



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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## COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Seventieth Session - Cent soixante-dixième session -  
170.º período de sesiones**

**Hybrid meeting, 13-17 June 2022  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022  
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL  
CONSEJO**

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## Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

### FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA (13 June 2022)

	Page
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.....10 (CL 170/1 Rev.1; CL 170/INF/1; CL 170/INF/3; CL 170/INF/5)	
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.....12	
Item 3. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21	
Point 3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2020-2021	
Tema 3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-21.....13 (C 2023/8; C 2023/8 Annexes 1-9; CL 170/10)	

### SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA (13 June 2022)

	Page
Item 3. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21 ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2020-2021 ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-21 ( <i>continuación</i> ).....31 (C 2023/8; C 2023/8 Annexes 1-9; CL 170/10)	
Item 5. FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy	
Point 5. Stratégie thématique de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation	
Tema 5. Estrategia temática de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación .....39 (CL 170/5; CL 170/11)	

### THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA (14 June 2022)

	Page
Item 4. FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change	
Point 4. Stratégie thématique de la FAO relative au changement climatique	
Tema 4. Estrategia temática de la FAO sobre el cambio climático.....65 (CL 170/4 Rev.1; CL 170/11)	

### FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

**CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA  
(14 June 2022)**

	Page
Item 4. FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 4. Stratégie thématique de la FAO relative au changement climatique ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 4. Estrategia temática de la FAO sobre el cambio climático ( <i>continuación</i> ).....93 (CL 170/4 Rev.1; CL 170/11)	93
Item 6. Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	
Point 6. Impact du conflit russo-ukrainien sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et questions connexes relevant du mandat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)	
Tema 6. Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) .....98 (CL 170/6)	98
Item 8. Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative	
Point 8. Informations actualisées sur l'Initiative Main dans la main	
Tema 8. Información actualizada sobre la Iniciativa Mano de la mano.....138 (CL 170/8)	138

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA  
(15 June 2022)**

	Page
Item 8. Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 8. Informations actualisées sur l'Initiative Main dans la main ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 8. Información actualizada sobre la Iniciativa Mano de la mano ( <i>continuación</i> ).....157 (CL 170/8)	157
Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences	
Point 9. Conférences régionales	
Tema 9. Conferencias regionales .....158	158
<i>Item 9.1 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)</i>	
<i>Point 9.1 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (Malabo [Guinée équatoriale], 11-14 avril 2022)</i>	
<i>Tema 9.1 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (Malabo, [Guinea Ecuatorial], 11-14 de abril de 2022)</i> (C 2023/14)	
<i>Item 9.2 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)</i>	
<i>Point 9.2 Rapport de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 mars 2022)</i>	
<i>Tema 9.2 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 de marzo de 2022)</i> (C 2023/15)	
<i>Item 9.3 Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)</i>	

- Point 9.3 Rapport de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (Lodz [Pologne], 10-13 mai 2022)*
- Tema 9.3 Informe del 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (Łódź [Polonia], 10-13 de mayo de 2022)*  
(C 2023/16)
- Item 9.4 Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)*
- Point 9.4 Rapport de la trente-septième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Quito [Équateur], 28 mars - 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2022)*
- Tema 9.4 Informe del 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Quito [Ecuador], 28 de marzo - 1 de abril de 2022)*  
(C 2023/17)
- Item 9.5 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting 10-13 January 2022 and Ministerial Meeting 7-8 February 2022)*
- Point 9.5 Rapport de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 janvier 2022 [réunion des hauts fonctionnaires] et 7-8 février 2022 [session ministérielle])*
- Tema 9.5 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 de enero de 2022 [reunión de oficiales superiores] y 7 y 8 de febrero de 2022 [serie de sesiones de nivel ministerial])*  
(C 2023/18)
- Item 9.6 Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)*
- Point 9.6 Rapport de la septième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (États-Unis d'Amérique, 12-14 avril 2022)*
- Tema 9.6 Informe de la séptima Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (Estados Unidos de América, 12-14 de abril de 2022)*  
(C 2023/LIM/1)

**SIXTH PLENARY SESSION  
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA  
(15 June 2022)**

	Page
Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 9. Conférences régionales ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 9. Conferencias regionales ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	195
Item 10. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee (May 2022)	
Point 10. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-troisième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-onzième session) (mai 2022)	
Tema 10. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 133.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 191.º período de sesiones (mayo de 2022).....	195
<i>(CL 170/10; CL 170/17)</i>	
Item 12. Reports of the 189th (17 December 2021), 190th (18 February 2022) and 191st (16-20 May 2022) Sessions of the Finance Committee	
Point 12. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-neuvième, cent quatre-vingt-dixième et cent quatre-vingt-	

	onzième sessions du Comité financier (17 décembre 2021, 18 février 2022 et 16-20 mai 2022, respectivement)	
Tema 12.	Informes de los períodos de sesiones 189.º (17 de diciembre de 2021), 190.º (18 de febrero de 2022) y 191.º (16-20 de mayo de 2022) del Comité de Finanzas.....	218
	(CL 170/12; CL 170/15; CL 170/16)	
	<i>Item 12.1 Status of current assessments and arrears</i>	
	<i>Point 12.1 État des contributions courantes et des arriérés</i>	
	<i>Tema 12.1 Situación de las cuotas corrientes y los atrasos</i>	
	(CL 170/LIM/2)	
Item 13.	Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022)	
Point 13.	Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022)	
Tema 13.	Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022).....	235
	(CL 170/13)	

**SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE**  
**SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**  
**(16 June 2022)**

		Page
Item 13.	Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022) ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 13.	Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022) ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 13.	Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022) ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	251
	(CL 170/13)	
Item 11.	Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022)	
Point 11.	Rapport de la cent trente-troisième session du Comité du Programme (16-20 mai 2022)	
Tema 11.	Informe del 133.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (16-20 de mayo de 2022).....	261
	(CL 170/11; CL 170/INF/6)	
Item 15.	Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights	
Point 15.	Gouvernance des activités statistiques et autres travaux de la FAO en rapport avec les données et mise en conformité avec les politiques transversales de la FAO relatives à la protection des données et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle	
Tema 15.	Gobernanza de las actividades estadísticas y relacionadas con otros tipos de datos de la FAO y armonización de dichas actividades con las políticas transversales de la Organización sobre protección de datos y de derechos de propiedad intelectual .....	269
	(CL 170/11; CL 170/13; CL 170/18)	

**EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE**  
**OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**  
**(16 June 2022)**

		Page
Item 17.	Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization	

Point 17.	Rétablissement, par la Conférence, du droit de vote des États Membres redevables d'arriérés de contributions financières à l'Organisation	
Tema 17.	Restablecimiento por la Conferencia de los derechos de voto de los Estados Miembros en mora del pago de sus contribuciones financieras a la Organización.....	281
	<i>(CL 170/12; CL 170/13; CL 170/19)</i>	
Item 18.	Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations	
Point 18.	Reprise de l'examen de la gestion et de l'administration de la FAO par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies	
Tema 18.	Reanudación del examen por la Dependencia Común de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas de la gestión y la administración en la FAO.....	294
	<i>(CL 170/12; CL 170/20)</i>	
Item 7.	Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform	
Point 7.	Informations actualisées sur l'action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la covid-19: construire pour transformer	
Tema 7.	Información actualizada sobre la respuesta de la FAO a la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19): construir para transformar.....	313
	<i>(CL 170/7 Rev.1)</i>	
Item 14.	Dates for submission of nominations for the Office of Director-General	
Point 14.	Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général	
Tema 14.	Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Director General .....	338
	<i>(CL 170/14)</i>	
Item 16.	Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council (29 November-4 December 2021)	
Point 16.	Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent soixante-huitième session (29 novembre-4 décembre 2021)	
Tema 16.	Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 168.º período de sesiones (29 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2021).....	338
	<i>(CL 170/LIM/3)</i>	
Item 19.	Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main Sessions 2022-2023	
Point 19.	Calendrier 2022-2023 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales	
Tema 19.	Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2022-23.....	342
	<i>(CL 170/LIM/1)</i>	
Item 20.	Tentative agenda for the 171st Session of the Council	
Point 20.	Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante et onzième session du Conseil	
Tema 20.	Programa provisional del 171.º período de sesiones del Consejo.....	343
	<i>(CL 170/INF/2)</i>	
Item 21.	Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO	
Point 21.	Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO	
Tema 21.	Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO.....	344
	<i>(CL 170/INF/4; CL 170/INF/4 Web Annexes 1-3)</i>	

**NINTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE**  
**NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA**  
**(17 June 2022)**

Item 13.	Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022) ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 13.	Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022) ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 13.	Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022) ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	349
	(CL 170/13)	
Item 11.	Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022) ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 11.	Rapport de la cent trente-troisième session du Comité du Programme (16-20 mai 2022)( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 11.	Informe del 133.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (16-20 de mayo de 2022) ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	366
	(CL 170/11; CL 170/INF/6)	
Item 12.	Reports of the 189th (17 December 2021), 190th (18 February 2022) and 191st (16-20 May 2022) Sessions of the Finance Committee	
Point 12.	Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-neuvième, cent quatre-vingt-dixième et cent quatre-vingt-onzième sessions du Comité financier (17 décembre 2021, 18 février 2022 et 16-20 mai 2022, respectivement)	
Tema 12.	Informes de los períodos de sesiones 189.º (17 de diciembre de 2021), 190.º (18 de febrero de 2022) y 191.º (16-20 de mayo de 2022) del Comité de Finanzas.....	367
	(CL 170/12; CL 170/15; CL 170/16)	
Item 15.	Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 15.	Gouvernance des activités statistiques et autres travaux de la FAO en rapport avec les données et mise en conformité avec les politiques transversales de la FAO relatives à la protection des données et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 15.	Gobernanza de las actividades estadísticas y relacionadas con otros tipos de datos de la FAO y armonización de dichas actividades con las políticas transversales de la Organización sobre protección de datos y de derechos de propiedad intelectual ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	370
	(CL 170/11; CL 170/13; CL 170/18)	
Item 9.	Reports of the Regional Conferences ( <i>continued</i> )	
Point 9.	Conférences régionales ( <i>suite</i> )	
Tema 9.	Conferencias regionales ( <i>continuación</i> ).....	371
Item 22.	Any Other Matters	
Point 22.	Questions diverses	
Tema 22.	Asuntos varios.....	374
	<i>Item 22.1 Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee</i>	
	<i>Point 22.1 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel</i>	
	<i>Tema 22.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal</i>	
	(CL 170/LIM/4 Rev.1)	
	<i>Item 22.2 Code of Conduct for Voting</i>	
	<i>Point 22.2 Code de conduite sur les procédures de vote</i>	
	<i>Tema 22.2 Código de conducta para las votaciones</i>	
	(CL 170/INF/7)	



*Item 22.3 Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies*

*Point 22.3 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO*

*Tema 22.3 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO*

**TENTH PLENARY SESSION  
DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA  
(17 June 2022)**

	Page
ADOPTION OF REPORT	
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT	
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME.....	379

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>13 June 2022</b>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:35 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 35  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.35  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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## **CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Director-General, Management and staff of FAO, interpreters as well as the messengers and the security people who are going to help us to make it a successful week, good morning to you all.

We know that we are confronted with shuddery figures, more than 820 million people living in hunger due to wars, conflicts, COVID-19, climate change and no access to food. If you do not act, the facts are telling us that within two years we will have 1 billion people living in hunger.

We also know the number of 3 billion people who do not have access to affordable food and nutritious food. And we also know that we are losing one-third of our yearly produced food with a worth of USD 3 trillion. Think what we can do if you could invest those USD 3 trillion for food security.

We also know that our current pathways, although improving, are not getting us where we need to be. That is a clear call for action, a clear call for action now.

That is why we need the United Nations. We need the United Nations as united nations, to work as united nations, listening to each other, supporting each other, building bridges, finding compromises together and finding and implementing programmes and projects to make it happen that we arrive at food security. But we need to do it as 194 Members of the Council, together, and let us not forget that we are all FAO, as Members, as management, as staff.

It should not be they or we. We are in it together. And never in the history of the United Nations the phrase and the spirit embedded in the sculpture at UN Headquarters in New York has been more applicable. It is written there: "Swords into Plowshares, Words into Action."

Let us remember all those families which lost beloved ones, which lost children, brothers, sisters, because of the wars and conflicts in Ukraine, Yemen and Afghanistan, but also because of the COVID-19 pandemic, because of flooding or other natural disasters, but also because do not have access to food.

Let us remember them by our actions we take, our decisions we are going to take this week in the Council. Let us look forward, let us listen to each other, reach out to each other, build those bridges and work together hand in hand for those who are left behind at this moment.

May I ask for a minute of silence to remember all those?

*Minute of silence*

*Minute de silence*

*Minuto de silencio*

Let us make it a successful week with strong and committed decisions. I not only wish to welcome the Members of the Council but also the Observers.

It is great to see that we have, again, almost a full room here in the Plenary Hall. I think this is possible with reinforced person presence because of the new decisions to diminish more measures so that not only the Members, the Chairpersons, the tVice-Chairpersons, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, of the Finance Committee, of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) can be present, but also very great that we have Observers in the room. Some of the observers will be able, and are able, to be present here in this room and others will have the possibility to follow the Council meeting via the screens in the Red Room and the Green Room.

Before beginning our meeting, I should like to draw your attention to the procedures we followed in our hybrid setting because, of course, I also very much welcome all those who are participating via the virtual platform.

For those who want to speak, now we are in person again, press the button. For those who are attending the Council Session in a virtual mode, I would like to request you to mute yourself and if you want to ask for the floor, raise your hand.

I will try to endeavour to keep an accurate list of speakers on a first come first served basis, taking into account both the physical and virtual rooms. The virtual participants will be able to see their

colleagues attending the meeting physically through the cameras installed in this meeting room and, again, I would like to thank all the technicians who have made this possible. Likewise, those participants in the meeting, in person, will be able to view the virtual participants via the screen. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraph 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. On other matters within its competence will be exercising, on an alternate 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 *CL170/INF/3*.

Now first, before we go further, let me very much welcome the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu. It is an honour to invite you to give the opening statement.

### **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Excellences, dear Ministers, I saw one from Cameroon coming in this room, others virtually or on the way to come. Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning from Rome.

I declared at the start of 2022 that this year would be the year of extraordinary efforts, to achieve extraordinary results. Six months down the line, I am pleased to report on the many positive results and impacts of our collective extraordinary work and deliverables. We have been walking the talk!

The first extraordinary achievement of these past six months has been the round of Regional Ministerial Conferences held successfully in hybrid mode. We achieved this with extraordinary efforts from all Members and colleagues in all regions, despite the many logistic constraints due to ongoing measures related to the pandemic. On 7-11 February 2022, 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa was exceptionally successful with my gratitude to the Government of Iraq.

The second extraordinary achievement have been the successful and intensive official visits I have been able to undertake to a number of FAO member countries since March.

Extraordinary efforts were required by FAO teams both at Headquarters (HQ) and in the countries duty stations, as well as by national authorities and Permanent Representatives here in Rome, to ensure efficient and effective visits with important results, not only at national, but also regional levels.

From 5 to 13 March, in the context of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, I paid official visits to the Maldives and Bangladesh.

From 29 March to 6 April, I traveled to Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the Regional Conference in Ecuador, and visited Panama, Argentina and Chile.

On 8 April, the 169th Extraordinary Session of the FAO Council was convened, at the request of Members in accordance with the FAO Basic Texts, to discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of FAO.

The Council expressed appreciation to FAO for its professional work related to the war in Ukraine and other challenging areas, highlighting the leading role of FAO in global agrifood matters, and requested the Organization to continue providing technical support in line with its mandate.

From 12 to 21 April, I was in Africa for the Regional Conference, and on that occasion, I visited Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and South Africa.

In the evening of 14 April, I participated remotely in the Informal North America Regional Conference.

From 9 to 11 May, I traveled to Poland for the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia.

During the Regional Conference I met with the Delegation of Ukraine, led by the Advisor to the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, to discuss the impact of the war on national food

security, damages and losses in agrifood systems and food production capacity, especially of smallholder farmers. The Delegation of Ukraine expressed appreciation for the support provided by FAO, including through the Rapid Response Plan.

In total, during the past three months I was able to be in person in 16 countries, and to meet in person with 14 Heads of State or Government, 95 Ministers and 36 Vice-Ministers, in addition to a large number of high-level government authorities. In addition to 33 bilateral meetings with VIPs hosted in HQ, Rome.

This really helps us to further understand the real situation, build up close ownership and partnership of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 with leaders and key ministries and speed up the transformation of agrifood systems at national and regional levels.

You can imagine, only myself and the Chief Economist, we travelled to all locations without stopping. It was really challenging for me and the Chief Economist, we did not get infected, otherwise we would have stopped our trip. Thanks to god, to my colleagues and to ourselves who maintained anti-COVID measures, we took consciousness and measurement while travelling. It was a real challenge, not only physically but also psychologically, I can assure you.

Dear Colleagues,

Another extraordinary achievement has been FAO's physical attendance at key international fora where I was invited to brief the international community on key areas of FAO's work, and our response to the current challenges.

From 30 April to 3 May (actually 70 hours), I traveled to Seoul through Amsterdam. On that day 300 flights were cancelled, we stopped there for four hours and then we managed to get to Seoul in 22 hours and then come back – so totally 70 hours. To attend the XV World Forestry Congress, hosted and co-organized by the Republic of Korea in collaboration with FAO, under the theme “Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests”. In addition, to bolster FAO's visibility and outreach in the Near East and North Africa region, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan as Regional Goodwill Ambassador was invited. You can imagine, that week was Ramadan week for her. I really appreciated her presence in person in Seoul.

Outcomes of the Congress included the Seoul Forest Declaration, the Youth Call for Action, the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood, and a set of actionable recommendations. The Declaration recognized that forest-based solutions must include family farmers, smallholders, forest communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth, and must respect their rights and empower them to participate equitably in decision-making and sustainable forest value chains.

From 5 to 8 May, I traveled to Azerbaijan to participate in the “International Conference on Digital Agriculture” in Baku, where I addressed participants on the potential of digital agriculture to foster the transformation of agrifood systems and promote rural development.

I also traveled to Austria on 12 May to attend the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) in person. We have tried to get all the business done during daytime in Vienna; then we travelled at midnight to Germany.

On 11 March, while in Asia, I participated virtually from Bangladesh in the extraordinary meeting of the G7 Ministers of Agriculture under the German Presidency, and from 13 to 14 May I traveled to Stuttgart, Germany to participate in the G7 Agriculture Ministers meeting under the theme *Securing Global Food Security in Times of Crisis*.

It was the first time the FAO Director-General was invited to participate, and I briefed the meeting on the new global food security scenario, as well as on the consequences of the war in Ukraine on food prices and supply chains.

I was encouraged to see that the G7 stands united in their commitment to global food security, as reflected in the Communiqué of the meeting. The G7 also recognized Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) as a key pillar of agricultural market transparency and committed to provide continued financial support to extend its coverage to the fertilizer market, oilseeds, modelling and logistics.

From 17 to 20 May, I traveled to New York to participate in the Security Council meeting on “Maintenance of International Peace and Security – Conflict and Food Security” and “Global Food Security Ministerial Call to Action” convened under the United States monthly Presidency of the Security Council, where I delivered two clear, loud, and professional statements.

I have been invited to go to New York again in early July to address the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)/UN Economic and Social Council.

At the Security Council meeting, I stressed that agriculture is one of the keys to lasting stability and security. During past years, FAO has delivered support to members and provided global public goods as well as direct assistance in response to the worsening global food security situation due to the pandemic, disasters, conflict and climate change. This has been done through a variety of science-based analytical tools, normative work, data, and analysis and rapid response actions.

We must strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. We must analyze the root causes of acute food insecurity, including conflict and the climate crisis, and apply these learnings to our actions.

We are neighbors on this small planet village - what happens to one affects us all.

From 30 May to 2 June, I traveled to Ireland to participate in the 11th World Potato Congress in Dublin, where I was invited to deliver the keynote address on the “Role and Potential of Potato in Global Food Security”. I emphasized that we must learn from the historical famine tragedy of 1845-47. I got to know that 2.5 million escaped and migrate to North America mainly, South America and United Kingdom and about 1 million died due to natural disaster, potato late blight, and refresh with the newest experiences and successful stories on transforming agrifood systems in Ireland during the past 20 years. I strongly encourage Members to learn from them, how to transform agrifood systems in a holistic and professional way.

On 8 June, FAO provided technical support for the 1st Ministerial Mediterranean Dialogue on Food Crisis held in Rome, with the participation of 24 countries from three different continents.

The Mediterranean is a region where for centuries your ancestors shared this big lake for peace and prosperity – you can imagine several thousand years ago people saw this big lake and called it ‘sea’, actually it is a lake. There are many lessons to be learned during the past centuries. In the meeting, I stressed the importance of keeping our global trade system open, and of ensuring that agrifood exports are not restricted or taxed. I also outlined four major axes across which cooperative efforts should be made:

- One: More investment in countries that are severely affected by the current increase in food prices,
- Two: reduction of food loss and waste,
- Three: better and more efficient use of natural resources, especially water and fertilizer, and
- Four: A focus on technological and social innovations that can significantly reduce market failures in agrifood systems.

Following on the close cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the G20 in 2021, FAO continues to provide significant technical support to the G20 under the Indonesian Presidency.

I commend Indonesia for choosing to continue to strengthen the G20’s work on the thematic areas of Resilience, Food Loss and Waste, and Digital Technologies.

On 20 April, FAO was invited for the first time to address the G20 Ministers of Finance and Central Bankers meeting, to present the analysis of global food security together with the FAO proposal “*Global Food Import Financing Facility*” for them to address the needs of the most vulnerable. Because in FAO we do not have money, but we can propose some ideas for their consideration, because they are from Ministers of Finance and Banks, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. That is our professional contribution. I know some Members concern on what we are going to

do. No, we have no money. I do not know if the Dutch government is willing to donate USD 1 billion to do so. If you are interested, please push your Ministers of Finance. That is the role of FAO. We can offer some professional suggestions, it does not mean we are going to implement by our own – it is impossible. I make it clear, I know some Members are interested in that, please ask your Minister of Finance, Central Bank, IMF and World Bank, please.

Dear Colleagues,

In recent months, we have closely followed the required COVID-19 protocol and measures in place as recommended by host governments and World Health Organization (WHO), both at HQ in Italy and at duty stations globally.

At HQ, the Italian government has now declared the end of the emergency and lightened prevention and control measures. Supported by the high level of immunization among employees, FAO also has gradually lifted or lightened some of the measures in place, as part of the move towards FAO's "next normal". Today, wearing masks is not mandatory. I saw someone willing to wear, it is voluntary, it is okay.

As of today, the exceptional Crisis Management Team (CMT) put in place in HQ during the COVID-19 emergency will be discontinued officially. The work of the CMT will be deactivated for headquarters and responsibilities for decision-making and team management will be fully devolved to line managers. The CMT will however continue to guide and support the regions as needed.

We shall continue to apply caution and be ready to reverse measures and rules should it be required. Targets of presence, as well as facemasks, are no longer mandatory, but we expect a minimum daily presence of 50 percent to facilitate teamwork and maximize efficiency in delivery of results.

This paradigm shift has been made possible by accelerated digitalization and innovative tools, as well as changed behaviours.

Today, FAO employees can work remotely for some days a week, while maintaining productivity, and with a healthy work-life balance.

Hybrid meetings have become the new normal. I believe that at all locations FAO has demonstrated extraordinary capacity to adapt to the difficult COVID-19 requirements, maintaining its business continuity and preserving the health, safety and well-being of its employees, visitors and surrounding communities. Furthermore, the upgraded medical coverage for the affiliate workforce is now fully implemented. This was crucial during COVID-19, and now includes access to remote health services in multiple languages.

The 2022 Employee Satisfaction Survey is being finalized and its results, which will be shared over the next two months, will provide a benchmark for progress and inform actions to continue to address areas of concern, let us improve FAO together!

The transformation of Regional and Subregional Offices is smoothly underway. Regional Offices have developed a common functional structure in line with changes introduced at HQ and adapted to their specific regions.

The global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition continue to require our extraordinary efforts. The FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme continues to actively support countries in need. The Programme has received confirmed and pledged contributions totalling USD 466 million - approximately 35 percent of the target. It has mobilized political, financial and technical support to reach a large share of rural populations and to relaunch economic activities.

Dear Colleagues,

In line with FAO's mandate and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, we have developed two FAO thematic strategies, on Climate Change, and on Science and Innovation, which are now before you for endorsement. These two strategies are the extraordinary result of our collective efforts. Both Strategies have been discussed at numerous informal consultations with Members at regional and global level, including at Regional Ministerial Conferences.

Following this very inclusive process, it is now time to endorse the Strategies, and to allow Members to decide how best to implement them based on their national priorities and pathways.

The Strategy on Climate Change will guide FAO in providing strengthened support to Members in their ambitions to address climate challenges in agrifood systems, and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Strategy on Science and Innovation will benefit the billions of small-scale producers and their families who are urgently in need of the best available science, technologies and innovation to play their part in transforming our agrifood systems.

Members have emphasized that these two thematic strategies go hand in hand, and should be implemented coherently, together with strong support from Members. I fully agreed with you.

Dear Colleagues,

The implications of the war in Ukraine, and other conflicts worldwide, on global food security continue to require our holistic analysis, technical approaches and appropriate action.

We have prepared three updates to our Information Note, two updates to our humanitarian response and plan.

We have published our FAO Food Price Index monthly, and on 9 June we published the FAO Food Outlook – our bi-annual report on Global Food Markets.

The Report shows that the global food import bill is on course to hit a new record of USD 1.8 trillion this year, with an increase of USD 51 billion from 2021 - of which USD 49 billion reflects higher prices.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are anticipated to undergo a 5 percent contraction in their food import bill this year, while sub-Saharan Africa and the group of Net Food-Importing Developing Countries are expected to register an increase in total costs, despite a reduction in imported volumes.

We have also produced eight thematic reports on the impacts of the war in Ukraine, looking into issues of soils, animal health, gender impacts, reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine, social protection, impacts on rural labour markets, and on land tenure.

We have also implemented a series of tools as part of our policy decision database.

Finally, FAO has also developed eight policy proposals for the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) to address the global food security situation and the risks associated with the current conflicts.

The war in Ukraine and other dire challenges have reduced available export supplies of food, feed, fertilizers and fuel, leading to further increased food prices and putting at risk the 2023 harvest.

The FAO Food Price Index stood at 157.4 points in May 2022, down slightly from 160 points in March, but still 22.8 percent higher than in May 2021.

Another pressing challenge relates to fertilizers, as the Russian Federation and Belarus are leading exporters of fertilizers. Lack of fertilizer availability and soaring prices could lead to lower application of fertilizers, and thus lower crop yields globally. With rising food prices and concerns about availability, an increasing number of countries are imposing export restrictions on food – this will make the situation even worse. If not urgently and appropriately addressed, these challenges could have serious consequences for world stability and food security.

FAO continues to be committed to extraordinary efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through a focus on resilience building, guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

In 2021, FAO reached more than 30 million people worldwide with emergency agricultural assistance and resilience-building programmes.

Despite this critical importance of agriculture to food availability and access in crisis contexts, only 8 percent of total funding for the emergency reaction goes to agriculture. So, 92 percent goes to others.



FAO continues to help countries produce multi-risk and integrated analyses of the drivers of acute food insecurity to support decision-making and investments.

The Global Network against Food Crises offers a platform for the international community to coordinate collective and coherent actions to prevent food crises, mitigate their impacts, and contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems.

FAO remains fully committed to this Global Network to jointly identify solutions across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

Further examples of our extraordinary achievements are the successful implementations of FAO's flagship initiatives, with concrete results on the ground.

The total number of countries that have joined the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is now 52, with 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 29 in Africa, 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 3 in the Near East and North Africa, and 1 in Europe and Central Asia. These include countries facing conflicts where the Initiative supports stronger linkages between humanitarian and development actions.

Countries are using the Initiative to strengthen existing programmes or develop new ones, build national capacities, and take advantage of unexploited opportunities for investments – all this can accelerate agrifood systems transformation at national level.

I am proud to report that the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform received the World Excellence Award in Agriculture and Food Security for the best collaborative platform towards data-driven agriculture.

I wish to recognize and applaud all the FAO teams that contributed towards this extraordinary achievement, and I applaud their extraordinary efforts!

The 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative continues to be rolled out globally. We are currently developing a digital village readiness assessment to identify villages that have the best potential to be transformed into digital villages.

We have started piloting the tool this month, and it will strengthen FAO's e-agriculture strategy work by providing an assessment methodology for rural areas.

The establishment of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture operating mechanism has been initiated, including the Intergovernmental Representatives' Group, where Regional Groups are providing nominees. The Group will be composed of 27 members, and to date we have received 20 nominees.

I invite Members to complete the nomination process, and to dedicate the required resources for its full implementation.

The One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative has four distinct characteristics: it is country inclusive, product inclusive, value chain inclusive, and stakeholder inclusive. We launched the OCOP regionally in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean between March and May 2022, with the participation of a wide group of stakeholders.

The FAO Green Cities Initiative has supported 61 cities since its launch in September 2020, and 11 projects are being implemented in 9 cities across 7 countries.

Additional activities are being designed in other 8 countries, and the Regional Action Programme for Africa launched in September 2021 now includes 30 cities from 10 countries.

A Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism project of USD 1 million is under implementation, with an additional USD 1 million project submitted in early May this year to support and expand the number of cities engaged.

As a follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS), the *Urban Food Systems Coalition* has been established, led by FAO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, with 26 partners, including UN Agencies and International City Networks.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub became operational in the first months of 2022. The structure and hosting arrangements have been finalized and the Hub Team put together. An assessment

survey was conducted to identify the needs of Members to develop and implement national pathways and coalitions of action.

Following the results of this assessment, a series of “Food Systems Solutions Dialogues” have been held since April and will continue until the end of the year.

In April, the Oversight Steering Group of the Hub agreed on the work plan of the Hub, and the Terms of Reference of the Stakeholder Engagement Group.

I am pleased to report that the efficient and effective transfer from the UN FSS to the Hub was highly appreciated by the UN Deputy Secretary-General – this is an extraordinary recognition.

The Food Coalition is continuing to support the work and priorities set by the G20 presidencies to renew global commitment at the highest level to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. It recently hosted its inaugural high-level dialogue on 27 May, with eminent women from politics and civil society discussing the role of women as key agents in global food crises.

The FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement has taken a renewed, more dynamic and strategic approach to engaging with the private sector.

It has been a year and a half of extraordinary efforts, which include the launch of the CONNECT portal to help identify and pursue strategic engagements.

We also continue to closely monitor and analyze the impact of our private sector engagements, where risk mitigation and due diligence remain critical.

Recently, we have started working with the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) to develop a Mentorship Programme for Women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Africa. Through this Programme, 50 female entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa will gain access to knowledge and tools to grow their enterprises.

We continue to actively engage with the other two Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), IFAD and WFP, to address the implications of the war in Ukraine on food security and agriculture, and we are collectively coordinating within the UN system at large to mitigate the global implications of the war through the Global Food Security Cluster, which is co-led by FAO and WFP, as well as through the UN Global Crisis Response Group.

On 17-19 May, together with Mr Gilbert Houngbo and Mr David Beasley, we briefed the UN Security Council on Conflict and Food Security, and the Ministerial call to action and we reaffirmed with one voice the crucial role of the RBAs in reversing rising levels of acute hunger.

We have continued to make progress on the FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) Strategic Exercise with the active participation of Members, to refine our approach and the criteria for resource allocation among Regions.

I look forward to concluding the exercise in the coming months.

The relevance of, and demand for, TCP assistance continues to be high due to its catalytic funding. Efficient implementation in response to requests for assistance has ensured full delivery of TCP, despite the many limitations due to repeated lockdowns and a general slow-down of activities.

Increased focus on effective use of TCP funds has led to an extraordinary mobilization of resources.

Dear Colleagues,

FAO is a key partner of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and we participated in the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Abidjan in May, during which we reaffirmed our commitment to support efforts in land and ecosystems protection and restoration, which is the heart of agrifood systems transformation.

During the event, FAO launched seven publications, including the *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

We also contributed to the "Abidjan Legacy Programme" to combat drought and limit the risks of desertification over the next 5 years.

Achievements from the COP15 are important in the lead-up to the Biodiversity COP15 and Climate Change COP27 where water scarcity, land degradation and drought are high on the political agenda.

FAO continues to contribute to the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly those goals related directly or indirectly to food and agriculture.

I am pleased to report that global policy and decision-makers are increasingly recognizing and acknowledging FAO's technical capacity in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors,

As well as our normative, standard-setting and technical activities in the areas of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture.

FAO is actively engaged in preparations for COP27, in both the negotiations process, as well as supporting Members, is also assisting initiatives proposed by the Egyptian Presidency related to agriculture and water.

FAO has been proposed as a Lead for Climate-Resilient Agriculture and was nominated to participate in the initiatives on Waste, and on Nutrition.

As a global leader on aquatic food systems with the mandate to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development, FAO is actively engaged in the preparations of the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon at the end of June, where I will lead the FAO delegation with solidarity, sustainability, science, and visibility under one UN.

During the Ocean Conference, FAO will launch the 2022 edition of the *State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report (SOFIA 2022)*, which will present the latest available fisheries and aquaculture statistics, trends, development patterns and challenges, as well as Blue Transformation.

The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 now reaches its halfway mark, with a large number of events and initiatives calling for action for small-scale fishers at regional and national level, communicated in 13 languages, reaching a wide global audience on social and traditional media with over 42 900 website users, 99 000 page views, and 1 200 social media posts related to artisanal fisheries and aquaculture by over 117 million social media accounts.

This is real extraordinary outreach!

FAO is leading the transformation of agrifood systems through mainstreaming One Health through the One Health Priority Programme Area.

FAO has supported One Health capacity development of farmers and other national actors to respond to the threats to the agrifood systems through the establishment of Six Virtual Learning Centers.

Under FAO's Chair of the One Health Tripartite, FAO collaborated with its One Health partners in the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action and signed the agreement with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to form the One Health Quadripartite.

FAO's Youth Engagement Initiatives are working to increase communication with youth in One Health and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) advocacy to invest in the future generations of One Health leaders.

Dear Colleagues,

The FAO Youth Committee and FAO Women's Committee are two extraordinary achievements, backed by our extraordinary youthful employees and women colleagues. I firmly believe you can do more and better!

The FAO Youth Committee has been actively networking among young and youthful FAO employees and reaching out to major youth groups from around the world, with the launch of the first-ever World Food Forum at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum in 2021.

In 2022, the Forum is building on the extraordinary success of the previous year, continuing to expand and amplify its outreach, listen to youth calls-to-action, identify innovative solutions, and roll out of the Young Scientist Group.

This year, the FAO Women's Committee launched the campaign "Women in information and communications technology (ICT)" on International Day for Girls in ICT on 22 April, which features testimonies of women engaged in ICT, highlighting the diversity of FAO's workforce.

The World Food Day 2022 campaign has been launched with the theme "*Leave no one behind*", underlining how the *four betters* are a holistic approach to ensuring progress for all.

The campaign calls for global solidarity and action to transform agrifood systems in a bid to foster inclusive economic growth, address inequalities, increase resilience, and achieve sustainable development.

This year we launched the newly structured FAO Awards to recognize progress in the transformation of agrifood systems and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During this Council Session, we will celebrate the first winners of the FAO Champion Award and the FAO Partnership Award.

I look forward to celebrating this fresh start!

Dear Colleagues,

My 34 months in office have been marked by dynamics, humanity, family values, professionalism, innovation, inclusiveness, efficiency, effectiveness, solidarity and above all, the extraordinary efforts with extraordinary results by all FAO employees, and Members during pressing times. I deeply appreciated all of you!

Let us continue to work together in strong partnership to face extraordinary challenges for people, planet, and prosperity.

I thank you.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Director-General, for your strong statement, not only containing the results made this year but certainly also very much forwardlooking what you are going to do in the next coming months and the next coming year. It is very positive to hear that many actions have been taken and certainly many actions will be taken and, certainly, as you said at the end, it is very much needed if we want to achieve food security, leaving nobody behind. Thank you so much.

#### **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 170/1 Rev.1; CL 170/INF/1; CL 170/INF/3; CL 170/INF/5)*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends, now we turn to our first Agenda Item, and that is the adoption of the Agenda of the 170th Session of the Council. As indicated in document *CL170/INF/5, Special rocedures for the 170th Session of the Council*, special arrangements and procedures proposed for this Council are submitted for the Council's endorsement under this Agenda Item.

Under this Item, the Council is invited to suspend any rules incompatible with the hybrid setting, specifically Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, which provides that each session of the Council shall be held at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule VIII of the Rules and Procedures of the Council. Other relevant information for the Agenda and Timetable for the Session are set out in documents *CL170/1 Rev.1, CL170/INF/1* and *CL170/INF/3*.

As you are aware, upon request of nine Members of the Council, via a letter of 12 May 2022, an additional Agenda Item has been included on the Provisional Agenda for this Session. That is Item 18, *Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations*.

With regard to the Provisional Timetable, Members are reminded that Item 3, *Programme Implementation Report 2020-21*; Item 4, *FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change*; Item 5, *FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy*; Item 15, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*; Item 17, Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Members Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization be delivered under its own Item and not when we consider the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, as well as the reports on Regional Conferences.

For each reference, the relevant paragraphs of the Reports in the Committees are included in the Provisional Timetable under the respective Items. In addition, following consultations at my informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the regional groups, and building on the successful experience of the Governing Body sessions held since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of specific procedures exceptional to this 170th Session are proposed in light of the hybrid setting. These may be found in document *CL170/INF/5, Special Procedures for the 170th Session of the Council*.

With regard to the special procedures, to achieve timesaving at this hybrid session, it is also proposed that a number of items on the Provisional Agenda of the 170th Session of the Council be addressed through a written correspondence procedure, namely Item 14, *Dates for submission of nominations for the Office of Director-General*; Item 16, *Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council*; Item 19, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main Sessions 2022-2023*; Item 20, *Tentative agenda for the 171st Session of the Council*; and Item 21, *Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO*.

The written correspondence procedure follows the procedure used by the Council at its 164th Session and in that respect Item 7, *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform*, will now be dealt with entirely in Plenary, as mentioned in my pre-Session letter of last week.

In regard to these items, Members' written inputs on the above have been received and compiled and may be found on the dedicated web page of the Council. Written correspondence from the Secretariat may also be found on the same dedicated web page. The draft conclusions for those items will be addressed probably on Friday afternoon when we go to the last items. The remaining items on the agenda of the 170th Session will be addressed in Plenary in its entirety.

I would like to remind everybody, and we did it also the last two sessions, in order to be efficient and effective, I call upon everybody to obey the time limits of five minutes for group statements and three minutes for Members. This makes it possible, with the support of you, to arrive at the Adoption of the Report not later than Friday, beginning of the evening, 19:30 hours, but perhaps even earlier. But it will depend on you.

As I said already, and you have seen it in the correspondence, under Any Other Business we will deal with the appointment of representatives of FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee and an oral update on where we are standing with the Code of Conduct.

A lot of information but you have seen it already in the correspondence. So, may I take it that the Council wish to approve the Agenda and the Timetable for the session with these adjustments as well as the special procedures for the Session?

I do not see any requests for the floor. It is so adopted.

Thank you so much. The Agenda and the Timetable are approved, as well as the special procedures for the hybrid modality of this Session.

As was said already by the Director-General, I would like to remind all Members that this afternoon, before the opening of the second part of our day, we have the Award Ceremony here in the Plenary Hall and I would like to invite all Members to be present and to see who will get the Champions Award and the Partnership Award this year.

- 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**

Now we turn to Agenda Item 2, *Election of the three Vice-Chairpersons and designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following the consultations among the regional groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons have been received. First, His Excellency Winston G. Pinnock, from Bahamas; His Excellency Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino Bin Anthony, from Malaysia; and the distinguished delegate Mr Maarten de Groot from Canada.

Can I take it that the Council would like to endorse their nominations by a good applause?

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election, and we count on them also to make this Session a successful session.

On the Drafting Committee, we already received the nomination for the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, but we are still awaiting the nominations of the other members of the Drafting Committee. Hopefully, we can finalize that today so that we can not only nominate but also adopt the members of the Drafting Committee tomorrow.

Before we move to Agenda Item 3, I wish to remind Members, if you have a written statement, to submit a copy of your statement in advance so it would help the interpreters and also would help us for the Verbatim Records. And you can send them to [FAO-Interpretation@fao.org](mailto:FAO-Interpretation@fao.org).

I also would like to remember, in light of the amended modality of the Session, that the introduction of the Agenda Items have been circulated in a written form to the Members and Observers of the Council. This is in an effort to streamline the proceedings of the Session and to make the best use of our valuable time. All relevant introductions may be found on a dedicated web page on the website of this Session. In such cases where written introductions have been circulated, the introduction of the Secretariat will not be delivered during the meeting itself, but you can find it on the web page and we go directly to the introductions, positions, recommendations of the Members.

The draft conclusions will be taken up after each Agenda Item and the draft conclusions, as we have the practice, will be projected on the large screen in this meeting room, as well as on the screen for those who are connected virtually. This will enable the Council members to see the draft text at the same time as has been read out and react with comments more easily.

Non-English speakers of the Council will be able to follow and provide comments through the interpretation. Once the Council has reached consensus on the conclusions, the Secretariat will implement a new screen writing procedure which I have asked them to conduct, and this will mean that after we have concluded the conclusions with consensus, we directly start the translations on a rolling basis, so that we already can start in the course of the week to do not only the formatting check but we also use an editor to do the editing when it comes to, for example, the dots, the commas, the abbreviations, etcetera.

Of course, an editor will never change any text of the conclusions which were adopted by the Council. We will send then the report on Friday, hopefully soon after we conclude our meeting with tracked changes to the Drafting Committee, so the Drafting Committee can see what the editing has shown in the Report and hopefully we can have a smooth Adoption of the Report on Friday. It also means that we do not have to wait several hours before the Drafting Committee can start.

Finally, before I turn to Item 3, I would like to reiterate, highlight and ask your cooperation that Members keep their interventions as brief and as focused as possible. Preference will be given first to the regional group statements, if we know them, and then we go to the individual Members. And I will be needed to maintain the strict limits of five and three minutes and I have to intervene. It is not a nice job but that is why you have elected me, but I will try to maintain those limits because only then it will be feasible to end up at Friday for the Adoption of the Report.

**Item 3. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21**

**Point 3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2020-2021**

**Tema 3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-21**

*(C 2023/8; C 2023/8 Annexes 1-9; CL 170/10)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that I would like to turn now to Agenda Item 3, and the documents before the Council are C 2023/8 and its nine Annexes. As said, we already have seen the introduction by the Management of this Agenda Item.

**Introduction to Item 3: Programme Implementation Report 2020-21**

*Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget*

The Programme Implementation Report (PIR) is FAO's main accountability document. It provides qualitative and quantitative information on work carried out by the Organization over the last biennium for all sources of funds, in supporting Members in progressing towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also describes the creation of an enabling environment to ensure inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency in its work; and details the biennial financial performance under all sources of funds.

The PIR 2020-21 reports on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 and subsequent adjustments. The information is contained in the main PIR document, C 2023/8, Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, and its nine Annexes. The main document is shorter and more focused than previous versions, highlighting FAO's key programmatic results linked to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The document showcases results achieved in implementing the Strategic Programmes in terms of their contributions to the four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life. Annex 1 reports on Output, Outcome and SDG indicators within the framework of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, as well as on the Key Performance Indicators for assessing the enabling environment and operational achievements. The PIR also summarizes lessons learned during the biennium and details how resources were managed, with complete information on the use and mobilization of funds from all sources presented in Annexes 2 and 3.

The document describes FAO's role in addressing the main challenges and opportunities that unfolded during the biennium, including the unprecedented events triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing socio-economic impacts; the outbreaks of transboundary pests and zoonotic diseases; the climate crisis and its impact on ecosystems and natural resources; the repositioning of the UN development system; and the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. The Organization proved its capacity to adapt flexibly to rapidly changing contexts, reprogramming activities and redirecting resources to address shifting priorities and ensuring business continuity throughout the pandemic lockdowns.

The PIR reports on how FAO supported Members with evidence for decision-making and by leveraging its technical expertise and convening power to provide leadership and bring together all stakeholders to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting inclusion and targeting investments to implement policy changes for sustainable agricultural production; access to safe, nutritious, healthy diets; reduced food loss and waste; open and well functioning markets and value chains; strengthened livelihoods and resilience; and measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also offers illustrative examples of tangible results at national, regional and global levels

and highlights results achieved through key Organizational initiatives, including the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

The PIR 2020-21 also reports on improvements to the enabling environment, as the broad programme of deep transformation implemented by the Director-General, which strengthened FAO's capacity to serve its Members. It highlights the Organization's collaboration with partners, in particular within the private sector, as well as the continued commitment to inclusive approaches that leave no one behind, the dedicated attention accorded to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and the focus on technological and other innovations.

In the final section of the document, the PIR summarizes how FAO managed resources, with additional details provided in Annex 3. In 2020-21, the Organization spent 99.6 percent of the net appropriation or just over USD 1 billion. Extrabudgetary expenditures reached USD 2.2 billion, accounting for 68 percent of total expenditures. USD 2.7 billion was mobilized for current and future work; an 11 percent increase compared to the last biennium, exceeding the target of USD 1.7 billion. FAO supported Members in designing investment projects to be financed by international financial institutions (IFIs) for a total of USD 13.8 billion and, through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), catalyzed USD 1.7 billion in financing.

The Council is requested to endorse the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, providing such guidance as it deems appropriate.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I directly would like to open the floor for Members to make their comments, suggestions and remarks.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union Européenne, et de ses 27 États membres. L'Albanie, Géorgie, Moldavie, la Macédoine du Nord, la Turquie, la Bosnie-Herzégovine, et l'Islande se joignent à mon discours. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction le nouveau format du Rapport sur l'Exécution du Programme (PIR) 2020 - 2021, qui est plus court et plus lisible que les éditions précédentes; Il aurait néanmoins été préférable que le rapport dresse le bilan des objectifs stratégiques, et des programmes, au lieu d'utiliser les quatre améliorations comme référence, puisqu'elles n'existaient pas au cours de la période couverte par le document.

Dans l'ensemble, le rapport fournit de nombreuses informations sur le travail de la FAO, au niveau international et national, et nous souhaitons souligner les éléments suivants. Nous prenons acte du fait que certaines initiatives mentionnées dans ce document sont prévues pour être financées grâce à des contributions volontaires, notamment l'initiative Un Pays - Un Produit Prioritaire. Nous prenons bonne note des informations présentées dans ce document, et nous souhaiterions en savoir plus sur cette initiative, ses partenaires, ses objectifs et son financement.

Dans ce contexte, nous souhaitons rappeler la nécessité d'approche globale, et l'intérêt que présentent des régimes alimentaires diversifiés et équilibrés pour des systèmes alimentaires durables. À propos de la mise en œuvre et de la Stratégie actuelle relative au Changement Climatique, dont les détails figurent à l'Annexe 6, nous félicitons la FAO pour son travail et pour les bons résultats obtenus. Nous notons que ces résultats sont principalement dus à des contributions volontaires, et à des fonds fiduciaires dont certains ont expiré en 2021.

Nous espérons que la nouvelle Stratégie relative au Changement Climatique attirera des sources de financements supplémentaires, pour permettre à la FAO de maintenir son engagement sur ce sujet essentiel. Nous saluons les avancées réalisées en faveur d'une représentation équilibrée des femmes et des hommes au sein du personnel de la FAO, mais nous observons que chez les hauts responsables, atteindre cet équilibre reste difficile, et exige des efforts supplémentaires.

En conclusion, l'Union Européenne, et ses États membres accordent beaucoup d'importance au multilinguisme dans le système des Nations Unies. Nous apprécions les efforts réalisés par la FAO en la matière et nous attendons avec intérêt de recevoir les informations actualisées sur le cadre



stratégique pour le multilinguisme, comme le Conseil en a fait la demande lors de sa 168<sup>ème</sup> session. Par ces déclarations, nous soutenons l'adoption du Rapport sur l'Exécution du Programme 2020-2021.

**Mr Gabriel MBAIROBE (Cameroon)**

Cameroon is speaking on this Agenda Item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. Allow me at the outset to thank the Secretariat for producing such a well-documented and factual report. The Programme Implementation Report (PIR) is an important management and accountability tool, dedicated to inform the membership about FAO's work during a given biennium.

This year's Report, which contains the main body and annexes, is a special one and such that it opens up the transition between two Strategic Frameworks. It gives an overview of FAO's achievement during the 2020 and 2021 biennium, as planned in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020-21.

The Africa Regional Group appreciates the structure and the narrative of the Report, focusing on key selected initiatives and achievements of FAO during the biennium. We fully agree with the recommendation contained in the Joint Meeting Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee. We therefore welcome the results and achievement delivered by FAO under the strategic results framework in line with the commitments in the Programme of Work 2020-21.

We recognize that FAO took swift action to support countries, particularly in Africa in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a major impediment in the implementation of the PWB 2020-21 because of the needed adjustment to cope with emergency through humanitarian response linked with the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

We welcome the contribution of FAO to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, including its hosting of the pre-Summit and participation in global debates where Members call for international and regional cooperation and COVID-19 recovery, committing to eradicating hunger and improving nutrition, taking action towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and supporting small-scale and family farmers through investment and technology.

We equally recognize the work of the key role of FAO within the UN and at country level, notably, *inter alia*, the United Nations development system repositioning, the formulation of the United Nations Development Cooperation Frameworks, the participation in UN joint programmes, the contribution to the development of country level business operation strategies, the implementation of the country office transformation initiative to support delivery, as well.

***Continue en français***

Les résultats de la FAO en matière d'amélioration de la production, qui passe par la transformation des solutions et services numériques en biens publics mondiaux, la mise en œuvre de l'initiative Un Pays - Un Produit Prioritaire, le soutien à l'agriculture familiale et aux petites exploitations, les efforts déployés pour réduire les pertes de production dues aux maladies végétales et animales à travers l'approche Une Seule Santé, la vulgarisation du programme Système Ingénierie de Patrimoine Agricole Mondial, sont éloquentes.

Nous apprécions également les résultats rapportés qui visent l'amélioration en matière de nutrition pour assurer une bonne alimentation et une nutrition saine. À ce titre, nous apprécions notamment le travail au sein du codex Alimentarius, et l'élaboration des normes alimentaires. Au même titre, nous prenons note du travail de la FAO dans le cadre de la sensibilisation au gaspillage alimentaire et au renforcement de la transparence des marchés, des produits et du commerce agricole.

Nous prenons aussi note des résultats de la FAO relative à l'amélioration en matière de l'environnement, à travers des actions de restauration et de promotion de l'utilisation durable, des écosystèmes terrestres et aquatiques, et dans la lutte contre le changement climatique, au moyen des systèmes agroalimentaires plus efficaces, plus inclusifs, plus résilients et plus durables.

Sous le chapitre de l'amélioration en matière de condition de vie, nous apprécions que le narratif et les activités concrètes relatives aux situations d'urgences et à la résilience de l'initiative Main dans la main, des interventions participatives systémiques à plusieurs niveaux et intersectoriels sous le couvert

du développement territorial, de l'appui aux investissements et de la contribution au Forum Mondial de l'Alimentation, lancé en 2021, à l'occasion du Forum de la Jeunesse du Conseil Économique et Social des Nations Unies.

Nous accueillons favorablement les informations concernant le renouvellement de la FAO afin de renforcer et améliorer sa capacité de servir les Membres dans la perspective de l'optimisation de l'impact à travers la facilitation de la gestion des arbitrages et grâce à l'utilisation des technologies novatrices, de données et de statistiques et en travaillant dans le domaine critique caractérisé par des liens d'interdépendance entre les pays. Le travail fait dans les petits États insulaires en développement, les pays les moins avancés et les pays en développement sans littoral, nous est d'une importance capitale au regard des situations particulières de ces pays, dont plusieurs se retrouvent dans notre continent.

Nous notons les progrès dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de Coopération Technique (PCT), et encourageons la simplification des procédures du PCT en renforçant son harmonisation stratégique et catalytique et en concrétisant d'avantage sa décentralisation.

Nous prenons donc [XX] nouvelle structure que nous avons endossée en principe, dans une dynamique souple en mettant fin aux encouragements et collaboration. Ayant dit ceci, le Groupe Régional approuve le Rapport d'Exécution du Programme (PIR) 2020-2021, et recommande la transmission dudit rapport à la Conférence pour adoption.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I would like to pass the floor over to Thailand who will be reading the statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for his leadership in steering the Organization through these challenging times of global food crisis.

We welcome the Programme Implementation Report (PRI) 2020-21 and express satisfaction on the good performance evidenced by the many Outcome Indicators rating FAO's perceived contribution as 'significant'. We congratulate FAO for catalyzing an all-time high resource mobilization, which confirms the global trust in FAO's activities and initiatives. We also congratulate FAO, in particular, for the successful arrangements of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit in Rome and the active collaborations of the UN Food Systems Summit in New York.

The Asia Group is committed to the implementation and the follow-up process of the UN Food Systems Summit for transforming agrifood systems towards increased sustainability. We underline the importance of keeping food, agriculture and agro-food trade at the center of global international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global targets on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification. In this regard, we also note the significant role of FAO to assist Members in relaunching and achieving the SDGs through its programme implementation.

We recognize and support the efforts of FAO to improve the effectiveness of the Technical Cooperation Programme's (TCP) resources allocation and to align TCP programme delivery with Country Programming Frameworks, which is very important for developing countries. With respect to Strategic Objective 6, we recognize and appreciate the contribution of FAO in leveraging its technical expertise by providing good quality statistics for evidence-based decision making, incorporating nutrition into Country Programming Frameworks, and integrating and promoting food and agricultural perspectives in the Climate Change Strategy in line with the Agenda 2030.

We support the efforts to strengthen the capacity of Decentralized Offices, and we encourage FAO to continue expanding partnerships and increase advocacy to enhance capacity development, especially through the South-South and Triangular Cooperation framework. We support FAO's continued effort to improve monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of delivery of its outputs and outcome across the Strategic Objectives.

Finally, we encourage FAO to expedite concrete actions to disseminate available research, science, innovation and technology, and to promote knowledge transfer, trade and investments in agrifood systems to enable their transformation to become more productive, efficient, inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I just want to verify whether other countries who wish to speak in their capacity as regional coordinators, and I will give the floor to them. If this is not the case, I will proceed with my national statement.

*Continues in Russian*

The Russian delegation takes note of the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21. We note with satisfaction that despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, FAO's leadership has generally ensured the implementation of the targets and did not allow for a slowdown in the provision of assistance to countries in need, when it comes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We are closely monitoring the restructuring of work in line with the four pillars of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

We believe that the recommendations of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit should be integrated into the work of the Organization after having been discussed and approved by Member countries. We note the need for FAO's assistance in strengthening national food systems. At the same time, attention should be drawn to the rapid growth in the number of new initiatives, alliances and partnerships in the field of agricultural development and food security.

This leads to a fragmentation of cooperation. It increases the burden on FAO, which by virtue of its mandate is involved in the participation or coordination of the activities of these structures. In this connection, we call for priority to be given to corporate initiatives, the most elaborated of which is the Hand-in-Hand Initiative of the FAO Director-General. Taking into account new challenges, we call on FAO to expand practical cooperation with UN agencies with related mandates. Here I am talking about the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the UN Environment Programme, and others.

We support FAO's commitment to strengthening its work to ensure inclusive trade and markets within its mandate and, in this we emphasize the relevance of FAO's activities to ensure the openness, transparency and proper functioning of global commodity markets and value chains, especially when it comes to illegal sanctions and trade restrictions.

We also note with satisfaction the positive results that FAO has achieved in the area of multilingualism, first of all by almost doubling the number of documents that have been translated into all the official languages of the Organization.

*Continues in English*

This is the last line of my statement, because I want to support other languages, not only the official ones. This is the end of my statement.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia notes and endorses the report of the May 2022 Joint Meeting with regard to the Programme Implementation Report 2020-2021. As we did during this meeting, Australia expresses our appreciation for the efforts of the FAO during 2020 and 2021, under exceptional circumstances, to minimise the sadly growing global hunger levels.

In particular, Australia commends the provision of information and data, including through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which contributed significantly to coordinated efforts to maintain open, transparent and well-functioning markets and supply chains, while helping policy makers to enhance food security and nutrition outcomes. We also commend the Organization for its increased focus on One Health in close collaboration with the other Quadripartite organisations, including in relation to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and transboundary animal and plant pests

and diseases. In this regard, we urge ongoing collaboration and improved harmonization of efforts across all four organizations.

In line with paragraph 10 (d), Australia notes the importance of capturing lessons learned and incorporating these into future programmes of work. For instance, we highlight the importance of the FAO striking the right balance in its communication of information to Members to ensure full transparency and Member support. By way of example, the extensive engagement with Members on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative stands in contrast to the information provided to date on the One Country One Product initiative. In addition, we consider that the past biennium underscored the importance of FAO consistently aligning with the 2030 Agenda and the need to avoid the use of sensitive language and non-multilaterally agreed terms.

As we did during the Joint Meeting, going forward, Australia encourages FAO to continue to work closely with Members, maintain a focus on science and innovation, and scale-up effort in areas of core competency. In particular, we emphasise that the provision of technical advice, and normative and standard-setting work, must remain a priority. We also highlight the need to continue to provide support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including in the Southwest Pacific, especially through the Office of SIDS, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

Finally, we reaffirm our readiness to continue to work constructively and collaboratively with Management and Members alike and we trust that, together, we can help FAO achieve its objectives.

**Mr Seong-Ho LEE (Republic of Korea)**

Distinguished delegates, it is my honour to speak to you first time at the FAO Council. I was delighted to be sworn in as the new Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to FAO in March. Taking this opportunity, I want to convey warm greetings and best wishes to you all.

At the FAO Special Council Session in April, we discussed the impact of the Russian/Ukrainian conflict on global food security. It was clear that while it results in a massive and deteriorating food security challenges, since April the overall food security situation has worsened, sending significant rippling effects throughout global food systems. As the food crisis continues to spread and intensify, the most vulnerable populations are expected to be hit the hardest. According to the FAO- WFP *Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity Report* issued on 6 June, up to 750 000 people face famine, malnutrition and death in the face of the worsening food shortages. The current crisis also represents multiple challenges for countries that have not been directly exposed to food crises.

The fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict have pushed the prices of feed, fertilizer and other essential commodities, as well as shipping prices in food systems. Despite restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems FAO achieved most of its goals, such as the response to the global context and the *better production* and *better nutrition* from 2020 to 2021.

In particular, the Republic of Korea believes FAO's visibility in the international community has been enhanced as the Organization has supported the decision-making procedure of the Member States and has led the discussions on agriculture, food security and nutrition. The fact that the core contribution to FAO is continuously on the rise and the growing contribution of the Member States, International Financial Institutions and the private sector clearly show that the awareness on the importance of FAO and its projects is increasing. Korea's core contribution increased by more than tenfold from USD 3 million in 2016-17 to USD 41 million recently.

The gender equality of FAO's staff has been enhanced to 45 percent among professional members (P-level), however, it has been maintained in the 20 percent range on a higher level staff (D-level) for the past ten years. Additional efforts are necessary in this regard.

Finally, the Republic of Korea would like to ask FAO to continue its efforts at global, regional and country level in cooperation with the UN and other Rome-based Agencies to address global food security which has been threatened by climate change and conflict.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Excellency. This is, as we sometimes say, your maiden speech to the Council. Very much welcome to Rome and we count on your cooperation. I now give the floor to Argentina.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Por ser la primera vez que intervengo, permítame decir buen día, buenas tardes, buenas noches a todos los colegas aquí presentes y que están conectados de manera virtual, y agradecer especialmente a todo el equipo de la Secretaría General por garantizar este hermoso encuentro en presencia de todas y todos nuestros colegas. Voy a brindar mi palabra en mi capacidad nacional y trataré de ser breve para ya empezar a ayudarlo en su tarea importante de esta semana.

La Argentina ya se ha referido al documento C 2023/8, *Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-21*, en la pasada Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Finanzas y del Comité del Programa por lo que seré breve, como dije, y nos concentraremos solo en algunas cuestiones muy concretas.

Primero, reconocer que la implementación del programa de trabajo en el contexto de la pandemia de la COVID-19 y las repercusiones socioeconómicas globales conexas supuso un gran reto para la FAO y que la Organización, sin lugar a dudas, estuvo más que a la altura, actuando desde el triple nexo entre lo humanitario, el desarrollo y la paz.

Segundo, para la Argentina, y de acuerdo a lo expresado en el Comité del Programa, para nosotros hubiera tenido más valor una presentación del Informe a partir de los cinco Objetivos Estratégicos y no de las cuatro mejoras, conforme al *Plan a plazo medio para 2018-2021 (revisado)* y *Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21*, aprobado por los Miembros en la Conferencia de la FAO en el año 2019.

Tercero, la magnitud de los recursos movilizados por la FAO hace imprescindible, por una cuestión de transparencia, que los Miembros tengan mayor precisión de cómo se utilizan los mismos. En especial, aquellos recursos etiquetados que superan ampliamente a los recursos ordinarios y no etiquetados de la Organización y, por ende, tienen la capacidad de desviar la atención programática acordada por todos nosotros en este Consejo y en la Conferencia. Por ello, apoyamos, como se acordó en la Reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 133.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 191.º período de sesiones, que se analice la función y los efectos de las contribuciones destinadas a fines concretos respecto de la ejecución del Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031.

También, apoyamos lo expresado por Australia, en términos de impulsar un comercio internacional de alimentos abierto basado en las reglas de la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) predecible y no sujeto a disrupciones distorsivas como los subsidios, una vieja cuestión no resuelta.

Además, recordamos la importancia de que se utilice lenguaje multilateralmente acordado. Como sabemos, eso es una plataforma para facilitar los consensos.

