Accounts – FAO 2018
Point 6.1 Comptes vérifiés – FAO 2018
Tema 6.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2018
(C 2021/5 A; C 2021/5 B)

Item 6.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears
Point 6.2 État des contributions et des arriérés
Tema 6.2 Estado de las contribuciones y los atrasos
(CL 163/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to *Item 6: Reports of the 176th, 177th and 178th Sessions of the Finance Committee.*

The Reports of the 176th and the 177th sessions deal with WFP matters. Therefore the focus of the Council is now the report of the 178th session. In addition, the item has two sub-items namely 6.1 Audited Accounts for 2018 and sub-Item 6.2 Status of Contribution and arrears.

The documents before you are *CL 163/5, CL 163/9, CL 163/10, CL163/5 Information Note 1, C 2021/5A, C 2021/5B, CL 163/LIM/2.*

Accordingly, I would like to invite your interventions on the Report of the 178th Session of the Finance Committee including in relation to the two sub-Items. I will now give the floor to Ms Smolcic, Chairperson of the Finance Committee to introduce the Item.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Me complace presentar los *Informes de los períodos de sesiones 176.º, 177.º y 178.º del Comité de Finanzas*. Los informes se presentan al Consejo en los documentos *CL 163/5, CL 163/9 y CL 163/10*. Además, en el documento *CL 163/LIM/2*, se presenta una actualización del estado de las contribuciones y los atrasos al 28 de noviembre de 2019.

En nuestro 177.º período de sesiones, el Comité eligió por unanimidad a la Sra. Emily Katkar, de los Estados Unidos de América, como Vicepresidenta para el período restante del mandato actual del Comité. Agradezco a la Sra. Katkar su compromiso y el apoyo que me brindó en el período de sesiones y en las reuniones informales que mantuvo el Comité.

Los 176.º y 177.º períodos de sesiones fueron convocados para tratar asuntos relativos al Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA). Los informes sobre estos asuntos ya han sido presentados a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA para su examen.

En esta introducción desearía resaltar puntos de interés general para el Consejo y que requieren la adopción de medidas por parte de los Miembros del Consejo excepto para aquellos asuntos que se refieren a *Los Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2020-21*, que fueron tratados en el tema 3 del Programa de este período de sesiones del Consejo.

El Comité examinó la situación financiera de la Organización al 30 de junio de 2019 y observó que,

conforme a los niveles de efectivo más recientes del Programa ordinario, cabía esperar que la liquidez de la Organización bastase para hacer frente a las necesidades operacionales hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2019. Tras reconocer que el mantenimiento de un flujo de caja saludable y la plena aplicación del Programa de trabajo y presupuesto (PTP) de la Organización dependían de la puntualidad en el pago de las cuotas asignadas, el Comité instó a los Estados Miembros a efectuar el pago de las cuotas asignadas puntual e íntegramente.

El Comité acogió con agrado la confirmación de que las tasas de aprobación y gasto actuales respecto del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) permitirían garantizar la plena ejecución de la consignación para el período 2016-2017, como había aprobado la Conferencia y solicitó que en futuros informes periódicos sobre la situación financiera se ilustrara de forma exhaustiva la información sobre los niveles de aprobación y gastos del PCT respecto de cada consignación bienal.

El Comité examinó las cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2018, incluida una exposición del Auditor Externo sobre su informe detallado de la auditoría de las operaciones financieras de la FAO.

El Comité expresó su agradecimiento por la calidad de la declaración sobre el control interno, que había confirmado también las observaciones del Auditor Externo sobre este asunto. El Comité destacó la importancia de las recomendaciones sobre los asuntos relacionados con los recursos humanos y solicitó a la Administración que preparase un plan de acción pormenorizado con plazos y resultados concretos que hubieran de lograrse para abordar estas recomendaciones.

El Comité observó con preocupación las limitaciones de recursos a que se enfrentaba la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG) para ocuparse de su creciente volumen de trabajo y solicitó a la Administración que examinara posibles opciones para abordar este problema en el marco de los recursos existentes y le informara de los planes de la Administración y las opciones para hacer frente al déficit de financiación.

El Comité, tras tomar nota de las observaciones y aclaraciones presentadas por el Auditor Externo y la Administración, acordó presentar al Consejo el proyecto de resolución sobre las cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2018 presentado en el párrafo 11 del documento *CL 163/5, Informe del 178.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas*.

El Comité tomó nota de la ejecución del presupuesto para 2018-2019 como resultado de la aplicación del PTP y observó que las transferencias a los capítulos, solicitadas como resultado de la ejecución del PTP, habían sido aprobadas previamente por el Comité de Finanzas en su período de sesiones de marzo de 2019.

El Comité tomó nota de la información facilitada sobre el uso del saldo no utilizado de la consignación para 2016 y 2017 y solicitó que se le mantuviera informado de la utilización del *Fondo especial para actividades de financiación del desarrollo* y de la *Iniciativa de la Gran Muralla Verde del Sáhara y el Sahel (IGMVSS)*.

El Comité apreció el hecho de que la transferencia al capítulo 4 solicitada incluyera USD 1 millón en recursos adicionales asignados para el Programa conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos y de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF), de conformidad con la solicitud formulada por el Comité de Finanzas y respaldada por el Consejo.

El Comité acogió con satisfacción el compromiso de la Administración de la FAO de examinar la política y estrategia en materia de recursos humanos de la Organización y solicitó a la Administración que preparase un plan de acción detallado con plazos y resultados concretos, que hubieran de lograrse para mejorar la gestión de los recursos humanos.

Solicitó a la Administración que abordara la cuestión de la delegación de autoridad con carácter prioritario y que le presentara un informe al respecto en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2020.

El Comité reconoció los progresos realizados a fin de abordar la representación de países insuficientemente representados y no representados y alentó a la Administración a vigilar la situación para hacer nuevas mejoras en esta esfera.

El Comité recalcó la importancia de reducir la tasa de vacantes, tanto en la Sede como en las oficinas

descentralizadas, que actualmente tenían porcentajes muy elevados de puestos vacantes.

Acogió con satisfacción las garantías proporcionadas por la Administración de que en 2019 se llevaría a cabo una encuesta anónima sobre la satisfacción del personal, que incluiría una sección sobre el hostigamiento, el acoso sexual y el abuso de autoridad.

El Comité manifestó su interés en recibir información actualizada sobre los resultados del examen del programa de movilidad del personal realizado por la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG) y solicitó a la Administración que suspendiera el programa en 2020 en espera de que se realizara dicho examen.

Hizo hincapié en la importancia de aplicar las restantes recomendaciones presentadas en el *Informe de auditoría* del Inspector General sobre la selección y contratación del personal profesional y otras recomendaciones pendientes sobre asuntos relativos a los recursos humanos derivadas de informes del Auditor Externo y del Comité de Auditoría.

El Comité acogió con satisfacción los significativos progresos logrados en la aplicación de las recomendaciones del Comité de Auditoría y del Auditor Externo y alentó a la Administración a aplicar las que aún seguían pendientes.

El Comité examinó el documento de la Dependencia Común de Inspección (DCI) titulado *Examen de las políticas y prácticas de protección de los denunciantes de irregularidades en las organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas (JIU/REP/2018/4)* y tomó nota de que la FAO había hecho suyo el documento, así como las observaciones conexas formuladas por la Junta de los Jefes Ejecutivos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para la Coordinación. El Comité solicitó a la Administración que le presentara en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2020 información actualizada sobre el estado de aplicación de las recomendaciones formuladas en el informe de la DCI.

El Comité expresó su reconocimiento por la publicación de la Política de protección de los denunciantes de irregularidades revisada de la FAO, en consonancia con el examen y la orientación del Comité de Auditoría.

Solicitó a la Administración que considerara la posibilidad de establecer un acuerdo de servicios con la Oficina de Ética de otra organización del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para permitir fortalecer en mayor medida el mecanismo de examen de las evaluaciones preliminares de las denuncias de represalias.

El Comité expresó su grave preocupación por el menoscabo de la independencia de la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG) que se había producido durante el verano de 2019 y acogió con agrado el compromiso del nuevo Director General de garantizar la independencia de la OIG.

El Comité apoyó la propuesta de que se publicara un anuncio de vacante para el nombramiento del Inspector General y aprobó la propuesta de que se introdujera un límite al mandato del Inspector General, de modo que este fuera nombrado por un período no renovable de siete años.

Solicitó la preparación de una Carta revisada de la Oficina del Inspector General que reflejara las mejores prácticas más recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, así como el fortalecimiento de las actividades de supervisión de la FAO y, dada la urgencia que revestían las cuestiones, recomendó que la Administración adoptara la Carta revisada de la Oficina del Inspector General tras su examen por el Comité de Auditoría y la celebración de consultas informales con el Comité de Finanzas, hasta que este pudiera aprobar oficialmente la política en mayo de 2020.

El Comité hizo hincapié en la necesidad de destinar financiación suficiente, dentro de los recursos existentes, a la Oficina del Inspector General para hacer frente a su mayor volumen de trabajo, solicitó que se le otorgara prioridad en los futuros ajustes o transferencias presupuestarios que se presentarían al Comité de Finanzas y señaló las expectativas de que se procuraría reducir urgentemente el número de casos pendientes.

En conclusión, en términos generales los períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas fueron fructíferos y, en particular, considero que fue posible tratar una serie de cuestiones cruciales a la que se ve enfrentada la Organización en sus asuntos financieros y presupuestarios. En nombre de los Miembros del Comité quisiera expresar el aprecio a la Secretaría por la asistencia prestada en nuestras deliberaciones y la gratitud a los Estados Miembros de la FAO por contribuir a la importante labor de

la Organización. Sobre todo quisiera reiterar lo prestado al comienzo en mi primero informe y destacar el espíritu de colaboración y de transparencia entre la Administración y los Miembros del Comité de Finanzas; un mayor flujo de información que permitió un desarrollo fluido de las discusiones del Comité de Finanzas y una elaboración del informe, de las conclusiones en un espíritu de colaboración realmente encomiable.

En este sentido, quiero agradecer a los Miembros del Comité de Finanzas, a la Administración y a la Secretaría el trabajo realizado y la seriedad con que se trabajó y el nivel de compromiso.

Quedo a disposición de los Miembros del Consejo para los comentarios o las preguntas que deseen formular o aclaraciones que deseen de mi parte.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for Members to make their interventions.

May I appeal to Members that if there is a regional statement, then if you have a point which you wish to highlight which is not included in the regional statement you make take the floor. However, please refrain from repeating the points made in the regional statement because it is just unnecessary duplication of effort.

Sr. Jose Teofilo ESONO ASANGONO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial hace esta intervención conjuntamente con la República de Níger, en nombre del Grupo Regional Africano, los cuales felicitan al Comité de Finanzas por el trabajo realizado. Estamos satisfechos por la administración de la FAO por la presentación de las cuentas comprobadas correspondientes a 2018, conforme a las normas internacionales de contabilidad para el sector público y la calidad de aclaración sobre el control interno.

Apreciamos los ajustes propuestos sobre los aumentos de costo y eficiencia sin que estos afecten negativamente a la ejecución del programa de trabajo acordado. Apreciamos los recursos adicionales asignados a la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Sanitaria (CIPF), y el Programa Conjunto FAO/OMS en el asesoramiento científico sobre la inocuidad de los alimentos. Valoramos la información y los datos estadísticos adicionales sobre los recursos humanos y los esfuerzos realizados en cuanto al equilibrio geográfico y el respeto en cuanto al género entre los consultores, manteniendo como mérito el criterio primordial para la contratación.

Estimamos asimismo los esfuerzos de la Dirección General por haber mantenido el mismo presupuesto sin variación nominal y sin gran cambio en las cuantías de las cuotas asignadas y las consignaciones presupuestarias netas para el ejercicio económico. Invitamos, por lo tanto, a los Estados Miembros a pagar sus contribuciones obligatorias anuales y a tiempo íntegramente para que la Organización pueda cumplir con su programa de trabajo y presupuesto de este ejercicio económico y evitar los atrasos.

Recomendamos que se mantenga en el futuro la consignación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) a un nivel adecuado para garantizar la plena ejecución de los programas al ser el programe clave y siempre que ha financiado estudios en muchos países en vías de desarrollo y, por lo tanto, sugerimos flexibilidad en el mecanismo de acceso a los fondos del PCT para disminuir el saldo no utilizado, concretamente en los capítulos 13 y 14.

Con esto, el Grupo Regional Africano refrenda los *Informes de los períodos de sesiones 176.º, 177.º y 178.º del Comité de Finanzas*.

Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Group welcomes the new Chairperson of the Finance Committee Ms Imelda Smolcic Nijers of Uruguay and her presentation on the Report of the Finance Committee. We would like to commend the excellent work done by Madame Chairperson and the Members of the Finance Committee as well as support from FAO Management and Secretariat.

Regarding the discussion on the financial and budgetary matters of WFP, the Asia Group appreciates

the efforts made by WFP Management for an increased level of anticipated funding of USD 7.45 billion for 2020, while the estimated operational requirement will be USD 10.6 billion. This brings a funding gap of around 29 percent. Since 94 percent of the contributions are earmarked by donors, the Asia Group encourages the Management to increase its resource base by partnering with the private sectors, foundations and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) for more flexible and predictable funding. The Asia Group requests WFP Management to continue to work on the proposals for the permanent delegation of authority under the Integrated Road Map (IRM) with a view to finalizing and submitting.

CHAIRPERSON

Finance Committee's reports on WFP go to their Executive Board as was pointed out. We should restrict our comments to the 178th Session of the Finance Committee and not the reports relating to WFP.

Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)

OK, I will go on with next paragraph, then.

Asia Group supports the views and recommendations reflected in the report of 178th Session of the Finance Committee on FAO matters and would like to highlight the following points.

On the discussions of the financial position of FAO, the Asia Group is satisfied with the sufficient liquidity of the Organization through December 2019 considering the payment pattern of the Member Countries and my Group encourages all Member Nations to continue the timely payment of assessed contribution so as to maintain a sound financial health of the Organization.

On behalf of the Asia Group Members, I would like to draw your kind attention on the allocation, utilization and significant outcome received from the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). We understand the Management's confirmation on the full implementation of TCP appropriations for 2016–17 and also highly appreciate the recent report on TCP. While we review the Report in our future group meetings as an important guiding document, we encourage Management to improve the reporting structure on the implementation, outstanding balance and outcome of the planned expenditure. The Asia Group, as a significant beneficiary of TCP, requests the new Management to initiate a bottom-up approach for a more comprehensive evaluation of the procedures, results achieved and how to better use the resources of TCP in the context of the global challenges of eradicating hunger and poverty.

The Asia Group welcomes the Organization's new Human Resources approach and appreciates its efforts in achieving equitable geographic representation by reducing the number of non-, under- and over-represented countries to a considerable extent, and in promoting gender parity in the workforce. Currently, as of November 2019, the female representation at the Senior level position is only 25 percent and Asia Group encourages Management to raise this proportion, such as the Director-General announced a new female Deputy Director-General today.

We support the request made by the Committee to prepare a detailed action plan with specific timelines and results to be achieved to improve the Human Resources Management based on the previous recommendations of the External Auditor, Audit Committee and Finance Committee. The Asia Group appreciates the initiative for the steady expansion of the FAO Global Internship, Volunteers and Fellows Programme and encourages Management in its continued outreach activities and building of strategic partnerships to further develop the Programme in a sustainable way.

On the discussions of oversight issue, the Asia Group welcomes FAO's revised Whistleblower Protection Policy, and appreciates that Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020–21 includes the separation and strengthening of the Ethics and Ombudsperson function. The Asia Group looks forward to having a successful completion of the recruitment process of these two positions. We would like to emphasize the importance of the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General and encourage Management to ensure adequate funding, within existing resources, considering its increased workload. At the same time, Asia Group supports the recommendation made by the Committee to issue a vacancy announcement for the appointment of the Inspector-General after notifying the incumbent Inspector-General of the termination of his appointment.

With these comments, the Asia Group endorses the Report of the Finance Committee.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Egypt is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group and we welcome the recommendations contained in the Report of the 178th Session of the Finance Committee and we would like to highlight the following points.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Madame Chairperson of the Finance Committee for her presence at the first Session of the Council and her leadership during our deliberations and presenting a full detailed Report of the Session. We would also like to congratulate Ms Emily Katkar from the United States of America for her election as Vice-Chairperson.

With regards to human resources matters, the Near East Group supports the recommendations of the Finance Committee, especially a request to prepare a detailed Action Plan with specific timelines to improve human resources functions, including selection and recruitment processes, and to address improving gender parity and geographical representation of staff at Senior level, as well as to continue efforts to improve the geographical balance of consultants based on a flexible approach and selection process, and using merit as a primary criterion.

While we understand the rationale behind maintaining a slightly higher vacancy rate to allow the Organization to make savings, we believe that reducing the vacancy rate, especially in Decentralized Offices that are currently witnessing high percentage of vacant posts, is timely needed to avoid any negative impact on delivery of the programme.

Moreover, the Near East Group welcomes the commitment made by the Director-General that he will delegate authority to Deputy Director-General and we asked Management to address the issue of the delegation of authority as a matter of priority, taking into considerations lessons learned, past experiences and recommendations of oversight bodies as well as best practices in the United Nations System.

The Near East Group supports the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General and we welcome the Director-General's commitment in this regard. We also support the recommendation of the Finance Committee to issue a vacancy announcement for the appointment of the new Inspector-General, given the urgency and significance of this issue, as reflected by the guidance of the Audit Committee. The Near East Group supports a review of the Charter of the Office of the Inspector-General to reflect best practices in United Nations System and we look forward to discuss it at the Finance Committee session in May 2020. We ask the Management to seek potential options within existing resources to address the resource constraints faced by the Office of Inspector-General to deal with its increased workload.

The Near East Group supports the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Council submit to the Conference for adoption the Audited Accounts for 2018.

The Near East Group welcomes the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) approval and expenditure rates for biennia 2016–17 and 2018–19 and while we welcome the additional information provided and its assurance is that the full implementation of the TCP appropriations for 2016–17 is expected to be implemented by the end of 2018, we still believe that there is a room for further improving TCP approval and expenditure, taking into consideration the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme appropriations for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, the Near East Group requests that these detailed information on TCP be presented in a clear and comprehensive way in future regular reports on the financial position of the Organization and as integrated part of this Report, and if possible, to include TCP appropriations, their region, from both assessed and voluntary contributions. Therefore, we would like to express our support to the launch of the evaluation of FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes by the Office of Evaluation (OED) in September 2019, and we look forward to receive and discuss the findings of the Evaluation Report, once finalized next year at both Finance and Programme Committees.

In conclusion, the Near East Group requests the Secretariat to clarify the reason behind decreasing

TCP appropriation for the Near East region on a regular basis in the last two biennia, as highlighted in Table 1 and 2 of the *Information Note 1* and as also indicated in *Web Annex 6: Adjustments to 2020–21 Net Appropriation by department and office*, despite major challenges that the Near East region is facing right now, and the current increase of TCP appropriations from USD 135 million in 2018–19 to USD 140 million in 2020–21 biennia.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Felicitemos a la Presidenta Imelda Smolcic por su excelente trabajo y a la Sra. Emily Katkar de Estados Unidos de America por su elección como Vicepresidenta.

Observamos con satisfacción que la liquidez de la Organización podrá cubrir las necesidades operativas hasta finales del presente año. Tiene razón el Comité al insistir en el pago oportuno de las cuotas, para de ese modo garantizar la estabilidad financiera de la FAO.

Vemos con agrado la disminución del déficit del Fondo General, con la natural preocupación de que el pasivo del Seguro Médico después del Cese en el Servicio no haya sido cubierto del todo. Animamos a la FAO a que continúe participando en el grupo de trabajo del sistema de Naciones Unidas para adoptar un enfoque común.

Apreciamos la mejora en el gasto y la tasa de aprobación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), que es la espina dorsal de la institución. Nada de menos que eso: la espina dorsal de la FAO es el PCT. Reiteramos la importancia de continuar manteniendo la tasa de recursos del PCT al nivel aprobado por la Conferencia.

Aplaudimos por último la publicación de la *Examen de las políticas y prácticas de protección de los denunciantes de irregularidades en las organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas (JIU/REP/2018/4)*, así como el fortalecimiento y separación de la Oficina de Ética y Ombudsman.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We would like to thank you for the reports of the work of the Finance Committee. We would like to make a couple of specific comments on, in particular, the report of the 178th Session of the Finance Committee.

First of all, we would like to express our satisfaction at the greatly improved constructive atmosphere in the Committee's deliberations. This is a very positive development, to which the new tone at the top of the Organisation has certainly contributed.

While acknowledging the steps already undertaken by the new leadership to improve staff morale, we particularly welcome the Committee's conclusions on Human Resources matters. We recognize that the External Auditor has highlighted many shortcomings in this area, as had the Inspector-General in his 2018 Annual Report. Similar findings on weak Human Resources Management are included in the Evaluation Report on the FAO's Strategic Results Framework. All these findings and recommendations emphasize the need for major clean-up efforts to be undertaken to bring Human Resources Management in FAO back on track.

In this regard, we appreciate the many good aspirations in the introduction to the Human Resources Management document submitted to the Committee. What now matters is to translate words into action. Therefore, we fully support the Committee's request that the Management prepare a detailed Action Plan with specific timelines and results to be achieved to improve FAO's Human Resources Management. In this context, we attach particular importance to the issue of delegation of authority, the need to substantially reduce the very high vacancy rate, to organize merit-based selection and a transparent recruitment process in line with international standards, as well as to encourage gender parity, especially in senior level positions. Furthermore, we welcome the Management's assurance that it will carry out a comprehensive staff satisfaction survey in 2019, and we fully support the Committee's request to suspend the Staff Mobility Programme for 2020 pending the review of this programme.

In addition, we strongly support the request for a new stronger Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 10.3.E related to sexual harassment. On oversight, we welcome the significant progress made in implementing the recommendations of the FAO Audit Committee and the External Auditor and request that Management implement the outstanding recommendations.

Moreover, we appreciate the publication of FAO's revised Whistleblower Protection Policy, and the separation of the ethics and Ombudsperson functions.

We fully share the serious concerns expressed by the Committee on the undermining of the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General that occurred during summer 2019 under the previous leadership. This is an extremely serious matter. We support the proposal to issue a vacancy announcement for the appointment of the Inspector General, as well as the introduction of a non-renewable term limit of seven years for this appointment. Finally, we strongly support the Committee's request to ensure adequate funding, within existing resources, for the Office of the Inspector-General, and look forward to the presentation of budgetary adjustments reflecting this at the May 2020 Session of the Finance Committee.

On the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) we would like to thank the Management for the additional information provided in response to the request from the Finance Committee. We note the consistently high approval and expenditure rates, despite the more than 30 percent increase in the appropriation, over the last ten years. High approval and expenditure rates, however, do not necessarily mean that the TCP projects had an equally high impact and were sustainable. Therefore, we are looking forward to the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation review of TCP implementation in the next biennium. In the meantime, we would like to request that the TCP funds that are due to be allocated in 2020 and 2021 are allocated to projects that directly support the achievement of mainly the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets in the recipient countries; and that FAO uses the SDG indicators to monitor the impact of those projects.

On this note, we endorse the reports.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Quiero felicitar a la Sra. Imelda Smolicic, Presidenta del Comité de Finanzas, por su excelente trabajo en las sesiones del Comité.

En relación al 178.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, tomamos nota de la situación financiera de la Organización y, respecto al programa de Cooperación Técnica, esperamos que el uso de sus recursos continúe asignándose y utilizándose en el ritmo y tiempos aprobados por la Conferencia y en el reglamento financiero.

En cuanto a las transferencias en el programa y presupuesto para el bienio 2018-19, apreciamos las transferencias de recursos hacia el programa conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de alimentos y a la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF), así como la solicitud del Comité sobre el uso del Fondo especial para actividades de financiación al desarrollo y de la *Iniciativa de la Gran Muralla Verde del Sáhara y el Sahel (IGMVSS)*.

En materia de recursos humanos, tomamos nota con interés de los cambios en curso iniciados por la Administración en esta materia, con miras a mejorar procesos de selección, rotación de personal y promover la paridad de género. Es en este tema donde hay enormes retrasos en los puestos de nivel superior y donde la Administración tiene que acelerar su trabajo.

En cuanto a la tasa de vacantes, el nivel actual es elevado, y deseamos que baje, pero en el pasado se nos había dicho que el mantener esa tasa elevada era una de las razones que permitían tener un incremento nominal cero del presupuesto de cuotas de la FAO. Esto nos genera dudas sobre la relación entre la tasa de vacantes presupuestadas para el bienio 2020-21, los niveles de esos puestos y el presupuesto a partir de cuotas. Quizá habrá que explicar esto mejor porque se podría entender que, si la tasa de vacantes es baja, el nivel de los nuevos puestos sería más bajo. Esto es lo que requiere más explicaciones en el futuro.

En cuanto a la cuestión de la oficina del Inspector General (OIG), y en relación a las cartas del

Presidente del Comité de Auditoría distribuidas en el verano pasado, tomamos nota con agrado del compromiso del nuevo Director General de garantizar la independencia de esa Oficina.

Respecto al Inspector General actual, apoyamos el finalizar las disposiciones relativas a la conclusión de su mandato y acabamos de ver con agrado que se acaba de publicar el anuncio de vacante para el futuro Inspector General

Finalmente, apoyamos la revisión de la carta de la Oficina del Inspector General así como el procedimiento provisional excepcional, en donde el Comité de Auditoría examine esta cuestión, y el Comité de Finanzas haga lo propio a través de consultas oficiosas en los próximos meses. Con esos comentarios endosamos el *Informe del 178.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas*.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

The United States of America thanks the Chairperson for her leadership, as well as FAO Management for the productive Finance Committee discussions. We reiterate the importance of the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General. Ensuring an independent, well-resourced Office of Inspector-General is critical for the efficiency of FAO Management and in maintaining trust with the Member States. Specifically, we look forward to reviewing the new Charter of the Office of the Inspector-General. We emphasize the need for FAO to ensure prioritization for the Office of the Inspector-General, so that there is adequate funding, within existing resources, to address its increased workload.

The United States of America looks forward to receiving updates on FAO Management's vision and plans in the area of human resources. Staff are FAO's biggest asset, and budget item, and this area requires attention. We thank FAO Management for the earlier update on Staff Satisfaction Survey and we look forward to reviewing the results at the earlier possible opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I see some countries whose regions have already made the statement, so I would appeal again, please avoid repeating statements which have already been included in the intervention of your regional statement.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

Before starting, as a new Member of the Finance Committee, I wish to thank Madame Chairperson, colleague Members and the Secretariat for working in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. Japan fully aligns itself with Asia Regional Group Statement delivered by the Republic of Korea. I have several additional comments focusing on Human Resources (HR) Management.

First, I thank the Office of Human Resources (OHR) for presenting HR data, including monthly update on geographic representation of staff. It helps Members to understand how the new Director-General and OHR achieve more equitable geographic representation at FAO. I would encourage OHR to make continuous efforts to present HR data requested by Members.

Second, as the United States of America just pointed out, I think we share the broad recognition that staff are a most valuable asset for the Organization. To keep FAO a knowledge-based United Nations Specialized Agency, I would ask FAO Management to ensure staff's technical expertise while considering gender and geographical balance.

Third, as mentioned by others, Japan is also concerned about law vacancy rate of Professional staff, especially in Decentralized Offices. I would encourage Management to fill Professional posts under the new HR Director-General's leadership.

Last but not least, under the new Director-General and a new Human Resources Director, I would ask FAO Management to delegate authorities for Professional staff nominations and promotions to Deputy Director-Generals and Assistant Director-Generals who know the most required qualifications and skills.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

We are not among those countries coming for the second time. Our region has already spoken on the

Report, but the division of labour in our region is such that Sub-Item 6.1 and Sub-Item 6.2 are handled by different countries.

Let me at this time congratulate Madam Chairperson for work well done and also welcome Mr Ali Basharat. It has been quite a while when you were last on this podium, so we welcome you Mr Basharat.

Now we kindly request that you give the floor to Ethiopia to handle the Item 6.1 on Audited Accounts of FAO for 2019.

Ms Zenebu Tadesse WOLDETSADIK (Ethiopia)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on Agenda Item 6.1 “*Audited Accounts-FAO 2018*” reproduced in documents *C 2021/5A* and *C 2021/5B* and considered by the Finance Committee at its Session from 14 to 18 November 2018. At the outset, the Africa Regional Group would like to express appreciation to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to Management and to the Secretariat for presenting the documents on FAO Audited Accounts for 2018.

The Group considers the great importance the Auditing Committee, and of External Auditors, in discharging the oversight of FAO Financial Statements. We also welcome and appreciate the efforts made by FAO’s Management and Secretariat to address several recommendations issued during the year-end Audit of the FAO 2018.

The Africa Regional Group would like to stress on Technical Cooperation Programme. Small delays in the approval of government requests for Technical Cooperation Programme are noted. In this regard, the Group urges FAO Management to ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of TCP projects by revisiting and further improving its implementation strategy.

The Group also welcomed the need for Management and Secretariat to undertake prompt action plans to ensure that the recommendations of the External Auditors as to be implemented. In the spirit of the on-going reforms to realize the reliable institution that everyone has trust in, we support the Secretariat and Management to consolidate transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the Group notes the comments and clarifications provided by the External Auditor and Secretariat regarding the FAO Audited Accounts for 2018. Hence, the Africa Regional Group will pay close attention to the Audited Accounts, the recommendations of the External Auditor, the Management response and encourage this to be continued at future sessions.

Finally before closing my remarks, on the behalf of the Group I would like to express our full appreciation for the important work that the Finance Committee carried out. The Committee was able to submit a number of important points to the Council.

With these remarks, the Africa Regional Group endorses the Committee discussion results.

M. Lamourdia THIOMBIANO (Burkina Faso)

Comme l’a souligné le Cameroun, le Burkina Faso et la Côte d’Ivoire prennent la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique pour se prononcer sur le point 6.2 inscrit à l’ordre du jour et qui porte sur l’état des contributions courantes et des arriérés au 28 novembre 2019.

Nous remercions la FAO et le Conseil pour la qualité, la clarté et les détails présentés dans le document.

Nous prenons note des principaux points mis en évidence par le document. Toutefois, nous déplorons la mise en ligne relativement tardive du document au regard du caractère extrêmement important du sujet.

S’agissant des contributions courantes, nous félicitons l’effort accompli par la Direction en matière de recouvrements, dont le taux a substantiellement progressé, allant de 26,60 pour cent au 1er avril 2019, à 54,57 pour cent à la date du 28 novembre de cette année pour un total de crédit budgétaire prévu de 105,6 millions d’USD.