Por último, alentamos a la FAO a continuar progresando en la ejecución de su programa en materia de igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, como muy bien lo expresara el Embajador de la República de Corea.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina toma nota del *Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-2021*.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Since it is my first time to take the floor at this Council Session, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to FAO Director-General, to Deputy Directors-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Ms Beth Bechdol, Mr Laurent Thomas, the Chief Scientist, the Chief Economist, their staff members and the Secretariat of the Council. Furthermore, the combination of the lessons learnt to the end of the chapter and success stories contribute to an even broader view.

We strongly support it and commend FAO for listening to the voices raised in the previous Council Session last November. At the same time, we recommend that the summary of all the recommendations under the lessons learnt would be included so that as Members we can contribute and continue to keep track of it.

Similarly, the second chapter which described the improvement of the ability of the Organization to serve its Members, is well organized and precise. However, we believe it is also necessary to add a summary of the recommendations for further follow-up. Beside the general points raised here, we wish to share the following observations. Israel would like to highlight FAO and the complex work it carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. We applaud its ability to accommodate the challenges imposed by the pandemic, as well as others that followed, the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, extreme climate crises and the resulting economic downturn.

We welcome FAO's shift from responding to emergency and crisis to focusing on medium and long-term interventions. Israel also encourage the Italian initiative of the Food Coalition which we have joined to lead and to facilitate innovation, innovative ideas and expert dialogue to address the varying needs of the different countries.

As a final word in this regard, we applaud FAO's ability to deploy its resources' mechanism flexibility in order to adapt to the pandemic challenges. Secondly, Israel stresses the power of digitalization to empower rural agrifood producers around the world. We, therefore, welcome the Initiative to promote 1000 Digital Villages. We encourage FAO for the use of mobile apps to support farmers and more. We look forward to receiving more information about further initiatives to encourage the use of digital technology globally.

Israel encourages FAO to further promote the implementation of the food loss and waste framework for developing related policies, strategies and legislations, as well as deepen its commitment to the Food is Never Waste Coalition and safe food initiatives. We believe that addressing food loss and waste can contribute directly and indirectly to the promotion of many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) than those mentioned in the report.

Israel appreciates the increasing global recognition of the critical mutual link between agrifood systems and the climate crisis. We commend all FAO's efforts last year to achieve this recognition. Likewise, Israel supports the development of the new FAO Strategy for Climate Change and the Organization's support in the implementation of national mitigation and adaptation plans and policies.

Lastly, Israel emphasizes the importance of the World Food Forum initiative and the significant role that youth can play in the future of food systems, as outlined in the report. We reiterate the importance of harnessing the passion of youth to take on many responsibilities in children's hands. Hence we will be pleased to share our experience with youth empowerment for solutions. The youth Israel Sustainable Development Goals Program (ISDG) initiative, at the end of this month. We invite you all to the presentation of the youth delegation from Israel on innovative ideas for SDGs facilitation here in this Plenary Hall.

To conclude, with these comments Israel endorses the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

At the outset, South Africa associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We wish to recognize and appreciate your able management of the Council Sessions and your informal consultations you conducted to forge a consensus on issues where divergent views were expressed.

The Programme Implementation Report clearly outlines the success of the FAO in addressing numerous challenges, such as the pandemic, the pest and diseases and dealing with the impact of climate change whilst enhancing the contribution of agriculture to facilitate a *better life* for all. The Director-General, through his good leadership and foresight has transformed the FAO in a relatively short space of time to be an agile, responsive and financially credible Organization that addresses various challenges, and even impacts in the developing world.

The Director-General's recent visit to South Africa was successful. It enabled valuable interactions at senior management level with academia, research institutions as well as the private sector. South Africa looks forward to strengthening its relationship with the FAO as we firmly believe that the Director-General has demonstrated an inherent value of forging a mutually beneficial relationship.

Chairperson, the FAO's proactive Response and Recovery Programme contributed to mitigating the impact of the pandemic to an already challenging economic environment and, therefore, it is of vital importance to continue with this Programme to assist those in need. South Africa has identified agriculture, forestry, agro-processing, fisheries production and rural development as key for such a recovery in order to contribute to a *better life* for all and a better world. The approach seeks to enlarge the role of the youth and women in agriculture or aquaculture to enable more producers to enter the agricultural value chains.

On the *better production*, South Africa supports the agrifood systems transformation initiative of the FAO. As such, this initiative will promote sustainable food systems, job creation and food security. South Africa's ocean is a significant asset to its economic potential in aquaculture, bioprospecting, marine ecotourism and other benefits of healthy ecosystem services, such as climate regulation, carbon storage and waste absorption. Recently, we adopted in South Africa a National Fisheries Strategy for Freshwater Environments and as a priority we look to improve market access and prioritize implementation of Africa's free trade agreement in respect of animal and plant health through appropriate biosecurity measures.

At this point South Africa believes that you have outlined very well on the report and therefore we would like to conclude by saying that in the context of the *four betters*, they have proved to be effective in realizing the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and, therefore, with these comments, we endorse the Programme Implementation Report.

**Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all, we would like to appreciate the Director-General for his and his team's extraordinary efforts and work. Regarding this Report, we align ourselves with the Asia Regional Group and agree to endorse the Report. China highly appreciates FAO's efforts on the unprecedented unfavourable conditions and challenges in the 2020 to 2021 biennium in the following aspects.

A number of innovative measures have been launched to focus on the *four betters*, with the aim to effectively promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. All the outcomes outlined in the 2020-21 Programme of Work have been implemented in a comprehensive, efficient and excellent manner. The work quality and the business continuity has been ensured and a record high has been achieved in resource mobilization. China recognizes the positive progress that FAO has made in effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively promoting digital transformation, actively promoting the preparations for the UN Food System Summit and for the deepening the organizational reforms.

We welcome FAO for improving its business model and expanding the funding channels through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and partnerships. China supports FAO's efforts to fully implement the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and continue to play a leading role in the global food and agriculture areas. We encourage FAO to do the following to continue to leverage its organizational technical capabilities and the expertise for this strengthened partnerships and actively mobilize resources to support its Members in their efforts to ensure and enhance their agriculture production capacity with a focus on global food security and contribute to its Members' achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia francesa de la Unión Europea en nombre propio de la Unión y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que desea hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos.

Acogemos con satisfacción el nuevo formato del *Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-2021* y su contenido sobre el trabajo de la FAO a nivel mundial y nacional. No obstante, consideramos que este informe hubiera sido significativamente mejorado si hubiera hecho un análisis de los objetivos y los programas estratégicos, en lugar de utilizar las "4 mejoras" como referencia, ya que no existían en el periodo que abarca el documento.

Sobre el programa "Un País, un Producto Prioritario (OCOP, por sus siglas en inglés)", solicitamos mayor información, incluyendo sus socios, objetivos y financiación. Se requiere para ello un enfoque

holístico y contemplar el interés de las dietas variadas y equilibradas en el marco de los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles.

Respecto a la aplicación de la “Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031)”, celebramos los buenos resultados obtenidos, los cuales se deben principalmente a las contribuciones voluntarias y a los fondos fiduciarios, algunos de los cuales finalizaron en 2021. Por ello, impulsamos a que la nueva Estrategia sobre el cambio climático atraiga nuevas fuentes de financiación que permitan a la FAO mantener su compromiso.

Aplaudimos los progresos para lograr el equilibrio de género entre el personal de la FAO, que debe existir también en la alta dirección buscando el camino hacia la paridad de género.

El multilingüismo es una cuestión nuclear en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, de forma que esperamos recibir información actualizada sobre el marco político estratégico para el mismo, que fue solicitado por el Consejo en su 168.º período de sesiones.

Con estos comentarios, aprobamos el *Informe de ejecución sobre el programa en 2020-2021*.

**Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)**

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la elaboración del *Informe de ejecución sobre el programa en 2020-2021* desarrollado en una desafiante situación mundial generada por los efectos de las diferentes crisis y agravadas por la pandemia de la COVID-19. Las repercusiones en los diferentes sistemas alimentarios y sanitarios se pueden constatar hoy en día. Agradecemos a la FAO porque ante estos retos se ha logrado avanzar durante este período en el alcance del marco de resultados estratégicos.

El bienio de referencia nos ha dejado muchas lecciones. Las mismas permitirán adaptar mejor la ejecución de futuros programas, en particular, la necesidad de ampliar la capacidad de respuestas, adaptarnos ante eventuales imprevistos y proporcionar soluciones rápidas en tiempo y forma.

Reconocemos que la Organización en este período aumenta su esfuerzo en la movilización de recursos, alcanzando importantes cifras, pero, como todos sabemos, ante tanta emergencia no son suficientes. Vemos con preocupación el incremento de las contribuciones voluntarias proporcionadas a la FAO para fines específicos. Al respecto, solicitamos a la Dirección considerar la posibilidad de llevar a cabo un análisis exhaustivo sobre el rol y los efectos de estas en las actividades programáticas futuras.

Por último, consideramos la actual situación económica mundial, en donde los recursos son cada vez más limitados, la inflación en aumento, los elevados precios de los productos y suministros, las crisis climáticas y sanitarias que se están volviendo permanentes. Consideramos necesario que la FAO aproveche, explore todas las herramientas a disposición. Entre estas, considerar el enorme potencial de la Cooperación Sur-Sur, la cual siempre es un complemento y no sustitutiva de la Cooperación Norte-Sur, ya que los países desarrollados deben cumplir con sus compromisos con la ayuda oficial al desarrollo y en todo lo referente al cambio climático.

Con estos comentarios acogemos el *Informe de ejecución sobre el programa en 2020-21*.

**Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

Japan aligns itself with the Asian regional statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Thailand. We have three points to make as a national statement as follows.

First, with respect to digitalization of agriculture, Japan supports the importance of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture. In fact, we have nominated the candidate for the inter-governmental representative group for the platform. In this regard, we call on FAO to keep us informed on further progress with this Platform. In order to elaborate on our contribution to the platform, we need information, especially on when the Platform will actually be launched and how FAO will collect the financial resources.

For the second point, as for the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, so-called GIAHS, Japan appreciates FAO held an International Symposium on GIAHS and Family Farming last October. In addition, we also welcome that last November, on the occasion of the International Conference on



GIAHS 2021, FAO invited the representatives from Burkina Faso, Senegal and Peru to visit the area, which is one of the GIAHS sites in Japan in order to conduct the study visit for them.

Finally, we appreciate that FAO allocates the additional budget of USD 1 million to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius, since Japan put a high priority on FAO's normative work.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Al ser nuestra primera intervención, manifestamos nuestra mejor intención para que este 170.º período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO sea todo un éxito, y que sus resultados sirvan para fortalecer los lazos de unión, amistad y solidaridad entre nuestros pueblos, más allá de aquellas cosas que nos separan.

La Delegación de Costa Rica recibe este *Informe de ejecución sobre el programa en 2020-2021* con gran satisfacción, sobre todo cuando se nos presenta un importante apoyo al tema de crisis climática y su repercusión en los ecosistemas y afectación de los recursos naturales.

Creemos importante incluir y reforzar elementos concernientes a los temas que tienen que ver con la sostenibilidad ambiental, implementando y fortaleciendo actividades que incluyen temas como, pero no limitados a, economías verdes y economías azules.

Acogemos con agrado la información en cuanto a que el programa de transformación profunda que ha llevado a cabo el Director General que, junto con la "Iniciativa Mano de la mano", han reforzado la capacidad de este órgano de prestar servicios a sus miembros, sobre todo, para aquellos pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID) y los países de ingresos medios, o en desarrollo. El aporte en las innovaciones tecnológicas y de otra índole, deben ampliarse, para no dejar a nadie atrás.

Además, en mi condición de Presidente del Comité Directivo Internacional del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar (UNDAF), deseo manifestar mi complacencia porque el Informe en su sección *Mejor Producción*, página 8, párrafos 35-40, haga referencia no solamente a la Agricultura Familiar y a los pequeños agricultores sino a los resultados que se han obtenido desde que se lanzó el Plan de Acción Mundial en mayo de 2019.

Con estos cortos comentarios mi delegación avala y acoge este Informe, y lo hace suyo, con beneplácito, agradeciendo en todo lo que vale el esfuerzo de la Secretaría para su elaboración.

**Ms Seta Rukmalasari AGUSTINA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Thailand on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Indonesia conveys its appreciation to FAO's Secretariat for preparing the new format and comprehensive Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2020-21.

The past biennium was marked by unprecedented constraints and challenges, caused mainly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst the global uncertainties stemmed from the multidimensional crises, FAO has shown flexibility to adapt and quickly respond to emerging needs and priorities as is well reflected in this Report.

Indonesia notes with appreciation FAO's performance in taking forward FAO's agenda over the past biennium where most or all the targets were met and delivered at global, regional and country levels. We acknowledge the achievement of the 11 percent increase compared to the last biennium of voluntary contributions which reflects Members' and resource partners' positive support to the Organization.

We further acknowledge the importance of data protection in the implementation of agrifood systems in line with international rules and data protection standards. In this regard, we convey our appreciation for the work of FAO to publish the draft of the Data Protection Policy as a strategic way to cement a solid trust underpinning our partnership.

Indonesia hopes that FAO will continue to focus on strengthening its capacity to serve its Members in the use of their statistics, technology and other innovative approaches, including assist countries on the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit. Indonesia emphasizes its support for multilateral and multistakeholder approaches and supporting multilateral food governance. Indeed, we must enforce

the coordination network among Rome-based Agencies and domestic stakeholders to enable the programme implementation delivers effective outcomes.

Finally, Indonesia supports future implementation of the One Country One Priority Programme (OCOP) initiative to promote the development of priority and special agricultural products that will contribute to the acceleration of agrifood systems transformation.

With this statement, Indonesia supports the endorsement of the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada commends the work of the FAO for the 2020-2021 biennium and underlines its contribution of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and we appreciate the accessible and clear format of its presentation. We note the particular challenge of delivering on FAO's mandate during the height of the pandemic.

We welcome the lessons learnt identified within the Report, including the vital role of data, science, technology and innovation and digitalization, and we look forward to seeing their integration in FAO's work going forward. We agree that continued close coordination and alignment with the rest of the UN system remains imperative, both at country and global levels, as well as engagement with the private sector.

Canada also supports the importance of open, transparent and well-functioning global commodity markets and value chains for food security and nutrition and reduced inequalities in access to food, and we recognize FAO's role in this during the reporting period. We welcome the efforts to strengthen the Organization and improve its capacity to serve Members. In particular, Canada is pleased with FAO's work on the internal Women's Committee, which provides a safe, inclusive space for women to express themselves which will contribute to a positive organizational culture change and help to further institutionalize gender equality in the Organization's work going forward.

Finally, we echo that policy coherence and multilevel food governance mechanisms are crucial for effective agrifood systems approaches. We are confident that FAO can continue to contribute its unique expertise to the growing challenges in the current biennium and in pursuit of the SDGs with transparent governance, strong technical capacity and analysis and inclusive approaches.

We welcome the 2020-21 Programme Implementation Report and we look forward to accompanying FAO through the current biennium.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)**

Espero que todos podamos llegar al viernes con el cierre de este 170.º período de sesiones del Consejo con el mismo espíritu con que empezamos el día de hoy.

México agradece y acoge la presentación del *Informe sobre el programa de implementación en 2020-21* y se une a los reconocimientos expresados con anterioridad por otros Miembros de este Consejo. Este Informe, sin embargo, nos da cuenta del pasado. Por lo que, tomando en cuenta lo indicado en el mismo, quisiera proponer la necesidad de pensar en cómo avanzar hacia el futuro. En especial, porque este futuro parece mucho más complejo e incierto de lo que hubiésemos esperado hace algunos años.

Para ello, y tomando en cuenta las lecciones aprendidas y reconociendo la gran complejidad de los problemas, visiones y prioridades que todos tenemos y que las diversas intervenciones ya han dejado de manifiesto, quisiéramos invitar a la FAO a:

Uno, ayudarnos a encontrar nuevos paradigmas para el funcionamiento de los sistemas de base agrícola, incluyendo los pesqueros, los ganaderos y los forestales. Es claro que el futuro no puede ser construido con más de lo mismo;

Dos, promover la construcción de puentes en nuestros países para no dejar a nadie atrás y buscar soluciones y responsabilidades compartidas;

Tres, continuar avanzando en los procesos de reforma que se tienen en marcha buscando mayor transparencia e instando a la Dirección a continuar fortaleciendo procesos de rendición de cuentas y a la búsqueda de alternativas a la falta de recursos voluntarios no etiquetados;

Cuatro, continuar trabajando para reposicionar a la FAO como líder en la arquitectura del sistema de Naciones Unidas y de otras agencias internacionales en materia de alimentación, agricultura y desarrollo rural.

Estoy convencido de que la presente encrucijada le ofrece a la FAO y a todos los que estamos involucrados con ella, una oportunidad para reinventarnos mirando al futuro con nueva esperanza.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)**

We will be very brief because we fully align ourselves with the joint statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Thailand on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We have basically two points.

The first, we would like to bring to the kind attention of the Council the information provided on page 25 regarding fostering youth entrepreneurship, we commend FAO's work during 2020 and 2021 on this initiative. We have come to know that the Guidelines for Investment in Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness in Africa is prepared. We would like to commend FAO to continue this work and we would be very happy to get some information on the plan of FAO Management to further accelerate this wonderful initiative to other regions, particularly in Asia.

My second point would be with regard to ongoing and repetitive discussions to increase the unearmarked and lightly earmarked voluntary contributions. If we review the documents, we find that out of USD 2.7 billion voluntary contributions, only USD 44.5 million was less earmarked, which FAO could flexibly use for its necessary use. So, we would be very happy to know some kind of initiative of FAO to increase this unearmarked and lightly earmarked funding, because the situation is such that to response to the emergency situation, we need this type of funding.

**Ms Demitu HAMBISA BONSA (Ethiopia)**

Ethiopia aligns itself with Africa Regional Group, the statement delivered by Cameroon. I want to begin by extending my appreciation to FAO's comprehensive efforts at headquarters, regional offices and the country level to improve its global operation of agrifood systems transformation.

This Council Session is going, at a time when food insecurity is growing exponentially and the farmers, their farm yields and urban dwellers are stressed by climate change and the price hike respectively. We want to underscore the urgency to act on climate change impacts on agrifood systems. With this regard, the commitment to Paris Climate Agreement is important to alleviate the climate-induced crisis. With issues related to climate change, we want FAO to strengthen its engagement with Members, especially in working with developing countries to ensure the financial commitment of that, support developing countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

We also highlight the importance of consistency of financial flows with a pathway towards slow greenhouse gas emissions and the climate resilient development and support of a global transition towards this sustainability. In this regard, we welcome FAO's efforts in developing a new Strategy on Climate Change for the next ten years.

We welcome the first ever FAO Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework, the ambition for a world free of hunger and malnutrition lies at the helm of science, technology and innovation, which are central to bring into the entire agrifood systems.

Moreover, we do appreciate FAO's financial and the technical support mobilised through Hand-in-Hand and Green Cities Initiatives which benefit a large share of urban and rural populations to relaunch economic activities. As my country is one of the beneficiaries, Ethiopia is a great pull for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which supports the efforts of the national Government in new priority areas like agro-industrial parks and the attempt to attract private sector engagement.

Finally, we want to underscore the importance of inclusiveness, cooperation and collaboration to alleviate food insecurity and hunger to enhance climate resilience agrifood systems, driven by science and innovation, to curb the effects of climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

With these comments, we support the adoption of the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21.

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

La Guinée s'aligne sur la déclaration faite par le Cameroun au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique. Nous saluons le format et le contenu du présent rapport qui fournit d'amples informations sur ce qui a été fait par la FAO au nom du dernier exercice biennal, notamment les actions menées pour renforcer et améliorer sa capacité à servir les Membres avec un meilleur impact.

Nous accueillons favorablement la mise en œuvre d'instruments pour améliorer la production, notamment la transformation des solutions et services numériques en biens publics mondiaux, l'initiative Un Pays - Un Produit Prioritaire, le soutien à l'agriculture familiale et aux petits exploitants, les efforts pour réduire les pertes de production liées aux maladies végétales et animales. En outre, le travail fait dans les petits États insulaires en développement, les pays les moins avancés et pays en développement sans littoral constituant, de notre point de vue, un levier important dans l'atteinte des objectifs stratégiques, compte tenu des situations particulières de ces pays en termes de vulnérabilité.

Nous prenons note des progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de Coopération Technique (PCT), nous pensons toutefois, que pour une meilleure efficacité, les efforts doivent être poursuivis en matière de simplification des procédures, et des décentralisations.

Avec ces commentaires, la Guinée supporte l'approbation du rapport par le Conseil.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I give the floor to the Observers.

**Sra. Haifa Aissami MADAH (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de) (Observador)**

Quiero iniciar agradeciendo al Director General, Dr. QU Dongyu, por su informe inicial tan exhaustivo que dio y con el cual dimos inicio a nuestra jornada de esta semana. Y a usted, Señor Presidente, también por su informe inicial.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la elaboración del documento *C2023/8* relativo al *Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-2021*. Y en este sentido, nos complace observar que la FAO, como indica el citado Informe, estuvo a la altura de los desafíos aplicando una estrategia mundial, holística y polifacética para ayudar a los Miembros y regiones a contener los efectos de la pandemia de COVID-19. Asimismo, alentamos a que la FAO siga prestando asistencia técnica a instituciones nacionales estadísticas sobre el seguimiento de los Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), censos agropecuarios y el uso de la tecnología para la elaboración de datos.

De igual modo, felicitamos la orientación sobre la inclusividad y la integración de la reducción de la pobreza en la formulación de proyectos que se encuentran en consonancia con el objetivo de garantizar la inclusión plena y protagónica de todos los sectores de la sociedad, tal como está incluido en nuestro Plan de la Patria 2019-2025 y en línea con la estrategia de la FAO en Venezuela, encaminada a contribuir a la erradicación de la pobreza, la inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional. Nosotros también deseamos expresar nuestro respaldo al multilingüismo, consideramos que ello es esencial en este foro multilateral.

Con estos comentarios, Venezuela toma nota del *Informe*, el cual hace suyo, *sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-2021*.

**M. Aly COULIBALY (Mali) (Observateur)**

Je voudrais, à la suite de mes prédécesseurs, remercier et féliciter la FAO pour l'organisation de cette session et vous féliciter également, ainsi que votre équipe pour votre leadership et la bonne manière dont vous menez les débats. Le Mali s'associe à la déclaration du Groupe Régional tel que prononcée par le Cameroun, nous nous félicitons du rapport détaillé et riche en informations.

Le Mali appuie l'initiative destinée à combler les lacunes en matière de données agricoles et la stratégie mondiale pour l'alimentation, la modération des statistiques agricoles en Afrique. Nous saluons les liens entre l'agriculture, la santé et la nutrition pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition dans plusieurs pays en Afrique qui ont le mérite d'être soutenus dans tous les pays du continent.

Nous apprécions les interventions à effet rapide menées dans six villes africaines et un programme de formation reproductive sur l'intégration de l'agriculture urbaine et périurbaine de la foresterie et des systèmes agroalimentaires dans la planification urbaine. Nous encourageons le Programme d'action régional pour l'Afrique, auquel participent 25 pays de la région. Nous félicitons l'initiative des villages numériques en Afrique. Nous remercions la FAO pour son intervention rapide lors de la résurgence attribuée à 2020-2021, qui avait été maîtrisée dès le début de 2022. Nous encourageons l'entrepreneuriat en Afrique.

Cependant, nous souhaitons attirer votre attention sur les deux stratégies, à savoir celle relative à la science et l'innovation et celle relative au changement climatique qui doivent aller de pair et doivent aller ensemble pour potentialiser les actions à entreprendre dans l'un ou l'autre sens.

Nous approuvons le Rapport d'Exécution du Programme (PIR) 2020-2021, et nous nous associons à nos prédécesseurs pour demander son adoption.

**H.E. Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional du Proche-Orient) (Langue originale Arabe)**

Au nom du Groupe du Proche-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer ce Rapport d'Exécution du Programme (PIR) 2020-2021 que nous accueillons avec satisfaction car dans notre région, nous avons bénéficié de nombreux efforts de la part de la FAO, ce pour quoi nous remercions le Directeur général.

Dans notre région, un certain nombre d'efforts louables ont été fournis ce qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des priorités tracées par la FAO, et qui visent toutes à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, l'élimination de la pauvreté, et de la malnutrition dans notre région. Tout cela sur la base du contenu du cadre stratégique pour la période 2022-2030. Cela vise à aider à concrétiser les objectifs de développement durable (ODD), et nous aider également à adopter des systèmes alimentaires à même de résister aux chocs.

La Conférence Régionale tenue à Bagdad au début de cette année dont les résultats ont été très positifs, a souligné des points fondamentaux, tel que la collaboration entre les pays de la région pour la sécurité alimentaire, la nécessité de fournir aux pays les données et statistiques nécessaires sur lesquelles ils se basent pour élaborer ces politiques, la collaboration et la coopération avec toutes les parties prenantes dans la région, la promotion des efforts visant à réduire l'impact du changement climatique. Sur la base de tous ces efforts, les priorités ont pu être fixées dans notre région.

La FAO a accordé la priorité à la production à travers l'assistance aux exploitations agricoles familiales, ainsi qu'à travers l'introduction de la numérisation dans nos régions qui est une initiative qui s'insère dans le cadre de l'initiative globale de promotion de la numérisation. L'appui également au programme mis en œuvre par nos pays a été accueilli avec satisfaction en plus des efforts fournis au profit de la jeunesse et des femmes. Un certain nombre de conférences et d'initiatives ont été tenues et pour cela nous remercions également la FAO.

Nous appuyons donc ce rapport.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I would like to turn the floor to Ms Imelda Smolcic, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting, whether or not she wants to make some comments.

**Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Les doy a todos los buenos días y deseo a usted y a todos los Miembros del Consejo un período de sesiones exitoso. He escuchado atentamente las intervenciones y creo que al término de ellas puedo destacar que los Miembros han destacado la importancia del Informe y sobre la Ejecución del Programa y han adherido a la recomendación que hiciera el Comité Conjunto. En ese sentido, no tengo mayores comentarios que hacer al respecto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ms Imelda Smolcic, and thank you for your hard work as Chairperson of the Joint Meeting as well as the Finance Committee. I now pass the floor to Ambassador Yael Rubinstein, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, whether or not she wishes to make any comments.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of Programme Committee)**

I have nothing to add, just we welcome the approval and the adoption of the Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ambassador Yael Rubinstein, and thank you for your hard work as Chairperson of the Programme Committee. I now pass the floor to Ms Beth Crawford for a brief reaction to some of the comments, so that we can finalize the discussion before the lunch break.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

Thank you so much to the Members for all of your comments. I see I have just a few minutes, so I will try to be as brief as possible. Firstly, I would just like to say we appreciate very much all of your positive recognition also of the work that was undertaken in 2020-21 which was, as you all know, a particularly challenging biennium and we really appreciate the positive comments on the results achieved in this biennium.

We also appreciate the recognition and appreciation of the new format of the document. This, as you all know, is an endeavour that brings together colleagues from across the entire Organization, all locations, everybody works hard to bring the information together for you and we appreciate that recognition.

As some of you have noted, it is a transition document from one biennium under a previous results framework to a new biennium with a new results framework, and we went sort of halfway in showcasing results in that manner. This is why, for example, the results which were achieved under the Strategic Objectives have been grouped according to the *four betters*. This is really also to highlight that cross-sectoral impact of FAO's work and the way that we are working in a non-siloed manner.

You will also see in the document that we have highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all of the achievements because, of course, under both the previous framework but in particular for the new framework, the Agenda 2030 is the overarching framework guiding our work.

I would also just like to emphasize that all the results presented in this document are covered by a combination of all resources at our disposal. So, it is both results from the assessed contributions, the Net Appropriation and from the extrabudgetary resources. Even though, as many of you have commented, the vast majority of our extrabudgetary resources are earmarked, we do achieve very strong results under the results framework, in line with what was set out in the PWB 2020-21.

I would point, for example to *Annex 2*, Organizational Performance, where you can see in detail for each Outcome what was achieved or how much was spent from the Net Appropriation budget and from the extrabudgetary resources.

Of course *Annex 1* also gives all of the detail of results under the previous framework, in the detail that some of the Members have referred to. We hope that with the combination of the main document and the *Annexes*, that all information is available for Members. Chair, there were also a few specific questions, and if you would be willing to give maybe one more minute, I could pass that on to DDG Bechdol for the various comments on the One Country One Priority Programme, and then perhaps on multilingualism and gender also very briefly, if time permits.

**Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to refer to some of the brief comments offered by the Members on the One Country One Priority Product initiative. We very much look forward, in the coming months, to deeper briefings and consultations with Members on this initiative as it has begun to take shape.

As many of you know, we pulled a first launch event together in September of 2021. Today we are working through regional launches and information sessions, thus far already being held with Africa, Asia Pacific and the Latin America and Caribbean regions. In fact, just in the coming weeks we will be completing these with the Near East and also with Europe.

These include Ministers, senior government officials, private sector donors and other FAO partners, all to begin to understand exactly how, through the One Country One Priority Product Initiative we can together help focus on productivity increases, connectivity, competitiveness and profitability increases, all while focusing on very much the development of green agricultural practices, all of this with a focus on being based on needs and comparative advantages of the Members.

A number of Members have already highlighted their strong interest in promoting these special agriculturalized products, including potatoes, for example, in Lesotho, quinoa for Bhutan and even amaranth for Mexico. So, again, thank you for the comments regarding the interest and we very much look forward to providing much more detailed information, including on the approach, the way forward, the coordination with countries and also plans for resource mobilization of voluntary funds for the programme as well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. And then one minute for the multilingualism.

#### **Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. If we still can, perhaps the designated focal point for multilingualism, Mr Rakesh Muthoo, could answer a few of those questions and then the Director of Human Resources, Ms Greet De Leeuw, on gender issues. Chairperson, we are in your hands.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Very briefly, at the outset I would like to thank Members for their support to the enhanced attention to multilingualism, which is reported in the Programme Implementation Report (PIR). I would like to assure that we are gearing up those efforts in the current biennium.

Beyond that, as Members know, my appointment as the Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism, and the development of the Strategic Policy Framework on Multilingualism, which will be submitted to the Council at its next 171st Session.

We are diversifying and strengthening the resource capacity for multilingualism and language goods and services that we provide, including by filling vacant positions and diversifying the basis of other staff and non-staff resources in this regard.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Management. With this we have concluded our deliberations on Agenda Item 3. We are going to break for lunch now. I think everybody is ready for strengthening themselves in the afternoon session and the beginning of the evening session.

I thank you so much for your concise statements but also for your strong support of the Programme Implementation Report. During lunch we will finalize the draft conclusions. They will be brief and concise and we will start our meeting discussing them at 14:00 hours sharp. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:05 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 05*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.05*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>13 June 2022</b>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:06 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 06  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.06  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 3. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21 (continued)****Point 3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2020-2021 (suite)****Tema 3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2020-21 (continuación)**

(C 2023/8; C 2023/8 Annexes 1-9; CL 170/10)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished delegates, dear friends, I hope that you had a very good lunch. As you have seen, we had a ceremony about the Awards of FAO for this year, and now we continue our meeting on Item 3.

I would really like to thank you again for your excellent input, comments and concise remarks about Item 3. Before I put forward to you the draft conclusions, because I think many of you raised the issue of gender, which I also very much promote and support, I give briefly the floor to Ms Beth Crawford or Ms Greet de Leeuw for some brief remarks on the gender issue.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

Our Director of Human Resources is ready to comment on this for very brief remarks.

**Ms Greet DE LEEUW (Director, Human Resources Division)**

FAO is indeed committed to making progress with regards to gender parity. Overall, the representation of female staff across all levels stands at 52 percent and we aim to achieve gender parity also at professional level by the end of 2022 and for senior positions by 2024.

In the professional categories, from P1 to P5, we have currently achieved 45 percent, so we are heading in the right direction. At director D1 levels and above, even though some progress was made at the P5 and D1 levels, the overall representation remains 26 percent, so there is some way to go in the next two to three years.

We continue to promote gender parity within the workforce through concrete initiatives. For example, the FAO Youth and Women's Committee has launched a new mentorship programme targeted to inspire young talent and empower women. The Director-General already extended maternity leave in 2019 and in 2021 an extension of paternity leave for staff was also approved, as well as the coverage of salary during absence of maternity for the affiliate workforce.

We have also stepped up awareness initiatives to eliminate unconscious bias in the recruitment process, and increase outreach, including with the Members in order to attract qualified women, especially at the senior levels. We, therefore, hope to continue to making progress. We need to step up the efforts at the senior level.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Director of Human Resources, Ms Greet de Leeuw, for your comments and remarks.

Now I would like to turn to the draft conclusions. As was requested on behalf of you all, by the Chair and the Vice-Chairpersons, we worked on concise draft conclusions. In addition, not to repeat what was either already in the documents and supported by you, or those elements which were in the recommendations of the Joint Meeting, the Programme Committee meeting as well as the Finance Committee meeting.

We put them now on the screen and I will read them out to you and then we go one by one, subparagraph by subparagraph, through the draft conclusions.

On the *Programme Implementation Report 2020-21*,

1. The Council welcomed document C 2023/8, *Programme Implementation Report 2020-21*, concurred with the findings of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 191st Session of the Finance Committee, and in particular:
  - a) commended the Organization for the results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-21 within the exceptionally challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- b) stressed the pivotal importance of assessed contributions in the implementation of the agreed programme of work;
  - c) highlighted the value of the Organization of unearmarked and lightly earmarked voluntary fundings and requested an analysis of the role and effects of earmarked contributions in delivering the Strategic Framework;
  - d) welcomed the enhanced attention to multilingualism and looked forward to continue such efforts in the current biennium; and
  - e) commended the remarkable level of USD 2.7 billion in resources mobilized in the biennium and encouraged FAO to continue exploring different funding modalities to attract more flexible voluntary contributions.
2. The Council endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21 and recommended that it be submitted to the 43rd Session of the Conference for its approval.

These are the draft conclusions. Now I will take up each of them and I do hope that you can support these.

First, I take the chapeau, which is “*the Council welcomed document C 2023/8 Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, concurred with the findings of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 191st Session of the Finance Committee*”. Can we agree to this chapeau?

I do not see any requests for the floor. Thank you very much.

We go to subparagraph (a) “*commended the Organization for the results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-21, within the exceptionally challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic*”. Can we agree to subparagraph (a)?

I do not see any objections. Thank you so much.

Then we go to subparagraph (c), “*highlighted the value of the Organization of unearmarked and lightly earmarked voluntary fundings and requested an analysis of the role and effects of earmarked contributions in delivering the Strategic Framework*”. Can we agree to subparagraph (c)?

I do not see any objections. Thank you so much.

Then we go to subparagraph (d), “*welcomed the enhanced attention to multilingualism and looked forward to continue such efforts in the current biennium*”. I think we have to delete the letter “d” after “*continue*”. Can we agree to this paragraph?

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

S'agissant du paragraphe sur le multilinguisme, nous souhaiterions tenir compte à la fois du langage du Joint Meeting et des indications données par le corps donateur. C'est-à-dire que le programme sera présenté à une future session du Conseil, et donc je lis en anglais ma proposition. “*And looked forward to receiving further information on the implementation of the Strategic Policy Framework for Multilingualism at a future session.*” Et nous n'aurions pas besoin des mots qui précèdent “*and look forward to continue efforts in the current biennium.*” On peut le garder, mais l'important, c'est de garder la fin de la phrase. Donc, c'est tiré du rapport du Joint Meeting, paragraphe 10 (h).

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo, en realidad, quería hacer una propuesta de subpárrafo *a posteriori* de este subpárrafo, pero déjeme decir que no tengo ninguna objeción respecto de lo planteado por mi colega de Francia. Cuando usted lo considere, le pido que me devuelva la palabra para hacer una propuesta.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think if we keep in what France said. France was flexible on the first part but would like to add a sentence. If we keep the first part, I think we could, after “*the multilingualism*”, put a comma and delete the word “*and*”, because then it continues “*looked forward*” and then “*looked forward to*”. Can we agree to this proposal as proposed now on the screen?

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

I do support the proposal coming from France, but I do not think we need to repeat the verb here, “*look forward*”. We can keep at the beginning “*look forward to continuing its efforts*” and “*in the current biennium*” and to “*receiving further*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we have to reinstall “*and*” again. Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections. It is so decided.

I give now the floor to Argentina for the introduction of a new subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Varios Miembros expresaron la importancia de tomar la cuestión de género dentro de este punto.

Voy a hacer una propuesta de texto que espero sea lo suficientemente amplia para que todo el mundo pueda sentirse representado. Lo voy a hacer en inglés a velocidad de dictado. “*Encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its policies to promote a gender sensitive approach to boost equal opportunities and participation, including at senior management level, given that women are the most vulnerable staff assets according to FAO relevant statistics.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be agreeable to the Council? I do not see any objections.

Let me go to subparagraph now new (f), “*Commended the remarkable level of USD 2.7 billion in resource mobilized in the biennium and encouraged FAO to continue exploring different funding modalities to attract more flexible voluntary contributions.*” Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

I actually had an additional subparagraph to insert after the new subparagraph (e).

To reflect some of the contributions that have been raised by a number of Members in relation to this Item, we would like to propose the following text. “*Highlighted the importance of communication with Members on all FAO flagship initiatives, such as One Country, One Priority Product.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

I already read out the now new subparagraph (g). Can we agree to subparagraph (g)? I do not see any objections.

Then we have “*The Council endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2020-2021 and recommended that it be submitted to the 43rd Session of the Conference for its approval*”. Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

With that we have concluded this Agenda Item with its conclusions, and the Drafting Committee will look to its finalization for the report.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

I think Mexico made four recommendations. Some of them are partially included in what has been presented, but I believe that there are some that need to be stressed. I think we probably need to add a subparagraph (h) and I put it forward for consideration to everyone. Basically, “*we encourage Management to continue working on the reform process and providing greater transparency and continue with the process of accountability for all Member States*”, something of that nature, because I think that covers what the aspects involved for gender and in other areas. I think the issue of transparency and accountability is one that we have been asking for a long time, so somehow my suggestion would be to find a way to put into the text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We also have a small addition to subparagraph (f), the proposal from Australia, if I heard correctly. We would like to add to this point the importance of timely information to Members of the Organization of the participation of FAO in multilateral initiatives in the area of food security and nutrition. We draw attention to this point in our statement. We are not against the fact that FAO takes part in many initiatives, but we would like to receive timely information regarding its participation in these initiatives in the form that FAO's activities takes within these initiatives.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal would be then to say, "*highlighted the importance of timely information and communication.*" Can we agree to this addition?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

You captured a good part of my proposal, but I am not only referring to the so-called "Flagship initiatives of FAO" but all the initiatives that FAO serves as a member, because there are many initiatives, international initiatives, in which FAO participates, such as the Global Food Initiative and others. For us it is very important to receive the information about participation in a timely manner.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think if we say, "*and other initiatives*", then we capture, Can we now agree on this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go back to the subparagraph which was proposed by Mexico. Can we agree on that?

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

We have no problem with the subparagraph proposed by Mexico. When we are ready, can I please make a suggestion for subparagraph (e)?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are now going backwards, because I thought that we already agreed to subparagraph (e).

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

It is a relatively minor change, one that we have just been reflecting on. The last phrase of the subparagraph, the part that reads, "*given that women are the most vulnerable staff assets according to FAO relevant statistics*", we would like to test with colleagues whether they might be open to a different language formulation. For instance, "*given that women were underrepresented at senior levels*," which we think might more accurately reflect the key messages from the discussion earlier.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero agradecer los comentarios de mi colega de Australia, pero la verdad creo que el mensaje apuntaba a toda la Organización, y no necesariamente a un estamento particular de la Organización. Es un mensaje de principios, que apunta a toda la Organización y, por lo tanto, creo que no deberíamos solamente de focalizarlo en una parte de la Organización. Y, si no me equivoco, además, esto está planteado en el Informe del Consejo de la FAO, documento CL168/REP, en el subpárrafo 17 (b). Esa es la base de donde utilicé esta propuesta de narrativa.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I thank, the Australian counterpart once again for the suggestions. I think he does have a point, but I still believe that if you want to reflect the seriousness of the issue itself of what we are going through, I think we need to really emphasize how vulnerable they are. Perhaps it could be a combination of both. If the word "*vulnerable*" sounds a bit too unattractive, maybe we can use "*underrepresented at all levels*", instead of the word "*vulnerable*". However, I still believe the word vulnerable is a key factor and we must highlight to emphasize how urgent this matter is.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not want to prolong this discussion because if you see what was in the report of the 168th Council, that was exactly what was proposed by Argentina and I was in strong favour of sticking to agreed language and we covered all the elements of this. Therefore, my proposal would be not to reopen this subparagraph, because we agreed to it. But, if so, we have to. However, I do not want to have a long discussion because we already agreed to this language.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We concur the previous remarks on the new subparagraph (f) and (h). We also have a consideration thinking that we also welcome FAO's efforts on providing this information and the reform process and the transparency. Our proposal would be on subparagraph (f) before "*highlighted*" we would add "*welcomed and highlighted*".

Also, on the subparagraph (h), we hope that it will be agreeable to change "*encouraged*" into "*welcomed*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will come to those subparagraphs later on. Let us deal with the subparagraphs one by one, otherwise it will be quite confusing.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Very briefly, our delegation supports the first proposal made by Argentina. We would like to retain the language that was already agreed upon at the last session, because it met all of the concerns that were mentioned at that time.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I am sorry to come in and prolong the discussion. I would just like to follow up on what Malaysia was saying, to find a solution to stay with the language that Argentina proposed, but bring in the element of the underrepresentation at senior level, which was actually what was stated by the European Union in the statement by France. If we would stay with the text, "*given that women are the most vulnerable staff assets, according to FAO relevant statistics, and underrepresented at senior levels,*" we could have the two elements there. We would solve it with a simple "*and*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first take the first part. I think there is clear support for maintaining at least the text as we agreed upon at the 168th Session of the Council. We delete that part in brackets.

I think there we have an agreement, listening to all. Then the proposal is to add "*and are underrepresented at senior levels.*" Can we agree to that? I do not see any objections, so I do hope that we have now for the second time have an agreement on this subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (f), the proposal to include "*welcomed and.*" Can we agree to that? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (e). The proposal now would be "*welcomed Management to continue working on.*" Is that agreeable?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Pour bâtir sur la proposition initiale de mon collègue mexicain, et l'ajout de la délégation chinoise, je pense que le mot "*encourage*" serait plus approprié comme nous l'avons également au paragraphe (e), "*encourage Management*". Je pense aussi que cela sera plus approprié en anglais.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

My native language is Spanish but I think "*encouraged*" is better than "*welcomed*". We can say, "*welcomed the report and encouraged Management,*" because we are promoting an action to the future. But I leave this to our interpreters and our writing team.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to "*encouraged Management*"?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We concur that none of us are native speakers. We would like to concur the proposal just mentioned by Mexico saying, "*welcomed and encouraged.*"

**Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA (Indonesia)**

We are flexible with "*welcomed and encouraged.*" I think if we reflect both, it should be fine. We would like to add something here, a slight addition before the word "*reform*". We would like to add, "*ongoing,*" because we need to acknowledge that reform is happening and is still in progress.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is indeed what was said by the Director-General.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Just a point that Mexico mentioned, "*welcomed the report and encouraged Management*".

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Mon collègue de la Malaisie a devancé mes mots et je l'en remercie. C'était la proposition formulée par le Mexique.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

We are also covered by welcoming the Report because, based on the evidence of what is covered in the Report, it is reported that there are already actions undertaken and, therefore, we encourage Management to do more and be more futuristic. We agree with Mexico and as proposed also by Argentina.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are getting there now. Can we now agree to "*welcomed the report and encouraged Management to continue...*". Is that agreeable?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We agree and I thank the Mexican colleague on adding the Report. Would it be agreeable to other colleagues that after "*provide greater transparency,*" changing it to, "*providing further information*"?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was hoping that we were there, because I think this was not a discussion and I thought that we had an agreement of the rest of the subparagraph. But I put forward the proposal is to replace "*to provide greater transparency*" by "*providing further information.*"

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Soy flexible. Lo único... y tampoco soy parlante nativo en inglés, por lo tanto, probablemente no estoy logrando comprender el contenido del subpárrafo en la manera que me gustaría. Pregunto — y mi sugerencia es: incluir después de "*welcomed*", "*welcomed the information provided on the FAO flagship publications*", en el subpárrafo (f).

**CHAIRPERSON**

We were discussing subparagraph (e).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Okey, vuelvo sobre el subpárrafo cuando termine este.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I really would like to urge Members not to reopen subparagraphs which we just briefly agreed to because otherwise we continue. We know that we have so much to do. We already approved subparagraph (d), so I really would like to ask Argentina not to reopen it. Let us go back to subparagraph (e) where we had two proposals, whether or not to have "*to provide greater transparency,*" or replace it by "*providing further information.*"

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

Allow me to be frank and very open. There have been a lot of concerns, open and sometimes hidden, about the way we work, and therefore encouraging to have greater transparency will benefit everyone. I think Management has done a tremendous job on transforming these institutions, and we need to continue with the transparency of that progress. That will benefit Management, will put Management in a good place.

For us as Members, increasing transparency will be more beneficial. Providing information does not necessarily mean greater transparency, it is just providing numbers. So, depending on what we want to achieve, I think the institution will benefit everyone with greater transparency. We know how good of a job you are doing, we just need to make it transparent, that is all. They are not the same. But if the membership agrees on the other, I can concede.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal of Mexico is to maintain "*to provide greater transparency.*" Based on the explanation and argumentation of Mexico, can we maintain "*to provide greater transparency*"? Is there flexibility in the room to do so?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward by the Ambassador of Mexico, and we agree with the idea of transparency in the interest of all Members. However, we also think that the sessions and the events organised by the Director-General and his management team for Members should provide all information and should provide detailed responses to the Members.

Therefore, if we maintain the text "*providing greater transparency,*" from our point of view it might appear that we are suggesting that Management is hiding some facts and is not being transparent to Members, and we think that this way of putting the question does not fully reflect the text of the recommendation, where the Members of the Council have already taken into account and welcomed the Report and had the possibility to request and to hear all the information that was referred to.

Therefore, on the basis of these arguments, we would support China's proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we not do both? To say "*to continue working on ongoing reform process to provide...*" Because I see now four speakers. Come on, dear Members of the Council, we cannot get bogged down on this subparagraph, we have so much to do. Could we not continue and say, "*to provide greater transparency and to provide further information and to continue,*" etc. Would that not be a way out?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your proposal and we understand the rationale behind Mexico and we agree that transparency can never be big enough for any organization. Our concerns similar to that from the Russian Federation. On the one hand, we also welcome the greater transparency, it can benefit all Members. On the other hand, we also want to concur the statements made this morning, actually, by all Members, "*welcomed the Report and recognized what has already been done by FAO Management.*"

Our proposal would be we agree to maintain the words by Mexico, "*provide greater transparency,*" and we kindly request that we add one more word, "*welcomed the Report and recognized the transparency,*" and we can remain with the rest.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was going to go along the lines of what you had proposed, to combine the various parts of the phrase. Taking onboard what China just said, perhaps an option is "*working on the ongoing reform process, providing greater transparency, further information and enhanced accountability for all Members.*" By phrasing it that way, the link to greater transparency is already connected to the ongoing reform process.

Because I think we do recognize that there has been a great increase through the ongoing reform process of the last few years. So, I think that recognizes China's position that we need to recognize that that effort has been made. That is part of the reform process that is happening. Linking it this way perhaps brings it all together in one phrase, and then we would not have *the "recognize the transparency"* at the front end because it reads a little bit awkward.

**Mr Robert BOENISH (United States of America)**

The United States supports the recommendation by the representative from Canada and supports the inclusion of *"transparency"* in the text.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

We had flagged up to agree with your previous consensus text proposed, but we can definitely support what Canada has just proposed now.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous soutenons la formulation proposée par le Canada, qui nous semble capturer toutes les remarques qui ont été formulées, d'une manière plus courte.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Just putting the word *"enhanced"* instead of *"greater"*, maybe this could take on the views expressed by China, that we should put in a more positive light while still maintaining what we are trying to say in this subparagraph. It is just a suggestion.

**Sr. Javier GOROSTEGUI (Chile)**

Mi delegación también desea apoyar la propuesta canadiense.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Creo que el problema es en relación a la transparencia. Aceptamos el Informe y reconocimos los avances que ha tenido la FAO en la elaboración de estos procesos y lo que todos estábamos de acuerdo que se hizo, se ha realizado, de alguna manera real de acuerdo a las cosas que estábamos planteando.

Yo, por lo tanto, en nombre de mi delegación, creo que tendríamos que reflexionar sobre una palabra tan fuerte como es transparencia, como si pusiéramos en duda el trabajo que realizamos acá y que lo hemos realizado transparentemente en muchos de los procesos.

Malasia, creo, ha dado el punto. Creo que tendremos que encontrar una cuestión del lenguaje, más bien, no tanto por el sentido de la palabra.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We always appreciate the help from English speakers and we also appreciate Indonesia's proposal. We can agree on deleting the *"recognize the transparency"* and remain *"enhanced"* instead of *"greater"*. We hope that our flexibility can be agreeable to all the Members.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, China, for your flexibility. The idea will be we delete the first sentence, *"recognize the transparency,"* and we replace in the second line *"greater"* with *"enhanced."* Would this be now, after careful consideration, the agreement of the Council? I do not see any objections. Thank you so much, we have finalized this subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lamento tener que volver al punto anterior, pero otros colegas lo han hecho con otros puntos. Simplemente, no es para reabrir sino para clarificar. En el subpárrafo (f), luego de *"Welcomed"*, mi sugerencia, para clarificar el texto, es lo siguiente. Leo a velocidad de dictado en inglés. *"Welcomed the information provided on the FAO flagship publications and initiatives"*. Porque si no, *"welcomed"* y *"highlighted"*, ahí juntas, me parece que no tenían sentido. De esa manera me parece clarifica el contenido del subpárrafo. Espero no crearle problemas con esta sugerencia.



**CHAIRPERSON**

With this clarification in the text, can we agree to subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objections. I will read it very slowly so that I make sure that we have the agreement in the Council, that we now have agreed to the draft conclusions of Item 3.

**Mr Robert BOENISH (United States of America)**

I think there is just one more brief clarification in subparagraph (d). There seems to be a subject confusion where it says, "*welcomed the enhanced attention.*" Because it is the Council that is welcoming, I believe it should be "*welcomed FAO's enhanced attention.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could it please be the last change in the subparagraphs? I do not see any objections. I do think that we now have really explored all the draft conclusions, so that we have an agreement in the Council. Thank you so much.

**Item 5. FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy****Point 5. Stratégie thématique de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation****Tema 5. Estrategia temática de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación**

(CL 170/5; CL 170/11)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We continue our work and we go to Item 5, one of the two Strategies we are going to deal with during this Council and hopefully adopt, because they are crucial and important strategies for FAO, for the Membership, and it is only the start of the work, because after that we have to implement them.

We first take up the *FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy*. The relevant document is CL170/5. The introduction by the Chief Scientist, Ms Ismahane Elouafi, has been circulated to you.

**Introduction to Item 5: FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy**

*Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist*

Recent sessions of FAO Governing Bodies have put a strong focus on science, technology and innovation and Members are increasingly requesting FAO's support to harness science and innovation.

The 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and the 168th Session of the Council welcomed the initiative to develop the first-ever FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (the Strategy), with the overall aim of strengthening implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Strategy was developed through an inclusive and transparent process, with the participation of all Members through formal sessions of Governing Bodies (including the Regional Conferences in 2022), as well as two informal consultations, informal meetings with Regional Groups, and an informal meeting with Regional Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons called by the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The Strategy aims to strengthen FAO's work on science and innovation by providing Organization-wide guidance, coherence and alignment on science and innovation. Science and innovation serve as a foundation for the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and have cross-sectoral relevance across the Organization's programme of work. Innovation and technology are two of the four accelerators of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 intended to speed up progress and maximize efforts in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, science underpins all four accelerators (technology, innovation, data, and complements [governance, human capital, and institutions]). As such, science and innovation are integrated throughout the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), the accelerators, and cross-cutting themes.

The vision of the Strategy is a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where the potential of science and innovation is fully leveraged to overcome complex social, economic and environmental challenges of agrifood systems in a globally equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner.

The goal is for Members to harness science and innovation to realize context-specific and systemic solutions for MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategy is grounded in the following guiding principles: Equity-based; Gender-equal; Evidencebased; Needs-driven; Sustainability-aligned; Risk-informed; and Ethics-based.

The Strategy focuses on three pillars, which group together nine outcomes. Action under the pillars will be catalysed by two cross-cutting enablers: transformative partnerships and innovative funding and financing. The pillars are:

- I. Strengthening science and evidence-based decision-making;
- II. Supporting innovation and technology at regional and country level; and
- III. Serving Members better by reinforcing FAO's capacities.

Monitoring will be fully aligned with the causal results chains and SDG targets established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, reflecting all three dimensions of sustainability. For the technology and innovation accelerators, monitoring will be linked directly to the relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPI), while activities under the PPAs will be measured through the most relevant SDG indicators.

### CHAIRPERSON

This Item was also discussed at the Regional Conferences, as well as the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and, based on that great work, we had some informal consultations to finalize the draft text of the Strategy.

We had the intensive informal consultations. The informal consultations arrived at an informal consensus on some changes in the text, which I will present now to you, hopefully to be adopted by the Council. I will show it on the screen. I do not go one by one. I will read them out and then I give the floor to the Members to reflect on the Strategy and the proposed changes.

The first proposed change, and I will ask the Secretariat to put the text on the screen. We go directly to paragraph 1. You see the proposed changes which were informally agreed are in red and I will read them out. The biggest and often intertwined changes include *"poverty and hunger, as well as inequality and lack of access to resources and income earning opportunities, climate change, closer biodiversity, ecosystem degradation and decertification, disasters and conflicts."*

That is in line with what is also stated in the Strategy for Climate Change. It was also agreed that we insert *"and that transformation should be made in a coordinated manner as appropriate in accordance and dependent on national contexts and capacities,"* and of course this is agreed language in many many instruments of FAO.

We continue to the next paragraph and that is the relationship with other strategies, the informal consultations arrived at a consensus that *"the Science and Innovation Strategy will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change. Furthermore, the Science and Innovation Strategy is aligned with FAO's Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across the Agricultural Sectors and they mutually reinforce each other."*

Then, we have the paragraph, *"the Science and Innovation Strategy aims to strengthen the linkages with existing science policy interface mechanisms of the three Rio Conventions."*

As well as the next paragraph, *"the Science and Innovation Strategy is aligned with FAO's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement."*

We have a paragraph informally agreed, *"with FAO's normative work on and support to standard setting, e.g. Codex Alimentarius and IPPC"*, and *"within its mandate the Science and Innovation Strategy can contribute to the multilateral trading system in line with the rules of the World Trading Organization."*

We have the paragraph informally agreed on, *"the Science and Innovation Strategy promotes planning and implementation of gender transformative, youth engaging, participatory and social inclusive*

*action, including strengthening of knowledge, technologies, practices, efforts of local communities and indigenous people in the development and use of science and innovation. FAO emphasizes ensuring equal opportunities and sharing of benefits of science and innovation, engagement of women and youth, and indigenous people, debates relating to science and innovation, and providing support to countries to reduce social exclusion, including through legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks."*

In paragraph 9, the informal consultations proposed to insert, after "*neutral platform*", "*and scientific analysis.*"

Then we continue. In the scheme we proposed two places to say, "*technologies aiming at achieving sustainable agrifood systems.*" You see it in paragraphs 1 and 2.

We have the guiding principles relating to that as well. Wide based and people centred, that was already proposed by the Programme Committee.

Then we continue down. The informal consultation proposed to insert a paragraph, "*FAO will consider the importance of specificities of global, regional, national and local contexts when implementing the strategy to ensure that all types of knowledge, science, innovation are accessible and adaptable to local realities.*"

Then we scroll down, coming to the guiding principles. There, in the chapeau, we found a final compromise stating, "*innovation-related work in line with Agenda 2030,*" and we already have what was agreed by the Programme Committee, "*wide based and people centred,*" and the right title of "*the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.*"

Then we continue down. We have the reference to and respecting the importance of Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous People as applicable and at the end, "*and social issues in its work.*"

Last but not least, we have "*access to and use of inclusive, affordable and context specific innovations and technologies aiming at achieving sustainable agri-food systems.*" And we do the same in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Then we have paragraph 44, "*FAO will strengthen the cooperation in the arena of science, research, technology and innovation, including traditional knowledge, to bring sustainable practice to everyone, including through voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, such as through South-South and triangular cooperation and improved access to investments and financial resources.*"

The last one is ended in paragraph 46, "*the inclusion of that it will emphasize a broad approach of all types of innovations and all scientific disciplines.*"

I think these were the proposed changes in the informal consultations, and we arrived at a very delicate balance of all these issues. They were really intensive informal consultations and I think all those who participated in these consultations with a lot of flexibility and a very good spirit so that we can arrive at the adoption of the Strategy today.

#### **Ms Manar Sabah Mohammad AL-SABAH (Kuwait)**

Kuwait is intervening on behalf of the G77 and China. This is a joint statement on FAO's Strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation. Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, we thank FAO and appreciate its good efforts in preparing the two Strategies. As both are complementary documents, we see the approval of the two proposed Strategies as an urgent matter for all of us, taking into account the environmental conditions and the human and financial resources available in our countries.

We all agree that one of the most prominent effects of climate change in our countries is an unprecedented rise in temperatures, an increase in sand and dust storms, unexpectedly heavy rains, a

scarcity of water resources, and an escalation of environmental pollution, which demands the transfer of means and resources to boost adaptation and mitigation of specific programmes.

This calls for action at the level of all our regions towards establishing food systems that take into account climate changes and promotes sustainable management of natural resources in line with developments in technology and science within the Strategy on Climate Change, especially the interrelationship between agricultural inputs and food production.

In the current situation of food insecurity and malnutrition, originated by global inflation, climate change, scale up monetary expansion, international trade disruption, economic turndowns, poverty, inequality and climate change, there is no doubt that the Science and Innovation Strategy is extremely important to all member countries, although the challenges facing food and agricultural systems are significant and vary from region to region, due to many factors, both natural and manmade.

The Group of 77 and China recognizes the need for sustainable agriculture and food systems and highlights that in some contexts and according to national priorities, transformations may be needed to achieve that goal. Such information, when appropriate, demand adequate transitional mechanisms, including financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building. In this regard, we recall that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, solidarity and cooperation should guide the implementation efforts.

In this vein, we reiterate the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach and taking into account the goal of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and the eradication of poverty and hunger, but rather adopt a fit-for-purpose principle, considering national circumstances, the diverse contexts, specificities, priorities, synergies and capacities across regions, countries and the local level in applying both new strategies.

Equally, we would like to stress the need for further efforts to make technologies and innovation available to all countries and stakeholders, hence reducing existing gaps and inadequacies among and within countries. We highlight the importance of global food supply chain and international trade. On the latter, we welcome the call from the Council committee of FAO to further showcase the Organization's mandate and work on commodity markets and trade.

We fully agree that there are large-scale methods and techniques to address the challenges of agrifood systems through technology transfer on the ground with a focus on sustainable uses of science and technology, stressing the integrated link between the two strategies concerned, with climate change and science and innovation in order to achieve sustainable development in light of the strategic objectives of sustainable development towards the year 2030.

In conclusion, we urge the Members of the Council to agree to the final version of the FAO's Strategies on Climate Change and Science and Innovation so that the Organization can play its entrusted role in this regard for the benefit of all our countries.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that we enter into the recommendations by the Council Members about the Strategy and proposed changes.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, me sumo plenamente a la declaración de Kuwait en representación del G77+China. Me gustaría reconocer y agradecer los esfuerzos de la Científica Jefa de la FAO, la Dra. Ismahane Eoluafi, y a su equipo por todo el trabajo realizado en la elaboración de este documento que marca un punto de inicio para revalorizar el rol y la importancia de la ciencia y la tecnología a través de los sistemas agrobioindustriales.

Nuevamente, tengo que resaltar su rol, Presidente, su colaboración para realizar consultas que permitieron la inclusión de los Miembros en el proceso de diseño del documento, que fue fundamental para alcanzar este consenso. Reitero que es una buena práctica involucrar a los Miembros en el diseño de este tipo de documentos a fin de capturar sus preocupaciones, necesidades y ambiciones.

La Argentina considera la ciencia y la innovación como herramientas claves para mejorar la calidad, la sustentabilidad y la resiliencia de nuestros sistemas agrobioindustriales. Tenemos experiencias sobradas que nos demuestran que la ciencia y la innovación marcan el camino de la agricultura de hoy y del mañana. La siembra directa, los cultivos de cobertura, la ganadería orgánica, los ecosistemas agrotecnológico, la intensificación sustentable, la biotecnología, la modificación genética de semillas y los bioinsumos, entre otras propuestas, son soluciones disponibles en la actualidad que no solo nos pueden ayudar a erradicar el hambre, pero también mejor nuestra armonía con el medio ambiente.

Pensamos que esta estrategia será indispensable para promover enfoques amplios y plurales que les permitan a los Miembros acceder a un amplio menú de opciones para incrementar la sustentabilidad y la resiliencia. La clave es más ciencia y menos ideología en la FAO.

En esa línea, pensamos que la tecnología y la ciencia son catalizadores críticos para incrementar el funcionamiento de las cadenas de valor de los sistemas productivos y motores centrales del comercio local, regional e internacional de alimentos bajo criterios de reglas que aporten transparencia, apertura, reglas claras y previsibilidad; sobre todo, en un momento en donde la expansión monetaria en algunos países, el incremento del proteccionismo a fuerza de subsidios cada vez mayores, las barreras para arancelarias no justificadas y las interrupciones artificiales a las cadenas de suministro generan un gran impacto sobre la seguridad alimentaria global.

Para finalizar, ciencia, innovación y cambio climático deben ser vistas como un paquete. Usted me escuchó muchas veces decir que esto debía ser pensado como una cuestión como si fuera un paquete, como si fuera una cuestión integral, tanto por su sinergia como por su aporte holístico. Como lo indicó el Director General de la FAO, la Organización debe permitirse superar sus hilos y buscar complementariedades que potencien el trabajo de todas las áreas de forma transversal porque al final del día el objetivo de la FAO es uno solo: superar el hambre y lograr la seguridad alimentaria.

Veo que en la traducción no fue capturado cuando expresé claramente, quisiera mucha más ciencia y menos ideología en la FAO.

Con estos comentarios, volvemos a saludar el contenido del documento y favorecemos su endoso.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Argentina, also for your support of the change document. I now turn to Brazil.

#### **Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

I would like to start by aligning ourselves with the intervention made by Kuwait on behalf of G77 and China.

I would also like to start by praising the work carried out by the Chief-Scientist and her team in the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy.

Brazil would also like to thank you, Chairperson, for your restless dedication to building bridges and working on language in order to find consensus in the discussion of this matter. We very much appreciate your commitment to the multilateral process.

At this point, we are all well acquainted with each other's positions on the Science and Innovation Strategy. As challenging as this process has been, we have made significant progress, and I dare say that, after all the informal consultations we had, we are all equally unhappy about the likely outcome of this Council Session, as we should be.

As you are aware, Chairperson, Brazil has shown great flexibility, including about principles and standards that are very critical not only to us, but to the developing world in general.

Bearing that in mind, and remaining attached to the focus of this Strategy, allow me to reinstate the fundamental role of technology transfer in order to allow agrifood systems in developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Brazil recalls the provisions of Article 4 of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Article 10 of the Kyoto Protocol, Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, and paragraphs 6, 11, 22 and 39 of the Glasgow Climate Pact, to remind us all about the importance of technology

transfer as an indispensable channel for the fruitful implementation of FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy.

**Mr Munyaradzi Amon Benedict TUMBARE (Zimbabwe)**

Zimbabwe kindly requests the floor be given to Senegal who will deliver a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

**M. Papa Abdoulaye SECK (Sénégal)**

Nous voulons tout d'abord, saluer votre leadership, pour tout ce que vous avez fait. Le Groupe Afrique se réjouit de l'heureuse initiative de la FAO de se doter d'une stratégie en matière de science et d'innovation. Il n'y a pas de doute qu'il va s'agir d'une contribution majeure dans le cadre de la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires pour nourrir le continent africain en assurant sa souveraineté alimentaire.

Le Groupe Afrique considère que le document soumis à notre appréciation est d'excellente qualité et tient véritablement à en féliciter la scientifique en chef pour les efforts déployés, mais aussi pour son ouverture d'esprit si apprécié de tous. Le Groupe Afrique considère qu'une mise en œuvre rapide de cette stratégie, fondée sur les réalités objectives de terrain, est à la fois nécessaire et urgente. Nous pouvons être plus concrets en disant simplement qu'à l'évidence cette stratégie pourrait avoir au niveau de notre continent 12 impacts positifs. Quels sont ces impacts? Je les cite rapidement.

Le premier impact, c'est de mieux gérer les changements climatiques, pour minimiser les risques, en transformant l'incertitude en risque et en élaborant des programmes d'adaptation et des programmes d'atténuation fondés sur les connaissances et les technologies générées par la recherche. Deux, préserver nos bases productives et la biodiversité africaine, pour assurer la durabilité des capacités productives de nos écosystèmes.

Trois, moderniser nos exploitations agricoles familiales, pour le renforcement de leurs performances. PII n'y a pas de sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, sans le renforcement des exploitations familiales. Quatre, ouvrir des opportunités à un secteur privé national et international pour renforcer l'offre domestique. Cinq, cinquième impact potentiel, réduire les pertes post-récoltes qui peuvent aller de 25 à 100 pour cent selon les produits et selon les zones considérées.

Six, augmenter la productivité agricole africaine, pour réduire ce que nous appelons la fracture agricole c'est-à-dire, le différentiel de productivité entre l'Afrique et le reste du monde. Sept, améliorer la qualité des produits agricoles africains, qualité [XX] par qualité sanitaire, qualité phytosanitaire, et qualité organoleptique. Huit, favoriser l'insertion des jeunes et des femmes au nom de l'équité, gage d'une paix sociale juste et durable.

Neuf, mieux positionner l'agriculture africaine sur les marchés internationaux, et favoriser les échanges intercontinentaux pour tenir compte de nos avantages comparatifs. Dix, mieux planifier l'offre agricole africaine pour répondre aux besoins du marché africain. Nous avons un marché potentiel d'environ 1,4 milliards de personnes. Onze, assurer une diversification agricole et la promotion des céréales locales.

On le sait, la diversification est un facteur important de lutte contre les risques. Douze, transformer davantage nos produits pour plus de valeur ajoutée, élément de valorisation de nos productions. Mais il faut le dire, cette stratégie doit être associée à une numérisation de l'agriculture africaine, à une mise en place d'infrastructures de base et à une massification de l'investissement public et privé, elle doit aussi développer de fortes synergies avec celles relatives au changement climatique.

Pour conclure, nous souhaitons vivement, en tant que Groupe Afrique, l'approbation du document Sciences et Technologies, et nous plaidons aussi pour l'élaboration de plans d'actions régionaux dans le cadre de sa mise en œuvre.

*Continues in English*

Time is for action.andScience is absolutely very important for Africa.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Israel wishes to express its gratitude to the Chief Scientist and her team for an excellent work on the Science and Innovation Strategy. We appreciate the extensive dialogue, as well as the addition of some core topics, such as technology transfer, sustainability and biodiversity. Nevertheless, we respectfully wish to stress the following points.

Firstly, as reflected in paragraph 32 of the Strategy, Israel highlights the importance of strengthening the interface between science and policy. Science and innovation are important engines in the transformation of agrifood systems and must go along with regulatory and policy making. Therefore, and in accordance with paragraph 33 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we believe that FAO should strengthen its role in the development of science-policy interface at national, regional and global levels, fostering organized dialogue between scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders and ensuring that science is a core component of policy-making.

Nevertheless, policies and regulatory frameworks on science and innovations are challenged by fast-paced changes to technology and legal frameworks. As reflected in paragraph 3, science and innovation are evolving and there is a need of keeping up with the latest developments. Israel stresses the importance of having a mechanism and platform for sharing countries' experience and development on issues related to science and innovation.

Secondly, Israel reiterates the importance of a research-based approach in the Strategy and its implementation. We know today that one of the challenges that enhances science and innovation for agrifood systems is the underinvestment in research. As such, and as per paragraph 33 (iii), Israel welcomes FAO's intention of strengthening its cooperation with national, regional and international agrifood research organizations as well as its will to promote public investment in research.

We believe that the government and private sector should participate in investment in research. As per paragraph 23, during the years of 2000-2016 public sector spending on agricultural research slowed down while private sector investments doubled. The private sector has substantial investment and knowledge capabilities and plays a role in research-based approach. On the other hand, the public sector plays a key role in investment on topics with low return on investments.

Therefore, Israel would like to emphasize the value in partnership developments for science and innovation. Partnerships supported by policies with local, national and regional organizations are particularly important for delivering impact. Among this, public-private partnerships for funding and financing, partnerships with research organizations and private sector partnerships.

We look forward to the development of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy, while remembering that science, technology and innovation are the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

Taking into account all of the above, Israel recommends the Council to endorse the Strategy.

**Mr Agus HASBIANTO (Indonesia)**

Indonesia aligns itself with the joint statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China, and the Asia Regional Group. Indonesia congratulates FAO for the first-ever FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and appreciates the formulation process and its latest update on the development of the Strategy.

Climate change and COVID-19 have prompted the critical use of science and technology in achieving food security in a more resilient and sustainable way. In this regard, we welcome the comprehensive Strategy as a key tool to strengthen the Organization's flagship initiatives and support the overall implementation of FAO Strategic Framework over the next decade in support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up actions.

We would like to emphasize three points in this regard:

First of all, Indonesia supports the guiding principles and three pillars in the Strategy. Smallholder farmers often lack access to adequate and affordable production technology, as well as timely and accurate information to manage their farm. In this regard, we welcome the Strategy that enhances access to science and innovation by small-scale producers and family farmers, including women and youth. We encourage FAO to assist countries to develop innovative methodologies and tools that are responding to the needs of the diversity of local context and assist their adaptation, as reflected in the "needs-driven" principle.

Secondly, Indonesia applauds the transparent and inclusive process through which the Strategy was developed. The multi-dimensional crisis requires a multi-stakeholder approach and innovative programme to correctly address the challenges ahead. As a guidance, the Strategy needs to build coherence and alignment for impact at country level to ensure better use of science and innovation.

Thirdly, Indonesia underlines the importance of promoting and strengthening mutual partnerships with regional, national and local research and extension institutions, as well as the private sector, to achieve access to scientific knowledge and innovations, and their uptake, adaptation and scaling up. Indonesia has various experiences and successful practices in promoting science, innovation, and technology. For example, we have cropping calendar information systems, early detection of climate hazard on agriculture, and so on.

In this regard, in line with the proposed paragraph by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, we would like to expand and share our experiences with FAO Members, including within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

If you would allow me, I would like to pass the floor first to Pakistan to read the statement on behalf of the Asia Group, and if you allow me, I will take the floor after that.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

First of all, we would like to thank and acknowledge the excellent work of the Chief Scientist in the development of the Strategy on Science and Innovation.

We note with appreciation that FAO has developed the Strategy on Science and Innovation through an inclusive, transparent, and fair consultative process by engaging with Members as well as Regional Groups and other relevant stakeholders. This consultation process also included the Regional Conferences. During this consultative process, Members provided extensive comments and inputs which we believe have been integrated into the Science and Innovation Strategy, so as to ensure that the strategy reflects many of the needs of Members.

The challenges facing sustainable agrifood systems are considerable, and science and innovation are an essential part of finding solutions to the complex problems. The Asia Group also recognizes the inter-relatedness and role of science and technology, and relevant issues pertaining to agrifood systems transformation, such as social and economic dimensions, and environment and climate change aspects. In this respect, it is important to note that science, technology and innovation are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals targets. In addition, the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 identifies science, technology and innovation as having an enormous transformative potential and the Governing Bodies of FAO have underlined the importance of science and innovation in all of FAO's work.

As the lead UN specialized agency for food and agriculture, FAO is called upon to be at the forefront of facilitating solutions that support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and better life, leaving no one behind. Moreover, FAO's core functions require a strong use of science and innovation. We therefore fully support the FAO Strategy.

A relevant point to bear in mind is that, given the importance of the Strategy as a tool to deliver the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, it is essential that the Strategy is not only well designed but that it also has the support of the Membership as well as the Council. In this respect, we believe Members have come together in a consensus as a result of the efforts of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) in his informal meetings. Moreover, many Members are keen to adopt the Strategy and move on to support the 2030 Global Agenda and to see the results on the ground.

In this connection, we agree that one of the roles of the Chief Scientist is to strengthen dialogue on science and innovation. Consequently, for her to engage on issues that may be controversial or those that present communication challenges is very important and desirable. In this respect, we would like to compliment the Chief Scientist for delivering her mandate very effectively.



We are looking forward to the Chief Scientist to strengthen FAO's support to countries in identifying, piloting, and scaling up technologies and innovations adapted to their needs and contexts. We would emphasize that science and innovation should be adaptable to local, national and regional development contexts, addressing national priorities and capacities as appropriate.

In conclusion, FAO must play a lead role in engaging in strategic and participatory engagement. In this respect, we compliment the Director-General for his vision on this matter. It was this vision which the 168th Session of the Council acknowledged by welcoming the initiative to develop FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening FAO's capacity to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement as well as the G77 of China statement. Malaysia appreciates FAO's consultative efforts for the outline and the roadmap of the Science and Innovation Strategy, an outcome of formal and informal consultation with a wide Member base through an inclusive and transparent process.

Science and technology innovation could play a key role in responding to agrifood systems' unprecedented challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, migration, conflict, as well as economic uncertainties and COVID-19.

The FAO Strategy on Science and Innovation is one of the accelerators that will intensify the work on the *four betters* and Programme Priority Areas and will have cross-sectoral relevance across the FAO's programme, and also encourages linkages with other policies and appreciates that this Strategy will be a key driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Malaysia appreciates FAO's emphasis on theories of change and its efforts to recognize that each Member has different levels of enhancing science and innovation at a local level.

Science and innovation in agrifood systems must be able to respond to the needs of the local context, such as the systems must be able to respond to small-scale farmers and producers. Thus, by strengthening transformative partnership and remunerative funding, it enables FAO to support innovation and technology at a country level to meet sustainable agricultural productivity growth with increasing food demand.

For instance, Malaysia's National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 puts emphasis on fostering industry-wide innovation that is supported by strengthening agrifood infrastructure offerings with consideration of sustainability elements.

Malaysia underscores the importance of acknowledging the national and agricultural research and higher education institutions that contribute to promote science and evidence-based practices in agrifood systems. Formal and informal institutions at national level for instance, MARDI, is an established statutory body which has been mandated to conduct research in agricultural food and agrifood industries in Malaysia.

Malaysia proposes for the Strategy to elevate efforts in strengthening this institution at FAO by providing partnerships to exchange best practices and expertise between Members.

On the synergy between this Strategy and climate change, we emphasize the primary importance of the two Strategies as they are linked, intertwined in a complementary nature, in that science and evidence-based innovation and solutions are instrumental for climate actions and strategies. And third, it is logical in our view to adopt the two strategies as a package.

On that note, it is also worth reflecting that the level and ambition of the Strategy should be commensurate with funding and financing mechanisms in order to give the effect of the operationalization and the financing mechanism of the action plan.

Finally, with this I would like to also thank you and the Chief Scientist for your efforts in ensuring that this consultation process is open and transparent.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses 27 États membres, la Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Norvège, la Serbie, l'Ukraine, la Turquie, la Moldavie, la Géorgie et San Marin se rallient à la présente déclaration, dont la version écrite fait foi.

Nous remercions la FAO et en particulier sa scientifique en chef pour les consultations menées, des discussions approfondies étant en effet nécessaires pour atteindre le niveau d'ambition souhaité pour cette stratégie. Nous vous remercions pour vos efforts, pour trouver des solutions de compromis.

Nous apprécions le fait que la stratégie possède un objectif clair, qui est de soutenir la transition vers des systèmes alimentaires durables et la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD) dans le contexte du changement climatique et de la perte de la biodiversité. À cet égard, l'agroécologie et les solutions fondées sur la nature doivent être prises en considération pour répondre à ces problématiques.

Nous soulignons une fois encore la nécessité de s'appuyer pleinement sur la science, sur des approches globales fondées sur des données factuelles et sur toutes les disciplines scientifiques pertinentes. Nous soulignons également l'importance d'une approche pluri-acteur et participative pour accélérer l'innovation sur le terrain, permettant aux personnes qui ont besoin de solutions innovantes tels que les agriculteurs et autres acteurs des systèmes alimentaires, de coopérer étroitement avec d'autres chercheurs, conseillers, etc, au cours du processus d'innovation.

De la même façon, il convient de promouvoir l'innovation sous toutes ses formes. Il importe que la stratégie soit notamment guidée par une approche fondée sur les droits. Nous réaffirmons en outre la nécessité d'y intégrer une vision éthique et responsable de la science, de l'utilisation des données, de l'innovation et de la technologie. Nous comprenons que la stratégie doit être assortie de mécanismes pour garantir sa mise en œuvre fiable, prévoyant notamment une évaluation continue et minutieuse des problématiques essentielles liées à l'utilisation de la technologie.

Nous attendons avec intérêts de voir la FAO présenter différentes options en la matière dans les enceintes et les formats adéquats en tenant compte des bonnes pratiques d'autres Institutions des Nations Unies et des lignes directrices élaborées par l'UNESCO. Nous saluons les liens existants entre la stratégie et les politiques de la FAO relatives à la protection des données et des droits de propriétés intellectuelles, et nous rappelons encore la nécessité d'achever rapidement les politiques relatives aux données, pour fournir les garanties nécessaires.

Nous nous félicitons que la stratégie tienne compte du mandat de la FAO et soit compatible avec le système des Nations Unies, évitant ainsi les doubles emplois avec les Organisations compétentes. Nous notons que la stratégie s'appuie sur les interfaces entre science et politique et sur les réseaux et programmes scientifiques, comme le CGIAR, l'IPBES, le GIEC et le Groupe d'Experts de Haut Niveau, HNPE du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le CSA, ainsi que sur les Organisations et programmes de recherches nationaux.

Nous réaffirmons que la stratégie doit être participative, et guidée par la demande, conduite et s'appuyer sur des innovations pilotées par les parties prenantes, adaptables, et prenant en compte les contextes et besoins locaux. Nous saluons le fait que la stratégie prenne pleinement en considération les connaissances, l'expérience et les préoccupations des exploitants agricoles, les exploitants forestiers, pêcheurs et populations autochtones. Nous remercions également la FAO d'avoir fixé l'objectif de rendre les innovations accessibles et abordables pour les petits exploitants et les exploitants familiaux, les femmes, les jeunes, les populations autochtones, les personnes en situation de handicap et autres groupes marginalisés.

La mise en œuvre de la stratégie doit dûment tenir compte des systèmes de connaissances et d'innovations agricoles dans les Pays membres, en particulier des services de vulgarisation et de conseil. Il sera impossible de progresser si les pays ne possèdent pas de système de connaissances et d'innovations agricoles, SCIA, fonctionnels.

Nous prenons acte de l'attention particulière accordée aux besoins des pays à faibles revenus et à revenus intermédiaires, et des petits États insulaires en développement et nous espérons voir la stratégie se concentrer également sur les pays les moins avancés. Nous attendons avec intérêt le plan

d'action élaboré par la FAO, après la décision du Conseil, conformément à une vision éthique de la science et à une utilisation responsable des données.

Par ces déclarations, l'Union Européenne et ses États membres invitent le Conseil à adopter la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, France, on behalf of the European Union and many more states who aligned themselves with this statement. Thank you very much for your strong support for the adoption and also your nice words.

#### **Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Eritrea is honoured to present a statement on the 170th Session of the FAO Council and primarily commends FAO's Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for organizing the 170th Session of the FAO Council and appreciates the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu for his active involvement.

Eritrea fully aligns itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of Africa Regional Group and Kuwait on behalf of the G77 and China.

The Science and Innovation Strategy is pertinent because it aims to strengthen FAO's work on science and innovation by providing wide guidance on science and innovation. Hence, science and innovation serve as the foundation for the FAO Strategic Framework and have cross-sectoral relevance across the Organization's programme of work.

The vision of the Strategy is a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where the potential of science and innovation is fully leveraged to overcome complex solutions, economic and environmental challenges of agri-food systems in a globally equitable and sustainable manner.

The goal of the Science and Innovation Strategy helps Member countries to harness science and innovation, to realize context-specific and systemic solutions for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Eritrea underlines the valuable input of the implementation of the Science and Innovation Strategy and appreciates FAO for further support and consideration regarding supporting the utilization at country level.

#### **Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

South Africa associates itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and the Group of 77 plus China as presented by Kuwait.

As other delegates have already stated, South Africa sincerely appreciates the Chairperson's consensus building efforts, including the determined efforts of the Chief Scientist and her most capable team in drafting the first Science and Innovation Strategy. This process undertaken to finalize this important Strategy should underscore that consensus does not imply unanimity and care should be taken that perfection is not ultimately the enemy of the good.

South Africa regards science and innovation as a cornerstone for sustainable economic development, also as outlined already in the Strategy. We therefore believe that improvements are essential in the agricultural knowledge systems. The main elements of the Strategy that we emphasize are related to recognizing the importance of collecting and disseminating indigenous knowledge and solutions as this will contribute to food security and the transformation of food systems. It provides a valuable tool for FAO in the use of digital technologies for improved marketing and livestock management, especially in rural areas.

A partnership with the private sector in utilizing science and innovation to reach progress in dealing with extreme poverty, thereby ensuring no one is left behind. As an example, digital technologies play an important role in respect of management of dairy cattle, especially in precision and automated

phenotyping and the easy accessibility and widespread use of such technologies would improve animal health monitoring and increase productivity of dairy farms.

The Sub-Committee on Livestock could usefully consider how the implementation of this Strategy could be taken forward. In addition, the issue of water scarcity is having a dilapidating impact on agricultural development, in particular in South Africa and even southern African regions in general.

Agriculture is also using most of the diminishing freshwater resources, therefore science and innovation and technology will contribute to finding solutions to enlarge the role of agriculture in using less water to irrigate, increase areas under cultivation, especially in drylands and to develop drought-resistant crops.

In conclusion, with these comments South Africa endorses the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

The Philippines aligns its statement with those of the Asia Regional Group, delivered by Pakistan and the G77 and China, delivered by Kuwait.

We concur that the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy is extremely important to all member countries. For the Philippines, game-changing innovations will fuel the modernization and industrialization of the country's agricultural and fisheries sector.

We concur that FAO's support to countries in identifying, piloting and scaling up technologies and innovations adapted to our respective needs and contexts should be strengthened through this Strategy.

One urgent issue that the Philippines needs to address is how to manage the increasing cost of farm inputs, such as fertilizer, fuel and feed resources through balanced fertilization and pesticide use strategy, use of renewable resources and development of alternative feed sources for livestock, poultry, fisheries.

The increasing cost of farm inputs is presenting a huge challenge for our country to obtain food security amidst a perfect storm. African swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, the global COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities and climate change impacts like stronger typhoons, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and other disturbances that adversely affect the production and trade of farm inputs.

Another research for development stress and priority of the Philippines is to support its Plant, Plant, Plant Programme, which also involves vertical farming and edible landscaping, among other innovations. We also commend the efforts of the Programme Committee for closely examining the draft FAO Science and Innovation Strategy as it also welcomes the attention given to accessibility and affordability of innovations.

We can go along with the Programme Committee's proposed adjustments to the text of the Strategy. What is most important now is to implement the Strategy and have great international cooperation to ensure that science-driven innovations and technologies are institutionalized in the sector to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, end hunger by 2030, among other UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We appreciate the FAO leadership for this initiative to strengthen the role of science and innovation in the Organization's work.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

En primer lugar, nos sumamos a la declaración hecha por la delegación de Kuwait en nombre del Grupo G77+China. Agradecemos a la visión del Director General, a la Secretaría, a la Científica Jefa, a usted Señor Presidente, pero también a todos los Miembros por el alto nivel de empeño y compromiso demostrado en el proceso de consultas para la elaboración de esta nueva, urgente y necesaria estrategia. La FAO con este nuevo instrumento se pone al paso del tiempo, reconociendo que la ciencia, la innovación, la tecnología son herramientas indispensables para enfrentar los desafíos que plantean los sistemas agroalimentarios.

Consideramos que esta nueva estrategia debe ser puesta a disposición de los Miembros en consonancia con las necesidades nacionales y que debe enfocarse entre sus prioridades en alcanzar a los sectores más vulnerables para ir superando las brechas entre las zonas urbanas y rurales y entre los países. Asegurando, de tal forma, el acceso y la asequibilidad de las innovaciones de forma inclusiva y no discriminatoria.

Coincidimos en que la ciencia y la innovación son potentes impulsores para mejorar los sistemas agroalimentarios. La implementación efectiva y eficaz de esta nueva estrategia puede representar valiosos instrumentos para promover la inclusión y la generación de oportunidades para millones de productores, en particular, para los pueblos originarios, indígenas, campesinos, afrodescendientes, mujeres y jóvenes.

La nueva Estrategia para la ciencia e innovación representa uno de los principales instrumentos para la aplicación del Marco estratégico para 2022-2031 y junto a las otras estrategias, entre estas la de cambio climático, puede representar una verdadera evolución para promover las intervenciones técnicas y la orientación normativa de nuestra Organización, la FAO.

Por último, solicitamos que, al momento de elaborar los respectivos Planes de acción para la puesta en marcha de las Estrategias —si bien la Estrategia no había sido presentada en las Conferencias Regionales—, el resultado de estas Conferencias sea tomado en cuenta. Al mismo tiempo insistimos en utilizar el enfoque, el lenguaje acordado a nivel multilateral, en especial el acordado en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Con estos comentarios, acogemos la nueva Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación. Esperamos recibir periódicamente actualizaciones sobre el Plan de acción y sobre su implementación.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada is pleased to support the endorsement of the Strategy and welcomes the conclusions of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the results of the extensive informal consultation process.

We congratulate the Chief Scientist and celebrate this key achievement of the new Office of the Chief Scientist. We look forward to the efficient development of an action plan to implement the Strategy within the mandate of FAO after its endorsement by this Council.

This Strategy and its action plan will enable the FAO to deliver on its mission and Strategic Framework by communicating the science and evidence on innovative tools and their contributions to achieving Sustainable Food Systems in collaboration with all relevant partners.

We welcome the inclusive vision of this Strategy and stress the importance of a gender-responsive approach, the consideration of Indigenous People's knowledge and the engagement with youth and other key stakeholders.

FAO should be unwavering in its promotion of science and innovation critical to building more sustainable, equitable, productive and resilient food systems. As global food systems face historic challenges, we must enable farmers around the world with the tools they need to achieve sustainable productivity growth.

Producing more with less requires a holistic approach, including digital agriculture, social innovations that are gender responsive as well as innovative plant breeding, other biotechnologies and other approaches even yet to be developed.

We look forward to FAO's leadership to support Members through timely analysis so that farmers and other food systems actors can be informed of the best solutions for their context as a key ingredient to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Only with effective science and innovation for agrifood systems can we get back on track to meet the ambition of the 2030 Agenda.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

As it is the first time that I take the floor today, I would like to thank his Excellency, the Director-General, as well as the Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for all their efforts exerted in order to prepare for this 170th Session of the Council.

The delegation of Egypt aligns itself with the statement delivered by Kuwait on behalf of the G77 in addition to the statement delivered by the African Group.

I would like to thank His Excellency, the ICC, for his efforts during the informal consultations on the strategies on climate change and that on science and innovation.

Egypt would like to stress its support to the Science and Innovation Strategy and to highly value the efforts of the Chief Scientist, Ms Ismahane Elouafi, and her team in preparing this Strategy that is the first of its kind in the history of the Organization.

The delegation of Egypt would once again like to stress its support to the vision of the Strategy, aiming to reach a world free of hunger while harnessing the capacities of science and innovation and to face the various economic, environmental and social challenges posed by the agrifood system and this through an equitable method and an equitable way at world level.

Egypt emphasizes also the importance for these programmes and projects that are to be adopted, for them to enhance the principle of technology transfer in an equitable way and to facilitate the equitable access to technology and science at conditions that are agreed upon based on General Assembly Resolution 222 adopted last December.

Egypt would like, once again, to register its position that was proposed during the consultation regarding the adoption of the language, especially that this language was agreed during the consultations related to the Strategy on Climate Change.

**Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all the hard work by Independent Chairperson of the Council and the FAO Chief Scientist and her team, and all Members who developed this Strategy.

Japan associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We have three points to make as a national statement, which goes as follows.

First of all, Japan reiterates science and innovation are two major driving forces to successfully transform agrifood systems. In this regard, effective use of these driving forces helps FAO to reinforce its core functions.

Having said that, the word ‘innovation’ covers a broad range of things. One single innovative approach cannot be applied to all countries. Therefore, Japan also reiterates, when it comes to the application of science and innovation in a specific context, it has to be tailored to and in line with national and local context because there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

The second point that I would like to mention in our statement is the importance of promoting more investment in the agriculture sector, taking into account the impact that agriculture has on the environment. It is said that the agriculture, forestry and other land use accounts for more than 20 percent of the total emission of greenhouse gases in the world, whereas climate financing agriculture explains only 3.6 percent of the total climate investment. So we hope that the investment in agricultural innovation will be more promoted through the implementation of both the Science and Innovation Strategy and the Strategy on Climate Change.

The last point we would like to mention is about the action plan. Japan calls on FAO to continue transparent, inclusive and consultative process with Member States to develop an action plan. Japan would like to be involved in the process of developing the action plan, because it has a direct impact on the concrete action to be taken based on the Strategies.

Moreover, Japan reiterates the importance of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture in order to promote digital innovations. From this perspective, the action plan should encompass how the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture will be involved in the implementation of the Strategy.

**Sra. Maria Carolina CARRANZA NUNEZ (Perú)**

Al tomar la palabra por primera vez, queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para resaltar la conducción de este Consejo y esperamos que el espíritu de trabajar conjuntamente oriente el desarrollo del presente 170.º período de sesiones. Asimismo, agradecemos los esfuerzos desplegados por usted, Señor Presidente, y de la Científica Jefe en el proceso de la Estrategia. La delegación del Perú se adhiere a la declaración expresada por la delegación de Kuwait a nombre del G77+China y desea complementar con los siguientes comentarios.

Nuestro país aprecia con agrado los esfuerzos desarrollados por la Organización y sus Miembros en la elaboración de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación, tan necesaria para que la FAO se mantenga a la vanguardia a través de esta visión. Reconocemos la importancia de su pronta incorporación en las diferentes líneas de trabajo de la Organización con el objetivo de fortalecer su labor y de coadyuvar al crecimiento económico sostenible e inclusivo, la erradicación del hambre, la pobreza y la desigualdad en cada uno de nuestros países.

Asimismo, deseamos mencionar una vez más la necesidad de que su implementación tome en consideración los diversos contextos y capacidades nacionales, así como realizar los mayores esfuerzos para lograr que las distintas tecnologías e innovaciones estén disponibles para todos. Del mismo modo, que se proporcione información periódica sobre los progresos de su aplicación conforme al Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2020-2031.

Con estos comentarios, la Delegación del Perú recomienda que el Consejo pueda refrendar la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación.

**Mr Bo LI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all, China would like to thank the Chief Scientist for her excellent work and at the same time we see that under your able and wise leadership and energy our Strategy has been very successfully.

China supports Kuwait's statement on behalf of the G77 plus China as well as the joint statement of the Asia Group delivered by Pakistan. China highly appreciates FAO's contribution to the development of the first Science and Innovation Strategy and welcomes the inclusive consultations held during its development.

China believes that FAO plays an irreplaceable and important role in leading global science and innovation in the field of food and agriculture. We believe that the development of the Strategy will promote FAO to further enhance its technical capacity and innovation level and provide a new boost to the agriculture and rural development of Members.

China believes that FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy should adhere to the Organization's terms of reference, carry out science and innovation work within the scope of its mandate and continue to work in its mandate and the Strategy should focus on the realistic needs of the majority of developing countries, promote the application of global innovations such as digital technologies in agricultural and rural areas and provide support to narrow the gap between developing countries in sharing and applying global science and innovation achievements.

We welcome this strategy and we make it ours.

**Mr Hyungsik KIM (Republic of Korea)**

The Republic of Korea fully supports the joint statement of Asia Regional Group delivered by Pakistan. The Republic of Korea believes that this Strategy is very timely, as science and innovation play an essential role in addressing recent challenges and in transforming food systems, which are FAO's priorities.

We would like to ask FAO the seven principles should be followed when FAO implements this Strategy and that there is no-one-size-fits all solution as the countries have different science and innovation needs, priorities and capabilities. Korea is developing and extending technologies related to smart farms which are integrated with the information and communications technology to nurture agriculture as the future growth engine. Also, we are promoting the automation of logistics and the

establishment of online exchange markets to foster digital innovation of agricultural and livestock products' distribution.

The Republic of Korea is ready to work with FAO and other FAO Members for disseminating advanced technology to developing countries. In addition, FAO Science and Innovation Strategy is closely related to the Climate Change Strategy, which is to be discussed at the Council. Therefore, we need to strengthen the linkage between the two strategies so that they can contribute to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia thanks Management, particularly the Chief Scientist and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, for the consultative and transparent approach taken to develop this Strategy, including the informal meetings intended to support favourable formal consideration by the Governing Bodies, in which Australia has actively participated.

We strongly support the FAO's recognition of science and innovation as crucial elements that underpin the success of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2. In particular, we welcome the Strategy's focus on strengthening science- and evidence-based decision making at all levels, and the consideration of all scientific disciplines and multidisciplinary approaches.

Australia is pleased to offer our endorsement of the Strategy, inclusive of the changes as presented by the Chairperson at the opening of this Agenda Item.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)**

México expresa su profundo agradecimiento a la Dirección de la FAO, a la Científica Jefe, Doctora Ismahane Elouafi, y a usted, Señor Presidente, por su trabajo y liderazgo en apoyar la construcción de esta Estrategia. Y, en especial, por ayudarnos a encontrar consensos incluso en momentos que parecía que esto no iba a ser posible.

Quisiera insistir en concordancia con declaraciones hechas ya por varias delegaciones en la importancia que se tiene en acordar en concluir este proceso y de pasar a su implementación. Llevamos más de un ciclo agrícola, más de lo que dura la gestación de una vaca, discutiendo detalles de la Estrategia. Es momento de llevar esperanza a nuestros productores con acciones concretas.

Invitamos a la Dirección de la FAO a que inicie una rápida puesta en marcha de esta Estrategia y la de cambio climático, dicho de paso, y que en la próxima sesión del Consejo se presente un informe de cómo se ha avanzado en dicha implementación de ambas Estrategias, incluyendo cualquier cambio en la estructura institucional que se haya ejecutado para asegurar el positivo avance de las mismas. Digo esto, porque estas Estrategias, junto con las múltiples propuestas definidas en el Plan de acción, requieren de cambios en la estructura organizacional ya que de otra manera es difícil comprender cómo podemos avanzar anquilosados o anclados a viejas estructuras.

México está listo para apoyar su implementación y nos reiteramos a las órdenes de todos para avanzar en esta tarea.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea en nombre propio y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que desea hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos en relación con este punto del orden del día.

Agradecemos el trabajo de FAO, del Presidente Independiente del Consejo y de los Miembros de FAO, para desarrollar esta Estrategia, que busca apoyar la transición de los sistemas alimentarios y conseguir los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Subrayamos el hecho de que esta Estrategia debe usar todas las herramientas de todas las disciplinas científicas disponibles, que aumenten el conocimiento y permitan la innovación.



Reiteramos la necesidad de un estudio de alternativas para el análisis de mecanismos que permitan trabajar con un enfoque ético de la ciencia.

Apreciamos, también, que la FAO oriente su trabajo a los países de rentas bajas y medias, así como a los Pequeños estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID).

Confiamos en el desarrollo de un Plan de acción por parte de la FAO y con ello España aprueba la Estrategia.

**H.E. Ely Salem ZEINEB (Chairperson Near East Regional Group)**

First of all, allow me on behalf of the Near East and the North Africa Group, to thank FAO for developing this Strategy. In this context, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the President of the Council and the Secretariat of the Council for its objectivity, accuracy, professionalism and adherence to the principles of inclusiveness and consultation with all teams and Members. We value the Council's approach regarding all texts and strategies and other issues and we support it in this task.

I would like to thank and to congratulate Ms Ismahane Elouafi, the Chief Scientist, for this great work of utmost importance. We really welcome this Strategy and support it. This Strategy, which meets scientific and environmental dimensions based on science and innovation within the framework of the Organization's strategy for the period from 2022 to 2031. It is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieves the aspiration of the four betters because science and innovation are an integral part of programme priorities and regional initiatives to envision a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

Harnessing science and technology will lead to the establishment of more sustainable, comprehensive and resilient agrifood systems in order to achieve *better production, better nutrition, a better environment* and a *better life* without leaving anyone behind. By strengthening the Organization's capabilities to provide better services to Members, to harness science and innovation, while improving knowledge management and the sharing of information across the Organization.

The Strategy covers all sectors of the agrifood system, with special attention to low- and middle-income countries. It also has guiding principles centred around people, gender equality, relying on evidence, meeting needs, recognizing the risks and considering ethical issues related to science and innovation.

We really value this Strategy and we commit and support it and we urge and invite all countries to adopt this Strategy.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden. We fully align ourselves with the European Union statement delivered by France. Like others, let me start by thanking the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Chief Scientist for all the efforts to develop and achieve support around the Strategy.

A proactive commitment, strengthening FAO's science and innovation work is necessary to fulfil FAO's mandate and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Therefore, the Nordic countries highlight the need to anchor the Strategy in rights-based principles, facilitating links to our commitments in the 2030 Agenda.

FAO's comparative advantage is as a leading knowledge organization, providing guidance, knowledge sharing, and facilitation of science and innovation related to food and agriculture. Science and innovation should be mainstreamed in all of FAO's programmes and activities. It is therefore important to link the Strategy to the Strategic Framework as a whole rather than focussing on specific aspects. The Strategy and the Plan of Action should enable effective mainstreaming of science and innovation across FAO, and in FAO's work with Members and other actors. The Strategy should be relevant to all stakeholders, small-scale producers, women, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. The perspectives and involvement of marginalised groups are key to achieving food security for all.

A broad understanding of innovation that captures technological, social, policy, financial and institutional innovation should guide FAO's science and innovation work. This is essential for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We highlight the importance of including a system-wide perspective that recognises the need for inter- and transdisciplinary research. We underline that data protection and intellectual property rights are at the heart of science and innovation. We call for clear links with the policy on data protection and the policy on intellectual property rights that are currently under development. We expect that FAO follows the highest UN standards.

We, the Nordic countries, reaffirm our commitment to an ambitious Strategy to accelerate efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda, and with these comments, we encourage the FAO Council to endorse the Strategy.

**H.E. Abubakr Omer ALBUSHRA AHMED (Sudan)**

I thank you very much for giving us this opportunity. I would like to say that Sudan strongly supports the Science and Innovation Strategy and welcomes all the benefits raised by our Africa Group, by our friend from Senegal.

Since in our country the main problem is the low productivity of food crops compared to international standards, we think that the Science and Innovation Strategy should focus mainly on research, to support research on seed propagation and plant breeding for food crops. It should also consider the soils and soil mapping for a better soil management. Also, the Strategy should support access of small farmers to financial institutions for technology ownership to increase their production.

Lastly, we think also that this Strategy should also consider all the phytosanitary precautions together with indigenous knowledge and cultural and other preferences and moral differences between communities. Also, this Strategy should also take good care about all the indigenous knowledge of communities and especially for small farmers.

Finally, we strongly support the endorsement and adoption of this Strategy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give now the floor to the Observers.

**Ms Elsa Barbosa DE OLIVEIRA MARCELINO SIMÕES (Cabo Verde) (Observer)**

Cabo Verde would like to express its support to the statements delivered by Kuwait, on behalf of the G77 and China, and Senegal, on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. Taking into account that this is the first FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy, we recognize the massive work and transparent, inclusive consultation done in its preparation and hence we would like to congratulate you, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), for your strenuous work, the Director-General for his guidance, and especially to the Chief Scientist, Ms Ismahane Elouafi, and her team.

As a Small Island Developing State, we place high expectations on this Strategy as a means to boost innovation and digitalization, amongst others, of our extension and advisory services, improving the flow of information between public and private sector, while building more resilient food systems and thus accelerate the rate of adoption of innovations and technology.

We see this Strategy as an important vehicle to rejuvenate our rural population and enabling sustainable livelihoods in agriculture for the youth. To accomplish this aspiration, a more agile and decentralised FAO is needed to deliver technical support and help mobilise the needed financial resources. We would like to see flexibility, local focus, and a no-one-size-fits-all approach. We look forward to the action plan that will follow this Strategy.

In concluding, Cabo Verde would like to join its voice in the support of the endorsement of FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy, as per the language consensus arrived.

**M. Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observateur)**

Je voudrais seulement signaler, peut-être qu'à cause de la connexion technique, notre délégation n'a pas pu vous rejoindre.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, we have you now loud and clearly, if you want to make a statement, it would be feasible now.

**M. Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observateur)**

Ma délégation, parce qu'il est en Syrie.

**Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand) (Observer)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the G-77 & China and the Asia Regional Group in appreciating the effort of the Director-General, the Chief Scientist, the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the FAO team members in developing this important strategy. In addition to what has been stated by our colleague of Pakistan, we would like to briefly add a few points.

First, we concur in appreciating the transparent and inclusive consultation process with Members.

Second, the implementation of the Science and Innovation Strategy shall support the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change, in order to enable farmers to minimize the impact of climate change through improved mitigation and adaptation. With specific regard to the complex challenges posed by the impact of climate change on agrifood systems, we highlight the urgent need for appropriate science- and evidence-based solutions for decision-making on climate-change issues. FAO has an important role to play in bridging the gap between science and policy-making, by facilitating dissemination of science, innovation and technology to support deliberations of policy makers as well as facilitate the implementation on the ground in a systematic and holistic manner.

Third, science and innovation in agriculture are successful if and when they respond to the practical needs of farmers, and if and when their use is tailored on the human, technical and financial capacities and capabilities of farmers in their specific context.

Fourth and last point, FAO has a very important role and responsibility to adequately communicate and disseminate science and innovation to facilitate their adoption by end-users and to further promote their adaptation to context-specific conditions. It is very important that FAO sources a variety and multiplicity of solutions from different types of sciences. As there is 'no-one-size-fits-all', there is also 'no-one-science-fits-all'.

With the above considerations, we agree on the three pillars of action of the Science and Innovation Strategy, and we look forward to the endorsement of the Science and Innovation Strategy by the 170th Session of the FAO Council.

**M. Aly COULIBALY (Mali) (Observateur)**

La République du Mali s'associe à la déclaration du G77 plus la Chine, ainsi que celle du Groupe Régional Afrique, formulée brillamment par le Sénégal.

Le Mali félicite la scientifique en chef pour avoir mis à notre disposition un document de qualité, et le Mali soutient l'élaboration de la toute première stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation qui sera un outil clé dans la mise en œuvre du cap stratégique 2022-2031, et salue la transparence et le caractère inclusif du processus de consultation mis en place à cet effet. Cependant, nous voulons rappeler que la science et l'innovation sont indispensables à la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires.

Il convient de veiller à ce que les innovations tiennent compte des contextes nationaux. Nous voulons insister sur le fait que la science et l'innovation, appuyées par des institutions fortes, une volonté politique, des cadres de règlements propices et des mesures efficaces de nature à promouvoir l'équité, au profit des acteurs des systèmes agroalimentaires, peut constituer un puissant moteur de transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires en Afrique.

Nous voulons recommander ainsi à la FAO d'examiner les points de la stratégie, notamment les particularités des contextes locaux, et les écarts entre les pays et de s'attacher à réaliser des analyses des progrès scientifiques et technologiques d'importances, ainsi que les innovations qui en découlent, de faciliter l'accès, le transfert de technologie en apportant une attention particulière au droit de propriété

intellectuelle, de tirer parti des savoirs locaux et de se pencher sur le rôle des petits producteurs, petites et moyennes entreprises, des femmes, des jeunes et des peuples autochtones.

De promouvoir les approches fondées sur la science au niveau des pays et de veiller à ce que les connaissances, la science et l'innovation soient facilement accessible et adaptées aux réalités locales. D'aider les Membres à élaborer les politiques appropriées et à nouer des partenariats adéquats afin de renforcer les capacités, notamment celles des systèmes de vulgarisation agricole et de mobiliser des ressources nécessaires à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie au niveau des pays.

Nous demandons au Conseil d'approuver la stratégie de la science et de l'innovation telle que formulée et celle relative au changement climatique, simultanément. Suite à ce qui précède, nous approuvons la stratégie sur la science et l'innovation.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now, I do hope that the interpreters give me a little bit more time so that we can finalize the speakers' list before the break, and of course we start a little bit later after the break.

#### **Mr Paul WELCHER (United States of America)**

The United States thanks FAO for elevating science and innovation in FAO's work and thus welcomes the Science and Innovation Strategy. We would like to recognize the significant work that Chief Scientist Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Ms Beth Crawford and their teams put into this Strategy.

We believe that this Strategy will enable FAO to further support Members in harnessing the latest science and innovations. This will help countries produce more with fewer resources, address climate change, and increase their food security while improving nutrition and sustainable productivity growth.

As noted in the Informal North American Regional Conference: *"FAO should be unwavering in its promotion of science and innovation as critical to building more sustainable, equitable, productive, and resilient food systems."* Or to echo Argentina's statement, we would like to see more science and more innovation.

This is why we look forward to the rapid development of the Action Plan and the implementation of this strategy. I would like to give a special appreciation to all the work that the Members here in this room did to come to consensus, including the Chairperson.

The flexibility that we found and the counterproposals that we made came through formulations that avoid taking specific concepts from other fora and other contexts from which we appear. We believe that this approach allows us to find a consensus here today and should be employed in the future so that we can all work together in harmony.

Despite the progress that we made in our negotiations, we are disappointed that FAO's work – that this document – does not have a stronger reference to human rights, particularly in the Guiding Principles section.

We believe that all of FAO's work should be conducted in a manner that respects human rights and aligns with the human rights principles repeatedly underscored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We fail to understand why it is controversial to reaffirm the importance of human rights in FAO's work. However, given the reference to the 2030 Agenda in the Guiding Principles chapeau as well as the reference to the "progressive realization to the right of adequate food in context of national food security," we interpret the Guiding Principle of Rights-based and People-Centered as referring to human rights.

With this understanding, we can accept the language in the Guiding Principles section and can endorse this Strategy.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Dear friends, dear colleagues, we now break for some refreshments. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:40 to 17:13 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 40 à 17 h 13*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.40 a las 17.13*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends, I do hope that the refreshments are helping you to maintain the positive atmosphere which we had the whole day in this Council, in this room. For those who are virtually present, I hope you had a refreshment as well, but see it as an incentive to come to the plenary in person.

With that, we continue our deliberation on the FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy. Now I would like to give the floor to Ambassador Yael Rubinstein as Chairperson of the Programme Committee, whether or not she wants to add something to what was said because the Programme Committee did an excellent work on the Science Innovation Strategy.

#### **Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of Programme Committee)**

I appreciate the excellent work that the Chief Scientist and her wonderful team did for the past few weeks and I strongly recommend the Council to adopt the Strategy as soon as possible.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I give the floor to the Chief Scientist, whether or not she wants to make some brief remarks.

#### **Ms Ismahane ELOUAFI (Chief Scientist)**

Maybe just to thank everybody whole heartedly for their support. Really all Members have been very much engaged. We say every version was better than the one before, because the constructive support that we got from the Members was excellent and really was building up. Thank you very much for your flexibility, your support, and your engagement.

With the guidance of the Council, we are going to go ahead, develop an action plan that we are very much eager to put in place. There are always different programmes in mind, so we cannot wait to have the approval; we have the mandates to go and to develop the action plan, particularly with the regions so that we can have action on the ground.

Congratulations to the the team behind all this work.it. It was an excellent team that, as I said, is eager to continue working on the action plan. Thank you for your support as well, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC).

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, but let us first get it adopted. I will read out the draft conclusions andwith the strong support of the Secretariat, we try to be as brief as possible. I will read them out first, and then we go paragraph by paragraph through them.

On the FAO thematic Science Innovation Strategy,

1. The Council welcomed document *CL 170/5, FAO Science and Innovation Strategy* and:
  - a) welcomed the initiative to develop FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening FAO's capacity to deliver the Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and the Sustainable Development Goals through science and innovation;
  - b) appreciated the open, inclusive and transparent consultative process that led to its development;
  - c) highlighted the complementary and synergetic links between the FAO Science Innovation Strategy, the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, and stressed the importance of science and innovation in bringing about effective climate action.
  - d) stressed the importance of strengthening science policy interface mechanisms.

- e) noted the importance of increasing investments and strengthening financial resources mobilization, including via public private partnerships;
- f) concurred with recommendations of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and endorsed the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy as amended by the Council and highlighted the importance of mobilizing additional resources and developing an action plan for its effective implementation.

I think we have to do at least two or three editing, but I will do it when we come to the subparagraphs. Let us first have the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

We have subparagraph (a). Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). Can we agree to this para? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c), highlighted the complementary and synergetic links between FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy, FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and with the FAO Strategy on Private Sector Engagement and stressed the importance of science and innovation in bringing about effective action. So, we delete "for" and we delete "climate action" because it has to be broader action than only climate action. Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Une suggestion, pour reprendre un langage qui a été mentionné notamment dans le Programme Comité. C'est de mentionner parmi ces stratégies, également la "FAO strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors" et je me réfère au paragraphe 10 (I) du Rapport du Comité du Programme. Après "FAO's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, and with the FAO Strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors."

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to these insertions, which is in line with the Programme Committee? I see nodding in the room, at least the in-person room. I do not see any objections.

I go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (f).

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Why "as amended by the Council"? Because we are the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, but it is referring to the endorsement of the changes based on the informal consultation, which were presented at the Council.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Sorry, it is not clear. Either we delete this or we explain what we it refers to.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu for a language.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Distinguished delegates, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), I believe that it is important to have a reflection that you did adopt the language that was developed through the informal consultations because, of course those were informal, so you need the official endorsement of that language. As you say, you are sitting in the Council. So, you could introduce the language of "introduced" or "addressed by the Council during its Session" or "adopted the language presented", indeed "as the ICC has presented".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give to floor to the Secretary-General.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Following on from the explanation of the Legal Counsel, there is precedent, where the Council explicitly articulates in its Report that what it is approving is what it has agreed upon, not what came to it beforehand. The language that has been used in the past, which may be used in this instance, if you do not like “*as amended*”, is “*as agreed by the 170th Session of the Council*”. That sort of thing would make it explicit that whatever came beforehand has then been reviewed, revised and agreed upon by the Council at this Session.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I still think it should be clear what we adopted because I presented the changes proposed by the informal consultations, I read them out and I think that should be in general referred to in this sentence, so that is clear that it is only referring to the changes I read out during this Session. Therefore, I would say, “*including the changes presented at the Session of the 170th Council*”, because then it is clear that we refer to these changes which were presented, not whatever was there.

### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I believe that the observation of the delegate of Brazil was very important. It is crucial to note that we support the Strategy in general. However, we wanted to register that Egypt would have preferred to use the language used in article 44 or paragraph 44 of the Strategy on Climate Change, especially that this was not tackled. This was not only tackled during the consultations, but it was also adopted during the last Session of the Programme Committee.

This was not the case for the paragraph that was discussed during the informal consultation alone. Despite that, and given that this was adopted, the Strategy was supported by most delegations and in the spirit of flexibility, the delegation of Egypt while registering this observation, does agree on the language adopted in the Science and Innovation Strategy.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Egypt, for your flexibility and your remarks will be noted in the Verbatim Records.

Let me first correct the text. So, it is “*endorsed the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, including the changes presented at the 170th Session of the Council.*” We can delete “*as amended by the Council*”.

### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En la misma línea, pero tratando de ser más claros, si es posible, creo que hay que colocar alguna *footnote* para clarificar cuáles son esos cambios o, en todo caso, habría que poner “*as it referred*” or “*as it mentioned in the Annex*”. Algo, me parece, que debería ser incluido en ese párrafo para clarificar cuáles son los cambios que se han llevado a cabo. Me da la sensación que alguna referencia a eso debería estar, o en una *footnote* o alguna referencia a algún anexo que debería ser incluido, me parece. Es una sugerencia.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

The idea would be, but we will explain that in the final report, is that we adopt now the draft Strategy, including the proposed changes discussed today, and we annex the revised version of the Strategy, including the changes to the report of the Council, so that it is absolutely crystal clear what we adopted, without discussion.

### **Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

We concur with the footnote idea from our colleague from Argentina. However, looking at the statement itself, I think it is sufficient to write “*as presented to the 170th Session of the Council via the document*”, because any change is already reflected in the document itself. So, even without saying the word changes, it is understood that the document you are presenting to us consists of all the changes. Because then people ask what changes are you presenting. Then you have to compare to the

document that was submitted earlier. So, in this case, if we just write “*as presented in the document*” or “*at the 170th Session of the Council via document*”, which has the number already, adding a footnote But it is just a suggestion anyway.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now, I do not always agree with you, but respectfully, we have to say this because the changes we presented today, which I read out and were translated werenot in the document before we came to the Council. That is why I consulted also with Ms Donata Rugarabamu on how to reflect it and the best way to do it, and that is to read them out based on the document which was in front of us, without the changes coming from the informal consultations.

I have read them out. They will be included in the text, and we will present a footnote that the compiled text, including the changes, will be the annex to the report, so that we have one Science and Innovation Strategy with everything we want to see in it.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

I think the honorable delegates that spoke before me have outlined the concern, and you, as the Chairperson, have cleared exactly how this is going to be attended to. We would agree with annexing the revised document, and that would therefore take care of the concern as raised by the honorable delegate from Brazil.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solamente para agregar en la misma línea de lo que usted explicó que las consultas informales, muy importantes, que permitieron avanzar después del Comité del Programa con los consensos que ya hemos logrado tienen que formalizarse. Por eso lo del Anexo al documento CL170/5 y por eso es importante convertirlo en un documento oficial. Por ahora, eran solamente unas negociaciones informales. A partir de ahora, lo que estamos haciendo es transformar las consultas informales en un consenso formal que está establecido o incluido en ese Anexo.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We want to concur with the intervention made by the Ambassador from Malaysia, because if we use the “*include*” here, actually we did not exclude the previous paragraph or words that we actually delete from the previous version. Shall we use the “*as changed at the 170th Session of the Council*”?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps it makes it even clearer. Can we agree to this proposal? “*As changed at the 170th...*”, so delete the word “*presented*”. Can we agree to this text? I see no objections.

We are almost there for the final approval, and I see already the Chief Scientist sitting straight up.

The last subparagraph, I think there we have to make the change because we already referred to the need for investments and resources. We could just say, “*highlighted the importance of developing an action plan for its effective implementation*”, because it gives strength at what we refer to the need now, if we adopt it for an implementation plan as soon as possible. Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait j'avais une toute petite suggestion. Sur un paragraphe précédent et pardon d'y revenir, mais comme vous allez très vite, nous n'avons pu suivre, et je pense que cette proposition ne posera pas de difficultés, puisqu'elle est tirée du Comité du Programme. Il s'agit du paragraphe (d), et d'ajouter les mots “*the linkage with...Stressed the importance of strengthening the linkage with the science policy.*” Je me réfère notamment au paragraphe 10, du Comité du Programme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this insertion? I do not see any objections.

With this we have agreed to our draft conclusions. I am checking once, twice, three times.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**



If I am not mistaken, the action plan at the last Item is not mentioned. If the Secretariat would help us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The last paragraph, "*highlighted the importance of developing an action plan for its effective implementation*". I see now nodding.

With this, and I look carefully to the virtual and in-person room, it would be my great pleasure to say that the draft Science and Innovation Strategy has become the FAO thematic Science Innovation Strategy because the Council adopted it.

Give me one moment to consult with the Secretariat.

When I was young, and that was some time ago, I was playing soccer and my trainer always said, "*never change the winning team, or never go beyond a positive conclusion of a match.*" Although we have some time still available, I know that several delegates want to be present when we are going to discuss the Strategy on Climate Change.

And because of this very positive and effective and efficient day of the Council, where we now adopted the first time ever Strategy, my suggestion would be let us call it a day. Let us call it a day so that we are fresh tomorrow at 9:30 hours, to go in the same positive atmosphere to adopt the Strategy on Climate Change. If I have your approval, I really would like to adjourn this meeting.

Have a very good evening, a good dinner. Come refreshed at 9:30 hours because tomorrow we have a lengthy day. Of course, we will finalize at 19:30 hours, but we have many issues to discuss. But let us do it in a positive spirit. We see each other tomorrow. Meeting adjourned.

***The meeting rose at 17:39 hours***

***La séance est levée à 17 h 39***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 17.39***

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>THIRD PLENARY SESSION TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>14 June 2022</b>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:38 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 38  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.38  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 4. FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change****Point 4. Stratégie thématique de la FAO relative au changement climatique****Tema 4. Estrategia temática de la FAO sobre el cambio climático**

(CL 170/4 Rev.1; CL 170/11)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Very good morning, Excellencies, distinguished delegates. I hope that you had a relaxed and restful evening and that you came back with the same energy but, more important, in the same atmosphere as we had done our work yesterday. I think we had a very successful first day with the adoption of the Programme Report and especially with the adoption of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

Many of you said let us work this week with solidarity, in the spirit of listening to each other, finding each other, and jointly working for successes, which we did yesterday. So, I do hope that we can maintain the same spirit of cooperation for today.

The order of today is that we first start with the adoption of the Strategy on Climate Change. Then we go to Item 6, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, and then in the evening, hopefully, we can take up the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. As I said yesterday, we do not have to continue until 19:30 hours. At 16:30 hours, again, we will have refreshments to energize you for the evening. Yesterday it really worked well because we finalized our meeting within an hour, but let us see what happens today.

Let us take up in a very positive spirit now Item 4, *FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change*, which can be found in document CL 170/4. The introduction provided by Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo has been circulated to you.

**Introduction to Item 4: FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change**

*Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General*

The Programme Committee, at its 127th Session in November 2019, commissioned an Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action, including an assessment of the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change adopted in 2017. The Evaluation report - together with its management response - were presented for discussion to the 130th Session of the Programme Committee in March 2021 and to the 166th Session of the Council in April 2021. Y

A key recommendation (Recommendation 2) of the Evaluation report urges FAO to formulate a new Strategy on Climate Change to improve its contribution to SDG 13. In April 2021, the 166th Council Session requested "regular updates to be provided to the Governing Bodies" and "inclusive consultations ahead of the 168th Session of the Council to start the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change". In June 2021, the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session, requested full implementation of the recommendation of the 166th Session of the Council relating to the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Following those requests, an [update on the development of the new Strategy on Climate Change](#) was presented for the consideration of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee (8-12 November 2021), and of the 168th Session of the Council (29 November-3 December 2021). In its conclusions, the 166th Council "supported the outline and roadmap of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and looked forward to continuing the inclusive process with Members on the development of this thematic strategy".

The new FAO Strategy on Climate Change was prepared through a highly transparent, inclusive and consultative process. A series of internal and external consultations with FAO technical experts, senior management, FAO Members and partners were conducted throughout the process. In particular, consultations were conducted virtually by FAO Regional Offices, involving FAO Decentralized Offices and external regional partners in January and February 2022. Regular informal consultations were held with FAO members and Regional Groups. Additionally, the Review Task Force (FAO experts across divisions) and the Advisory Board, comprising FAO Senior Management, provided

technical and highlevel inputs, respectively. All the contributions received during the consultation process informed the drafting of the new Strategy on Climate Change.

The Council document *CL 170/4, FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031*, presents the FAO new Strategy on Climate Change for 2022-2031. The Strategy will focus on FAO's climate action under three pillars (global and regional levels, country level, and local level) and will guide FAO in providing strengthened support to countries in their ambitions to address climate change in agrifood systems. The Strategy is informed by science, prioritizes innovative solutions and inclusiveness, and is aligned with the Agenda 2030, the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, as well as other FAO thematic Strategies. The Strategy on Climate Change will, subject to its endorsement, be complemented by an Action Plan to be developed in collaboration with all FAO units.

The 170th Session of the Council is invited to endorse the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, following review by the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

The Strategy was also discussed at Regional Conferences as well as the 130th Session of the Programme Committee.

We all know that we had very intense and successful informal consultations for many times on the Strategy on Climate Change, and it was very well facilitated by the team and Ms Semedo, as well as by the Secretariat. We almost achieved a full consensus on all the items before it went to the Programme Committee. There were only two items for which there was not a full consensus achieved in the draft Strategy, and it was on the concepts of technology transfer, as well as the concept of trade.

With that, the document went to the Programme Committee, and the Programme Committee gave clear recommendations, and they said bring the draft Strategy to the Council for adoption. They also said in their recommendation 10 (h) that we should treat concepts relating to technology transfer and trade as relevant similarly in both the Science and Innovation Strategy and the Strategy on Climate Change. With that, the Programme Committee adopted the draft Strategy. Of course, we had informal consultations on the Science and Innovation Strategy. There we achieved a full consensus, and we have seen it yesterday on all the elements. The informal consultations, which were successful, suggested to treat those concepts again similarly.

Yesterday, it was brought to my attention that positions of countries developed in a different manner and that we should adopt the Strategy as it is now contained in document *CL 170/4*. One thing I think it most important is that we maintain the success of yesterday. We have adopted the Science and Innovation Strategy, so let us not go back and let us see how we can have a successful adoption of the Strategy on Climate Change today as well, because we need more strategies.

As many of you said yesterday, they are very much linked to each other and we need to adopt them both so that we can start with the development of the action plans. Because adopting a Strategy is crucial, but even more important is to develop the action plans so that the Technical Committees can discuss the action plans of both Strategies, both on Climate Change as well as on Science and Innovation. We have the Technical Committees coming up. In July, we have the first one, the Committee on Agriculture.

Let us work in the spirit of cooperation to have a successful outcome of the deliberations of the Strategy on Climate Change.

With that, I bring to you the Item and I open the floor for comments by the Members. Who will break the ice this morning on the recommendations on the draft Strategy on Climate Change as contained in document *CL 170/4*?

### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, la Serbie, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Norvège, l'Ukraine, la Moldavie, la Géorgie, Saint-Marin, la Turquie se rallient à la présente déclaration.

Nous remercions la FAO et en particulier Maria Helena Semedo, et ses équipes pour la nouvelle Stratégie relative au changement climatique, qui renforce la précédente stratégie de 2017, ainsi que pour le processus de consultation participatif, qui a guidé les travaux. Nous vous remercions aussi Monsieur le Président pour les consultations informelles, nous saluons l'ambition accrue de la FAO présentée dans la nouvelle Stratégie, ainsi que sa détermination à se conformer notamment à l'accord de Paris, au programme de développement durable 2030, et au Pacte de Glasgow sur le climat. Nous saluons également les références faites à l'engagement de la FAO dans le nouveau cadre mondial de la biodiversité, de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

Dans la mesure où le changement climatique représente une menace majeure et urgente pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, nous saluons le fait que la nouvelle Stratégie relative au changement climatique contribue à atteindre les objectifs de développement durable, en particulier les ODD 2, 13, 14 et 15, conformément au mandat de l'organisation. Nous soutenons également l'engagement de la FAO à adopter une approche globale et intégrée, grâce à des systèmes alimentaires prenant dûment en considération les liens étroits entre changement climatique et perte de biodiversité.