Des informations mentionnées dans les différents tableaux nous constatons et saluons la transparence de l’approche mise en œuvre par le Directeur général dans le partage de ces informations.

Le monde plus que jamais connaît de nombreuses crises et fait face à des défis complexes et récurrents tant sur les plans sécuritaire et économique qu'environnemental avec les effets pervers des changements climatiques notamment. Ces diverses crises compromettent la volonté des pays notamment africains à pouvoir respecter leurs engagements en temps réel, bien qu'ils soient conscients du fait que leurs contributions sont essentielles pour le bon fonctionnement de la FAO.

Le Groupe Afrique exprime sa satisfaction et félicite les États Membres ayant versé intégralement leurs contributions afin de permettre à l'Organisation d'être de plus en plus efficace dans la mise en œuvre des activités définies dans le cadre de son travail normatif et de développement durable en tenant compte des priorités et ajustements organiques qui sont au cœur de l'Organisation.

Pour le recouvrement des arriérés en cours ainsi que des contributions non encore versées, nous encourageons fortement la FAO à poursuivre et renforcer le dialogue avec les États, cela en vue de trouver des conditions souples et efficaces de paiement tenant compte de leur contexte.

Nous avons tous un devoir de redevabilité pour le bon fonctionnement et l'opérationnalisation des programmes de la FAO et nous sommes certains qu'avec une telle approche, les pays plus que jamais pourront développer les efforts requis pour être à jour dans le versement de la totalité de leurs contributions.

Forts de l'espoir que notre appel soit entendu de tous, le Groupe r Afrique exhorte tous les pays membres à s'acquitter dans les meilleurs délais de leurs contributions mises en recouvrement pour 2019 ainsi que pour les arriérés de contribution des années précédentes.

Avec toutes ces observations contributives pour rendre dynamique, efficiente et durable le travail de la FAO, le Groupe l Afrique demande l'approbation du document *CL 163/LIM/2* intitulé « *États des contributions courantes et des arriérés au 28 novembre 2019* ».

Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We support the Joint Statement by South Korea on behalf of Asia Group. The Finance Committee reported that important issues were discussed related to the Organization's financial situation, and particularly to human resource matters. We welcome the Report, where it is mentioned that all Members are urged to make payments of assessed contributions on time and therefore we support this and we support the statement made by Burkina Faso.

We believe the Organization's on-going cash flow helps on the full implementation of the Programme which is dependent upon timely payment of contributions. We also note in the Report that progress was made in addressing under- and non-represented countries and we welcome this. We also request the Secretariat to update the geographical representation of countries under the newly assessed contributions ratio and address the serious issues of under-representation in the country.

Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)

Further to my comments made under Agenda Item 3 in relation to resources for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, as well as the needs of the Office of Inspector-General (OIG), as a new Member of the Finance Committee, it would be very remiss of me if I did not applaud the Chairperson for her constructive manner in which she led the Committee.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat and the Management for the role they played in helping the meeting run as smoothly and effectively as possible. I would also like to note, with appreciation, the information which was provided in *Information Note 1*, in which it was stated that new ways of reporting and sharing information on Technical Cooperation Programme (TCPs) is being explored. I look forward to that information.

With that, I would like to offer my support of the Report's recommendations.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden) (Observer)

I hold this intervention on behalf of Norway, the Netherlands, and my own country Sweden, and it is on the Report on Resources Partnership Impact 2019, which I think is fitting underneath this Item, because we are talking about the finances of the Organization.

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for FAO's Director-General's presence during the recent consultation meeting on the FAO Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM). The FMM was established in 2010 to facilitate un-earmarked additional funding, and was part of the big FAO Reform. Despite the general emphasis on flexible funding in multilateral settings, the mechanism has until now obtained little visibility, and few Members have contributed to it. We take the presence of the Director-General at the donor consultation as an encouraging signal of increased support from the top to improve the handling of flexible funding to FAO.

Regarding the Report *Resources Partnerships Impact 2019*, we have two observations for further improvements. The first one, complex development programmes need a long time-frame, and multi-year funding allows for long-term planning. However, in the Report, FAO presents donor contributions only as new Agreements. In our view, it would be more appropriate to reflect actual resource partner disbursements by calendar year.

The second observation is that multi-partner funding enables FAO to pool resources for larger programmes and higher-level impacts. We would encourage incentives encouraging cooperation through Multi-Donor Agreements, what in FAO language is called "MUL", for this reason. At present, there is no donor attribution or donor visibility of MUL funding. Finding a way to strengthen attribution could encourage partners to allocate more funding through these useful modalities. Norway announced last week that it is joining the FMM already from this year onwards.

Mr Hans BRAND (Netherlands)

I will be very brief. Just wanted to say that the Netherlands supports the statement that has just been delivered by Sweden.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor to Ms Smolcic to provide any comments.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Agradezco las expresiones de apoyo que he recibido. No hice más que cumplir con mi deber, pero las agradezco profundamente, han sido más que generosos. Los comentarios que han expresado no han sido otro que los que he recogido durante las propias deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas. Y más allá de los que discutimos durante el Comité de Finanzas, hay algo que quisiera rescatar y no solamente en lo que tiene que ver con los recursos humanos, el equilibrio geográfico, los fondos para la Oficina del Inspector General y su independencia, el balance geográfico y de género, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), la tasa de vacantes, que fueron básicamente los temas que se han repetido aquí.

Y creo que lo que más se rescata es que la Administración ha tomado esos temas que se han discutido y los ha respondido durante la discusión o durante las deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas, los ha retomado durante el período que transcurrió desde el Comité de Finanzas al Consejo, y hay de parte de la Administración el deseo de profundizar, de tomar acción y que los requerimientos y los reclamos de los Estados Miembros se vean reflejados en los documentos y en la acción. Y creo que es eso lo que realmente rescato.

Y estoy segura que conociendo, viendo cómo han reaccionado no solo durante la sesión del Comité y cómo han reaccionado en estas dos jornadas, los Miembros del Consejo y de los comités técnicos estarán sobre la administración, para exigir que eso continúe así y ver los resultados. Eso es el

comentario general que quería hacer. Sé que hay preguntas concretas y merecen respuestas muy concretas, por lo tanto, creo que deberíamos pasar, básicamente, a eso.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I would like to express, on behalf of the Management, our true appreciation of the leadership of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and for the productive discussions and guidance we had during the Session of the Finance Committee. It is extremely useful. You have seen from the reports that the comments are very precise, and will help us improve the Management of FAO.

There are many comments that were made during the Session, and today, is a follow-up. You see that on the podium we have the most Senior Leaders in the Organization, who know the precise answers, who can provide updates on some of the questions that were asked.

We speak of comments on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and non-earmarked resources. We had Mr Roberto Ridolfi, the Assistant Director-General of the Programme Support and Technical Operation Department, who in a few minutes will elaborate on this. In regards to Human Resources, many comments were made, Mr Basharat Ali is here to provide the latest development. There are also other matters related to Audited Accounts and Ms Dilek Macit the Assistant Director-General of the Corporate Services Department is here. Ms Beth Crawford is also here, not only in the capacity as the Head of Budget, Programming and Planning, but also as the Secretary of the Audit Committee, and there were references to the Audit Committee.

I will focus only on one point, the point highlighted by many on the concern regarding oversight, and the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General. This was a matter much discussed, and the Members of the Finance and Programme Committee may recall the clear signal from the top given by the Director-General, reaffirming his wish that the Office of the Inspector-General functions in full independence. That cannot be clearer signal.

We also had a discussion in the Finance Committee, as reflected in the Report it was said that an important instrument to improve the functioning of the Office of the Inspector-General would be to improve and revise the Charter of this Office. I can inform you that a revised Charter has been produced by the Office of the Inspector-General. This Charter has been reviewed by the Audit Committee and we are waiting for the comments from the Audit Committee to further proceed. It is ongoing and we know the urgency of improving this Charter.

Regarding the Inspector-General, I mentioned at an earlier Session, but I will repeat here, a vacancy announcement has been launched last Friday and we hope to recruit an excellent new Inspector General as soon as possible. With regard to the Ethics Officer and the Ombudsperson, selections are also ongoing and this will improve our performance in this domain in line with relevant policies, and particularly the Whistleblower Protection Policy.

This is what I can say. Mr Chairperson, I would like to pass the floor to Roberto Ridolfi, particularly on the aspects of the TCP, but also on non-earmarked funding.

Mr Roberto RIDOLFI (Assistant Director-General, Programme Support and Technical Operation Department)

On Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), to answer to the Near East question, the reality is that, in the biennium 2018–19, Iran moved from the Near East region to the Asia region. Therefore, the money is exactly the same. I wanted to reassure you on that, it is only a matter of changing the composition of the group.

I also want to report that the approval and allocations is 100 percent at 1 December 2019. Therefore, the data here at 20 November, as you can see, we were at 97.94 percent on approval allocation ratio. Now we are at 100 percent. Below, on the table of expenditure allocation, which refers to the biennium 2016–17, I am happy to report that we are at 98 percent. Therefore, on 1 December we are really close to the target.

The second question was a comment from the Dominican Republic about the backbone. Sometimes TCP is the blood of this Organization, sometimes it is the backbone, sometimes it is the brain. It plays many functions because TCP is the catalytic money that our local offices use to develop bigger, more

important and more far-achieving projects. It is indeed a big success and I want to comment on the fact that, not only to the European Union's comments, and not only has the expenditure rate has increased, but also the quality. Let me tell you that we look at TCP as being an appraisal preparation facility for crafting bigger projects, together with the countries where we roll them. On the evaluation of the TCP, we certainly will look forward as you are doing for this evaluation because it will provide us good guidance on how to move forward with this very important Programme.

Moving into the no-earmarked funding. I would like to thank the comments coming from Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. However, we had a very good discussion in the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM), a flexible Multi-Donor Mechanism, and the invitation comes from Management to all of you to increase this kind of approach because we can do bigger projects. We can do more crosscountry projects, for example, regarding diseases, we can do more cross-theme projects and programmes. That allows the flexibility that can bring innovation in the way we do programmes. We want to use this non-earmarked funding more and more. For what concerns the capacity of disbursing better with this mechanism, I am happy to report that this mechanism is able to disburse faster and better in quantity and quality. If we adopt a smart reporting, as we have been doing in the last year, we create visibility for donor's contribution, which, at the end of the day, is also linked to reporting that you have to do for Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) DAC Codes for your needs. I think we have improved on that side, which makes the flexible mechanism of non-earmarked funding extremely positive.

I want to give you one image, this kind of flexible mechanism, if you look at FAO like a tree and the branches are the voluntary contribution approaches, and the tree is the Regular Programme, well, we need to reinforce the tree. We need to make it more robust and this kind of flexible mechanism is exactly what we need to make the tree stronger and more robust for the future.

CHAIRPERSON

There were some Human Resources issues that were raised, so I will give the floor to Mr Basharat.

Mr Basharat ALI (Director a.i., Office of the Human Resources)

I would like to thank the delegations for the comments they have made and we have taken good note of the Report of the Finance Committee and the recommendations made by the Finance Committee. In addition to that, the comments that were made here, for example, mention is made of the date in the Action Plan with specific timelines to improve Human Resources Management, reference has been made with the External Auditor's recommendations and the Office of the Inspector-General's (OIG) recommendations. We have taken note of this and we are starting to work on this one, so that by the next Finance Committee in May, we should be able to report back to you on the progress we have made on these issues.

With regard to some specific matters. I believe that information has already been provided to the Council, but I will repeat it because I was not here during the entire Council, that an Employee Survey process has already been initiated. We call it so even though the term used in the reports was "Staff Survey", as some other organizations, in particular WFP, has done an Employee Survey in which Non-Staff Human Resources were also included. In fact the Non-Staff Human Resources are a much larger group of resources here for FAO than the Staff. Therefore, it will be an Employee Survey. We are conducting the survey with an external company, which also assisted the United Nations Secretariat, as well as, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in conducting their survey and in preparing the questionnaire. We took good note of the questions used by WFP, UNDP, United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations Agencies and both the Professional and General Service Staff Unions were adequately consulted and their recommendations were duly taken into account in preparing this.

We are hoping that the Employee Survey will be launched officially and that questionnaires will be sent to all employees of the Organization around 16 December and because of the holiday period we will give them more time, till around 7 February, to come back, so that everybody can participate. We hope to get an analysis of the result by the end of March or early April.

With regards to the delegation of authority, this is currently being prepared. My Senior colleagues here are well aware of this, that it is now in the last clearance process, and this delegation of authority will cover not only Human Resources, but also the different aspects of Human Resources are covered, but beyond that it will also cover some other areas of importance.

I also wish to say that on Non-Staff Human Resources, the process and procedures have been updated already and this will be launched early next year, in January, because we are in the process of bringing in changes to the manual sections, guidelines, and etcetera, so, that is why it is taking a little bit of time, even though it was approved some time back. However, the implementation will be from the beginning of January. We are also reviving the General Service Recruitment processes and will follow up with Professional recruitment processes soon in consultation with Senior Managers, and the approval that is required will go with them. We will also be consulting on that with the Staff Unions.

The vacancy announcement for the Inspector-General has already been issued, and the Ethics Officer recruitment process is ongoing and has almost been finalized. Mobility Programme for next year will not be launched. We will wait for the report of the Office of the Inspector-General (OIG), and that is more or less that I will say.

Most importantly, we have taken note of your recommendations and your guidance, and we will implement them as best as we can and report back to you in due course.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Directeur général adjoint, Opérations)

J'ai oublié de réagir aux commentaires du Burkina Faso sur le problème du retard de la distribution des documents. Je voudrais rassurer le Burkina Faso que nous essayons vraiment d'améliorer, comme je l'ai mentionné lors d'une précédente session. En termes de performance pour la distribution des documents, cette session du Conseil a été la meilleure, mais ce n'est pas suffisant. Vous vous référez au document sur « *L'état des contributions courantes et des arriérés au 28 novembre 2019* ». Ce rapport n'est même sorti en anglais que le 28 novembre. C'est une explication partielle, mais il s'agit d'un document dont nous retardons la publication au plus tard, pour pouvoir fournir les dernières informations. Je n'essaye pas de trouver des excuses, mais c'est une des raisons du retard pour ce document spécifique. Nous avons toutefois pris bonne note.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings to an end our list of speakers and the Secretariat's responses. I can try and summarize our discussions on this Agenda Item.

Item 6: Reports of the 176th, 177th and 178th Sessions of the Finance Committee.

1. The Council approved the Reports of the 176th, 177th and 178th Session of the Finance Committee and, in particular:

a) Noting the financial position of the Organization, urged all Member Nations to make payment of assessed contributions on time and in full.

b) Recommended the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO, Audited Accounts 2018, as presented in paragraph 11 of document *CL 163/5*.

c) Welcomed the improvements in Human Resources Management under the new FAO administration, appreciating the significant increase in staff morale as well as progress in equitable geographic representation and gender balance and urged further efforts, especially in respect of delegation of authority, vacancy rates, gender parity at Senior level and recruitment processes, emphasized the need for professional leadership and capacity within the Office for Human Resources and looked forward to completion of the 2019 Staff Satisfaction Survey, as well as an Human Resources (HR) Action Plan, the timelines and results to be achieved to improve FAO's HR Management.

d) Noted the additional information on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), welcomed the confirmation of full implementation of the 2016–17 TCP appropriation by 31 December 2019 and looked forward to receiving regular reports on the TCP in future, as well as an overall evaluation of the TCP in 2020.

e) Endorsed the Committee's guidance provided on oversight matters, including with regard to significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the Audit Committee and the External Auditor and requested that Management implement the outstanding recommendations.

f) Emphasized the importance of the independence of the Office of the Inspector-General, welcomed the progress on recruitment of a new Inspector-General, noted the need for adequate funding of the Office of Inspector-General and looked forward to reviewing the revised charter for the Office.

That is the summary of our discussions and it is on the screen. Any comments?

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

Sorry, that was an error, my bag was on the button, thanks. You will probably hear from me later, do not worry.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

On Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), we would like to see the mentioning of a comprehensive review. Yes, in fact it was comprehensive review on TCP implementation.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Can you please scroll up a bit more to (c), so that we can see the beginning? While generally agreeing, I think it is still very early days, and that is what I also said in the Finance Committee Meeting. There are a lot of aspirations, good intentions, we acknowledge this, we welcome this, but walk the talk. Then we will certainly applaud the Management for implementing all these good intentions and aspirations. Therefore, to "Welcome the improvement in Human Resource Management", I think this is jumping the gun. I think we need to rephrase that a bit to take these concerns into account. The changes look much better, yes.

My second point is on paragraph (d). I would like to propose to add, at the end, some wording along the lines that you proposed, where we could continue, "and requested that the TCP funds that are due to be allocated in 2020–21, are allocated to projects that directly support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets in the recipient countries."

CHAIRPERSON

Before we move to the next paragraph, if I could gauge the reaction of Members, whether these amendments are okay with them and then we can move on. Otherwise, we may have too many subsequent paragraphs, and then we have to go paragraph by paragraph.

Therefore I prefer to see if there is an agreement as we go along.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I think we are not in a position to accept the proposal by my colleague from Germany, so I would like to maintain your proposal here and just to add, after Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in 2020 "to be presented also to the Finance and Programme Committees".

I want to put the proposal by my colleague from Germany between brackets. We cannot accept this.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

My delegation also does not recall that the Council engaged in a discussion that would lead to such a conclusion and I am referring to what Egypt mentioned about Germany's proposal. As a Council my delegation simply did not hear a discussion that would get us there.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

On this issue, similar to the previous two interventions, I think we would have reservations and we may need to further discuss this because it is a bit prescriptive to say that Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) allocations be just directed or be allocated to projects that directly support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets. That is why it might be a bit restricting for the coverage of TCP. That is the first point.

The second point is also to support Egypt's addition that this evaluation be presented to the Finance and Programme Committees at its next meeting.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

Chairperson, are you trying to take just Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) first? I have comments on the human resources paragraph, but I can hold until we finish TCP if that would be best.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would very much support the German proposal and perhaps I could explain why.

As we have learned, the funds that will be allocated in 2020 and 2021 will actually only be implemented in 2022 and 2023. By that point FAO will have a new Strategic Framework in place, as we have just discussed. That is due to be approved in the 2021 Conference.

At that point, I think it is important to think about how those funds are going to be allocated and they should not really be allocated according to the current Strategic Framework because, by the time those funds are spent, we will be in a new Strategic Framework. Therefore, we do not know what the new Strategic Framework looks like, but we have just agreed, in our previous item, that that should be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Perhaps here we could find a form of language that ensures that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) funds that are due to be allocated are allocated to projects that support the SDGs because that is going to be a key focus for the next Strategic Framework and that is the rationale. I think that is why it would be useful to have this, so that we do not have a whole bunch of projects in 2022 and 2023 that are aligned with the Strategic Framework that is then out of date.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Le Congo voulait faire une observation et pense que même si les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) ont été définis récemment, les projets du Programme de coopération technique (PCT) soutenaient déjà les ODD. Ces projets en effet sont mis une œuvre pour éliminer la faim, je considère donc qu'ils soutiennent déjà les ODD, même si auparavant il s'agissait des Objectif du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD). Si à présent les projets du PCT doivent être orientés sur l'ODD numéro 2, on se trompe parce que pour réaliser l'ODD numéro 2, il faut avoir une approche holistique. Il n'est pas possible de dire qu'on réalise ces projets du PCT pour l'ODD numéro 2. C'étaient là mes trois observations.

Le Congo soutient donc pleinement le raisonnement de l'Égypte, de la République dominicaine, des Philippines, qui sont cohérents, dans ce sens que lorsqu'on parle de l'ODD numéro 2, il est holistique, il y a plusieurs actions à mener. Sinon c'est mettre la charrue avant les bœufs. Évaluons d'abord les projets PCT; cette évaluation va nous permettre de cibler quelles sont les faiblesses et les points forts, et à ce moment-là, on verra comment orienter les financements. Mais on ne peut pas demander quelque chose avant qu'il y ait une évaluation. Voilà, Monsieur le Président, le raisonnement du Congo. Nous revenons donc à votre point de départ, qui était plus cohérent, équilibré et pertinent par rapport au mandat de l'Organisation qui est d'éliminer la faim.

Sr. Benito JIMINEZ SAUMA (Mexico)

Creo que la propuesta de Alemania sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT)complica un poco el texto y no estamos en disposición de apoyarla ahora. Hay varias razones para ello: una es que, a veces las actividades bajo el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) no necesariamente van relacionadas directamente con el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 2. Como saben, la FAO se relaciona con varios ODS. La otra: es que, como dice mi experta, la funcionaria de capital,al menos en el caso de México,los recursos que se usan para el PCT son para proyectos no solo en México sino subregionales y son actividades que la propia Secretaría, la propia FAO escoge. No es una decisión del gobierno nacional porque es entre varios países.

Otra razón: se ha mencionado que el próximo marco estratégico podrá dar una orientación distinta al PCT. Tal vez, no lo sabemos. El próximo marco estratégico se aprobaría, sintiendo bien, hasta la Conferencia en 2021. Es decir, hasta el final del ciclo presupuestal que estamos hablando, por lo cual no tiene sentido amarrar y ligarlo con el marco estratégico; un marco estratégico que no conocemos,

que no sabemos qué va a contener y que se va a aprobar hasta, prácticamente, en dos años. Por esta y otras razones quisiera regresar al texto original.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

My proposal would have been to put the word “mainly”, “mainly the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 target” and rationalize that we all very likely to agree that SDG 2 has a special importance for FAO and that it could be mentioned there.

Mr Rodrigo ESTRELA DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I would like to add my voice to my colleague from Mexico. This would bring us to a new discussion that we did not have in the Council and I do not remember if we had this discussion on the Finance Committee either. It would create a long discussion on the relationship among different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this would be very difficult to go along with this proposal by Germany.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I would support all of the previous interventions and I just want to remind Members of the Council that if we accept the proposal of Germany, we would have to change the name of Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, to Crisis Response Programme and also take around 20 percent of the work of FAO in supporting developing countries, and take it to WFP.

Therefore, we cannot accept any more and if my colleagues want to add something related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), I would propose here, we can add, “taking into consideration the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programmes appropriation in achieving SDGs.” This is consistent with the Resolution of the Conference and also the decision of the last Council.

M. Zinedine YAHIAOUI (Algérie)

Pour ma part, je me joins à la proposition du collègue du Congo. Il me semble que celle du collègue de l'Allemagne mérite plus de précisions parce qu'il est vrai que l'objectif de développement durable (ODD) 2 est important, mais axer ou limiter le Programme de coopération technique (PCT) uniquement à l'ODD 2 nous semble une incohérence par rapport à tous les objectifs de la FAO, à ses programmes pluriannuels et aux programmes des comités techniques. Il faudrait donc plus de précisions sur la proposition du collègue de l'Allemagne.

CHAIRPERSON

Since all speakers have been addressing the German proposal, perhaps I can give the floor to Germany before the other speakers to see if we can come to some sort of an arrangement?

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Realistically, we are not sharing the views expressed, but we do not want to prolong this discussion. Indeed, delete all that. We will come back on this issue certainly on another occasion, but I understand this is not mature for the time being, so we keep it as it stands now.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I have been watching football all this time and the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has surprised me all the time and I was asking myself whether it is not something that we should continue to look at. The last match of Inter Milan last week was a terrible match with VAR coming up all the time. People are not yet used to VAR. You remember what has happened at the African Cup, which was not finalized because of the VAR?

We are not yet prepared to go beyond the criteria eligibility for Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). That is what I mean, we are not yet ready for that and I really thank Germany to have come back to a realistic proposal, but I still think that everything that is in red should be deleted. That is, the original proposal is the best.

We have never taken that shot in the Council without it passing through the Finance and Programme Committees, so repeating it does not add value. It adds text, but does not add value, in my view. I tend

not to accept very much the idea of a comprehensive review. What is a comprehensive review of TCP implementation? I am still very inquisitive to find out what is behind that.

I will prefer to have and look forward to receiving regular report on TCP in the future, as well as an overall evaluation of TCP in 2020.' We know what is, what could be an evaluation, but a review of TCP implementation, I do not know what it is, what it covers. Therefore if I may suggest that we delete, "comprehensive review on TCP implementation," and also, "to be presented to the Council through the Finance and..." This is an addition that I think we can still live without.

CHAIRPERSON

The question of presentation to the Council, through the Finance and Programme Committees, would happen with the evaluation because the Council is requesting the evaluations, therefore it would come there. The comprehensive review of TCP implementation, Finland it was your proposal, could you elaborate on it?

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

With all the respect for Cameroon's comment, but I really do not see any risk on knowing more about this project and I do not think we have anything hidden behind this term. It is really simply to understand better and have a really comprehensive review. We do not see any hidden thinking behind this. It is just to analyze this and to understand the impacts of these projects.

CHAIRPERSON

If we were to say review, would that not be comprehensive? If it is not, then it is not a proper review. We can drop "comprehensive." Are we okay with this wording? Could we go forward with this wording?

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

You were about to bring your gavel down, but I have the same question as Cameroon.

We are having a review on Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) implementation and we are having an overall evaluation of the TCP. Will they overlap, will they be two different things? Who is doing one and the other? Will we discuss them in separate items or altogether? I have all these questions, but if you were going to bring down the gavel right here, right now, I am okay with that. However, I am extremely confused and I am going to have a hard time explaining to my bosses what I have just been explained.

CHAIRPERSON

I take your point, Dominican Republic. If it is an oral review or overall evaluation, surely it would have aspects or comments on implementation as well?

First Cameroon and then United Kingdom.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)

I heard what Finland has to say, but let us deal with one thing, and I want to quote Director General, Qu Dongyu; "one thing at a time". He said it here, so let us deal with one thing at a time. If we want an overall evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), let us go for that. We cannot have the review at the same time because I do not know what is behind that review. It is probably after the evaluation that we might know if there is a need for the review of the implementation. Unless my English, which I think is not bad, is muddling me, I prefer one thing at a time, as well as an overall evaluation of the TCP in 2020.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

I have a proposal on the way forward here. Can I suggest that we look forward to receiving regular reviews of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) implementation as well as an overall evaluation of the TCP in 2020?

I think the difference between a review and an evaluation is that the review is undertaken by Management and the evaluation is undertaken independently and the regular review is something that

we would hopefully get every year or every biennium and an evaluation would be much less frequent. I think that is the distinction here.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I just want to clarify something, we are speaking about two things here. During our deliberation in the Finance Committee, we asked for more information about the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). This should be a part of the financial position of the Organization, provided to the Finance Committee. This is one thing.

The second, is the review or the evaluation of the TCP. This is what the decision or the Resolution of the Conference. We are speaking about two things. We need the TCP implementation report to be an integral part of the financial position of the Organization that is always presented to the Finance Committee. This is one thing and we already accept where we need to have this on a regular basis. The second, we are speaking about something else, the evaluation that the Office of Evaluation started in September and we are expecting to receive the finding of this evaluation in the autumn of 2020 as they mentioned or indicated in their information note.

CHAIRPERSON

Considering that, since it is a Conference decision, do we need to reflect it here? Since it is already happening, the evaluation aspect. Then we just refer to the implementation, like the Finance Committee has wanted. Otherwise it sounds as if the Council has an original idea and is requesting an overall evaluation, when it seems to be already in process as a result of the Conference's decision.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

I think the bottom line here is that everybody is looking for further information on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), on the Programmes, through the evaluation and through monitoring. I pulled up the Report from our last significant Council, where we discussed this at the 161st Session of the FAO Council and the language we used at that time was, "requested a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation review of TCP implementation".

I think that that language captures better than just the evaluation of TCP. Some of the issues that we are talking about, about needing to address the general evaluation of implementation, but also monitoring this over time.

My suggestion, in terms of language, would be to leave the first part of that clause, to move the second part, "acknowledging the overall evaluation" to a separate paragraph, to acknowledge that it is distinct from the full implementation of the 2016 and 2017 appropriations and notes that the Finance Committee, along with the Programme Committee, look forward to reviewing the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of review of TCP implementation in the coming year, as Management has committed to. This would now be ready in 2020.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

On the first part, with the original, I am happy for it to say, "as part of the reports on the financial position of the Organization". I do not want it to be just a Report on expenditure, I think we are looking for a Report on performance as well. I hope that that is clear in that language because it is not just about the financial implementation, it is about performance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Perhaps on the last paragraph, I am happy for the evaluation to be referred to in a separate paragraph. I think the language might just need a little bit of polishing there.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I have a proposal here in paragraph (d), "and looked forward to receiving regular information" instead of "reviews" because we already have a review or evaluation. "Regular information on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) implementation in future reports of the financial position of the Organization." This Item already welcomes the information we received during our deliberation of the Finance Committee and we need to maintain receiving this information on TCP implementation, on

the financial position reports of the Organization presented to the Finance Committee. I would also like to mention here, “on the Finance Committee”.

In paragraph (e), “looks forward to reviewing the comprehensive monitoring and implementation evaluation on TCP.” I would also like to add, “to be presented to the Council through Finance and Programme Committees.”

CHAIRPERSON

Is that not understood? If the Council is looking forward to a Report, will it not come through one of the Committees because Finance and Programme Committees are Committees of the Council? Therefore, anything which comes to the Council has the review of those Committees. Is it not understood?

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I presented here the Finance Committee because the *Information Note* that we received it only mentioned that this evaluation Report will be presented to the Programme Committee, only. I would also like both Committees to discuss this evaluation Report.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

Can we just move up to paragraph (d) again? Where it says, “looked forward to receiving regular information on Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) implementation in future,” can we put, “implementation and performance.”? We would be content with that paragraph as is.

Then I think, if we had that in paragraph (d), then when we get to paragraph (e), we could perhaps just say, “looks forward to reviewing the comprehensive evaluation,” and delete, “monitoring and implementation”, because the monitoring would be covered by the point above.

CHAIRPERSON

May we go forward with this paragraph as amended? I think yes, so that paragraph is agreed. We move on.

I think we had agreed to one paragraph but the United States of America had some comment on the paragraph dealing with the Human Resources.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

If we could go up to (c), noting Germany’s comments earlier that this was quite strongly worded, I think one of the notes that came out is that we are all looking forward to hearing the new FAO Management’s approach and vision for Human Resources Management. I think what we want to acknowledge is that we welcome FAO Management’s commitment to reviewing the Organization’s Human Resource Policy and look forward to reviewing it as it is spelled out in the Action Plan and other Items. As such, I would like to change the first clause there. Instead of saying, “welcomed the improved approach”, “welcomed FAO’s Management’s commitment to review FAO’s Human Resources Management.”