Nous saluons cette conception de la Stratégie, qui encourage l'accès à des régimes alimentaires durables, sains, sûrs et variés, à un coût abordable. Nous approuvons l'intégration d'indicateurs et de cibles quantifiables, ainsi que d'un plan de communication. La transparence, l'établissement de rapports sur les actions menées, le suivi et l'évaluation des effets sont des éléments indispensables d'une stratégie ambitieuse. Les transformations doivent être dirigées et gérées par les pays, et impliquer toutes les parties prenantes concernées. À cet égard, nous apprécions le fait que la Stratégie adopte une approche sur mesure, adaptée aux besoins et aux contextes.

Nous accueillons favorablement le souhait de la FAO de développer ses partenariats avec une grande diversité d'acteurs, ainsi que l'attention particulière accordée aux pays les plus exposés au changement climatique, en particulier les petits Etats insulaires en développement et les pays les moins avancés. Tous les systèmes agricoles et alimentaires, au sens large, peuvent apporter des solutions pour réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, la consommation d'eau et d'énergie, les déchets et le gaspillage alimentaire, ainsi que pour prévenir la dégradation des terres et la désertification, accroître les réserves de carbone, et améliorer l'adaptation et la résilience.

Nous saluons donc le fait que la Stratégie tienne compte des océans, du bétail, de la gestion durable des terres, des sols et des forêts, y compris la déforestation, tant individuellement, que du point de vue des liens qui les unissent. Nous soulignons que les forêts doivent être intégrées dans le triptyque alimentation, eau, énergie. Conformément à la Stratégie, nous attendons du plan d'action qu'il promeuve tout l'éventail de solutions innovantes nécessaire, notamment, les solutions fondées sur la nature, l'agriculture biologique, l'approche agroécologique, et autres approches innovantes, l'adaptation écosystémique, les innovations et les technologies en matière sociale et de gouvernance, afin d'améliorer la mise en œuvre des engagements climatiques des Etats membres. Nous nous réjouissons que la Stratégie tienne compte de l'intégration sociale, de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, de la mobilisation des jeunes et de la participation des populations autochtones.

Nous espérons que la Stratégie sera prise en compte et mise en œuvre dans l'ensemble des travaux et domaines de compétence de la FAO car le changement climatique est une question transversale, prioritaire, du cadre stratégique 2022-31, et du programme de travail et budget 2022-2023. La mise en œuvre de la Stratégie doit également tenir compte de la complémentarité entre la FAO et les autres institutions des Nations Unies dans le domaine climatique, ainsi que du rôle de la FAO dans l'accès aux moyens de financement innovants de l'action climatique.

Il convient de souligner l'intérêt des économies circulaires et biosourcées. Nous demandons à la FAO, avec le soutien des Etats membres, de poursuivre son engagement déterminé, en faveur de la mise en œuvre de cette Stratégie, grâce à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action adapté. Nous approuvons la stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique 2022-31 en tenant compte de ces observations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, France, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and other Members, for your statement and your support, and also thank you for obeying the time limit of five

minutes. I do encourage everybody to follow the same example and stay within the time limit of five minutes for group statements and three minutes for individual statements.

**Mme Maria De Fatima JARDIM (Angola)**

L'Angola a l'honneur de prendre la parole sur ce point au nom du Groupe régional africain. Le Groupe régional africain félicite en premier lieu la FAO et particulièrement Madame Maria Helena Semedo et le Secrétariat pour les consultations et le dialogue qui se sont tenus pour ce nouveau rapport sur la Stratégie sur le changement climatique 2022-2031 et pour son travail.

Le Groupe africain exprime sa grande inquiétude quant aux effets des changements climatiques dans sa région. Il tient à souligner les ressources techniques, financières et scientifiques de la FAO pour un appui indispensable à l'adaptation des systèmes agroalimentaires dans le contexte du changement climatique, en particulier pour les pays les plus touchés, tels que les pays moins avancés, et les pays et les États insulaires en développement.

Nous constatons que l'Afrique est responsable pour 4 % des émissions mondiales, et l'une des régions les plus vulnérables aux impacts du changement climatique. L'impact sur l'agriculture augmentera de 50 % d'ici 2050. Dans ce contexte, nous félicitons la FAO pour cette vision stratégique et le travail réalisé. La population africaine est la plus jeune au monde, il faut penser à long terme.

Les solutions d'innovation, de prévention, de réduction des émissions doivent être privilégiées. Des modèles d'affaire doivent être adoptés et des partenariats avec le secteur public et privé encouragés. Il est consensuel que le dialogue et l'interaction entre les régions en particulier avec un réseau, peuvent faciliter l'inclusion et la création de partenariats et de partenaires afin d'accélérer les objectifs stratégiques. Le rôle de facilitateur est très important.

L'innovation et la technologie sont des instruments importants, afin que, en particulier les communications nationales tout comme les stratégies et programmes nationaux, puissent être intégrés et mis en œuvre plus rapidement. Les systèmes financiers doivent être stimulés et la région devrait avoir des programmes de formation et de capacitation spécifiques avec des initiatives de commerce équitable des émissions. L'Afrique suggère et donne la recommandation de réaliser un forum d'échange d'expériences, qui doit être privilégié pour l'Afrique, parce que les financements ne sont pas suffisants et parce que nous avons besoin d'échanger l'expérience.

Finalement notre stratégie d'intervention doit préconiser la restauration de la FAO, afin de chercher à définir des priorités pour l'Afrique, dans le cadre de la décentralisation des sous-régions, ainsi que le changement climatique représente pour le développement durable de l'Afrique.

La priorité devra être également accordée aux zones telles que celles qui sont les plus touchées. La sécheresse, la désertification, les calamités naturelles la valorisation des forêts ce sont les pays insulaires qui devraient mériter notre priorisation pour la mobilisation des financements substantiels pour des projets inclusifs qui favorisent le développement des capacités africaines, avec une plus grande résilience de leurs systèmes alimentaires.

Enfin, nous évoquons également l'importance de la mise en œuvre du programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine, le plan d'action pour le changement vert, et des autres initiatives telles que le Sahel, la protection des forêts et en particulier du bassin du Congo, parce que c'est la plus importante forêt tropicale que nous devons protéger. Les forêts sont un des départements des régions très importants de la FAO.

Nous avons beaucoup d'opportunités, qui sont extrêmement importantes et qui incluent les faibles émissions, et nous reconnaissons en Afrique l'impact climatique sur les systèmes alimentaires. Avec cette recommandation, nous proposons l'adoption de la Stratégie de la FAO sur le changement climatique pour l'agriculture et comme vous avez suggéré, qu'immédiatement, nous pourrions passer à un plan d'action et privilégier surtout les peuples, les agriculteurs et l'Afrique pour un futur qui, dans l'avenir, va être meilleur pour l'Afrique et aussi pour notre planète.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, como lo hicimos durante el debate en el Comité del Programa, quisiéramos destacar el esfuerzo y el compromiso de la Directora General Adjunta, Maria Helena Semedo, y del Director de

la Oficina de Cambio Climático, Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (OCB), Dr. Eduardo Mansur, por elaborar este documento capturando las prioridades de los países en desarrollo. En esta línea, también me gustaría aprovechar la oportunidad para encomiar su rol, Presidente, ya que su actuación fue fundamental para facilitar las negociaciones que permitieron solidificar consensos sobre el contenido de la estrategia, incorporando principios fundamentales para los miembros del G77+China.

Llegamos a esta instancia luego de haber navegado un proceso de consultas y debates que fue sustancioso, plural y, sobre todo, transparente. Nos parece que una de las lecciones aprendidas es que cuando se abre realmente a los Miembros la posibilidad de involucrarse en el diseño de documentos críticos para la FAO, se obtienen resultados sólidos y compromisos robustos.

Refiriéndome al documento CL170/4 Rev.1, una vez más, quiero subrayar la importancia crucial de pensar las acciones en materia de cambio climático para los países en desarrollo bajo el prisma del principio de las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas y en clave de transferencia en tecnología. Por la simple razón de que constituyen ejes claves para abordar nuestros contextos específicos, nuestras prioridades y nuestras capacidades.

Nos congratula que la Estrategia reconozca estas piedras angulares. No existe una medida única para englobar las soluciones para todos los sistemas agrobioindustriales y atender, asimismo, las necesidades de todos los países. Creemos que esta Estrategia logró incorporar este elemento. En ese contexto y teniendo en cuenta que, por ejemplo, mi país es un acreedor ambiental por su baja responsabilidad histórica y sus servicios ecosistémicos globales gratuitos, enfatizamos la necesidad de que la FAO apueste y contribuya a la adaptación de los sistemas agrobioindustriales y para ello existen potenciales inmensos en esta materia y, de hecho, es lo que nuestros pequeños, medianos y grandes productores nos están pidiendo: adaptación y tecnología para superar los desafíos del cambio climático en la actividad agrobioindustrial, que no es otra cosa que producción a cielo abierto y, por lo tanto, vulnerable a variaciones de temperatura y a desequilibrios pluviales.

Ya que estoy mencionando la importancia de la tecnología, para ser consecuente con mi posición que todos conocen, quiero reiterar que, desde nuestra perspectiva, la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación debe ir de la mano con este documento. Ambas Estrategias son complementarias y sinérgicas. Señor Presidente, como lo dije ayer, usted es testigo que desde el inicio expresé que la Estrategia sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031) debería ser considerada como suerte de paquete junto a la Estrategia para la ciencia y la innovación por su complementariedad y sinergia. He hecho todo lo posible para que se entienda la necesidad de ambas Estrategias. El cambio climático no afecta a una sola región en particular sino a todas, pero a los pobres más pobres sus efectos son letales. Hoy necesitamos aprobar esta Estrategia.

Para terminar, los hechos comprobados científicamente, más que lo ideológico, son puentes que nos acercan y nos permiten generar consensos. Y en esta dimensión pensamos que la articulación desde este documento con la Estrategia para la ciencia y la innovación será un elemento cardinal. No solo para demostrar que la FAO puede trabajar superando los silos internos, sino también para potenciar el uso de la tecnología como elemento que apalanca la optimización de resultados.

Con estos comentarios, nos congratulamos por el documento *CL 170/4 Rev.1, Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031)* y somos favorables a su endoso.

**Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul WAHAB (Vice-Chairperson of the Asia Regional Group)**

I will first deliver the statement of the Asia Regional Group and I will follow with the national statement.

Malaysia has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group expresses its sincere gratitude for all the hard work on development of the FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), Ms Maria Helena Semedo, the FAO Deputy Director General, and all FAO team members in close collaboration with all Members.

We welcome the new Strategy on Climate Change that will help FAO to provide enhanced support with Members towards developing climate resilience and sustainable agrifood system bears on the three dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is why Asia Group

acknowledges the inter-relatedness between the two Strategies in addressing multiple challenges posed by climate change, COVID-19 and crises.

We reiterate the importance of transforming agrifood systems in a sustainable manner, even under the current circumstances where increased food production is necessary. In order to ensure food security at all levels, the global, national and local agrifood system must be resilient to climate change and other stresses. We call on FAO's concrete effort and actions to support Members to successfully develop climate-resilient agrifood systems and to eliminate the root causes of food insecurity.

We welcome that the Strategy has to adopt a no-one-size-fits-all approach as one of the guiding principles. National circumstances, diversity of context, specificities, priorities and capacities must be taken into account when FAO takes climate actions. It also implies that this context-specific approach must refrain from providing uniform types of assistance to the issues that might have different causes and require different means.

In addition, we welcome that all relevant actors in agrifood systems address, in guiding principles, take an agrifood system approach in the Strategy. Agrifood systems can seize our complex structure linking the natural resource base, production, processing, marketing, consumption and other related sectors. When it comes to system-oriented approaches, we must ensure that participants from each sector of food systems, especially smallholder farmers and other vulnerable actors, are empowered to deal with climate change.

Furthermore, on the guiding principle, we respect mainstreaming gender equality, youth engagement, indigenous peoples participation and social inclusiveness. We welcome FAO's emphasis on ensuring equal opportunities and sharing of benefits of climate actions, engagement of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate debates, as well as providing support to countries to reduce social exclusions. A lot of this was expressed by the Asia Regional Group on the occasion of the 168th Session of the Council. We deeply appreciate FAO for reflecting our input.

We call on FAO to maintain transparent and inclusive consultative process in the future development of the action plan following the endorsement of this Strategy. We expect it to be practical and concrete enough to address the root of climate issues. In this regard, the action plan can be fully elaborated as follows. Ensure that the action plan contains how to promote finance mobilization from, inter alia, the private sector and innovative partnership and their road maps with timelines.

Ensure that the action plan for the Strategy on Climate Change will be aligned and harmonized with the action plan for the Science and Innovation Strategy, taking into consideration the fact that science and innovation are the keys to tackle climate issues in the agrifood system.

The Asia Regional Group hopes FAO support with this new Strategy will enable countries to further strengthen their capacities and to accelerate their response to climate-related issues by making the agrifood system even more sustainable, resilient, efficient and inclusive, which successfully results in improved food security and nutrition.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Israel welcomes the in-depth, inclusive and transparent process carried out by FAO in the Strategy on Climate Change. Although we have our differences about the climate crisis, and the way it should be treated, Ms Maria Helena Semedo's office boldly faced these challenges that were laid ahead of them. Israel commends the result of the formulating and comprehensive Strategy paper on which all Members agreed on before this Council meeting.

Israel appreciates the previous Council request to develop a new Strategy on Climate Change (SCC). Therefore, we will endorse the proposal of the SCC as it is brought before us today. However, we believe it does not sufficiently emphasize the urgency to act and tackle the climate crisis. According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, the Mediterranean region is heating up faster than the global average. Our regions' agriculture, water, economy, and health will be severely affected by it. Hence, we wish to recall the necessity for immediate action as, in many regions of the world, the climate crisis is already a living fact.



Israel wishes to reiterate the alignment of the SCC with previous international agreements on the subject of climate change, including the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact, as mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7, as well as several references to IPCC reports and in particular to the most recent report from 2022 as set out in paragraph 14.

We request to highlight that indeed trade can play a role in addressing production shortfalls due to extreme weather events, as mentioned in Paragraph 21. Nonetheless, Israel urges FAO's Management to consider also local solutions in time of food shortfalls, while making sustainable trade part of the adaptation strategies. We look forward to see such solutions in the action plans that will derive from the Strategy.

Israel supports the implementation of the SCC in the context of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its dependency on the four accelerators. In this context, we appreciate the SCC linkage to future FAO strategies, such as forthcoming strategies for data protection and intellectual property rights. Israel looks forward to receiving further clarification from management on how the action plans will demonstrate these connections.

In addition, paragraph 34 (v) stresses on FAO's Governing Bodies to formulate priorities for the SCC implementation. We request from management a more detailed explanation of this section. We appreciate the Strategy's outline for the Theory of Change pathway, in particular the three organizing pillars. In order to generate immediate climate action, we will appreciate if management could present action plans that are coordinated with the Country Programme Frameworks no later than the 171st Session of the Council in December 2022.

Israel commends the extensive detailed description under the three pillars of the climate action, as defined in paragraphs 45 to 62. Nevertheless, we look forward to an update on how this will eventually work out, considering the synergy that is indeed between all of them. We request also special input on the issue of preparation to handle and recover from climate disasters. We wish to underscore here that the Strategy does not address this issue of tackling climate disasters sufficiently. This is reflected as appropriate in paragraphs 25 and 26 in the context of financial instruments and mechanisms. We encourage management to include it in the upcoming action plans.

With all the remarks, Israel would like to support the Strategy of Climate Change and to recommend the Council to endorse it and looking forward to elaboration of the action plan.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia welcomes the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, within the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, with a focus to develop a climate-resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Malaysia acknowledges the proposed Vision, Guiding Principles and Pillars outlined in the document.

Malaysia appreciates the continuous efforts of FAO to consider the diverse context, priorities and capacities across regions and countries. Malaysia wishes to highlight the importance of ensuring that the regional specificities be considered together with no one-size-fits-all approach in the implementation of FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Further, Malaysia particularly welcomes the focus on helping the vulnerable groups that suffer the most from the impacts of climate change and at the same time, the implementation of this Strategy must be reflective to the diverse needs and realities of countries around the world and can be tailored to national circumstances and local context.

Malaysia welcomes the nine guiding principles described in the new Strategy outline, particularly with regards to Guiding Principle 1, take an agrifood systems approach that is aligned with one of three key policy principles under Malaysia's National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 as well as the National Food Security Policy Action Plan (DSMN) 2021-2025.

Malaysia underscores the importance of embracing innovation in Guiding Principle 3 since technology and innovation are also cross cutting/cross-sectional accelerators in all FAO's programmatic interventions. By leveraging technology and innovation, a transition to a new paradigm of a green and climate-resilient agrifood systems could be developed or established through inclusive participation of all the key agents and beneficiaries of agrifood systems such as smallholder farmers, small and medium scale food producers, fishers, breeders, women and youth.

As we mentioned earlier, the Strategy for Climate Change must be in line and in synergy with the Strategy on Science and Innovation.

Malaysia welcomes the prerequisites for a successful climate action mentioned in the document, in particular, the access to climate finance. It is important to have a specific reference relating to the financial mechanism targeting smallholder farmers and to ensure that the financial resources are always readily available for all targeted groups. Malaysia encourages FAO to explore more innovative climate finance opportunities through collaboration with the private sector for feasible partnership and investment.

In closing, we call on FAO to maintain inclusivity and transparency in future discussions for the development of a pragmatic action plan while giving due consideration to regional and national specificities.

With this, Malaysia endorses the Strategy on Climate Change and continues to hope for the successful implementation of the plan of action.

**Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)**

Permítame en primer lugar agradecer a la Secretaría, a la Director General Adjunto, Señora Maria Helena Semedo, al Director de la Oficina de Cambio Climático, Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (OCB), Doctor Eduardo Mansur, y a los Miembros por haber realizado y participado activamente en todo el proceso abierto de consulta, lo que ha permitido avanzar en la elaboración de esta necesaria y urgente Estrategia. En cuanto a la misma, consideramos que, para lograr un verdadero impacto, esta debería contar con un coherente y detallado Plan de acción enfocado en los tres pilares, así como los mecanismos para verificar periódicamente su eficacia.

Señalamos, en particular, la necesidad de fortalecer las capacidades de los agricultores impulsando soluciones innovadoras para permitirles adaptarse al cambio climático. Reconocemos la importancia de promover las asociaciones con organizaciones regionales, internacionales y nacionales, así como considerar el uso de la ciencia y la innovación como base para las propuestas de acción. En este sentido, la interrelación con la Estrategia para la ciencia y la innovación es fundamental, por lo que deberían implementarse conjuntamente para alcanzar mejores resultados dada su complementariedad.

Como lo han expresado en otras ocasiones, los respectivos Planes de acción deben tomar en cuenta las especificidades, prioridades y necesidades a nivel regional, subregional y también a nivel local ya que existen diferencias significativas tanto en el grado de vulnerabilidad de exposición a la crisis climática de los diferentes territorios alrededor del mundo, así como en sus capacidades de respuesta. Por lo anterior, solicitamos que los resultados de las Conferencias Regionales sean tomados en cuenta para la elaboración de los Planes de acción.

Necesitamos una estrategia sólida y efectiva armonizada con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo sostenible, el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 y los principios establecidos en el Acuerdo de París entre estos, la equidad en la aplicación de la Estrategia y el principio de las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas.

Por último, es necesario que la FAO en el marco de su mandato apoye y acompañe a los Miembros para identificar mecanismos de financiación a la luz de los resultados del 26º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de las Partes (CP 26) y otros mecanismos en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria, para implementar rápidamente la Estrategia principalmente en los países en desarrollo que son los mayormente afectados por las crisis climáticas.

Con estos comentarios, respaldamos la Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático 2022-2021.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)**

Bangladesh fully aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Region. We express our deep appreciation to you, Chairperson, for your commendable contributions to bring this important Strategy to the Council today in good shape. We would also like to thank Ms Maria Helena Semedo and her wonderful team for their hard work. Bangladesh appreciates the development of FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change, which is developed with inclusive consultations by the Members.

The need for a transformation towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems is now a global priority issue, which is being discussed in different regional and international forum. Over the last few decades, it has been observed that climate change has become a major issue affecting the agricultural sector. For Bangladesh, where lives and livelihoods heavily depend on agriculture, it is becoming a great threat for national food security. As a result of land uses for intense agricultural activities, the cropping intensity reached as high as 192 percent in Bangladesh. Therefore, it necessitates urgent attention for judicious and balanced natural resource management.

Excellencies, with international agreements in place, coupled with national interest at the top, Bangladesh made a well-balanced regulatory environment for food and agricultural sector. Despite our many achievements in agriculture, the sector is faced with multiple challenges, like improving agro-processing and value addition, instability of production due to climate extremes. So far, the challenges we are facing in Bangladesh are common in many other countries in this region. We would request FAO to take a programme of support with its global science and knowledge-based approaches and support countries in accessing global climate funds to address the emerging challenges in agriculture we are facing locally and regionally.

Lastly, as it is mentioned in the report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific in Bangladesh, where our ministers put their valuable contributions and thoughts, echoing their voices, we would like to recommend FAO to ensure that the specific needs of Members and agrifood system stakeholders will be considered in the new Strategy, particularly future work during implementation of the Strategy on the ground.

With this, Bangladesh supports the FAO Thematic Strategy on Climate Change and looks forward to work more closely with FAO to implement the Strategy.

**His Excellency Abubakr Omer ALBUSHRA AHMED (Sudan)(Original language Arabic)**

Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Council, distinguished Chairs of the various delegations, I salute you and I thank you for this opportunity to address this Council in order to express our utmost appreciation and gratitude for all the efforts of FAO to ensuring food security and nutrition in an equitable manner for all. I take this opportunity to salute the Sudan office of FAO for its support to us in order to achieve food security in Sudan.

You are aware that Sudan has been shaken by a food crisis despite its wealth of resources. It enjoys great swaths of arable lands. Despite that, Sudan was affected by climate change. This has led to vulnerability in food security. The vulnerability of food security is based on two things. First of all, the weaker productivity of crops and second of all the weaker qualitative production and the non-adequacy to feed the population.

Climate change and especially the increase in temperature has posed a lot of problems to the region, especially Sudan, in terms of drought and strange floods that are now hitting a number of areas and arable lands. These changes in the climate pose a problem, and the agricultural environment has changed greatly.

Some households are no longer able to cultivate the lands that they have been cultivating for hundreds of years, and this has affected crops as a result of climate change. This has led to a vulnerability in food security. It has threatened the food security in a country that is rich in resources, such as Sudan. This has led it to another grave result that is the migration from agriculture to other sectors. We used to have agricultural communities that provided food for self-sufficiency and for other communities. However, now they have migrated to other professions.

Let us present solutions. The outcomes of both Strategies must be achieved. The Strategy on Science and Innovation is extremely important because through innovation and science, we will be able to solve the most important problems. I am here speaking about the improved seeds that can be adapted to climate change. These improved seeds are very important in both Strategies. By exerting efforts to improve these seeds and through science and innovation, we can get enough crops that are adapted to climate change that are able to ensure...

The Strategy on Climate Change includes this issue on improved SIDS, and we recommend the importance of ensuring the improved SIDS and the importance of supporting the communities and

improving livelihoods, including other categories, such as women, youth, people with disabilities and remote communities in this Strategy.

The digital innovation programmes related to crops and productivity must be implemented in addition to addressing the climate threats in the countries of the region, especially Sudan.

**Son Excellence Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional du Proche-Orient) (Langue originale Arabic)**

Au nom du Groupe Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, je tiens à exprimer ma gratitude à la FAO qui a élaboré cette Stratégie relative au changement climatique, qui tombe à point nommé. Il y a des corrélations entre sécurité alimentaire et changement climatique. C'est indéniable.

Je remercie le Conseil pour les consultations approfondies qui ont eu lieu, je remercie Madame Semedo et son équipe, je les félicite d'avoir élaboré cette Stratégie qui est de très bonne facture puisqu'elle tient compte des différentes spécificités régionales et nationales. En fait, il y a ici une nouveauté, c'est le niveau d'ambition, c'est le fait qu'on s'appuie sur les données scientifiques, c'est le fait que l'on prend en considération les défis liés au changement climatique et à la désertification.

C'est aussi le fait que des actions sont envisagées face au problème du changement climatique. Il est question du caractère inclusif des systèmes agroalimentaires dans cette Stratégie. Au niveau national, la stratégie devra renforcer les capacités et devra aider les pays à prendre les mesures qui s'imposent face au changement climatique tout en collaborant avec le secteur privé et tout en respectant le principe d'équité et en incluant les femmes et les jeunes.

Tout ceci amène notre groupe à préconiser l'adoption de cette Stratégie.

**Ms Nadine Rosario M. MORALES (Philippines)**

The Philippines aligns its statement with that of the Asia Regional Group delivered by Malaysia, and the G77 and China delivered by Kuwait yesterday.

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its high exposure to natural hazards and dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, and vast coastlines where all of its major cities and the majority of the population reside.

A rich, yet increasingly depleted natural and marine resources base, supports livelihoods through fisheries, agriculture, forestry, energy, mining and tourism and provides critical ecosystem services such as shoreline protection, flood control, soil stability and habitats for biodiversity.

Agriculture is the backbone of the nation's effort to attain food security. There is no greater threat to agriculture than climate change.

The Philippines is pleased to note that its earlier recommendation together with the Asia Regional Group and other Members, to incorporate a "no one size fits all" approach as a guiding principle of the Climate Change Strategy has been adopted.

We appreciate the work of the Program Committee as it closely examined the Strategy.

We call for international cooperation and the immediate adoption and implementation of this Strategy to help accelerate knowledge exchange, science uptake and public-private partnerships.

As the Philippine government increases public investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems, we look forward to support as we scale up and sustain our grassroots flagship climate program dubbed as AMIA or Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture. To date, about 130 AMIA villages have been established nationwide.

Support is welcome as we focus on institutionalizing regional and provincial climate risk and vulnerability assessments; and as the Philippines' centers its climate resiliency agenda on strengthening Research & Development including the establishment of biotechnology centers for crops, livestock and fisheries.

Support us in strengthening our telecommunications infrastructure for providing climate information service; capacity building on productivity-enhancing technology; in credit and insurance provision for

climate adaptation; in creating our geospatial database, establishment of climate-proof facilities; and in the publication and distribution of agriculture and fishery maps to aid farmers and fishers in the fight against climate change.

Transforming agrifood systems to boost productivity, sustainability and resilience given the challenge of climate change among other threats is a gargantuan task. The interdependence of all links of the agriculture value chain and the many factors of food production and consumption is evident. It is in this light that our shared global climate agenda, including this additional support that FAO can provide through the Climate Change and Science and Innovation Strategies, among other current initiatives, cannot be postponed.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country Sweden. We fully align ourselves with the European Union statement delivered by France. Let me start by thanking FAO, the team around Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and Mr Eduardo Mansur, for all their extensive and hard work through the consultative process with Members and of course also you, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), for your part in all this.

We welcome FAO's Strategy on Climate Change. We call for an ambitious strategy that is integrated in all of FAO's activities, addressing the urgency of action on climate change. We appreciate FAO's work on anticipatory action towards climate shocks, strengthening local and national actors' capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters. Climate change has a profound impact on food systems and agriculture and should be a top priority for FAO. The strategy should result in ambitious climate action at global, regional, national and local levels, keeping the most vulnerable groups in mind.

We support the focus on FAO's mandate as a normative and knowledge-based organisation, as a partnership builder, a facilitator of best practices, by strengthening climate dimensions in its own portfolio and by promoting context-specific solutions that work on the ground. We underline the need for a systemic approach, based on the principle of leaving no one behind, and making gender equality and inclusiveness a prerequisite.

The urgent need for ambitious climate action for food and agriculture highlights the importance of a strategy that is forward-looking, whilst being rooted in other international processes and normative frameworks. FAO needs to work with all relevant actors on climate action, and coordinate within the UN system. In particular, we welcome the clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda, the Rio Conventions, the Glasgow Climate Pact, and the ambition to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We also welcome the reference to FAO's participation in the new global biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Sustainable management of natural resources, including forests, oceans, biodiversity, water and soils, healthy and sustainable diets, as well as the reduction of food loss and waste, is fundamental in the climate context. The Nordic countries underline the importance of nature-based solutions and landscape approaches.

We also underline the need for both mitigation and adaption in FAO's climate work.

In the strive towards achieving sustainable food systems and climate action, we welcome the use of innovations (broadly understood), for instance, related to climate-smart agriculture and soil management.

We, the Nordic countries, underline our strong commitment to an ambitious strategy that responds to the urgency of the climate crisis. Transformation of food systems to become more sustainable and greener is essential to reach the Paris Agreement goals. We therefore encourage FAO to help ensure that the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) will enhance the focus on the interlinkage of climate action, food systems transformation and rural development.

With these comments, we endorse the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia de turno de la Unión Europea, la presidencia francesa en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que desea hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos en relación con este punto del orden del día:

En primer lugar, quisieramos felicitar a la Directora General Adjunta, Sra. Maria Helena Semedo y a todo su equipo por el extraordinario trabajo realizado.

España acoge con agrado la mayor ambición de la FAO reflejada en su nueva Estrategia sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031) alineada con el Acuerdo de París, la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, el Pacto Climático de Glasgow y el nuevo Marco mundial de la Diversidad Biológica del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB).

Esta nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático contribuirá a alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), en particular los números 2, 12, 13, 14 y 15, en consonancia con el mandato de la FAO.

Damos la bienvenida a la inclusión de indicadores y objetivos medibles, siempre intentando utilizar la información ya disponible, así como un plan de comunicación eficiente y que anime las conciencias ciudadanas de los Estados, de los sectores económico- productivos, de la Academia y del conjunto de la ciudadanía.

Consideramos que la transparencia, la información sobre las actuaciones, el monitoreo y la evaluación de los impactos son requisitos previos para una estrategia ambiciosa, y apreciamos que la Estrategia adopte un enfoque adaptado a las necesidades y a los contextos.

Solicitamos a la FAO, con el apoyo de los Miembros, mantener un compromiso firme para implementar esta Estrategia a través del desarrollo de un Plan de acción ambicioso.

Esperamos que el Plan de acción de la FAO promueva la amplia gama de soluciones innovadoras necesarias, que incluyan la biotecnología y la agricultura de precisión, para mejorar la implementación de los compromisos climáticos de los Miembros, sin olvidar la relevancia de la economía circular y la importancia de la reducción del desperdicio alimentario como parte de la solución.

Para finalizar, con estos comentarios, España manifiesta su apoyo a la Estrategia de la FAO sobre cambio climático (2022-2031).

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

At the outset, South Africa associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Regional Group. My sincere appreciation is extended to Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and her very capable team in drafting the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and for the inclusive process followed by the Independent Chairperson of the Council in finalizing this Strategy.

The adoption of the updated Strategy on Climate Change is a necessity as the negative impacts of climate change is evident with increasing vulnerability and unpredictable weather patterns, which negatively affects agricultural production, thereby inhibiting achievement of goals as set out on 2030Agenda.

South Africa has consistently advocated that this Strategy reflects the basic underpinning principles, namely its complementarity to multilateral commitments as made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Rio Principles. It is pleasing that the Strategy incorporates many aspects highlighted by Members in the past consultation processes, including the importance of development of a multi-hazard early warning system, capacity building for farming sector on climate change, the implementation of climate-smart agriculture, advocacy support of countries for means of implementation of climate-related international obligations, as well as the importance of the legal assistance and support of mechanisms, such as the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

In this regard, South Africa wishes to highlight that in protecting the productive potential of land, there is a critical need for reasonable measures that, amongst others, prevent pollution of ocean ecosystems, the ecological degradation of natural resources, whilst promoting justifiable economic development. In this context, it is a priority to have an effective framework in place that is related to agriculture and natural resources, fisheries, that support agrifood systems and its transformation.

Furthermore, we underscore that FAO support all national measures to upscale the climate smart agricultural approaches, enhancing the resilience of food and agricultural production systems through adaptation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and safeguarding national food security, while supporting these development goals. In addition, the access to adequate resources for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions, climate change-related policies and programmes, and the adaptation framework.

South Africa therefore, in conclusion, is committed to adapting and mitigating the effects of the erratic climate vulnerability, supporting the Strategy in this regard. We would like, as a country, to support the comments as already made and we endorse the adoption of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

**Ms Mietani CHAUKE (Zimbabwe)**

Firstly, I would like to express our great appreciation to Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and her team for the formidable work that they have done and the work of all other stakeholders in this important issue.

Zimbabwe welcomes the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 as outlined in document *CL 170/4 Rev.1*.

Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our economy and the region at large, with most countries being vulnerable due to their low adaptive capacity, limited climate knowledge and over-reliance on climate sensitive sectors. The impacts of climate change in Zimbabwe are stalling the country's development endeavours, posing serious risks to the main economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and water resources.

The development and implementation of FAO Strategy on Climate Change will go a long way to address the overarching challenges of making agrifood systems more efficient, sustainable and resilient to climate-related shocks and stresses. Zimbabwe acknowledges the need to strengthen national and regional institutional capacity to generate, collect and use data and information that enhances the ability to address climate change adaptation and mitigation. This will include, among others, weather, yield and loss data, greenhouse gas emissions, soil carbon and water availability, and the capacity to exchange information among farmers, government authorities, research establishments and the private sector.

Provisions for international climate financing is of concern to Zimbabwe. Not enough is being provided to meet the needs of adaptation and mitigation programmes. We encourage FAO to continue providing technical support for the development of bankable programmes and projects, as well as accessing funding from key partners that include the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, regional development banks, multilateral and bilateral development partners, the private sector, and other innovative financing opportunities.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe appreciates the consultative nature in which this new strategy was developed, endorses this strategy and looks forward to its adoption.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Eritrea is honoured to present a statement on the 170th Session of the FAO Council. Eritrea fully aligns itself with the statement made by Angola on behalf of Africa Regional Group. Climate change is a global challenge that requires comprehensive and cross-sectoral action and needs action to be taken in full consideration of international goals and agreements which could be rooted in the economic, social and environmental dimensions for sustainable development accelerating the 2030 Agenda.

The first new Strategy on Climate Change for the next 10 years, with priority of safeguarding of food security and ending hunger, plays a role as part of the solution to climate change. Climate action at

levels across agrifood system is fundamental and important. The effects of climate change disasters and conflicts can pose a serious challenge to attain food security. Therefore, the main concerns of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change is the urgency to act on the impact on agriculture and food systems, so that agrifood systems could be more resilient to the current and future impacts of climate change, transformative and system changing adaptation policies, plans and actions.

Hence FAO need to strengthen its contribution to the global climate agenda and increase its ambition to support Members in their efforts with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation, working toward climate resilient and low-emission agrifood system whilst striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular eradicating hunger and malnutrition while providing sufficiently safe and nutritious food for healthy diets as well as other agricultural products and services for present and future generations. Leaving no one behind is crucial and pertinent.

Eritrea, which is located in sub-Saharan Africa, receives low and erratic annual rainfall. As a result, proper natural resource and biodiversity management has been one of the top priorities in the country's national agricultural strategy, which also includes a strategy on climate change. Hence, Eritrea underlines the valuable input of the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change and appreciates FAO for their support and consideration regarding supporting the utilization at country level.

Last but not least, Eritrea commends FAO and Independent Chairperson of the Council for the successful work and active involvement.

**Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

I express my sincere gratitude for great efforts and the hard work made by Independent Chairperson and the FAO Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and the relevant team and all the Members in order to develop and finalize this Strategy.

Japan associates itself with the statement made by distinguished delegates of Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group and would like to make a national statement as follows.

Japan reiterates it is a key to build an agrifood system that is resilient to climate change in order to ensure food security. To this end, it is quite important to improve agricultural productivity and to ensure sustainability by implementing measures for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In this regard, Japan welcomes Paragraph 52, which says FAO will work as a catalyst aiming at enabling Member to mainstream climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in their policies.

On the second point, as 133rd Session of the Programme Committee highlighted that the complementary and synergetic nature of the new Strategy on Climate Change and the Science and Innovation Strategy. Japan also underscores the importance of innovation, which has a key role to play in enhancing the agricultural potential and the sustainability in a competitive manner. From this viewpoint, we support paragraph 35, the guiding principle number 3, embrace good practice and innovations.

Last year, Japan developed a national strategy for sustainable food systems, where we take a variety of actions at each stage of the food supply chains, including long-term massive carbon sequestration into farmland, forests and oceans in order to achieve zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from agriculture and fisheries.

In the consultative process, Japan has reiterated the new Strategy on Climate Change should reflect the idea that there is no one size fits all solutions to the climate issues, so that the approaches be tailored to the national context, climate condition and the culture. From this viewpoint, Japan supports paragraph 35, guiding principle number 10, adopt no one size fits all approaches.

The last point that we would like to make in our statement is about the forthcoming action plan. Japan calls on FAO to continue transparent and inclusive consultative process with Members to develop the action plan. The process to develop the action plan is as important as that of the Strategy itself because it will impact the concrete action taken based on the Strategy.

Japan ends its statement with expressing that we support the endorsement of the new Strategy.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**



We commend FAO Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo, the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, and Director Mr Eduardo Mansur for the excellent work that went into the drafting of this document and the inclusive consultation process.

As the United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Mr John Kerry, said at the recent high-level side event on green and climate on agriculture, jointly organised by FAO, China and the United States at 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, we must ensure that our agriculture and food systems are ready for and adapted to the impacts of the climate crisis. We are well past due to take a fundamental look at how we grow, distribute and trade food, fibre, feed and fuel. Momentum and support for innovation that offers climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities, and contributes to sustainable productivity growth, will be critical to meeting these global challenges.

Agriculture has significant opportunities to mitigate its climate impact through practices and technologies that sequester carbon and reduce emissions. Ambitious investment in climate-smart agriculture, water, and food systems innovation will enable the world to meet the nutritional needs, increase the agricultural productivity, while improving livelihoods, conserving nature and biodiversity, and building resilience for climate change.

The United States would like to reiterate its full support for FAO's updated Strategy on Climate Change, which represents a unique opportunity for the organization to accelerate its contributions to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 and to enable more efficient, inclusive, and resilient food systems.

We acknowledge FAO's key advocacy role at global and regional levels to reiterate food and agricultural sectors are part of the climate solution. We are pleased to see technology, innovation and data will be cross-cutting accelerators in the new Strategy. A prominent role for innovative technologies, including biotechnology, is essential for building climate resilience, reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, and promoting sustainable productivity.

We look forward to continued engagement with FAO and partners in achieving the aims of this Strategy. We would also like to underscore how pleased we are that the Strategy emphasizes both mitigation and adaptation, as our colleagues from Japan just mentioned, and we agree the opportunities are vast for FAO to apply innovation and address challenges in agriculture, biosystems, and sustainable productivity growth.

With regard to what the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) presented at the top of the meeting about the understanding of synergies and consistency and congruence between the two Strategies, as several delegations pointed out yesterday, and as Argentina Ambassador Carlos Cherniak said eloquently earlier today, we agreed as necessary, as the ICC presented, to bring the trade and technology transfer paragraphs painstakingly agreed in the Science and Innovation Strategy into the Strategy on Climate Change.

With that, we can endorse the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022 to 2031.

**Mr Bo LI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

China aligns itself with the Asia Group's statement delivered by Malaysia, and we agree to endorse the Strategy and welcome the open, inclusive and transparent consultation process. We appreciate the references to the common but differentiated responsibilities in the Rio Declaration and the Paris Agreement, and we highlight that this principle is critical for developing countries in their efforts to achieve their climate change goals.

We hope that the implementation of the Strategy will focus on strengthening international cooperation and the policy synergy at the global, regional and national levels. The priorities should be placed on the following aspects. Firstly strengthening support for vulnerable countries which are highly susceptible to climate change, and secondly based on fully respecting national conditions promoting the transformation of the agrifood systems aiming at achieving the Four Betters.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

Firstly, let me thank the Chairperson and his team for the management of the Council meeting so far.

The Bahamas endorses *CL 170/4*, FAO's thematic Strategy on Climate Change.

If FAO is to realize its objective to help to bring about the eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, it must pay special attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who are most urgently in need of help, in order to accelerate progress in the sustainable increase in the development of agricultural production of all forms.

In the executive summary of this, the 170th session of the Council, FAO clearly acknowledged the role that agrifood system will play in its new Strategy on Climate Change (SSC).

I therefore submit that the more support that is given to SIDS, the less dependent these countries will be on larger, more developed states, which in turn will result in less dependence on cargo transshipment which adds to pollution, and also lessens the demand on foreign exchange that SIDS will be forced to pay out to the more developed countries.

Chairperson, in the very documents prepared for this 170th Session of Council, it highlights the latest scientific evidence which demonstrates that climate change is a global threat to food security and nutrition. It further highlights that if nothing is done, we are going to face now and in the immediate future, intensifying heat waves, heavy precipitation and droughts, fires, and tropical cyclones that will disproportionately affect the Caribbean region.

Chairperson, this might be news to FAO and the UN, but it is a harsh reality to countries such as the Bahamas and the Caribbean region. This phenomenon is called a Category 6 Hurricane Dorian.

Yes, I did say Category 6.

This is a new phenomenon that in the definition of a Category 5 storm such as Dorian, devastated Grand Bahama and sat over the island for more than a day with sustained winds of 185 mph, while causing damages in the Bahamas in excess of USD 34 billion. This, I might add, to a country whose population is less than a half a million people.

Chairperson, if these facts do not force the developed world to pay attention, nothing will.

We have heard in the Conference of the Parties (COP) and in other forums, the leader of our country and Caribbean leaders, repeatedly talk about the impact of this devastation on our region, and I believe that the time has come to act and to demonstrate that FAO, which I am sure, wants to bring help and aid to our countries and the region.

With this again, we endorse FAO's document *CL 170/4*.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

First, Brazil would like to commend the work carried out by Deputy Director General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and by the Director the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, Mr Eduardo Mansur in the development of the FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change, and in the conduction of the related consultations. This has been a challenging process and without your very constructive collaboration, Chairperson, I am not convinced that we would be on the verge of adopting a final consensus document in this Council session. Thank you once again for your enduring commitment.

Brazil takes pride in having defended, all along these negotiations, multilaterally agreed concepts, as well as solid principles, such as common responsibilities, a long time ago established by the environmental instruments since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a developing country and a champion of both the ecosystem preservations and agriculture production, Brazil will remain observant of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as professed by the 2030 Agenda.

It is always worth mentioning and never too late to recall target 13A of the 2030 Agenda, which specifies the commitment undertaken by developed countries, parties of the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilising jointly 100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing countries in this climate action. Regarding FAO's Strategy, we expect the balanced implementation of the document within FAO's mandate in the context of growing food insecurity the world currently faces.

I understand you more than anyone else is a testimony of the good faith and flexibility that Brazilian delegations held during the discussions of the Strategy on Climate Change and the Strategy on science and innovation. So, I take this opportunity to deeply, I stress deeply, regret, and I stress regret, that a delegation you informed suggested that its capital approached our Embassy in order to inform our Embassy that we would not be flexible enough.

So, I am sure, I am convinced that we, from the beginning, negotiate in good faith and flexibility as almost all delegations in this room. So, I deeply regret, again, that this delegation, without approaching us, without consulting us, you informed and be able badly informed its capital.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Excellency, first of all, for your strong support for the adoption and implementation of the Strategy. I would like to thank you for your positive and nice words, but also I would like to thank you for your support during the informal consultations and the whole process to arrive at a consensus on both Strategies.

I think you and many of us have shown great flexibility in working in a spirit of compromise, in the spirit of solidarity, in the spirit of moving forward. That is what I would like to thank you personally as well, thank you so much.

#### **Ms Ladiyani Retno WIDOWATI (Indonesia)**

Indonesia associates itself with the joint statement delivered on behalf of the G77 & China and the Asia Regional Group. We recognise that efforts to transform agrifood systems should take into account the climate change aspect, in particular climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Moreover, we believe that the low-emission agrifood systems should always pay attention to the three dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (economic, social and environmental).

Within this context, Indonesia welcomes the inclusive process that FAO has taken leading to the development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.

In principle, the FAO Strategy on Climate Change (SCC) is in line with Indonesia's projects to develop a climate resilient and low-carbon agrifood system that based on a solid, secured, and comprehensive information system.

Indonesia expects that the SCC implementation will deliver tangible results in scaling up, and expanding innovation in the agrifood system of member states, give guidance and offer a holistic approach for member states to finally achieve a comprehensive sustainability - *better nutrition*, a *better environment*, and a *better life* - leaving no one behind.

We further hope that the implementation of the SCC will enable more support for, a sustainable financing scheme, robust action-oriented multi-stakeholders' collaboration, and continuing capacity building for data identification and analysis.

Indonesia believes that the SCC implementation should also take into account the diversity of national circumstances, needs, priorities, as well as capacities. It will be different across context and realities. SCC should be fully in line with and support national development goals.

Indonesia is looking forward for increased partnership and assistance with FAO and other stakeholders on land-related mitigation and adaptation options - including promotion of technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices as well as research to adapt to climate change and improve access to investments and financial resources.

Furthermore, Indonesia agrees that there must be a transparent mechanism of measuring and reviewing the strategy periodically.

#### **Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia thanks Management for the significant work that has gone into the development of this Strategy, including active consultation with Members to support favourable formal consideration by the Governing Bodies.

In this regard, we consider it would be preferable for the Council to follow the advice provided by the Programme Committee and harmonize the outstanding issues with the language agreed by the Council yesterday when adopting the Science and Innovation Strategy.

Australia notes the value of the Strategy in enhancing FAO's support to Members to respond to, mitigate, and adapt to the impacts of climate change, in line with local contexts and requirements. We also appreciate the focus on supporting countries particularly at risk, including Small Island Developing States in the Southwest Pacific region – many of whom are already facing the negative impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition outcomes.

In offering our endorsement of the Strategy, Australia underlines the importance of integrating climate considerations across all areas of the Organization's work, and we encourage FAO to seek synergies and complementarities with other strategies to scale up and enhance efforts to boost climate resilience, for example, through the Private Sector Engagement strategy and as has been mentioned already by other Members today, the Science and Innovation Strategy.

In closing, Australia requests further information on next steps, including the development of the Strategy's Action Plan, and associated targets, indicators and monitoring and reporting frameworks.

**Sr. Javier GOROSTEGUI (Chile)**

En primer lugar, Chile desea felicitarlo por la excelente conducción de su trabajo durante esta sesión del Consejo y encomiar la tarea de la Directora General Adjunta, Sra. Maria Helena Semedo, y su equipo en esta Estrategia sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031). Además de agradecer a la Secretaría sus esfuerzos por llevar a cabo esta sesión híbrida, la que esperamos permita concluir de manera exitosa nuestras deliberaciones.

Mi delegación desea sumarse a las voces de preocupación acerca de la actual situación alimentaria mundial agravada por los desafíos que nos impone la crisis ambiental, la etapa de pospandemia y el mal estado de la economía global. Todo lo cual se traduce en años de retroceso para la consolidación de sistemas alimentarios eficientes, resilientes, sostenibles e inclusivos que permitan alcanzar los Objetivos de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

En particular, respecto de la Estrategia sobre el cambio climático, Chile concuerda con los ejes planteados y coincide con la urgente necesidad de miradas convergentes y complementarias con la Estrategia para la ciencia y la innovación, como lo han destacado otras delegaciones. De hecho, es relevante que sean ambas Estrategias adoptadas por consenso en sintonía con el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031. En este contexto, nuestro país ha comprometido el desarrollo de sus políticas nacionales, regionales y multilaterales promoviendo una política exterior turquesa y con enfoque de género que enfatice el vínculo entre acciones de las personas, naturaleza y el futuro del planeta.

Muy especialmente, deseamos subrayar el rol asignado en la Estrategia a la participación de los grupos más vulnerables, el reconocimiento de los pueblos originarios, así como el fortalecimiento del rol de la mujer y de los jóvenes en el desarrollo de los sistemas alimentarios. Creemos firmemente que la implementación de dicha Estrategia debe ser lo suficientemente flexible y considerar las realidades locales geográficas, climáticas y productivas favoreciendo mecanismos de cooperación para los países de rentas bajas y medias, especialmente en la transferencia de tecnologías.

Es en ese espíritu que nos permitimos compartir la noticia de que, ayer, Chile promulgó la *Ley del Marco sobre el Cambio Climático* que tiene como objetivo que seamos un país carbono neutral y resiliente al clima a más tardar al 2050 y persigue potenciar la seguridad alimentaria, aumentar la disponibilidad de agua y disminuir la contaminación y los riesgos de salud.

A su vez, el gobierno de Chile haciendo frente a una sequía sin precedentes y otras consecuencias del fenómeno del cambio climático, Chile apoya a la recuperación inclusiva y presentó el plan "Siembra por Chile", recogiendo 21 medidas económicas asociadas a la generación de empleo y creación de espacios para la comercialización de la agricultura familiar campesina y reforzando también el apoyo a comunidades indígenas en materia de seguridad hídrica, fertilizantes, mejoramientos de suelo, entre otras.

Para finalizar, en el ámbito multilateral reconocemos el valor de estas Estrategias y destacamos la responsabilidad colectiva de los Miembros de la FAO en el aumento de la calidad de vida de nuestras sociedades sin perder de vista el desafío pendiente de superar las brechas entre realidades urbanas y rurales. Mi delegación agradece los esfuerzos de la Organización, el FIDA, el PMA, la Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios (OCAH) de la ONU, el equipo de crisis del Secretario General de Naciones Unidas, Sr. António Guterres, y de entidades como la Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) en la búsqueda de soluciones eficientes e innovadoras para aliviar con la emergencia alimentaria, especialmente a consecuencia del cambio climático.

Vaya todo nuestro apoyo a esta Estrategia.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Chile, for your strong support to the Strategy and congratulations with passing that important law facing the challenges especially in the field of climate change.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada joins other delegations in congratulating Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo, her team, the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and other colleagues who were involved in reaching this important moment. Canada welcomes the conclusions of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, and the results of the inclusive informal consultation process. We note the findings of the Programme Committee, both under the climate change and science and innovation items, that stress the complementary nature of the two Strategies and the need for coherence between how certain issues are dealt with, and we underscore the importance of sustaining that perspective both today and going forward.

We look forward to the efficient development of an action plan to implement the Strategy within the mandate of FAO, after its endorsement by this Council, recognizing that this is the key means for management to identify the practical implementation steps required. We note the importance of engaging with partners across the UN system, in particular the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and the private sector, to maximise the impact of the Action Plan. This Strategy and its Action Plan will enable FAO to leverage the critical role of innovative tools, including artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, geomatics and financial instruments like carbon markets, to help address growing concerns over food security, sustainability and climate change.

With the urgent need to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from food systems and increasing the resilience to the impacts of climate change, FAO should increase its support to Members for sustainable productivity growth, reducing emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration in agriculture, and adaptation through an ambitious cross-cutting approach, inclusive of innovations and building on relevant international initiatives.

We underscore the importance of taking a gender sensitive approach to climate action, recognizing the differential impacts on women and men. We also note the relevance of an inclusive approach that takes onboard the perspectives of indigenous peoples and youth, amongst others.

With these observations, Canada is pleased to support the endorsement of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change as a key building block for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

La Guinée s'associe à la déclaration faite par l'Angola au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Nous remercions le Secrétariat, en particulier les équipes de Madame Maria Helena Semedo et Monsieur Mansour pour l'élaboration de cette stratégie ambitieuse qui a suivi un parcours inclusif et transparent, notamment à travers de multiples et fructueuses consultations. Nous saluons également le rôle joué par le Président indépendant du Conseil dans le processus. Le changement climatique est un enjeu vital pour le futur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation du monde. Tous les acteurs doivent être impliqués, toutes les spécificités doivent être prises en compte. La Guinée salue et approuve la vision, les approches et les piliers contenus dans le document. Nous nous réjouissons de l'alignement de la Stratégie avec le programme 2030, l'Accord de Paris, le Pacte de Glasgow, entre autres. Nous accueillons favorablement le fait que la présente stratégie soit corrélée à d'autres stratégies de

l'Organisation, notamment celle relative à la science et l'innovation, au niveau du cadre stratégique 2022-2031. La Stratégie doit s'adapter aux réalités régionales, sous-régionales et nationales. La vulnérabilité doit être un critère déterminant. Dans cette optique, la place accordée aux petits États insulaires en développement, les pays les moins avancés et les pays en développement sans littoral, constitue une approche qui permettra à ce document d'avoir un meilleur impact. Par ailleurs, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue le caractère fluctuant des données climatiques. Pour cela, nous exhortons la Direction à inclure des mécanismes d'adaptation cohérents au niveau du plan d'action opérationnel. Avec ces commentaires, la Guinée soutient la Stratégie de la FAO en matière de changement climatique et recommande son approbation par le Conseil.

**Ms Demitu HAMBISA BONSA (Ethiopia)**

Ethiopia align itself with the Africa Regional Group Statement.

At the outset, we would like to appreciate the inclusive consultation that FAO has conducted with Members and stakeholders in the development process of the Strategy on Climate Change.

As climate change has emerged as one of the biggest environmental challenges, we welcome the ten-year thematic Strategy on Climate Change prepared by FAO.

We also welcome the extensive determination of FAO, particularly to enhance its support to Members in their efforts with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation, working towards climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems.

We want to underscore the importance of working towards expanding resilient agrifood systems to the current and future impacts of climate change, learning from good practices.

We appreciate FAO supports all Members, particularly developing countries, in formulating and implementing their climate commitments as appropriate, in coordination with other existing initiatives and mechanisms, and formative adaptation policies, plans and actions.

We want FAO to strengthen its engagement with Members, especially to enhance the financial commitment of that support to developing countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

Ethiopia as one of the countries located in the Horn of Africa, the region exposed to recurrent droughts, flooding, pests and other climate change induced crisis.

Taking into consideration climate change effects, Ethiopia launched the Green Legacy Initiative in 2019 to plant 20 billion seedlings with clear mission of planting seedlings in cities and rural areas to realize climate-resilient Ethiopia's prosperity.

Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia tried to expand the Green Legacy Initiative towards the neighbouring countries by sharing plant seedlings.

In this regard, we want to underscore the important role of FAO in working with Members to strengthen its technical support and play its part in ensuring financial flows towards climate-resilient development, in support of a global transition towards sustainability.

With these comments, Ethiopia supports the FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change.

**Mme Espérance NDAYIZEYE (Burundi)**

Le Burundi s'aligne à la déclaration du Groupe régional africain lue par l'Angola, et salue le travail abattu par Madame Semedo et son équipe ainsi que l'approche inclusive qui a caractérisé les consultations pour élaborer la Stratégie sur le changement climatique. La Stratégie vient à point nommé au moment où l'Afrique est plus que jamais confrontée aux effets néfastes du changement climatique, les sécheresses, les inondations, avec comme conséquence l'insécurité alimentaire.

Le Burundi, actuellement, a mis en place une vaste campagne de plantation des arbres qui a fait déjà des progrès, pour que toutes les montagnes et toutes les collines du Burundi soient couvertes par les arbres. Le Burundi se réjouit que la Stratégie inclue des actions visant le renforcement de la résilience, l'adaptation des impacts du changement climatique, et des populations des zones les plus touchées et

les pays à faible revenu qui vont contribuer sans doute à la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires durables, efficaces et inclusifs, intégrant les quatre améliorations.

Le Burundi encourage la FAO de tenir compte de toutes les spécificités et les priorités régionales, nationales au moment de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie sur le changement climatique. Le Burundi encourage aussi la FAO à nouer des partenariats avec les autres acteurs évoluant dans le changement climatique et la collaboration avec les autres agences des Nations Unies en vue d'une action coordonnée et de ne pas dissocier la Stratégie sur le changement climatique et celle des sciences et de l'innovation.

Ainsi, le Burundi soutient la Stratégie sur le changement climatique, et recommande son approbation par le Conseil.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

En primer término, felicitarlo, Presidente, por la forma en que está conduciendo esta sesión del Consejo y la tarea dura de poder sostener los tiempos de las delegaciones que no se excedan los acordados. Es una tarea casi imposible.

Mi delegación desea agradecer la presentación de la Estrategia sobre cambio climático (2022-2031) a la Directora General Adjunta, Señora Maria Helena Semedo, al Director de la Oficina de Cambio Climático, Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (OCB), Señor Eduardo Monsur, así como a todos los países que de alguna manera han trabajado para concretar un documento como el que hoy examinamos.

Siendo el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (OdS) número 13, el relativo a la acción climática, uno de los objetivos más importantes de la política exterior de Costa Rica, quisiéramos hacer una breve reflexión y esta tiene que ver con los esfuerzos nacionales que debemos hacer los países para lograr educar desde edades tempranas a nuestros hijos acerca de la importancia de la protección del medioambiente. Una adecuada concientización a la niñez acerca de las consecuencias que el cambio climático está generando directamente en nuestras vidas, es hoy en día imperativo.

Costa Rica ha sido un país que por su posición geográfica ha sufrido desde hace varios años afectaciones debido al cambio climático el cual ha provocado las mayores sequías o inundaciones que han afectado la agricultura y en mayor parte a los pequeños y medianos agricultores, como sucede en el resto de la región.

Actualmente tenemos otras amenazas que afectan al sector y que afectarán la seguridad alimentaria. Requerimos de precisas y duraderas soluciones para nuestros agricultores por lo que consideramos de gran importancia tanto la Estrategia para la ciencia y la innovación como la de cambio climático que tienen que ir de la mano si deseamos alcanzar respuestas verdaderas para este importante sector. Es preciso que logremos fortalecer también a los grupos vulnerables, como mujeres y jóvenes.

Con esto respaldamos ambas Estrategias y esperamos un Plan de acción eficiente que tome en cuenta las realidades regionales focalizadas en los sistemas agroalimentarios de forma inclusiva, que incluya a diferentes sectores de la sociedad. No lo olvidemos, somos nosotros los que necesitamos de la naturaleza, no ella de nosotros.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)(Original language Arabic)**

The delegation of Egypt wishes to extend its support and aligns itself with the delegation of Kuwait on behalf of G77 in addition to the statement by Angola on behalf of the African Group, and in addition to the statement delivered by Mauritania on behalf of the Near East Group.

We would like to thank Her Excellency, the Deputy Director-General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, for her efforts during the informal consultations on this Strategy. We would like to stress our support for the FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change. We highly value the efforts of Ms Semedo and Mr Eduardo Mansur, along with their teams in the preparation for this Strategy.

Egypt will be hosting the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) on climate change next November. Egypt seeks in coordination with all Membersto adopt effective outcomes in order to assist the international community to face climate change and to support agrifood systems, in addition to support

countries that are affected by climate change, to address such effects and to adopt important initiatives that can be implemented. We have participated in the consultations on this Strategy in order to have a comprehensive Strategy that captures all the concerns of the countries as to the effects of climate change on agriculture. These consultations were highly flexible in order to achieve a language that is accepted by all.

We stress the importance of having an ambitious action plan that reflects all the pillars of this Strategy and we look forward to the participation of all of you in COP27 that will be held in the city of Sharm el-Sheikh next November.

**Ms Elsa Barbosa DE OLIVEIRA MARCELINO SIMÕES (Cabo Verde) (Observer)**

Cabo Verde would like to present its strong support to the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the African Regional Group. Without repeating our common understanding for urgent need for this FAO Climate Change Strategy, we would like to exhort Members to approve it.

The diagnosis is well-known, and the solutions need to be brought to local level to prevent the deepening and worsening of the actual crisis we are going through. We recognize and appreciate the transparent and thorough consultation developed by FAO in the preparation of this Strategy and we would like to congratulate you, Chairperson, FAO Director-General, Deputy Director-General, MsMaria Helena Semedo, Mr Eduardo Mansur, and their team. We thank you all.

Cabo Verde would like to bring to your attention the urgent need to act in the support Of Small Island Developing States, since, as a result of this current crisis, we are losing much earned progress in the area of food security, pushing us back to several years before, and deepening our food insecurity and dependence. Going into the fifth year of another drought cycle, compounded with the effects of COVID-19, and war in Ukraine, about 32 percent of our population is at high risk of deterioration of their food security conditions.

We recommend the importance of resource mobilisation and technical assistance to support us in improving the production of our smallholder farmers in building more resilient food systems and special attention to our blue economy, especially the sustainable management of our marine resources.

In concluding, we look forward to the Action Plan that will be developed, and we thus support the endorsement of the FAO's updated Strategy on Climate Change.

**Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand) (Observer)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by Malaysia in appreciating the efforts of FAO teams and Members in developing the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

We also applaud the efforts and commitment to enhance the visibility of the interlinkages among agrifood systems, biodiversity, risk of degradation, health and climate change, and for successfully positioning these interlinkages on the top of the global agenda. Thailand is one of the countries worst hit by climate change. We already identified this issue as a national priority agenda and in line with the Paris Agreement we aim to move to net zero bringing down greenhouse gas emissions as early as possible and move to carbon neutrality by 2065.

We echo the view expressed by many previous speakers that the two new FAO strategies on climate change and on science and innovations are complementary and should be implemented in the mutually reinforcing way in order to harness best available good practices and innovative solutions to address climate change issues with the support of science. We underline the importance of communicating and transferring usable science in a user-friendly way with focus on the most vulnerable in order to actively involve smallholders and local food producers in adopting climate resilience farming practices, starting from sustainable soil management.

In this regard, we would like to share a very brief comment on the future implementation on the ground of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. For us, implementation shall be tailored to context specificity, since the impact of climate change is very different among country and regions, and in line with the principle of the comment about differentiated responsibilities.



Second, implementation shall focus on the most vulnerable groups, since they are the most affected by climate change. Implementation shall empower farmers and shall be specifically targeting smallholder farmers to enable them to become climate actors on both mitigations and adaptation by providing them with the knowledge and training, technology tools, social network connection, market access as well as access to financial assets.

With this statement, we look forward to the endorsement of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022 to 2031.