In addition, in that same paragraph, the line on significant increase in staff morale. This is one of the reasons that we have looked forward to seeing the Staff Satisfaction Survey and the employee surveys. Right now, all there are are anecdotes and that is not really something that we are able to affirm at this stage and so what we would prefer is to delete the section on “appreciation the significant increase in staff morale” until we have some more information to back up these claims.

I think we all acknowledge that there has been a change in FAO, but the new policy and all of the new details are not spelled out yet and this is something that we are looking forward to reviewing, as I think the rest of this paragraph duly notes, with the Human Resources (HR) Action Plan. We very much welcome Management’s commitment to reviewing these policies, but we do not want to get ahead of what these new policies are, since they are still something that has not even been implemented yet. I also will have further comments on paragraph (f), but I am happy to do those now or wait as you prefer.

CHAIRPERSON

Can we move forward with this paragraph as amended?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Are we removing the idea of “appreciating the increase in the staff morale”? Are we removing that? We will be listening to the Staff Association on Friday, can we keep that in brackets until we listen to the staff association? We may be enlightened by that, whether we should continue with it or not.

CHAIRPERSON

We have a suggestion from Cameroon. With that suggestion, may we move forward, with the question of staff morale in brackets?

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

In the interest of avoiding brackets going in, would something about “appreciated FAO Management’s commitment to improving staff morale” be something that we might all be able to accept now, so that we can move it forward without brackets? I think we all have appreciated FAO Management’s commitment, it is just too early for us to affirm that commitment, since we have not heard officially on that.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

We support the proposal from my colleague from the United States of America. I think this is what we already discussed in the Finance Committee, and the Committee already expressed its welcome or its appreciation of the commitment of FAO Management to review the Organization’s Human Resources management and also increasing staff morale.

I have a problem with the second part of this paragraph, “as well as progress on equitable geographical representation and gender balance”, it is not clear. I would like to see that “there are efforts”, something like that, “to continue to improve the equitable geographical representation and gender balance” and also I did not hear anything about the consultants. I think we have a conclusion and the Report of the Finance Committee should also be brought here and my delegation has already mentioned in this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

To be honest, we did not discuss all these issues during our deliberation in the Finance Committee as there is, with all respect to Mr Basharat Ali, the Director of the Office of Human Resources, and we thank him for the information we received during our deliberation in the Finance Committee, but, during our deliberations, will stay to discuss these issues with the new Director of Human Resources (HR). I need to get this language reflected here, so we can build on it when we have the new Director of HR.

CHAIRPERSON

Now, the amended version is the “commitment” again, so it is “Management’s commitment on equitable geographic representation and gender balance”. So, there is the commitment and then there is one, two, and three. So, it is “Management’s commitment”, it has not happened.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

If we add here “improving” or “achieving”, something like that. But, as equitable geographic representation, it is not clear for me.

CHAIRPERSON

It is the commitment to improve.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

No, Mr Chair, and we are coming back to the discussion we have had in the Finance Committee. At the time I was making the colleagues aware that, on equitable geographic representation, we are doing more than well.

We have a Key Performance Indicator that is set at 75 percent, so 75 percent of all countries should be equitably represented and if I remember well, we have been outperforming this now for several years. I think we are close to 90 percent, so it simply does not make sense to speak about improving equitable representation. We are outperforming the Key Performance Indicator and I do not want to go into all these details, when it has been set at 75 percent for a good reason, and not at 90 percent. I think that what we say here has to make sense, and again there is no need to put effort in further improvement of geographic distribution when we greatly outperform the Key Performance Indicator. We have to be faithful to what we have decided as Members and we decided on the key performance indicator.

CHAIRPERSON

In view of your intervention, perhaps the original wording, as well as the progress, because that was more positive, it was referring to the progress. Therefore, now it says, “appreciated the progress”.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

I still think it becomes a bit weird, “progress gender balance”. What we are talking about is that we have seen an overall increase, but at the Senior level there remains a lot to be done. It is a bit misleading if we appreciate the current situation, we do not, and there was no progress, so I would prefer to get rid of all this.

“We welcome the Management’s commitment to reviewing the Human Resources Management, including staff morale.”, and then, as I said, walk the talk and then we will have ample opportunities to appreciate, to commend, Management on its achievements, but all this it is too early.

We are certainly appreciative of the commitment to change Human Resources Management because it is in really troubled waters, but these are early days. As I said, walk the talk and then we will have a proper discussion on the results.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ESHAHAT (Egypt)

I think there is no harm for the Council to recommend the Management to continue to improve the equitable geographical representation. We can call here the guidance or the decision of the last Council Session to continue to urge or encourage the Management to continue its efforts to improve.

I think there is no harm here. There is always room for improvement for anything and this is a very important issue for all the Regional Groups. We need to always enhance or improve the geographical representation of staff. There is no harm here. We insist to have some language in this paragraph.

M. Lamourdia THIOMBIANO (Burkina Faso)

Je voulais juste dire que même s’il y a des progrès qui ont été fait, de l’ordre de 115 pour cent pour la répartition géographique, il y a toujours de l’espace pour améliorer. Donc, la dernière proposition, « a further effort for geographical representation », pour moi, c’est bon, parce qu’il faut encore consolider et faire des efforts plus osés, surtout sur la représentation géographique.

CHAIRPERSON

We have deleted the reference to geographic representation and gender balance.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

I can live with that. Maybe the Director *ad interim* of the Office of Human Resources can enlighten us on how many countries are under or not represented of the Council Members here. Again, colleagues, we have to be faithful to our own decisions. We have set a Key Performance Indicator that is greatly outperformed and, again, this Key Performance Indicator was set at that level for good reasons, so I can agree to that text.

CHAIRPERSON

If the Key Performance Indicator has been surpassed, is that not progress?

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Mr Chairperson, that depends on who was recruited and we know how Human Resources were dealt with in the last years and I think we have reasons to believe that quality and merit, were not always at the top of the criteria.

I say this based on the review that was carried out by the Inspector-General on the recruitment and onboarding of Professional staff. In this review, the Inspector-General carried out a survey with Hiring Managers and, as a result, 65 percent of the Hiring Managers said that they had not recruited the person that was the most appropriate for the position and this is what it all boils down to. Therefore, what matters is merit in the first place and if you have two or three equally qualified candidates based on merit, then additional considerations, such as geographical representation and gender can come in. It is not that I invent this, I refer to the review of the Inspector-General.

CHAIRPERSON

We have made another amendment about maintaining merit as the primordial criterion. With this caveat and the amendment we have deleted, is the wording acceptable the way it is not on the screen?

I think what is also confusing, is all these track changes. May I ask to remove the track changes, so you have a clean looking paragraph, and then you can decide whether you agree or not.

We are already nearing 21:00 and we were supposed to work until 20:00.

How does paragraph (c) sound to you without the tracks?

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

Thank you for the Secretariat for moving geographic representation and gender parity.

I agree with the comments made by my colleagues on the importance of keeping it in the text in some way. This is an issue that has not been addressed. For example, if we are talking about gender parity at the Senior levels, you are talking in the 20 percent range. That is not acceptable and improving and continuing to work on this is something that FAO can and should be working on.

The same with geographic representation. We may be over the target rate, but if you are one of the ones who is underrepresented, and my country currently is that, it is a political problem back at home for some of us and so, FAO continuing to make progress on those issues is important to all of us collectively in ensuring FAO.

I think the language, as it has been moved, keeps these issues in here, it keeps the primary recruitment criteria of merit listed. That is something that we have regularly reaffirmed throughout the deliberations, both in the Finance Committee and today, but it is important to have this balance in the text that comes out today. I thank the Secretariat for moving the language in there, but still keeping the intent of continuing to make progress on these issues over time.

M. Lamourdia THIOMBIANO (Burkina Faso)

Je pense que la formulation actuelle est bonne, c'est un bon consensus, mais comme on l'a dit, il est vraiment important de maintenir l'objectif, de progresser ou consolider au niveau de la répartition géographique. Il est sous-entendu que c'est sur la base de la performance, mais des efforts doivent être faits en ce sens.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

Just to also go along with your current proposal in what was written now in paragraph (c). I think it also captures structurally the elements that would be needed in this paragraph, because there are three parts; welcoming Management's commitment, urging efforts on areas that need further work, and looking forward to the completion of the other measures that need to be done.

It is also important, or at least balanced, that as mentioned by the United States of America, areas like geographic representation which are important to many countries, even if we are presently equitably represented, it would be good to maintain it or even improve it, because we have not filled the maximum slots that we are given.

The issue of geographic representation improvement is not only measured by the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and, if we are consistently over the target, we may need to review the target itself, and that would maybe be one improvement. At the same time, considering the quality of those who are being recruited would be another point for improvement. As it is now, I think it is acceptable in a complete paragraph and we support that.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

I do not agree 100 percent happy, but I am ready to join the consensus. However, I am prepared to do so if we change the word “urged” to read “encouraged” as was used in the Finance Committee. With this change I would be willing to go along with the text.

CHAIRPERSON

Egypt, can we agree on this wording?

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

When we took the floor to intervene on this paragraph, we also asked for language about the geographic balance for consultants. We do not see this here, but I think the language right now is much better. In seeking consensus we can accept it, but I think we need to address the issue raised by my colleague from Burkina Faso, especially in respect of delegation of authority in connection to the vacancy rates issue. We need to put something before geographic representation and I would like to seek clarification from the Secretariat about the difference between the geographic representation or the geographic distribution of staff. What is the difference between both, because we always used to differentiate between consultants and staff? We use geographic distribution of staff and geographic balance of consultants, so I seek clarification from the Secretariat first, then we will see.

Mr Basharat ALI (Director a.i., Office of Human Resources)

I will try to explain. My understanding is that geographic balance of consultants is the terminology used by the Governing Bodies. Geographic representation of staff from Member Countries is a terminology used by our Governing Bodies and those of other organizations.

There is a difference, when you say geographic distribution, there is a definite number of equitable geographic range, but in the case of consultants we do not have such a numerical range. That is the basic difference I would say.

CHAIRPERSON

I think all this is going to be done, that is the Action Plan and with the new Director of Human Resources, all these processes are going to change.

I would recommend that we agree on this paragraph and move on.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Regarding the argument brought up by Germany to move from “urge” to “encouraged” because the word was used in the Finance Committee, I would recall that the Finance Committee is an advisory body to the Council and specifically on this matter, it does not take decisions. Therefore, Council has the power to change the wording if it feels that the wording used by the advisory body is not strong enough. I tend to believe that the Council here has to “urge” the Secretariat to do something, not “encourage”. Although it may now be a point of contention now I would prefer the word “urged”.

Mr Chairperson, as I want to follow your advice to move on, maybe this could be dealt by the Drafting Committee. These two words “urged/encouraged” could be left to the Drafting Committee to find out what the most appropriate word would be.

CHAIRPERSON

Therefore, reading the paragraph with the word “urge”, it reads: “urged further efforts in respect of delegation of authority”.

What is wrong with that? Urging FAO about delegation of authority? In fact, if it was up to me, I would even use a stronger word. For the past 50 years, FAO has had no delegation of authority, so what is wrong with saying “urged for the delegation of authority” or “urged the vacancy rate”?

In every meeting I have heard Members complain about the vacancy rates, or talk about geographic distribution and gender balance, so what is the harm in saying, “we urge the Organization to address these issues”? I do not understand what the objection is to the word “urge”. I have been here for a long time and have found delegation of authority only between 1969 and 1975. Since then, there has been centralization. Therefore, I would even use a stronger word than “urge”, to bring the Organization back to best practices.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

It would be fine if we stopped there; “urged to bring the Organization back to best practices.” If that is agreeable that would work with me, but it makes a difference.

It is good that you read it out. For me it does not make sense, neither to “urge” nor “encourage vacancy rates”, what does that mean? I mean “to decrease”, but “to urge a vacancy rate” what does that mean? It does not make sense.

I “urge geographical representation”, maybe “efforts on vacancy rates”, I mean this needs to be qualified and the whole mess we are in now is because the geographical representation was moved under this encouragement part. That is where it all stems from. Therefore, I might wish to urge my colleague from Cameroon. I have given in on a lot of things here to come along and accept “encouraging”, and then I think still, on vacancy rates, we need a qualifier because otherwise it does not make sense, what we are saying here. “To decrease vacancy rates”, we had more than 20 percent of vacant posts, I think, in the decentralized structure of vacant posts, “decrease”, you do not want “to decrease”. As it stands, it does not make sense.

Mr Hautham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I support my colleague from Cameroon. It is better to use the word “urge” here instead of “encourage” and I would go along with your proposals.

CHAIRPERSON

The addition of these words, “improving”, “reducing”, “introducing”.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I understand that our colleague from Germany can live with “urge” if we qualify some of the items in the paragraph that you have proposed, meaning that now it can read, “urged further efforts in reducing vacancy rates, improving geographic representation, introducing more transparency”. That is how it reads now, then we go along with it.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

We would just like to propose something simpler. Instead of introducing a lot of words, maybe we could just replace “efforts” with “improvements”. Therefore, “we urge further improvements, especially in respect of delegation of authority, vacancy rates, geographic representation and gender parity”, and so on, instead of qualifying each of the elements there.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

“Improve efforts in respect of vacancy rates”, there still needs to be a qualifier. What does that mean? To make a long story short, keep it as it is with “urged”. I am ready to reluctantly accept this. Not to prolong this, we will judge Management on the results achieved. Reluctantly I agree, but keep it as it stands.

CHAIRPERSON

So, we keep “urge” and we will keep these qualifiers which we have introduced: “reducing”, “improving” and “introducing” because that is what some other Members have consented to.

We have agreed on paragraph (c) and paragraph (d). Can we move to the next?

Paragraph (e), we have done.

Paragraph (f)? No comments, so that is fine.

Paragraph (g)?

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

On paragraph (g), we should insert after “adequate funding”, the words “within existing resources”.

CHAIRPERSON

United States, did you have any comments on paragraph (g)?

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

We wanted to also add, “within existing resources”, and the other point we wanted to note was “in order to address its increased workload”, perhaps after “Office of Inspector–General” (OIG).

CHAIRPERSON

We have reached the end. We can pass this on to the Drafting Committee.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I would like to be guided here. There is a budget for the Office of the Inspector–General (OIG) and you noted that there is a need for adequate funding for the OIG. How could the adequate funding be dealt with, within existing resources in order to address this increased workload? If the sentence remains like this, it sounds as if we were trying to approve something for the OIG, while knowing perfectly that it will not be available. That is my understanding of this sentence.

CHAIRPERSON

No, what was meant is within existing Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) resources because you cannot increase the budget level. Therefore, it is within the existing budget level, as it were.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

In order to address its increased workload? Then that is where the question is.

CHAIRPERSON

To make savings or transfer funds from some another source, but they cannot go above the budget level. That is within the approved Programme of Work and Budget. We have to shift resources from somewhere else or make savings from somewhere else to give it to the Inspector–General, within the budget resources. I agree, when you read it first it was within existing resources, we just added the reference to the PWB.

I think we have agreed now, so I will close this quickly before someone else comes with some other ideas.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

It is 21.00, we need to adjourn. We are still behind schedule, but we will take the other Items in the morning. Hopefully, they will be quicker. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 21:07 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.07

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 December 2019

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:45 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 13. World Food Programme
Point 13. Programme alimentaire mondial
Tema 13. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

Item 13.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board
Point 13.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM
Tema 13.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA
 (CL 163/7 Rev.1; CL 163/LIM/4)

Item 13.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018
Point 13.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2018
Tema 13.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2018
 (CL 163/8)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order. We will start this morning's Session with *Item 13* which concerns World Food Programme (WFP) matters.

Under Sub-Item 13.1 the Council is requested to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are *CL 163/7 Rev.1* and *CL 163/LIM/4*.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat Members: Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary to the WFP Executive Board; and Ms Natasha Nadazdin, Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, Performance Management and Reporting Division.

I will now give an update on the candidates listed in document *CL 163/LIM/4*.

For List A there are two candidates for two seats: Angola and Somalia

For List B, there is one candidate for one seat: Saudi Arabia

For List C, there are two candidates for one seat: Argentina and Dominican Republic

For List D there are two candidates for two seats: Canada and Germany

With regards to List C, where there are two candidates for one seat, I wish to inform Members that the Secretariat has received notification of an agreement reached within the List. The agreement would be as follows: Argentina will serve on the WFP Executive Board from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020. Dominican Republic will then replace Argentina for the remainder of the mandate from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2022. Can I take it that the Council approves this arrangement?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the Coordinator for List A regarding an agreement that has been reached in the list A on the sharing of terms of office. As a result of the agreement mentioned in document *CL 163/LIM/4*, Angola and South Africa will share a seat for the period 2020–2022. Angola will occupy the seat from 1 January 2020 to the end of 2021 and South Africa will occupy the seat for the year 2022.

I should also like to draw your attention to correspondence from List D Coordinator regarding

agreements that have been reached in that list on the sharing of terms of office. As a result of the agreement mentioned in *Appendix B* of document *CL 163/7 Rev. 1*, the Council is requested to take note that Belgium will step down on 31 December 2019 from List D seat due to expire on 31 December 2020 in favour of Denmark. The Council is also requested to take note that Ireland will step down on 31 December 2019 from the List D seat due to expire on 31 December 2020 in favour of Norway.

Can I take it that the Council agrees with these arrangements?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I wish to congratulate all the newly-elected WFP Executive Board Members and wish them well for the work that lies ahead of them.

We now move on to Item 13.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018*. The document before you is *CL 163/8*. Please ensure that you have this document before you.

I will now pass the floor to Natasha Nadazdin from WFP, to introduce this Item.

Ms Natasha NADAZDIN (Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, Performance Management and Reporting Division, WFP)

First of all, allow me to thank you for keeping the World Food Programme (WFP) Agenda Item this morning as per the original timetable because I understand that the discussions have been a little bit behind schedule.

I am pleased to present to you WFP's 2018 Annual Performance Report. The document is a result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders including the Executive Board (EB) Membership, which helped us to refine and structure the Report and give every piece of evidence on our performance in 2018. Please allow me to start by saying 2018 marked a year during which WFP was able to make a significant contribution to changing peoples' lives despite an extremely complex humanitarian landscape.

To better understand the context in which we operated, I would like to take you through some of our key financial figures. We increased our contribution revenue by 20 percent from USD 6 billion in 2017 to a record USD 7.2 billion in 2018. However, the funding gap continued to stand at USD 2.8 billion. This inevitably led us to suspend or reduce the breadth or scope of our operations.

While the growth in contribution revenue was critical for meeting increasing needs, there was a disproportionate concentration in both the source and the allocation of funding. In 2018, the top ten donors accounted for almost 85 percent of contribution revenue, highlighting WFP's increasing reliance on its key donors. In fact, more than half of WFP's funding was allocated to Level 3 emergency responses in Yemen, South Sudan and the Syria+ region. In addition, while the absolute amount of flexible funding represented a 9 percent increase from 2017, flexible funding remained at 6 percent of total funding, continuing a trend that has seen the share of flexible contributions decrease.

Looking at our programme highlights, 2018 is the first year in which all WFP operations were fully aligned to the Corporate Results Framework, the duration of which is 2017–2021. This supported us to build an evidence base for performance at the corporate level. In the Annual Performance Report, programme results from the annual country reports are aggregated up to the corporate level. Consolidated WFP-wide performance is then presented in terms of its contribution to the five Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objective 1, "End hunger by protecting access to food", lies at the core of WFP's work as it represents the majority of WFP's engagement in emergency response and safety nets. At the corporate level, the seven indicators on maintained enhanced individual and household access to adequate food showed that WFP interventions had a positive impact in individual and household security. All indicators, except the food consumption score, showed that WFP achieved its target or was on track to achieve the target in 2018. Overall, WFP made moderate progress in achievements on food

consumption score. In many cases, progress was hindered by ongoing conflict and access issues.

WFP made moderate progress on Strategic Objective 2, “Improve nutrition”, and Strategic Objective 3, “Achieve food security”. However, nutrition indicators measured under Strategic Objective 1, which complement other interventions, showed strong progress in 2018.

Some important work was done related to Strategic Objectives 4 and 5, including the expansion on South–South and Triangular Cooperation work. Specifically, 94 percent of Country Strategic Plans approved in 2018 include South–South and Triangular Cooperation as a means for strengthening host government’s capacities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. However, conclusions on performance related to these objectives cannot be drawn due to insufficient data, caused mainly by the limited number of countries implementing activities under Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 in 2018.

Now, I would like to take you through some of our Management highlights. We monitor our Management performance at various levels as you see in the Annual Performance Report. However, what I would like to focus on today is how we measure the overall achievement of Management performance standards. This reflects how WFP offices manage their available human, physical and financial resources to facilitate implementation of Country Strategic Plans and their activities.

The Key Performance Indicators cover ten standard functional areas that work with each other, providing internal and external services that facilitate direct implementation. One or two critical indicators, those considered as the most representative for each functional area, have been selected as standards, covering the majority of the processes carried out by the respective units. In 2018, most functional areas were in the medium to high performance range. However, there is still space for improvement. The functional areas that performed best were: security, where we assess the minimum common measures that all offices need to comply with; Information Technology (IT) and finance, where we look into the percentage of transactions that involve financial risks for WFP; and, supply chain, where we look at losses and the efficiency of our transport arrangements.

The lower performances include some of the functional areas that have been impacted by the Integrated Road Map rollout. For example, human resources which includes the only indicator that is below expectations, i.e. 49 percent of mandatory training completed. Similarly, budget and programme, show lower performance attributable to changes in internal processes. Eighty–four (84) percent completion of evaluation recommendations, for instance, to which most of WFP staff are still adapting as we complete the Integrated Road Map transition.

To conclude, I would like to underscore some lessons learned in 2018 and our priorities moving forward. A series of evaluations and lessons learned in 2018 informed key ongoing initiatives such as the transition to the Integrated Road Map. An evaluation concluded that Country Offices’ adoption of the Country Strategic Plan framework led to positive results, enabling WFP to align its operations more closely with national priorities and facilitating WFP’s shift to an enabler role. The evaluation of the Syria+ response found that WFP made significant achievements in delivering assistance, despite the scale of the operation.

Going forward, WFP’s transformation into a digital leader in the humanitarian sphere remains one of the organization’s priorities. WFP strives to be ambitious in the continuous alignment of its workforce to the needs and priorities of its operations.

I would like to thank you very much for your attention and welcome any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now open the floor to Members for any comments or questions. The floor is open.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

I did not want to be the only one to ask for the floor but here it goes.

Continúa en Español

Deseamos resaltar el papel fundamental que desempeña el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) sobre el terreno con sus operaciones puntuales de asistencia humanitaria y programas de desarrollo.

El PMA salva vidas y cambia vidas. Su enfoque en las situaciones más vulnerables tiene lugar en paralelo a la realidad de que en países de renta media y media alta persisten bolsones de pobreza. Es esa pobreza estructural la que obliga a muchos países de renta media y alta a solicitar apoyo a la comunidad internacional y al PMA, en particular, en casos como sucede en mi país y en otros de la cuenca del Mar Caribe a consecuencia de huracanes y otros desastres naturales.

Pedimos a la Secretaria Spanos y a la Directora de Monitoreo y Evaluación que transmitan al Director Ejecutivo Beasley que reiteramos nuestro apoyo a los programas de alimentación escolar, nutrición, promoción del empoderamiento de niñas y mujeres, creación de capacidades, alerta temprana, fomento de la resiliencia, movilización de recursos, transferencias monetarias, compras locales y otros avances en términos de financiación y realizaciones. Aplaudimos la innovación y todos los demás programas que el PMA desarrolla no solo en los países más vulnerables afectados por el cambio climático, los conflictos y las migraciones que estos producen, si no también en los países, como ya he dicho, de renta media y alta.

Por último, deseamos reiterar nuestro apoyo a la labor de campo que el PMA desarrolla en nuestra hermana República de Haití, para lo cual ha contado, cuenta y siempre contará con todo el apoyo y toda la colaboración de República Dominicana.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

As Egypt is now the President of the Executive Board of WFP, we take the floor to thank the Representative of WFP, Ms Harriet Spanos and also the Chief of Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, and we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent work of the WFP under the leadership of Mr Beasley, for the increase in revenues from USD 6 billion in 2017 to around USD 7.3 billion in 2018. This is really a big increase and it is timely needed to support the most vulnerable people in the world.

I have one observation on the Report, on this amount of money, USD 7.2 billion, is only unearmarked contributions. I would like to urge and encourage all donor countries to increase unearmarked funding and give more flexible funding to WFP in order to enable the WFP Management to address crisis response, and also to allow them to quickly address emergencies in the world as unfortunately the number of hungry people has been increasing over the last three years.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Thank you for the presentation, and thank you WFP for the strategic role you are playing in the world with respect to making life a lot more comfortable for people that are handicapped. Undoubtedly, the Integrated Road Map and the Strategic Objectives of WFP has been well worked out and the WFP Executive Board is working extensively with WFP's Management, His Excellency David Beasley, and his very able team. More importantly, the management of a huge number of people in different parts of the world actually brings one to understand that WFP is unique and very efficient. A digital approach and the determination to put it into use, and with the determination to become the best, is the right way to go in thinking about innovation and ways of applying it.

Nigeria wants to appreciate WFP publicly for the wonderful role they played in the Northeastern part of Nigeria. Part of what happened was that WFP was new in Nigeria with no experience working in the country. They were able to go from zero distribution of food to one million and I think that is noteworthy and commendable.

Finally, I believe that all needs to be done, to keep encouraging and to get less and less armed conflict so that countries can do what they need to do in terms of encouraging WFP. I just do not remember, or I missed it, whether it stated that Cote d'Ivoire will replace Nigeria. If it is not, I think that was the agreement between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

M. Carlos AMARAL (Angola)

Je serai bref et voudrais remercier le Groupe Afrique et le Conseil pour avoir renouvelé leur confiance en l'Angola en lui permettant de siéger au Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour deux ans de plus. J'aimerais aussi remercier la Direction du PAM et son staff, ainsi que M. David Beasley, pour leur travail et surtout pour la capacité de mobilisation de fonds, qui a permis

d'aider les personnes dans le besoin.

Je fais référence à la question soulevée par l'Égypte et à la concentration des financements, car il y a seulement 10 donateurs, beaucoup de sociétés et une certaine concentration des moyens du PAM en faveur d'un petit nombre de pays, qui malheureusement sont des pays en conflit. Pour cette raison, j'encourage les pays donateurs et tous ceux qui en ont la possibilité à fournir au PAM des moyens afin qu'il puisse accomplir son devoir.

Mr Mohammed AL GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would first like to express my heartfelt thanks to the countries who have supported the nomination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a three-year mandate in the WFP Executive Board. I would like to reassert that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will remain, as it has been before, a main supporter of humanitarian work across the world by working through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center.

We will be working inside the Executive Board of WFP with the Management and with our colleagues and together we will achieve the vision that we have elaborated together. We will achieve a world where no humanitarian need will be needed anymore. We will collaborate with WFP as much as possible. We would like to thank WFP for its ongoing efforts. You are able to reach areas where no one else goes. You go into conflict areas and thanks are due to you and to Mr Beasley for this. My thanks also go to the staff working in the field because they do their best to support those who are in need.

Ms Qamer HAMEED (Canada)

Thank you for the overview. In a context where humanitarian needs outplay available resources and where protracted crises are the new norm, we emphasize the importance for the WFP to focus on saving lives while collaborating with other partners, such as the FAO, to build the resilience of effective communities to recurring and more intense and frequent shocks.

We encourage the Rome-based Agencies to continue to deepen their collaboration and better align their tools and processes in order to increase their impact on the ground. Canada highlights the importance of quality age and six disaggregated data and good gender-responsive programming and its importance in programme recording, including in high level reports.

Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)

First of all, Bangladesh would like to thank the WFP for presenting their Annual Report 2018. It clearly shows the activities that were taken in 2018 have contributed to change lives and also to save lives in different parts of the world. We appreciate this and also we would like to appreciate the effort made by the Executive Director of WFP, Mr David Beasley for increasing the revenue base of the WFP.

At the same time, we also would like to highlight that the funding gap is also increasing over the period. This has also been mentioned in the last Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Report and there was a discussion in the last WFP Executive Board. We would also like to highlight that the 94 percent of the contributions are earmarked by the donors. It has very little flexibility for the Management to work for the countries who need it most. In this respect we would like to support the statement made by Egypt and also would like to request the donor Members to increase the unearmarked funding to do more flexible work for the people, importantly those who need it most.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

We want to thank WFP for the enormous amount of work that they have done, especially in South Africa when they sourced food from smallholder producers. It not only affected the lives of those who are supported in the neighbouring countries but it affected and uplifted the lives of the small producers in South Africa. We continue to applaud that type of work, and applaud the test of an Organization when it begins to report on what it does and we can see by ourselves the improvement in the lives of the smallholder producers from which you sourced food that was going to assist the poor in our neighbouring countries.

We thank the good work that you continue to do with our smallholder producers, where very much their lives alone change in the rural areas of South Africa. We really applaud that type of work.

Sr. Gustavo PALACIO (Ecuador)

Quisiéramos agradecer por la presentación del Informe PMA, por la labor importante que realiza tanto en nuestro país como en la región, en América Latina. Hemos observado que en el informe se refiere a las crisis emergentes en América Latina; en particular, al tema de los refugiados. Quisiéramos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por los esfuerzos que se realizan en este tema que no solo se refieren, como en el informe señala y, corrijáme si me equivoco, a la crisis en la frontera Venezuela con Colombia. Es un tema que nos afecta a todos los países de la región. En este sentido, El Ecuador hace esfuerzos para también aportar en este sentido de manera muy importante. Quisiéramos saber cómo visualizan esta emergencia que ha surgido en la región a futuro.

CHAIRPERSON

I see no other requests for the floor.

Before I pass the floor to WFP, I just want to clarify the point mentioned by Nigeria. The agreement between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire is referred to in *footnote 9* in document *CL 163/7 Rev.1*. The only reason it is not in the document is because it was in the 2018 document. Therefore, it is there and the present document has it reflected in *footnote 9* in the document.

M. Fidèle SAMBASSI KHAKESSA (République démocratique du Congo)

Nous prenons la parole pour remercier le PAM pour son action multiple et très engagée en faveur de la République démocratique du Congo, surtout en matière de lutte contre la faim, et pour sa participation effective à la lutte contre la maladie Ebola.

Le PAM soutient aussi fortement la République démocratique du Congo dans ses actions pour venir en aide aux personnes déplacées par la guerre. Nous voudrions aussi, outre les remerciements, pouvoir formuler la demande suivante.

La République démocratique du Congo est un grand pays et très étendu, mais nous remarquons qu'en matière d'intervention dans l'espace de la République démocratique du Congo, l'action est plutôt orientée vers les provinces de l'Est, en proie aux rébellions et où se trouve concentré presque l'ensemble du pays. Je demande, au-delà des urgences, de revoir la manière d'intervenir dans l'espace du territoire, car la faim sévit dans presque toutes les provinces.

Je ne veux pas dire que le PAM n'intervient pas dans les autres provinces, mais on observe que les rapports de forces et l'intensité de l'action se concentrent surtout sur les provinces de l'Est. Sans nier ce soutien à la partie Est, nous demandons que dans la manière de programmer les actions on tienne aussi compte des provinces où il n'y a pas de guerre, mais qui luttent contre la faim.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other request for the floor? I see none, so I pass the floor to Ms Harriet Spanos.

Ms Harriet SPANOS (Secretary, WFP Executive Board)

Firstly, I would like to first congratulate all the newly-elected Members. Secondly, I would like to also say that I will convey to the Executive Director and to the staff as well all the words of praise and commendation that we heard from Members of the Council and we will continue to work where we are needed to fight hunger around the world.

I want to particularly mention the comment from the Representative of South Africa and the smallholder farmers and to advise that we will be holding an event, in the next couple of weeks as well, at WFP relating to country capacity strengthening smallholder farmers. The invitations should go out today, so we will continue in that vein.

I also wanted to say that we, the podium Members on this table right now, are very much appreciative for taking this Item at the top of the Agenda for today and thank you, again, for all your words of commendation.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now summarize our discussions.

Item 13.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018*

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2018.
2. In particular, the Council:
 - a) acknowledged WFP's programme performance results in meeting its Strategic Objectives supported by achievements by Management Results Dimensions;
 - b) recognized the commitment of WFP staff in the field that are working in challenging circumstances in addressing an unprecedented number of both Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, including protracted crises;
 - c) welcomed the ongoing implementation of the Integrated Road Map, including the Strategic Plan for 2017–2021, the Country Strategic Planning, as well as, the Financial Framework Review, and the revised Corporate Results Framework which fully align WFP strategy to the Agenda 2030 and its principles; and
 - d) welcomed WFP's involvement and partnership and coordination efforts, including its engagement with partners towards Zero Hunger and the SDGs.

The floor is open now for any reactions and comments.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

On paragraph (d) I think we would want to reverse the order of “Zero Hunger and the SDGs.” It would be better to write “towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 1 and 2”. I think that makes sense because Zero Hunger is part of the SDGs. Unless you want to put it as “towards Zero Hunger and the other SDGs”, it comes to be the same so it is up to us to decide.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Thank you to Cameroon, I would say, their contribution to (d) makes it better. I was thinking about (d) also because we would like for the Report to include mentioning of the middle- and high-middle-income countries because you see, there is this thinking and not just people out there, even some amongst us, that think erroneously, that WFP is only concerned with those that are fleeing from an exploding volcano or something to that effect. However, WFP in fact does enormously good work with countries that are not facing immediate humanitarian dire straits and that means that the Council should, in fact, recognize that and support that. Therefore, I do not know if maybe within (d) or in a separate paragraph we could mention that the Council, in fact, welcomes WFP's work in development in middle- and high-middle- income countries.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Coming back to what my dear colleague from the Dominican Republic just said, I think we are risking getting a little bit side-tracked. I would like to repeat what my Canadian colleague said about WFP's mandate and I think that was very carefully drafted and very well said. She said, “focuses on saving lives while collaborating with other Agencies to build resilience and engage in developmental work”.

This is really a crucial remark because we do not have another Agency that is able to save lives as WFP does. We must be very clear that this is the focus of the work and the focus of WFP's mandate, in particular in view of the fact that we have an increase in humanitarian needs of 20 percent. Therefore, the needs are increasing, the Level 3 emergencies are increasing, and we must be very careful not to get lost here. It is not disputed that WFP's work in resilience and development is valuable, but it should be, in particular, complementary and not trying to reinvent the wheel. Therefore, to make it short, let us focus on the humanitarian core mandate of WFP. That is why I think paragraph (e) is trying to, basically, put it in a different direction and we would not agree to that.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I would agree, because this concept has led to acrimonious debates in the past in various *fora*.

Ms Chiara SEGRADO (United Kingdom)

This has been debated frequently and we just want to say that we support the position that Germany just raised and possibly suggested deleting the last point.

Mr Marcus JOHNSON (United States of America)

This is also to second the comments that were just made by the United Kingdom and endorsement of Germany's position. We furthermore believe that paragraph (e) should be eliminated.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Creo que si esta cuestión sobre si el PMA se dedica a emergencias principalmente o desarrollo, es una cuestión que no vamos a resolver aquí. Habiendo dicho esto, el PMA no se dedica solo a emergencias, se dedica también a desarrollo y la administración nos ha dicho que en años anteriores el 80 por ciento de las actividades de PMA era para desarrollo.

Esta cuestión no la vamos a resolver aquí, por eso comparto la posición de mejor borrar el párrafo que acaba de mencionar el colega de República Dominicana. Si no lo dejamos, no vamos a salir de aquí hasta la próxima semana. Dejemos esta discusión para otra ocasión, pero quiero dejar en claro que el PMA también tiene el mandato de hacer actividades de desarrollo.

CHAIRPERSON

I see no other requests for the floor but based on the interventions we have just heard, we would delete paragraph (e).

Therefore, I take it the Council is in agreement with that.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

We never asked for a different paragraph or to reignite that old discussion. We do recall Director Beasley, when he tells us that EUR 50 cents invested in development on the ground saves relocating people and taking care of them elsewhere and so on and so forth. I will not repeat here all the times that he has pounded on this fact. I would seek from you guidance because the very last intervention from Mexico I believe was extremely useful.

I understand what Germany said, and others, and this is an old discussion and I have been a part of it for some time. However, there should be some kind of mention here that WFP has not dedicated exclusively 100 percent of its monetary resources and its human resources to just emergencies and humanitarian aid for those that need it right here, right now, but also in creating an environment. Let me just put it very bluntly. When a hurricane hits the Dominican Republic and Haiti, WFP needs to be there and the international community needs to be there because we drown in mud. When a typhoon of that same strength hits Japan, WFP is nowhere to be seen because the Japanese have the resources, human and financial and so on, and the infrastructure, and they take care of themselves. We are not at the level of development of Japan. We would like to be.

WFP is helping the Dominican Republic and Haiti and others get there. That is part of its mandate and it should be reflected somewhere.

Ms Chiara SEGRADO (United Kingdom)

Honestly, we think that this is implicit because we are mentioning the Strategic Plan for 2017–2021, that clarifies WFP's mandate. We agree with Mexico, it is probably not the right opportunity to have this discussion here. We will have a review of the Strategic Plan at the beginning of 2020. Therefore, we will probably have more opportunities at WFP to have this discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

Dominican Republic, I also agree with the comment just made by the United Kingdom and the comments made by Mexico, because nobody disputes what you are saying, but this is a debate which

some of us have already heard, and you as well, and it results in hours and hours of acrimonious discussions. Therefore, like Mexico said, we will not be able to sort it out just by adding a sentence or deleting a sentence. Could we leave it to what the United Kingdom has just pointed out, that these discussions will take place when these other Strategic Plans are discussed? May I request your cooperation in agreeing that we do not mention this here and take it up when the particular items are discussed in WFP?

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Dominican Republic, and with this I think we can adopt the text.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I wish to thank my colleagues from WFP, Harriet Spanos and colleagues.

Item 7. Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

Point 7. Rapport de la cent-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 octobre 2019)

Tema 7. Informe del 109.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de octubre de 2019)

(CL 163/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now take up Item 7: *Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*, which took place on 21 and 22 October 2019. You have before you document CL 163/2.

I now invite Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to present the Report.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

It is my pleasure to present the Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which was held from 21 to 22 October 2019. The Committee elected Her Excellency Mónica Robelo Raffone as Vice-Chairperson, who I would like to thank for her precious support.

The CCLM examined the document entitled, *Voting procedures under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization*. The Committee noted that it had been mandated by the Council and the Conference to review the Organization's voting procedures. The Committee agreed that the subject was of a broader nature and therefore it requested the Secretariat to prepare a thorough comparative study on the rules and best practices of other United Nations (UN) Common System Agencies, as well as other relevant best practices.

It further noted that this matter was not only a matter for the CCLM, and, therefore, it recommended that, in parallel, such review be brought to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the Council for consultations with Regional Groups and, if deemed appropriate, to develop a Code of Conduct. The CCLM recommended that the Secretariat's analysis assist both, the CCLM and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, in addressing this matter.

The second Item on the Agenda of the CCLM concerned a *Proposal for use of unspent balance of biennial appropriations*. The Committee reviewed the proposal set out in the document CCLM 109/3. The document was submitted to the CCLM and to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees at the request of the Conference at its 41st Session in June 2019, that a procedure for the systematic use of unspent balances be developed. This followed a previous request by the Council that

was made at its Session in December 2017. Thus, the CCLM was seized of this matter as a result of two requests.

The Committee reaffirmed the importance of Financial Regulation 4.2 whereby “appropriations shall be made available for obligations during the financial period to which they relate and unobligated appropriations at the close of the financial period shall be cancelled”. The CCLM recommended a proposal for consideration and adjustment by the Joint Meeting and the Council. However, as you know, this matter raised some discussions at the Joint Meeting, one month ago, and yesterday discussions took place on this Item during yesterday’s Council.

Therefore, Council, while noting the outcomes of the CCLM and of the Joint Meeting consider that the matter required further review and discussions. The Council therefore requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper, in order to have an in-depth discussion by the Council and its Committees, taking into account the need for consistency with Financial Regulation 4.2 and other applicable Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization, as well as related practices within the United Nations System and other relevant entities.

The last Item on the Agenda of the Committee concerned the activities of the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN). The CCLM reviewed an *Information Note* reporting, *inter alia*, on collaborative initiatives with other partners, on the development of legal guides and tools, as well as making legal information available through FAOLEX, webinars and other platforms.

The Committee requested the LEGN to expand collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies, and other partners, among others International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). The Committee recommended that the LEGN present the information provided to the Members of the Committee to other *fora*, and to all Regional Groups, noting the important services and legal assistance it can provide to all Members of the Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of CCLM for their cooperation and their engagement and would also to thank the Legal Office and the staff of the Legal Office for the continuous support they have given our Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is open for Members for their interventions.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Merci à Madame la Présidente Danielle Rotondaro, nous sommes contents du travail qui a été fait. Je voudrais très simplement demander de passer la parole à la République gabonaise qui devrait intervenir sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique.

M. Charles ESSONGHE (Gabon) (Observer)

L’honneur m’échoit de m’exprimer au nom du Groupe Afrique au titre du point 7 des travaux du Conseil.

Cela dit, je voudrais avant tout saluer les efforts sans cesse consentis par le Directeur général, depuis son élection à la tête de la FAO, en vue de rendre plus efficaces les actions de notre Organisation.

Le Groupe Afrique, tout en se félicitant de la qualité du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en approuve le contenu dans son ensemble. En effet, au regard de la complexité des questions relatives aux procédures de vote, et au-delà de l’utilisation d’appareils électroniques, le Comité a cru devoir, à juste titre, demander la réalisation d’une étude comparative approfondie des règles, des procédures et des pratiques optimales suivies par les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, ainsi que d’autres pratiques optimales pertinentes.

Nous trouvons judicieux que l’examen de cette question soit élargi au Président indépendant du Conseil et aux groupes régionaux. Cette démarche participe sans nul doute de la recherche du consensus et de l’efficacité dans l’élaboration des règles qui régissent notre Organisation.

Concernant la proposition relative à l’emploi des soldes inutilisés des ouvertures de crédit des futurs

exercices biennaux, le Groupe Afrique salue la prudence qui a prévalu au sein du Comité lors de l'examen de cette question sensible.

Tout en réaffirmant l'importance de l'article 4.2 du Règlement financier, le Comité a jugé, en effet, opportun de recommander à la Conférence de se saisir, à raison, des observations stratégiques préalablement formulées conjointement par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier quant au report et l'utilisation des fonds non dépensés.

La formule recommandée par le Comité à cet effet devrait, à l'évidence, renforcer l'article 4.2 dans son application.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique se réjouit des importants services que la Sous-Division droit et développement du Bureau juridique est en mesure de fournir aux membres en mettant à leur disposition des guides et des outils juridiques ainsi que des informations à caractère juridique par l'intermédiaire de la base de données FAOLEX, ainsi que d'autres plateformes et de webinaires.

CHAIRPERSON

Gabon, as you mentioned, the question of the unspent balance was discussed by the Council under the Agenda Item for the Joint Meeting of Programme and Finance Committees and the Council has concluded on it. Therefore, my suggestion would be to not spend time discussing the unspent balance issue, because that has already been concluded upon.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to request that Bangladesh take the floor to deliver the Asia Regional Group statement and the Philippines likewise would like to deliver its statement after.

Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh) (Observer)

Bangladesh has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Group thanks the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Chairperson, Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino, for her excellent presentation. Thank you as well to the CCLM Members, the Legal Council and the FAO Secretariat for their hard work.

On the discussions on the voting procedures, the Asia Group welcomes the recommendation of the CCLM to request the FAO Secretariat for a thorough comparative review of the voting procedures in the United Nations System. A decision to develop a Code of Conduct for elections must be informed with the best international practices in order for the Member States and the Secretariat to have a benchmark.

We would like to make a comment on the unspent balance giving the perspective of the CCLM. Given that the practice of the Organization to carry over unspent balances has extended for over a decade, the issue must go through a multifaceted review. The Asia Group notes the CCLM's important role in such discussions, given that the FAO Basic Texts (2017), General Rules of the Organization (GRO) Rule XXXIV.7(a) assigns the Committee to consider the application or interpretation of Financial Regulations or amendments thereto.

The Asia Group appreciates the recommendation of the CCLM that the FAO Development Law Branch expands collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies and international organizations such as International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) located in Rome. This partnership would no doubt contribute to more ideas for policy development and bring more benefits to Member States.

With the comments above, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Council's approval of the Report of 109th Session of the CCLM.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

The Philippines is a new Member of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and would like to thank our Chairperson, Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, for her leadership during the 109th CCLM Session. We likewise thank our fellow CCLM Members for the collegial atmosphere during the session and the FAO Legal Office and the CCLM Secretariat led by our Legal Counsel

Mr Tavares for their Report, research and work.

My country aligns with the Asia Group statement, and forgive me for also adding two more points on the unspent balance from a legal perspective. It should be highlighted that FAO's Financial Regulations already provide exemptions to Financial Regulation 4.2 that is found in Financial Regulation 4.3 and Financial Regulation 4.5B. As such to recall the term used by the Legal Office in document *CCLM 109/3*, "The Conference's authorization to carry over is a derogation decision as it goes beyond the provided exemptions."

The Philippines holds with the utmost value the need for financial discipline in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), but it also recognizes that there may be critical and vital situations, not merely important, in the future that would need flexibility. As such, the fundamental discussions on this matter may also include the review of FAO's Legal and Regulatory Frameworks that could explore providing the Organization's flexibility for the most critical issues without having the FAO Conference to make derogation decisions.

With these comments, the Philippines endorses the CCLM Report.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We would like to thank the Chairperson and the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

As far as the voting procedures are concerned, we welcome the request of the CCLM to the Secretariat to prepare a comparative study on the rules and best practices of other Organizations. We look forward to the approval of this request by the Council. The outcome of the study, which will be evaluated by the Membership, should be brought to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to allow for consultations with the Regional Groups.

As you pointed out, the Council already had discussions on the unspent balances of biennial appropriations. At this point we would like to recall the importance of Article 4.2 of the Financial Regulations.

Finally, we would like to comment on the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN) and its accomplishments in areas such as climate change and agriculture, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and capacity development for parliamentarians focusing on food security and nutrition. Stronger collaboration is needed in this area with the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) and with other partners, including the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) will be welcome.

We look forward to receiving further information on the work of the LEGN.

With these comments, we endorse the Report.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Felicitemos a la Embajadora Rotondaro, quien es la Decana del cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la FAO. Felicitemos también a la Embajadora Robelo de Nicaragua por su elección como Vice-Presidente del Comité. La Decana Rotondaro también preside el Comité de Apelaciones de la FAO y el PMA. Por cierto es el secreto mejor guardado de las Agencias con sede en Roma. Muchos de nuestros colegas me han confesado que habiendo estado entre nosotros por años no conocían la existencia del Comité de Apelaciones ni el importante e complejo trabajo que realiza a puerta cerrada.

Sobre el tema que nos reúne en este momento aquí nos parece muy interesante la recomendación sobre procedimientos de votación, de manera que podamos consolidar la posibilidad de revisar las reglas y procedimientos para adoptar las mejores prácticas observadas en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluyendo la adopción de nuevas tecnologías.

Para este tema se podría considerar la convocatoria de consultas, de manera que podamos acordar métodos de aplicación general.

En cuanto al Informe de la Subdivisión del Derecho para el Desarrollo, valoramos el apoyo técnico

que se provee a los Miembros, en especial por su enfoque en seguridad alimentaria, cambio climático y recursos naturales, entre otros temas de la mayor importancia.

Como advirtió la Presidenta del Comité, es fundamental que la labor de esta subdivisión sea mejor conocida, de modo que su potencial pueda ser aprovechado por todos los Estados Miembros.

Y por último, sobre los saldos no utilizados, ya tuvimos un debate sobre esto el lunes. Mi delegación se limita a remitirse a las explicaciones provistas por el Consultor jurídico sobre la perfecta legalidad de todas las decisiones que los Estados Miembros hemos tomado en la Conferencia de la FAO de acuerdo a las reglas financieras, artículos 4.2 y siguientes.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro and the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) for their always excellent work and the Report. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We would like to add following points on the voting procedures under the FAO Basic Texts (2017), General Rules of the Organization (GRO) Rule XII.10. Malaysia emphasizes the importance of promoting and enforcing compliance to FAO's rules and procedures. As such, we support the Committee's request for a thorough comparative review of the rules, procedures and best practices, both from within and outside the United Nations common Systems, to find the best mechanisms to improve adherence to the rules and procedures. In addition to this, the review should also aim to facilitate a smooth and transparent voting process.

In conclusion, we also echo the CCLM's recommendation for consultation with Regional Groups on this review, including the possible formulation of the proposed code of conduct to be applied to the Candidates, Members and Management.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Ambassador Rotondaro for any comments she may wish to make.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

Thank you everybody for your precious comments and also for this, for your statements.

As far as it concerns the voting procedures we understand that there is a consensus on the deliberation by the Committee that the subject was of a broader nature, and, on the request to the Secretariat to have a comparative analysis on best practices of other United Nations Systems. Therefore, this analysis will assist both the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, who will relay with the Regional Groups and if needed, a Code of Conduct will be developed.

The second point, which is on the unspent balance. As I said, this was already discussed during the Council the other day, during the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committee. I noticed that the Council endorsed the Report of the Joint Meeting and noted first of all the outcomes of the CCLM Report, the Report of the Joint Meeting on the systematic use of the unspent balance, and in order to have an in-depth discussion by the Council and its Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a paper that will take into account the need for consistency with the rules established in Financial Regulation 4.2 and other applicable Financial Rules and Regulations, as well as related practices at the United Nations and other relevant entities.

Members have endorsed the CCLM Report as far as it concerns the activities of Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN). As the CCLM requested, we requested LEGN to make a presentation about their activities, first of all to relay with other *fora* and to present their activities to the Council and to the Regional Groups.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now summarise this Item.

Item 7, *Report of 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*

1. The Council endorsed the Report of 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, in particular, its recommendations with regard to voting procedures under Rule XII, Paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization, and looked forward in this regard to a comparative study on the rules and best practices of the United Nations and other relevant entities and the outcome of consultation of the Independent Chairperson of the Council with the Regional Groups.
2. The Council commended the work and activities of the Development Law branch including collaborative initiatives with other partners.

The floor is open for any reactions.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

Based on the discussions we would wish to have a third paragraph on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) stating it acknowledged or noted the decision in the Joint Meeting on the unspent balance, because an absence of the mention of the unspent balance here will be very glaring, because we really did talk about it, but we noted that the decision is in the Joint Meeting, therefore, we at least have to acknowledge that.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Could we insert some language in paragraph (2), reflecting what we heard from others? The need for the dissemination of what the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN) does and how it should engage, or Member States should be engaged in it, and perhaps the Decentralised Offices. I do not have something in writing, but I believe that the Secretariat can come up with appropriate text, because we all had that discussion just a moment ago.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

Our point is on paragraph (1) about the comparative study. We wanted to express the issue regarding how it will be discussed, because we interpreted as it will also be discussed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and not only by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, so that it will be evaluated by the Membership on a more general level.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

In paragraph (3), I would like to request the deletion of “systematic”, because based on my understanding, the Council has not really agreed on using it systematically. Therefore, with regard to the use of the unspent balance and also, a related phrase relating to the importance of the role of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in these discussions, because the Asia Regional Group did mention that the CCLM does have a role in the discussions on the unspent balance.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the text with these amendments acceptable?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I would like to refer to paragraph (1) and request that if the decision to allow the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to carry out consultations with the Regional Groups is already taken, can we please refer to when that decision was taken by the Council? I think it might be useful because the outcome of the consultation of the ICC, if that was agreed upon, then we can refer to the Report, or the paragraph in the Report where that decision was taken.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I take the floor because the language here in paragraph (1) is really very hard for me to understand. I also need your clarification and guidance here. The Council could consider the issue of voting procedures, but the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) is a Technical Committee and it could recommend, but it cannot consider. The consideration here or the Resolution should be only by the Council.

I am not happy with the CCLM also considering, with the Council here. Can we delete “CCLM” from

“looked forward to consider”, and we can keep this “consultation noting that this will be discussed by CCLM”. I am not happy connecting “CCLM” to “consider”, it could be “discussed”, it could be “under recommendation”, or something like that. I would like to delete “review of CCLM” and also to delete there, because this is a kind of redundancy here, noting that this would be considered by CCLM again and the Council since we have already put it at the beginning of the paragraph.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you comment on the revision on paragraph (2), because now consideration is only by the Council based on a prior review by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Therefore, the word “consideration” has been separated from “CCLM.”

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Yes, I would accept that, but I want to delete after “noting this would be considered by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Council”, this is a kind of redundancy. It already says, “looked forward to the consideration by the Council based on prior review by CCLM”. I would like to note that this is a kind of a redundancy here.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact this point was raised by both Finland and the Philippines.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I perfectly understand what Egypt is saying and I think he has a case there. I would propose or suggest that we put a period after “Council.”, because it is the Council that would take the decision on the way forward. That is the way I look at it. So, once the Council has reviewed it, it would say this should go to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, because we never know what the review will bring up.

That is what I propose, “looked forward to consideration of the review as agreed”, and we will see what that may give later if the Council will take the decision on what will be the way forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Cameroon, you were referring to paragraph (a)?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Yes, “looked forward for this consideration at a given time”, what and when, I do not know. So, I would put a period there. “Looked forward to considering a comparative study on the rules of best practice” and so on, and then we put a period.

I think Egypt has a point there. We delete, “based on prior review by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)”, because we foresee that we do not know what the study will bring up, so there may be some proposals bearing programmatic issues of financial matters and so on.

So, it is now the Council to see into that, okay, this part of the review will concern the Programme Committee, this part will concern the Finance Committee, and another part will concern the CCLM. This is because in the past we witnessed some cases where an issue was examined by the CCLM and the CCLM requested to refer the matter, the priorities on decision, to the other Committees. That is my suggestion if that can go.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

Just a comment on the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN) paragraph. I would like to add “collaborative initiatives with other international organizations and partners”. This is because we did mention the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and if it is just partners, it might not convey that message if we do not have “international organizations” there.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States)

I just wanted to return to paragraph (1) again in this discussion about consideration of Council. I think

the challenge here is that we have consideration of the Council on both (a) and (b).

My suggestion would be to take those out of (b) and put a new paragraph (c) and just note, “look forward to discussion of these issues by the Council through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)”, which is the language that we have used in the past on Finance Committee, or Joint Meeting, or Programme Committee.

As a Member of CCLM I think there is agreement within the CCLM that some of these issues are likely to involve discussion of Rules and some of the Legal and Governing Body Texts of the Organization. It is clear too to CCLM that some of these discussions were quite political in nature, which is why there was a need for them to go through the Independent Chairperson of the Council. However, taking note of the number of interventions earlier today that there is still a need for further discussion in the CCLM is something that I think as a Member of CCLM we would concur with. In addition, perhaps that phrasing allows us to have only one mention of the need for further discussion of these issues by the Council and CCLM while keeping those components both there.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Me parece que, justamente, mi intervención tenía que ver con el proceso, cuál es la claridad sobre cómo eran los pasos del proceso. Primero íbamos a tener este estudio comparativo, después van a estar las consultas con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y los Grupos regionales y, luego, el resultado de esas consultas sería lo que se llevaría al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos junto con el estudio comparativo, supongo. Eso quería, esa claridad.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Antonio Tavares will clarify that.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Counsel)

Well this would be more a matter for the Members, but we were thinking of two parallel processes. We were thinking of preparing the study that would be reviewed by the Committee for Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). This study would be made available to the Independent Chairperson of the Council for consultations with the regional groups and then we will see where we are.

It would not be the first time where we would be confronted with these types of situations and it may be difficult to establish a clear calendar now.

I think this text is fine in my opinion, but it is a matter for the Members and also for our Chairpersons. I think this wording is flexible to allow for the process to be initiated and then we will see. After all, we are the same Members. Sometimes we forget this, but the same Members that are here are the Members of the CCLM, are Members of the Regional Groups. Therefore, I do not see a problem with this, but I do not know.

I would be prepared to live with this text, as far as we in the Secretariat are concerned, keeping that in mind that this is not really a matter for us.

CHAIRPERSON

With these amendments, could we adopt the text? I think silence means yes. The text is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

- Item 8. Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-18 October 2019)**
- Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (14-18 octobre 2019)**
- Tema 8. Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (14-18 de octubre de 2019)**

(C 2021/19)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 8, *Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, which took place from 14 to 18 October 2019. The document before the Council is C 2021/19.

I invite Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security to present the Report.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I am very delighted to present to you the Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security as one of my first official addresses since being elected on 18 October as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for the next two years.

CFS 46 took place from 14 to 18 October 2019 in Rome with the presence of the three Principals of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs); the Director-General of FAO, the President of IFAD and also the Executive Director of WFP at the opening Session. Let me highlight some of the key outcomes of the CFS 46 to all of you.

The Session celebrated the 45th year anniversary of the Committee on World Food Security and also the tenth anniversary since the CFS Reform in 2009. The Session was attended by delegates from 126 countries and by representatives from United Nations (UN) Agencies, civil societies, the private sector, international finance and research organizations, philanthropic foundations and observers, reaching a record of 1 669 participants with significant High-Level attendance. Also, we had 54 Side Events, two launch events, and also substantive outreach events were organized during those times. We also recorded participation of 172 civil society organizations and 115 private sector organizations and associations; the majority of them through two established mechanisms, the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

Clearly, the convening power of the CFS remains evident, which continues being the foremost, inclusive, intergovernmental platform for global coordination and policy convergence on food security and nutrition. The theme of the Session was “Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to achieve all the SDGs”, highlighting the interconnectedness of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, the centrality of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and interlinkages among all the SDGs.

The Committee reiterated its deep concern over the immense challenge posed by achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, with 820 million hungry people, about one in every nine people in the world, still suffering from hunger today, as all of you have heard. In line with the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind by taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries, and to reach the furthest behind first.

At its 46th Session, the CFS endorsed the CFS *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020–2023*. This was the first time that the Committee adopted a four-year Programme of Work, a major achievement, as it was the result of a year-round process of inclusive consultations to select proposals regarded as the most relevant to achieving the mandate of CFS.

The four-year MYPoW includes policy convergence processes on: food systems and nutrition; Agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition; promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; data collection and analysis tools; and reducing inequalities for food security and

nutrition. It reflects a longer-term vision of the Committee and signals renewed ambition for this Committee.

The strategic MYPoW provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating progress towards meeting SDG 2 targets by 2030. However, its successful completion will be determined by our collective ownership, our shared commitment to its implementation, and the financial support that we provide or help in generating its achievement.

In this regard, I invite the Members of the Council to engage in CFS activities and be our champions of the newly adopted CFS *Programme of Work* within their Regional Groups, within the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP, together with fellow Members of the CFS Bureau. The Bureau also elected the following 12 countries for two years: Afghanistan, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Indonesia, India, Mali, Mauritania, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. Their alternates are: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Iran, Oman, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, and Switzerland.

CFS 46 featured panel discussions on nutrition and food systems, which Members believe will be a key area of work for the Committee on World Security. The review the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, to be adopted at CFS 47, as a key building block for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo next year, and any Food Systems Summits in 2021.

The Committee started a new policy convergence process on agroecological and other innovative approaches, informed by the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts Report. This will also be an important work stream and is expected to result in Policy Recommendations at CFS 47 next year. The Committee also celebrated the kick-started of the UN Decade of Family Farming by assessing the impact on small family farmers of some of its most recent policy recommendations for food security and improved nutrition, and celebrated the International Day of Rural Women with a keynote address by an African woman farmer.

In addition, the Plenary agreed to amend the FAO Basic Texts (2017), Rules of Procedure of The Committee on the World Food Security, Rule IV.1, to allow FAO, IFAD and FAO to participate as *ex officio* Members of the CFS Advisory Group. This move highlights the key role of the RBAs, and opens the door for a review of how to strengthen the Advisory Group, including the possibility of welcoming new Members.

Supported by the Secretariat, we will be working to strengthen the CFS communication function, increase awareness about CFS products, and build partnerships to further implement our work, for the purpose of achieving SDG 2.

Yesterday, the Director of Land and Water Division (CB) reported the Decision 26 of COP 14 on Land Tenure. It requests and invites the relevant partners to collaborate and invest more with FAO and the CFS to produce technical guidance on how to target the *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests* in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention on Land Decantation Neutrality (LDN).

I wish to take the opportunity to encourage the Members and FAO to emphasize and invest more on monitoring the uptake of global policies and recommendations made by the CFS and to create a better impact at the national level. I do hope that FAO, IFAD and WFP will also inform and disseminate the CFS products to the technical staff at the country level for further consideration for the implementation at ground level as well.

Last but not least I would like to express my greatest gratitude to my predecessor the CFS Chairperson Ambassador Mario Avelo, from Dominican Republic, the CFS Secretariat and all Members of the UN Agencies and other stakeholders for your contribution and support to the CFS. Let me conclude by thanking you for the opportunity to present the progress made by the CFS, and I look forward to your comments and questions.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor to Members for their comments or interventions.