**Sr. Luis Geronimo REYES VERDE (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de) (Observador)**

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación de la Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031) y reconoce que se elaboró mediante un proceso inclusivo y consultivo liderado por usted, Señor Presidente, por la Directora General Adjunta, la Señora Maria Helena Semedo, y al Director de la Oficina de Cambio Climático, Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (OCB), el Señor Eduardo Mansur.

Asimismo, destaca la importancia de que esta Estrategia se centre en alcanzar el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) número 13, relativo a la acción por el clima como un tema primordial en las políticas, estrategias y planes a nivel mundial, regional y local y que orientará a la FAO en la presentación de un apoyo sólido sobre todo en el abordaje de los sistemas agroalimentarios. Saludamos también que la iniciativa se encuentre en consonancia con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 y otras estrategias temáticas de la Organización.

Nuestro país reafirma su firme voluntad de avanzar en el fortalecimiento de los planes estratégicos en materia de derecho ambiental y cambio climático en el contexto de las políticas de protección social que impulsa el gobierno bolivariano de Venezuela. Y que no se ha detenido a pesar de los impactos negativos de las medidas coercitivas unilaterales impuestas contra nuestro pueblo y las consecuencias de la pandemia de la COVID-19.

En este sentido, queremos hacer un llamado a adoptar medidas universales con respecto a las repercusiones del cambio climático en los sistemas agroalimentarios, los cuales deben aumentar su resiliencia entre los efectos actuales y futuros del cambio climático. Y aprender de las buenas prácticas para fomentar políticas, planes y medidas de adaptación transformadora.

Con estos comentarios, la República de Venezuela apoya e invita al Consejo a apoyar la Estrategia.

**Mr Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observer)(Original language Arabic)**

I would like to express my appreciation to the Deputy Director-General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo and Mr Eduardo Mansur. I would like to thank you for the efforts deployed in order for us to achieve consensus amongst all participants. During the information consultations, you have shown very high levels of professionalism. We align ourselves with the statement made by the Near East and North Africa Region, and we also align ourselves with the statement made by the G77 and China.

The Syrian Arab Republic is facing climate change phenomena which are quite radical, water scarcity, droughts, rising temperatures, this has all led to fires, which are having a huge impact on agriculture. We are also suffering from terrorism, occupation and coercive measures unilaterally imposed against our country, which are aggravating the suffering of our country. This is affecting our ability to implement our development plans.

Climate change constitutes a challenge that all countries are facing. This is a threat to food security at a global level. However, the people most affected by this phenomenon are in developing countries. We need science so that we can improve our agrifood systems. We see that this Strategy provides for capacity building in countries and increasing their resilience. We appreciate this, so we hope that this Strategy will include technology transfer, otherwise this Strategy will be found lacking.

We welcome this Strategy and we look forward to implementing the action plan as soon as possible. This plan needs to take into account the needs and particularities of various different countries.

**Mr Khaled ABU HAMMOUR (Jordan)**

I would like to thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council and his team for organising this Session. Also, I would like to thank him for his patience and his work and wisdom in managing the sessions. Here I would like to extend my greatest and deepest thanks to the Chief Scientist, Excellency Dr Ismahane Elouafi, who created such a Science and Innovation Strategy.

We believe in the vision of this Strategy, that is summarized in a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where the potential of science and innovation is fully encouraged to cover complex social, economic and environment challenges for agrifood system in a globally inclusive and sustainable manner. Also, I would like to thank Excellency Maria Helena Semedo and her colleagues for their scientific and practical efforts. They will help the world, especially the developing countries, such as Jordan.

As for the Strategy on Climate Change, we thank those who contributed to its achievements. We believe in this Strategy, because it is not a stopgap solution, but long-term Strategy that gives the world confidence. So many of us are here today as recognition that the threat from climate change is serious, it is urgent and it is growing. As we know, no country, however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change because no one country can meet challenges alone.

Allow me to quote from the speech of King of Jordan Abdullah bin Al-Hussein at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, "*Climate change cannot be addressed in isolation. No geographical region, no economic sector, can protect itself from the impact threats. To achieve the future we seek, there must be comprehensive, collective, sustainable global action, action that gets results. Jordan pledge our continuing cooperation for our own people's future and the future of our shared world*". I would like to thank my colleagues for their successful and good ideas on these Strategies.

**Sra. Mirta Aurora GRANDA AVERHOFF (Cuba) (Observador)**

Reconocemos los esfuerzos desplegados por la Secretaría de la FAO en la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031), documento más que pertinente en la actualidad cuando científicos y expertos alertan sobre las alarmantes consecuencias del cambio climático para la vida en el planeta, incluida la desaparición de algunos pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID). Se impone otorgar toda la prioridad al enfrentamiento al cambio climático con apego al principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas.

A estos fines, Cuba cuenta con un Plan de Estado que establece metas nacionales y atiende los compromisos internacionales al tiempo que involucra a los entes económicos y a la sociedad en su conjunto en acciones de adaptación y mitigación. Se aprobó, además, la "Ley de Soberanía Alimentaria y Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional", enfocada en potenciar la capacidad productiva, el uso de la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación, así como desarrollar sistemas alimentarios eficientes y sostenibles a nivel local. En este proceso, Cuba ha recibido la contribución de agencias especializadas del sistema de Naciones Unidas, lo que aprovecho para agradecer.

Millones de seres humanos padecen hambre, pobreza y exclusión. Para garantizar el derecho a la alimentación de todos, debe establecerse un orden internacional democrático, justo y equitativo que atienda las ansias de desarrollo de nuestros pueblos y corrija los efectos de la dominación imperialista de la aplicación de políticas neoliberales, proteccionismo y dependencia económica.

Muchos países en desarrollo cargan además el peso de una deuda externa que ha sido pagada varias veces. Otros, como Cuba, sufren también la aplicación de medidas coercitivas unilaterales contrarias al derecho internacional que obstaculizan su legítimo derecho al desarrollo. En nuestra batalla permanente por el desarrollo sostenible, promovemos una gestión gubernamental basada en la ciencia y la innovación que procure la solución a los desafíos cada vez más acuciantes que enfrentamos.

Encomiamos a la FAO a trabajar en estrecha coordinación con los gobiernos para abordar las necesidades que puedan surgir en los diferentes contextos, previendo los efectos a corto, mediano y largo plazo, sobre todo en las poblaciones más pobres. Como fuera refrendado en el 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Quito, Ecuador debemos trabajar de forma mancomunada, fortalecer el multilateralismo, la solidaridad, la

cooperación internacional, incluida la cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular. Solo de esta forma podemos enfrentar los desafíos de nuestro tiempo.

Con estos comentarios Cuba apoya la Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (2022-2031).

**Her Excellency Josephine Joseph LAGU YANGA (South Sudan) (Observer)**

We would like to thank FAO for convening this timely Council meeting. South Sudan is an extremely food insecure country whose capacity to produce adequate food to feed itself is affected by a number of negative drivers, including conflict, climate change, and the use of traditional technology for subsistence farming. We expect FAO to take into account country specific conditions to ensure vulnerable countries such as South Sudan are not left behind in the programme implementation.

In relation to FAO's Strategy on Climate Change, the Republic of South Sudan is in agreement with the regional position presented by Angola, provided it is aligned with the Science and Innovation Strategy. It is true South Sudan is very much affected by climate change in recent years, in terms of droughts and floods, leading to poor crop yields, loss of livestock and livelihoods, as well as massive population displacement. In this case, the country is emphasising this Strategy to ensure achievements of the four betters, better production, better nutrition, better environment and better lives for all.

As we are calling for greater collaboration with FAO, South Sudan to ensure steady implementation of some of these Strategies, and so we, in that regard, support and endorse the Strategy.

**Mr Thomas John KELLY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

Thank you to FAO's technical teams that have worked to develop this Strategy in close consultation with the Membership. We join other delegations in thanking you, Chairperson, for your work in facilitating the process. We strongly support the points you made in your opening statement that we need to develop complementary action plans to guide implementation of both Strategies we are adopting today. This will make it easier to spot synergies between them and it will also make it easier for us to track how they are helping to achieve the strategic framework results and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The point you made about synergy goes beyond the FAO Strategies themselves. Building the resilience of effective communities to help deal with the impact of climate change is common to FAO, WFP and IFAD's work. We call on all the three Rome-based agencies to deepen cooperation in this area and we would like to see this Strategy guiding improvements in the implementation of existing and new joint programmes. The Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Joint Sahel Programme is a good example.

We also need to strengthen partnerships outside Rome with organizations in areas of direct relevance to this Strategy, from disaster risk management to investment in adaptation to policy advice, all aimed at increasing the resources available for this work.

The UK worked hard as the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) Chair to put agriculture and food systems at the centre of climate change discussions. We would like to thank FAO staff, led by Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo, Dr Eduardo Mansur, and Dr Zitouni Ould-Dada for FAO's close partnership during COP26. We hope that the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Glasgow Breakthrough on Agriculture galvanized and prioritized action and my delegation thanks those Members today who have referred to these initiatives.

We are glad to see that several countries are signing up to the COP26 Breakthrough Agenda to endorse the Agriculture Breakthrough Goal. This is a good sign in advance of the launch of the state of the sectoral transition report in Sharm el-Sheikh at COP27.

The UK wants climate smart sustainable agriculture to be the most attractive and widely adopted option for farmers everywhere by 2030. This is especially important for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as the Bahamas and Cape Verde delegations have already mentioned, and with that in mind we think it is very important to maintain a consistent focus on agriculture and food systems between COP26 and future COP and other climate change forums. COP27 hosted by Egypt and COP28 to be hosted by United Arab Emirates (UAE) underlines the importance of looking at food, energy and water policies as a collective nexus.

We are also making changes to bilateral policies in this area. Yesterday, the UK government published its Food Strategy White Paper. This Strategy incentivizes the agriculture sector to use surplus heat and CO2 from industrial processes and incentivizes renewable resources of energy to increase domestic horticultural production.

Finally, the UK supports the Council's endorsement of this Strategy and we join other delegations in looking forward to receiving the Action Plan for its implementation.

**Mr Zaid Tarik AL-ANI (Iraq)(Original language Arabic)**

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to express my thanks and Iraq's deep gratitude to FAO for its tireless efforts towards adopting flourishing agricultural systems. We attach great importance to the Organization's Strategy on Climate Change, as well as the on Science and Innovation Strategy. There are considerable challenges before us, they affect the environment and our natural resources and these challenges are increasing. The risks are becoming ever clearer.

The health of some of our citizens is being affected by the sandstorms, which regularly occur in the region, due to climate change. This has given rise to further challenges such as an increase in temperature, the advance of the desert, and water is becoming scarce and there are also effects on food security as a result. It is important that FAO should further contribute, working together with the climate Agenda, to ensure that we achieve greater effectiveness, particularly in assisting the most threatened countries, helping them to move towards agricultural systems which will allow them to face up to climate change.

To conclude, we look forward to enhanced cooperation with FAO to reach the objectives of food security, sustainable development and prosperity for all of our peoples.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded our deliberations on this Strategy. I now would like to give the floor to Ambassador Yael Rubinstein to make further remarks.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of Programme Committee)**

I would like to thank all Member States for very comprehensive and important remarks and, again, I think we need to go ahead and endorse the Strategy today this Session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I certainly echo your words that we should endorse the Strategy. I now turn the floor to Ms Maria Helena Semedo and I would like to echo the positive words of all delegations about the work you and your team have done for the Strategy.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)**

I would like to start by thanking all the Members present here, the ones connected, that expressed the full support to the Strategy, provided guidance, the comments throughout the process, I believe your inputs have contributed to have a document which today all the Members can feel themselves their countries, their challenges, respond throughout the Strategy.

I would like to thank you, Independent Chairperson of the Council, for your leadership, for providing and leading the informal consultation, as it all had expressed by other Members; Ambassador Yael Rubinstein, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, for her support; and also my colleagues, the team and the leadership of Mr Eduardo Mansur, they have been working very hard for us to come today with this document.

Very briefly to say that the document I consider is an ambitious document, it is aligned with the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Pact, and to bring the solution to the transformation of agrifood system in order to become more resilient to climate change and being climate friendly. As it has been said, it is context specific, we tried to respond to different challenges, it has here been expressed by Bahamas and Cabo Verde the need to consider the specificity of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), but other groups of countries will feel themselves in this comprehensive Strategy.

We received several comments, which I consider, they are input to the development of the Plan of Action, as it has been said a plan of action will be developed and submitted to the different technical committees for guidance and for input, and there I think all the comments regarding forestry, regarding oceans will be fully taken into consideration. For sure, to refer the linkage with the climate change on science and innovation endorsed yesterday, which will bring solution to the challenge we are facing and to the urgency to find those solutions, the Strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity and the Strategy on private sector.

The need for close cooperation with other UN agencies working in the same field, but keeping the FAO comparative advantage, for sure it will be duly taken into consideration, and the need to reinforce cooperation. Also, the issue regarding the better consideration on climate related disaster. I think it is in the Strategy, but it will be considered as we move in the formulation of the Action Plan.

With this, again, a big thank you to all the Members, to you, Chairperson, and we are committed to continuing implementing the Strategy and keeping climate change high in FAO's Agenda.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I will now read out the draft conclusions, which we will take up after the lunch break, but at least you will have seen them on the screen. We try again to have brief conclusions so that it will be possible to not only conclude the conclusions, but also adopt the Strategy.

On the *FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change*,

1. The Council considered the recommendations of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee on the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and in particular:
  - (a) welcomed the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 with the integration of guidance from relevant Governing Body sessions, such as the 168th Session of the Council and the 2022 Regional Conferences, and the 130th Session of the Programme Committee, and appreciated the open, extensive, inclusive and transparent consultative process for its development;
  - (b) underlined the importance of considering FAO's mandate and comparative advantage and the specific contexts, priorities, and capacities globally and across regions, countries and the local level in implementing the Strategy;
  - (c) stressed the need for mechanisms at the international, regional and national levels to share information and experience on the implementation of the Strategy and its action plan;
  - (d) acknowledged agrifood systems have become widely recognized and adopted as an integral part of the solution to climate change, and highlighted the importance of supporting countries in tackling climate change in agrifood systems;
  - (e) highlighted the complementary, coherent and synergetic nature of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors, which can act as a key driver for boosting sustainability and resilience within agrifood systems; and
  - (f) concurred with recommendations of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee, endorsed the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and highlighted the importance of mobilising additional resources and developing an action plan for its effective implementation.

These are the draft conclusions. We are now going to adjourn for lunch.

I wish you a very fruitful lunch. Be energized by the lunch. Make sure for those who still have issues to discuss, to use the lunch time so that we can really adopt the Strategy on Climate Change directly after lunch. Thank you for your positive words and spirit.

We see each other after lunch at 14:00 hours sharp.

*The meeting rose at 12:10 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 10*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.10*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>FOURTH PLENARY SESSION QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>14 June 2022</b>

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:06 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 06  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.06  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 4. FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change (*continued*)****Point 4. Stratégie thématique de la FAO relative au changement climatique (*suite*)****Tema 4. Estrategia temática de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (*continuación*)**  
(CL 170/4 Rev.1; CL 170/11)**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope you had a relaxful and energizing lunch to continue our fruitful Council until now.

Let us try to continue in the spirit of cooperation, working together, listening to each other, finding a way forward. At the end of the morning Session, I presented the draft conclusions on the Strategy on Climate Change. I would like to go paragraph by paragraph now, and I hope that it meets your approval.

I know that there are still informals going on to smoothing a little item in the text, to see whether or not we can adopt the last subparagraph that we postpone the adoption so that we have in the spirit of the UN, a full fledged consensus. But let us first do the other subparagraphs and see whether or not we can agree to the draft conclusions.

I start with the chapeau. We will put it on the screen. Can we agree with the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

We have subparagraph (a), *welcomed the FAO Strategy on Climate Change with the integration of guidance from relevant Governing Body Sessions, such as the 168th Session of the Council, the 2022 regional conferences and the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and appreciated the open, extensive, inclusive and transparent consultation process for its development.* Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b), *underlined the importance of considering FAO's mandate and comparative advantage and the specific context priorities and capacities globally and across regions, countries and the local level in implementing the Strategy.* Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c), *stressed the need for mechanisms at the international, regional and national levels to share information and experience on the implementation of the Strategy and its action plan.*

**Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

We would like to make a minor suggestion on subparagraph (c), to add “*local*” levels, “*local and national levels*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d), *acknowledged agrifood systems have become widely recognized and adopted as an integral part of the solution to climate change and highlighted the importance of supporting countries in tackling climate change in agrifood systems.*

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solo una pequeña sugerencia, si es posible, en el subpárrafo (c), en lugar de “*local*”, “*subnationals*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to speak about “*subnational*” instead of “*local*”? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Just minor after “*the importance of supporting*” we would like to add “*complementing and supporting countries' efforts*”.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I was actually referring to subparagraph (c), wanting to support Argentina's proposal for subnational.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Malaysia, but that, indeed, is now adopted.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me parece que después de “*acknowledge*” tenemos que poner “*sustainable agrifood system, and knowledge sustainable agrifood systems*”.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'avais exactement la même proposition d'amendement que mon collègue argentin. Je la soutiens.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is wonderful to see that France and Argentina are now both proposing the same proposals on sustainability. So we are really moving forward. Thank you so much. I think nobody dares now to change this subparagraph anymore. It is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph (e), *highlighted the complementary, coherent and synthetic nature of the of your study on climate change. And the FAO science innovation Strategy, as well as FAO study on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural system sectors, which, enclosed articulation, can act as a key driver for boosting sustainability and resilience within agrifood systems.* Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

We would like to add towards the end of the subparagraph, which is in close articulation, it should be “*mutually reinforcing to act as a key driver for boosting sustainability*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

Before going to subparagraph (f), because subparagraph (f) is the one in which we adopt this Strategy, I know that our informal consultations have taken place. So whether or not it is now the time to raise any issue, otherwise we go to the adoption of the document which is in front of us. And that is the document of the Programme Committee.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

For this subparagraph (f) we actually agree with the text that is on the screen, noting that it concurs with the recommendations of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, just like in subparagraph (a), where we also welcomed the conclusions of the Programme Committee. We noted during the Plenary that at least three delegations explicitly mentioned this Item. That was our understanding and it was also the common understanding in the informals that the two paragraphs in this Strategy, 7 and 25, would be updated with the agreed text we came to in the excellent adoption of the Science and Innovation Strategy yesterday.

We heard during Plenary that there was no objection to this approach lodged by any Member. Then we also heard from many Members the need for these Strategies to be congruent, consistent and coherent. So we hope with that, that the updated version would be annexed here just like it was annexed in the Report for adoption yesterday.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We do not have an updated version because yesterday, the procedure we followed yesterday, I read out, I formally agreed proposals for changes in a text, which should be done here in Plenary as well, so that they are available in all languages.

Then, of course, we can endorse the texts with the same formulation as we did yesterday, with the changes presented at the Plenary here, as approved by the Plenary, so that has to be done, because there is no updated version.



So we have to have a proposal, and I am more than aware which issue we are speaking about as the changes for the proposed language for the concept of technology transfer, as well as the proposed changes for trade. They have to be presented.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

I asked the floor to say exactly what you just mentioned, that maybe we could approve the text that is for subparagraph (f) and then we start discussing the proposal coming from the informal discussions chaired by you, and to see exactly what we are going to approve, so everyone could be in the same page and then we do as we did yesterday.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is exactly what we have to do because if there are proposals, I have to put them on the screen, and then we have to see whether or not the Council would like to approve those two proposals. It goes about two specific paragraphs, paragraph 7 and 25 where there would be changes.

I am not in a position to present those paragraphs because although we had informal consultations and consensus before coming to the Council, it was made clear yesterday that that consensus was not there anymore. It is not up to me as Chairperson to propose at this moment these changes.

I can, of course, say what was done during the consultations but I cannot formally present them now as Chairperson.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Maybe we could give the opportunity to those countries that were not happy, not satisfied, the consensus that we reach under your very helpful Chairpersonship. So maybe these countries would explain to us and we could, in a flexible and good faith, spirit, discuss it here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Based on your request, I would say we will present the texts which were tabled, just as what was tabled. The text which was tabled was on two items, as I said I will show now paragraph 7 of the Strategy on Climate Change, text in red, just as it was tabled.

We put it on the screen. That is the insertion of the text which is similar in the Science and Innovation Strategy, *“including, through the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research and technology transfer of mutually agreed terms and improved equitable access to research, results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels such as through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and improve access to investments and financial resources”*. That was a text which was tabled to find a way forward and I put it now to the Council, whether or not there are any objections. I see none.

The other paragraph was paragraph 25, where we would insert the following part: *“and within its mandate, contribute to the multilateral trading system in line with the rules of the World Trade Organization”*. That was the other suggestion, which it is now in line with similar to the other Strategy. I look around the room whether or not there are any objections. I see none.

Thank you so much. Then we will change the last subparagraph in line with the subparagraph of yesterday, if you give us 30 seconds.

Now I put forward the final paragraph: *“concurred with recommendations of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, endorsed the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2020-2031, as changed at the 133rd Session of the Council, and highlighted the importance of mobilizing additional resources and developing an action plan for its effective implementation”*. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

It would be more than a pleasure for me to gavel now that we have adopted the FAO new Strategy on Climate Change. It is so decided.

**Mr Yousef JUHAIL (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to thank Ms Maria Helena Semedo for her efforts in producing such a valuable document and you Chairperson for your continuous efforts in order to reach a consensus amongst the Members.

May I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Group of 77 in China for their laudable efforts in reaching a consensus and for their flexibility during the discussions that were held before we adopt such an important Strategy.

I would like to thank more specifically Brazil, Egypt and Argentina. They have indeed displayed a great deal of flexibility, which paved the way for this consensus for the benefit of the Members of this Organization.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to echo your words to thank the G77, especially Egypt, Brazil and Argentina for the flexibility, but all the Council Members who worked so hard in the informal consultations and showed a lot of flexibility to arrive at this consensus, and this is indeed the spirit in which we have to work within the Council – loyalty, listening, finding a way forward and compromises and I thank those Members all for doing this in practice.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero asociarme a lo expresado por mi querido Presidente del Grupo G 77+China y hacer una mención especial al rol jugado por el representante de Egipto. Egipto tiene la responsabilidad importantísima de organizar la próxima Conferencia de las Partes (COP27) y eso coloca a Egipto en un lugar trascendental y, por lo tanto, todos esperamos que bajo su liderazgo tengamos una COP 27 excepcional. Creo que la muestra de compromiso y flexibilidad de Egipto en tratar de encontrar los mecanismos de flexibilidad para buscar el consenso, como también lo han hecho otros Miembros como usted dijo, Presidente, hemos seguramente de poder sentirnos contentos que ahora viene el trabajo sobre el próximo Plan de acción que, como hemos dicho varias veces, son imprescindibles ambas Estrategias – no una sola, ambas – y, por lo tanto, ahora vamos a poder salir del Consejo con ambas Estrategias aprobadas. Y creo que nos debemos congratular de ello.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I echo your words, but we have to wait till Friday for celebrations.

#### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

At the outset I would like to thank all Members who have praised Egypt for its flexibility. Indeed, we have worked along with other developing countries' delegations. At the same time, we would like to say that the position of Egypt was clear, particularly when it comes to the paragraph related to the transfer of technology. Such a consensus was reached thanks to the efforts of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Indeed, he organized the consultations and this paved the way for this consensus, and thanks to this spirit and this behaviour from all developing countries and other Members, we were able to reach what we have reached.

Furthermore, the May Session of the Programme Committee paved the way for this milestone and therefore, I would like to say in this connection that this is yet another example of flexibility which bears fruits for the benefit of all Members of the Organization.

As was said by the distinguished colleague from Argentina, indeed Egypt assumes a heavy responsibility since it is playing host to the Conference of the Parties (COP) very soon. Ladies and gentlemen, we believe that we should not accept only what is in line with our national interest. Such a consensus is not a gesture to abandon our interest but it is rather for the common good of all Members.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We certainly not only appreciate your words and flexibility, but we also appreciate your leadership and the leadership of your government, because we know that we are in good hands for a successful 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27).

We know that we need a successful COP27. I do hope that the adoption of the Strategy now can contribute to the success of COP27. Allow me a personal note to you. You are a real descendant of the king. Thank you so much, Egypt.

Of course, big congratulations to Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Mr Eduardo Mansur and Mr Zitouni Ould-Dada. You have the Strategy but now the work starts with the action plan.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

It is never too late to reiterate the thanks and the congratulations that we already made this morning, not only to you, but also to Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, Mr Eduardo Mansur and the whole team.

The informal consultations led by you prove that we, with flexibility, good will, good faith, can move ahead in the interest of all of us, and that we can learn the lessons, and repeat in the future, that with good faith, flexibility, we can always reach the maximum. And I am not a lawyer, but I think it is important to remember that when we agree something we go back to the Roman law and say *pacta sunt servanda*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think if we have the Membership commitment, the Membership ownership, we made a huge step towards the implementation. Because with ownership we get a commitment for the implementation, and indeed, we need to and also bring forward the national financial resources for the implementation. That is the second step, besides an action plan.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I would just like to join colleagues, the G77 Chair, the Argentinian Ambassador, the Brazilian Ambassador, and finally, my colleague, Mr Mina Rizk, thank you very much for the flexibility in the room and for the assistance in facilitating the last adjustments.

I just want to say that I think from the United States' perspective, these Strategies are a significant achievement for FAO, and they really do show that collaborative spirit in the room can put this Organization on a great footing to draw us right back to the reason why we are here. And the reason why we are here is to help farmers and help address food security, and I think with these two Strategies, FAO is on a wonderful path and a significant path to be able to address, with innovation, the serious challenges of climate change.

Thank to all the colleagues for the great flexibility over the long negotiations, over several weeks and months, and most particularly today.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais me joindre au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres aux remerciements qui ont été adressés tout d'abord et en premier lieu à Maria Helena Semedo et ses équipes, à vous-même Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, et bien sûr à toutes les délégations pour leur flexibilité, leur esprit constructif. Comme les événements naturels nous le rappellent, le changement climatique est une réalité, et nous devons faire en sorte, ici à la FAO, que nos actions contribuent à la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre et à la lutte contre le changement climatique, et nous espérons qu'avec cette stratégie, nous serons mieux armés et nous espérons voir des résultats concrets.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

I just would like to take the floor not as Israel, but as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, and really to congratulate FAO and both Chief Scientist and Ms Maria Helena Semedo and the team for really presenting us amazing and very important two Strategies. I think it is really a big step forward for FAO and for us as Members to work together.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us continue this amazing journey in a constructive way to its implementation. With that we have concluded Item 4.

- Item 6. Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
- Point 6. Impact du conflit russo-ukrainien sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et questions connexes relevant du mandat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)**
- Tema 6. Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)**

(CL 170/6)

#### CHAIRPERSON

We now have to take up Item 6, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. You can find the document before you and that is CL 170/6.

#### **Introduction to Item 6: Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

The document submitted for the Council provides an overview of all major issues and risks related to the war in Ukraine, and presents policy recommendations and FAO's proposals to deal with the consequences of the conflict on food security, both in Ukraine and globally.

It is an update of the document presented to the 169th Session of the Council held on 8 April 2022, consonant with the reporting of FAO's work on the matter under its mandate to its Governing Bodies, most recently to the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

Separately, activities undertaken in relation to the Ukraine war by other bodies, including Article XIV Bodies, are reported similarly to their respective members through the relevant reporting mechanisms.

The conflict has resulted in a massive and deteriorating food security situation in Ukraine, creating disruptions to livelihoods during the agricultural growing season, constraints to access inputs, and damage to homes, productive assets, agricultural and forest land, roads and other infrastructure, as well as to the environment. The war has also led to closure of ports, affecting maritime transportation.

The Russian Federation and Ukraine are major producers and exporters of key food commodities, playing leading roles in supplying world markets. Over the past three years (2018/19 - 2020/21), combined, they accounted for 30 percent and 20 percent of global wheat and maize exports, respectively, and close to 80 percent of sunflower oil exports. Given the export market concentration in foodstuffs, reduced exports from these two countries can have significant impacts on world prices and food security. Furthermore, the Russian Federation is a leading exporter of fertilizers.

While international food commodity prices, as measured by the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI), have been on an upward trend since mid-2020 due to multiple factors, in March 2022, they posted a significant leap and reached an all-time high in both nominal and real terms, largely due to the war. Although world prices of all commodity groups covered by the FFPI increased in March, those of cereals and vegetable oils, for which Ukraine and the Russian Federation play significant roles, were affected the most; rising by 17.1 percent and 23.2 percent, respectively, compared to February. In April a very small decline was observed, indicating that prices still remained at its highest level.

FAO's support to Ukraine is provided through four main activities: i) immediate support to spring vegetable planting for the most vulnerable; ii) cluster coordination; iii) planning for broader support to small and medium scale farmers to secure cereal and livestock production and bolster supply chains; and iv) regular reporting on the agricultural and food security situation in the country. Within the United Nations Flash Appeal, launched on 1 March 2022, FAO developed a rapid response plan requiring USD 50 million to assist about 100 000 vulnerable household family farms for the spring season. On 19 April 2022, within the UN's overall Flash Appeal revision, FAO updated its Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine, seeking USD 115.4 million to assist 979 320 rural people affected. About

9 percent of funds needed (USD 10.7 million) have been received to-date, enabling assistance for around 71 000 people.

In view of the potential negative impacts of the war on food security, both in Ukraine and globally, the document also contains a number of policy recommendations in order to reduce these impacts as much as possible. One distinctive recommendation is to keep trade in food and fertilizers open and avoid ad hoc and inward looking policies that can only exacerbate the situation. While such policies may work in the short term, they have adverse impacts over the medium term, both domestically and internationally.

In addition to the Rapid Response Plan, FAO has developed six concrete policy proposals to address the risks and impacts associated with the war. These include: i) establishing a Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF); ii) strengthening social protection for food security and nutrition; iii) assessing investment needs in Ukraine's agricultural reconstruction and recovery; iv) addressing animal health; v) assessing food insecurity in 2022/23 at national and sub-national levels in 50 countries vulnerable to the Ukraine-Russia crisis; and vi) using soil maps to promote efficient use of fertilizers. The Council is invited to note the information and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Since it was also requested by the Ambassador of Canada earlier, for an update on where we are standing with the facts and figures around the update, before I open the floor to the Members, it is a pleasure to give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and also thank him and his team for his hard work.

### **Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Thank you very much for allowing us to present where we are in terms of the impact of the war in Ukraine.

Let me first start with what we have been doing since March when the war started. What I have done here briefly is present all the updates we have been doing. In terms of the *Information Note*, there are three updates. The last one was uploaded over the weekend. There have been three updates to the Rapid Response Plan (RRP) The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), there have been five updates. Then, of course, we have the Traditional Food Price Index of FAO, the cereal supply and demand, the growth prospects and the outlook, all of which bring substantial information relative to the conflict.

We have also published a series of special reports. On 8 April, we published a report on the impact on rural labour markets, on social protection. The report on the reconstruction was published on 22 April, the land tenure effects on 22 April, also the gender-related impacts, which was a response to a request from Canada, on 22 April. The Youth Country Brief and the Ukraine on emergency commercial farmer monitoring was published on 27 May. On 6 June the second hunger report that also has some mentions to this.

Then, we have a series of policy proposals. Many of them were published on 8 June. There was an update on the fifth proposal that was published on 10 June, and it is both the proposal and also the brief with the latest numbers that we have in terms of the food import bills, updating all the documents and all the information country by country. And then, we also uploaded the food and loss and waste proposal.

Finally, in each of the Regional Conferences, we did presentations on the situation and updates on the situation. And every conference was targeted to specific countries of the regional conference and also, of course, including the Informal North American Regional Conference (INARC).

Now, what we have been saying and the important thing, first is that the concentration of the world exports is significant for cereals. And what we are observing today, because of the war, is what we also observed in the 2007, 2008 and 2011 crises, but not because of war but because of droughts, the issue of droughts in certain countries which were key exporters.

The key message here is that the level of concentration on a few countries being the key exporters is central and we need to change that in the future to increase the resilience. Specifically, right now, the

Russian Federation and Ukraine are key exporters of wheat, maize and sunflowers, as you can see herein the yellow bars and green bars.

One important addition that also comes up in this situation is that the same pattern of high concentration in the key exporting countries is also in the input markets and especially in the fertilizer market. The Russian Federation is the first exporter of nitrogen, the third exporter of phosphorus, and the second exporter of potassium in the world, which has put, because of export restrictions, the significant challenge that we are facing today in terms of access to inputs in the world.

Now, all our work has been around the risks that we have been discussing, and those risks, which you already know, and we have discussed them, are on food and agriculture, the macro aspects and the humanitarian aspects. Of course, humanitarian is a priority and FAO is working with its partners to provide food and also to mitigate the effects over migration and displaced people.

But on food and agriculture, we have seen a significant relationship between energy and input prices, not only through biofuels, which are biofuels for food, but also through energy and inputs, which is something new and links us to a different market that we did not know before.

We have also seen the impacts of the logistics that also started with COVID-19, but today we are also facing significant challenges in logistics and how the cost of transportation is increased. And trade, which is essential today, to move food across the world and we still see challenges.

Similarly, diseases, and the proliferation of African swine fever, for example, is something that we developed a proposal to minimize those risks, especially for neighboring countries in the case of grain, because they have African swine fever. And this affects both production and prices. That is why our food price index is so important and our production estimate is so important.

And the macro aspect, as I mentioned before, is the relationship with energy, but also the debt issues, the macroeconomic situations of many of the vulnerable countries which were net food importing countries, and which are facing significant challenges today, and which cannot cover the increase in their food import bill.

And that is why we keep insisting on the importance of the Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF), because it is something that will be helping these countries this year, to minimize those risks. And if you look at the document that has been updated, the costs are minimal if we assume that countries will repay back in a period of time. And, of course, the potential nuclear contamination.

But all of these risks are also underpinned by water distress and climate change. So, it is excellent news that we have our Climate Change Strategy approved, but also the importance of water constraints and how we can cope with this because this will bring up new uncertainties and risks. An uncertainty is when we do not know the distribution or the probabilities of the loss. Risk is we know them, therefore, we can insure them, but an uncertainty, we do not know them, and for that we need more information, to be able to work with that.

Let me quickly move to two additional topics.

First, the Food Price Index that we have saw in March reached a historical peak. And then, we saw April and May small reductions, although the cereal index continued to increase. The reductions in April were very informative, because it was the removal of an export restriction, which automatically lowered the vegetable oil prices, which are under a lot of stress because of the reduction of exports of sunflowers from Ukraine.

But we also see that the fertilizers, NPK, keep increasing, although the rate has started to slow down. But still, for farmers, is high and they cannot afford right now fertilizers, because of the high costs, which are increasing faster than the food and the prices of food that they sell their commodities. So, we still have a significant challenge. Things are improving a little bit but it is still not enough to be able to resolve the challenge, especially for the next planting season, which is what we are really concerned.

If we move to next, this is a graph that I think is really informative. Because basically what we look here for the COVID-19, for the food price crisis and for the Ukraine crisis, what is the level on the value of the export restrictions in terms of calories exported and traded.

As you can see, in the beginning, close to the first of two months, the level of export restrictions, because of the Ukraine crisis increased substantially to a point that was similar to what we had with the previous food crisis in 2008. In the case of COVID-19, we had a spike and then it disappeared. But the challenge right now is that it is still high, in difference to the food crisis. And there is a small decrease, but still the level of export restrictions in terms of the value of calories traded is higher than what we had in the food crisis in 2008.

So that is why it is so important that we need to support and continue supporting the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to bring transparency and information on availability of food and stock so that we can minimize those risks, and where all country Members have to support the fact that trade needs to continue flowing in the world so that we can move forward.

Now, finally, let me show you what we have been trying to show to bring us our policy recommendations and solutions. Of course, the first is the humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. And here, our Rapid Response Plan in Ukraine is trying to provide inputs and cash to maintain critical production systems, support agrifood systems, supply chains and markets, and provide accurate analysis and coordinating through the FSLC mechanism.

So, it is important that farmers keep producing. It also is important to support countries, the most vulnerable ones that have a balance of payments problems, especially to procure the food that they need. And for that, we keep working on updating and bringing all the technical information behind the Food Import Financing Facility.

And as the Director-General mentioned, this is something that has to be picked up by countries and potentially by the IMF and the World Bank. We know that the World Bank is doing part of this with some countries that are on our list, but this needs to be expanded and scaled up. Why? Because it will help the existing mechanisms, and especially it will lower the stress over these countries and avoid potential social unrest.

Then we have a set of proposals in efficiency gains. The first one, of course, is to keep trade open, which is central. The second one is to increase information and transparency through the AMIS, and then how we can improve the use of fertilizers and use them in a more efficient way.

We are proposing deployment of soil maps for the countries that need this so that we can use and reduce the waste of fertilizers and have better returns on them. But we also are proposing the reduction of food loss and waste. We now have a very comprehensive proposal that we have put up that is central to help countries and bringing proper data to minimize food loss and waste because it is not the time to waste the amount of food we are losing and wasting today. And, of course, better targeting and social protection.

And let me stop a second here because this is very important. With a minimum investment of USD 10 million, we can look to around 50 countries and provide information at a subnational level on the new hotspots of food insecurity. And still, we cannot get this funded. And this is central because it will help countries to target better their social protection programmes.

There are cases that you will see in the following months coming up of countries that have not adjusted their targeting and are facing significant challenges of hunger because of that. And it is crucial, that we invest in this.

And, finally, support a reconstruction and resilience building. We have provided a password recovery plan to support incomes and support farm liquidity and supply of critical inputs and compensation for lost assets. And we also are working on how to increase the resilience of vulnerable countries.

With that, let me stop, and thank you so much for your time.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and your team, for this excellent presentation. The facts and figures are very severe.

Distinguished delegates, dear friends, you have seen that several statements are already being circulated. With that, I would like to ask everybody to maintain as much as possible, but of course it is a serious situation, the limitations for the speaking slots. I now open the floor for the Members.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, la Argentina comparte la preocupación por los efectos globales y las repercusiones de la situación actual en los mercados y las cadenas de suministro de alimentos, lo que constituye un problema de seguridad alimentaria para muchos países, pero especialmente para los países en vías de desarrollo.

Los retos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial se exageran cada vez más y ponen en peligro la consecución de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. En este contexto, vale destacar el rol de nuestro país como proveedor de alimentos sanos, nutritivos y de calidad a nivel global. Como sucede, por ejemplo, en el mercado del trigo que, como destaca Sistema de Información de los Mercados Agrícolas (SIMA) en su último informe de junio de 2022, Argentina ha sido uno de los mayores exportadores a nivel mundial.

Concretamente, Argentina tuvo un significativo aumento en la producción de trigo pasando de 17 a 22 millones de toneladas en la campaña que terminó recientemente. Con un aumento del área sembrada y de las exportaciones que alcanzaron un máximo histórico y cerraron en los primeros meses del año 2022 con más de 14 millones de toneladas exportadas. Por ello, nuestro país no puede acompañar lo expresado en el párrafo 29 del documento *CL170/6, Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)*, ya que no toma en cuenta las cifras mencionadas que evidencian el creciente aporte de la Argentina como exportador de alimentos.

En este sentido quisiera, como siempre, recordar a la FAO y enfatizar la disposición de nuestro país para trabajar de manera mancomunada para corregir el documento, como ya lo hicimos en el pasado, a fin de que refleje la realidad de nuestro aporte. Medias verdades no son verdad. Recuerdo cuando algunos expresaban antes del conflicto que el precio de los alimentos estaban baratos y debían agregárseles las externalidades. Me gustaría saber qué piensan ahora.

En cuanto a las recomendaciones presentadas por la FAO, como señala el documento CL170/6, antes de la guerra en Ucrania los precios internacionales de los alimentos habían alcanzado un máximo histórico. Sin embargo, para atacar este y otros problemas que afectan la seguridad alimentaria global, se sugieren medidas coyunturales que están bien, pero se debe mencionar de manera clara la necesidad de avanzar en la liberación del comercio agrícola que, como hemos dicho al día de hoy, sigue siendo una vieja cuestión no resuelta. El comercio internacional es clave para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria global y para generar sostenibilidad como medio de vida de millones de personas.

Sin lugar a dudas, la Argentina está dispuesta a seguir cumpliendo su rol central como proveedor mundial de alimentos y comprometida con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 1 y 2.

Por último, agradecemos a la FAO por su labor y creemos que debe continuar liderando la sinergia con las demás Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), con atención y seguimiento de la crítica situación actual alentando a mantener el rigor científico y tomando en consideración los aportes de todos los Miembros.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

We wish to acknowledge FAO's efforts and response to the Ukraine-Russia conflict and its impact on global food security. Its swift response to assist, and detailed information provided on current challenges and risks has been commendable.

The FAO's policy proposals to address the global food security situation and the risk associated with the conflict is also noted. Specifically, the proposed policy on "Use of soil maps to promote efficient use of fertilizers". In the Caribbean, for example, a common problem associated with fertilizers is the inaccessibility due to pricing and physical availability. This has had adverse effects on crop prices in



2021 and also degraded the soil and surrounding environment. Lessons learnt from the successes of the Ethiopian producers that have used soil maps to identify the best blending of N, P and K fertilizers for their plots, thereby cutting the use of fertilizers while optimizing yields, can be shared with the Caribbean producers.

This past Wednesday on June 9, FAO along with the Soil Community of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean held a webinar that aimed at presenting on food practices, and uses and management of biofertilizers and other technological alternatives that are available to face the crisis of high fertilizer prices. The webinar presented innovative solutions related to the use of microorganisms, permaculture and precision farming, and bio-factories supported by the private and public sectors. More importantly was the need for policy development for environment and price protection.

FAO's proposed policy initiative looks to establish a self-sustaining, government-managed national soil database to become a public good to be used in public practices and private sector farmers could also benefit. The Caribbean region supports this goal to publish the country's total land mass for which soil information is available and to provide an accurate soil management information system and give advice to smallholder farmers to enhance efficiency and crop productivity, and yields.

Detailed information on the soil profile and its spatial distribution is essential for promoting sustainable agriculture, with precise inputs in quantity, space, and time as well as for providing information to support evidence-based decision making and policy development.

The Caribbean region calls on FAO to conduct a sub-regional programme to facilitate this proposed policy and to share its successful lessons learnt on soil management to reduce negative environmental impacts and to combat the high prices of fertilizers.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Norvège, la Moldavie, l'Ukraine, la Géorgie et San Marin se rallient à cette déclaration et sa version écrite est celle qui fait foi. Quatre mois après le déclenchement de la guerre d'agression injustifiée et non provoquée de la Russie contre l'Ukraine, il est important de poursuivre l'évaluation des impacts de cette guerre, sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition mondiale, et de dresser un bilan de la réponse de la FAO à cette crise.

Le Conseil, lors de sa 169<sup>ème</sup> Session Extraordinaire, et la Conférence Régionale pour l'Europe, lors de sa 33<sup>ème</sup> Session ont condamné de manière explicite les actes de la Russie, ils ont affirmé qu'ils constituaient une violation des objectifs et des buts de la FAO, tel que formulé dans le préambule de son acte constitutif, et ont émis des recommandations claires sur la manière dont la FAO doit y réagir. Nous attendons de la FAO, qu'elle agisse en conformité avec ces décisions, les mette pleinement en œuvre, et garantisse les droits de l'Ukraine en tant qu'État Membre de la FAO.

Nous remercions la FAO pour les informations transmises, nous attendons également de la Direction de la FAO, qu'elle aligne ses déclarations publiques et ses activités de plaidoyer sur lesdites décisions de ses organes directeurs. Comme indiqué dans les documents de la FAO, les prix de l'alimentation ont récemment atteint un niveau record. Les bouleversements causés par la guerre, ont produit d'importantes perturbations sur les marchés alimentaires, et ont conduit à la contraction du commerce mondial de céréales et autres produits alimentaires.

Contrairement à ce que prétend la Russie, les sanctions imposées par l'Union européenne et d'autres pays ne sont pas responsables de l'aggravation de la sécurité alimentaire et de la malnutrition. Elles ne visent pas le secteur agricole russe, pas plus qu'elles n'interdisent l'importation ou le transport des produits agricoles russes. À l'inverse, c'est la guerre d'agression injustifiée contre l'Ukraine et notamment la destruction des infrastructures logistiques ukrainiennes et le blocus des ports ukrainiens de la Mer Noire qui aggravent une situation déjà tendue.

La situation en Ukraine s'est considérablement détériorée depuis notre Session Extraordinaire le 8 avril. Nous devons poursuivre et accroître notre soutien à l'Ukraine et aux pays les plus touchés. Nous sommes fermement déterminés à aider l'Ukraine pour garantir que ses prochaines récoltes puissent être stockées en toute sécurité et que les produits agricoles puissent accéder aux marchés mondiaux. Nous

condamnons vivement la destruction et l'appropriation illégitime par la Russie de la production agricole en Ukraine. Les exportations de produits alimentaires, au départ des ports ukrainiens, actuellement impossibles en raison de la guerre terrestre et maritime menée par la Russie, doivent reprendre en toute sécurité.

Nous appelons la Russie à cesser ses attaques contre les infrastructures de transports en Ukraine, à lever le blocus des ports ukrainiens de la Mer Noire et à permettre les exportations alimentaires, notamment au départ d'Odessa. Au titre des mesures d'urgences, nous devons mettre en place des itinéraires logistiques et des services de fret alternatifs au départ et à destination de l'Ukraine. L'Union européenne et ses États membres œuvrent en ce sens à la mise en place de corridors de solidarité.

Nous attendons aussi de la FAO qu'elle use de son influence pour permettre l'aboutissement de ses efforts. Je souhaite à présent aborder les recommandations et propositions de la FAO. S'agissant des recommandations, premièrement, il est crucial de préserver le libre-échange, et d'empêcher que la guerre ait des effets négatifs sur les activités de production et de commercialisation en Ukraine. Nous sommes gravement préoccupés par le fait que les forces russes prennent pour cibles les infrastructures agricoles essentielles, notamment les installations de transport et de stockage. Nous soutenons les recommandations de la FAO visant à protéger les biens de productions ukrainiens.

Deuxièmement, la recherche de nouvelles sources plus diversifiées d'approvisionnement alimentaire est essentielle pour améliorer la résilience et la durabilité des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires. Les stocks alimentaires existants doivent être utilisés et la diversité des productions nationales renforcées en mettant l'accent sur les petites exploitations et exploitations familiales et sur l'accroissement de la production locale. Nous sommes attachés à coopérer avec nos partenaires.

Troisièmement, les pays doivent s'abstenir de toutes mesures injustifiées en matière d'exportation qui pourraient accentuer la hausse de la volatilité des prix et des intrants alimentaires.

Nous adhérons à la recommandation de la FAO de renforcer la transparence des marchés, et nous reconnaissons la contribution d'AMIS. Nous appelons tous ses membres à fournir des informations complètes et transparentes portant notamment sur les stocks. Nous encourageons également AMIS à approfondir ses travaux sur les niveaux des stocks mondiaux et à suivre étroitement le marché mondial des engrais, et nous appelons la FAO à renforcer son soutien à AMIS. S'agissant des propositions de la FAO, nous soutenons les propositions portant sur le renforcement de la protection sociale, l'évaluation des investissements nécessaires au relèvement et à la reconstruction de l'agriculture en Ukraine, ainsi que l'évaluation de l'insécurité alimentaire au niveau national et infranational des pays vulnérables.

Concernant la proposition de la FAO de créer un mécanisme de financement des importations alimentaires, nous souhaiterions disposer de plus d'informations, notamment sur la manière dont ce mécanisme s'articulerait avec d'autres initiatives internationales pour évaluer l'insécurité alimentaire. La FAO doit travailler avec d'autres organisations et initiatives concernées, notamment le réseau mondial. Nous soutenons pleinement la proposition sur la protection de la santé animale, notamment dans le cadre de l'approche Une Seule Santé, en collaboration avec la quadripartite. Nous partageons pleinement l'objectif de promouvoir une utilisation efficiente des engrais et les alternatives aux engrais.

À cet égard, il serait également utile de promouvoir la mise en œuvre des recommandations du code de conduite international. S'agissant de la proposition d'utiliser des cartes des sols, cela peut s'avérer utile à condition que des informations exactes et suffisamment précises soient disponibles, notamment au niveau des exploitations. Enfin, et en conclusion en ce qui concerne la réponse mondiale, l'Union européenne et ses États membres continueront à accroître leur coopération, notamment à travers l'alliance mondiale pour la sécurité alimentaire du G7, la Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission Farm et d'autres initiatives régionales ou nationales, en appui au groupe mondial des Nations Unies de réponse aux crises.

Nous continuerons de travailler de concert avec tous les partenaires concernés, pour prévenir toute nouvelle aggravation des crises alimentaires dans le monde.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We thank FAO for its timely analysis and policy recommendations on the effects of Russia's war of choice in Ukraine. Thanks in particular to Chief Economist Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and his team for their steadfast work. We reaffirm FAO's reports that Russia's war in Ukraine is devastating global markets and food supplies.

This crisis is touching lives across the globe, but it is the world's most vulnerable people who will pay the heaviest price. Soaring food prices and limited humanitarian resources are pushing communities to the brink. The United States is doing its part to lead a global response. Our Congress recently approved over USD 5 billion in new funding to address food security around the globe in the worst affected countries, showcasing America's commitment to doing everything we can to mitigate the effects of this emergency. And we will have news soon about how this funding will be allocated.

The United States also provides approximately USD 1 billion per year through the Feed the Future initiative to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition in over 35 countries, with programming in many of the country's most vulnerable to increases in food and fertilizer prices. We encourage others with the means to follow suit with funding or in-kind contributions. The time to act is now.

The United States reaffirms the vital role of the United Nations system in responding to the global food security crisis in particular through the work of FAO, WFP and IFAD. We underscored the importance of close coordination among the UN agencies throughout the emergency portion of this response to ensure comprehensive food security programming that addresses nutrition, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

FAO must build on the commitments from last month's Global Food Security ministerial event and work jointly to mitigate the mid and long term effects of recent shocks to the global agriculture and food systems. In doing so, FAO should leverage its convening power, private sector engagement and its participation in the UN Secretary-General's Crisis Group.

Meanwhile, global markets must remain open and transparent to ensure all countries have access to sufficient food and critical agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. We have already seen many countries taking measures such as export restrictions that lead to more uncertainty and more instability. Protectionism does more harm than good, and we urge open trade.

We further call on FAO to continue closely monitoring agricultural markets and to increase market transparency by sharing reliable and timely data on global food market developments. We seek to work with FAO and many of you in this room to improve fertilizer data, increased fertilizer use efficiency, improve soil mapping, and invest in research and development, all of which can help alleviate spiking fertilizer prices.

I must take a moment to address the disinformation campaign that is currently underway. Russia's attempt to blame others for the consequences of its actions is quite simply unacceptable, and the claims that sanctions are the problem are categorically false. US sanctions on the Russian Federation specifically allow transactions involving humanitarian commodities, and these include the export of food, fertilizer, seed and medicine from Russia.

Finally, we reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease all military activities, including all occupation and blockage of terrestrial and maritime agricultural transport routes. The Russian Federation must put an end to this war and restore food supply chains. The Russian Federation must stop using the world's food supply as a weapon. This is the quickest way to stop this global food security crisis and prevent further devastation.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia delivers a statement on behalf of the Members of the Asia region, which Japan does not participate in. We appreciate and thank FAO for its updated analysis and information contained in document *CL170/6*. The all-time record high reached by FAO's food price index in March 2022, rising prices of agricultural products fertilizers, energy and other agricultural services, the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts have multiple and severe implications on global food security, nutrition, health, environment and other related matters, especially for the most vulnerable people in the low income and food-deficit countries.

In this regard, we reiterate the importance of ensuring the proper functioning of global supply chains for food and agricultural products and avoid measures that will disrupt international trade. We support in principle FAO's policy proposals contained in section 5 paragraph 68 of documents *CL170/6*, and look forward to receiving more details and clarification on the envisaged functioning and funding modalities, whether from assessed or voluntary contributions, particularly with regard to the proposed establishment of the Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF). We concur with the proposed use of soil maps to promote efficient use of fertilizers and stand ready to share best practices and experiences from our region.

We are deeply concerned about the looming food crisis and strongly recommend to vigorously promoting the adoption of a context-specific farming solution to increase food and agricultural production through more sustainable and resilient food systems and supply chains.

Finally, we encourage further harnessing of several options offered by science, technology and innovation to increase productivity, enhance efficiencies, improve food storage and protect our planet in order to achieve one of the most basic human rights, the right to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food for all in the context of national food security.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

South Africa expressed itself on the Ukraine-Russia conflict in meetings of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the 169th Session of the FAO Council. South Africa has deep concerns about the loss of life, the humanitarian impact, and the forced displacement of people as a result of the conflict in Ukraine is reiterated.

We urge all to uphold and protect human rights and abide by their obligations in terms of international law and international humanitarian law, including adherence to the additional protocols of the Geneva conventions that are related to the objects indispensable to survival.

Chairperson, the update provided on the impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on the global food security is welcomed and the FAO Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, is commended for providing the detailed information and conclusions. And, therefore, the FAO reports and statistics could be of service to the Special Task Group of the Secretary-General on Food and Energy.

The Director-General of the FAO is commended for his proactive initiatives related to this conflict, including the activation of the Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine. South Africa finds merit in the six concrete policy proposals made in addition to the Rapid Response Plan of the FAO to address the risks and the impacts of this conflict such as the Food Import the Financing Facility (FIFF), efficient use of fertilizers, animal health, and social protection, which the Council can consider for endorsing.

The update highlighted the potential global constraints in relation to the supply of especially wheat and fertilizers. South Africa is concerned if the conflict will inhibit national and global economic growth due to the escalation in food prices, and the rise of food insecurity. How then to increase the resilience in global food systems?

Similarly, FAO should also evaluate the impact of food insecurity in other conflict areas, and what response would be appropriate for the FAO to mitigate and its impact on food availability, malnutrition, and other vulnerable groups. To facilitate such evaluation, consideration could be given to a standardized approach by the FAO to continue to monitor and report data on the impact of conflicts. And as it relates to the mandate of the FAO and to proactively bring this to the attention of the FAO Governing Bodies and regularized as an Agenda Item.

In this context, South Africa's Minister of Agriculture had two consultations with the food processors, and leaders in the food and grains industry, and therefore, from those discussions, availability of food supplies and farming inputs amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As a result, of these consultations, confirmation was obtained that there are sufficient food supplies for Southern Africa and South Africa for countries in the foreseeable future.

These supplies have also been bolstered due to the excellent 2021 harvesting season in Southern Africa, of grains, oil seeds and citrus. The task team led by the National department is related to the

work of the Marketing Council in Agriculture for South Africa, and therefore has been mandated to monitor the impacts of this conflict and escalation of food prices, animal feed and fertilizers.

Therefore, South Africa wishes to underline the importance of sharing information about food production conditions, which will facilitate planning and response if needed, and therefore would like to address the issues related to funding for new entrant farmers crop and animal disease occurrences and underlying the flow of agriculture-related commodities, which must remain unhindered.

We conclude, by asking that the Council should take note of the decisions of the 169th Session of the Council in respect to the conflict through a vote, and in that South Africa appeals that for this current Council we should avoid, as far as possible, taking decisions through this mechanism because there are established practices of consensus that would focus the FAO in order for us to focus on the technical organizational work of this institution.

That is the input that South Africa makes.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Allow me to; first of all, congratulate FAO for its continuous efforts to implement policies, which mitigate the devastating effects of conflict and crisis, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Regarding this subject, there is no doubt about the direct and deep relation between armed conflict and hunger. However, let us not forget that crisis will not fade away unless resources for development are provided and efforts to find the root causes of unde development are put in place.

In view of that, we would like to reinforce the need not to lose focus on the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. If we fail to workon the three pillars of sustainable development, chances of guaranteeing long lasting peace and security are considered considerably diminished.

If the path to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was already disrupted by the consequence of COVID-19 pandemic, now, with the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the world faces new and even more complex challenges. We have been daily confronted with sad statistics reporting losses of lives, forced displacement, serious implications to the humanitarian situation on the ground, repercussions to food prices and trade, record-high inflation, diminished access and affordability of fertilizers and other inputs and serious threats to food security at the global level.

In this dire scenario, developing countries are the most affected, especially the most vulnerable ones, which are losing access to vital food markets and supplies.

As continually highlighted by FAO, the current levels of food insecurity are not a consequence of food scarcity, but rather a result of decreased affordability and accessibility.

In line with the guidance proposed by document *CL170/6*, drafted by the Chief Economist of FAO, Brazil would like to echo the recommendations to:(a) keep trade in food and fertilizers open; (b) avoid trade restrictive barriers such as competitive export restrictions or prohibitions; (c) abstain from imposing unilateral measures with me in dangers a country's capacity to participate in free international agriculture markets; (d) refrain from an unnecessary accumulation of food stocks and e) strengthen market transparency and dialogue.

Finally, Brazil takes note of FAO policy proposals presented in the document and stresses the need to implement not only emergency policies to protect and safeguard the basic rights of those directly and indirectly affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflictbut also to guarantee long-term solutions to all vulnerable populations suffering from food insecurity.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Indonesia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Malaysia on behalf of members of Asia region, which Japan does not participate in.

Indonesia is concerned with the continuing crises of the global food security situation. Indeed, this dire situation calls for the urgency to step up common and coordinated actions as well as financial assistance that could enable the world community to address these complicated challenges.

While there are multiple and intersecting factors that may further worsen the global food security situation, it is undeniable that war has created and aggravated world food insecurity.

Thus, we want to reiterate that wars and armed conflict should be immediately stopped, and dialogue as well as constructive efforts and actions must be put forward.

To this end, Indonesia continuously supports FAO assessments, proposals, initiatives and concrete actions in addressing emerging challenges in today's global food security situation.

We thank the FAO Management for the document and update provided. Indonesia further invites FAO to provide regular briefings to Members on its monitoring and concrete efforts on the ground to this end.

**Sra. Cecilia Beatriz CÁCERES VALDEZ (Guatemala)**

En nombre de la delegación de Guatemala agradecemos el documento *CL 170/6 Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)* elaborado por la Secretaría de esta Organización, en respuesta a la solicitud realizada por el Consejo en su 169.º período de sesiones, ante las preocupantes repercusiones del aumento de la inseguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial por la agresión militar y la invasión injustificada por las fuerzas armadas de la Federación de Rusia contra Ucrania.

Consideramos oportuna la reorientación de las actividades de la FAO en Ucrania, enfocándose en acciones humanitarias, por lo que encomendamos su labor de coordinación con otras agencias del sistema de Naciones Unidas para atender esta crisis que proyecta tener fuertes repercusiones en la situación del hambre en el mundo.

Asimismo, valoramos los esfuerzos realizados para la implementación del plan de respuesta rápida para Ucrania y llegar así a los más vulnerables para actuar de inmediato y salvar vidas.

Respecto a las seis propuestas en materia de políticas para hacer frente a la inseguridad alimentaria y a los riesgos asociados al conflicto, consideramos importante abordar el tema de los mecanismos para apoyar a los países de renta media que también están siendo afectados por el incremento de precios, dado que el indicador de renta deja por fuera la realidad de las vulnerabilidades y desigualdades sociales.

Este conflicto nos afecta a todos, a través de la espiral inflacionaria en los mercados del petróleo, productos agrícolas, alimentos básicos y otras materias primas. Particularmente para mi país, que se basa en la agricultura de subsistencia, que es el fundamento de la vida de miles de hogares guatemaltecos, y se están viendo afectados por el incremento en los precios de los insumos agrícolas a nivel internacional.

Mi delegación reitera que Guatemala aboga por que el gobierno ruso cese sus hostilidades, retire todas sus fuerzas y equipos militares de Ucrania, y vuelva a la senda del diálogo y la diplomacia, para evitar que este brutal conflicto continúe afectando entre otros, a la seguridad alimentaria, la energía, la salud y la vida de las poblaciones involucradas, y el resto del mundo.

Reafirmamos nuestro apoyo y solidaridad al pueblo y al Gobierno ucraniano, abogando por el respeto de la vida, la paz, la soberanía, su integridad territorial y sus fronteras internacionalmente reconocidas.

**Mr Pierre-Emmanuel DE BAUW (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

Firstly, Belgium reaffirms the decisions adopted by the FAO Council at its 169th Session and by the European Regional Conference at its 33rd session. We urge FAO to continue implementing these decisions and expect FAO leadership to fully align its public statements with the decisions of its Governing Bodies.

Secondly, let me reiterate Belgium's full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and with the people in need worldwide because of the impact of the unprovoked and unjustified aggression by Russia, in particular the ones deriving their livelihoods from agriculture.

The war in Ukraine has severe consequences for global food security. In March, the FAO Food Price Index reached an all-time high, particularly regarding prices for staple foodstuffs such as wheat and vegetable oils, imposing extraordinary cost on consumers, particularly the poorest. High energy, transportation and food prices are having a negative effect on the whole supply chain. As a result, millions of people are at risk of famine and the achievement of the food and nutrition security goals therefore becomes even more unrealistic.

Thirdly, Belgium welcomes the FAO webpage on the response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. We underline the need for a continued update of this platform to allow easy access to the latest information. We also would like to be given clarification on how FAO is aligning its resources to respond to this crisis: what impact does this conflict have on FAO to deliver its Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 and its Strategic Framework 2022-31?

Fourthly, regarding the proposed policy recommendations, we reaffirm our commitment to keeping trade in food open, avoiding ad hoc policy decisions such as export restrictions, the need to facilitate transport and logistics, and strengthening market transparency and dialogue. We hereby highlight the ongoing importance of FAO's response being grounded in data and science. In this regard, we welcome the rapid response efforts of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Let us be very clear: contrary to some false claims, the sanctions imposed by the EU and other countries are not responsible for growing food insecurity and malnutrition. These sanctions do not target the Russian agricultural sector nor do they prohibit the import and transportation of Russian agricultural goods. On the contrary, it is the unjustified Russian war against Ukraine, especially the destruction of the infrastructure of Ukraine as well as the blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports that exacerbate the already tight supply situation on world markets.