Mr Shri Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

India has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group appreciates the presentations by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Report document prepared by the CFS Secretariat. We would like to express warm congratulations to the newly elected CFS Chairperson from Asia, Mr. Thanawat Tiensin and wish him all the success going forward in his important role. We also express sincere gratitude to the previous Chairperson, Ambassador Mario Arvelo of from the Dominican Republic, for his great leadership.

With regard to the Report, the Asia Group would to highlight the following points. Firstly, we are deeply concerned with some of the revelations in the Report. The number of people who suffer from hunger in the world continues to increase, and has now reached 820 million in 2018. What is also disconcerting is that out of the largest number of undernourished people, 60 percent or more than 500 million out of the 820 million live in Asia. It is clear that no region is exempt from the overwhelming crises. We wish to call on FAO and concerned institutions to boost their assistance to countries in pursuing policies and programs to sustain economic growth and health, improve resilience in the face of conflict, as well as economic and climate-related shocks.

In particular, we need to provide adequate and targeted support to people in vulnerable situations, such as small-scale and family farmers, fisherfolk and pastoralists, including the provisions of technical and financial assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building, and also intensification of research and innovation in food and agriculture, which are accessible, affordable and effective. We would like to stress that a multi-stakeholder approach involving state and non-state actors, including the private sector in civil societies, is essential in addressing the underlying causes of hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Furthermore, the Asia Group is also concerned with the Report from the High-Level Political Forum held in July 2019, which found that progress towards the goals of Agenda 2030 is too slow and the world is facing setbacks, even regressing in some areas; in particular, hunger and malnutrition, which are the top priorities of FAO and the CFS.

We wish to underline that the CFS has an essential role in advancing the achievement of not only SDG 2 but also other SDGs by promoting a comprehensive and transformative approach. In this regard, the Food Systems Summit in 2021 would serve as an excellent platform to raise the importance of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and also see CFS work and initiatives in achieving Agenda 2030. In particular, ending hunger and reducing poverty. We would like to emphasize the value of inclusive preparation of the Summit taking into account the role of CFS as, foremost, an inclusive intragovernmental and international political platform in addressing global challenges of food security and nutrition.

The Asia Group wishes to highlight the catalyzing role of the UN Decade on Family Farming in advocating the respect to objectives of improving food security and nutrition and promoting smallholders and family farmers' role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, to improve their livelihoods and to stimulate wider use of sustainable practices, such as agroecology and other innovative approaches.

The Asia Group would like to welcome the adoption of work streams and activities of the CFS *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020-2023*, which we believe provides a comprehensive framework for accelerated progress towards meeting the SDG 2 targets by 2030. We also reaffirm our commitment to keep engaging in this critically important CFS process.

With this, the Asia Group endorses the Report of CFS 46.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We welcome the comprehensive discussions at the 46th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Plenary Session last October, and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support and commitment to the CFS as a unique multi-stakeholder platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues.

We are satisfied with the endorsement of the new *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)* based on four essential pillars. We welcome this quite ambitious work plan that is justified by the urgency of the food security situation worldwide. It will be important to find the right balance in terms of workload,

human resources and financial resources.

We would like to underline the importance of ensuring that the CFS remains an inclusive platform. This implies that in CFS Plenary Sessions the right balance is struck between panel discussions and the possibility for CFS Members to express their views and provide strategic guidance. It is also important to ensure that the procedures and working methods are fully clarified prior to the start of the Plenary Session. Finally, when it comes to reporting on the CFS plenary discussions, we recommend that the CFS takes inspiration from the FAO Council's working methods and aims to agree, in a transparent and inclusive way, on concise Chairperson summaries, whilst avoiding lengthy drafting sessions in the plenary.

With regard to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings and the negotiation sessions on the work streams, we reiterate the importance of interpretation in all languages, in order to ensure the effective participation of all.

Lastly, we welcome the election of Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the new Chairperson of the CFS, and of the new Bureau Members and their Alternates. We look forward to actively engaging with them and all CFS Members in the coming year.

With these comments, we endorse the CFS 46 Report.

Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la formulación del documento de antecedentes y al Señor Tiensin por la detallada presentación del Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA). Sobre este, la delegación de Costa Rica desearía subrayar dos asuntos, más allá de los desafortunados hallazgos del El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo (SOFI) 2019 y sobre los cuales ya nos hemos referido en otros espacios.

El primero tiene que ver con la aprobación de un nuevo plan de trabajo plurianual que, por primera vez incluye un horizonte de cuatro años que permitirá mejorar la eficiencia en las labores del Comité y en la utilidad de los productos que se generen. Como lo hemos indicado en muchas ocasiones, somos conscientes que la implementación y diseminación de estos corresponde primordialmente a los Miembros del Comité pero también es apropiado recordar que se requiere el acompañamiento de las redes de oficinas de las tres Agencias de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma para que exista un verdadero impacto en el terreno.

Nos satisface muchísimo ser parte del grupo de patrocinadores de la línea de trabajo sobre la promoción de la participación y el empleo de los jóvenes en los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios que arrancará en 2021. El exitoso Evento especial que se llevó a cabo el último día de la plenaria, resultado del esfuerzo conjunto entre jóvenes del Sector privado y de la Sociedad civil con la colaboración de la Secretaría del Comité. Además de ser uno de los puntos más altos de las sesiones, innegablemente constituye el mejor augurio de lo que nos deparará esta nueva esfera de labores. Manifestamos nuestro entusiasmo por haber contribuido sustancialmente a la elaboración de la propuesta de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Las mujeres en todos los continentes, sin excepción, sufren de una mayor prevalencia de inseguridad alimentaria con respecto de los hombres. De manera que, abrigamos la esperanza que el proceso de Directrices voluntarias a partir de la segunda mitad del próximo año, pueda contribuir a cerrar esa brecha y, en general, a mejorar la situación de vulnerabilidad en que se encuentran.

La segunda cuestión se refiere al informe final de Comité. Costa Rica entiende, como bien se apuntó en su oportunidad, que muchos participantes hicieron uso de la palabra durante las sesiones por lo que fue muy difícil llegar a un acuerdo sobre cómo se continuaría con la cuestión de los resúmenes del Presidente. En tal sentido, el uso del verbatim constituye una salida adecuada que permitió seguir adelante con la agenda y con las deliberaciones. Sin embargo, para futuros períodos de sesiones desearíamos que, paralelo al uso de las transcripciones literales, se pueda retomar la práctica de contar con conclusiones y resúmenes. Esto, evidentemente, dependerá también de la voluntad y el consenso de los participantes.

Con esos comentarios aprobamos el documento C2021/19.

Mme Delphine BABIN PELLIARD (France)

La délégation française s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres.

Tout d'abord je voudrais féliciter à nouveau M. Thanawat Tiensin, Représentant permanent de la Thaïlande pour sa nomination comme Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), et remercier également chaleureusement M. Mario Arvelo, Ambassadeur de la République dominicaine pour son implication durant ces deux dernières années. Nous réitérons aussi notre engagement et notre soutien au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, principale plateforme internationale ouverte à tous et qui permet à l'ensemble des parties prenantes de travailler ensemble pour assurer à chacun la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Concernant la dernière session plénière du CSA, la France est satisfaite des avancées obtenues, s'agissant des décisions prises et, tout particulièrement, de l'adoption de l'ambitieux programme de travail 2020-2023 sur quatre ans afin que le CSA dispose d'une vision stratégique sur des thématiques très prioritaires; satisfaite également de l'avancée des travaux en cours pour proposer des lignes directrices sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition à adopter au cours du CSA d'octobre 2020; et enfin de l'adoption d'un processus d'élaboration de recommandations politiques sur «l'agroécologie et autres approches innovantes», confirmé pour 2019-2020, et basé sur le rapport du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE) sur les «Approches agro-écologiques et autres innovations», et la France participera tant financièrement que politiquement à ce processus.

Ces deux processus devront être menés conjointement et être le plus inclusifs possible. Comme l'a dit l'Union européenne, pour cela l'interprétation de toutes les discussions dans les groupes de travail qui mèneront aux documents finaux, est cruciale. Nous rappelons ici notre attachement une fois de plus au multilinguisme sans lequel il est illusoire d'assurer un multilatéralisme efficace.

En outre, ces deux documents seront essentiels pour nourrir le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires de 2021, qui devrait être lancé par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans les prochains jours. À ce titre, il nous semble essentiel que le CSA participe à la préparation de ce Sommet dès le départ et en soit un acteur majeur aux côtés des trois Agences romaines. Nous souhaitons que la prochaine session du CSA en 2020 soit une étape majeure dans la préparation de ce Sommet.

La délégation française estime en revanche que des améliorations sont nécessaires dans les méthodes de travail du CSA, notamment pour l'élaboration du rapport des délibérations, et afin que ce Comité joue pleinement son rôle dans la gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La France contribuera activement aux travaux que le bureau du CSA doit engager sur l'organisation de la prochaine session plénière et sur la révision des procédures de travail pour que celles-ci soient précisées dès que possible, en amont de la session, et que des décisions soient effectivement prises en octobre 2020 sur les deux axes de travail en cours.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Mi delegación felicita al Presidente del CSA, el Señor Thanawat Tiensin de Tailandia. Así como al Vicepresidente Sr. Don Syme, de Nueva Zelanda y a todos nuestros colegas en la mesa del Comité. Es oportuno resaltar la labor que despliega el Secretariado del Comité, encabezado por el Señor Chris Hegadorn, aportando memoria institucional y gestión administrativa. Mi delegación extiende felicitaciones a todos los Miembros del Secretariado a través del Presidente Tiensin y el Secretario Hegadorn.

Como ha dicho el Presidente del CSA, la aprobación del *Programa plurianual de trabajo* fue el punto culminante de un largo y complejo proceso de negociación. Los temas que ocuparan la atención del Comité en los próximos cuatro años son fundamentales para el logro del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2, Hambre Cero. El extraordinario valor del trabajo que realiza este Comité, que es de la FAO, donde se hospeda, y también del FIDA y del PMA, es el resultado de su carácter inclusivo.

El CSA es el único órgano del Sistema de Naciones Unidas donde los Estados Miembros conversan y negocian en condiciones de igualdad con representantes de la Sociedad civil, el Sector privado, otras agencias del sistema internacional, centros de investigación, mundo académico, entidades filantrópicas, instituciones financieras y otras partes interesadas. Este carácter inclusivo, que es el primer principio rector de la reforma CSA, brinda sabiduría de conjunto a los debates y legitimidad

democrática a los resultados.

Dichos resultados toman la forma de Directrices voluntarias y recomendaciones de políticas. En este orden mi delegación desea solicitar que el Presidente del CSA amplíe la intervención que realizó desde el asiento de Tailandia, bajo el Tema 11, el pasado lunes, para ilustrar al Consejo sobre la importancia de que la FAO, junto al FIDA y el PMA pueda utilizar todos los mecanismos institucionales que estén a su alcance, incluyendo las áreas técnicas y la red descentralizada para diseminar los productos del Comité y estimular su incorporación a los diálogos de políticas y a los programas nacionales, regionales y globales contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

(Continues in English)

On the discussion we have had so far, I would like to add two quick points. One is that, I cannot fathom why everyone does not know this, but the Bureau Members represent Regional Groups and are supposed to inform everyone. Bureau Meetings are open to all Member States that can attend as silent Observers. The Bureau had agreed on the procedures for the CFS 46 Plenary Session for a full year of meetings, and this was in the Agenda of every single Bureau and the Joint Meeting with the Advisory Group as well, during 12 months, the preceding CFS 46 on the working methods of the Committee, specifically for the Annual Session.

We also agreed on the Chairperson's Summaries. At this Session, we had a problem with how to conduct the Chairperson's Summaries and so on, and we had that hour-long discussion that forced an evening Session and at an extraordinary cost, and the solution of adding or referring to the Verbatim of the Sessions, it was, as Costa Rica said, a last minute solution that resolved that matter, and not everybody is happy about it. However, from the Bureau perspective we are engaging in and I would like if maybe the Chairperson could tell us something about this, or perhaps the Secretary. Therefore we will now conduct again the renewed discussions on how to proceed for CFS 47, so that we have no surprises and so that everybody is happy with those results.

Secondly, on having language support in all of the official languages of the United Nations (UN). We will listen from the Chairperson and the Secretary-General in response to questions posed. I know for a fact that Bureau Meetings and Joint Meetings with the Advisory Group are only available in English, and I know that it is a matter of financial resources. Maybe the Chairperson and/or the Secretary-General can give us more information on that. We would like to have all six languages for all those meetings, but, again, my delegation knows that it is a question of money, as so many other things are.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We positively evaluated the results of the discussions of the past Session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) on issues of sustainable development in agriculture and how economic recessions, climate shocks in conflicts may affect food security and nutrition. We support the Committee's launch of the negotiation process on agreeing recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches in agriculture. We feel it is very important to ensure the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible in this work, including Member States who are playing a leadership role in making final decisions and who also bear the main responsibility for implementing these recommendations.

We would like to welcome the results of the activities of the CFS Working Group on nutrition which is already formulated in draft zero of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. We are confident that thematic areas that have already been fixed and then draft zero should not have to undergo any significant review. This, in particular, has to do with such thematic areas such as food safety.

One of the main decisions of the 46th Session of the CFS was confirming the *Programme of Work* for the Committee for 2020–2023. We have some questions on some of the elements of this document, which we asked during the Committee Session and which were put into a separate document for the Committee, in a separate *Annex* of the Committee's document. We do not support the excessive displacement of accents and particular financial ones to non-core themes for the Committee, especially gender. We are concerned by the fact that, when we prepared the *Programme of Work*, the Committee has moved away from the principle of necessarily achieving consensus. This practice

undermines the credibility of CFS and is fraught with negative consequences in its reception at the international level which could then lead to Member States not fully using its recommendations.

A new CFS Bureau has been formed and in the near future, we will be choosing new Members to the Advisory Group. On this issue, we advocate rigorously following the Rules of Procedures of the CFS. We are also confident that the new CFS Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Thailand, Mr Tiensin, will maintain his energy in working together with the Committee's Bureau on the substance of scope of the Agenda and the procedural issues in preparing the next Session of CFS in October 2020. We call on him to take into account the experiences of our last Session. We are confident that Members of the Committee will follow the distribution of Agenda items with care. They should think through each of those where the Committee will have to develop decisions and recommendations for inclusion in the final Report, as well as, those that are informational in nature, or those that lead to discussions among a limited circle of invited experts.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

It is a honour for me to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

In our statement, delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group during CFS 46, we emphasised that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, calls for a global shift in our approach to development, and provides a framework for all countries, both developed and developing, to implement their commitment to leaving no-one behind, including eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

As we are all aware, and as emphasised in the 2019 *Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*, despite the best intentions, for the third year in a row, the world is seeing an increase in hunger. We are also all aware that, should this trend continue, there is a real threat that we will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, as we all envisaged. We therefore need to drastically upscale all our efforts to try and achieve this goal. Global food insecurity is actually a more alarming problem than we all thought. Two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity because they do not have regular access to nutritious and sufficient food throughout the world and through a year.

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes the important role and inclusive nature of CFS to advance food security and nutrition. The work streams for the CFS the *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)* for 2020–2023, which were endorsed at CFS 46, are all relevant to Africa and, if supported by all of us on the Continent, we could contribute to reducing many of the chronic challenges we face at present. In Africa, we need to further invest in the resilience of smallholder farmers and family farmers. If we prioritise three of SDG 2 targets, namely: by 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment, we will be able to double the agriculture productivity, and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Smallholder farms already produce over 50 percent of the total of food calories on 30 percent of the agricultural land on the planet and we can only, therefore, imagine the impact on food security if we are able to double this productivity and this level of production.

African nations share the greatest burden of child malnutrition and hunger, especially. As we were reminded during CFS 46, 30 percent of all undernourished people in the world live in Africa. The situation is most alarming in Africa as hunger is on the rise in almost all subregions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world at almost 20 percent.

Together Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of child malnutrition by accounting for more than nine out of ten of all stunted children, and nine out of ten of all the world's children are nearly three-quarters of all overweight children worldwide. Therefore, all the multiple forms of malnutrition are present in this continent. Africa is a Continent where, in many countries, women play a crucial role as far as agricultural production is concerned. We must, therefore, do more to empower the women on the Continent to enable them to better meet the challenges they face on a daily basis. We must also do what we can to make agriculture attractive to the youth, which, if we are successful, could contribute to reducing the large percentage of unemployed youth in many of our countries.

Economic resilience must be strengthened to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. We must also strengthen our respective social and public works programmes to protect and capacitate the most vulnerable in our countries. It is also important that we build capacity to empower those persons to be able to withstand shocks.

A key principle of the Agenda 2030 is leaving no-one behind. We therefore must ask ourselves, what more needs to be done by each of us to try and reverse the current increase of the number of persons around the world. In the coming debate, agriculture will be expected to play a crucial role in eliminating poverty, hunger and unemployment in the world. Taking into account available resources, all countries, developed and developing should do what is necessary to ensure that a world without hunger becomes a reality and does not remain a dream. We owe it to our children, and our grandchildren to meet these commitments. We therefore encourage all African countries to actively support the newly appointed Bureau Members and Alternates, so that they can truly speak on behalf of all African countries when the discussions around the new MYPoW commences in 2020. After all, it is in all of our interests that we find a solution to end hunger.

Lastly, the work of CFS should continue to be guided by vulnerable countries and the needs of those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, namely, the poorest, the women, the youth and the smallholders. This should guide the debate in ensuring that food insecurity is eliminated in the world, and we meet SDG 1 and SDG 2.

Mr Keigo NAKAMURA (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group statements and would like to add the following point.

Next year, Japan will host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020, which provides a good opportunity for Member Nations to express their commitments on food security and nutrition issues. In this regard, Japan encourages FAO, other international organizations and Member Countries to consider High-Level participants at this event.

M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)

Nous tenons à saluer le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), ainsi que les membres du groupe qui ont travaillé. Ma délégation s'aligne sur la déclaration faite par l'Afrique du Sud au nom du Groupe Afrique. Les statistiques de la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial sont certes inquiétantes, mais elles sont révélatrices de l'ampleur des efforts que nous devons accomplir pour réaliser le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, notamment l'objectif de développement durable (ODD) 2. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que le CSA fédère les initiatives qui voient le jour dans les pays en développement, notamment en Amérique latine et récemment en Afrique, initiatives qui sont relatives aux alliances parlementaires pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Le Congo vient d'abriter au mois de novembre, une réunion des pays de l'Afrique centrale consacrée à cette question. Les parlementaires des pays de l'Afrique centrale ont donc pris des résolutions à cet effet. Nous souhaitons impliquer ces élus des peuples sur les questions sensibles du bien-être de leurs mandants. Prendre des résolutions est une chose, mais il faut aussi mobiliser les ressources, et pour ce faire, au niveau des États, les parlementaires sont les mieux placés puisqu'ils votent les budgets. C'est pourquoi nous invitons le Président du CSA à fédérer ces initiatives pour instituer un panel plus étendu de nos défenseurs, de ceux qui s'engageront dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

M. Zinedine YAHIAOUI (Algérie)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Président pour son excellente présentation du rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA). J'interviens sur ce rapport, qui a suscité toute notre attention du fait des conclusions et des inquiétudes du Comité face aux défis relatifs à l'élimination de la faim d'ici 2030. Ainsi, l'accumulation des risques qui pèsent sur les systèmes alimentaires est importante et multiple, à savoir la démographie galopante dans certains pays, les changements de régime alimentaire conduisant à gérer le fardeau de la malnutrition, la création d'emplois, en particulier en milieu rural, dans les pays à faible revenu et qui est un enjeu majeur pour la sécurité alimentaire, la dégradation de l'environnement qui s'accélère et touche tous les

pays, ainsi que la volatilité des prix des matières premières au niveau des marchés internationaux et également les catastrophes naturelles.

Face à tous ces défis, il y a lieu de rappeler que l'Algérie est pleinement engagée dans la réalisation de l'objectif de développement durable, l'ODD 2, pour l'élimination de la faim. Dans ce but, elle s'est dotée à travers un processus participatif d'une politique stratégique, qui se propose de veiller à préserver les acquis ayant permis l'éradication de la sous-alimentation, de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, de soutenir une politique de développement de l'agriculture, des pêches, de l'aquaculture productive et durable, de préserver et gérer de manière durable le capital naturel sol, eau, flore, faune en vue d'en assurer la pérennité, une valorisation pour le bénéfice des populations. Aussi est-il important de rappeler que toute la communauté internationale est engagée par le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 à ne laisser aucune frange de la population, ni aucun territoire, en marge du développement économique et social, en particulier les catégories de populations les plus vulnérables et les régions défavorisées. Dans ce contexte, et afin d'atteindre ces objectifs, il est nécessaire de veiller à procéder à des évaluations des résultats et à l'implication active des parties prenantes, notamment des gouvernements, de la société civile, des entreprises publiques et privées, sans aucune distinction, en milieu rural et urbain, afin d'atteindre la « Faim zéro » et assurer la sécurité alimentaire et un système alimentaire durable. Ainsi, concernant le nouveau processus du Programme du travail pluriannuel du CSA, il y a lieu de noter que l'exécution du programme de travail nécessite la mobilisation de ressources humaines et financières suffisantes, avec une collaboration active entre les différentes organisations onusiennes et autres organisations internationales, à travers une plateforme plus élargie.

Enfin, avec ces observations, nous reconnaissons le travail important accompli par le CSA et nous nous félicitons du rapport du Comité, que nous approuvons.

Ms Qamer HAMEED (Canada)

Canada thanks Ambassador Arvelo as outgoing Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), whose term came at a critical juncture with the process to respond the evaluation of the Committee towards more strategic planning. We also welcome the new Chairperson, Mr Tiensin. We look forward to working together. Canada believes that CFS should focus on promoting evidence-based work that can form policymaking through productive debates, taking into account workload and resources.

We welcome the new and ambitious *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)*, which covers topical and complex policy issues on food security and nutrition. We look forward to engaging in the policy convergence process on food systems and nutrition following the various regional consultations, including in North America, having recently adopted our first Food Policy through an extensive consultation process where more than 45 000 people share their thoughts on our food system. We understand the importance and complexity of such discussions. Our Policy is a road map for a healthier and more sustainable food system for Canada.

We look forward to upcoming discussions based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies. This process should remain inclusive of all approaches, not unduly polarize the debate, and lead to practical recommendations.

We strongly support other upcoming work streams, such as youth, gender and data. We are pleased with the increased youth engagement at CFS during the last two plenaries, making them more dynamic. Canada was happy to support the participation of youth delegates at CFS 46. We believe that the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* will greatly contribute to enhance policy convergence in this area for improved food security and nutrition.

In addition to this dedicated workstream, it is important to mainstream gender through all activities and work of the CFS as specified in the *Multi-Year Programme of Work*.

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

The United States of America would like to extend our thanks to Ambassador Mario Arvelo on his successful term of office at CFS and would like to welcome Mr. Thanawat Tiensin and we look forward to working with him.

The United States of America does remain concerned about the workload and we note that the four-year *Multi-Year Programme of Work* successful implementation, it should be contingent on sufficient financial and human resources. We further note that recommendations from the CFS policy convergence process should be strictly voluntary and create no new rights or obligations.

Finally, we echo some of the comments raised by our colleagues previously on working methods, must specifically the balance on the panels and permitting adequate time for Members to provide guidance.

Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I thank the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for his presentation. China supports the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Group and we welcome this report.

We noted that the CFS reaffirmed the concerns for the huge challenges that we are facing to reach Zero Hunger by 2030, because today we still have 820 million people suffering from hunger. Over the last 40 years, since the Reform and opening up, China lifted 700 million people out of poverty. The poverty incidence dropped from 97 percent in 1978 to 1.7 percent in 2018. By 2020, China will be eliminating absolute poverty.

China will be completing the poverty elimination objectives set in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, 10 years ahead of time. China will adopt an open attitude to carry out and welcome cooperation with all countries. Eliminating poverty is our common challenge. We will share our experiences with all countries to achieve this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, and to make contributions to the achievement of others SDGs. We endorse this report.

CHAIRPERSON

We finished the list of Members. Now I give the floor to Observers.

Mr Don SYME (New Zealand) (Observer)

Thank you Chairperson for the presentation of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report. Thank you to our outgoing Chairperson Mario Arvelo, and congratulations to the new Chairperson Mr Thanawat Tiensin for taking up this important role.

I would like to focus on the *Multi-Year Programme of Work* (MYPoW) for the next four years. We were very happy at the CFS, that the comprehensive and inclusive consultation process was run to target the highest priority issues for the next four years, considering the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) advice on critical and emerging issues, and was in the context of the CFS's mandate and expertise.

From extensive Advisory Group and Bureau discussions, and from the evidence in the latest *The State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI)* Report, it is clear that areas of empowerment of youth, gender equality, data collection and analysis tools, and reducing inequalities are fully justified areas of work. The current discussions on food systems, and agroecological and other innovative approaches, come at a very useful time leading to the anticipated Food Systems Summit in 2021.

As reflected in CFS discussions and from comments today, Members acknowledged that the *Programme of Work* is full and ambitious in light of the time constraints of Members, and the resourcing constraints of the CFS. We will clearly need to focus on reviewing the extended resource mobilization and have an ongoing review of the delivery of the MYPoW relative to resources.

Finally, we fully support the work programme on data collection and analysis tools, supporting countries to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze and use quality data to improve decision making around food security and nutrition policies. We think these policy recommendations will be cross-cutting, and will provide the supporting foundation for a number of work programmes of the FAO at the country level.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Mr Tiensin, to respond to some of the comments made.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I would like to express my appreciation to all Members of the Council for the kind advice and guidance that you provide to Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We are really taking care of all the issues that have been raised by the Members, and we are aware of them. Several of you have mentioned about CFS as a unique and inclusive platform where we have all Member States, civil societies, private sector, research institutions, finance institutions and others philanthropic foundations, who work together in order to achieve policy convergence and make recommendations.

We know that we need to have these policies translated into action. When we are talking about ending hunger by 2030, some people say that it is like a dream, like an impossible mission. If we want to make it possible, if we want to make our dream come true, we need your support at the country level to make sure that all policy guidelines and recommendations are really turned into action. All the policies that we made together, which are approved by all of you at the CFS Plenary, really need to turn into action and be implemented at the country level with all other stakeholders from the government itself, to parliamentarians, and also other stakeholders at the country level. We know that once hunger is eliminated at the county level, for sure we will have achieved our goals for Agenda 2030.

I just would like to respond to some particular issues raised by the Members here.

From CFS 46, our work needs for improvement to make sure that we really take into account all the advice that you provided to us in order to improve the CFS Report. In that way all the Members can utilize the Report or the recommendations of CFS, at country level.

In terms of the working methods of the CFS, we will ensure to keep you updated on where we are going and what we are doing during the process leading up to CFS 47 in October 2020. We will inform the Bureau Members from your regions and update you about process to make sure that the working methods are really transparent and that we keep you informed of what we are doing. We also have to make sure that the next Plenary CFS 47 goes smoothly.

We will try our best to avoid lengthy discussions. However, we need your support to make sure that discussions are really on point. That is why immediately after we finished the CFS 46 we convened the first Bureau Meeting the week, and just last week we had a Joint Meeting between Bureau Members and the Advisory Group. In addition, last week, we had a Joint Meeting between the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and the Bureau Members and Members of the Advisory Group. We addressed the issues that we needed to improve regarding the work of the CFS. We took note of all the advice and guidance that you gave, and we will make it happen and we will improve the CFS to make it better for all Members and the other stakeholders.

Regarding the issues on interpretations, as some of the colleagues have already mentioned, there are some implications on finance and resources. However, we are well aware of these issues and we discussed them with the Secretariat and other Members to ensure that we have enough resource mobilization to support this process, when we have the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the *Voluntary Guidelines for Food System and Nutrition* and we have negotiations on ecological and other innovative approaches. We try our best to make sure that we really facilitate, because we understand that language is one of the issues and is one of the barriers. Sometimes we misunderstand because of the language, translation and/or interpretation. This is why we will try our best to facilitate this process.

Regarding the *Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW)*, I think we already discussed several times during the CFS 46. We have a strong ambition and we have five work streams during the next four years. During our work in upcoming years, we will revisit and review the MYPoW to understand, how much we achieved and how much we can manage. However, as we discuss among the Bureau Members, and as some of you already addressed, we want to make sure we have a high ambition, and we want to make it happen. That is why we really need your support and your contribution during this process and we have to improve the CFS to work effectively and also efficiently.

We need champions, because of the work stream. We need you as Members to be our champions during the whole process of negotiation and our work during the upcoming years. We need a champion in each region that will communicate with your Members to make sure that they really understand what we are discussing and that all the issues are thoroughly informed during the whole

process.

Some of you already mentioned how CFS will get involved in the preparation of the Food System Summit, which I think was mentioned during the meetings of the Bureau Members and Advisory Group, we also discussed this issue to make sure that the CFS can provide its service, and its expertise. As you know, in the next years we will continue working on the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition* and on agroecological and other innovative approach. With these two work streams we will also make a great contribution to the preparations of the Food System Summit in 2021. We will also be able to discuss this more with our Advisory Group, WFP, IFAD and FAO, on how the CFS can make contributions and be involved in these preparations.

Regarding the point raised by Japan about next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo, I think the outcome of the process of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food System and Nutrition* will also contribute to the Summit.

I think that more or less I really tried respond to you, and I pay respect to all the Members. I would like to ensure that your guidance and your advice will be taken into account. We also ensure that we will improve the work of CFS, to make it better and will make sure that CFS will have more relevance for all of you.

CHAIRPERSON

I need to make a suggestion here about our timeframe. It is well past 12:30 in the afternoon.

From 13:00 to 14:00, there is a Side Event on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. Then from 14:30 to 16:00 there is another Side Event on the Fall Armyworm.

My suggestion would be that we break now, we reconvene at 16:30 and carry on our work till 18:30, and at 18:30 the Drafting Committee could meet. This will enable you to participate in the side events as well, because one of them is from 14:30 to 16:00 which is the usual time when we meet. Would this be agreeable to you? I see people nodding.

What I will do is, I will summarize now, if you would like, and then we have your reactions when we meet at 16:30. Or, if you prefer, I could read out my summary then. Would you prefer it now or then?

What we will do is we will reconvene at 16:30 and then I will read out my summary and then we will have your reactions. Okay?

We adjourn the meeting now.

The meeting rose at 12:39 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.39

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixty-Third Session Cent soixante-troisième session 163.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2019 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019
SIXTH PLENARY SESSION SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
4 December 2019

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16:40 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 16.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Item 8. Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14 18 October 2019) (continued)

Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (14-18 octobre 2019) (suite)

Tema 8. Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (14-18 de octubre de 2019) (continuación)
(C 2021/19)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order. We will now continue with Item 8 and as agreed I will now present my conclusions.