There is only one way to resume agricultural activities and improve global food security, and this is the end of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Muchas gracias al Economista Jefe, Sr. Máximo Torero Cullen, por la presentación de los informes. Nicaragua agradece, además, por la presentación de todos los documentos y actualización sobre las repercusiones del conflicto entre la Federación de Rusia y Ucrania en la seguridad alimentaria. Y expresa, además, su reconocimiento a la FAO por su labor tanto en Ucrania como en otra zona afectada por el conflicto.

Nos preocupa, lógicamente, como creo que a todos, el alza de los precios internacionales de los productos básicos alimenticios como el maíz, el trigo, la colza, los productos forestales y pesqueros, de energía y fertilizante, siendo la Federación de Rusia, como sabemos, y Ucrania proveedores diferentemente destacados a escala mundial. Estos aumentos de los precios de los productos, de las materias primas están perjudicando a las economías, en particular a los segmentos más vulnerables de la población a nivel global.

Reconocemos el papel destacado por la FAO en coordinar y colaborar con otras entidades y órganos pertinentes del sistema de Naciones Unidas para buscar financiamiento, especialmente también la colaboración con los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) con el objetivo, obviamente, de paliar las consecuencias del conflicto en la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura con acciones puntuales dentro del plan de respuesta rápida.

Tomamos nota del llamamiento internacional de las Naciones Unidas, al cual se ha sumado la FAO en el mes de marzo y abril de 2022, pero también nos preocupa al respecto que se haya recaudado solo el 9% de los fondos necesarios para la ayuda humanitaria. Al igual, vemos con preocupación cómo los presupuestos para financiar los costos de la guerra, las coordinaciones para asistencia militar, las medidas para aplicar sanciones en detrimento de la cooperación humanitaria estén constituyendo, contribuyendo al estancamiento económico y la inflación a escala mundial exacerbando el hambre, afectando a los países y poblaciones más vulnerables del planeta.

Durante el período transcurrido entre marzo y mayo de 2022, 75 países aplicaron 1 9268 medidas comerciales restrictivas, restricciones y sanciones económicas y financieras. Claro, no es de extrañar que el mundo se enfrenta ahora ante una crisis alimentaria y energética y a un aumento de los precios sin precedentes. Por ello, abogamos por un diálogo constructivo, una colaboración más estrecha entre Agencias con acciones puntuales y propositivas.

Coincidimos con las propuestas presentadas en materia de políticas y alentamos a la FAO a seguir proporcionando datos y análisis sobre las implicaciones de los conflictos en curso para la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura mundial, movilizandorecursos y capacidades técnicas para prestar asistencia dentro de los límites impuestos y en consonancia con el mandato de la Organización.

**Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)**

China aligns with the statement of the Asia Group, given by Malaysia, excluding Japan. China has always appreciated the FAO response within its mandate.

The FAO has utilized its organizational capabilities to provide monitoring and analysis of the global food crisis. This has provided very timely information to the Members. In order to respond to the global challenge on food security, China encourages FAO, firstly, to focus on safeguarding food security and the poverty alleviation, focusing on the supply and the demand and price of food commodities, and provide analysis of them so that Members, especially developing countries, can improve their food security capacity and agricultural productivity.

Secondly, to strengthen partnership and policy coordination. For those countries who are facing more challenges and for vulnerable groups of populations, FAO should provide more support.

We welcome the FAO's analysis and policy proposals and we encourage the FAO to strengthen its partnership and policy coordination with other agencies so that we can respond to the rising prices and support these countries to address these challenges.

Thirdly, to strengthen agricultural cooperation globally so that the agricultural products can be traded smoothly and we encourage FAO to cooperate multilaterally and facilitate the trade and the logistics of food and agricultural products.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine. Australia reiterates its calls for the immediate cessation of the use of force against Ukraine, including the targeting of civilians, and civilian food supply and agriculture infrastructure, which is leading to further aggravation of world food insecurity.

Australia supports the FAO's important role in responding to the consequences of this war both within Ukraine, and on world food security and agriculture. We recall the request in Council Report 169 to keep members notified through regular briefings, consultations and reporting to the FAO governing bodies, and request further efforts in this regard.

Similarly, we underscore the need for the FAO to improve communication of all the good work being conducted, alongside a clearer articulation of the differentiation of these efforts compared with other international organisations.

We broadly support the policy recommendations presented in Council document *CL170/6* but we request, in writing, further information on the specifics of some of the proposals, in particular the Food Import Financing Facility.

For example, we note that no Pacific Island countries are listed in the annex available on the FAO website, despite several of these countries experiencing very high inflation rates by global standards. We would also welcome further detail on the commitment required by benefitting countries to invest in sustainable agricultural productivity.

In closing, Australia continues to reiterate that a strong commitment to science and rules-based trade, and a concerted effort to avoid interventionist policies is needed now more than ever.



Domestic protections like trade barriers or subsidies might initially sound appealing during a crisis, but experience and evidence shows that such measures actually make economies weaker and are more costly in the long run.

This serves against our highest priority - to ensure food can make its way to the most vulnerable.

But the greatest and most immediate improvement will come from peacebuilding efforts and, in particular, the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden. We fully align ourselves with the European Union (EU) statement.

During the last months, we have witnessed the horrifying human suffering, including a growing number of reports on sexual and gender-based violence, following the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We express our full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemn, in the strongest terms, the unprovoked aggression by the Russian Federation as well as the involvement of Belarus.

The past months have also shown how the Russian aggression has destroyed key infrastructure and hindered agricultural production. Rebuilding the country will take years.

The 169th FAO Council clearly condemned Russia's actions and provided guidance on how to tackle the crisis. We, the Nordic countries, request FAO to continue implementing the 169th Council decisions.

The consequences do not only affect Ukraine but go far beyond the European region. The Russian aggression has adverse impacts on global food security, adding to an already severe situation caused by COVID-19 and climate change.

As underlined by others, the increased global food insecurity is a direct effect of the Russian aggression and not caused by sanctions. The poorest people and countries dependent on food imports are hit the hardest. This alarming scenario is likely to remain for years, and we expect FAO to continue to play an active role within the multilateral system. At this point we also want to express our appreciation for the hard work of the Organization's staff under these challenging circumstances.

We encourage FAO to publish updated assessments of the rising levels of global food insecurity and continue to provide technical advice to help countries achieve sustainable food production. It is also critical to analyse and act on the gender gap in the global food crisis.

We acknowledge the FAO Rapid Response Plan. The next phase must be developed in close collaboration with Ukraine stakeholders and have a long-term perspective, focusing on building resilience and implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

We welcome the policy recommendations presented in document *CL 170/6*. We would like to give the following comments:

We strongly support the call to keep food trade open, avoid all export restrictions and resume food exports from Ukraine.

We highlight the importance of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and continued collaboration with all relevant partners to monitor the situation, ensure transparency, and minimize any adverse effects on global markets.

We also share concerns for risks related to animal health and diseases and the need to address these, particularly through a One Health approach.

We reiterate our request to FAO to develop plans on how the Organization, within its mandate, can support countries to mitigate consequences for global food security, especially focusing on countries that are highly dependent on imports from Ukraine and Russia, and most affected by the impact of rising prices of food, fertilizers, and energy.

In performing these tasks, we expect FAO to continue to coordinate closely with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other relevant UN actors as well as multilateral development banks and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Collaboration with civil society organizations and other stakeholders is also necessary.

It is crucial that we respond to the immediate humanitarian needs, in Ukraine and in other crises around the world. The Nordic countries are major donors to the UN development system, and we will continue our support to other humanitarian crises around the world, which now risk deteriorating further. We will continue to focus on flexible and predictable core support and encourage others to do the same.

The decisive way to improve the situation is to halt the Russian Federation's invasion. Therefore, I take this opportunity to call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine.

**Mr Abdelmageed Mohamed ELTAYEB (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

There is no doubt about the direct negative impacts of the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on food security. Sudan has been impacted by this conflict. Indeed, we have moved from maize to wheat and we are trying to import from other sources.

We do have an ambitious national plan to produce wheat in Sudan. Indeed, because of our food needs and because we have the natural resources necessary for the production, we can increase our production and export to the neighbouring countries. We are capable of meeting our needs and meeting the needs of neighbouring countries. Therefore, we do need partnerships with other institutions and other countries in order to increase our production of wheat. This would bring about food security in terms of cereals.

As for the impact of the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, we do endorse all proposals contained in the relevant document

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

An extensive account of the situation, including statistics that point to the underlying causes of the situation, was provided in our background note of 3 June. The context of my statement has also been submitted to the Secretariat and I hope that it will be taken into account in the preparation of the report. I would like to focus briefly on the following:

First, the Russian Federation will continue to act as a reliable supplier of agricultural products and fertilizer. The beginning of this agricultural season from then until 5 June, grain supplies to the following markets reached more than 41 million tonnes, of which wheat totaled 35 million tonnes, barley over 3.5 million tonnes and maize 3.2 million tonnes. In particular, in the month of May this year, the Russian Federation shipped grain to Egypt, 130 000 tonnes; to the Republic of Türkiye, 74 000 tonnes; to Iran; to Sudan; to Nigeria and a number of other countries.

Second, on sanctions and trade restrictions, which are alleged to have an impact on agricultural production as claimed by our European partners.

***Continues in English***

Unfortunately, I do not have my Russian credit card handy but I will promise I will bring it tomorrow so I can do an experiment. I will invite Ms Jennifer Harhigh or Ms Céline Jurgensen or you, Independent Chairperson, to the cafeteria on the 8th Floor for a cup of coffee with a croissant.

I believe that you will not be surprised that the transaction will not go through because all major Russian banks are switched from the Swift system, including Rossel'hoz Bank, which by the name is the major agricultural bank where most of the agricultural transactions go through internationally.

***Continues in Russian***

While there is an incredible demand for Russian grain and fertilizers, we have faced the imposition of direct sanctions and related invisible barriers to Russian agricultural products. Such invisible barriers include the blocking of bank accounts, as I mentioned before, the freezing of credit lines, the refusal of

cargo insurance, the creation of an artificial shortage of ships by banning entry to ports, and a number of other sanction-related initiatives introduced by the United States, the European Union and their partners. Moreover, it should be said that if these sanctions are prolonged, then there will be major issues, not this current year but much more massively next year.

Third, we believe that it is necessary to take a balanced approach to statements regarding the world food shortage. The main issue is not the shortage of food, but the galloping rise of food prices and this is explicitly stated in the second report of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance dated 8 June. I suggest that our colleagues read this report.

Fourth, and here specifically on Ukraine, we would like Ukraine and its liberated [XX] and Donbas Republics to remain self-sufficient in terms of food security and also suppliers of food, including grains in the global markets. But let us look at the facts. This requires supplying through the Black Sea ports and these have to be demined for that to take place and they have been mined by the Ukrainian side and Ukraine does not seem to be in any hurry to remove those mines. The port of Mariupol has been demined by the Russian forces and as well as in the Azov Sea.

Now a few facts. Mr Máximo Torero Cullen will forgive me if I say this to the colleagues but regarding the grain in Ukraine, we are speaking of 20 million tonnes, allegedly. Now, this is equal to 2.5 percent of the global volume of grains and that is 2.5 percent of the global volume and 0.5 percent of the global food in general. Now, do you seriously think that this is the solution to the issue of hunger on a global scale? I sincerely doubt so.

In conclusion, here are a few figures for the sake of comparison. The supply of weapons to Ukraine by two North American states alone, Members of NATO, this year, and this is based on official data communicated by them, amounts to USD 55 billion. Now, this may be reason enough to think about NATO's potential and its approach to ending the conflict.

Now, FAO's total budget, as is known, is equal to USD 3.5 billion. This is reason enough to think about which goal is more important - prolonging the military absence or ensuring food security.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada is resolutely committed to supporting those people around the world impacted by the consequences of the Russian Federation's illegal and unjustifiable invasion of another UN Member. We continue to see that Russia's war is not just an attack on Ukraine it has unleashed an agricultural crisis around the world, threatening to use food as a weapon, and for which the consequences are likely to impact global agricultural production for years to come. Worsening already dire food insecurity.

Disinformation has already been spread about sanctions and their impact on global food prices. Today the message is simple. First, sanctions on the Russian Federation are the direct result of its aggression, and they explicitly do not target agriculture, food, and commodities. And second, and in response to the previous speaker. The surest route to ending the sanctions is for the Russian Federation to halt its aggression.

Given the consequences of Russia's war of choice, Canada is responding with food supplies, innovation, finance, trade, and enhanced coordination. As one of the largest food exporters in the world, Canada is leaning in to increase productivity. The total acreage for Canadian wheat is expected to increase by 7 percent this crop year, and we are investing USD 4 million dollars to increase our ability to bring more cereals, grains and oats into international markets.

Canada's also leveraging innovative ideas to support farmers. Our agricultural sector has a long track record of scientific technical and social innovations to improve performance and we are looking at ways to share more of Canada's technical expertise with developing countries to help increase global productivity in conservation tillage, fertilizer application, water management and other technical fields.

Financially to date in 2022, Canada has provided over USD 238 million to the World Food Programme to meet global needs millions more to IFAD and regional development banks, and this builds on over 800 million USD in support to agriculture and food systems last year.

Regarding trade, Canada is doubling its investment in Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and will work with partners to explore broadening it to include fertilizers. We also are advocating to keep trade flowing, as it keeps prices lower, reduces price volatility, and enables people to access the food they need.

And, finally, on coordination. We are working closely with G7 partners in setting up new initiatives, such as the New Alliance for Global Food Security spearheaded by Germany, and will serve as the co-Chair of the Global Agricultural Food Security Programme.

Real progress on food security demands gender sensitive action on climate change, food production, processing, storage, and enabling farmers to earn better incomes through inclusive food systems. But, it also needs peace.

We stand ready to work with the FAO and other partners to deliver on its ambition. And we support the policy recommendations in *CL 170/6*. We are confident in FAO's ability to support a global response and reiterate our expectations that it will follow through on the outcomes of the April 8, 2022 Special Session.

The requests of the Director-General that were contained in the report of the 169th Session of Council remain as relevant today as they were then.

Finally, we would like to thank the FAO and the Chief Economist in particular, for the updates published in the last few days and the brief presentation at the beginning of this Session. Our appetite for timely insights remain strong, including on tools like the food import financing facility, and these briefings helped shape our own response. And we welcome this ongoing effort.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I am trying to be very brief, as brief as possible. I would like to join some of the previous speakers, colleagues to condemn the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the stronger stance and the barriers here are the violation of the financial role and their change the status quo, of course, which cannot be at all accepted and tolerated in the international community.

We are very much concerned with the global food security situation created by Russian aggressions against the Ukraine. We are very much concerned that some of the countries are suffering from the dislike of the Ukrainians, wheat and grains, especially those countries in Africa, those developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Also, we have to stand with the stability of the international commodity market and the food stuff that is affecting not only the most vulnerable countries, but also all countries in the international community, including Japan.

We have already engaged in the providing assistance to those who are most affected in those countries I have just mentioned in cooperation with the international organization such as FAO and WFP, we have already provided the food assistance to those countries, such as Yemen, Sri Lanka and the other countries in Africa. And also we have already made humanitarian assistance to the Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

We cannot accept any of the false and disinformation that the Russian Federation is trying to advocate, which is that our sanctions is the cause for the global security crisis. On the contrary, our sanctions against Russia are carefully designed not to impact negatively the food supply to the global market and the global community. And also, the fertilizers.

So, we would clearly declare that we should not be fooled by those false information, but we declare with a formal stance that our sanctions against the Russian Federation are not the cause at all for this crisis.

We feel very much concerned with the situation. Therefore, we would like to share some thoughts on how we should tackle this challenge.

We believe that three things are important. We should maintain international trade flow. In the long-term we should expand the productivities. And also we should keep the sound and the fair and the open international trade by discouraging unnecessary export restrictions and unnecessary stockpiling.

We call for the international community, including the Russian Federation, to realize what we call the humanitarian goods passage, which enables us to provide food to the people in need. Well, now even more important than before and we would like to continue closely with FAO and the international community and I hope that is the FAO is going to make a tremendous effort to meet the necessary at this moment.

Last but not least, the most important immediate solution to this food security crisis is to cease the Russian military aggression against Ukraine.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

May I please ask everybody to obey the time limits, because we are getting pressed for time.

#### **Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)**

Me permito comenzar esta intervención reafirmando la posición de México en torno al conflicto en Ucrania que ha sido presentada en el marco de la Asamblea General y del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas y en sesiones anteriores de este Consejo. México condena toda forma de violencia y continúa exigiendo el cese inmediato de las hostilidades y de cualquier ataque contra la población civil o la infraestructura de carácter civil. Continuamos insistiendo en la importancia y la urgencia de que la asistencia humanitaria llegue en forma expedita, segura e irrestricta.

Dicho esto, me permito hacer un par de reflexiones sobre el tema que estamos tratando. La primera de ellas se refiere a lo que la FAO ha hecho y puede o debe de continuar haciendo ya que nosotros, los que estamos presentes en esta sala, somos el Organismo que debe orientar las acciones de la FAO dentro del marco de su mandato. No podemos pedirle cosas que están fuera del mandato.

En este sentido, comenzamos por expresar nuestro agradecimiento y nuestro reconocimiento a la Dirección de la FAO y al Economista Jefe, Doctor Máximo Torero Cullen, por el importante esfuerzo que están realizando para aportar elementos que permitan a toda la membresía de la FAO desarrollar estrategias para enfrentar esta crisis. Habrá que reconocer que la implementación de estas Estrategias y las soluciones propuestas no serán fáciles ni de resultados inmediatos y tomarán tiempo, por lo que es importante seguir fortaleciendo las acciones de la FAO a nivel nacional, local y regional y comprometer nuestro apoyo como Miembros para lograr y expandir la aplicación de las iniciativas que nos presentó el Economista Jefe. Sin nuestro apoyo, esto no será posible.

La segunda reflexión es mucho más compleja, pues la actual encrucijada cuya solución, más allá de los mandatos de la FAO, nos demanda un verdadero esfuerzo multilateral y la puesta en marcha de iniciativas de corto, mediano y largo plazo que no solo den respuesta a los problemas actuales de la guerra en Ucrania, sino que ataquen de fondo las causas de la inseguridad alimentaria. Debemos aprovechar esta crisis, por triste que sea, para hacer un innovador esfuerzo orientado a transformar los sistemas alimentarios desde los territorios rescatando sistemas locales, fortaleciendo el comercio pero, sobre todo, construyendo a partir del reconocimiento de los derechos humanos básicos y actuar en libertad. Debemos seguir insistiendo en alcanzar la paz y poner fin a todos los conflictos en los foros pertinentes.

México reafirma su compromiso con la comunidad internacional y con la FAO para trabajar en la búsqueda de estas soluciones con el convencimiento de que podemos construir un mundo mejor para nuestros hijos y para nuestros nietos y para las generaciones por venir. Necesitamos un multilateralismo que ponga en el centro de su interés el bienestar de lo que hoy llamamos la familia global.

#### **Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia highly values FAO's analysis and information contained in the presentation by the Chief Economist and the report "*Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*".

Malaysia stresses the importance of keeping the global food trade system open and at the same time, reiterating the importance of ensuring proper functioning of the global supply chains for food and agricultural products and what measures would disrupt international trade. As food access, production

and overall food availability deteriorate, we must scale up our efforts to bolster agricultural production and food supply chains to minimise or avert a food crisis.

Malaysia welcomes the development of concrete policy proposals to address the global food security situation and the risks associated with the conflict, for instance, the Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF). Malaysia appreciates that FIFF is strictly based on needs and limited to low and lower middle income net food importing countries that would allow vulnerable food importing countries to mitigate adverse impacts of soaring food prices and ensure food security.

Malaysia appreciates, once again, FAO's efforts to provide agricultural assistance, support the continuity of farming operations and at the same time, support agrifood value chains to those most affected by conflict all around the world through the Rapid Response Plan. Malaysia encourages FAO to continue providing updated analysis and close monitoring of the implications on global food security situation and agricultural commodity markets and regularly reporting to Members in line with its mandate. In this regard, Malaysia supports FAO's efforts in strengthening and expanding the use of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to foster trust in the global agriculture markets and enhance the positive impact it can have on global agriculture markets.

Malaysia welcomes the policy recommendations presented in the document and requests FAO to have more strategic collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) in providing policy recommendations to minimise the global food crisis by focusing on the recovery and resilience of the agrifood systems and at the same time, humanitarian assistance.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

At the outset, we would like to express our thanks to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, the Chief Economist of FAO, for this important briefing. We thank him for his efforts from the outset of this crisis.

We are facing regional and international challenges as well as pandemics and climate change impacts. This is impacting global food security and causing disruptions across global markets. We are facing various disruptions leading to soaring prices of food staples.

We believe that the situation will not go back to normal very soon. These challenges arising from the various developments have impacts on the agricultural sectors. We are also facing water scarcity, climate changes, desertification, and soil deterioration and soaring prices of production. That is why we need to accelerate our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is important to take rapid measures to ensure flexibility, to face the shocks and pandemics that are impacting food security.

It is very important to urge international financial institutions (IFIs) and the energy sectors as well as FAO and the other UN bodies, to provide more investments and to find innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the transformation of agrifood systems. It is very important also to raise awareness about food consumption patterns.

Egypt would like to welcome the proposal, of the new mechanism for the Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF), as mentioned by the Chief Economist.

We need to boost this proposal alongside the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). We would like to mention that we have adopted various initiatives to support food security, like the National School Feeding Program and the initiative launched by our President el-Sisi, which is the Decent Living, aiming at changing lives in rural communities in Egypt. We also aim to change the lives of 60 million people in more than one province in Egypt.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Mi delegación preferiría no tener que referirse a conflictos armados en esta Plenaria al no considerarlos el espacio pertinente para deliberar al respecto. No obstante ello, la precaria situación de vulnerabilidad de los más necesitados entre los más necesitados no nos deja otra opción, sobre todo ante las nuevas amenazas que están surgiendo y que ponen en riesgo el brote de otros enfrentamientos.

Para Costa Rica la seria afectación que están padeciendo los sistemas alimentarios no tiene una única fuente, pues es de todos conocidos que la guerra provocada por la Federación de Rusia en contra de

Ucrania ha sido antecedida por otros fenómenos que han incidido fuertemente en los sistemas productivos y distributivos de los productos agroalimentarios, como los trastornos económicos producto de la pandemia, la crisis de los contenedores y los feroces acontecimientos armados que existen en otros rincones del planeta, algunos de los cuales son ya de vieja data.

Sin embargo, hemos sido convocados para referirnos a esa realidad en concreto y cómo repercute en la seguridad alimentaria. En el caso concreto de mi país, los productores agrícolas costarricenses incluyendo los de frutas tropicales y cafetaleros han comenzado a observar una afectación en el rendimiento de sus cultivos a raíz de la escasez de fertilizantes y su consecuente aumento de precio. Además, el incremento en el precio del petróleo a nivel internacional incide directamente en el precio de los combustibles a nivel nacional, con efectos directos en los precios de la gasolina, el transporte de personas y bienes de consumo.

Pero más allá de estos datos estadísticos a causa de lo que está ocurriendo, mi delegación desea hacer la siguiente reflexión. Cuando soplan vientos de guerra es imposible que los fantasmas del hambre, la pobreza, la desnutrición, la escasez, la migración forzada y el desempleo no se conviertan en el monstruo de mil cabezas que se cierne sobre nosotros y lo peor, sobre los más pobres. Por ello, como representante de un país con más de 75 años sin ejército, deseo hacer un llamado firme y enérgico a la paz, pues esta es la única salida si deseamos lograr un mundo mejor para las futuras generaciones.

Consideramos que una de las manifestaciones más sublimes de la naturaleza del ser humano es el diálogo como medio de comunicación entre individuos. Las armas, en cambio, irrumpen y transgreden lo natural. Allá donde suenan las armas, ojalá pudiéramos escuchar el canto de los niños y jóvenes que merecen vivir un mundo mejor con mejores oportunidades. Si alguna fuerza debemos utilizar, que sea la de la razón y por ello insto a los Miembros de este Consejo a procurar el diálogo y no las divisiones. Históricamente, tanto la Federación de Rusia como Ucrania han jugado un papel trascendental en el suministro de los mercados mundiales. Solo alcanzando la paz ambas naciones conseguirán seguir siendo los protagonistas que históricamente han sido gracias al alimento que producen para las diversas poblaciones.

Hoy más que nunca recordemos las palabras del Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), Señor David Beasley, “Utilicemos los alimentos como armas de paz.”.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

With regard to the consequences on global food security of the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against your Ukraine, we would like to echo what other Members have already said and reiterates the importance of the conclusion adopted by the 169th Council Session. We request FAO to fully implement them.

We would also like to stress the urgent need to resume the full export of food from Ukraine, especially through the Ukrainian Black Sea ports. We firmly believe that the response to the unfolding crisis needs to be multilateral.

With the technical support of FAO, Italy organized in Rome, on the 8 June, the first Mediterranean Ministerial Dialogue, co-chaired by Germany, Türkiye, and Lebanon and 24 other countries and seven organizations, including WFP and IFAD, have participated in this initiative that aims to reach out to those countries that are currently the most affected by the ongoing crisis, with the purpose of listening to their views and requests.

The dialogue was part of the G7 initiative to mitigate the effect of the food crisis. We welcome FAO's contribution to international coordination and multilateral solutions to address increasing food insecurity and malnutrition, and we hope for more of those engagements. Italy will keep working to strengthen the collaboration among all the relevant actors to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Agenda.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Tras cuatro meses de agresión ilegal e injustificada de la Federación de Rusia a Ucrania es importante seguir evaluando el impacto de esta guerra sobre la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y hacer un

balance en la respuesta de la FAO a la crisis. El 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO y el 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa expresaron una clara condena de las acciones de la Federación de Rusia como violación de los objetivos y propósitos de la FAO, recogidos en su propia constitución y proporcionaron una clara orientación sobre cómo debe la FAO actuar para hacer frente a la crisis. Por tanto, la FAO ha de aplicar plenamente estas decisiones y salvaguardar los derechos de Ucrania como Miembro de la Organización y del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Agradecemos a la FAO, particularmente a su Economista Jefe, el Doctor Máximo Torero Cullen, y a su equipo la información ya proporcionada al tiempo que confiamos en que siga ofreciéndose de manera regular y frecuente. También esperamos que los dirigentes de la FAO armonicen plenamente sus declaraciones públicas con el resto de los Organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas. Igualmente debe quedar claro por parte de nuestra Organización que las sanciones impuestas a la Federación de Rusia no son las responsables de la creciente inseguridad alimentaria, dado que su objetivo no es en modo alguno el sector agrícola ruso ni prohíben la importación y el transporte de productos agroalimentarios rusos, sino que solo pretenden parar su maquinaria bélica.

Ante el empeoramiento de la situación alimentaria en Ucrania, la FAO ha de trabajar para garantizar las siembras y el almacenamiento presentes y futuros, así como las exportaciones agroalimentarias ucranianas y su importación de productos esenciales.

En cuanto a las recomendaciones políticas propuestas:

Uno: consideramos que la primera recomendación política de la FAO debería ser finalizar la agresión y devolver a Ucrania su plena soberanía alimentaria y territorial.

Dos: subrayar la necesidad urgente de reanudar la exportación total de alimentos desde Ucrania, especialmente a través de los puertos ucranianos del Mar Negro y, en particular, desde el de Odesa.

Tres: mantener el comercio y la producción abiertos, finalizando los ataques a las infraestructuras agroalimentarias y contribuyendo a la estabilidad y eficiencia de los mercados.

Cuatro: encontrar suministros alimentarios alternativos.

Cinco: reconocemos la contribución del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) para la coordinación de políticas y soluciones a la crisis alimentaria en Ucrania y en los países más vulnerables afectados. Asimismo, reconocemos la labor del Sistema de Información del Mercado Agrícola (SIMA) y pedimos que continúe brindando información sobre las existencias alimentarias y los medios de producción.

Sexto: solicitamos a la FAO que promueva y contribuya a una mayor coordinación internacional, las soluciones multilaterales para abordar el aumento de la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición.

En cuanto a las propuestas políticas de la FAO, quisiéramos destacar que apoyamos las propuestas de protección social, de análisis de las necesidades de inversión en la reconstrucción y recuperación agraria de Ucrania y países vulnerables. Y que agradeceríamos más información sobre el mecanismo de facilitación de las importaciones de alimentos.

En conclusión, y con esto acabo, hemos de seguir trabajando con todos los socios pertinentes para evitar una mayor escalada de las crisis alimentarias en todo el mundo mediante diferentes iniciativas ayudando a la población más vulnerable frente a esta injustificada agresión rusa y sus efectos sobre la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición globales. Expresando, no puedo dejar de hacerlo, nuestra profunda solidaridad con el pueblo ucraniano.

#### **Mme Michèle PRANCHÈRE-TOMASSINI (Luxembourg)**

Le Luxembourg s'associe pleinement à la proposition défendue par la France au nom de l'Union européenne. La Fédération de Russie nous présente un argumentaire qui fait l'impasse sur la guerre d'agression qu'elle est en train de mener contre l'Ukraine. À cette omission s'ajoute le fait d'utiliser le levier de la nourriture pour parachever son œuvre, au mépris du droit international, et notamment des conventions de Genève qui protègent expressément le secteur agricole.

Sans l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Fédération de Russie, nous ne serions pas aujourd'hui au bord d'une crise alimentaire dont la nouveauté est qu'elle est devenue une arme de plus dans l'arsenal de la



Fédération de Russie. Les sanctions ne visent pas les chaînes d'approvisionnement agroalimentaire, elles visent des personnes et des entités qui ont une responsabilité directe dans la guerre.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I will be as brief as I can, but I do need to respond to some of the remarks made here today that are questioning the commitment of my government to food security, particularly that of food security in developing countries.

Annually, the United States provides over USD 4 billion in direct food security assistance to the Rome-based Agencies. And in addition to that, we provide over USD 1 billion yearly to Feed the Future. These funds are overwhelmingly spent in hunger hotspots, conflict-ridden, vulnerable communities and developing countries facing the worst of the climate change challenges.

As I mentioned earlier in my statement, in May our Congress appropriated supplemental funding, including USD 5.5 billion in immediate food security-specific assistance. Thus, the generosity of American taxpayers is not in question, and the commitment of my government to rapidly mobilize a response is not in question. This commitment, specifically as it relates to food security, is the largest since the Marshall Plan.

On sanctions, I must remind that sanctions were necessitated by Russia's unilateral invasion of the sovereign country of Ukraine, and the Russian Federation knew fully well, before its illegal and unjustified invasion, that that would trigger a policy response by the United States and other countries around the world that stand for freedom. And so, I will repeat again, that food and agricultural exports by the Russian Federation are not sanctioned.

In fact, we have worked with allies and partners to target our sanctions on Mr Vladimir Putin and his inner circle. We have tailored our actions to minimize any spillover effects on other economies to the extent possible. This includes wind-down provisions of certain sanctions where appropriate. We also have issued general licenses to facilitate transactions related to humanitarian needs, such as medicine, agricultural commodities, and fertilizer. And any transactions not permitted by general licenses, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis with specific licenses.

Our government is more than happy to work with any FAO Member who identifies specific challenges to transactions involving food security. And in fact, I would like everybody present at this Council to know that two weeks ago we invited our sanctions coordinator was here in Rome, to meet with the FAO. We are working together with the sanctions coordinator to set up a hotline for use by any Member facing any specific question about sanctions compliance or sanctions implementation.

As we work to make this operational, I encourage any Member facing any difficulties to please reach out to us. We can set up calls with our Treasury or State Department to troubleshoot any sanctions-related questions. This is a full demonstration of our commitment, that these sanctions do not affect food or any other humanitarian goods.

So I reiterate again, sanctions are not the issue here. The issue here is the Russian Federation's illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine.

**Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus) (Original language Russian)**

I would like to draw your attention to one point. For the second time this year, the FAO Council is meeting, and for the second time, the Agenda is not looking at the reasons for the global food crisis but looking at the conflict in Ukraine and its impact. There also is the impact of COVID-19 and the crisis.

Rather than seeking a solution to the problem, there's a quest for those who are responsible and for everything, it seems to be a mantra. The Russian Federation is to be blamed for everything, along with COVID-19. And the sanctions apparently do not have an impact on food security. We have over the years seen that this mantra is not true. We know what happened during the Security Council, the decision that was taken, and the impact that this situation is having on vulnerable countries.

It is important to look at the full picture behind the development of the crisis. There are different points that say that the General Assembly stressed the importance of maintaining trade routes open to

ensure the supply of food, fuel, inputs, and agricultural products. This position concerns the lives of 1 billion people throughout the world. It is a call for help that needs to be listened to.

Therefore, looking at the global food crisis, we need to consider the full range of reasons. We see it instead that the whole blocks of the Council seem to continue to refuse to listen to the deep reasons. The European Union has banned Russian exports a year ago, fertilizers, and the transit of fertilizers through Belarus was banned a year ago. Do you not think that this has an impact on food security?

Belarus, and its production of fertilizer has been under sanctions for a long time. Belarus is aware that there's a need for reliable sources to deal with the fertilizer shortage of the world, and it's important that there the supply lines be open to all those who are needed to call on all to consider this and not in the next Council continue the same ways but consider the overall range of the reasons for the crisis and to consider all of the necessary pathways to overcome these difficulties.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now turn to the Observers, but I really would like their cooperation to obey the limits of three minutes. I will intervene after three minutes, otherwise, we are getting behind our Council schedule.

#### **M. Papa Abdoulaye SECK (Sénégal) (Observateur)**

Pour le Sénégal, la crise Russie-Ukraine vient compliquer une situation qui est déjà très compliquée, à cause précisément de l'inaccessibilité aux facteurs de production tel que l'engrais, et aussi à cause des ruptures d'approvisionnement constatées au niveau du marché international. L'Afrique est incontestablement l'une des principales victimes de cette crise. L'heure pour nous est grave. On a l'habitude de le dire, gérer, c'est prévoir.

Alors si cette crise perdure, on peut déjà recenser au niveau du continent africain, au moins sept risques majeurs. Le premier risque, comporte des probables émeutes de la faim, comme en 2008, débouchant sur ce que certains appellent aujourd'hui un ouragan de la faim. Le deuxième risque, l'atteinte de l'ODD 2, sera sérieusement compromise, et à jamais. Elle l'était déjà avant cette crise, elle va l'être d'avantage avec cette crise.

Le troisième risque est l'approfondissement de la pauvreté rurale en Afrique, faute d'activité agricole durable et continue. Le quatrième, c'est la baisse significative du taux de croissance économique, parce que l'agriculture ne sera pas une locomotive de la croissance, mais sera plutôt un wagon de la croissance.

Le cinquième risque est l'amplification de l'immigration clandestine. Pas d'opportunités en milieu rural, pas d'opportunités au niveau des villes, la seule opportunité, sera d'opter pour l'immigration clandestine. Le sixième risque important est l'accélération de l'exode rural. Oui, parce que les activités agricoles sont en situation discontinue.

Le septième risque est le démantèlement des rares unités industrielles africaines. Ce qui veut dire qu'on va sacrifier l'augmentation des valeurs ajoutées agricoles. À très court terme, le continent africain aura besoin d'engrais, pour les campagnes qui sont en cours, et pour faire fonctionner le marché international des produits de base. Je viens de recevoir, il y a quelques minutes, sur mon portable, un paysan africain, sénégalais...

Est-ce que je peux lui trouver des engrais ici pour qu'il puisse cultiver ? C'est cela la gravité. On ne peut pas parler de long terme, comme on a l'habitude de le dire, s'il n'y a pas un court terme. Le court terme est sauver aujourd'hui les campagnes agricoles en Afrique, faute d'engrais. Sans cela, on aura tous opté, collectivement, pour un effondrement des fondamentaux de l'agriculture africaine. Pour conclure, je voudrais féliciter l'économiste en chef Maximo Torero, pour ses brillantes analyses, féliciter aussi au passage Madame Semedo pour l'approbation de la Stratégie sur le changement climatique, et Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter vous pour votre leadership. Vous êtes un homme qui aime le consensus, et ceux qui aiment le consensus réussissent toujours, parce que le consensus constitue la marque des grands hommes. Vous avez les félicitations de mon pays, le Sénégal.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now give the floor to the Holy See.

**Monseñor Fernando CHICA ARELLANO (Santa Sede) (Observador)**

La Santa Sede alza su voz para pedir desde este importante foro que la familia de las Naciones Unidas se comprometa decididamente a favor del cese inmediato de la agresión militar en Ucrania. El Santo Padre no se cansa de suplicar con corazón afligido que se detenga esta feroz masacre, que callen las armas y prevalezca el diálogo y la negociación seria, único modo digno para salir del laberinto bélico que está desatando una furia sanguinaria y letal.

Y esto mismo es lo que desea reiterar mi delegación aquí también, ya que es cada vez más evidente que el tema de la seguridad alimentaria está sumamente conectado al de la paz y que los obstáculos e impedimentos que Ucrania está encontrando para exportar sus cereales están generando honda preocupación y provocando complejas dificultades a los países dependientes, por lo menos en parte, de suministros externos.

No estamos hablando de problemas abstractos, lo que está en juego es la vida de millones de personas. El derecho humano universal a la alimentación y la estabilidad de amplias zonas del planeta. Como el Papa Francisco exclamó sin ambages recientemente, “Por favor que no se utilice el trigo, un alimento básico, como arma de guerra.”.

FAO surgió al final de la segunda guerra mundial para poner fin a la destrucción motivada por ese conflicto devastante, pero también consciente de que la carencia de alimentos esencial para la supervivencia humana ha sido en la historia la causa de mayor inestabilidad y de levantamientos populares. Por consiguiente, necesitamos trabajar mancomunadamente y actuar con determinación para que el lema de la FAO se implemente ya, de manera que haya pan para todos y se evite así un empeoramiento de la delicadísima coyuntura que se ha creado.

En los países más pobres ya severamente afectados por el cambio climático y la escasez de agua, la falta de fertilizantes podría acentuar la caída de la producción con el trance de reducir a poblaciones enteras al degrado y la desnutrición. Debemos contrarrestar con sabiduría los efectos nocivos de la crisis alimentaria en curso, exacerbada todavía más por enfrentamientos armados en las zonas más vulnerables del mundo. Si el problema actual es el aumento de los precios de los alimentos, en 2023 podría desencadenarse una tragedia global materializada con el riesgo de una cruel ausencia de los mismos.

La FAO ha de dar su contribución para que se responda con audacia a los arduos retos que nos asaltan, yendo a la raíz del problema y emprendiendo iniciativas que busquen el bien común. No podemos quedarnos en declaraciones solemnes. Es preciso hacer más para que cuantos padecen las consecuencias de la guerra, se sientan realmente ayudados. Apostar por la paz e invertir en ella no es una mera opción ni un simple eslogan. El dolor de muchos hermanos nos alienta a construirla fraternalmente, a respetarla y ofrecerla como nuestro mejor don.

La solución a la problemática existente no se logrará por la fuerza militar que puede recrudecerse en una escalada cada vez más insidiosa para todos, sino renunciando a intereses sesgados, cancelando la espiral de odio y muerte en la que estamos cayendo y uniendo las manos para sembrar los campos y cuidar la tierra, no para destruirla. Hagámoslo sobre todo por las madres que lloran la pérdida de sus hijos, por los niños y jóvenes a los que no tenemos el derecho de robar un futuro luminoso, por los ancianos que han visto desgarrada la serenidad de su vejez, por cuantos, en fin, invocan la esperanza como cimiento de una dignidad humana que no puede seguir siendo menoscabada.

**Mr Yuriy GRYNEVETSKYI (Ukraine) (Observer)**

The invasion of 2014, followed by the eight long years of war and eventually full-scale invasion in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, aimed at destroying the Ukrainian State, taking by force the Ukrainian territory and establishing occupational control. This new wave of Russian aggression is an unjustified and unprovoked act of war, an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and a brutal violation of the UN Charter and basic laws and principles of international law.

Today, we are facing with many challenges. And one of these challenges in the agriculture sphere, but despite these unprecedented challenges, Ukraine has successfully carried out its planting program. Seventy-five percent of the land area planted last year has been sold. Now we are starting preparations for harvesting, and we understand here that the main challenge facing farmers is now.

Large areas in the east and south of Ukraine remain a place of combat actions are under occupation. That is the reason why we expect the harvest to be just 50 percent of the last year yields. As the result of Russian aggression, significant damage was inflicted on livestock as well. Just one example, Europe's largest poultry farm, Sinyavskaya in the Kherson region, is completely de-energized, and production is completely stopped. About 4.7 million birds died without the possibility of utilizing them.

Also, according to our preliminary assessments, about 80 percent of users who received fishing quarters or aquatic by-resources of national importance in 2022 have stopped or partially suspended. Also suspended officially in our territorial main inland waters. The fishing decreased here almost by 70 percent. For the first months in a row, Ukraine experts have been blocked due to a full-scale war waged by our state on our territory.

But Ukraine remains committed to finding solutions to prevent a global food crisis, and we are ready to create the necessary conditions to resume exports from the port of Odessa. The question is, how to make sure that Russia does not abuse the trade route to attack the city of Odessa, the question that has become more relevant following the recent missile strikes on several important cities in Kyiv and Mykolaiv.

The recent missile attack on a car repair plant, which used to repair the rolling stock for cargo transportation and manufacturing of grain coffers used for airway transfers to bring to the Ukrainian seaports. The second example, the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv, the country's second-largest grain export in port was attacked by Russian military, just at the beginning of June.

They damage infrastructure, including grain silos in the terminal. The port silos have the capacity for up to 500 000 tons of grain at the time. In response, it has handled up to silo tons of grain, soybeans, and oil seeds annually. The mentioned missile attacks really indicates that all Russian fairy tales about the readiness to facilitate Ukrainian export remain too far from reality.

Also, there are credible records of looting Ukrainian grain by Russian military from the temporarily occupied territories in Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions. All of these actions, including the illegal export of stolen Ukrainian commodities is, another additional example of the Russian Federation's destructive act.

In contrary to the fundamental principles of the food.

The FAO Council at its Special Session and the FAO Regional Conference expressed clear condemnation of Russia's violation of the objective and purposes of the Organizations. The Russian Federation's official state policy puts into doubt the relevance of its participation in FAO's Governing Bodies, particularly here in the Council.

In conclusion, I would like to call on countries whose food security may suffer most from Russia's aggression against Ukraine, to use their contacts with Moscow to force it to lift the blockade of Ukrainian seaports and end the war. Ukraine is constantly discussing the issue of exporting its crops to other countries with the UN and our partners. And we expect FAO also to be involved in this process as well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We are now going to break for half an hour. I would like to thank the interpreters for the great work already today and give them some more time at this moment. We are going to come back at 17:15 hours. There are refreshments outside again, like yesterday.

Re-energize, and I may ask remaining Observers to really obey the three-minutes speaking slot. For these moments, the Observers are speaking longer than the Council Members. I think we should now work closely together to make full use of the available time. So, we adjourn the meeting until 17:15 and start then with the remaining nine speakers.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:45 to 17:15 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 45 à 17 h 15*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.45 a las 17.15*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Good afternoon, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends. I hope you are re-energized for the last session of today, which will end, wherever we are, at 19:30 hours.

Now we continue with our list of Observers to speak. But I really would seek their cooperation to not use too much time, because we are pressed now for time not to get behind schedule, and certainly not exceed the three-minutes speaking slot.

**Mr Jiri JILEK (Czechia) (Observer)**

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

Today, we count more than 100 days from the start of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the situation is getting worse every day. We witness an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with a massive number of casualties and injuries among civilians, millions of people displaced internally and externally, and a colossal damage to the Ukrainian economy, including the agrifood sector.

We reiterate our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The Czech Republic is one of the nearby countries hosting and supporting hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees. We will continue providing our help and support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it is necessary.

You all know that the war in Ukraine combined with a tremendous worldwide surge in food, fertilizer and energy prices, and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, has severe direct and indirect impacts on the global food security and humanitarian activities. Ukraine is a major grain supplier to the World Food Programme (WFP) and to the countries in several regions of the world, which have already been facing severe food insecurity, and we should not forget that.

We recall the decisions of the Special FAO Council and of the Regional Conference for Europe, which clearly condemned Russia's actions as violation of the objectives and purposes of FAO as set out in the preamble of its Constitution and provided clear guidance on how FAO should act. We urge FAO to fully implement these decisions.

As to the FAO policy recommendations and policy proposals outlined in the supporting document, we fully support all remarks made by France on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

We would like to highlight just four points:

Firstly, Russian Federation must immediately cease its military actions and stop targeting civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, including the agrifood facilities and fields, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders. This must be actually the first recommendation of FAO.

Secondly, Russian Federation must immediately and without any conditions enable a resumption of export of food and grain from Ukrainian sea ports. We expect FAO to leverage its influence in this regard. We support interim and emergency measures for developing alternative logistics routes and freight services from and to Ukraine, including the EU "solidarity lanes".

Thirdly, Russian Federation must stop spreading lies about sanctions. The EU has not adopted any sanctions on the agricultural sector in Russia. The EU sanctions on the Russian transport sector do not go beyond the EU borders and do not prevent Russian flagged vessels from carrying grain, food and fertilisers to developing countries.

Finally, we thank FAO for the efforts made so far. However, more needs to be done. Therefore, we encourage FAO to accelerate the scale up of its actions on the whole territory of Ukraine to help the Ukrainian agrifood sector. The same effort we expect for preparing and implementing plans for the developing countries facing severe food insecurity. We also expect that FAO will provide us with regular updates, in line with the decisions of the 169th FAO Council and the 33rd Regional Conference for Europe.

**Mr Oliver MELLENTHIN (Germany)**

Germany aligns itself with the statement given by France on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and would like to add its voice to several of the previous speakers.

We take this opportunity to react briefly to some of the falsehoods presented by the Russian Federation.

Again, the sanctions adopted against Russia's war are not the root cause for the increase in food prices. We emphasise that the unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, especially the destruction of the logistics infrastructure of Ukraine as well as the blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports is exacerbating an already tight supply situation on world markets.

We strongly condemn the destruction and illegal appropriation by the Russian Federation of agricultural production in Ukraine. Export of food from Ukrainian ports, currently impossible due to the war initiated on land and sea by the Russian Federation, must resume safely.

To that end, we reiterate the call on the Russian Federation to end its war of aggression against Ukraine, especially its attacks on agricultural transport and logistical infrastructure in Ukraine, to lift the blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports and to allow food exports, in particular from Odessa.

**Mr Valdemaras JUOZAITIS (Lithuania) (Observer)**

I am speaking on behalf of the Baltic countries, Estonia, Latvia, and my own country Lithuania. We fully align ourselves to the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The Russian Federation continues its unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal war against Ukraine. A barbaric war waged by a Permanent Member of the Security Council.

We affirm our demand for the Russian Federation to suspend military operations immediately and withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine. The impact of Russia's war on global security and nutrition is dreadful. Thus, the Russian Federation violates the objectives and purposes of power as set out in the preamble of its constitution. This was clearly affirmed in the conclusion of the 169th Council Session. The global food crisis, we should make it clear, is the direct consequence of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. We should not be fooled by the Russian Federation's attempt to put blame on others, and in particular, on sanctions.

The fact is EU has no sanctions on the agricultural sector in Russia, none. Another fact, the EU sanctions do not prevent Russian-flagged vessels from carrying grain, food, and fertilizers outside the union. There are zero sanctions on this. The Russian Federation, and the Russian Federation alone is responsible for this food crisis.

It is the Russian Federation who started the war. It is Russia's war that is preventing Ukraine from planting, harvesting, and transporting goods. It is the Russian Federation who is targeting Ukraine's grain storage and stealing grain from Ukraine. It is the Russian Federation who is blocking Ukraine's Black Sea ports and using food as a silent weapon. Mr Chair, now we have an urgent task in front of us. We have to continue putting pressure on Russia to end its attacks on transport infrastructure in Ukraine and lift the blockade Ukrainian Black Sea ports, in particular, the sea port of Odessa. This is essential for Ukrainian grain and other goods to reach the global market.

Again, the Baltic states, would expect FAO to fully implement 169th Council decision on the impact of the Russian war against Ukraine, on global food security, and related matters within its mandate to keep Members notified through regular briefings, consultations, and reporting to FAO Governing Bodies.

Finally, we would expect that FAO leadership fully aligns its public statements to advocacy activities and the decision of its Governing Bodies.

**Sra. Haifa Aissami MADAH (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de) (Observador)**

Desearía iniciar agradeciéndole a la FAO por la presentación del documento *CL 170/6 Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)*, particularmente al Economista Jefe, el Señor Máximo Torero Cullen. Como

hemos reiterado en este y en otros foros, Venezuela, en su condición de Miembro fundador de las Naciones Unidas y en coherencia con su diplomacia de paz, aboga por una pronta resolución pacífica, integral y duradera de todos los conflictos y donde se tomen en cuenta las preocupaciones de todas las partes concernidas.

Nos preocupa la prevalencia del envío de armas a la zona en conflicto en lugar de la ayuda humanitaria y misiones diplomáticas que contribuyan a la resolución del mismo. El debilitamiento de la economía, el aumento de máximos históricos de los precios de los alimentos, el cambio climático, la pandemia de la COVID-19, entre otros, han traído como consecuencia el aumento de la prevalencia de la subalimentación.

Es una contradicción plantear la creciente inseguridad alimentaria global mientras se alientan y se aplican medidas coercitivas unilaterales contra más de 20 Miembros de esta Organización. Más contradictorio aún es pretender hacer una distinción con respecto al objeto de tales sanciones, alegando que las mismas no afectan los productos agrícolas, los alimentos o las medicinas. Es cuando menos un eufemismo.

La utilización del sistema financiero mundial para sitiar económicamente a países, las sanciones económicas, bloqueos, medidas coercitivas, la manipulación en el abastecimiento de alimentos y materias primas, en general, son medidas que promueven el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, ninguna de estas distorsiones y desequilibrios expresados como políticas sostenidas han sido consideradas, ni antes ni ahora, en los temas de discusión de esta Organización. Desde Venezuela creemos que ya viene siendo tiempo de abordarlas.

Muchos países podemos contribuir a aumentar la estabilidad y la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo si se nos permite desarrollar a plenitud nuestras capacidades en condiciones apropiadas. Sin embargo, este es un plan imposible bajo la continua aplicación de las medidas coercitivas. Es por esto que Venezuela propone el levantamiento inmediato de las medidas coercitivas unilaterales impuestas ilegalmente contra los Miembros de las Naciones Unidas como una acción urgente y que forme parte del plan global que debe adoptarse para enfrentar la crisis alimentaria inminente.

Como hemos afirmado, el papel de esta Organización no es alimentar las tensiones y las divisiones. Los Organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas no deben ser usadas para profundizar los conflictos. Y en este sentido, hacemos un llamado a respetar el mandato de la FAO, a mantener la igualdad de trato y respeto de todos los Miembros e invitamos a todos a realizar un debate amplio, inclusivo y plural.

Apoyamos las políticas de FAO que estén orientadas a reducir el impacto provocado por el aumento en los precios de los alimentos, los combustibles y los fertilizantes imprescindibles para la producción de alimentos. Es momento de invertir en resiliencia en los países de renta media y renta baja. Reafirmamos una vez más la necesidad de defender los principios anunciados.

Finalmente alentamos a los Miembros a trabajar con un espíritu de buena voluntad y cooperación. Por tanto, Venezuela insta a todos los Miembros a no polarizar ni politizar el trabajo de la Organización.

**Mr Thomas John KELLY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

Thank you to FAO for this update.

The United Kingdom condemns in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's barbaric invasion of Ukraine, which is a violation of international law and the UN Charter.

As the FAO paper noted, international food prices were already at an all-time high before the war in Ukraine. However, it is clear from all the data that FAO and other organisations have produced since February that it is Russia's invasion of Ukraine that has created the current global food crisis.

It is clear from all the information available that it is the poorest countries who will be worst affected from this crisis.

Restoring stability to global food markets needs the Russian Federation to stop the war in Ukraine and unblock Ukraine's ports.

We urge FAO to ensure our collective support to the crisis reinforces the Government of Ukraine's leadership, and that all efforts are complementary.

We welcome the monitoring system that FAO has set up in Ukraine, working with the Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities and other partners, to access critical real-time data on markets, input prices and availability.

We continue to work with our international partners to support stronger international cooperation to respond to this crisis.

At the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the largest ever commitment from the World Bank to developing countries was agreed – USD 170 billion over the next 15 months. The World Bank intends to provide USD 50 billion of support over the next three months.

We look forward to seeing FAO strengthening partnerships with the World Bank and IMF in addressing the crisis.

On sanctions, let us be clear that sanctions are not responsible for this situation, as claimed by Russia. They are not the cause. They are an effect, a response to the war, targeting Russian financing of the war.

The United Kingdom and partners are committed to avoiding any direct sanctions against essential foods for developing countries.

We call again on the Russian Federation to stop this war that has led to the sanctions.

FAO's role in providing timely, updated assessments of the food security situation is absolutely critical. We urge FAO to continue to improve its communications on food security impacts – to ensure that clear, transparent, evidence-based information is available to all.

We also call on FAO to continue to provide clear policy advice and support to countries in keeping markets open and transparent.

Finally, as Chief Economist Mr Máximo Torero Cullen has said, many of the FAO policy recommendations are for other organisations to pick up and resource. It would be good to hear more about what FAO thinks are the most urgent priorities in this area, and how we can help FAO work better with other organisations to ensure an effective international response to this crisis.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)(Observer)**

Let me speak as a farmer, a scientist, a person of faith, a father, and a grandfather. My thinking is that let us have sober reflections to do what is right, which is what we are trying to do. But on this war, the hungry man or hungry men are saying stop the war in Ukraine as it affects lives adversely. This is a chance.

The last two days have been very productive, and my appeal will be this. Let all of us begin to think food system, working to ensure life, economy, and environment by all acts of removing war or conflicts, either verbal or physical.

Let me also thank His Excellency, the Ambassador of Senegal, Papa Cheikh, for giving me a strong backing to make some of the suggestions I have in mind. It has been a worthy, rewarded preamble. So what we can do in the light of all the experiences we have gathered now, and that is, to intensify efforts to reduce food loss and food waste. These are hanging foods. To intensify agroecological practices all over the world. We can see the effect of this war, COVID-19, and the climate.

We need to work on orphan crops, which have tremendous adaptability to environments and also provide nutrition and let us begin to stop over dependency on less than 10 cereal crops giving us headaches.

I want to thank all of us, particularly the Director-General, Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Chief Economist, Chief Scientist, and all staff of FAO for the Climate Change, and Science and Innovation Strategies agreed upon.



**M. André De Jesus MODA (Angola)**

Je m'excuse, je voudrais intervenir dans le huitième point. Sur l'initiative Main dans la Main. Allô?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give you the floor in a moment because I do hope that we can have the discussion on the Hand-in-Hand, and I will give you the floor as first speaker.

**Mr Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We thank FAO for the updated information and mitigation actions. We strongly condemn the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine that has an obvious direct negative impact on global food security and nutrition.

More than ever, it is of the utmost importance to reaffirm the conclusions of the 169th Council Session regarding the impact of the Ukraine-Russian conflict on global food security, and the full implementation of 169th Council decision on the impact of the Ukraine-Russian conflict on global food security and related matters within the FAO's mandate. We agree with the importance of the role that FAO should play in promoting and contributing to increased international coordination and multilateral solutions to address increased food insecurity and malnutrition. Finally, it should be underlined diligently to resume full export and food from Ukraine.

**Mr Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observer) (Original language Arabic)**

The current food crisis in the world did not start with the Ukraine-Russia conflict, your Organization, the World Food Programme (WFP), and other organizations have been working for a long time in order to mitigate such crisis. We commend the role of the Organization. However, the hike in prices has led us to sound the alarm. As a matter of fact, the Russian delegation's statement has shed light on a number of realities and facts that merit our attention.

We stress the importance of refraining from politicizing the issues. We are not here to exchange blame, but to find solutions and to mitigate the impacts of this crisis. Therefore, it is important to lift the unilateral sanctions and the sanctions also imposed by Western countries, including countries such as Syria.

Syria used to be self-sufficient in terms of seeds and livestock. However, due to terrorism and due to unilateral sanctions and measures, in addition to the Turkish occupation against Syria and its plundering of resources and burning of the crops, and also due to the abandonment of land by agricultural due to landmines, Syria is now threatened in terms of food security despite the government's efforts to facilitate the return off of the farmers. No one has mentioned the crisis in Syria.

When we speak about sanctions, these sanctions are imposed on presidents and governments, and this should not include medicines and healthcare inputs. When sanctions are imposed on banks, nothing can be imported, no medicine, and no food can be imported. Therefore, the result is the same. The sanctions impact the citizens alone. By citizens we mean, all the poor and the vulnerable whose suffering is exacerbated and who are deprived from the most basic rights.

I reiterate what was mentioned by the Director-General regarding the importance of keeping international trade open. This will lead to more security in the world, and we may not impose new bundles of sanctions. The line is breaking up. This will only lead to prolonging the crisis and exacerbating the suffering of the nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic has always supported diplomatic and peaceful solutions.

We, once again reiterate that the only way to stop the impacts of this crisis consists in dialogue with the Russian Federation and taking to consideration the concerns of all parties.

**Mr Hasan Enes Mabocoglu (Türkiye) (Observer)**

I will not take much of your time. We reject the allegations of the previous speaker, Turkish presence in Syria is related with its fight against terrorism. To retain operations in Syria were carried out on the

basis of international law in accordance with our right of self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter and with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on international terrorism and in full respect of serious territorial integrity and unity. These counterterrorism operations are aimed at protecting the security of our borders and ensuring the safety of our people as well as all Syrian civilians living under the yoke of terrorist organizations, including Daesh and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) or People's Protection Units (YPG).

### **CHAIRPERSON**

With this, we have concluded our deliberations on this Agenda Item. I now give very briefly the floor to the Chief Economist to respond.

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

I will be very brief just to respond to some of the questions. Specifically, Argentina raised the issue about the point that we mentioned in the document. What was raised there is that Argentina has an export quota and export licenses. Despite that, they were a key supplier of exports in this year, which helped enormously to reduce the gap in maize especially.

In April 2022, the volume accumulated of export licenses was close to the annual gap applied by the government. This was because of concerns of local price inflation, which makes sense, the government had a concern of local price inflation of food. However, in 2022-2023, Argentina increases wheat exports with the government raising its wheat export quota for 2022-2023 from eight to ten million metric tonnes, which is really good news.

Then, the second issue was on the frequency of our information updates. I showed a slide at the beginning of my presentation. Let me be very clear here. We are the one agency updating with the frequency we are updating, and properly documenting the data and the simulations we provide.

There is no one agency bringing the quality of information we are providing at this time, and all agencies are using the information that we provide. You can see that in the source of the data being used. There is no one agency sharing and disseminating more information than we do because all our data is public and is shared across the board. We have the most comprehensive website on the topic. Therefore, it is very important to understand all the effort of a huge team working day and night, Sundays, and weekends and holidays to keep this up. So I will really appreciate you value what we are doing.

Regarding the Global Crisis Response Group, the GCRG, we are co-leads of the Food Group. At this point, we are working intensively with them. I have more than five people involving them. I am co-lead of the Food Group. Now they recognize our support and they put us as a co-lead. If you look at the second brief, you will see all the policy recommendations of FAO are also put there in place. Only one of the proposals we are given is not to be implemented by FAO and that is the fifth. And everybody asks about more information.

We have a brief of two pages and we have a very detailed document in the website that has been updated on Sunday with the latest data. It is more than 50 pages of information, where we deploy country by country, all the information that is needed. We are more than happy, and we have been always happy to work with you and to provide all the information that you request to facilitate this process.

However, it is crucial for us that the money that is being deployed in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is used properly, in this case to alleviate the food situation of the most vulnerable countries. That is why we keep pushing for that. FAO is willing to give all the technical support to this implementation. We will be more than happy to provide any further information if that is needed. Regarding the question about seats, at our table, if you look at the document, there are several seats. There are Nauru, Togo, Maldives, and St. Lucia, and many others that we are saying that they need support because they are running in a budget balance of payment deficit, and they need the support.

Finally, share on our rapid response plan. It is important to understand by now, we only have 11.6 percent of the funding needed. This is on agriculture in Ukraine that we are supporting the country and we only have 11.6 percent funded at this point. We have not received funding for any of

our other proposals. All of them have a budget. The fee is USD 10 million for 52 countries to have countries to target better what they can do. Honestly, we really need your support because we really need to act and to act now, if we want to avoid the situation that we are facing today.

With that, I stop. Thank you very much for all the positive comments.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

We applaud you and your team for your hard work and those who are fighting to secure food security in all regions. And certainly, I think there is an appetite after the Council for having a more specific briefing about the import facility, but we could see how to organize it after the Council, because I think there was a very positive reply to it. I think many want to know a little bit more about it.

With that, we go to the draft conclusions now. And again, we worked on, I would say, focused on the mandate of FAO concise conclusions and I will present them now on the screen. I read them out and then we go through them one by one.

#### *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

The Council recalled the decision and recommendations of its 169th Session and welcomed the comprehensive review and assessment presented in document CL 170/6, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, and stressed the important role of FAO, within the United Nations system, in addressing the impacts of the war on global food security and agriculture.

The Council requested FAO to continue to monitor the situation closely and update Members regularly, including through the FAO webpage dedicated to the crisis in Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Council requested FAO to assess the impacts of the conflict on food security in the different regions, with data and information specifically targeted in each region.

The Council welcomed FAO's update to its Rapid Response Plan March-December 2022 within the UN's overall Flash Appeal revision, noted that only 9 percent of the funds needed had been received and called on donors to increase funding for its response plan.

The Council underlined the importance of keeping open trade, and food and agriculture inputs and products to alleviate the negative impact on food security globally and avoid trade barriers in this respect.