Item 8, *Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security*.

1. The Council endorsed the *Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security* (CFS) and:

- a) Reiterated the challenge of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 with 820 million, about one in every nine people in the world, currently suffering from hunger;
- b) Reaffirmed the commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind by taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations in the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;
- c) Noted the policy recommendations of the Report, underlining the importance of gender, youth, data and poverty elimination in the achievement of food security and nutrition, as well as noting the voluntary nature of the policy convergence process arising from its recommendations;
- d) Endorsed the *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)* for 2020–23 based on four pillars which, through its prioritised thematic work streams, provides a Strategic Framework for accelerating progress towards meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets by 2030;
- e) noted that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload; and
- f) underlined the importance of ensuring that the CFS remains an inclusive platform with the involvement of the maximum number of interested parties, noting in this regard; its role in preparation alongside the three Rome-based Agencies of the planned 2021 World Food Systems Summit; the need for striking an optimal balance between CFS panel and plenary discussions; and improved transparent and efficient working methods, including the provision of adequate multilingual products and services.

That is the end of the summary. The floor is open for your reactions.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je n'ai pas de souvenir que nous ayons discuté ce matin au point (e) du fait que la mise en œuvre du Programme de travail pluriannuel (MYPoW) était liée, «contingent», à des ressources suffisantes. Je crois que tout le monde s'est mis d'accord sur le MYPoW, qui a été approuvé par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA). Je vous proposerais plutôt comme formulation « a appelé à des ressources financières et humaines suffisantes pour mettre en œuvre au mieux », en anglais « called for sufficient financial and human resources to best implement the MYPoW ». Ou bien voici une autre formulation « noted the importance », « a noté l'importance », et il faudrait enlever « that »: « noted the importance ». Et « to ensure » plutôt que « taking into consideration ».

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

Just to stay on that same point, our delegation actually did raise concerns about having sufficient financial and human resources for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). I know that the language as originally drafted is what actually came out of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Plenary where this exact language was actually discussed for quite

some time.

So I would actually request that we keep to the original language and the language from CFS Plenary on the implementation of the MYPoW, since it was noted at that time that sufficient financial and human resources are necessary for its full implementation.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

Also on the same paragraph, before the United States of America intervened, we were trying to seek clarification that indeed the effective implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) is, or will be, contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources. I think this is related to it, that is why the element of having the effective implementation of MYPoW may have to be necessarily reflected in it.

The other option, as France has also mentioned, “noted the importance of ensuring a manageable workload and implementation of the MYPoW”. That is the other option, but if Members would be comfortable with the original formulation we could go along with it too.

The other point we would like to raise is on (a) on how the reiteration of the challenge of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, with 820 million, about one in every nine people in the world. It is also a good description or illustration of the magnitude of hunger being suffered or the situation of hunger, as of today.

However, we note in the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report* that this trend of hunger has been on the rise for the past few years. Perhaps, we could also reflect that in it, so that we could also give more emphasis and highlight more on what the situation really is and urge the immediate action of all concerned to address this situation.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

One thing is that when I heard the French Ambassador speak about the issue of the resources, I was thinking back to that discussion and to the actual wording and then the United States of America brought it up saying that that was the previously used language.

The point that I would like to make is that we have this mantra of the contingency, contingent upon available resources. I am struck by the negativity of that approach. It is as if a child was asking for some toys and the parent would say, you can have all the toys you would like contingent upon resources in the family.

That makes sense, of course, but can we put it in a more positive way? What I am saying is that we can maintain that language and that mantra, but we can also call for these resources to be provided, and this is basically what we all said when we were discussing these things. Because we all agreed that the work that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) does for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and other SDGs, has to be done and that is why we approved an extraordinarily ambitious four year Programme of Work.

Not to be thrown out on to the wind saying, well if we win the lottery then we might assign some resources, allocate resources to that. Of course, everything should be contingent upon available resources, but these resources have to come out of someone's pocket and that pocket is our own. Member States. Either through the payments we make to the three Organizations that we own and that is subsequently allocated to the CFS, and also through voluntary contributions, donations and so forth. So, that is one point.

We need to do this Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). This is what we voted for. This is what we decided unanimously at the Plenary and we need to make these resources available. So, it is two things, yes to the contingency and, yes to also calling for these resources.

The second thing is the uptake. The Chairperson of the CFS mentioned it in his remarks. I know for a fact that my delegation also addressed that and others as well. I do not have all my notes here with me right now. We do not work on coherence, and convergence, on policy recommendations, and voluntary guidelines, and so on and so forth so that they can gather dust in some bureaucrat's shelf. We actually agree on this inclusively and transparently so that they can be used at country level, at

regional level and at global level.

The uptake part is what is missing. I do not have a text with me right now, but this needs to be reflected because this was part of the discussion. What comes out of the CFS, what emanates from these inclusive processes, must be taken up by countries and others.

Maybe the Secretariat can come up with a formulation. While they do that, I will try to put pen to paper, but I would rather have the Secretariat do some of the legwork.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to continue in English for drafting comfort.

(Continues in English)

As for the paragraph 1, “*chapeau*”, the Council endorsed the Report, so we fully support this formulation.

On paragraph 1(a) we can go along with the proposal of Philippines.

On paragraph 1(b), we think that in order to be consistent with the recently adopted General Assembly Resolution, we would like to propose a slight amendment just to strengthen the text. We could say, “reaffirmed the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind”, and then we can continue. This is a direct quote from the General Assembly Resolution. I do not have the number of this Resolution because it was adopted just one week ago, and we do not have this number. It is for consideration of Member States, of course.

On paragraph 1(c), during the debates delegates underlined many different aspects of importance in the field of achievement of food security and improved nutrition, and indeed, underlined poverty elimination, gender, youth, data, but not only these. For instance, my delegation underlined the importance of food safety and also agroecology. Therefore, if we are going to capture all views, it would be interesting to see here everything that was discussed. Of course, food safety, agroecology and poverty elimination should be first, and then we can continue with gender, youth and data. Another issue in this paragraph is the inaccuracy in the wording because we cannot achieve nutrition. It is from my perspective, it is something that should be changed. We can say, “in the achievement of food security and improved nutrition” or something like that.

On paragraph 1(d), I started with the idea that we had already endorsed the Report with all its decisions. Therefore, in our view, it is really not necessary to repeat this separate decision here, taking into account that we have already endorsed the Report. We propose to delete it as a whole, but of course, we all understand that the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) is endorsed. However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that my delegation disassociates itself from the consensus on the endorsement during the Plenary. This declaration is in the Report as a footnote, as an *Annex* to the Report and that is why we would be pleased to delete the whole paragraph.

Then as for paragraph 1(f), there are three different ideas in this paragraph. The first is about the definition of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and about the CFS’ vision, ensuring CFS’ vision. The second idea is about the World Food Systems Summit. The third idea is about the improvement of Method of Work and the next CFS Plenary arrangements. We propose to split this paragraph into three parts, and when we come to the first part, the definition about ensuring that CFS remains an inclusive platform, it is always very important to be accurate. The Reform document of CFS contained in the Basic Texts clearly provides us with a vision of CFS and its definition and I can read it, “The CFS is and remains an intergovernmental community in FAO. The CFS will constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders.” Therefore, where we refer to the definition of and CFS’ vision, we would like to propose to strictly follow the language from the CFS Reform document. Therefore, the first part should be amended in line with the agreed language.

As for the World Food Systems Summit, let me clarify the position of the Russian Federation on this Summit. We are fully aware about this Summit. We support the organization of this Summit, but frankly speaking, there is still no information about the modalities of the organization of this Summit. It is not even officially announced by the United Nations System and it is too premature to say

anything about the possible involvement of CFS to this Summit. First, we have to identify modalities of the Summit and then we can decide how CFS can be useful for this Summit.

I am not saying that CFS is not useful for this Summit. Yes, we are elaborating the Voluntary Guidelines which could be very fit for the purpose of this Summit, but let us go forward step-by-step with this idea. This is what I wanted to say with regard to this, so this whole idea should be deleted from the draft decision.

CHAIRPERSON

If we just make some amendments based on the discussions, then my suggestion would be we go paragraph by paragraph because there are too many amendments and you will find it easier to have a look at the conclusions paragraph by paragraph.

We will take paragraph (a).

I do not think there are problems with paragraph (a), so we go to paragraph (b).

Paragraph (c).

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

I want to note that if we have agroecology on here it is important to use the language that we have used consistently in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of “agroecological and other innovations”.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Compartimos la introducción al texto que hicieron los Estados Unidos “and other innovative approaches”.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

In order to be consistent, we could say “other innovative approaches”. I think it is the correct terminology from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and we, of course, can go along with this. In order to make everybody happy, we can say “*inter alia*” somewhere here, because we all know that there are many factors that could affect food security and nutrition. Therefore, somewhere we can say “*inter alia*”.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

The Russian Federation has it right in what they just said, but the point is that we are mentioning precisely the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) topics so there is a glaring omission there and that is the work stream and inequalities. Therefore the third line would be as it is, , “poverty elimination, gender, youth, data, inequalities” and the rest follows.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think I have to say something here. I have always admired the very sharp mind of our colleague from the Russian Federation, who is bringing that sharp mind in the discussion that took place in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). What he said was true and I did not even have that in mind when you made your proposal. However, now that he has made his request to delete this sentence, may I at this point revert to the decision that was taken, and we used the same process here? If our colleague from the Russian Federation does not want this sentence to appear while many others want it, we can again put a footnote here recalling their position as was done in the CFS Report. I think that may be the trick because I am not sure that I would like to be entangled in refusing to endorse the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2020–23 as I think many people would like to do so. Therefore, my suggestion is to try and see if there is a way forward by adding that same footnote that is available in the CFS Report.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Maybe our colleague Mr Médi MOUNGUI from Cameroon is hacking my brain because I was going to make the exact same proposal.

Let me just add that when I finished my tenure as Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I sat down with a number of friends and colleagues, many of whom are present here today, and the Members of the Secretariat of the CFS. I asked them what they thought is the single most important outcome of CFS 46. Every single individual that I asked told me the approval of the four-year Programme of Work, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

With that in mind, hopefully it will please the Russian Federation to have what Cameroon has just said, a footnote akin to that inserted in the CFS 46 Report, because this paragraph (d) that we see highlighted in yellow, is in fact the single most important outcome of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I do not want to go into details on how important the process of preparing the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) was for us, but believe me, we attended every single event that was organized, and we truly tried to achieve consensus in the preparation of this document. I am grateful to the Representative of Cameroon for his suggestion and we are ready to look at this in the next publication.

After “Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2” and after “2030” we could put a comma and the following words: “putting the respective footnote in the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 46) Report.”

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Yes, I thank you, Russian Federation, this is absolutely good. That is the exact wording that I also wanted in the related footnote.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we can move to paragraph (e).

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

If we come back to this Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) paragraph, there is a phrase, “based on four pillars”. Frankly speaking, there is no such wording in the Report in the decision of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Plenary. It is not clear what we are talking about, what kind of pillars. Maybe there is nothing wrong, but when we are talking about the pillars, what kind of pillars? Chapters, pillars, what is this? I kindly ask to remove that from the text.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Oui, je pense que la proposition de la Russie est acceptable. Je ne crois pas qu'on ait besoin de la référence aux quatre piliers. Le Programme de travail pluriannuel (MYPoW) a été approuvé, on connaît son contenu. Nous pouvons donc accepter l'élimination de cette partie de phrase « based on four pillars ». J'avais une proposition sur le point (e), est-ce que je la fais tout de suite ou j'attends que vous me donniez la parole?

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

Indeed it is in paragraph (d), and maybe to help this to be finalised as previously. As noted by the two previous speakers, in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report paragraph 28(c), reads “endorsed the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) through its prioritised thematic work streams”. It did not mention the four pillars and at the same time, it mentioned provides “comprehensive” instead of “Strategic Framework for accelerating progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets by 2030”.

I think it would be better for us to be faithful to the Report and reflect it there.

CHAIRPERSON

Therefore, may we move forward with this amendment proposed by the Philippines? I think we can. We go to paragraph (e).

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Faisant référence à l'intervention du représentant de la République dominicaine, ancien Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), je crois que le paragraphe précédent a bien montré que nous sommes tous d'accords pour approuver ce Programme de travail pluriannuel (MYPoW). Je voudrais faire une proposition de formulation qui tend en fait à inverser l'ordre des deux phrases qui sont à l'écran, et je vous la lis en anglais. On commencerait par « note the importance of sufficient financial and human resources for effective implementation of the MYPoW and called [...] », then we continue as it is « called for robust resource mobilization in that regard » Full stop. Ainsi nous avons les deux idées à la fois: le budget nécessaire, et en même temps, l'appel à la mobilisation des ressources.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

Thank you for the different suggestions. In this regard, I note that the comments from the Dominican Republic, the distinguished delegate, earlier today were focused on the fact that the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) was adopted by consensus. I would also note that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Plenary Report included the language on the implementation of the MYPoW being “contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources taking into consideration a manageable workload”. Indeed there were a number of similar comments made earlier today in the debate on the CFS Plenary document that reiterated those remarks.

We are comfortable with starting the language with “noting the importance of a robust resource mobilization strategy, and/or calling for robust resource mobilization”, but I think it is very important for our delegation that we retain the consensus language that was agreed upon at the CFS Plenary because as I noted earlier, this language was actually quite debated during the CFS Plenary which was attended by many of our same countries less than two months ago.

Noting the time and the importance of these issues, I think it is important that we remain faithful to the language that was just discussed in the Plenary. If we want to put the importance of calling for this robust resource mobilization first, to frame it more positively, I think that that is perhaps a way we could move forward today.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I tend to agree with France on starting the sentence the way that it is, but there is something missing from what France suggested. I think I would like to move “workload” or “manageable workload”, because that is what is missing there. We need to bring that back, because it is part of the decision or the conclusion of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Yes, I think this is where I wanted it to be added and that is it. Then we have now all the ideas embedded in this sentence.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

We can go along with both proposals, but frankly speaking, for us it is crucial to mention in our decision the need for consideration of a manageable workload, it is a decision of the Plenary itself. We can repeat the same language from the Report, or we can invent new language. For us it is absolutely important to have this “manageable workload”, especially in the view that all Governing Bodies, who can, for the last couple of years, maybe three years, see the Reports of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) always stress the importance of a manageable workload.

CHAIRPERSON

With the amendments put in place in paragraph (e), we come to two options and the options are identified. Could I be told which option Members would prefer?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

For us, we find that the two options are actually two different ideas and we think that both are valid.

The first one is really about resource mobilization and the importance of identifying sufficient financial and human resources. The second one is about accountable delivery and implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) to avoid situations in the past where we were stuck, where we were in a situation where we had started work and did not have the resources to finish it, and

that was a lesson we learned.

These two ideas were captured in the Report of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), so I am flexible as to whether the consideration of a “manageable workload” should be in the first or the second option. Although, I find that it makes more sense in the second option because the first is really about the importance of mobilizing resources. My suggestion would be to keep the two, and for the second option, we can take the language used in the CFS Report for the sake of time.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Following up on what Canada just said, we believe that the real importance, the foremost importance, is on implementing the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). In order to do that, we need to mobilize financial resources, which is a second thing. Then we need to do that taking into account the fact that resources are limited, because, otherwise we would not need to call for mobilization.

There is a whole other aspect, which is the manageability of timing, which is something that is extremely abstract. We are not opposed to it and as the United States of America said, it was language that was already approved, but I never understood it, because what is “manageable”? Some things might not be manageable, a number of meetings, because a delegation has only one or two Members. Or, a delegation could have ten Members, but if they have seats in every single Governing Body in all three Agencies, then it becomes a problem for them. Therefore, what is the baseline for saying that something is manageable or not? This is just a comment. We are not asking for that language to be taken out, but we do realize that Canada is right. There are several different ideas mixed and matched now in the current paragraph.

We would like to stress again that this is not the Dominican Republic’s idea. It is the result of the discussions we had both at the Plenary and here in Council, which is that the MYPoW has to be implemented in full so that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) can make its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 in full. In order to do that, we need to take into account available existing resources and time management and so on, and if that is not enough, we need to mobilize. We need to put all of this in a positive note. I leave the work on the appropriate text to a native speaker to reflect, not what I am saying, the results of our discussion earlier today.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

I was just wondering about maybe finding a bit more positive term instead of this “manageable workload”. If that could be considered, actually what the European Union said, that we are taking into consideration finding the right balance between the workload and resources.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I was tempted to answer your question straightaway and go for option one, but with the addition of Finland, I am a little bit puzzled because the workload has nothing to do with balancing resources. The workload may be an element of conflict into taking action here, taking action there, and combining the two actions together. We may not have time. That is what I understood, not the balance between workload and available resources. That is why I say I am a little bit puzzled because Finland brought a new idea, which now totally changes the possible understanding of the entire sentence. If we can go back to the first sentence of the first option, the way it was before, “taking into consideration manageable workload”, because it boils down to the planning of the work streams, and how we undertake the work streams as we move on.

I will opt for option one if you allow me and if we can work on option one to see how we can agree on that option, because everything is in there.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

Regarding your question, we would prefer option one because it starts on a more positive note. We think that if we just continue on the essence of what it is trying to capture, the importance of sufficient financial and human resources, first to effectively implement the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). I think it would also enable a manageable workload because if you have sufficient financial and human resources that would pave the way to having a manageable workload and it would be good to also stick to the language that has been used during the Committee on World Food Security

(CFS) Plenary discussion rather than introduce a new set of phrase or language in it.

That is why it could be “for the effective implementation of the MYPoW”, and “to enable a manageable workload”, and “called for robust resource mobilization in this regard”. Something to that effect.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

I would just note Canada’s earlier points reflect the concerns that my delegation has had with the revised option one, which is that during the Plenary discussions in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), there were concerns about the ambitious nature of the four-year, Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

Notably, there had been an earlier agreement that there would be one major work stream per year, so four over the four-year MYPoW. Whereas, because we were carrying over two items from the previous MYPoW we are actually looking at six major work streams, including looking for the adoption of two major work streams by the next Plenary by CFS 47.

It is acknowledged that that is ambitious and the reason this language was inserted into the CFS Plenary document was to recognize the possibility that things can change, especially since this is the first time we are addressing a four-year Work Plan. I have been listening very closely to my colleagues and it seems to me from what I am hearing that the major concern with option two is it does not acknowledge the need for emphasizing the importance of implementation of the full Work Plan.

I wanted to suggest adding the phrasing, “noted the importance of implementation of the MYPoW, and in this regard”. Then continue with the rest of option two, as it was previously drafted and previously agreed at the CFS Plenary in October, to see if that would offer more positive framing, while keeping the agreed upon language that we already have, about the fact that the actual implementation itself is, indeed, contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources and taking into consideration a manageable workload. I wanted to just offer that as a suggestion on a potential way ahead.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Merci à la délégation américaine pour sa proposition. Je crois qu’il est important effectivement de commencer par quelque chose de positif parce que nous l’avons tous dit, nous voulons la mise en œuvre de ce Programme de travail pluriannuel (MYPoW). Nous avons tant d’enjeux à affronter et le travail du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) nous aide à répondre à ces défis immenses de la sécurité alimentaire auxquels nous faisons face. Je voudrais donc accepter la proposition de l’option deux, peut-être juste proposer quand on dit « l’importance de la mise en œuvre » de rajouter le mot « pleine »: « de la pleine mise en œuvre », « the full implementation », en gardant ensuite la phrase telle que l’avait été adoptée le CSA sur « contingency ».

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Chairperson can we scroll up a bit to see (d). Therefore, we have endorsed something, it is to be implemented. Coming back to the importance of the full implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), I think it looks a little bit like we are not sure that we have endorsed something. If we have endorsed it, it is for implementation.

The issue here is rather, the importance of resources. That is what we want to highlight, and then avoid or try to manage the workload in such a way that there is no conflict when we are implementing the MYPoW.

That is my understanding, because if here we put “noted the importance of full implementation of MYPoW”, it is like what is this paragraph about? However, this paragraph is about the primary importance of resources, be they financial or human, and the implementation of the MYPoW.

I am not, personally, very much in favour of option two as it is drafted now. Probably, we might work out another way of drafting it, but I am not so convinced that it brings the answer to what this paragraph is about.

In fact, I do not see the problem with option one the way it is drafted. I do not see it, personally.

Unless we want to be repetitive and refer to what we have said already, but this is, from my understanding, the best option for me, so that the intent here could not be misinterpreted.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Philippines)

We also take into account what France has now suggested and at the same time the point raised by Cameroon. Because, I think the way option two is now crafted, it may be better to capture the point of the first option of the importance of sufficient financial and human resources and its relation to the effective implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

If we would try to also stick to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report and say that “it noted that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent”, because if you separate the importance of full implementation of the MYPoW, indeed it may lead to different interpretations like what Cameroon is citing. If we go straight to saying “noted”, instead of “full”, I think effective implementation will be better. “Noted that the effective implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent upon sufficient financial resources”, and so on, this would clearly relate to the sufficient financial resources required to the end objective of effectively implementing the MYPoW.

CHAIRPERSON

Members, would paragraph (d) and option 1, read together satisfy you? Paragraph (d) taken with option 1?

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

I had asked for the floor right after Cameroon's intervention, because the whole train of thought that we heard about paragraph (e), and the need to go to option one, stemmed from a reading of paragraph (d) that overlooked the fact that paragraph (d) has a caveat, which is referring the reader to some obscure footnote and then they will go to that footnote, and they will say there is a country that did not agree, and so on and so forth, thus debilitating the whole structure.

After I heard the Philippines speak, and tinker with option two, it looks fine to my delegation. So, my plea to the Council as someone who was involved in the preparation of the previous Plenary and took the time and the energy to read all the documents and to sit through all the meetings and so on, is to take paragraph (d) as you already brought the gavel down on it and go to option two, as adjusted by the Philippines, and then go to paragraph (f).

CHAIRPERSON

May I request Members, can we move forward with paragraph (d) and option 2?

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

J'avais retenu que si on gardait l'option deux, on gardait un début de paragraphe plus positif. Il faudrait donc insérer le mot « effective » à la fin de « noter l'importance d'une mise en œuvre ». Je pense qu'il est important de rajouter ce point positif, puisque moi, j'aurais préféré bien sûr l'option un, mais dans un esprit de consensus, l'option deux peut aller en commençant de façon positive.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Ou bien, « highlighted the importance of effective implementation ».

CHAIRPERSON

May we move forward? I think we can move forward.

We go to paragraph (f).

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

In my first statement, actually, I underlined the need to be very accurate in terms of defining what the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is, and what we should ensure. I propose here to quote the language from the Basic Texts, from the Reform Document.

It could be something like “underline the importance of ensuring that CFS is and remains an intergovernmental Committee in FAO and it will constitute the foremost inclusive international and

intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders.”

I can read it again. “is and remains an intergovernmental Committee in FAO and it will constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders.”

This is what we have in our vision.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

The Russian Federation is absolutely right that this is what is in the Reform Document, but my question to you is, are we copying and pasting what is in the Reform Document, in the Basic Texts, which is fine, or are we reflecting a discussion, a debate, that we had in the Council?

That may be implicit in everything we said, we all have this in mind, but there was a discussion, there was a debate here, and a number of delegations underscored the high importance, of reaffirming the inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This was in the Chairperson’s speech, this was in my intervention and in others, and this was part and parcel of what we discussed here.

We have nothing against copying and pasting, but also, we would like to have a reflection of the debate we had here in the Council and what we heard was this. We heard that the strength of CFS and the validity, the legitimacy of what comes out of it, is because of the input of Member States and civil society and the Private Sector and everyone else, and that inclusiveness, the first guiding principle of the reform, is what must be protected, defended and amplified.

I would also add, that in this discussion that we had here in Council, the interventions underscored the importance of Member ownership of CFS products, of the CFS as an institution and the CFS products and the responsibility that each and every one of us has for the uptake of these products. That old phrase about not producing stuff to have it gather dust on shelves but to actually implement it, and we have heard a lot of it throughout this Council, not just in in this agenda item, with the Conference of Parties (COP) in India, adopting the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security* (VGGTs), etc.

To conclude, it is fine to copy and paste but also to reaffirm the importance of inclusiveness and the issue of the ownership of CFS and the responsibility for uptake.

CHAIRPERSON

Russian Federation, may I ask the original wording of this paragraph, it does not contradict what the Basic Texts are saying. It is just a different set of words used.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We are not putting into doubt the principle of inclusiveness within the Committee and we fully agree with the statement of the Dominican Republic on the need to implement the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) products at the national level and not just put them up on the shelf.

With this idea, we fully agree with that, and we can reflect it in a separate paragraph, if we need to. However, now we are discussing the original paragraph, which was written in an inaccurate way and we are not talking about the need to implement the CFS’s products.

In our opinion, it is important not to interpret the founding documents and the Charter of the CFS, but to follow the text of those documents. The text, which I gave you, is now reflected on the screen and that text is from the Charter.

We disagree with the idea that the legitimacy of CFS is with regard to the inclusiveness. We do not find anything similar in the agreed language or the agreed text. The legitimacy of CFS is only because it produces intergovernmental decisions and that is why these decisions are legitimate.

CHAIRPERSON

Russian Federation, what about this amended wording, the present one?

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

What are you referring to? What exactly?

CHAIRPERSON

Paragraph (f).

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

If it says, “ underline the importance of ensuring that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and stakeholders have a key responsibility for uptake ” where is the verb?

Could you delete what is deleted from the text? Because it is not clear what the final version of this text is.

CHAIRPERSON

Russian Federation, now paragraph (f).

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

This paragraph is fine with us, but the idea has completely changed. Again, as I said before, with this idea, also expressed by the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, we fully agree. We can go along with this.

Mr. Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Just a quick clarification. I do not mean to lecture anybody or anything, however we need to make a distinction between legality and legitimacy.

Legality is what feeds into and complies with a structured law, and legitimacy includes a certain character, includes a certain moral and ethical path, so to speak. When I was the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Chair and I would speak with policymakers and implementers. They would tell me that, the legality of what emanates the outcomes of the CFS is given by, as Russian Federation is perfectly correct in saying, by the votes and the decision of Member States. The same with what comes out of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) or the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) or the Committee on Forestry (COFO) or any other Governing Body.

The difference in CFS is that during the process leading up to that decision made by the Member States, there is a participation by the civil society, by the Private Sector and all of the other stakeholders, which brings that extra of legitimacy, not of legality but of legitimacy. It is this legitimacy that these policymakers have told me and, will be telling Mr Thanawat Tiensin, that is what allows them the political capital for them to put it to those that make decisions on uptake.

It is not the same as receiving something written by 20 economists from whatever university or by three experts that meet in a back room, than that same thing that coming out of the CFS. Where it had the input of all stakeholders. It is legitimate, and it is legal and the uptake benefits from it and in the end, we contribute better to ending hunger and malnutrition with these legal and legitimate outcomes.

CHAIRPERSON

If I could address the Russian Federation’s point, that his wording ensured and it gives importance to intergovernmental decisions of the Committee but the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), even before its Reform, always had the intergovernmental decision making. The Reform ensured participation of other entities. I remember the Basic Texts used to say CFS was a committee of FAO, and it was changed to CFS is a Committee in FAO, to make all these entities as Members.

Therefore, the decision was always intergovernmental. We just went from “of” to “in” and put some more entities in.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

I was just wondering if we could keep something from the original idea. Could it be acceptable if we would say, “expressed appreciation for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as an inclusive platform and recognized it”?

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

I am fully aware of the process of Reform of 2009. I am also aware of the conclusions of this Reform. Again, we would not like to speak in the terms of interpretation of these conclusions. We would like to stick to the text of this Reform document. I am not appealing to the old one, the initial rules of procedure of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). I am appealing to the last one, the Reform document of 2009, and it is clearly said that it is foremost, an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform. I do not see any problems to repeat this, because this is in the centre of CFS.

Again, I am fully aware that the added value to CFS is because of the inclusiveness. When we are trying to make the decisions, the written decisions, we have to be accurate. We have to stick to the text of the Reform document.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Russian Federation. But, in your opinion, does this text contradict the Basic Texts, in any way?

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

If we use just “inclusive platform”, yes, it contradicts, because it is an “intergovernmental and inclusive platform”. We have to, in our opinion, mention this in our decisions.

CHAIRPERSON

I give the floor to the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). He has proposed an amendment.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Regarding the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) visions, it mentions that the CFS constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for the broad range of the committed stakeholders. That is why I would like to propose to the Chairs and also to the Members that an option is perhaps to say that, “recall that the CFS constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for the broad range of committed stakeholders who share responsibilities for the uptake of the CFS products”.

Actually, I think during our debate, several countries and several Members also mentioned the issues of the uptake of the CFS products at the national level. You may take this into consideration for this point.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have an amendment proposed by the Chair to paragraph (f) or an option two proposed by the Chair. It seems option two has consensus. So, we go ahead with option two, paragraph (f).

We move to paragraph (g), which also has two different types of wordings there.

You have two options in paragraph (g).

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je crois aussi qu'il faut essayer d'accélérer, il y a encore beaucoup à faire. Je n'avais pas de problèmes avec l'option un, mais puisque l'option deux a été proposée et si elle recueille le consensus de tous, elle peut être tout à fait acceptable. Encourager la participation du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), c'est ce qui est important et qui ressort de beaucoup de déclarations, y compris de notre part. Donc, l'option deux nous convient également.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

In my speech, I proposed to delete the whole sentence and there is no option three for deletion.

First of all, let me explain a little bit more. There is no official announcement of the summit. We do not know how the outcomes will be formalised and whether we are going to have these outcomes of the summit or not. We do not know when exactly this summit will be organized, and we do not know where.

The role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), let us discuss it, but we cannot say just that CFS should be involved. Let us discuss this possibility. There could be different options for CFS involvement, but from both of two proposals it is not clear how actually, concretely, CFS could be involved. In our opinion, we should be cautious about this for the time being.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

We understand what the Russian Federation is saying. There has been no official convening of the Summit and so on but we know that a Summit is going to take place. The Secretary General has referred to it, as well as the Director-General of FAO. All three Principals have referred to it in one way or another. It is expected to be in Rome, it is expected to take place in 2021, so there is a number of issues.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is pursuing this extraordinarily ambitious work stream on food systems. If we are talking about a World Summit on Food Systems and CFS is this international intergovernmental platform and so on and so forth, which we already agreed on ten years ago and, again, a moment ago, then it makes all the sense in the world, to claim a stake, so to speak.