The Council appreciated the policy proposals developed by FAO and expressed support for their implementation, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities and relevant bodies, namely the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and international financial institutions, to address the risks, both domestically and globally, as follows:

- a) establishing a Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF);
- b) strengthening social protection for food security and nutrition;
- c) assessing investment needs in Ukraine's agricultural reconstruction and recovery;
- d) addressing the risk of zoonotic diseases;
- e) protecting animal health, particularly through a One Health approach;
- f) assessing food insecurity in 2022-23 at national and sub-national levels in developing countries vulnerable to the effect of the Ukraine-Russian Federation conflict;
- g) using soil maps to promote efficient use of fertilizers; and
- h) reducing food loss and waste.

These are the draft conclusions.

Now we turn to the first conclusion which is, “*the Council recalled the decision and recommendations of its 169th Session, and welcomed the comprehensive review and assessment presented in document CL 170/6, Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and stressed the important role of FAO, within the United Nations system, in addressing the impacts of the conflict on global food security and agriculture.*”

Could we agree to this draft conclusion? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to two, “*the Council requested FAO to continue to monitor the situation closely and update Members regularly, including through the FAO webpage dedicated to the crisis in Ukraine.*”

Then we agree to this conclusion. I do not see any objections.

“*Furthermore, the Council requested FAO to assess the impacts of the conflict on food security in the different regions, with data and information specifically targeted in each region.*”

Can we agree to this draft conclusion? I do not see any objections.

Then “*the Council welcomed FAO's update to its Rapid Response Plan March-December 2022 within the UN's overall Flash Appeal revision, noted that only 9 percent of the funds needed had been received and called on donors to increase funding for this response plan.*”

Can we agree to this draft conclusion? I do not see any objections.

Then paragraph 5, “*the Council underlined the...*”

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Effectivement, vous allez assez vite. Une remarque, parce qu'il me semble que nous avons tous juste entendu l'économiste en chef, qui nous a parlé d'un autre pourcentage. Je pense que pour éviter d'être trop rapidement contredit par la réalité, il vaudrait mieux éviter les pourcentages, et mettre quelque chose comme “*noted that funds are still needed.*” Quelque chose comme ça.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is a wise suggestion because otherwise before you know, the conclusion is tomorrow already outdated. I would propose to say, “*noted that more funds are needed and call on donors to increase funding for this response plan.*” Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to paragraph 5, “*the Council underlined the importance of keeping trade open of food and agriculture inputs and products to alleviate the negative impact on food security globally and avoid trade barriers in this respect*”. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to the paragraph 6 and it is 19 on the screen, “*The Council appreciated the policy proposals developed by FAO and expressed support for their implementation, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities and relevant bodies, namely the Rome-based Agencies and the international financial institutions, to address the risks both domestically and globally as follows.*”

Let us first deal with the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je note que certaines de ces propositions ne sont pas toutes au même niveau de développement, certaines ne sont même pas encore nées, donc c'est difficile de demander leurs mises en œuvre, puisqu'elles ne sont même pas créées. Pour cette raison, je proposerais de remplacer “*The express report for the implementation para and stress, the need to address the risk both domestically and globally resulting from the world in Ukraine, in supreme express support for their implementation.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is already in the last part of the sentence. To be consistent, I think we have to speak about the conflict because that is the title. And we use it also on the other paragraphs.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your wise decision because I was about to say the very same thing that we are talking about the conflict, not the war. If somebody wants to go for a war, it is different.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

As an alternative, Australia was just reflecting on the chapeau and it was one of a couple of countries who had requested additional information in this Agenda Item on some of the specifics of these policy proposals. We had wondered whether a formulation that would read "*the Council appreciated the policy proposals developed by the FAO requested further information and expressed support,*" perhaps as an alternative, if that is helpful.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would certainly propose to take over your suggestion on "*requesting further information*", but I think we could then continue with the proposal of France by stating "*and stress the need to address*" because then it is a combination of both. I see nodding. Can we agree to these proposals?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We can certainly agree to these proposals. At the moment though, there is no verb related to the initiatives that are listed below. So perhaps we need to go back on some of the deletion that France proposed and express support for further development in coordination. Move those bottles.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could you repeat your proposal, Canada?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Still thinking through how to formulate it.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

We are moving too fast. If you can move the text down a little bit, because I believe the idea of "*sharing information*" and "*providing information*" is stipulated by the previous paragraphs. For example, paragraph 15 says that "*the Council requested FAO to continue to monitor the situation closely and to provide it on the website*". I believe this is the very same idea that had been proposed by Australia.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

The point we were hoping to add to paragraph 19 is specific to the policy proposals put forward by FAO, whereas in our view, paragraph 15 is of a general nature.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Thank you for your indulgence in giving us a little bit of time to think it through. I think the issue comes from we now repeat "*address the risks both domestically and globally*". perhaps if we end the last phrase at "*too*" with a colon and then it would read the full text on the screen "*and international financial institutions to establish a food import for financing...*" and the rest of the list, to avoid the duplication of "*address the risk domestically and globally*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now agree to the proposal? It would read, "*the Council appreciated the policy proposals developed by FAO, requested further information and stressed the need to address the risk both domestically and globally resulting from the conflict in the Ukraine, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities and relevant bodies, namely the Rome-based Agencies and international financial institutions, too*". Would you agree to this chapeau?

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BINANTHONY (Malaysia):**

Just to make it grammatically correct, I think it should be "*towards*" instead of "*to*".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estoy tratando de ver cómo entender el párrafo, es un poco largo. Pensé que quizás la mejor idea sería después de “Ukraine” poner un punto y seguido e incluir “*express support for further development in coordination with...*” y después seguir con el párrafo. Porque así está un poco complejo poder entender la naturaleza del párrafo. Es una sugerencia constructiva si es que ayuda.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then I think “*towards*” should be replaced by “*of*”. I think, if you follow the suggestion of Argentina, we should replace “*towards*” by “*of*” because it says, “*and express support for further development*”, and then we have the “*coordination and of*”, and then we get the list. I think that makes it clearer. Would it be agreeable?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je pense que comme il est clair pendant le débat, il y a encore plusieurs questions qui se posent, et certaines initiatives comme nous l'avons indiqué, ne sont même pas développées, elles ne sont même pas nées. Donc, il nous semble important d'avoir un langage plus prudent à cet égard, donc notre préférence allait à la formulation précédente.

C'est-à-dire à ne pas reprendre la proposition de mon collègue argentin, même si bien sûr je le remercie pour ces efforts, à simplement avoir : “*address the risks both domestically resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, in coordination and cooperation with other UN entities...*” parce que ce qui est important, c'est aussi d'adresser les risques en partenariat avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies. Donc il nous semble que la phrase est plus conforme à ce que nous souhaitons.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are missing a verb because we are not stating that we should address the risk of establishing. That is why I think we need to do some more drafting on it.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quisiera preguntar si es posible consultar con el Economista Jefe si estas iniciativas están siendo implementadas o no. Tenemos dudas porque según lo que está en el website, pero no sé, podría ser clarificada esa situación por parte del Economista Jefe.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

All the proposals that we have, the documents are in the webpage. Some of them are already activities that FAO has been doing and is implementing, but the exact budgets and requests are in those proposals. For example, the Food Import Financing Facility, there is a technical document to support the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank to implement such a proposal because FAO is not the one to implement such a proposal. It is designed following the better goods mechanism that IMF has in place, all the others are activities that FAO does. We are asking for specific resources to implement them.

For example, the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the implementation of the FIES at the sub-national level has been implemented in the pre-COVID and in the COVID-19 period in several emergency countries, so we validate the instruments and can be implemented and is ready to be implemented. The level of implementation varies case by case. They are specifically target to assess the consequences of the current crisis, but all of them have documents in the webpage.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Trying to understand and hear what colleagues are saying. Maybe I would have a proposal not being a native English speaker, but if we would change “*development*” into “*consideration*”, that wouldn't sort of make it a decision already, but it would mean that we would continue to consider these proposals and that would be done in coordination with other UN entities. It might be a solution.

I would also propose to change “*namely*” into “*especially*” so that this would be done “*with relevant bodies, especially the Rome-based Agencies.*”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En la misma línea pensaba decir lo mismo o “*encourage*”, pero en definitiva estoy de acuerdo con la sugerencia de Suecia, si hay consenso.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look around to the room, whether or not splitting these two sentences, it makes it clearer. If we then say, “*its express report for further consideration*”, it makes it also clearer that some are already at the implementation stage, some are still being considered. That gives us much more flexibility to address issues. Would this chapeau be agreeable for the room? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (a).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je pense que comme nos discussions le montrent et comme les réponses de l'économiste en chef le montrent aussi, c'est notamment sur cette proposition qu'il y a encore des interrogations. Notamment du côté des institutions financières internationales qui, si je comprends bien, ne l'ont pas encore endossée. Donc, ma suggestion est de remplacer: “*establishing*” par “*exploring food import financing facility*.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the proposal France? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

We are joining virtually since I have another department now. We think that we should keep the wording to “*establishing*” not “*exploring*” since we changed the chapeau to “*considering*”. If we want to keep it “*exploring*”, then we should go back and change the chapeau to “*express support for exploring*”. If we are considering, then we should consider the establishment of the facility itself.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we go along with “*considering establishing a food import facility*”? I think it captures the same as “*exploring a food*” because I think both are more or less the same

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Perhaps taking note of the information shared earlier by the Chief Economist, that this is something that the international financial institutions (IFIs) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be establishing themselves, but with the input from FAO. Given that this is a Council document for FAO, perhaps “*participating in the establishment of a food import financing facility*” may better reflect the role that FAO has in this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Canada, for reminding us that it is not the Council who can establish the food import financing facility, even if we want to do so. Could we agree with the latest proposal, which starts with “*express support for further consideration of participating in the establishment of a food import financing facility*”?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

We see the wisdom coming from the intervention from the dear colleague from Canada, but, since we are also considering the establishment, then we should consider “*endorsing the establishment of a food import financing facility*”. I think the discussions of the Council have seen a lot of support for the idea itself. We understand that it is not yet implemented or approved from the financial institutions, but I think it does not mind “*endorsing*”. We are as a Council, we can endorse the food financing facility.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I understand, but I look both to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen as well as to our Legal Counsel, is that the establishment of a food import facility is not within the mandate of the FAO? First, I am going to give the floor to the Chief Economist and then legal Counsel.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

We have prepared all the technical information that is required consistent with the Bretton Woods Agreement of a mechanism that exists in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In terms of efficiency, we believe they are the ones that have to implement it and we will provide the technical support to that.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Following on from the Chief Economist, here I would note that the idea is not that FAO establishes and manages this, but that it has made the proposal and it is supporting the establishment of this in an international financial institution (IFI). Thus, you may wish to consider something along the lines of *“supporting the establishment of a food import financing facility”*. Something in that nature where it is the initiative, FAO proposed it, but FAO has recognized the limits of its competence and its expertise.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I think the proposal would be to *“express support for further consideration of supporting the establishment of a food import facility”*. Would that be agreeable?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Notre préférence, y compris en ayant entendu les indications du Chief Economist, merci de ne pas supprimer tout à l'écran s'il vous plaît. Notre préférence reste d'avoir le langage canadien, qui nous paraît mieux capturer la réalité de cette proposition : *“participating in the establishment of”*, et non pas : *“supporting”*. J'ajouterais à la fin : *“within FAO's mandate.”* Puisque nous avons entendu de la Conseillère Juridique que la FAO reconnaît les limites de son mandat : *“participating in the establishment”*. Encore une fois, cette proposition, si je comprends, elle doit être encore endossée par le FMI notamment et les autres institutions financières internationales. Ce n'est pas à nous de parler ou de postuler pour d'autres organisations. Nous pouvons tout au plus soutenir la participation à la mise en œuvre, à l'établissement de cette facilité.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do bet with the latest proposal we could arrive at an agreement of the text now. It would be not *“participating in the establishment of a food import facility, in line with FAO's mandate”*.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

I am getting a bit worried and having a difficulty to understand. If it is not in our legal mandate, or the FAO's legal mandate, to establish a financial facility, how do you prejudge an establishment of such a facility by another agency? In essence, I think the question is whether you are exploring a proposal to make to those other institutions? How do you set up something that we are not legally mandated to and how do you influence? Because I think that you probably are just going to have to influence unless you have specific information about the establishment of that financial facilities by those entities.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

I think the text as it is right now reflects what is a reality. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has a facility of balance to payment support, so is basically bringing in that facility the food component, which is crucial right now. In that sense, the mechanism exists but, of course, is something that has to be approved by the board of the IMF.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Perhaps the way could be to reflect the need for consultations or through a consulting process because it involves, like you said, the other international financial institutions (IFIs) and, of course, FAO within its mandate. I would humbly suggest perhaps we use the wording *“express support for further consideration through a consulting process that would cover the need for FAO to work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order for the establishment.”*



**CHAIRPERSON**

Malaysia, would you proceed to say that “*through a consulting process*” could replace then “*the coordinated cooperation with United Nation entity and related bodies especially*” etc. because otherwise it a duplication.

**Mr Mondher RJEB (Tunisia)**

I would suggest to go for the word “*supporting the establishment of a food import financing facility in collaboration with international financial institution within the mandate of the FAO*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Tunisia, I think it was explained by the Chief Scientist as well as the Legal Counsel that it is not FAO that can establish that facility because it is in the mandate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Mr Mondher RJEB (Tunisia)**

“*For the establishment*”, as the Chief Economist said, “*provide technical assistance*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That should be included in subparagraph (a), not in this report, because we are now discussing paragraph (a). Shall we say, “*participating in the establishment of*”, which says that we ask FAO to participate in.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to carry on what my colleague from Tunisia mentioned. I do not understand where the confusion is. If we put “*support in*”, not “*participating*” because we understand that this is within the mandate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which they will be the financial institution to implement this financing facility, but here the Council is supporting this initiative itself. This is one of the proposing, and once again, the chapeau itself is mentioning “*expressing support for further consideration*”. If we are further considering, we are also making the reference that we are supporting the proposal itself, or we are showing our support for the work and the initiative by the Chief Economist and, once again, we are adding the sentence of “*in line with FAO’s mandate*”. So I do not see where the confusion is if we use the word supporting.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I turn to the Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Here I would just like to note that in fact none of the items listed below the chapeau are matters which would in fact be dealt with by FAO alone. They go well beyond this and indeed that is reflected in the language of the chapeau already. You already have the language “*it*”, i.e. the Council, “*express support for further consideration in coordination and cooperation with*”, and it continues, “*of*”. All of those matters below that require engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs), Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), and other institutions. So, I am wondering, and this is purely for your consideration, of course this is your report, but I am wondering whether there is the need for this specificity about “*participating*” or “*supporting*” in subparagraph (a) because it would seem that much of this is already captured in your chapeau, but I just wanted to highlight that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

How would subparagraph (a) then be formulated?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Subparagraph (a) would just be reverting back to “*establishment*”, because the establishment is, again, referring to the chapeau. The Council would be expecting support for further consideration in coordination and cooperation with other agencies of the establishment. As originally phrased, it was not FAO establishing the facility, it was FAO supporting the further consideration of such facility in coordination.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we not find a way out following the suggestion of Ms Donata Rugarabamu and say “*of the establishment, of a food*”, etc.? Because we are now seeing a global list of speakers and really I am concerned about time now, because I think we are aligned with the idea, it is just how we formulate it. I think the Legal Counsel gave a good suggestion to say based on what is now formulated “*establishment of a food...*” Could we not live with this?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

My point is we can live with this proposal. For us, the establishment is a bit weird. The establishment could be fine, also supporting participating we can also live with that. The point that I would like to make is that once we are in line with the ideas here, we still spend so much time on drafting and defining the language. In some ways, some languages seem [XX]. So we tried to find a conversion. Basically, we are in line with this idea. I suggest that we can live with “*establishment*”, that is fine, but if there is another word supporting it, we should stop spending this much time on this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will keep this subparagraph pending because it now takes us too much time on one specific subparagraph. Let us continue with the other subparagraphs and then I will continue with subparagraph (a).

Can we agree to subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

I go to subparagraph (c) I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any objections.

We go subparagraph (f).

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I believe that in this chapeau we already have the mentioning of that conflict in Ukraine so all those subparagraphs, they one way or the other related to the outcomes of the conflicts. I do not think that there is a need in this specific subparagraph to outline as an outcome of the conflict.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal is to have a semicolon after developing countries? Can we agree to this proposal?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Notre proposition est de conserver le langage initial, les pays en développement ne sont pas vulnérables par nature, ils sont vulnérables, parce qu'il y a une raison. Donc, nous souhaitons garder le langage initial.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

We just echo the French colleague.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with what France had said, the title of this session was the impact of Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security, in this case, reflecting that in subparagraph (f) would be appropriate.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility to maintain the text as it was?

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

We are flexible but we have mention the conflict in both the initial chapeau and the chapeau for this specific paragraph, so shall we repeat as part of the conflict in Ukraine in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and further down. I mean, this was the question, but we are flexible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I thank you for your flexibility. My proposal would be to maintain the text as it was to make progress. Then we go to subparagraph (g). Can we agree to that?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Bien sûr nous souhaitons conserver l'idée, mais ma suggestion est de l'étendre, puisque dans plusieurs discours, nous avons entendu qu'il y avait plusieurs moyens. Donc ma suggestion concrètement, est de dire "*promoting efficient use of fertilizer, such as the Code of Conduct of Fertilizers and sustainable soil management practices*". On supprimerait le début de la phrase : "promoting". Voilà, les pratiques peuvent être les utilisations de cartes, mais peuvent être aussi autre chose.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this proposal?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

A clarification, this Code of Conduct is from FAO or is it from another source? Can the French Ambassador specify from what source is this Code of Conduct?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Sous le contrôle bien sûr de Maria Helena Semedo, c'est le Code de Conduite de la FAO en effet. Sur l'usage.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we should include FAO's Code of Conduct.

**Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General)**

Yes, indeed it is an FAO Code of Conduct. It was approved three years ago.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I think it is useful to maintain a reference to the soil maps, given that that is the policy proposal that is in the documents before us today. With regard to the Code of Conduct, we are fine with its reference but perhaps it is a contextual, rather than the means to the end. So perhaps it could read, "*promoting efficient use of fertilizers, including through soil maps and sustainable soil management practices in the context of the FAO Code of Conduct of fertilisers.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see now a long list of speakers, but could we not just agree to this as it is now proposed to avoid a lengthy discussion? Because I do want to make progress this evening also on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. Unless there is a real problem with what is now formulated, because I think it is catching what everybody is saying and I think it is a good suggestion by Canada, I would propose to go along with this proposal. Is it agreeable?

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

South Africa wanted to reinforce the use of soil maps because that is what the Africa Group was presenting. So thank you very much. With that formulation we will be comfortable.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

We can accompany the proposal just made by Canada, however, we believe that we should use the formal name of the Code of Conduct. So I can provide the name if you want? So it is *the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers*.

I also have a question. We would like to keep the soil maps reference here but we have doubts concerning if the soil maps should be developed or outlined in the context of the Code of Conduct. However, we believe that it would be important to retain the mention of the soil maps.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can solve that if we put a comma after “*soil maps*”, because then the other part is relating to the rest.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

The drafting has moved on from when I first requested the floor so, thank you, we no longer need the floor.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have now an agreement. Can we then go to “*reducing food loss and waste*”? I do not see any objections.

Then we turn to subparagraph (a). The latest proposal was saying “*establishment of a food import facility, in line with FAO’s mandate*”.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We are okay with this formulation but noting that there was other delegations that had some concern about the strength of that, we could consider “*facilitating the establishment of, given the role that FAO can play in providing technical assistance*”, that may be one option. However, as I said, we are fine with “*establishment of*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now the proposal is “*facilitating the establishment of*”. Of course it is still “*consideration of*”. Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

With that we have finalized our draft conclusions. Thank you so much. We now have finalized our considerations of this Agenda Item and thank you so much for a fruitful conclusion.

**Item 8. Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative**

**Point 8. Informations actualisées sur l’Initiative Main dans la main**

**Tema 8. Información actualizada sobre la Iniciativa Mano de la mano**

(CL 170/8)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we continue with Item 8, *Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative* and the document before the Council is CL170/8. The introduction of Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, the Chief Economist, has been circulated to you.

**Introduction to Item 8: Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HIH) began in the fall of 2019 and it applies rigorous analytical methods to assist countries in identifying territories and populations with the greatest potential for unlocking market-oriented opportunities to transform their agrifood systems, thereby contributing towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 10.

**Progress Highlights**

Since November 2021, seven additional countries have joined the Initiative, bringing the total number of participating countries to 52. Their ambitious programming goals are evident as they use the Initiative to strengthen and accelerate existing programmes or develop new ones, build national capabilities and bolster national ownership of sustainable development process. Specifically:

- In Africa, 29 countries<sup>1</sup> are making steady, if incremental progress, with francophone countries making considerable advance. For example, Mali is drawing on the Initiative to

<sup>1</sup> Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

establish two pilot agricultural growth zones, known as “Agropoles” to boost the rural population’s income and access to healthy diets. The FAO Technical Task Team is also working on developing a more comprehensive approach for the region, focusing on the Sahel.

- In Asia, 11 countries<sup>2</sup> are working together with the HIH teams to translate the Initiative’s alignment with their national priorities into concrete investment plans. In Nepal, following a period of political changeover, the Government has resumed efforts to integrate a climate-smart agriculture investment plan at the local level in target provinces.
- In Latin America, intensive national-level work is taking place in eight countries.<sup>3</sup> Ecuador, for instance, has used the Initiative’s typology maps to organize livestock, forestry and agriculture projects as part of their National Agriculture Plan. For a regional approach, the FAO Technical Team has begun conducting an assessment to tackle food insecurity challenges in the Dry Corridors.
- In Europe, Tajikistan has made steady progress focusing on generating opportunities in the dairy sector. Among the three participating countries<sup>4</sup> in the Middle East, the Yemeni Government and the HIH team continue to mobilize resources to invest in the coffee and fisheries value chains and improve food security.

### **Dashboard Development**

The development of a programme dashboard has continued, with preliminary data from seven HIH countries made available: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Yemen. The initial dashboard platform has been shared with the seven countries and was well received.

The dashboard is designed to provide regular, real-time reporting of progress against programme milestones and SDG objectives. It also provides key impacts and cost-benefit analysis, showcasing advancement in the areas of interventions. The dashboard builds upon significantly resource-intensive analysis and information collection efforts with respect to time and labour. It has also required close consultations between host governments and multiple partners, all of which have informed the country’s programmes supported by HIH.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor for the Members and I promise to give Angola the floor as the first speaker on this Item.

#### **M. André De Jesus MODA (Angola)**

Je vous félicite pour la coordination de ces travaux importants et nous remercions également le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'organisation. Nous apprécions sincèrement les efforts de la FAO en partenariat avec le projet multisectoriel et inclusif qu'elle appuie dans notre pays. Espérons qu'ils se poursuivront le plus longtemps possible. Avec cet appui nous transformerons l'agriculture familiale dans les zones sensibles et vulnérables qui ont besoin de ce type de projet pour l'adaptation intégrale de nos populations aux évènements critiques du changement climatique et de la sécheresse.

L'Angola, mon pays, note avec satisfaction les différentes manières dont les pays qui y participent utilisent cette Initiative pour consolider et accélérer les programmes existants, renforcer les capacités nationales et régionales afin d'accroître l'appropriation du processus du développement durable. L'Angola a un programme gouvernemental qui a renforcé la transformation du secteur productif et son potentiel naturel, porteur de développement et créateur d'emploi. Il a également renforcé la participation sociale et citoyenne tout au long de ce processus, partant de la conception de politiques, programmes et projets à la prise des décisions avec les approches multiformes et diversifiés

<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu.

<sup>3</sup> Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru.

<sup>4</sup> Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

pour favoriser la transformation des systèmes alimentaires avec les points de vue des acteurs et pour la création des plateformes et la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Monsieur le Président, l'avènement de la sécheresse dans mon pays a eu des impacts négatifs sur l'économie nationale au cours de deux dernières décennies, provoquant des changements dans les systèmes alimentaires, et en particulier dans le processus de production et de transformation des aliments. Ceci a entraîné la hausse des prix des aliments de base, en particulier dans le sud du pays. Grâce aux efforts déployés par mon gouvernement et ses partenaires de développement, il a été possible de réduire la prévalence de la faim.

Cependant, en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19 et des effets du changement climatique, le niveau de chômage et l'exode rural a augmenté. Il y a des pertes de productions pendant et après récolte, aggravées par des événements naturels. En particulier les criquets et les maladies, qui ont gravement affecté la réalisation des objectifs établis dans l'agenda national sur le développement durable.

Le secteur agricole en Angola est l'une des priorités pour la diversification économique, pour l'augmentation du produit intérieur brut national, et continue à être la principale source de revenu pour la plupart de la population du pays. Cependant seul 8 à 14 % de ces 59 millions d'hectares des terres arables sont occupées par les familles et les paysans. Le gouvernement angolais, à travers un important dialogue national de consultation publique menée sur les systèmes alimentaires a adopté la deuxième stratégie nationale de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Ce dialogue s'est concentré sur la contribution de la foresterie, l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et l'aquaculture, dans les systèmes alimentaires liant la question pertinente du changement climatique, de la pauvreté et la faim, la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, les services de soutien rural, l'inclusion sociale, et la protection des écosystèmes naturels, avec l'objectif de créer plus de valeur et sécurité dans les chaînes agricoles.

La Agenda 2030 utilise une approche territoriale des systèmes alimentaires en ligne avec les efforts internationaux pour accélérer la transformation des systèmes alimentaires afin d'atteindre les 17 objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Le Ministère de l'Economie et du Plan, en partenariat avec le Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche scientifique, science et technologie et de l'innovation, l'Institut national de l'appui au micro, petites et moyennes entreprises, et l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU) pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO), a promu des séances de débats autour des thèmes suivants : défis et opportunités de l'agriculture et le rôle de la collaboration de l'établissement de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique. Nous considérons que le rôle collaboratif des établissements d'enseignement supérieurs dans le développement de l'agro-industrie soit important. Les initiatives du projet dans le cadre du programme de l'AgroPRODESI que nous avons développé en partenariat avec la FAO ont été un accélérateur de la production nationale, et de la création de recherche, avec l'implication directe des universités locales, de la société civile et du secteur privé.

Aussi, nous tenons à souligner que Son Excellence, Monsieur le Président de la République João Lourenço, a été l'un des préempteurs et prometteurs du projet d'obtention aux dotations de l'adaptation aux énormes impacts négatifs de la sécheresse dans le sud du pays. Ayant récemment inauguré un canal d'annexion d'eau potable de plus de 160 kilomètres de longueurs qui desservira plus de 235 000 familles agricoles touchées par le fléau de la sécheresse.

Enfin, nous félicitons la FAO pour les initiatives en cours et les stratégies importantes qui seront adoptées pendant ces assises, réaffirmant l'intérêt du gouvernement angolais à transformer les objectifs définis en action concrète qui favoriseront l'avenir décent que nous souhaitons lier aux agendas et programmes qui vont mener l'Afrique dans sa totalité.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask everybody's cooperation to obey the time limits in order to facilitate the conclusion of a successful Council this week.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Indonesia has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. At the outset, the Asia Group appreciates the secretariat for its hard work.

We are pleased to review this document and greatly recognise the substantial progress in implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. The progress report of the 15 countries out of 52 Hand-in-Hand supported countries, showcases FAO's support to achieve countries priorities and objectives.

The group acknowledges this initiative as a tool to accelerate the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, in particular SDG1 and SDG2. We strongly believe that FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative to integrate and prioritise new spatial information, advanced technologies, and policy and investment interventions can play an important role in many countries and help us toward further reducing poverty and hunger.

The Asia Group applauds FAO as the Hand-in-Hand new Geospatial Platform provides advanced information on food security indicators and agriculture statistic. It was recognized as the best collaborative platform towards data-driven agriculture and receive an award of excellence at Geospatial World Forum (GWF) 2022 in Amsterdam. This symbolizes FAO's strong commitment to improve the millions of lives of farmers by creating an efficient and resilient agri-food system through digital transformation and partnerships.

We encourage FAO to make this new Geospatial Platform more user-friendly, available and familiar to the end-users, particularly at the country level. The development of Global Communications Strategy may be an effective tool in this regard. The Asia Group thinks that there is a great potential to achieve much more with Hand-in-Hand approach.

In collaboration with FAO, the individual governments can carry out the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Chronic Food Insecurity (IPC CFI) analysis. The (IPC) findings allow the countries to identify hotspots at the field level across the countries to determine the severity, magnitude, and causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. It will also fulfil the objective of targeting the poor, food insecure, and vulnerable.

We would also like to encourage FAO to establish effective dialogue with development partners and stakeholders to build a common understanding of Hand-in-Hand to prioritise action, identify gaps, and develop medium and long-term programs with clear milestones and Progress-Tracking Systems.

Lastly, Asia Group deeply appreciates the information provided by FAO and requests to release more detailed information, which will contribute to further strengthening the transparency of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We would also like to encourage FAO to provide regular dissemination and briefing on other Hand-in-Hand countries more frequently and look forward to further development of the initiative, as well as the inclusion of many countries, particularly from Asia region.

We would be happy to receive information about the Investment Forum on Hand-in-Hand Initiative's schedule to be held in Rome in October, this year, which was not presented in this report. With this, the Asia Group takes notes of the progress made of the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand initiative.

Chairperson, can you allow me to add some point on my national capacity?

Indonesia thanks the secretariat for its update on the evidence-based and country-led programs on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We express our support to the Initiative and note the progress update on the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, including in the document *CL 170/8*.

We congratulate the whole Hand-in-Hand Initiative team for winning the Geospatial Excellence Award for the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative offers FAO Members and Development Partners an innovative and new way to strengthen, expand, and sustain national capabilities and progress to accelerate agrifood system transformation and achieve the SDG1, SDG2, and SDG10. We highlight the need for the initiative to continuously adapt to local dynamics, context specifics, and strengthen national ownership. We encourage FAO to continue to provide regular updates of the initiative and its impacts to support agrifood systems transformation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We got two-in-one, a regional statement as well as a national statement and that within five minutes. Thank you so much – good example.

**Ms Demitu HAMBISA BONSA (Ethiopia)**

We are taking the floor to speak on behalf of the African Regional Group.

I am pleased to present the African Regional Group Statement on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative spearheaded by the FAO Director-General to support the Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Islands Developing States and the Least Developed Countries and others who meet the criteria set.

We appreciate that Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which offers FAO Members and their development partners' programmatic support and an innovative new way of strengthening, expanding and sustaining ambitious national programmes for food systems transformation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

We also recognize the Hand-in-Hand Initiative importance in providing the Geospatial Platform, which is the world's largest and most capable platform, and data and information exchange and analysis. This improves the analytical capacities of the national personals supported by FAO's national task teams.

This further helped the developing countries to identify territories and population where programme and investments to unlock market oriented opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth to eradicate poverty, end malnutrition and reduce inequality.

We appreciate the 40 Members that have completed the necessary technical studies and are making headway in identifying programme entry points, value chains, territories and markets. Over all the progress is encouraging but we felt that we have to work more and faster as the initiative has an excellent impact on our food system.

We could learn that out of the 15 countries investigated for their progress, eight were African countries.

From what they have done so far, we recognized that although their performance varies from country to country, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in these countries will contribute to enhance climate resilient agrifood systems, support efforts to ensure food security, promote green cities, boost institutional capacities and other benefits.

Finally, we are grateful to FAO and in particular to the Director-General for introducing this Initiative, commitment to deliver technical and financial support to our participating nations.

**Sr. Gustavo Eduardo MOSTAJO OCOLA (Perú)**

Agradecemos la presentación de la información actualizada sobre la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano, propuesta que es impulsada por la FAO con el objeto de acelerar la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios y el desarrollo rural sostenible con el fin de erradicar la pobreza y poner fin al hambre y a todas las formas de malnutrición, y consecuentemente alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

Acogemos con agrado la incorporación de un mayor número de países a esta Iniciativa, de la cual nuestro país forma parte, así como de los progresos alcanzados a la fecha en cada uno de ellos. La información alcanzada proporciona evidencia, una vez más, de la importancia de tomar en consideración los contextos y capacidades nacionales para la adopción o implementación de planes, programas o iniciativas como esta.

Saludamos la decisión de elaborar un tablero de control, el cual según se indica se encuentra en fase de desarrollo y que permitirá efectuar un mejor seguimiento, gestión y evaluación de los progresos en función de los hitos del programa y de las metas de los ODS. Esta información en tiempo real debe ayudar a transparentar la gestión, mejorar la gobernanza, conocer los avances y repercusiones en las zonas de las intervenciones, así como proporcionar datos y análisis para una mejora continua en cada uno de los procesos y actividades comprendidos en su aplicación.



Queremos expresar nuestra sincera felicitación por haber sido merecedores del premio a la excelencia mundial en materia de agricultura y seguridad alimentaria, en el Foro Geoespacial Mundial 2022, celebrado en Ámsterdam, en reconocimiento a la Plataforma geoespacial Mano de la mano, como la mejor plataforma en favor de una agricultura basada en datos.

Acogemos con agrado la elaboración de una estrategia de comunicación mundial dirigida a intensificar los esfuerzos de promoción de la Iniciativa, en particular, para crear capacidades internas, comunicar adecuadamente a las partes interesadas y promover al apoyo a los programas de la Iniciativa buscando atraer nuevos asociados y donantes.

No queremos desaprovechar la oportunidad de expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Director General de la FAO, al Economista Jefe y a todo el equipo técnico de la FAO que forma parte de esta Iniciativa, por los progresos y logros alcanzados a la fecha, lo cual contribuirá indefectiblemente al desarrollo socioeconómico de los países y consecuentemente al logro de los ODS.

**Ms Xi LI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We agree with the Asia Group statement. We support Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and we acknowledge the positive progress made by it since its launch in 2019 and note with satisfaction that the Initiative is very successful, and we congratulate the Chief Economist and FAO for the progress in this regard. We note with satisfaction that the Initiative has provided effective support to 52 countries.

We congratulate the Geospatial Information Platform on winning the World Geospatial Information Excellence Award. This reflects the positive role it has played in promoting digital agriculture. We acknowledge the progress made in the development of the showcase platform and the Global Communications Strategy. We encourage FAO to continue to strengthen partnerships, so that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative can reach more countries. We are very satisfied that we have very full and transparent information provided to countries.

This is really an initiative led by Members. China is willing to participate in further incorporate this Initiative through South-South and Triangular Cooperation channels to support developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

First, I would like to thank Mr Máximo Torero Cullen for the reports. Israel appreciates the progress made in the implementation of the Initiative and commends the continued growth of the number of participate countries. It is even more appreciated, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its circumstances, and the rising distractive stress caused by the climate crisis. We would also like to express Israel appreciation for the commitment to work in comprehensive collaboration with local communities and associations, local governments, and private sector, and also with global and worldwide organisations. It is an outstanding approach.

We appreciate building in domestic capabilities that have proven to be useful, model, successful, and resilient. Hence, we encourage FAO to continue its commitment to this national ownership of the Hand-in-Hand programmes while enable transparent and inclusive process for basing partnership. The update report presents the main progress made within 15 out of 40 participating countries in the Initiative that have completed the necessary preliminary and technical requirements. Israel welcomes the progress made in each of the countries mentioned. We would like to express our appreciation to all the countries that literally reach out their hands, as well as global organisations, to back the local teams.

Israel welcomes in particular the support given to countries dealing with climate crisis, extreme weather, and harsh physical condition for agriculture. Israel has centuries of experience in this field and would be pleased to share, therefore, we would like to request management for more information about the first option to do that. Nevertheless, the report notes a selection of milestone that took place in May 2022, in the following: Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Laos, and Yemen.

We ask Management for an update regarding the results mentioned in part 19, 20, 28, 34, 44, and 69. We suggest it could be separate report or in additio to future implementation reports on additional countries, as mentioned. Moreover, Israel requests management for information on the expected

release of request for proposal to develop and build a database cloud for the improvement of the Dashboard Platform.

With all those comments, Israel welcomes the report.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Eritrea primarily recommends FAO Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for organizing the 170<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council and appreciated the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, for initiating this Hand-in-Hand Initiative almost three years ago, in 2019. Furthermore, we recommend and congratulate the Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, for the hard work in pertinent report.

Eritrea fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Ethiopia Government, on behalf of the Africa Government Group. The report is based clearly with progress and results archived in the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and summarises the progress in the development and implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative with specific reference to reports of 15 countries out of the total 52 supported countries. Hence, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is pertinent and important because Members are using the Initiative to strengthen and authorise existing programmes.

Therefore, Eritrea welcomes the report and appreciates so much for the continued growth in number of countries participating in the Initiative and underlines the valuable implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and commend FAO for further support and consideration regarding the utilization at of country level.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, la Géorgie, la Serbie, l'Ukraine, la Turquie et San Marin se rallient à la présente déclaration. L'Union Européenne et ses États membres prennent acte du dernier rapport intérimaire concernant l'Initiative Main dans la main (HIHI). Nous exprimons à nouveau notre souhait de garantir la conformité de l'initiative avec le Plan-cadre de coopération des Nations Unies, la programmation conjointe du système des Nations Unies pour le développement, et l'Agenda 2030.

S'agissant de l'initiative, nous encourageons la FAO, conformément à son mandat, à travailler en étroite collaboration avec les autres institutions et les partenaires de développement concernés. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction le rapport sur l'avancement des travaux de l'initiative, présenté au Conseil, et nous prenons note de la quantité d'instruments mobilisés par la FAO dans les pays cités.

Néanmoins, nous souhaiterions qu'il nous soit communiqué des informations supplémentaires sur l'utilisation des ressources budgétaires et extrabudgétaires, sur les résultats obtenus dans chaque pays, ainsi que sur la mobilisation des acteurs publics, privés et de la société civile dans les pays concernés. Nous soulignons que le financement de l'initiative doit être totalement transparent et nous demandons à la Direction de garantir qu'il n'y aura aucune autre répercussion sur le budget régulier approuvé.

Nous prenons note des efforts déployés grâce à l'initiative pour promouvoir l'investissement en faveur de l'agriculture, des systèmes alimentaires et de la transformation rurale, et pour sélectionner à cet effet des chaînes de valeurs prometteuses, tout en prenant en compte les trois dimensions du développement durable. Ces investissements doivent être responsables, et conformes aux recommandations et aux directives du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale (CSA). En outre, nous saluons le principe selon lequel les programmes de l'initiative sont pris en charge et pilotés par les pays, et en vertu duquel la FAO appuie la mise en place, par les pouvoirs publics, d'un instrument de suivi et d'évaluation des performances en temps réel.

Nous soulignons qu'il est crucial de garantir un niveau élevé de transparence, de partage d'information et de communication entre les partenaires, nous accueillons avec satisfaction les efforts déployés pour associer l'initiative Main dans la Main (HIHI) aux stratégies nationales, ainsi qu'à d'autres agences de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU), notamment celles ayant leurs sièges à Rome et les coordinateurs résidents des Nations Unies.

De plus, compte tenu des conclusions de la 165<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil, nous rappelons qu'il est essentiel que la FAO promeuve un vaste ensemble de techniques innovantes, afin que les futurs partenariats puissent recourir à l'innovation de manière durable, sous toutes ses formes. Nous prenons note de la poursuite de l'élaboration du tableau de bord des programmes, de la sous-traitance des travaux relatifs à une stratégie de communication mondiale, ainsi que de l'augmentation du nombre de bases de données intégrées à la plateforme géospatiale de l'initiative HHHI.

Nous félicitons la FAO pour la remise à la plateforme géospatiale du prix mondial d'excellence en agriculture et sécurité alimentaire, lors du Geospatial World Forum 2022. Nous souhaitons souligner qu'un soin tout particulier doit être apporté à la collecte, à l'utilisation et à la protection des données. Ces opérations doivent être menées dans le plein respect du cadre de la FAO relatif à la protection des données et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle.

Pour conclure, nous remercions la FAO pour ses informations sur l'initiative HHHI comme un moyen supplémentaire d'atteindre les objectifs de développement durable dans le cadre du mandat de l'organisation. Nous aimerions qu'il nous soit communiqué des détails supplémentaires sur les instruments et les méthodes utilisées, ainsi que des rapports réguliers sur l'avancée des travaux relatifs à la mise en œuvre de l'initiative HHHI et sur les résultats obtenus.

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

Firstly, Malaysia associates itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by Indonesia.

Malaysia acknowledges the progress made by FAO with respect to the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative, as to date 52 countries have expressed their desire to participate and 40 of them have completed the necessary technical studies in identifying programme entry points, value chains, territories, and markets.

Malaysia recognizes FAO's commitment to "leave no one behind" has led to the creation of an evidence-based, country-led, country-owned programme designed to eradicate poverty and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. FAO is encouraged to continue to develop HIH as a transparent and accountable initiative that supports transformation of agrifood systems by engaging at different levels of government while facilitating partnerships with other relevant stakeholders such as agricultural research institutions and private sector.

Malaysia calls on FAO to strengthen its coordination and partnership with multilateral development banks and other UN agencies by identifying opportunities at national level for all priority countries, as well as bottlenecks and investment gaps, which are tailored to the local and national context.

Malaysia also appreciates the flexibility of this initiative in responding to different scenarios, issues and problems faced by participating countries, from strengthening protection and sustainable use of natural resources, including stabilization of rivers and lakes, water resources, reforestation and promotion of renewable energies in Burundi, operationalizing the High Agricultural Productivity Zones in Gabon to unlocking agricultural potential, and eradicate poverty and malnutrition along the China-Lao railway corridor, just to name a few.

Malaysia recognizes the progress made on the development of the programme dashboard and its functions as a monitoring system for providing regular, real-time reporting of progress against programme milestones and prioritised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, including the key impacts and cost-benefit analysis to ensure the effective delivery, management, governance and impact of the HIH Initiative. Malaysia requests FAO to make available regular reports on the progress and development of the HIH Initiative, in particular, the results at country level and its relevant outcomes.

In closing, we welcome the report on the HIH Initiative with appreciation.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Now, we align ourselves with the Asia Group statement, but also, I would like to supplement the agent statement what it does not necessarily have in it. Firstly, we welcome the report on Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and we hope that this initiative should be operated by the beneficial country-driven based

upon their actual evidence. Therefore, it seems to be the case now, so I welcome that, and also, that we would like to see the continuous legal update of the initiative.

The Japan's request at this time, I focused on the one particular thing. That is accountability and the transparency. As I understand it, 20 Programme Priority Areas, as one of it requires the high level of the transparency and the accountability to the Member. Unfortunately, I am afraid that the information's disclosure level is not sufficient at this moment. So, we would like to request the further transparencies and accountability on those things as such, but not only the good practice, but the problem that you have found, that is also welcomed.

The financial information when the public-private entity is concerned, the decision-making progress of the programme, including the budgetary matters behind that, the procurement processes and other issues. Other budget issues like the detailed information on the legal budget or the monthly contributions. We would like to know much more about these things.

Then when it comes to the Dashboard development, we welcome that, but I also would like to know the detailed schedule for that. And also, when it comes to the Communications Strategy, we welcome that, but I also would like to know the detail information on the tender issues and also the kind of the future image of the selection of those document of the Strategy.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the report and wishes to thank FAO for its support in providing updates and demonstrations of the outputs related to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and in particular, the Chief Economist and the diverse teams supporting the development of the Platform and products.

We appreciate the country-led and country-owned nature of the project projects, and commend the FAO on building a successful Geospatial Platform. And we congratulate the team for the award recently won in Amsterdam. We also appreciate the fact that this platform has expanded beyond the initial list of Hand-in-Hand countries, bringing this strong analytical tool to more members. Canada looks forward to the development of the Communication Strategy to strengthen advocacy efforts and encourages FAO to continue upholding the highest standards of data security and protection, ensuring the integrity of the initiative.

We look forward to hearing more about the October Investment Forum at the appropriate time.

**M. Batoury Aristide THIOMBIANO (Burkina Faso)**

Je prends la parole pour la première fois, je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, saluer votre leadership qui nous permet d'avancer et souhaiter plein de succès à vos travaux. Le Burkina Faso s'associe à la déclaration de l'Éthiopie au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Nous prenons note des progrès accomplis par la FAO dans la mise en œuvre de l'Initiative Main dans la main (HIHI), nous félicitons l'économiste en chef et son équipe qui, chaque fois que de besoin, ont été disponibles pour nous apporter des informations utiles.

Au Burkina Faso, la contribution de l'initiative a consisté essentiellement à l'élaboration d'un Plan national d'investissement agricole à travers la conduite d'études spécifiques, telles que la typologie agricole au niveau national, permettant d'identifier les opportunités au niveau régional, les goulots d'étranglement et les déficits d'investissements. De l'expérience de notre pays, et dans la perspective d'une mise à l'échelle de cette initiative, nous encourageons la FAO à placer le pays au centre du processus pour lequel les experts de la FAO joueront plus un rôle de contrôle de qualité. Au-delà des études menées, nous sommes impatients de travailler avec la FAO et les autres partenaires pour des actions de mobilisations des ressources et pour une consolidation des investissements prioritaires du pays.

Le succès de l'initiative Main dans la main (HIHI) repose fondamentalement sur le soutien des partenaires des états, qui, sur la base des informations pertinentes fournies, sont à même d'apporter les financements nécessaires. Le changement de régime politique intervenu au Burkina Faso en janvier dernier a conduit certains partenaires techniques et financiers, notamment multilatéraux à suspendre leurs financements, y compris les prêts consentis. Cette situation compromet les actions d'urgence

pour faire face à la crise alimentaire ainsi que les investissements structurants pour la relance de l'économie.

La levée des suspensions constitue donc une attente de notre pays pour la poursuite des actions en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des populations vulnérables.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)**

México agradece la presentación de este Informe y felicita a la FAO por los reconocimientos recibidos y por el trabajo realizado en la implementación de la Iniciativa Mano de la mano. Reconocemos y apreciamos el esfuerzo en el establecimiento del tablero de control y por el funcionamiento de la Plataforma geoespacial Mano de la mano. Nos sumamos a las felicitaciones que ya han sido expresadas por diferentes Miembros.

Creemos que estas son innovaciones que hay que consolidar y que hay que fortalecer. Mientras expresamos nuestro apoyo para seguir avanzando en la implementación de la Iniciativa quisiera hacer algunas consultas y, al hacerlo, expreso mis disculpas por quizá mi falta de conocimiento y comprensión profunda sobre la Iniciativa. Quisiera consultar lo siguiente: quisiera saber si existen planes para llevar a cabo una evaluación integral de esta Iniciativa y si es así, ¿cuándo está programada para realizarse, tanto en sus impactos técnicos y productivos como en sus costos y finanzas? ¿Cuándo se tiene programada la evaluación?

Segundo, asumo que una de las intenciones de esta Iniciativa es que los países se apropien de la misma y que la FAO pueda, eventualmente, mover sus recursos a otros países y regiones. Por lo tanto, me gustaría saber si se tiene pensado un límite temporal para implementar la Iniciativa en los países que ya están participando y, en caso de existir, cuál sería la estrategia de salida para contar con un plan de tal forma que los países continúen con esta Iniciativa sin que sea la FAO la que la tenga que implementarla o sea el Organismo líder de implementación. Es decir, ¿cómo se piensa que los países van a apropiarse de la Iniciativa y van a darle sustentabilidad más allá de una temporalidad impulsada por la FAO?

La tercera es, debido a que tenemos grandes retos y que uno de los grandes retos que tenemos en la FAO es el de cuidar la universalidad de sus contribuciones, quisiera preguntar ¿cómo se van a utilizar las lecciones aprendidas, buenas y malas, para la generación de instrumentos de cooperación técnica que puedan ser puestos a disposición de los países con la finalidad de fortalecer la institucionalidad agrícola que es, al final del día, lo que nos interesa y la generación de políticas públicas y sus instrumentos de implementación? La estrategia de la Iniciativa se perderá si no logramos transformarla en apoyar la institucionalidad agrícola y en la generación de políticas públicas e instrumentos de políticas públicas. ¿Cómo lo vamos a lograr?

Solamente quisiera saber. Esto es un proceso a futuro.

Finalmente, termino agradeciendo el informe de avances e invitamos a todos los Miembros a seguir apoyando esta Iniciativa y sus instrumentos. Le pedimos a la FAO nos ayude a encontrar cómo las lecciones de esta Iniciativa pueden ser utilizadas por los países que no participamos en ellas para fortalecer nuestra agricultura y nuestra ruralidad.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for your questions and remarks and your interest in this Initiative. I now give to floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen to briefly answer some of the questions and hope we can do it briefly so that we can finance this Item this evening.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Let me first start very briefly with the Geospatial Platform, which is a global public good. When the process of the Hand-in-Hand started in the design, which we had frequent meetings with the Members formally and informally, formally through the Programme Committee and the Chairperson was the President of the Programme Committee, there was a request by the members to expand the geospatial platform to a global public hood. That is why the Geospatial Platform covers all the countries of the world.

Therefore, it is not only for Hand-in-Hand, is for any country where we have information. It has a strong active coordination across UN system on geospatial systems and platforms and significant number of organizations also has shown interest. More recently, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was also accessing to our platform. So, FAO is also a member of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) and is actively contributing to digital public goods globally and championing its principles.

The second major comment was about on accountability and transparency, especially Japan raised this issue. And I do not know what the misinformation is because I talked with your representative here and he was not aware even of the webpage that we have in FAO of Hand-in-Hand. So, I think it is important that we have more bilateral meetings to communicate better, and that is why we have decided to increase communication, and that is why there is a process in place. Any procurement done by any of the activities, for example, the communication and so on, goes through all the process of procurement of FAO. So, we comply with all the processes of transparency and accountability of FAO. Even more, the budget and the finance of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is related and directly linked to what was approved by the members, and the minimum resources that we received from the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), which is USD 500 000, if I am correct.

In addition, of course there is Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources that countries require because this is a country-driven, country-owned strategy from the beginning. So, this strategy and the Hand-in-Hand is driven by countries FAO helps and facilitates. Now, in every Hand-in-Hand country, when we start in the inception workshop, we include the Resident Coordinator and all the agencies. So, every inception workshop has the Resident Coordinator, so that we are in partnership with what is being developed and also, the frameworks being developed by the countries within the UN system.

Every approach that we use in Hand-in-Hand with the countries is a territorial approach. We have a mechanism of types of typologies depending on the data available. We have teams that support the countries so that they can choose the areas where they want to operate within what we call the green areas in Hand-in-Hand, which many of you know and they will decide, the countries, which commodities they want to approach.

Then there was a request on the Investment Forum. What we are trying to do is to work with 15 countries that are Hand-in-Hand, which are part of the report, the ones which have the most progress, so that they can bring their investment plans that are being developed and their progress on that to present them to a set of stakeholders, so that they can start discussions on potential funding with those institutions that include all the variety of potential institutions. So, we are working very hard to have that in place, and we will do a briefing to the members on that, so that you know exactly what we are doing.

Finally, the strategy of Hand-in-Hand is four years. So, the first step is the four years when we want to assess how far the countries that have complied the four years, the progress is, and that is why the dashboard is so important. And we will also have to increase even more transparency at the country level to track all the activities. But after eight years, the countries are supposed to grow, and that is why the importance of it being country-owned and country-driven, so that they can automatically continue doing their operation. We are just facilitating through technical support.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us now see whether or not we can finalize this agenda item this evening. I now read out the draft conclusions, and then we go one by one.

### *Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative*

1. The Council welcomed document CL 170/8, *The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*, and in particular:
  - a) commended the increase in the number of countries participating in the Initiative to 52, with seven countries signing on since November 2021;

- b) welcomed the ways participating countries are drawing on the Initiative to strengthen and accelerate existing programmes or develop new ones, build national capabilities, and bolster national ownership of the sustainable development process;
- c) stressed the need to ensure the Initiative is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and joint programming within the UN development system;
- d) noted the extraordinary challenges faced by the participating countries, especially those facing conflict, and appreciated the flexibility and agility of the Initiative;
- e) took note of the progress made towards the development of a dashboard that tracks delivery and impact, including the preliminary data from seven countries that have been made available in the initial platform interface, and looked forward to receiving information on the next phase of development; and
- f) acknowledged the progress made in developing a global communications strategy to deepen engagement and develop partnerships at global and local levels.

Now, I turn to the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

Subparagraph (a), can we agree on it? I do not see any objections.

Subparagraph b), can we agree on it? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c).

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I raised my hand for subparagraph (b), actually. Just want to clarify “*sustainable development process*”. Can it be “*sustainable development efforts*” or “*achieving Sustainable Development Goals*”, something like that?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to replace “*process*” by “*efforts*”? I do not see any objection.

We continue with subparagraph (c). Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e). Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to the last subparagraph. Can we agree to this paragraph?

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

Just wondering what will be put in those who mentioned “*global national and local levels*”.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I do not have any comment on the subparagraph (f), but if I may, I would like propose subparagraph (g).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Japan, I come back to you for subparagraph (g). Let us first finalize these subparagraphs.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

C'était aussi pour proposer un subparagraph additionnel.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Was also to offer an additional subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please, we try to be concise with the conclusions.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I would like to make a comment on subparagraph (f). This morning when we adopted the recommendations and looked at the conclusions of the report on the strategy on climate change, if I recall correctly, the delegate from Brazil or Argentina, proposed changing “*local levels*” and changing it to “*subnational levels*”. In this connection, in subparagraph (f) perhaps here, we should change “*local*” to “*subnational*” so that throughout the report, if we use this formulation “*global, national, and subnational*”, then we have consistency throughout the report. We have no problems with “*local levels*”. We just want the wording to be uniform throughout the report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now agree with subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objection.

Then I go to Japan for the new subparagraph (g).

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

My proposal is “*Requested to provide the continuous and regular update of the initiative and maintains and try to increase the level of the accountabilities and transparency on the various aspects of the initiative.*”

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We want to know the rationale behind the request. What does that mean, “*the level of accountability and transparency*”? I mean, Japan must, like most of the Members, want this initiative to be well known by all the nations. So we can understand their good faith and the best wish, but we need a clearer referring to what does this accountability and the transparency refer to because, like just Chief Economist mentioned, that all the information specifically required by Japan is already published on the website. So, in a good faith for us to promote this Initiative and to guarantee the accountability and the transparency, we hope that the Japanese colleague could explain what kind of information they are referring to and to which extent the accountability and the transparency could be satisfied.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I agree with what just China has said. In fact, this comment on “*accountability and transparency on the various aspects,*” what are these aspects? How will the Secretariat know which aspect is needed for accountability and transparency? As the Chief Economist pointed out, all the information is on the web. And he even said that the delegation here did not even know that. Perhaps they should first look at that and explain what the various aspects are. Otherwise, the Secretariat would not know which aspects to provide accountability on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see a growing number of Members asking for the floor. Could we be very brief so that we can conclude tonight?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)**

Just to make the same question as our Chinese colleagues and colleague from Pakistan. So, for us it is very clear and very many statements from the delegations send the sign that the Secretariat provide any information about the Initiative.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I just think the first part of the sentence that continues a regular basis has already been addressed in previous subparagraphs. And I also concur with the points raised by China and Pakistan in the second part.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

In fact, it has been already mentioned by China and Pakistan. I think the first phrase is enough, “*requested to provide continuous and regular update of the initiative.*”

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**



L'idée est de continuer à avoir des actualisations régulières, et pour être efficace, notre proposition était de s'en tenir à du langage agréé...

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am sorry, France...

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

So should I expect that multilingualism is not shared by...?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, to my surprise as well. Without any notification.

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

However, I am sure that Mr Rakesh Muthoo, as coordinator for multilingualism, can translate what I am saying in French.

We fully understand and we share of course the request and the indication made by our Japanese colleague in order to combine his proposal and the proposal by our Eritrean colleague.

I would suggest that we go back to the agreed language of former Council 168 in particular paragraph 15 subparagraph (i) "*requested regular updates on the initiative and the geospatial platform, including on the use of budgetary and extraordinary results, lesson learned and good practices at country level and the engagement of public, private, and civil society stakeholders in all those countries where the initiative is being implemented*". I think that it captured the idea, if I am not mistaken, its agreed language and it might help moving forward, but I still have the additional paragraph that I would like to propose.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thirdly, I think using agreed language would certainly help. We put the agreed language on the screen. I do hope that also Japan could live with the proposal now made by France that we use the already agreed language of the Council. Would that be agreeable?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Thank you very much for that proposal by France and the comment by other colleagues. Yes, of course, we can live with that. We are very much fine with it.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

If this subparagraph is in the report of the 168th Session of the Council, why do we need to repeat it in the report of this Council? Are we going to keep repeating past paragraphs from past Council reports in future Council reports?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

First, we concur with Pakistani colleague's message. We did not see added value of this request. Furthermore, we hope that the Chief Economist could help us to explain whether this information is provided or what kind of information is not and what is the reason? If all this information has already been provided or because some information related to the sovereignty of the recipient country, we think that the information is not requested, as above.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are not making progress now, we are continuing the discussion. I give the floor now to France for the additional subparagraph, and to Canada as well and then we see how we continue.

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

I would just note that, of course, we need to continue having regular updates because, if I am not mistaken, the Initiative will not be stopped. Therefore, I think that we all agree that we would welcome regular updates. In the interest of time, I would encourage colleagues to accept this agreed language.

My new subparagraph is also agreed language. Therefore, I hope that it will be agreeable to all colleagues, and it is something that has been said by other colleagues also. My suggested paragraph is Paragraph 15 subparagraph (j) of the 168th Session of the Council. *“Emphasize the need for transparency on the financing of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and note that the entrance for management that it would have no further impact on the agreed programme of work and budget.”*

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just one observation on subparagraph (g) before I offer a new subparagraph, perhaps one way to move forward is *“reiterated its request for regular updates”* to move that forward. The new subparagraph we would propose between subparagraph (e) and (f), and I will read at dictation speed, *“congratulated the Organization on the recognition of the Geospatial Platform at global level and welcomed its expansion to additional countries.”* I believe a number of Members made reference to this. Hopefully, it will be acceptable.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us try to finalize our work in a positive manner. When it comes to subparagraph (h), could we not just state *“reiterated its request for regular updates on the initiative and geospatial platform”* and delete the rest? I see nodding in the room. Could we go along with this proposal if we delete the rest?

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

Je pense que le paragraphe tel qu'il a été reformulé est meilleur., Je me posais la même question que la délégation chinoise et pakistanaise par rapport à la valeur ajoutée de la formulation précédente, d'autant plus que cela figurait déjà dans un précédent rapport. Mais je pense que cette formulation est meilleure: *“reiterated its request for regular update on the initiative and geospatial platform.”*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us go forward to Japan because Japan proposed a subparagraph. Of course, if there is no appetite for this subparagraph, we should delete it.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

We can live with the [XX] because we prefer the original proposal by the French. However, if the others want to have this, we are okay. To respond to the question on what is the added value, since it is a look in the past resolution, mostly, as the French colleague said, this is a request for updates and that this request does not cease to exist. We still want to have those updates, and we make it just a *“creator”*. So, I believe that there is an added value for that. And for the subparagraph (i)...

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, let us do it subparagraph by subparagraph.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We agree that with Japan and France's opinion that this Initiative will not stop so that we are always looking forward for the regular updates. On the other hand, we recognize that the regular updates have already been provided, as requested by the previous Council. So, we wonder if it will be acceptable to the colleagues. We maintain this request, but we change the wording into *“looking forward to continued updates”*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposals now are *“looking forward to continued updates on the initiative and the geographical platform...”*

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I think *“looking forward”* is a better wording because if you say *“reiterated”*, then we need to hear the Chief Economist because this request was made in the 168th Session of the Council. Has FAO complied with that? If so, then all this is superfluous.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the proposal of China, because we need a forward-looking conclusion and not going backwards. So, could we agree to “*look forward to continued updates on the initiative and the geospatial platform*”?

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I agree on this proposal, just to add the word “*regular*”, “*continued regular updates*” to ensure regularity.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Do we have an agreement on this text now? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (f). I think that was mentioned by many delegates, and, of course, we applaud the [XX] award.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

You just missed my handling of the subparagraph (h) but that does not make a big difference. Although, we are not 100 percent happy with this change to the proposal, we can live with that in the spirit of compromise. And regarding subparagraph (i), we support the French proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think there is an agreement now on subparagraph (f) because I did not see any objections.

We go to the last subparagraph (i). Can we agree to it? I do not see any objections.

With that, we have concluded this Item on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. My deep, deep, deep appreciation goes to all of you. I applaud you, your work of today. But I see China asking for the floor.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We have an issue on the last subparagraph. We noticed that this is from the previous Council report, and we still have this same question. We understand that many countries emphasized the need for transparency, but we still want to know what kind of transparency here it is referring to. Why did I not, if they are still requesting this, what kind of request we did not meet for this transparency need? Otherwise, if all the needs have already been met and if all the information has already been published, we did not see any point to emphasize again this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

As any activity in FAO, all the financing is reported in the Finance Committee. We report all the information about the activities of the Hand-in-Hand and the tracking system that is going to be developed, though, is in the process of testing, reporting the daily log, and all the different activities. So, honestly, I do not know what this is referring to, but I am just on the staff of FAO.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)**

The question of transparency we discussed in a very detailed manner yesterday when we discussed the recommendation on the previous Agenda Item on implementation of the workplan. And we found some common ground when we speak about the enhanced transparency.

Therefore, perhaps some countries need more transparency. But at the same time, we need to address the issue that the Secretariat already provide us a lot of information about the initiative. Our proposal is to delete “*the need for transparency*” but “*the enhanced transparency*”. So we look more positive to the work done by the Secretariat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I see the list of speakers growing. I have to stop this discussion tonight. I do not think it will, as the subparagraph is now, will get the support of the room. I look to France whether or not we can use what was proposed by the Russian Federation to speak about “*enhanced*”.

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

“*Enhanced*” would be okay. We hope that other delegations will be as flexible as we are, especially as we have shortened considerably the previous subparagraph.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I would be able to help you to finalize as soon as possible. “*Enhanced*” is okay for us.