Again, I have seen, as I have been speaking, some tinkering with option two “encourage consideration of CFS involvement in the preparation of the envisaged 2021 World Food Systems Summit”. We do not want that train to pass us by.

The Summit will most probably take place and in the moment in which it is officially convened we want to say, “look, the Council has taken this up, and we are ready to jump onto one of the wagons of this train”, because we have a lot to say.

When that Summit is convened, I can only fathom that the draft one or the zero draft or whatever pillar is going to be used to build upon whatever conclusions will emanate from that Summit will be the Voluntary Guidelines on Nutrition in Food Systems. I ask what else will serve as the foundation for this Summit but the work that CFS will have done, and, which will have been approved by October 2020?

I appeal to the Russian Federation’s delegation in light of the latest, and I see that it is still going on, again, tinkering with option two, to accept it and, like the French Ambassador said, let us move on. There is a lot of work to be done.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je crois en effet qu’on ne peut pas nier, que le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a dit qu’il envisageait ce Sommet, que la Secrétaire générale adjointe, Amina Mohammed, a écrit aux trois chefs des organisations romaines, et qu’on en parle à New York, à Rome, et ailleurs. Donc, la formule présentée ici en option deux présente tous les caveats qui devrait pouvoir satisfaire en cas d’incertitude ou de remise en cause. D’ailleurs, pour répondre à l’inquiétude de la délégation de la Fédération de Russie, si la date changeait, 2021 pourrait être enlevé: « World Food Systems Summit ». La formulation resterait valable et comme je crois qu’il y a beaucoup de consensus autour de cela, avançons.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think that the Russian Federation asked for a third option, though he said it should be a deletion. I would like to suggest that the third option should say, “considered to revisit at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 47 the possible involvement of CFS in the World Food Systems Summit (WFSS) preparation”. So, we presume nothing, but we want to have the possibility to re-discuss that at the CFS 47.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I was really reluctant to take the floor but it has taken a lot of time, we still have a lot of items to be discussed here, and we also have a meeting for the Drafting Committee. I feel that there is wide support to have language here for a role for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to play in the World Food Systems Summit that will be held in 2020-21. I think also that I fully understand the rationale behind the position of my colleague from the Russian Federation.

We have to differentiate between two processes here. There is the process and the substantial work of the World Food Systems Summit.

Of course, when it comes to the substantial work of food summits, CFS should have a role to play in preparing for the substantial documents for this Summit. I fully understand this, but we are here voting on whether the CFS, as we said, should play a more important role. Also, most of the Members here, and the three Rome-based Agencies, we had already asked for the engagement of the Rome-based Agencies with Member States and also Members of the CFS.

Let us find a way or a language. I propose a language that will, hopefully, capture all the concerns of all the Delegations here. We could say that, “noted that CFS can play an important role in preparing the substantial documents for the World Food Summit in 2021,” something like that. Hopefully, this could be acceptable.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I agree with some of the interventions made, particularly by the Ambassador of France. We have still got some items left. I think we have gone beyond what a Drafting Committee does. It reminds me of the Drafting Committee meetings of the 1980s, when there was a war on between WFP and FAO and there were arguments over one word, or one sentence and we sat there the whole night here. I wonder whether we are arguing over nothing.

Like it has been pointed out, there is going to the World Food Systems Summit because there has been announcements, there has been communications with FAO, the Director-General was talking about it in his interventions. So, why are we pretending that at the moment we do not know?

We know there will be one, and all this is saying is “encourage consideration of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)’s involvement in the preparation”. It is not committing anything. The wording used is “encourage consideration”. So, I do not know why we spend so much time on this sentence.

I am still beginning to think what will the Drafting Committee be doing? We are here, Drafting Committee. So, if we have to proceed this way, I will rather leave this text to the Drafting Committee. Why are we, 49 Members here, trying to agree on a sentence, which the Drafting Committee should be doing? So, may I leave this text to the Drafting Committee?

I think this wording I am leaving to the Drafting Committee. Either we agree on one of the options or it is going to the Drafting Committee.

Because it does not make sense. We are at quarter past six and we have been arguing over sentences, which do not commit anybody, which do not prejudge anything. It is the vaguest wording, which one can see and it is still not agreeable.

I think paragraph (g) we leave to the Drafting Committee.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

My delegation is not a Member of the Drafting Committee, so I just wanted to state, for the record, that we support option two. We share the Russian Federation’s concerns that we do not want to get ahead of the planning for the World Food Systems Summit and the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s remarks, but we do not believe that option two does that.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Creo que cualquiera de las respuestas son parecidas por una u otra cuestión, y el elegir las sea tan delicado. Los que venimos de la capital y estamos adentrados en los problemas directos del sector agroalimentario, no concebimos que pasamos tanto tiempo eligiendo tres líneas. Creo que nos debemos centrar en ese sentido.

CHAIRPERSON

I agree with you.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

We can look at option two. If we say “possible involvement in the preparation”. If it is fine with other Council Members, we can solve the issue without going to the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Members, could we go ahead with this, with the use of the word “possible” in option two?

Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)

Antes de escuchar a la Federación de Rusia, habríamos pensado que la opción cuatro, propuesta por el colega de Egipto, era la mejor. Pero, después de la adición del Sr. Andreev de la Federación de Rusia acaba de proponer, creo que la opción dos sería aceptable para poder avanzar y consensuar un texto y no dejarlo abierto al Comité de Redacción.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

I understand your frustration and I share it and let me tell you this. After Costa Rica and the Russian Federation spoke, we could go along with the formulation as it now stands but we would like to make this point.

If the Council had decided that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) should not participate in any World Food System Summits, and tomorrow morning a letter would come from the Secretary General convening the World Food Summit in Rome and asking for CFS to partake, what would happen in concrete reality?

This is a question, which I would like to pose to the Legal Counsel in a private conversation later on, but for us to think about it.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La délégation française ne peut pas accepter cette formulation. Je crois que tout le monde était d'accord pour qu'il y ait un engagement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) dans le travail de préparation du Sommet. Soit on met « possible » avant: « possible World Food Systems Summit », ou alors, je propose d'accepter votre proposition, que le Comité de rédaction réfléchisse à ces options, car je crois que nous avons suffisamment discuté ce soir.

CHAIRPERSON

I give the floor to the last speaker, Cameroon, and then, since there is no agreement, we will pass it on to the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee knows what the views of Members are on this issue, so it is not a question of that they would be in the dark about it, so they can argue. They have got the whole night before them. I see the Chair is not very happy, but I think that will be the best.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

If people are going for option two, then I regret to say that I cannot really accept that because we are merely saying encourage consideration. Who should consider that? That is the big question.

We will be going into an intersession where the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will not meet before October 2020. Where is it going to be discussed? How to go about it? These are the real questions that we have to pose. The only thing we can say now is to take a decision either to encourage the Secretariat to move ahead, or we ourselves as a Body, the Council, we decide to come back to it in 2020 to re-discuss it. That is the only way.

Because here saying that, “encourage consideration of possible CFS involvement”. Who? What is the body that will take the decision?

CHAIRPERSON

I think all these questions the Drafting Committee can consider. We go to paragraph (h).

Any comments on paragraph (h)? I see no one is taking the floor on paragraph (h), so paragraph (h) is adopted.

As I said, this paragraph (h) is adopted, but paragraph (g) will be taken up by the Drafting Committee.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Item 9. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2020–23
Point 9. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2020–2023
Tema 9. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2020–23
 (CL 163/14)

CHAIRPERSON

We still have got some items, so we go to Item 9, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2020–23*. The document before you is *CL 163/14*.

As you are aware, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's Agenda due to the rolling nature of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW). It should be considered a living document and as such is subject to constant improvement and fine tuning. Also, as a result of consultations on the MYPOW that take place at the regular Informal Meetings I hold with the Regional Group Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons. The floor is open for delegates who may wish to propose improvements to the text you have before you.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je vous demanderai humblement de bien vouloir donner la parole au Mali, pour donner la position du Groupe Afrique sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Ms Aly COULIBALY (Mali)

La Zambie et le Mali au nom du Groupe Afrique se prononcent sur le point relatif au « Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2020–2023 (MYPOW) ».

Le Groupe Afrique remercie la FAO, les Comités ainsi que le Conseil pour la qualité des documents produits et mis à sa disposition.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie la volonté du Conseil de tout mettre en œuvre en vue de la matérialisation efficace et efficiente de son Programme de travail pluriannuel 2020–2023.

Le Groupe Afrique espère une mise en œuvre partagée et surtout inclusive du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les stratégies, les priorités, les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation, ainsi que la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie le document présenté au Conseil pour son caractère dynamique, qui s'avère être un outil de programmation, de planification et d'organisation des tâches en vue de l'atteinte des objectifs de l'Organisation.

Le Groupe Afrique, tout en appréciant la qualité du document, reconnaît qu'il est toujours susceptible d'amélioration, car il s'agit d'une programmation axée sur les résultats, d'une méthodologie qui se caractérise dans son approche à examiner les objectifs, les moyens et les résultats à chaque étape du processus.

Le Groupe régional demeure convaincu que les documents produits permettront au Conseil de donner à la Conférence et dans les délais les meilleurs des indications précises et équilibrées pour l'atteinte des objectifs à travers les résultats, les priorités, le programme et le budget de la FAO.

Le Groupe Afrique approuve en conséquence le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2020-2023.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We welcome the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2020–23. It reflects the Council's objectives as well as the expected results. Furthermore, it is a good planning tool for the important and

complex work of the Council.

With these comments, we endorse the Multi-year Programme of Work 2020–23.

Mr Fei HUANG (China)

China has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

We would like to welcome the Council's Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020–23 and see it as a good planning tool, which gives clear instruction to the Members for the complex work of the Council.

We take note of the rolling nature of the MYPOW and consider it as a living document to be constantly improved. Compared to the version submitted to the 160th Session of the Council, there is one change where we would like to seek clarification. The document says on page 7 that Members are going to review a “High-Level Outline of the Strategic Framework” at the next Council meeting. We welcome the information to be provided, but could you explain what “High-Level Outline” refers to and what kind of document we will receive?

We appreciate your work in initiating the Informal Meeting with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups so as to fulfill the objectives of the MYPOW. We would like to encourage you to continue this good practice and keep this mutual trust between you and the Members.

With the comments above, the Asia Group approves the Council's MYPOW 2020–23.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Aplaudimos el carácter dinámico del documento y su actualización a partir de sus reuniones informales que Usted tuvo con los líderes regionales.

Ese tipo de diálogo es clave para la preparación de las sesiones del Consejo, como también lo es intercambiar ideas de modo informal con el Director General.

El Programa Plurianual está bien articulado y confiamos que garantice un funcionamiento del Consejo cada vez más eficiente.

Acogemos las líneas de trabajo indicativo para los próximos años, así como su distribución en el calendario.

Nos complace que la colaboración entre las tres Agencias con sede en Roma sea un tema permanente de la Agenda del Consejo.

Exhortamos a la FAO a que redoble esfuerzos en el examen de áreas adicionales donde el potencial de la Cooperación tripartita pueda verse fortalecido, incluyendo la cooperación en el terreno.

En varios temas de este Consejo, incluyendo el anterior sobre el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) la plenaria se transformó en una especie de Comité general de redacción, para frustración suya Sr. Presidente y de muchos Miembros. Tuvimos que convocar una reunión nocturna ayer, y estamos en una sesión vespertina extraordinaria. Desear que las decisiones del Consejo sean breves y concisas es una loable declaración de intenciones y corresponde a nosotros, los Estados Miembros, asumir la responsabilidad de alcanzar conclusiones que reflejen nuestros debates.

Una complicación añadida es que el texto de las decisiones se presenta en una de las seis lenguas oficiales de Naciones Unidas.

Por último, celebramos los avances en el proceso de digitalización de la FAO, incluyendo el lanzamiento de la nueva versión de la página web y la aplicación móvil creada para este período de sesiones, que ha resultado muy útil.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I plan to take up this question of the conclusions of the Chairperson and the decisions in the January meeting of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. I think we need to have a look at this process, because sometimes the discussion on the Item is shorter than what we keep arguing when we

come to commenting on the summaries and the conclusions. Sometimes we get into particular words rather than concepts and one of the things I would be putting to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons is in view of the way we proceed in the Plenary, is there a necessity for the Drafting Committee?

I would like a discussion in the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, a frank discussion, because it always happens when there's a text before a person. There is always a temptation. Everybody has a different editorial style. There is a temptation to always tinker with the language. The role of the Drafting Committee is not what it used to be in the old days. I think this needs to be discussed in the meeting of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons which then obviously, we will bring the conclusions to the Plenary.

That ends the list of speakers. Ms Beth Crawford, can you answer China's question?

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

I would like to, indeed, respond to the question from China, which was posed on behalf of the Asia Group related to one of the Items that will be coming to the June Session of the Council, called a High-Level Outline of the Strategic Framework.

I would like to recall *Information Note 1 of CL163/4*, which we have prepared, and, which outlines the process for the consultation on the development of the new Strategic Framework. So, indeed, the first Item on that list after the Regional Conferences will be this High Level Outline and in the Table 1 of that document, you will see that we refer to the initial consultative process based on FAO's vision and goals would have been initiated.

We will consider the FAO's Results Framework in the context of the Agenda 2030 and we will also be reporting on regional specificities which we would have at that time from the Regional Conferences. Therefore, the very first step of this process will last throughout that entire year and into the first session of the next year. As you will also see that then in the December Session of the Council next year there will be a further outline of the Strategic Framework before the final Strategic Framework is presented to you. Therefore, it is just to have that consultative process throughout your sessions of next year.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of discussions on this Item. Therefore, we can say the Council reviewed and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work for 2020–23.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 10. Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 161st Session of the Council (8–12 April 2019)

Point 10 Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent soixante et unième session (8–12 avril 2019)

Tema 10 Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 161.º período de sesiones (8–12 de abril de 2019)

(CL 163/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move onto Item 10, *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 161st Session of the Council (8–12 April 2019)*. The relevant document is *CL163/LIM/3*. The Council is invited to note the information on the implementation of decisions. The floor is open for Members who wish to speak on the status report set out in the Council document under consideration. The floor is open.

I see there is no request for the floor, so the Council took note of the *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at its 161st session (8–12 April 2019)*.

Item 12. Working Methods of the Council
Point 12 Méthodes de travail du Conseil
Tema 12 Métodos de trabajo del Consejo
(CL163/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

With that we can move to Item 12, *Note on the Methods of Work of the Council*. The relevant document before the Council is CL163/INF/5 and I open the floor for any comments.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Pour l'examen de ce point, je vous prierais de bien vouloir donner la parole à la Côte d'Ivoire, qui devrait parler au nom du Groupe Afrique.

M. Eloi Victor KAMBOU (Côte d'Ivoire) (Observateur)

La Côte d'Ivoire et le Cameroun font cette déclaration au nom du Groupe Afrique. Celle-ci porte sur le document portant la cote CL 163/INF/5, intitulé « *Note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil* ». Le document est structuré en cinq parties, il présente les fonctions du Conseil, puis les paragraphes concernant l'ordre du jour, le calendrier et la documentation. Ensuite, la conduite des débats suivie des paragraphes sur les rapports et comptes rendus, et enfin, l'application des méthodes de travail. Le Groupe Afrique estime que cette note est pertinente, parce qu'elle a l'avantage de rappeler aux États membres, les règles d'organisation du Conseil de la FAO, ainsi que le déroulement de ses travaux.

Nous pouvons ainsi nous interroger sur l'application effective de ces règles, notamment celles qui nous rappellent que l'ordre du jour est distribué 60 jours avant l'ouverture de la session, et celle également qui nous rappelle que tous les documents sont expédiés au moins quatre semaines avant l'ouverture de la session. Je fais référence ici aux paragraphes 7 et 11 du dit document.

Sur le chapitre concernant la conduite des débats, nous souhaitons que le Président indépendant du Conseil engage des consultations visant à s'accorder sur la meilleure méthode de conduite des débats, surtout en ce qui concerne l'adoption de son résumé au terme de l'examen de chaque question, car nous notons que la méthode actuelle entraîne de longues discussions, y compris sur des questions de style.

Toujours sur la conduite des débats, le Groupe Afrique voudrait adresser ses remerciements et ses félicitations aux membres du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, ainsi qu'à leur Présidents respectifs, pour l'excellent travail qu'ils accomplissent pour la conduite et la bonne tenue du Conseil.

Le Groupe salue également les membres du Secrétariat et tout le personnel de la FAO, dont le travail contribue chaque jour à améliorer le bon déroulement du Conseil. Enfin, le Groupe Afrique voudrait rendre un hommage bien mérité au Président indépendant du Conseil, qui dirige les travaux de cet organe comme un sacerdoce.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States of America)

Two brief requests from our delegation. Firstly, we would appreciate a return to receiving Orders of the Day. Particularly in sessions like this, where we go off schedule, and we are going along. It makes it difficult for us to necessarily have the right people, such as today when we began with World Food Programme matters this morning. Therefore, just a request to return to that practice. Not only using the app, but also the website and other notice means.

Secondly, I just wanted to note, as is up there right now, we appreciate seeing the list of speakers requesting the floor, during the Council debates. It was done for a number of the sessions, but not necessarily all of them. I just want to urge the continuation of that practice.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Egypt would like to express our appreciation for your patience, wisdom and leadership shown during our deliberations at the Council.

We fully support continuing the current practice of putting your summaries on the screen, as it gives

the Members a chance to engage.

Egypt has just two recommendations. The first one has already been said by my colleague from the United States of America and we fully support it. We also believe that it is useful to have a kind of Order of the Day after our deliberation, every day, to be also included in the website, and in the app.

It would be very helpful for all the Members to prepare their interventions, and also to be on time to attend the sessions.

Egypt would like to stick to the timetable and start our meeting on punctual time. Unfortunately, we missed a lot of opportunities, and this will help us to take advantage of the interpretation services.

Additionally, we would like to highlight that we should also be very cautious in planning any side events conflicting with the Council, in order to conclude our work on time.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je souscris tout à fait à ce que viennent de dire mes différents collègues, en particulier mon collègue de l'Égypte, tous les points qu'il a mentionnés sont extrêmement pertinents. Je rappelle aussi l'importance du multilinguisme pour que toutes les délégations soient traitées de façon égale dans la réception des documents et que ces documents puissent être produits le plus tôt possible. Je voudrais également souligner que nous sommes très nombreux ici, je crois, à apprécier d'avoir une vraie discussion de fond, approfondie et substantielle sur le rapport des débats, qui nous permet des échanges très intéressants parce qu'ils vont au fond des positions des uns et des autres, ce qui s'avère très utile. Bien sûr, pour ce qui touche à la pure rédaction, le rôle du Comité de rédaction est essentiel, et je crois que ce que nous faisons ici n'est pas du tout inutile, au contraire, et permet d'avoir un débat transparent, ouvert et de fond, parfois plus intéressant même que la lecture de déclarations plus formelles. Je vous encourage donc et vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, d'aller dans ce sens.

Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

We thank the Secretariat for the documents. We appreciate the explanation of the Council's Working Methods, and we support measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness. With special emphasis on the timely provision of meeting documents.

Governing Bodies are very important for Member States to take part in. Therefore, it is important to have documents in time. We noticed that some of the Council's documents were not even available in English until last week, let alone translated versions in other languages.

Translation is very difficult. Translators need enough time. They can hardly produce high quality translations if they do not have time. We hope that the Secretariat can urge relevant persons to provide meeting documents in a timely manner.

CHAIRPERSON

There is no other request for the floor. Therefore, what we could say is the Council took note of recent improvements in the Working Methods, as well as of recommendations from Members for further improvements for the future. The Secretariat also has taken note and it is in the Verbatim Records, the specific points you have raised about putting the list on the screen and other points. Those will be taken care of, and the question of the Order of the Day.

Therefore, would the Council agree that we can move forward with this wording? I see we can.

- Item 14. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2019-21**
Point 14 Calendrier 2019-2021 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales
Tema 14 Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2019-2021

(CL 163/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We go to Item 14, which is *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2019–21*.

The document before you is *CL163/LIM/1*.

To avoid meetings overlapping, FAO draws up this Calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP, and through the web-based Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Common Calendar, which may be consulted by Members at any time through the FAO Members Gateway on the FAO homepage, and on the relevant platforms of the other agencies.

The Schedule of Meetings for 2020–21, is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last session, when the Calendar was presented for information are indicated with an asterisk. The Council is requested to approve the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2020–21.

The floor is open for any comments.

Mme Christelle Carine OLLANDET (République du Congo)

La délégation de la République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Nous saluons l'élaboration du calendrier provisoire 2020-2021 des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM, et des autres réunions principales.

Nous remercions le Directeur de la Division de la Conférence, du Conseil et du protocole, pour la bonne présentation du calendrier provisoire.

Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le calendrier provisoire 2020-2021, approuve le calendrier proposé pour 2020 et prend note du projet de calendrier pour 2021.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comment? I see none. Therefore we could, under this Item, say the Council approved the *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies for 2019–21*, as reproduced in *Appendix*, and we will insert the number to this Report.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 15. Provisional Agenda for the 164th Session of the Council (8-12 June 2020)

Point 15. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante-quatrième session du Conseil (8-12 juin 2020)

Tema 15. Programa provisional del 164.º período de sesiones del Consejo (8-12 de junio de 2020)

(CL 163/INF/2)

I see no reactions, so we can move forward to Item 15, which is the last one, the *Provisional Agenda for the 164th Session of the Council*, which will be held from 8th to 12th of June 2020. The document for you is *CL 163/INF/2*, which the Provisional Agenda.

I see no request for the floor. The Council endorses the *Provisional Agenda for the 164th Session of the Council*, as contained in document *CL 163/INF/2*.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 16. Any Other Matters
Point 16 Questions diverses
Tema 16 Auntos varios

- Item 16.1 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*
Point 16.1 Nomination des représentantants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
Tema 16.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal
 (CL 163/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we go to our last Item, Item 16, *Any Other Matters*.

The first one is appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee, and the document is *CL 163/LIM/6*. Members are reminded that sub-item 16.1, *Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*, was included under this item when the Agenda was adopted on Monday morning. The document before Council is *CL 163/LIM/6*.

Given that Mr Anton Minaev has vacated his position on the Staff Pension Committee, the Council is invited to consider the candidature of Mr Denis Cherednichenko to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Minaev, as Member of the Staff Pension Committee, which ends on 31 December 2019, and to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Minaev, as Alternate Member of the Staff Pension Committee, from 1st January 2020 until 31st December 2022.

Can I take it that the Council has no objections to the proposed nomination? I see no objection. Therefore this is approved.

CHAIRPERSON

Item 16.3, *Statement to the Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies*.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

When you introduced and we discussed the Agenda on Monday morning, you told us that these items should be dealt with, I mean all, any other business, even the one on the Deputy Director-General (DDG) on Friday morning. We see for apparent reasons, why maybe we could deal, we had to deal with the DDG appointment earlier, now Staff Pension Committee, fine. However, I see that not all Council Members are present at this late hour, and you told us that on Friday morning, we would have the statement of the Staff Representative Bodies.

I think it would be good to have it when we are all available here, because it was always important, and I guess they have to tell us something about their perception of how things have evolved under the new leadership, and all Members should be able to benefit from this.

My plea would be to postpone this Item under *Any Other Business* to Friday, before adopting the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not have any objections. Members agree that we move it to Friday. I agree with what you said, that the Staff Representative, it is the first statement after the new Director-General is taking over, and so, it would be good if all the Membership is present. Therefore, if Members agree, we can take it up on Friday.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Nous voudrions des informations beaucoup plus complètes. À quelle heure vendredi? Pour que nous ayons le quorum du Conseil, il faut que nous soyons sûrs de l'heure exacte.

CHAIRPERSON

At 9:30.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Est-ce à dire que l'adoption du rapport suivra immédiatement après? Est-elle prévue pour le matin ou l'après-midi? Si j'ai bien suivi la déclaration de l'Allemagne, il aurait souhaité que tout se passe avant l'adoption du rapport, mais pour que tout le monde soit là, ne pourrait-on pas rapprocher tout cela à l'adoption du rapport?

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the Secretary-General to explain that.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In response to the question, as you have said, the suggested time for completing this item will be 9:30 in the morning on Friday. We also have consideration of another Item, the *Debriefing on the Field Visit to Turkey and Georgia by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations* on Friday morning.

As for the Adoption of the Report, the exact time will become clear as it is in the provisional timetable that was adopted by the Members, once, the Drafting Committee starts its work and finishes its work. We will keep you updated on that accordingly.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Thank you Chairperson, thank you to the Secretary-General for the explanations. Fine with that, but we should try to make the best use of our time. In case the Report and the translations are ready by around noon I think that we could reconvene at 11:00. Otherwise, it means coming here at 9:30, and going back to the office after one hour to then come back. Maybe, there is a way to accommodate this.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In fact, the reason why the Independent Chairperson of the Council suggested 9:30 in the morning, is to maximize the amount of audience for the very important Item, and was also because taking into account all the variables that will need to be undertaken for the drafting and so on. We are confident, that the Adoption of the Report would follow in a single block after that 9:30 start.

CHAIRPERSON

We have come to the end of our discussions for this evening. I thank the Members for their patience, and it is 19:00, and so I adjourn the meeting and reconvene again on Friday, for the Items which the Secretary-General has just mentioned, and the Drafting Committee will be meeting at 19:15? Can you make the announcement?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place tonight at 19:30 p.m. in the Iraq room. I beg your pardon, 19:15 in the Iraq room.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Could you ask the Secretariat to announce tomorrow's side events?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the Russian Federation, I am pleased to announce that there will be a Side Event tomorrow, Thursday, at 13:00, in the Sheikh Zayed Centre celebrating the World Soil Day.

The meeting rose at 19:06 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 06

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.06

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixty-Third Session Cent soixante-troisième session 163.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2019 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019
SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 December 2019

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:44 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 44
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.44
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the Seventh and final Plenary Meeting of this 163rd session of the FAO Council.

Before we take up the first Item, I just want to inform the Council that the Report for adoption is available on the password-protected area of the FAO Member's Gateway in all languages.

Debriefing on Field Visits to Turkey and Georgia (22-29 September 2019) by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations

Compte rendu de la visite de terrain effectuée en Turquie et en Géorgie (22-29 septembre 2019) par des hauts fonctionnaires de représentations permanentes sises à Rome

Informe oral acerca de la visita sobre el terreno realizadas a Turquía y Georgia (22-29 de septiembre de 2019) por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma

CHAIRPERSON

Now we take up our Item, where the Council will now be debriefed on the Field visit to Turkey and Georgia which took place earlier this year, from 22 to 29 September. I invite Ms Renate Hahlen, European Union, and Ms Lucianara Andrade Fonseca, Brazil, who participated in the field visit to deliver a presentation on the field visit.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I speak on behalf of Ambassador Olaniran who is beside me.

FAO organized a single field visit this year, it went into the European region. We visited two countries, Turkey and Georgia. Let me start by thanking the teams here, Ms Cristina Amaral and her team and the two teams in the country first for their efforts to give us the opportunity to see evidently. I mean, we are here very much on the multilateral, going to the fields and see projects is a completely different thing. Therefore, it was very good for us to have that opportunity, to link the very top to where things should happen. On the podium here you have almost all of us, one member is missing. Unfortunately, Ambassador Abdus Sobhan Sikder from Bangladesh cannot be with us today.

We visited two quite different countries, different in size and population and challenges. Turkey is a country of 80 million inhabitants, circa, and Georgia has less than 4 million inhabitants. They host different kinds of FAO offices.

Ankara, Turkey, has an office with a dual function, as the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and the Country Office at the same time. In Tbilisi, Georgia, there is a Country Office, which is one of the biggest in the region and is managed on a day-by-day basis by the Assistant Country Representative. The Country Representative, himself, is based in the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in Budapest, from where he oversees FAO work in various countries of the Region.

In both countries we had a mix of meetings with FAO Staff, National and Regional Authorities, the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator and UN Agencies. In Georgia, we met with other donors and we also visited projects. In Turkey we went to two different regions, Konya, which is the bread basket in the western centre of the country, and Şanlıurfa in the south, which is close to the Syrian border. In Georgia we visited one region outside Tbilisi in the eastern part of the country.

Before I go into the key findings, which are structured between common Turkey and Georgia, I just want to say a little bit on the two photos that you see. Our encounters with the Syrian refugees, you have a photo there, provided the most moving moments for us. We had the honour to hand over to them certificates after a three-month training that should prepare them for jobs in the agricultural sector. The lady in the photo told us that thanks to the training and the job that she is ensuring in the agricultural sector, thanks to the training, allows her to bring her family out of the camp where she has been for six years with a number of children, more than five. Therefore, she was very grateful for the training received.

In the other photo you see a cattle farm in Georgia, which is the first country-wide that qualified for identifying and registering livestock independently from the veterinary service. What you see as feed,

is from that time of the year, is mash; the leftovers from the winemakers of the region that we visited during harvest time.

I now come to the key findings. Those applicable to both countries, very good relationships in both countries of the FAO offices with the governments, a result of a build-up of mutual trust and continuous cooperation, evidenced by reciprocal complement of Staff from the FAO office into the Agriculture Ministry and also vice versa. Also that in both countries the Government provides the premises for the FAO offices.

Both countries have a special situation with tensions. The Georgian Government does not have access, for instance, to the region of Abkhazia but the UN can access, and also donors provide funding for activities in that part of the country. Therefore, this is very important to keep that region afloat with the help of FAO and other UN Agencies, where the United Nations agencies need to cooperate very closely because they are the only ones that can go there. Georgian nationals cannot.

Both offices highlighted the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for introducing new thematic areas, therefore they kind of use it as seed money or, as we have seen in Georgia, to demonstrate the capacity of FAO as a reliable partner at country level, thereby building a basis for further cooperation and larger scale interventions based on partnerships with the Government and also with donors.

We have seen significant degree of fragmentation in both countries with a large number of single, small-scale projects and this despite partnerships, not only the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is in both cases really minor compared to the voluntary contributions that came in. Therefore, this may pose a risk to the sustained impact of the operations.

We have witnessed that there is at least intentions and close cooperation with the Government to ensure follow-up activities or follow-up activities by other partners, as we, for instance, evidenced in the case of the refugee project in southern Turkey where there have been three smaller projects, funded by Japan, the United States of America and the European Union (EU), very similar kinds of operations, and now the EU is providing a EUR 10 million upgrade to this, which allows the activities to be scaled up to reach a higher number of refugees.

However, consideration could be given to tackle the challenges faced in assuring a programmatic approach to FAO's project portfolio management. In both countries we have noticed a large dependency on voluntary contributions to maintain offices that are relatively big, however, where there is not necessarily a sustained funding for at least the core Staff of the offices.

We also had, from our only snapshot impression and the meetings we had and the conversations we had, we do have the impression that a more comprehensive food systems and nutritional approach appears to be missing in both countries. So there is more work for FAO to bring this into the mainstream thinking of governments.

There are endeavours to reach out wherever possible to university research institutes and academia in the implementation of projects. We have seen that very actively in Turkey where you have counterparts that have capacities. This is not so much the case in Georgia, where we were informed that in the last year only four persons, four students, graduated as agronomers nationwide. This is a challenge for the country.

Special findings for Turkey. One is that innovation is context-specific. Therefore, there may be something that is considered innovative because it has not been practised, while the practice is current practice elsewhere. We have seen that, for instance, in practices of conservation agriculture, including no tillage. When we discuss innovation, we have to keep that in mind, what innovation may mean, depending on the countries we are looking at.

The second very interesting experience was to see the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, which is an important add-on, especially in Turkey where the Government organizes farmer days, where farmers get short-term, on the ground practice but not an accompaniment throughout an entire period from planting to harvesting. Therefore, that is also something that we have seen. We have seen one field school that was very operational, and another one in Georgia that is being built up. However, we see that there is already, very quickly, a multiplier effect by the one farmer, that is then being

consulted by the entire village, for instance, and if it works on his fields, it works village-wide. Therefore, this is a good multiplier effect of the field schools.

For Georgia there is a very strong political will to get as close to the European Union as possible. This is the Government policy. It is very explicit and it is also the wish of the Government to see all the donors support this process. This is evident for FAO that it is an important implementing partner since many years. In the agricultural sector, there is a budget support operation which is coupled with technical assistance, and FAO is one of the implementing agencies of that technical assistance.

However, we have also heard from other donors, that even they are invited by the Government to support their policy agenda, which is all around gaining approximation to the European Union based on an Association Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement. However, Georgia also has Free Trade Agreements with other countries, and so it is also preparing its agricultural sector for export.

On Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there was a clear concern of FAO, and also of the UN colleagues from the other Agencies, that there is very little awareness and capacity in the Government. The government of Georgia has done reporting already within the monitoring process on the SDGs, but very little awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals in the population. Therefore, that is something where action could be taken together by the UN.

Then Georgia is a very interesting example of what Staff is like. They have a total Staff of 90 of which 88 are project-funded. Core Staff in Georgia are two people. This is according to what we have learnt from FAO, and is below what the average size of a Country Office is, where you would say you should have at least four people. However, it also shows that even when you are very small, through your own authority and expertise, you can garner support for strong partnerships with various partners to have a very flourishing office, as we have witnessed there. I stop here and hand over to Ms Lucianara Andrade Fonseca.

Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)

I will present the set of nine recommendations, based on the key findings that have just been presented.

The first one concerns the multiplier function of projects, and by this we mean to emphasize the notion that projects should invest in the capacity of beneficiaries, both men and women, to be able to pass on the knowledge acquired. The photo that we have chosen here is an illustration of this point, as it was taken at a Farmer Field School (FFS) in Turkey, with a significant presence of women farmers, and we felt this was a good example of reaching out to different segments in the population.

The second point is related to the United Nations Development Reform. We have found that, as was mentioned by Dr Hahlen, both offices have good relations with the Government and other agencies. Therefore, this is a recommendation for them to continue this constructive work that they have been doing in supporting the implementation of the Reform, as well as for the work of the UN Resident Coordinator, and so on.

The third recommendation concentrates on funding, which has already been discussed, on the role of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), and of voluntary contributions. We saw that TCP had an important function in allowing FAO offices to establish themselves in the country, and in allowing them to show themselves as meaningful partners with other actors, as well as with the Government, and also by addressing new thematic areas.

Afterwards, voluntary contributions came in and allowed for long-term cooperation and funding partnerships on most occasions. Nevertheless, at the same time, we felt that there was a risk generated by the high dependence on voluntary contributions. In the overall context, we believe it is important to address and identify areas that need funding but are overlooked by donors, or are not covered by earmarked contributions. This could be done by establishing dialogues with the Government, FAO and other actors, as well as by encouraging non-earmarked contributions. The UN Reform will also offer some tools in this respect.

The next set of recommendations are somewhat related, as they refer to the dissemination of good practices.

The fourth one is the scalability of actions. Here, it is essential to include this perspective in the design of projects, as to secure follow-up partnerships that can benefit from FAO's piloting activities. This could be done with other Agencies, or as we have seen in the country visited, with academia, universities and research institutions. In addition, by encouraging governments to build on the results, both at national and regional level. According to our short insight into these two countries, FAO strives to make this happen in many cases.

This leads me to the point on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We have seen that both Turkey and Georgia are countries that presented the potential for this kind of cooperation, being countries that are receivers of cooperation, as well as being providers of funding, or developing practices for expansion in neighbouring countries.

As for acting locally, thinking regionally, we have seen that especially in Georgia, where not only FAO but also other Agencies, are designing projects and concepts that could benefit neighbouring countries. I believe that such approaches are laudable, and could be further pursued.

The next recommendation concentrates on capacity building and extension services.

We considered cases where there isn't enough expertise in the agricultural area, such as a low number of university graduates. In this case, some sort of strategy could be developed to actively reach out to secondary schools to inform them about the importance of agronomy, or to possibly craft programmes to make it more attractive to become an agronomist.

The other point is on food systems and nutrition.

From our conversations and our short insight, we felt that there was space to advance in these areas, which offer, at the same time, great potential for collaborating with other UN Agencies on the ground.

Finally, considering cases where core FAO Staff in a Country Office is below the regular minimum number of four to five, it is important for internal control systems to function well to be able to back up, and support, those offices.

Last but not least, we would like to end by expressing our thanks for the hospitality we found in both countries, as well as for the hard work and dedication of FAO Staff, both on the ground, and for the support we had here from Headquarters, that led to a very insightful and enjoyable visit.

I don't know if any of our colleagues would like to add something, otherwise we all would also be very glad to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON

Would any other colleagues wish to comment? I open the floor for Members who may wish to comment or ask a question. The floor is open.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je voudrais d'abord féliciter les Ambassadeurs et collègues qui ont effectué cette mission. Je prends la parole parce que j'ai eu aussi l'occasion d'effectuer ces missions, moment très important de voir sur le terrain le grand travail que la FAO accomplit, qui découle notamment de décisions que nous prenons au Conseil. C'est une occasion unique de voir les activités menées sur le terrain que nous finançons.

Il est important aussi de considérer les recommandations faites à la FAO par les équipes qui reviennent du terrain et d'en faire également la synthèse. Certaines recommandations concernent directement les bureaux dans les pays, d'autres s'adressent à l'Organisation, ou encore aux pays qui reçoivent les Représentants permanents.

Je voudrais insister sur un point, sur la recommandation concernant les activités réalisées sur le terrain, qui souvent sont des projets en phase-pilote. Le grand problème de ces projets est de passer à la phase suivante, à l'échelle du pays afin que celui-ci en tire effectivement bénéfice. C'est là que doit intervenir la coopération avec les banques de développement qui seront en mesure d'aider la FAO, car elle ne dispose pas de moyens suffisants pour ce passage.

Ainsi, nous avons l'option des banques de développement, mais aussi de la coopération avec les

organisations du système des Nations Unies. Cela permettrait d'aller un peu plus loin, car beaucoup de projets, notamment des projets du Programme de coopération technique, ne sont réalisés que dans un domaine, alors qu'il faut les faire passer à l'échelle supérieure afin d'obtenir de bons résultats sur le terrain.

Notamment, en matière de mobilisation des femmes, de leur autonomisation à travers ces projets, qui doivent pouvoir passer à l'échelle supérieure; même chose pour les jeunes, à travers la création d'emplois et l'amélioration des revenus en milieu rural. Ceci dit, je félicite les collègues qui nous ont fourni un rapport très utile, qui constitue, je dirais, une mine d'informations, que l'on peut aller puiser pour essayer d'aller de l'avant.

Ms Gunnvor BERGE (Norway) (Observer)

I would like to thank FAO for organizing these field visits, and the country offices for their hard work in organizing them. I would also like to thank my colleagues for the excellent presentation and the recommendations that were provided.

The reason why I take the floor is that I was among those who took part in the field visit in Indonesia and Philippines in November last year and while some of the recommendations that we heard now are more country-specific, many of them are similar to the ones that our team presented at an earlier Council meeting.

Similarly to my colleague from Congo, I would just like to ask a question to FAO about, as my Congo colleague put it, how does FAO take stock of the recommendations from these field visits? Is there some kind of follow-up mechanism in FAO? I know you put so much effort into organizing them and we who participate find them so useful. After the Report is presented here, what happens?

CHAIRPERSON

I now pass the floor back to Ms Hahlen and Ms Fonseca in case you have some comments. If not, I will give the floor to the Secretariat to answer the question.

Then I will pass the floor to Ms Amaral to answer the question, which has been put about the recommendations of the field visits.

Ms Cristina AMARAL (Director, Office of Support to Decentralized Offices)

It is really a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and interest in the field visits.

How do we use the recommendations? In the last three field visits we organized a debriefing session, an internal one. There was attendance in some cases by the Assistant Director-General's concerned with the programmes, the Assistant Director-General from the region where the visit took place, and the colleagues of the Country Office, and all the Technical Units, both at Headquarters or in the region, who were in one way or another involved.

Through this debriefing it was possible to take the recommendations and to use them for our future programmes, and to look at some of these aspects. I think it is a very good suggestion that we make a more systematic approach, that we use these field visits that will really be laboratories of exchange and joint engagement with the Membership. Therefore, it is not a visit just to look at projects but a visit that will entail a dialogue with the Membership on how we can improve our Field Programmes.

Certainly there will be also more transformation in a more effective way but we are already in cooperating and the colleagues concerned are taking stock.

CHAIRPERSON

I think this brings us to the end of this Item. I would like to thank Ms Hahlen and Ms Fonseca for their interesting and informative presentation.

Item 16. Any Other Matters**Point 16 Questions diverses****Tema 16 Auntos varios***Item 16.3 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies**Point 16.3 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO**Tema 16.3 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO***CHAIRPERSON**

We can now move on to Item 16.3: *Statement to the Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies*. We agreed on Wednesday evening to hear the statement from the Staff Representative Bodies this morning.

I invite Mr Jacob Skoet, President of Association of Professionals in FAO (AP-in-FAO) to deliver the statement.

Mr Jacob SKOET (President, AP-in-FAO)

The Staff Representative Bodies are grateful for once again being given the opportunity to speak before the Council. As always, it is an honour for us to be able to share with you the perceptions and concerns of the staff we represent.

This is the first time we address you since the new Director-General took office. When we last spoke to the Council, in April this year, we concluded by saying that we were optimistic for FAO and its staff and that we looked forward to working constructively with a new Management to make the Organization a better working place for staff and at the same time more effective in carrying out its mandate. So far, our reasons for optimism seem to have been valid. We see significant efforts to improve relations between staff and Management. We also believe that there is now recognition at the highest level that a motivated and satisfied work force is in the best interest of the Organization and its Member Countries. This was confirmed during our meeting with the Director-General and the exchange of views we were able to have with him directly in the beginning of October.

We also perceive a new spirit of cooperation and true dialogue in the Staff-Management Consultative Committee, which is the main forum where we engage regularly with Management of the Organization. This is also thanks to the constructive and cooperative approach taken by the new Chairperson of the Committee, the Assistant Director-General of the Corporate Services Department. The upgrading of this function to the level of Assistant Director-General is also an indication of the importance attached to dialogue with staff representatives by the Director-General. We still occasionally see some vestiges of the old way of doing business, where the Staff Representative Bodies were frequently ignored or forgotten. However, we trust that gradually we will all learn to work together more effectively and constructively.

We welcome some concrete changes that have already been implemented by the Director-General, such as the policy of granting extended maternity leave and the re-alignment of travel standards with those of other UN Organizations. In addition, an employee satisfaction survey is soon to be launched, as requested by the Council in December 2018, and efforts to start the recruitment process for the new Ombudsman are under way. We also welcome the overall more positive attitude towards staff and the recognition by Management that dialogue and communication across all levels is the way forward to ensure transparency and motivation.

However, much needs to be done to make FAO a better workplace. As staff representatives, we try to be as constructive as possible. In this spirit, we have developed a document in which we point to the issues which we believe need most to be addressed. For each of them we propose a way forward. The document has been shared with Management and directly with the Director-General. Let me just briefly highlight which are some of the issues we focus on.

The first one is recruitment and promotion, which has suffered badly during the previous Management of FAO. We point to the need for a comprehensive review of the recruitment and promotion

procedures for both general service and professional staff, with, inter alia, the reintroduction of vacancy announcements for general service positions, increased delegation of authority, strengthened checks and balances and proper consideration of the experience of existing staff when positions are being filled.

We also call for a proper career development policy, which would provide committed and able staff with realistic possibilities for career progression, for example through job growth that is when staff have assumed higher-level responsibilities over time. At the same time, we believe that the modern work-oriented workplace should also take into consideration the puzzle often faced by staff trying to balance life and work, and allow for more flexibility. We would like to advocate for easier access to teleworking and more elastic working hours. This can also help reduce stress and related illnesses.

Mobility is another critical area. The Geographic Mobility Programme for regular-programme professional staff has inflicted heavy damage on staff and staff morale, as well as on the Organization. We are awaiting the finalization of the review of the Programme which is being carried out by the Office of the Inspector-General, and look forward to discussing its conclusions with Management.

In the area of internal justice and conflict resolution, we welcome the process to fill the newly created separate Ombudsman position with involvement of the Staff Representative Bodies. We regret that the post has not been established at a higher grade than P-5 so as to invest the Ombudsman with greater authority and attract more applications from highly competent and experienced applicants. We also regret that we were not consulted on the formulation of the vacancy announcement. However, we will do our best to help make the Ombudsman function an effective mechanism for conflict resolution and look forward to collaborating with Management on developing more specific Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Ombudsman position. Another key concern for us is the effective implementation of policies on sexual and other forms of harassment and protection of whistleblowers.

In the area of social security, we are happy that a new medical insurance contract has been recently concluded and that the Director-General has agreed to bring the cost-sharing formula between FAO and the participants back in line with that applied by IFAD and WFP, as well as other UN Organizations. We deeply regret the decision by WFP to carry out a separate tender, as well as the later decision by IFAD to opt for separate premium calculations for IFAD staff and retirees. We do not believe that this reflects the type of cooperation we would all like to see between the Rome-Based Agencies (RBA). We pay great attention to occupational health and safety of staff. We therefore propose conducting a health survey as a first step towards improving health, mental health and safety of staff.

Finally, we draw attention to some issues specific to field duty stations. One concern relates to the rental subsidy scheme for professional staff in field duty stations, where FAO continues to apply different criteria than other UN Organizations in the same duty station.

These are some of the issues that we consider need to be addressed. We are of course aware that we cannot set the agenda by ourselves and that everything cannot be done overnight. However, we are confident that we will be able to work together with the new Management to make FAO a better place to work, in the interest both of staff and the Organization, and, eventually, the Member Countries whom we serve.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

CHAIRPERSON

We go to the next Item, which is we proceed with the *Adoption of the Report*. The relevant document is CL163/Report for adoption which was made available through the password-protected area of the FAO Members Gateway.

I now invite the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Ms Delphine Borione, to make her presentation.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

D'abord je voulais vous remercier de la confiance que vous m'avez faite en me nommant Présidente du Comité de rédaction et de l'honneur que j'ai eu à pouvoir le présider. Je voulais aussi remercier tous les membres du Comité, l'Afghanistan, l'Angola, l'Argentine, l'Australie, le Canada, l'Égypte, la Fédération de Russie, la Finlande, la France, l'Inde, le Japon, la République dominicaine, le Viet Nam et le Zimbabwe.

Nous avons travaillé dans une atmosphère extrêmement constructive et de dialogue, vraiment, un grand merci.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Secrétariat ainsi que les interprètes, qui nous ont assistés et nous ont permis de travailler dans un réel esprit de collaboration. Même si nous avons fini tard, mercredi soir, nous avons fait ce travail pour essayer de finir le plus tôt possible afin que le rapport soit disponible aussi le plus tôt possible.

Notre travail a été facilité par la précision des recommandations des Comités et je crois que cela a beaucoup aidé. Cela a également été facilité par le travail que nous avons mené, tous ensemble, dans ce Conseil, et je voudrais en remercier le Président indépendant du Conseil parce qu'en discutant de notre rapport à l'écran, je crois que cela a permis de résoudre beaucoup de questions. En conséquence le travail de notre Comité de rédaction en a été facilité et a permis de se concentrer uniquement sur des questions rédactionnelles.

Je voudrais d'ailleurs souligner à cet égard combien il est important que nous puissions bien avoir à l'écran la vision de ce qui a été adopté par notre Conseil et que cela soit transmis ainsi au Comité de rédaction pour éviter toute discussion.

Nous avons veillé à respecter cet esprit de discussion et à ne pas rouvrir les débats. Ainsi, nous avons pu travailler sur une base de consensus, qui nous a permis, comme je le disais, d'adopter ce rapport en quelques heures.

C'est ainsi, que je vous propose que nous puissions adopter notre rapport dans sa totalité, en bloc parce que je crois qu'il reflète vraiment les discussions qui se sont déroulées sur une base de dialogue et de consensus entre les membres du Comité.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to extend my appreciation to Ms Borione and to the Members of the Drafting Committee for the good work done. It appears that the Report may be approved en bloc. Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat for inclusion in the final Report.

Does the Council wish to adopt the Report en bloc?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The report of the 163rd session of the FAO Council is adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At the end of this Session of the Council, I would like to thank all delegations for their contributions. I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and contributions. I listened to all comments and feedback with great interest.

I also want to express my appreciation for the Council's approval of the proposed Innovation Office, the Biodiversity Cluster, and the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). I welcome this approval as a strong sign of trust in the new FAO and a vote of confidence for my vision of the future of your Organization.

In addition, your endorsement of the proposed adjustments to the organizational structure and the creation of the Women's Committee and the Youth Committee is of great significance. Of course the readjustment of the organizational structure just started. Therefore, we need more support and a stronger consensus in the future, for next time. This endorsement is a clear mandate that we accept humbly. We are well aware of the great responsibility that lies on our shoulders. The responsibility to deliver better, work harder and show more tangible results.

Your confirmation of the appointment of a new Deputy Director-General (DDG), Ms Elizabeth Bechdol, is also very important and well appreciated. I look forward to Ms Bechdol joining the Organization, with her new blood and new experience. That also indicates that FAO is younger and for the next generation.

I also highly appreciate the overwhelming support expressed by Members to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We will continue to elaborate the various aspects of this initiative and continue sharing updates on this with you.

Next year we will start with examples showing 10 or 20 countries from different categories. By these examples and cases, you will get familiar with what the new business model looks like.

We hope we can also build up not only a partnership between donors and recipients, but also how FAO can evaluate and monitor. Mr Máximo Torero and I participated in a Side Event during these Council meetings where we indicated it briefly, but we also want to gain insight into the procedures, which were already successful in Somalia over the past years.

In your remarks following my opening speech on Monday, many of you welcomed my enthusiasm to improve the working methods of the organization and instill transparency and accountability. I am humbled by your comments, and I will try my best through digitalization and other innovative ways and build a more flat FAO. There is a book called "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman that was published several years ago, and at FAO we need a flat organizational structure. That will avoid bureaucracy.

Other Members commended the wide range of activities undertaken in my first four months. In that respect, let me give you a brief update on upcoming activities. I will attend the COP 25 in Madrid next week. I will give the Keynote Address at the World Youth Forum in Egypt at the end of next week.

After that, I will travel to Brussels to sign an agreement of EUR 40 million with the European Union (EU) to support Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea. I appreciate it very much, with the new leadership of the EU, the President of the EU and all the relevant Commissions that I will have bilateral meetings with. I am very much aware that I have strong support

from the EU based on multilateralism. In Brussels, I will attend a luncheon with all Ministers of Agriculture and some Ministers of the Environment of the European Union.

In January, I will attend the Green Week in Berlin, where I will meet my counterpart there, the Minister for Agriculture Her Excellency Julia Klöckner. I will present FAO's vision of Digital Agriculture and our concept for a future Digital Council.

Somehow, it is a destiny for me. I have focused on those issues since 2015, and then 2016, 2017, 2018, together with my colleagues, especially with the Ministers from Germany and other G20 Ministers. Finally, last time we met in January this year, they said "ask FAO to establish a Digital Council". Now I am the person to finish that homework, so somehow it is destiny. I ordered the food but finally I will pay the bill. I was not prepared to pay the bill but I ordered good food, together with my colleagues, Ministers of Agriculture, from more than 60 countries.

I will also attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, where FAO will stress the paramount relevance of transforming food systems for the future of our planet. I asked Professor Schwab to put food system transformation as one of their themes. Therefore, I should go there to support him and to support FAO.

Twenty-twenty (2020) is also the year where we hold our Regional Conferences of FAO, where we ensure that the regional perspective of our work and vision is consolidated and confirmed.

As I said on Monday, we will strengthen the country offices and regional offices. I have already discussed with several regions to change the business model of the Regional Conferences. Not only to have internal meetings, we should have open, inclusive, integrated meetings with Member Countries, and then we can build up an experience-sharing mechanism.

As you can see, we are not slowing down! I said, we will slowly speed up. Ask my senior Management, after Christmas and New Year, we will be fully around.

Before continuing, I just want to give a short response to the statement made by the Staff Union. I like their attitude, it is constructive, and also I liked their tolerance. As I said, this Organization is old, big and poor. We have to be a little bit tolerant. We cannot solve any problems in one day or one night. However, there are categories, some things we can start to do, not big money, not big conflict.

That is why, you can see over the past four months, I started to change some things, which are not such a big deal, but it is very constructive. Then comes some issues in which we have to investigate carefully and get the real picture on how to handle it. However, we faced a big challenge, which was the change of the Health Insurance vendor. It was not easy; I really use this opportunity to thank to my DDGs, especially Mr Laurent Thomas, his team, and together with Mr Basharat Ali. He is a Senior Retiree, but he still works as a very energetic boy. I appreciate them all, and, of course, there are quite a number of young staff that support them. I thought, all the health insurance issues were not simple questions, because they are closely connected with all the staff. Not only current staff but also retirees.

Actually, I can tell you now; this was one of the biggest challenges for me. Because we started very late, we were not in a good position, we were almost in the corner, but now the result is much better than I expected and it is smooth. I hope you appreciate their effort and good, sound results. The Ombudsman and others, I should say Ombudsperson, not Ombudsman, to be careful. For the Ethics Officer, you still want to have more involvement; you know the procedure does not change so easily. They still have their own procedure or programme. In the future, we have to look at that to be more inclusive and more open.

For other big, challenging issues, we have to work together and to understand each other. I always say, when I was in China, all the staff asked for more welfare, more improved conditions, duty stations to be more comfortable, but money; Vitamin M. We had to think realistically, based on how much money we can get. Of course, your request is reasonable, we never say any request is not reasonable, but the reality is we have to solve the problem step-by-step, that is my attitude. I will try my best and ask you, on behalf of the staff, to be more understanding towards each other. These are the three categories I can tell you.

The Council was a major event accompanied by a large number of side activities. I want to thank all the Staff that worked hard in organizing the side events of this week. Their contribution is well recognized and much appreciated.

I want to conclude by recalling the wise words of my brother Ambassador Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, of Nigeria, at the opening, about how we must constantly remember that we are working for millions of people out there, the smallholders, the fisher folks, the herders, for them to get a better life. That is our real purpose, our real goal.

I assure you that my dedication to serve them and to transform FAO into a modern, efficient, effective and inclusive key player for a better world is becoming stronger every day.

I just spent 11 hours in Geneva to meet all the Principals who are related to humanitarianism and the Secretary of UNDP. We should be there. Mr Dan Gustafson went also there and came back for this closing session. He seems to have 120 percent of energy.

I hope you have a last chance to talk for three to five minutes about your thoughts, about your legacy. Our staff is motivated, we are ready, and FAO is open for business! Have a nice weekend.

Now I would like to invite Dan Gustafson for five minutes, or if you like for ten minutes.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

I do not think this will be the last chance. Last chance for the Council meeting, definitely, but we were in, as the Director-General mentioned, yesterday, in Geneva for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and I visited the Geneva Office and we were talking amongst ourselves, really, about the changes that they have seen and that we have seen over the years within the United Nations (UN) and within FAO and it was a very interesting discussion.

We put that discussion in the light of the 75th anniversary next year of FAO and the UN and what Geneva was planning and what we are planning. I said that I had or have interacted with FAO since about 1980, so pretty much the second half of FAO. As a Staff Member since 1994, so about one-third of the total of FAO's existence, but I think that the best is still yet to come, and I think that this last period has been, certainly my third, I think, has been the best third of the time at FAO.

When FAO and the UN had their 60th anniversary in 2005, I was living in India at the time and each of the Heads of Agency agreed to write an op-ed of the history, the origins and this kind of thing, and it was really the first opportunity I had had to look at what the founders of FAO were talking about and thinking about. I was really impressed with how similar their concerns were to the Millennium Development Goals at that time, and it was this idea of freedom from want and the connection of the main pillars of FAO's work on the eradication of hunger or food security, poverty and natural resource management, also looking at issues of trade and overproduction, underproduction, the start of multilateralism and they were brilliant. It is very interesting to look at how similar their concerns were to what was going on then and what is going on now.

However, I think for us, for FAO, the really interesting developments, globally, have always been there but I think with the advent of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the rest of the world, I think, has come around to that vision of the founders of FAO and recognizing how central the issues that we work on are to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

There was an article not so long ago, some of you may have seen, from a publication in the United States of America, called Foreign Policy that referred to FAO as an obscure UN Agency, which was a surprise to us. We do not think of ourselves as obscure but for a long time I think the agriculture, natural resource, rural population, poverty side and so on, looked to be sort of a sector that was not necessarily central to the major issues.

However, in fact, these days with the Sustainable Development Goals what we have always known, and what we have known from 1945 onwards is that they are all connected in terms of water, in terms of land degradation, water use, where the population resides that are the most vulnerable, the impact of agriculture on biodiversity, the impact of the agriculture sector on carbon emissions and the connection with climate change, both in terms of contributions, both to the problem and to the solutions. All of this has really come together in a new way for us, I think, and for the world in

recognizing how interconnected our issues are, let us say our collective issues are, to the major challenges that we are facing.

I think the easiest way of envisioning what a more sustainable trajectory for the world, for society, for production and so on, would be, the easiest way to conceive what that would look like is, in fact, through the work that we do on agriculture, food systems, poverty reduction, hunger reduction, natural resource management and so on, and we can see what that pathway would look like in a much easier way for us than in other sectors.

Therefore, I think that exiting FAO now, certainly not completely, but exiting FAO now, I think I am leaving at the best time. I think the next ten years, the next 25 years, are going to be even better and I am leaving FAO as a Staff Member at a really good moment. I will definitely miss it but will continue to be engaged and, as I said the other day, it has been just an enormous privilege for me to work with you in the Programme Committee, and in the Council, and in the Finance Committees, and also with our Staff with the people on the back of the podium here that we do not see and my colleagues on the podium, of course, in addition to the people who are behind them.

It has been just a delight all the time, and we look forward to staying in touch and working with you and working with this team as we go forward but I think it has just been an honour and a privilege and when you look historically, I think we are just now entering at really the best phase and good luck.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you the Director-General, thank you Mr Dan Gustafson for those words. As you said, this won't be the last time, we will still be with you.

I personally have known Mr Dan Gustafson for many years, but to come to think of it, I have known many people for many years. As I said earlier in the Council, Mr Dan Gustafson has been one of the pillars of FAO, both at headquarters and in the field. He has always been an example to all of us. Therefore, I would like to thank Dan for his interaction with all of us.

In fact, another Senior Staff Member is about to leave FAO, that is the Legal Counselor of FAO, Mr Antonio Tavares, and I would also like to acknowledge his services to the Organization and to the Governing Bodies, because each time the Governing Bodies have need of clarification, it must be the Legal Counsel who has to provide this, so I would also like a round of applause for him.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Now that the 163rd Session of the Council draws to a close, I would like to share some of my own thoughts with you.

First, I am pleased to once again welcome the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, at the closing of his first FAO Council. Director-General, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your participation at meetings of the Council this week. This is the first time in my years of FAO experience that I have witnessed such extensive and open engagement of a Director-General with the Council.

Along with me, many Members have made a point to state their appreciation in this regard. I believe that it has helped greatly to underline the new and open dialogue between Membership and the Director-General.

The results of your engagement with Members are immediately visible: starting with the approval of your proposals for Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021; but also the positive consideration to your vision for future of FAO through joint effort and accountability, such as through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

The Council has also welcomed your new approach to Human Resources Management at FAO since

you have taken office. The change to staff morale is palpable, as testified by the positive statement by the Staff Representative Bodies this morning. There is a lot of work ahead in this area. As highlighted by the report of the Council, this work can be successful only with professional leadership and professional capacity in Office of Human Resources (OHR).

The decisions of the Council this week give momentum to your vision, and express in earnest the mandate that you were given with your election on 23 June of this year.

I look forward to continuing the engagement that we have chosen, Members and Director-General together, in a constant dialogue that is made possible by a free flow of information. I am convinced that this model will lead to the results that are expected of us.

I would also wish to thank the Members of the Council. I am most happy to see that the positive sentiment in the Committees of the Council carried over to the Session that ends today. The discussions were rich and interesting, and they took place in a spirit of inclusiveness, and a desire for consensus in the best interests of the Organization.

I will continue my regular informal meetings to address specific issues, and to make sure that a permanent channel of dialogue continues to remain open and effective. I will also encourage further informal seminars on specific topics, in consultation with the Director-General.

I wish to also extend my gratitude to the Chairpersons of the Council Committees, for their participation in this session of Council, but also for able stewardship of your respective Committees in the important preparatory work for this week's meeting during the inter-sessional period.

Finally, I wish to thank the Secretary-General, and his able and re-invigorated team, including the Assistant Secretary-General, interpreters, translators, and the translation hub coordinators, messengers, IT and security staff, and all those who have worked behind the scenes. The Council Secretariat is energized and always on the lookout for ways to improve the servicing of Members and the sessions of the Council. The mobile app is one welcome step in a new direction to better support the exchange between the Members of the Organization and the Director-General.

With this I conclude the 163rd Session of the FAO Council. For those staying in Rome, I wish you a restful weekend; for those travelling, I wish you a safe journey home; and a peaceful holiday season to all.

I declare the 163rd Session of the FAO Council closed.

The meeting rose at 10:59 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 59

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.59