Just to respond to the questions, we would have no problem revising a part of that. We appreciate Mr Máximo Torero Cullen’s work on providing us some of that information, but still, that is regarding this Hand-in-Hand Initiative we need to have in particular consolation on this. So, that we can have the studies immediately, but as sustainable as possible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In the meantime, I made a compromise proposal. Could we not say what we did also with the Implementation Report, “*welcome the enhanced transparency*” because that was also said by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen? Would that be agreeable?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We appreciate the flexibility by many of our colleagues and appreciate the contribution made by the Russian colleague. However, we are still confused about how can the transparency be further enhanced because it seems like the Chief Economist’s already helpless for trying to figure out what kind of further information can he possibly provide. So, we are proposing that we delete this subparagraph as a whole thing.

**CHAIRPERSON**

China, may I make also now a request for flexibility because we had the same discussion with the Programme Implementation Report, and there, we used also the wording “*welcome the enhanced transparency*”, which was already stated by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen as well. Could we not live with this subparagraph?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We can be flexible. Thank you very much for your proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I have four speakers again. Please take the floor if you are against. Otherwise, we will postpone it to tomorrow.

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

There are still some information that we will need in the future, including the detail of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) results that Mr Máximo Torero Cullen was mentioning. It is a continued process. So, this is why we would not like to have “*welcome*”, but maybe we can have “*look forward to enhanced transparency in the financing*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The discussion brings us back to where we were. We have no agreement on this subparagraph, and I do not see the possibility to get an agreement. I think we should take the rest to see whether or not we can find either a compromise on the subparagraph or delete it, because we are now negotiating backwards. I thought that we could use the same wording as we had on the Implementation Report.

I thank the China delegate for her flexibility. If we are now going to change the meaning and change in the sense in which we use for the Programme Implementation Report, we have to keep this subparagraph pending and see whether or not we need the subparagraph tomorrow because I do not think we can conclude this evening. It is now already past 20:00 hours.

**Ms Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Let us make “*welcome*” in brackets, as we have here?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I keep that whole subparagraph in brackets because it is not only “welcome”. We will keep the whole subparagraph pending, and we will come back to it tomorrow to see whether or not there is a possibility to find the compromise because otherwise I think the best way forward is just no compromise, just delete the subparagraph.

With that, I would like to applaud again your excellent spirit of today. I think we achieved a lot, and we have a deep appreciation for the spirit in this Council because we concluded a full consensus on the Strategy on Climate Change, which is really excellent. We also concluded in a consensus manner the forward-looking Council conclusions on the Ukraine-Russian conflict, which is shortly after the 169th Session of the Council, a real progress.

We are almost there on the Initiative. I know for sure after a good dinner, a good night’s sleep, good breakfast, we will arrive at the consensus on the last subparagraph tomorrow. Thank you so much.

Let us keep up the spirit for the next couple of days because this will be a Council that can be concluded with your support, your flexibility, listening to each other, working together. We will get there.

Thank you so much. See you tomorrow at 09:30 hours. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 20:06 hours*

*La séance est levée à 20 h 06*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 20.06*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>FIFTH PLENARY SESSION CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>15 June 2022</b>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:36 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 36  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.36  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 8. Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (*continued*)****Point 8. Informations actualisées sur l'Initiative Main dans la main (*suite*)****Tema 8. Información actualizada sobre la Iniciativa Mano de la mano (*continuación*)**  
(CL 170/8)**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I do hope that you have had a relaxing second part of the evening, that you are fully energized in a positive way for today. We should be very positive and grateful because the last two days were very successful, although we had to discuss many difficult issues, but on all the items we arrived at consensus, which is necessary for implementation of all the decisions of the Council. You worked hard on that and I applaud you and I am really, really grateful to you.

We should also be very grateful and applaud those who made it possible to get there and that are certainly the interpreters, for which I thank so much and for sometimes giving us some overtime. That is Mr Sergio Ferraro and his team, the messengers in the back of the room, the security staff who make sure that we are sitting in a secured surroundings; and certainly, the people sitting next to me and behind me for making it possible that we have draft conclusions, that we work hard, do the screen writing, etc. Give them a big applause.

*Applause**Applaudissements**Aplausos*

We still have three days to go, but we will get there certainly in the same spirit. We have almost finalized Agenda Item 8, *Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative*, and we had one paragraph left. I am aware and informed that a small group worked on a compromise proposal for the last subparagraph. I do not know who I should give the floor to present a compromised proposal on that subparagraph, I think it was (i) or (h).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais aussi en profiter pour remercier très sincèrement les interprètes qui font vivre le multilinguisme au quotidien, dans des conditions pas toujours faciles. S'agissant des projets de conclusions, comme vous l'avez indiqué, nous avons mené avec les Délégations principalement intéressées des consultations, et je suis heureuse de vous indiquer qu'elles ont réussi à aboutir à un langage. Je voudrais s'il vous plaît descendre un petit peu le texte. Parce que nous allons fusionner deux paragraphes. Alors nous proposons de fusionner le paragraphe (h) et (i). Donc, je le lis, en anglais. *"Looked forward to continued regular updates on the initiative, including further updates on the geospatial platform, and transparency on the financing, with the assurance from management that it will not have any impact on the regular budget."*

Voilà le langage auquel nous sommes parvenus et que j'espère avoir bien retranscrit. Je voudrais bien sûr remercier les Délégations avec lesquelles nous avons consulté ce soir et de nouveau ce matin. Donc, on supprimerait les paragraphes (h) et (i).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you so much for all those Members who participated in this informal group to arrive at a compromised proposal rephrasing subparagraphs (h) and (i). I do hope that this compromise would meet the consensus of the Council.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Thank you very much to France and the other colleagues to make the proposal, we jointly discussed yesterday. I would like to express my gratitude and my support.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We are afraid that we will need to add one more word, *"on the agreed regular budget,"* adding that to the previous expression. I hope it is agreeable to our French delegation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see thumbs up, so that means that it is agreeable. Can we now, as a Council, agree to this compromise? I do not see any objections. Thank you so much.

Let us keep up this good mood and this good spirit, because, with that, we have finalized Agenda Item 8, and we have, again, consensus on the conclusions of this paragraph.

**Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences****Point 9. Conférences régionales****Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.1 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)*

*Point 9.1 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (Malabo [Guinée équatoriale], 11-14 avril 2022)*

*Tema 9.1 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (Malabo, [Guinea Ecuatorial], 11-14 de abril de 2022)*

*(C 2023/14)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we turn to Item 9, *Reports of the Regional Conferences*. Because we are really good on time when it comes to the programme of the Council, we are going to discuss Reports of the Regional Conferences, followed by the Report of the Joint Meeting, followed by the Report of the Finance Committee.

I start now with Agenda Item 9. Over the last couple of months we have had excellent Regional Conferences. I could have participated in all of them, but in almost all, except one, I could participate in person, and when you are at those Regional Conferences, you see, first of all, the challenges each region is facing, and of course they are different in different regions.

But what I also saw was a strong commitment to find a way forward, a strong commitment to action in those regions for which, of course, they need our support, but they also need financial support. When you read the Reports, they are very strong Reports, and I do hope that we can acknowledge what was achieved here in the Council.

I thank all the governments that hosted these Regional Conferences, because certainly under the conditions we are working now, that we have to have hybrid working and hybrid modalities, having people and participants in person but also via the virtual room, it asks a lot from Governments. However, what I have seen was so much warm hospitality in each of the countries. You are very proud to be there, to be proud of that community and that Conference.

With that, we start now with the first Report, and that is the Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa, which was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 11- 14 April 2022. You can find the document Report in *C2023/14*. The introduction by the Chairperson, and it was the Government of Equatorial Guinea, was already circulated to you, and I really would like to thank the Government of Equatorial Guinea for the excellent way they organized the Conference and for the hospitality offered to the participants.

***Introduction to Sub-Item 9.1: Report of the 32nd session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)***

*The Honourable Francisca Eneme Efua, Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC 32)*

The 32nd FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) was held from 11 - 14 April 2022. The Session was convened in hybrid modality (with both physical presence in the host country of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and virtual participation through videoconferencing), on an exceptional basis, in light of the COVID19 pandemic and associated public health concerns and constraints.



His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, opened the conference. In total, 778 delegates attended over the course of the 4-day conference. The delegates were comprised of 62 ministers (including deputy ministers), 20 ambassadors, 28 private sector organizations, 31 civil society and/or non-governmental organisations, 34 intergovernmental organizations, 7 United Nations (UN) Agencies and 3 observer nations.

The Regional Conference highlighted that hunger is on the rise on the African Continent, affecting 282 million people; an increase of 46 million. This rise is due to a combination of factors, often overlapping, such as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies, animal and plant pests and diseases and the negative effects of the climate crisis, including the recent severe drought threatening Eastern African Countries. In addition, the war in Ukraine is having a direct impact on prices of food commodities, energy and agricultural inputs such as fertilizer – further increasing food security challenges.

Below are the recommendations that derived from the Programme and Budgetary matters:

*Regional results, priorities, the four betters and the Sustainable Development Goals*

The Regional Conference recognized the full alignment of FAO's country-level planning with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process. It noted the achievements in the implementation of FAO's corporate initiatives in the Africa region, including the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Green Cities Initiative, the 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative and the Regional Technical Platform on Common Agricultural Policies and Practices. It appreciated FAO's focus on evidence-based, country-led and country-owned actions in the region to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development for the eradication of poverty (SDG 1), hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2), as well as the attainment of all other SDGs in the region.

The Regional Conference welcomed the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its strategic narrative of supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. It also recognized the reorganization of regional structures in Africa, the programmatic approach and the reinvigorated business model to deliver FAO's programmes efficiently with concrete and tangible results and greater impact at the country level.

The Regional Conference recommended FAO to support Members to implement diligently the Strategic Framework 2022-2031, the four betters, the accelerators and all cross-cutting themes, as relevant to national contexts; and to double its effort to support inclusiveness, especially with respect to women, youth and other vulnerable populations in the implementation of the Regional Priorities aligned with the four betters and endorsed by the Regional Conference, which include (1) Sustainable production systems, (2) Efficient and equitable nutrition systems, (3) Climate action and sustainable natural resource management, and (4) Building resilience towards ending poverty.

The Regional Conference welcomed the development of FAO's first-ever Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and commended its 2 transparent and inclusive consultation process and highlighted that while science and innovation is critical for agrifood systems transformation, innovations need to account for national circumstances and recommended FAO, among others, to:

- consider certain elements in the Strategy, including the specificities of local contexts and disparities between countries in the region, facilitate access and technology transfer, in particular intellectual property rights, capitalize on local knowledge and pay attention to the role of small-scale producers, small and medium-sized enterprises, women and youth; and
- support Members to develop appropriate policies and partnerships, to strengthen capacities, including those of agricultural extension systems, and to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Strategy at country level.

The Regional Conference welcomed the initiation of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, its vision and Theory of Change and its alignment to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and other

international agreements and expressed appreciation for the inclusive and consultative process that has been adopted to develop the strategy.

The Regional Conference recommended FAO, among others, to:

- use its role and comparative advantage to support learning and exchange across countries in the region and globally on new innovations, technologies and partnerships to address climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation, and to support and strengthen capacities of Members to establish early warning and meteorological systems, and of stakeholders including small-scale farmers to use climate information and data for better management of their activities;
- ensure that the Strategy goes beyond business as usual and promote a shift that will tackle the root causes of climate change impacts on agrifood systems and address the vulnerability of countries and communities in the region.

Regarding the next venue of the Regional Conference, Members agreed to hold the 33rd Session in the Kingdom of Morocco in 2024. The exact date will be agreed jointly by the selected host country and the Secretariat of the Regional Conference.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like to open the floor to the Members and later on I will give the floor to the host country. Who may I give the floor first or who will break the ice? I see that the Report is so clear and we are so proud of the recommendations in the Report.

With that then I would like to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Secretariat to make some remarks about the Report and the Regional Conference.

### **Sra. Francisca ENEME EFUA (Presidente del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África)**

Buenos días a todos, Excelencias, Señor Presidente Independiente del 170.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, estimados Miembros, distinguidas Delegaciones, Señores invitados de distintas organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) y sector privado, señoras y señores. Tomo la palabra en tanto como Ministra de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosques y Medio Ambiente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y Presidenta en ejercicio del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África (ARC), lo cual me honra corresponder a la FAO participar en este 170.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO de manera virtual para rendir el Informe de la 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO para África, celebrada del 11 al 14 de abril de 2022 en Malabo, en la República de Guinea Ecuatorial como país anfitrión.

El período de sesiones tuvo lugar en modalidad híbrida combinando la participación presencial en Guinea Ecuatorial y la participación virtual a través de videoconferencia con carácter excepcional a la luz de la pandemia de la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19) y la consiguiente preocupación por la salud pública y las limitaciones conexas. La Conferencia Regional incluyó una reunión de oficiales superiores, celebrada del 11 al 12 de abril y una serie de sesiones de nivel ministerial que se celebró los días 13 y 14 de abril de 2022.

Asistieron a la Conferencia Regional 178 delegados de 54 Miembros. Los delegados comprendían 62 ministros, 20 embajadores, 28 organizaciones del sector privado, 31 organizaciones de la sociedad civil, 34 organizaciones intergubernamentales, 7 organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas y 3 miembros observadores. La ceremonia inaugural de la reunión de oficiales superiores comenzó con los discursos del Señor Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Subdirector General y Representante Regional de la FAO (Oficina Regional para África) y la Excelentísima Señora Francisca Eneme Efua, Ministra de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosques y Medio Ambiente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial.

El Sr. Haile-Gabriel dio la bienvenida a los participantes agradeciendo al gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial por hospedar esta importante Conferencia Regional. Elogió la manera en que los países y asociados estaban colaborando para hacer frente a la pandemia de COVID-19 e invitó a los Miembros a que actuaran con la misma agilidad y espíritu de colaboración para enfrentar a la

pandemia silenciosa de la pobreza, la violencia, la inseguridad alimentaria y la extrema vulnerabilidad a las perturbaciones en África.

La Excm. Sra. Eneme Efua inauguró la reunión de oficiales superiores agradeciendo a la FAO y a los Miembros la responsabilidad conferida a la República de Guinea Ecuatorial para organizar la Conferencia Regional e invitó a los participantes a aprovechar la oportunidad que brindaba este foro para examinar cuestiones y prioridades relacionadas con la región de África, centrándose en el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031.

La reunión ministerial de la Conferencia fue inaugurada con el discurso del Excmo. Sr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Presidente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y en su alocución el mandatario recalcó sobre la pandemia de COVID-19, los efectos del cambio climático, los conflictos armados, el terrorismo y el mercenariado que han provocado la desaceleración y el debilitamiento de la economía mundial, lo cual plantea desafíos para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. En ese contexto, para crear formas sostenibles para salir de esos efectos, es necesario protegerse y hacer frente a las crecientes desigualdades sociales con la creación e instauración de unos sistemas alimentarios más resilientes y sostenibles. El mandatario siguió subrayando que para nuestro continente, aparte de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) tiene que cumplir con la Agenda 2063 de la Comisión de la Unión Africana para una África íntegra, próspera y pacífica.

Los delegados respaldaron la elección de la Excm. Sra. Francisca Eneme Efua, Ministra de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosques y Medio Ambiente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial para presidir el período de sesiones. La Presidencia dio las gracias a los delegados por la elección de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y a la FAO por sus excelentes preparativos para la sesión. La Conferencia continuó con las declaraciones del Director General de la FAO, el Señor QU Dongyu, el cual manifestó su aprecio al gobierno y al pueblo de Guinea Ecuatorial por la excelente organización de este período de sesiones de la Conferencia General de la FAO para África (ARC) y por su cálida hospitalidad. El Director General destacó el potencial existente en el continente africano e hizo hincapié en la necesidad de transformar los sistemas agroalimentarios para que fueran más eficientes, más inclusivos, más resilientes y más sostenibles. Asimismo, acogió con satisfacción la decisión de la Comisión de la Unión Africana de declarar 2022 como año de la nutrición y destacó la importancia de la presente Conferencia para lograr los resultados tangibles en aras de las *cuatro mejoras*.

El Excelentísimo Señor Anxious Masuka, Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para África (ARC) en su 31.º período de sesiones (26-28 de octubre de 2020) pronunció una declaración en la que destacó las principales recomendaciones formuladas para ayudar a los Miembros a salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible en África. Se refirió asimismo a algunos acontecimientos históricos que habían conformado las actividades de la ARC e incluido en ellas desde el 31.º período de sesiones.

La ARC destacó que el hambre va en aumento en el continente africano afectando a 282 millones de personas. Un aumento de 46 millones. Este aumento se debe a una combinación de factores a menudo superpuestos como los impactos de la pandemia de la COVID-19, los conflictos y otras emergencias humanitarias. Las plagas y enfermedades animales y los efectos negativos de las crisis climáticas, incluso como la reciente sequía severa que amenaza a los países de África oriental. Adicionalmente, la guerra en Ucrania está teniendo un impacto directo en los precios de los productos alimenticios, la energía y los insumos agrícolas como los fertilizantes, lo que aumenta aún más los desafíos para la seguridad alimentaria.

A continuación, se presentaron las recomendaciones que se derivaron de los asuntos programáticos y presupuestarios, resultados regionales, prioridades las *cuatro mejoras* y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

La Conferencia Regional reconoció la plena alineación de la participación a nivel de país de la FAO con el proceso del Marco de Cooperación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Señaló los logros en la implementación de las iniciativas corporativas de la FAO en la región de África incluido el Programa de respuesta y recuperación de la COVID-19, la Iniciativa Mano de la mano, la Iniciativa ciudades verdes, la Iniciativa de las 1 000 aldeas digitales, la Iniciativa un País,

un producto prioritario (UPUP) y la Plataforma técnica regional sobre políticas y prácticas agrícolas comunes.

Valoró el enfoque de la FAO en acciones basadas en evidencia dirigidas por los países y propios de los países en la región para acelerar la transformación agrícola y el desarrollo rural sostenible para la erradicación de la pobreza, el hambre y todas las formas de malnutrición, así como el logro de todos los demás ODS en la región.

La Conferencia Regional acogió con beneplácito el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 y su narrativa estratégica de apoyo a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible a través de la transformación a sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles para una *mejor producción*, una *mejor nutrición*, un *mejor medio ambiente* y una *mejor vida* sin dejar a nadie atrás. También reconoció la reorganización de las estructuras regionales en África, el enfoque programático y el modelo empresarial revitalizado para ejecutar los programas de la FAO de manera eficiente o con resultados concretos y tangibles y un mayor impacto a nivel nacional.

La Conferencia Regional recomendó a la FAO que apoye a los Miembros para implementar con diligencia el Marco estratégico para 2022-2031, las *cuatro mejoras*, los aceleradores y todos los temas transversales según corresponda a los contextos nacionales y redoblar sus esfuerzos para apoyar la inclusión, especialmente con respecto a las mujeres, los jóvenes y otras poblaciones vulnerables en la implementación de las prioridades regionales alineadas con las *cuatro mejoras* y respaldadas por la Conferencia Regional que incluyen sistemas de producción sostenible, sistemas de nutrición eficientes y equitativos, acción climática y gestión sostenible de los recursos naturales, y creación de resiliencia para acabar con la pobreza.

La Conferencia Regional acogió con beneplácito el desarrollo de la primera Estrategia de la FAO para ciencia y la innovación como una herramienta clave para contribuir a la implementación del Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 y elogió su proceso de consulta transparente e inclusivo y destacó que si bien la ciencia y la innovación son fundamentales para la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios, las innovaciones deben tener en cuenta las circunstancias nacionales y recomendó a la FAO, entre otros:

Considerar ciertos elementos en la Estrategia, incluidas las especificidades de los contextos locales y las disparidades entre los países de la región.

Facilitar el acceso y la transferencia de tecnología, en particular los derechos de propiedad intelectual, capitalizar el conocimiento local y prestar atención al papel de los pequeños productores, pequeñas y medianas empresas, a las mujeres y a los jóvenes.

Ayudar a los Miembros a desarrollar políticas y alianzas apropiadas, fortalecer las capacidades incluidas las de los sistemas de extensión agrícola y movilizar recursos para la implementación de la Estrategia a nivel nacional.

La Conferencia Regional acogió con beneplácito el inicio de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático, su visión y teoría del cambio y su alineación con el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 y otros acuerdos internacionales y expresó su agradecimiento por el proceso inclusivo y consultivo que se ha adoptado para desarrollar la Estrategia.

La Conferencia Regional recomendó a la FAO, entre otras cosas, utilizar su función y ventaja comparativa para apoyar el aprendizaje y el intercambio entre países de la región y a nivel mundial sobre nuevas innovaciones tecnológicas y alianzas para abordar la resiliencia, la adaptación y la mitigación climáticas para apoyar y fortalecer las capacidades de los Miembros para establecer sistemas meteorológicos y de alerta temprana; y de las partes interesadas, incluidos los pequeños agricultores, utilizar la información y los datos climáticos para mejorar gestión de sus actividades. También, garantizar que la Estrategia vaya más allá de lo habitual y promueva un cambio que aborde las causas profundas de los impactos del cambio climático en los sistemas agroalimentarios y aborden la vulnerabilidad de los países y de las comunidades de la región.

En cuanto a la próxima sede de la Conferencia Regional, los Miembros acordaron celebrar la 33.º período de sesiones en el Reino de Marruecos en el año 2024. La fecha exacta será acordada conjuntamente por el país anfitrión seleccionado y la Secretaría de la Conferencia Regional.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you again for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference and thank you for your able leadership and chairing of this Conference.

With this, we have not concluded Sub-Item 9.1.

**Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences****Point 9. Conférences régionales****Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.2 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)*

*Point 9.2 Rapport de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 mars 2022)*

*Tema 9.2 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 de marzo de 2022)*

(C 2023/15)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Sub-Item 9.2, *Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 8-11 March 2022. I was present during that excellent Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific with a strong commitment for action towards achieving our Sustainable Development Goals, especially food security, with strong recommendations. Again, I would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for their excellent organization, but also for the warm hospitality we received in Dhaka.

***Introduction to Sub-Item 9.2: Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)***

*H.E. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Chairperson of the Ministerial Session of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*

The 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was the first of the FAO Regional Conferences to convene both Senior Officials and Ministerial Sessions, back-to-back, in hybrid modality over four consecutive days. Over 1 100 participants registered, of which more than 400 registered to attend in person. The Conference was fully-digital and completely paperless in keeping with the Organization's corporate policy on environmental sustainability. It was also the first Regional Conference (globally) with in-person participation of FAO's Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu. Ministers and Vice-Ministers, representing 37 countries out of the region's membership of 45, delivered in-person or virtual statements in Plenary. Six side events and three Ministerial Roundtables were organized, anchored to agrifood systems transformation.

The Conference:

- Recognized that the Asia and the Pacific region has been seriously impacted by the COVID19 pandemic and renewed their commitment to a deep transformation of agrifood systems to regain lost ground on food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment.
- Emphasized the role of digitalization in transforming agrifood systems to be more inclusive and climate resilient. • Highlighted the need for a more systemic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders to create an enabling environment that makes the digitalization of agrifood systems more inclusive and sustainable, while addressing associated regulatory issues.
- Emphasized that there is no “one size fits all” solution for building climate resilient agrifood systems and to take into account that each nation has different levels of vulnerabilities and respective needs for development.

- Acknowledged the strategic role FAO has played in One Health to date, with technical support focused on zoonotic diseases, transboundary animal diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food safety and the importance of its role in the Tripartite with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Emphasized the need for a more systematic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders for the sustainable management and utilization of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the Pacific region.
- Recognized the major actions carried out by FAO and the results achieved in 2020 and 2021, and the delivery and outcomes of FAO's work in the region, with over 500 projects, having particularly adapted them to the context and conditions created by the unforeseen and unprecedented pandemic.
- Noted the transformational change in the Organization and its technical units, including at regional and country level to address multifaceted development challenges.
- Endorsed the four Regional Priorities identified for the 2022-2023 biennium based on key trends, issues and challenges in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Recognized the relevance of the individual Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) mapping to each of the four Regional Priorities in the proposed results framework and to the achievement of the four betters to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Welcomed the initiation of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, its vision and Theory of Change and its alignment to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
- Welcomed the development of FAO's first-ever Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and commended its transparent and inclusive consultation process.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I open the floor to the Members who would like to make comments on the report.

#### **Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by South Africa and Tanzania.

At the outset, the Asia and the Pacific region is congratulated on the successful outcome of the 36th Session of their Regional Conference, which was held as already explained by the Chairperson, under the able leadership of the Government of Bangladesh and we also wish to congratulate the Government of Sri Lanka on hosting the 37th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific for 2024.

Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions share common challenges related to the eradication of hunger and enlarging the contributions of agriculture to advance socio-economic development towards the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, we reiterate that the FAO Regional Conferences play a key role in the governance framework of FAO and that these conferences are important forums, on matters that fall within the mandate of FAO, in particular for consultations amongst its Members and to formulate regional positions and advise on and identify priority areas of work.

The Africa Group fully agrees on the emphasis put forward on the need for strengthening international and regional collaboration and partnerships to increase the impact, build on existing regional knowledge and to avoid duplication as well as sustain and deepen collaboration with international and regional bodies towards the implementation of regional food security frameworks, natural resource management, regional fisheries and ecosystem-based management, promotion of policy coherence and a One Health Approach, including the innovative digital technologies usage, and the improvement of food and nutrition security data and enhanced capacity for Big Data management.

We echo the efforts of FAO and encourage the continuation of assistance to countries to identify and maximize potential partnerships and investments, through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Public-Private Partnership and other modalities.

With these comments, the Africa Regional Group takes note of the outcome of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

**Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

I just took the floor to express my deepest appreciation to FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and in particular our distinguished colleague, Bangladesh, having hosted the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific last March, where we had a fruitful discussion. I end my statement with this statement, we support the Report.

**Mr Md. Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)**

Bangladesh would like to take the privilege of reading out the statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Group highly appreciates the success of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, hosted by Bangladesh. Bangladesh being the host country expresses its heartfelt thanks to the participants for their positive contributions, which led to the successful conclusion of the 36th Session.

Representatives from 42 Members with more than 1 100 participants participated in the Regional Conference. The historic record-breaking participation underscored the concerns the Members have in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic and other existing and emerging threats, such as the impact of food production from the climate crisis and diseases that have arisen.

The Asia Group welcomes the Report of the Regional Conference, which captures the rich discussions by the Members. We would like to highlight a few points for consideration of the Council. First, the increased digitalization in agriculture value chains, the Asia Group recognizes that the systemic adoption of digital technologies by agriculture and agri-business is one of the efficient ways to further improve rates of productivity and income growth.

Digitization along the agrifood value chain including through the utilization of South-South and Triangular Cooperation has great potential. However, relatively low levels of digital literacy, mobile-based applications by small-scale farmers calling for necessary investments to address this issue.

Digital connectivity is still a major challenge, especially in rural Bangladesh and many developing countries. Gender gaps in technology access put women users and entrepreneurs at a disadvantage. The Asia Group highlights the importance of accessibility of digitalization to the rural communities, particularly women, youth, indigenous groups, and local communities, while ensuring their digital literacy and awareness within agrifood systems.

Second, while the Regional Conference endorsed the four regional priorities for the 2022/23 biennium, namely the hunger challenge, climate change, One Health, and the interregional initiative on Small Island Developing States, it also recommended FAO to engage its Members on its implementation tools and proposes thorough consultations, particularly to generate ownership on its implementation.

In this regard, the Asia Group recommends FAO to explore the possibilities of establishment of a regional coordination and innovation hub to collate and disseminate data, tools and best practices from the region, and to promote partnerships with great cooperation and collaboration. Bangladesh is willing to host such institutions with support of the development partners, if agreed in principle. Science, innovation and digital technology are crucial for fulfilling the commitments we have made for transformation of food systems under the UN Food Systems Summit. The Asia Group sees FAO's support as critical in this process.

Third, with regard to One Health priorities in Asia and the Pacific region, the Asia Group appreciates the role of FAO to provide the internal support on diseases, animal diseases, antimicrobial resistance and food safety to date. At the same time, we would like to encourage FAO to provide technical assistance to countries to strengthen One Health policy, governance and capacity, individual and institutional, including undertaken national OAs and environment sector needs. We would like to further recommend FAO to organize a regional consultation on One Health and also to develop a position paper particularly for the Asia and the Pacific region.

Last but not least, the Asia Group supports the calls from the honorable Prime Minister in her inaugural speech, highlighting that the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated how

cooperation can overcome global challenges. She encouraged greater regional collaboration in the field of agriculture and research, sharing our cutting-edge technologies and creating a spatial fund for increased investments for agricultural development.

With that, the Asia Group takes note of the Report held in the host country, Bangladesh, once again expresses its sincere gratitude to the Members for their effective participation and fruitful discussion. We would also like to convey our heartfelt thanks to the Director-General at FAO for his in-person presence during the Regional Conference to guide the discussions in a more constructive way.

**Mr Bo LI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

We align with the statement given by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Group. We welcome the successful convening of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and we would like to thank Bangladesh and the management of FAO for organizing this Regional Conference. We recognize the four regional priorities and we call on regional Members to work together to enhance the food and agrisystem's inclusiveness and resilience, safeguard the safety and the stability of global supply chain jointly, improve agricultural productivity and promote the reduction of food loss jointly. China is willing to share experiences with countries in this region and other developing countries to promote the realization of 2030 Agenda.

**Mme Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional pour le Proche-Orient) (Langue originale arabe)**

Au nom du Groupe Proche-Orient, nous nous félicitons du résultat de la 33<sup>ème</sup> Session du Groupe Proche-Orient. Je voudrais remercier le Bureau régional, sous la houlette de Monsieur Anouar. Nous les remercions pour les résultats enregistrés par la 36<sup>ème</sup> Session de la Conférence Régionale du Proche-Orient et nous remercions également l'Irak d'avoir organisé cette conférence. Je voudrais donner la parole à l'Irak pour qu'ils fassent une déclaration à cet égard.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Actually, may I ask you to postpone this statement, because we are going to discuss under Item 9.5 the *Report of the Regional Conference for the Near East*. Can we do that statement at that moment?

**Ms Ely Salem ZEINEB (Chairperson of Near East Regional Group)**

I am sorry for that, I am late.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will come back to the Near East. I give the floor to Australia.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

Australia expresses our warm appreciation to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the excellent arrangements for the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC). We congratulate Bangladesh on hosting the first fully hybrid regional conference which facilitated valuable engagement from all Members on topics important to our region.

Australia takes this opportunity to highlight the following four points:

Firstly, the Asia-Pacific region is on the front line of climate change and building resilience to the impact of climate change is a key priority for our partners and for Australia. The APRC emphasized that we need to take into account that each nation has different levels of vulnerabilities and respective needs for development, and we take this opportunity to re-emphasize the need for the FAO's Climate Change Strategy to address Asia-Pacific climate issues, including the interplay between climate change and biosecurity.

Secondly, the APRC welcomed the FAO's commitment to strengthening its leadership on science and innovation for the transformation of agrifood systems, including through the development and Council's recent endorsement, of the Science and Innovation Strategy.



Thirdly, the APRC also welcomed the discussion on the importance of a One Health approach to protect the health of humans, animals, and the environment, and that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an important regional One Health priority.

And finally, with regard to FAO's work on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors, we reaffirm the importance of a cross-sectoral framework of policies that are market-orientated, based on scientific evidence, take into account differing national circumstances and are consistent with international obligations, particularly in relation to trade.

**Mr Tilafono David HUNTER (Samoa) (Observer)**

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa sends his apologies, he wanted to make an intervention on the Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific, but unfortunately he is attending an unavoidable official commitment, and he has asked me to present on his behalf. So, I ask for your permission.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Go ahead.

**Mr Tilafono David HUNTER (Samoa)(Observer)**

Chairperson of the FAO Council, Director-General of FAO, Honourable Ministers and Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Warm greetings to you all from Samoa!

Foremost, Samoa acknowledges with much appreciation the excellent hosting of the Government of Bangladesh for the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Pacific, Samoa's agriculture sector faces challenges on climate change and frequent natural disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis generate extra problems on our national food security and our achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030.

FAO is cooperating with our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and other stockholders on areas of importance to our government, mainly in policy interventions, food and nutrition systems, climate change and climate resilience, forestry, crops and livestock production and capacity building to name a few.

Samoa completed its Food System Pathway report in 2021. FAO will align Samoa's 2023-27 Country Partnership Framework (CPF) to support the pathway implementation, and currently in consultation with the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) on sourcing financial assistance for resourcing the pathway. FAO is on hand to provide assistance to Samoa's government wherever possible.

FAO's mandate also aligns with all the six outcomes of the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2022-2026, but specifically on "Diversified and Sustainable Economy", and "Secured Environment and Climate Change".

The Samoa-based FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific has developed a roadmap for the development of a regional Pacific plan for biodiversity mainstreaming and set up a task force that is composed by technical expertise in the Sub-Regional Office, Regional Office and the FAO headquarters.

Samoa requests FAO to ensure that all government agencies and other stakeholders in the Pacific be involved in the development process of the action plan, and that the action plan be action-oriented and Pacific SIDS tailored.

Samoa would like to acknowledge the Director-General of FAO for the One Country One Priority Product initiative, which Samoa will direct some policy attention to. On the Director-General's reference to the transformation of Regional and Sub-regional Offices, considering the increased demands of the Pacific SIDS to receive support from development partners, including FAO, there is a need to further strengthen FAO's presence in the Pacific countries, and FAO's technical capacity at the Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific.

In closing, Samoa would like to thank FAO for its ongoing technical assistance in the Pacific region, provided via the Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, to support and contribute to our Pacific SIDS' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other speakers requesting the floor, so I now turn to Bangladesh, whether or not Bangladesh wants to make some concluding remarks on the Conference? No, okay. Thank you then, again, we have concluded Item 9.2. Again, many thanks for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of a very successful Regional Conference in Bangladesh.

#### **Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences**

##### **Point 9. Conférences régionales**

##### **Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.3 Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)*

*Point 9.3 Rapport de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (Lodz [Pologne], 10-13 mai 2022)*

*Tema 9.3 Informe del 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (Łódź [Polonia], 10-13 de mayo de 2022)*

*(C 2023/16)*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We turn now to Sub-Item 9.3, *Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe*, which was held in Poland from 10-13 May 2022. You can find the Report in document C2023/16.

First of all, I would like to thank the government of Poland for the excellent organization and the warm hospitality we received during the Conference. It was, again, a very fruitful committed Regional Conference focused on actions to be done to achieve our Sustainable Development Goals and especially food security with all the problems in the European region.

#### **Introduction to Sub-Item 9.3: Report of the 33rd session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)**

*H.E. Zbigniew Rau, Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe*

The 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) was held in Łódź, Poland, from 10 to 13 May 2022 in a hybrid modality, with some representatives attending in person in Łódź and others participating virtually. The Session was attended by 269 participants, including 15 ministers, 13 deputy ministers and state secretaries, and representatives from 52 Members, along with more than 50 Observers. The conference was preceded by the Consultation of the Civil Society Organizations and a Consultation of the Private Sector, whose representatives delivered their views during the ERC Session.

The Session was chaired by His Excellency Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, and vice-chaired by Her Excellency Frida Krifca, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania and His Excellency Marcel Beukeboom, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Rome. His Excellency Thomas Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome, and Mr Jiří Jílek, Permanent Representative of Czechia to FAO and the World Food Programme, were appointed as Rapporteurs.

#### **Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters**

The Regional Conference global policy discussions focused on: i) Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation

against Ukraine<sup>1</sup>; ii) the road to transformative agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia – Regional actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31; and iii) sustainable food value chains for nutrition, a practical approach for transforming agrifood systems for healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia.

Under the item on the Implications on world food security arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Members adopted by vote<sup>2</sup> en bloc a decision<sup>3 4</sup> condemning the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, demanding that the Russian Federation immediately cease its unlawful activities and ensure the resumption of shipments of food and agricultural commodities from and to Ukraine, and recalling and reaffirming the decision<sup>5</sup> adopted by the FAO Council at its 169th Session on 8 April 2022 in this regard. Furthermore, Members requested FAO to safeguard all the rights of Ukraine as a Member Nation of the FAO within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone adjacent thereto, to assess the damage and the reconstruction and rehabilitation costs to the Ukrainian agriculture and food sector, to prepare and implement short, medium and long-term assistance plans for Ukraine as well as for the most affected countries in the Black Sea region, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans, and to contribute to strengthen global market transparency and coordination among Members, through initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System. The Regional Conference underlined the impact that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine is having in stoking prices for food, fuel, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs. As a result of the invasion, food and fertiliser prices have sky-rocketed to record levels. Hence, the Regional Conference expressed grave concerns that the war in Ukraine posed serious risks for short-term global food security outcomes, as well as for the broader 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Regional Conference remained seized of the matter and decided to add it to the agenda of the next regular session of the ERC. The Regional Conference requested FAO to report regularly to Members, including through FAO Governing Bodies, and to submit to the next session of the FAO Council a report containing an overview of the work of FAO and FAO-related bodies, including Article XIV bodies and other Regional Commissions. The Regional Conference decided that the decision, together with the decision adopted by the FAO Council at its 169th Session, shall be communicated to all Members and brought to the attention of the general public under the form of a press release published in all FAO languages. The adopted decision as well as all the adopted recommendations related to this matter are available in the Session Report.<sup>6</sup>

In relation to the item on Road to transformative agrifood systems, the Regional Conference requested FAO to support Members and agrifood systems actors through implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, including a focus on accelerators, cross-cutting themes (gender, youth and inclusion) and FAO corporate strategies and initiatives. The Regional Conference requested FAO to continue to support Members to adopt and apply the One Health approach, including providing support to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and zoonotic diseases through effective national action plans. The Regional Conference underlined the need to effectively implement the food systems transformation agenda, including accelerators to fast-track progress and facilitate knowledge platforms, especially to promote innovative solutions in order to maximize prospects for sustainable agriculture development and achievement of the SDGs, while continuing to work with United Nations

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<sup>1</sup> Reference is made to ERC/22/INF/14: Letter from FAO Members - request for an additional agenda item at the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC).

<sup>2</sup> 40 votes in favour, 3 against. Reference is made to Appendix C of the Report – Roll call vote results sheet.

<sup>3</sup> Reference is made to ERC/22/15: Annex to the letter from FAO Members – proposal for discussion and decision by the Regional Conference.

<sup>4</sup> Belarus, Russian Federation and Tajikistan disassociated themselves from the content of this decision.

<sup>5</sup> CL 169/REP, paragraph 11.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj289en/nj289en.pdf>

partners in the regional Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems and other multistakeholder partnerships to support regional and country efforts. The Regional Conference called upon FAO to support the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), including addressing common regional issues and supporting countries during the implementation of national pathways, in coordination with the UN Coordination Hub in Rome, and relevant regional mechanisms. The Regional Conference requested FAO to support work to increase understanding of true cost accounting of food and redefine the value of food, recognized as a lever of change by the UNFSS.

With regards to the item on Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, the Regional Conference requested FAO to assist countries in Europe and Central Asia in upscaling the use of the nutrition-sensitive value chain approach as part of the agrifood systems transformation and the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The Regional Conference requested FAO to help countries implement all relevant Committee on World Food Security (CFS) products and recommendations in their specific contexts, promote CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches as well as on the development and updating of sustainable national food-based dietary guidelines. Furthermore, the Regional Conference requested FAO to assist countries in developing the UNFSS national pathways through the United Nations Regional Coordinators and work on the Summit follow-up through the UN Coordination Hub in Rome. The Members further requested FAO to support the development and implementation of voluntary tools, mechanisms or instruments that encourage the adoption of responsible business conduct and enterprise risk-based due diligence, and to provide technical assistance to existing extension and advisory services for the delivery of nutrition-sensitive solutions in value chain development as well as to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing and capacity development, and to promote investment in a nutrition-sensitive value chain approach. The Members also requested FAO to promote the establishment of an international measurement standard for true pricing and to identify and share best practices of nutrition-sensitive social protection measures that improves access to healthy diets.

### **Programme and Budget Matters**

Under the item of Regional results, priorities, the four betters and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Regional Conference endorsed the three revised Regional Initiatives maintaining emphasis on poverty reduction, their alignment with the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), and the priority areas of the region, which will guide FAO's actions in 2022-23 and beyond. The Regional Conference also called upon FAO to further improve the reporting process, including against targets set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and increasing transparency by publishing more information on FAO websites. The Regional Conference further called upon FAO to step up efforts to better promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all activities across the region by generating sex-disaggregated data and by interweaving regional policies with the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, which are being developed by the CFS. The Regional Conference called upon FAO to fully align with and integrate the Rural Youth Action Plan and embrace the policy recommendations for youth engagement developed by CFS. The Regional Conference called upon FAO to pay due attention to the accessibility and affordability of digital technologies for small-scale farmers in order to avoid the digital divide. The Regional Conference recalled that the region should remain at the forefront of the fight against AMR, mainstreaming biodiversity, and continuing to develop nature-based solutions.

The Regional Conference encouraged FAO to adjust and adapt to the delivery of the work programme to address emerging issues and changing contexts in the region, giving priority and providing resources for the recovery and building back better of countries affected by the conflict. The Regional Conference noted in this regard the destabilizing effect that the war in Ukraine has had across the

globe and reaffirmed the pivotal role that FAO plays in safeguarding food security in the region<sup>7</sup> and that FAO, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant bodies, especially the Rome-based Agencies and international financial institutions, should address within its mandate the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine on food security and agriculture in the region, as requested by the 169th Session of the FAO Council on 8 April 2022.

The Regional Conference welcomed development and latest drafts of both the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and provided further recommendations for the finalization of the strategies.

As regards the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, the Regional Conference recommended that the strategy should rely on a human-centered, ethical and responsible vision of science, data use, innovation and technology. Clear linkages with FAO's policies on data protection and intellectual property rights as well as private sector engagement should be established, providing safeguards. The strategy should be participatory and demand-driven, leading to and building on stakeholder-driven innovations that are adaptable and responsive to local contexts and needs. Also, the strategy should aim for innovations to be accessible and affordable to small-scale and family farms, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

With respect to the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, the Regional Conference recommended FAO to ensure that the strategy is ambitious in promoting a shift that will tackle the root causes of climate change impacts on the agrifood system in ways that address the vulnerability of countries and communities in the region. The Regional Conference further recommended FAO to support learning and exchange among countries in the region and globally on applying innovations, technologies, and stronger engagement of stakeholders in the agrifood system, as well as to encourage best practices on developing multistakeholder partnerships and facilitate access to climate finance, including innovative financing options, including by providing guidance to processes such as the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. FAO should also ensure that the specific needs of Members and agrifood system stakeholders from Europe and Central Asia are considered in the strategy and during implementation. Moreover, FAO should ensure that the implementation of the strategy includes more emphasis on the role of the One Health approach and promoting a wide range of solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecology and other innovative approaches, ecosystem-based adaptation, social and governance innovations and technologies, in order to enhance the implementation of Members' climate commitments.

The Regional Conference noted the Synthesis of FAO Evaluations 2020-2021 in Europe and Central Asia Region, encouraging the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia to draw on the key lessons learned and to pursue actions in response to the emerging issues, constraints and gaps identified in the report. The Regional Conference called upon FAO to improve mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment; increase the focus on the voice of youth as well as the need for more policies that promote the inclusion of rural populations; introduce a level of flexibility in FAO theories of change so as to be able to quickly respond in times of changing local, national and regional contexts that could impact the ability to produce and supply safe and healthy food in the region and better contribute to food security and nutrition outcomes. Finally, the Regional Conference requested FAO to strengthen its monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes to deliver sustainable and lasting impact on the ground. Evaluations should also serve to review and adjust the ongoing interventions and feed into the design of new ones.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor to the Members of the Council to see whether or not there are any reactions, comments or suggestion.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

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<sup>7</sup> Belarus, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan disassociated themselves from the content of this part.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais bien sûr saluer le Bangladesh, la Guinée Équatoriale, l'Équateur et l'Irak pour l'organisation des conférences régionales et leurs succès, et bien sûr remercier les bureaux régionaux de la FAO. J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, la Serbie, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, ainsi que la Moldavie, la Turquie, San Marin et la Géorgie se rallient à cette déclaration. L'Union Européenne et ses 27 États membres remercient la Pologne et le Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale pour l'excellente organisation de la Conférence régionale. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour féliciter la FAO et son Bureau régional pour le travail mené dans la région, au cours des deux dernières années, et en particulier pour leurs efforts visant à lutter contre les conséquences de la pandémie de COVID-19.

Nous reconnaissons également les efforts consentis pour aider l'Ukraine à faire face aux effets dévastateurs de l'agression russe sur tout son système agricole et alimentaire. À cet égard, nous encourageons la FAO à redoubler d'efforts en ce qui concerne le programme d'action actuel ou les enjeux à venir, ainsi qu'à organiser régulièrement des séances d'informations pour ses Membres. Nous souhaiterions rappeler qu'une majorité écrasante des membres de la région ont adopté, lors de la Conférence, la décision relative au point « Conséquence de l'agression de la Fédération de Russie contre l'Ukraine sur la sécurité alimentaire et l'agriculture mondiale, y compris les prix des denrées alimentaires ». Fin de citation.

Dans cette décision, les Membres ont condamné les agressions et ont appelé la Fédération de Russie à mettre fin à la guerre immédiatement. En outre, les membres de la Conférence ont appelé la FAO à renforcer ses programmes et plans actuels et futurs en Ukraine, dans le domaine de l'agriculture et l'alimentation, ainsi qu'à élaborer et à mettre en œuvre des plans destinés aux pays les plus touchés par les conséquences de l'agression russe dans la région, particulièrement dans la région de la Mer Noire en Asie centrale, dans le Caucase et dans les Balkans Occidentaux. Nous soulignons également qu'au paragraphe N de la décision, concernant l'agression russe contre l'Ukraine, prise pendant cette 33<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale, il a été demandé de porter cette décision à l'attention de tous les membres, mais également de l'annoncer au public dans un communiqué de presse publié dans toutes les langues de la FAO.

Nous considérons que cela n'a pas encore été fait de manière adéquate et nous demandons instamment au Secrétariat, une fois de plus d'assurer à cette décision, la couverture médiatique appropriée de façon claire et sans équivoque. En ce qui concerne les autres sujets importants abordés pendant la Conférence, nous saluons les engagements des Membres de la région et de la FAO, en particulier la priorité accordée à la transformation des systèmes alimentaires et agricoles, les mesures régionales visant à obtenir des chaînes de valeur alimentaire durables au service de la nutrition et d'une alimentation saine.

Nous souhaitons également réaffirmer notre souhait de pouvoir évoquer la stratégie des Bureaux décentralisés de la FAO, conformément à la pratique établie. Nous appuyons les priorités présentées concernant le travail de la FAO en Europe et en Asie centrale, pour la période 2022-2023 et au-delà, ainsi que les trois initiatives régionales révisées.

Pour conclure, nous soutenons le Rapport de la 33<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation supports the holding and thinks it is important to hold these Regional Conferences as they are a useful platform for the development of collective approaches in FAO. In 2018, our country had the honour of hosting the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, which took place in a very constructive way, marked by consensus and key outcomes.

However, we express our deep regret for the fact that for the first time in the decades long history of the Regional Conference for Europe, the 33rd Session in Poland in May 2022, owing to the initiative of the European Union countries and their partners, took place in a confrontational, politicized spirit, taking advantage of its numerical advantage in the membership of the Regional Conference, the European Union countries particularly obliged the Regional Conference to adopt a decision which, as we have heard now, is far removed from the mandate of the FAO.

The Russian Federation tried and did everything possible to come to a mutually acceptable outcome decision in the interest of all countries of the European and Central Asian region. However, not for the first time, the European Union insisted on adopting a decision on block without any possibility for discussion by part of others, which confirmed their mood that was more inclined towards confrontation than dialogue.

Yesterday, we had the chance to discuss the consequences of the sanctions and we heard assurances from European Union countries that they have no harmful impacts, but the decision of the European Union to block all transport corridors in the European continent and Central Asia, what sort of positive impact can you possibly think that it will have for the development of Central Asian and Caucasian countries?

Also, the air transport was closed. I would like to hear from Members who fly to the Asia Pacific region, to Siberia, will increase in airplane tickets for different itineraries that must be followed for these countries. Due to the sanctions introduced by the European Union, this has an impact not only on the movement of diplomats and delegates, but also on the movement of food and food is a primary necessity.

Even in this situation, we believe that the Regional Conference for Europe should continue its activities, despite the destructive actions of a whole number of its Members, and in this connection our delegation disassociated itself then from the most hateful paragraphs of the decision that was adopted, in particular paragraphs number 30 and 40.

Once again, we confirm our decision on this and ask that these paragraphs be deleted from the outcome Report at the Session.

#### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

La présente déclaration est présentée par le Burkina Faso, le Burundi et la République du Congo au nom du Groupe régional Afrique au titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour du Conseil. Permettez-nous de saluer votre excellente dextérité dans la conduite de nos travaux, et de remercier le Secrétariat pour la préparation de la présente session.

Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite le Groupe régional Europe pour avoir réussi l'organisation de cette session de la Conférence, dans un contexte difficile où la sécurité alimentaire régionale et mondiale est menacée par de multiples crises, notamment les répercussions de la pandémie de la COVID-19 et du conflit entre la Fédération de Russie et l'Ukraine, sur l'échelle d'approvisionnement mondial. Nous saluons l'adoption par les pays de la région Europe des plans et initiatives à effet immédiat et à moyen et long terme, visant à atténuer les effets de ce conflit, sur la sécurité alimentaire, notamment les interventions d'urgences, les aides au relèvement et le renforcement de la résilience des systèmes agroalimentaires, eu égard au poids de la Fédération de Russie et l'Ukraine et des autres pays de la région, dans la fourniture des aliments pour les humains, le bétail, les entrants et l'énergie.

Nous Notons la volonté des pays de la région à travailler main dans la main à travers le partage d'expériences fructueuses et les pratiques optimales, ainsi que la recherche de solutions novatrices en vue de l'accélération de la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires et la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 des Nations Unies. Le Groupe régional Afrique tient à relever que les systèmes agroalimentaires mondiaux actuels sont très interconnectés, par conséquent les solutions durables aux défis actuels de la sécurité alimentaire sont à rechercher dans un cadre multilatéral.

La diversification des sources d'approvisionnement mondiales pourrait être un levier pour se mettre à l'abri des chocs alimentaires éventuels. Dans ce contexte, le rôle de la FAO est crucial. Avec ces quelques commentaires, le Groupe régional Afrique prend note du rapport de la 33<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe.

#### **Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. First and foremost, we would very much like to add our voice in thanking the Government of Poland and the FAO Regional Office for the excellent work done in organizing the Regional Conference. That was indeed a success, both in terms of participation and

outcome. Regional Conferences give unique opportunities to analyse the state-of-the-art in our own regions and to make plans for the future, using the principle of proximity.

Italy's delegation to the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) was led by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Stefano Patuanelli, who stressed in his statement the paramount importance of receiving a constant stream of reliable, impartial and objective data about the consequences of Russia's aggression to Ukraine on global food security. FAO's role is key in ensuring information and in designing contingency plans and recovery programmes to restore Ukraine's production capacity, heavily damaged by the war. Once proposed and approved, those programmes and plans would benefit the countries currently affected well beyond the region itself. We would welcome regular briefings of the Members about that.

In this context, we would also like to recall the decision adopted by the ERC under the Item on *"implications on food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine."* We highlight the importance of preserving the integrity of the ERC Report as it was presented to this Board and trust that the actions contained in the Regional Conference Report will be rapidly put in place by FAO.

Italy welcomes the commitments made by the Members of the region and by FAO to transform agriculture and food systems to ensure healthy diets for all. Italy will keep working together with FAO toward those goals.

**Mr Abdelmageed Mohamed ELTAYEB (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to thank Equatorial Guinea for convening the Regional Conference and Iraq for having convened the Near East Regional Conference. We did take part in both meetings. We would like to pay tribute to the cooperation between FAO and all countries in order to implement the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the innovation and science strategy, the climate change strategy and to help countries receive technical and financial resources.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España asume completamente, como no puede ser de otra manera, las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia francesa de turno de la Unión Europea. Al respecto de este punto y, además, quisiéramos añadir lo siguiente.

Nuestro agradecimiento, en primer lugar, a la República de Polonia y a la Oficina Regional para Europa y Asia Central por la excelente organización de la Conferencia Regional bajo los principios de la transparencia y la inclusividad, así como valorar los esfuerzos de la Oficina Regional para combatir los impactos alimentarios de la pandemia de la COVID-19 y, ahora, por la guerra estallada en Ucrania.

En cuanto a la agresión ilegal e inmoral de la Federación de Rusia contra Ucrania ha de reflejarse que una abrumadora mayoría de los Miembros de la región adoptó una decisión en la Conferencia bajo el punto, y cito: "Consecuencias para la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura mundiales incluidos los precios mundiales de los alimentos, derivadas de la agresión de la Federación de Rusia contra Ucrania."

En dicha decisión, los Miembros condenaron la agresión de la Federación de Rusia a quien pidieron detenerla inmediatamente, por ser este además el mecanismo primero y más eficiente para evitar su impacto alimentario negativo a escala global. Además, se ha pedido a la FAO que amplíe sus programas en Ucrania en el ámbito de la producción agroalimentaria, así como en los países más afectados, en particular, en la región del Mar Negro, Asia central, el Cáucaso, el norte de África y los Balcanes occidentales.

En lo que respecta a otros temas sustantivos debatidos en esta 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (ERC) valoramos la prioridad de FAO de transformar la agricultura y sistemas alimentarios y las acciones regionales para las cadenas de valor sostenibles y las dietas saludables. Apoyamos, finalmente, las prioridades presentadas para el trabajo de la FAO en Europa y Asia central para el bienio 2022-2023 y posteriores, así como las tres iniciativas regionales revisadas.

Con estos comentarios, España apoya el Informe de este 33.º período de sesiones de la ERC.



**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I would like to start my intervention by thanking firstly the Government of Poland for organizing and hosting such a wonderful event. I would like also to thank all FAO staff members, from the Rome headquarters and from the Regional Office for all their efforts to execute this wonderful and very well-organized Regional Conference.

I would like just to emphasise two or three points. Israel reiterates the importance of FAO's support to its member states to implement agrifood system transformation and promote innovation solutions in this process. We recall the need to continue the follow up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Coordination Hub.

Israel underlines the need for further investigation and refining the true cost of value for agricultural products and food. Furthermore, we encourage FAO to establish a worldwide standard for food pricing, based on sustainable, resilient and diverse agrifood systems to ensure realistic prices. As part of this, we encourage FAO to upscale the use of nutritional sensitive value chain approach.

At the same time, in order to improve access to healthy diets, we request FAO to identify best practice and facilitate knowledge sharing as well as support the implementation of the various Committee on World Food Security (CFS) products and collaboration.

Lastly, Israel wishes to repeat the importance of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in providing needed direction and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the European region. Moreover, we appreciate the work that FAO has done in the region during 2020 and 2021, especially responding to regional priorities along the successes carried by the regional initiatives.

With all those comments, Israel supports the Report.

**Ms Lieslot GERMONPREZ (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and all the other States who joined the statement. Like others, we would like to thank the Government of Poland and the FAO Regional Office for an excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

We would like to underline the adoption by an overwhelming majority of Members of the region of the adoption of the decision under the item on the implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. We hereby request that these actions contained in the Regional Conference Report be duly executed by FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now, we have concluded our list of speakers. Let us see whether or not the representative of the Government of Poland or the Vice-Chair of the Regional Conference would like to take the floor.

**Mr Marcel BEUKEBOOM (Vice-Chairperson of Regional Conference for Europe)**

I had the honour in Poland to co-Chair the Session on behalf of His Excellency, Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, and the other Vice-Chairperson, Her Excellency Frida Krifca, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania.

Like many of my colleagues already did, I would also like to compliment and thank the Government of Poland for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of the Regional Conference, the 33rd in a row, that was attended by a record number of 52 member states and I think that was also made possible by the fact that it was a hybrid Conference.

As several speakers before me have already mentioned, the Regional Conference was, of course, very much influenced by the war going on in one of the member countries, but nevertheless we have been able to reach a conclusion and I think in that context I really have to mention that my two colleagues, Mr Tom Kelly from the United Kingdom and Mr Jiří Jílek from the Czech Republic, for their excellent work as rapporteurs.

Finally, in this context, I would like to thank the colleagues from the Regional Bureau that made it possible that the Regional Conference was run so smoothly, but also making my work as a co-Chair so effective. Thank you very much all of you, colleagues.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Vice-Chair of the Regional Conference, Mr Marcel Beukeboom, for your statement and our great thanks to the Government of Poland for the excellent organization and warm hospitality received during the Regional Conference.

### **Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences**

#### **Point 9. Conférences régionales**

#### **Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.4 Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)*

*Point 9.4 Rapport de la trente-septième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Quito [Équateur], 28 mars - 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2022)*

*Tema 9.4 Informe del 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Quito [Ecuador], 28 de marzo – 1 de abril de 2022)*

*(C 2023/17)*

### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we turn to Sub-Item 9.4, *Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean*, in Quito, Ecuador, from 28 March to 1 April 2022. You can find the document in *C2023/17*.

First of all, I really would like to thank the Government of Ecuador for the really warm hospitality received in Quito, the excellent organization for the Regional Conference, and its results. We will hear later from them.

#### **Introduction to Sub-Item 9.4: Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March – 1 April 2022)**

*H.E. Pedro Álava González, Chairperson of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 37)*

The 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 28 March - 1 April 2022. Members agreed to hold the Conference in hybrid modality in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns.

The Regional Conference was attended by 586 participants from 33 Members, including: 1 Head of State; 1 Prime Minister; 1 Vice-President; 64 Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Permanent Secretaries; 18 Ambassadors; 3 Observer Members; Representatives of 8 United Nations organizations; 4 intergovernmental organizations; 14 civil society organizations; 1 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger representative; 13 private sector organizations; and 13 scientific and academic organizations.

The inaugural ceremony of the Regional Conference was held on 30 March in the presence of Mr Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr Ariel Henry, Prime Minister of Haiti, Mr Alfredo Borrero, Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr Juan Carlos Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador and Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr Lasso Mendoza welcomed the delegates and underscored the importance of the Regional Conference as a forum for debate on current challenges and opportunities. He emphasized the importance of reducing malnutrition, particularly chronic child malnutrition, and of generating rural employment and fostering agrifood trade to enhance rural economic opportunities.

On Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters, the Regional Conference recognized FAO's contribution to the transformation of agrifood systems, particularly through support and recommendations for the development of public policies and regulations. Acknowledging with appreciation the 78 percent increase in resources mobilized compared to the previous biennium, recommended that FAO continues and strengthens its resource mobilization efforts with a view to fostering public and private investments to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in direct support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Regional Conference highlighted the importance of proactively identifying and materializing new opportunities for increasing the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness in the region.

The Regional Conference, on Programme and Budget Matters, noted with concern the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences in the region; the fragile, slow and uneven economic recovery; the substantial increase in poverty, hunger and food and nutritional insecurity; and the widening inequality between and within countries. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO continues supporting Members in ensuring that agrifood systems and value chains recover by implementing the Programme Priority Areas of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in the region through three regional initiatives on: Sustainable agrifood systems to provide healthy diets for all, Prosperous and inclusive rural societies, and Sustainable and resilient agriculture. Regarding the food and agricultural input prices, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO analyse the repercussions of the excessive increase in prices and excessive market volatility, and the need for maintaining supply and logistics chains linked to food and nutrition security.

The Regional Conference took note of the consultative process that was ongoing for the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and recommended respectively that FAO adopts an approach that would ensure access to and affordability of innovations in an inclusive, non-discriminatory manner; and would mainstream the principles established in the Paris Agreement, including equity in the implementation of the Strategy, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The Regional Conference welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Guyana to host the 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2024, and recommended that the offer be accepted.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now, I first turn the floor to the Members of the Council, whether or not they would like to make any comments or remarks.

#### **Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Permítame agradecer al Director General. Dr. QU Dongyu, y a usted, Presidente, por haber visitado nuestra región y participado en el 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC). Queremos agradecer también, al Director de la Oficina Regional y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Señor Julio Antonio Berdegué Sacristan, a las autoridades nacionales y sus equipos por la excelente labor realizada en la organización de la LARC 37 en Quito, Ecuador. Después de la Conferencia que se realizó en Nicaragua, que se hizo virtualmente, nuestra Conferencia Regional fue en esta ocasión extraordinaria para que las autoridades de 33 Miembros pudieran encontrarse en persona, discutir y evidenciar los diferentes retos de una región que, a pesar de ser una de las mayores productoras de alimentos en el mundo, enfrenta cotidianamente desafíos de diferente índole.

Nuestra Conferencia en su Informe señaló la necesidad de que la FAO, en la implementación de su Marco estratégico para 2022-2031, prestara particular atención a los países para avanzar en el establecimiento de sistemas agroalimentarios eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles. En ese sentido, individuó tres principales iniciativas cuya implementación resulta crucial en este momento trascendental que vivimos, si queremos avanzar en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y, en particular, alcanzar el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 1, fin de la pobreza, el ODS 2, hambre cero, los demás ODS transversales relacionados. Esta Agenda y los ODS parecen alejarse cada vez más. Por lo cual, invitamos a la FAO a tomar nota de los resultados de nuestra Conferencia Regional e incorporarlos en la planificación de sus planes y programación de sus actividades.

En particular, seguir liderando y acompañando estos procesos regionales armonizando con las prioridades de los Miembros, aportando los conocimientos técnicos necesarios, favoreciendo la Cooperación Sur-Sur, la cual siempre es un complemento y no sustituto de la cooperación Norte-Sur la cual debe impulsarse siempre para cumplir los compromisos con la ayuda oficial al desarrollo por parte de los países desarrollados. Solicitamos, además, a la FAO a continuar asesorando a los Miembros de nuestra región para individuar fuentes de financiación sostenibles de programas para el desarrollo en diferente índole.

**Sra. Maria Carolina CARRANZA NUNEZ (Perú)**

El Perú no desea más que agradecer la gran organización del hermano país del Ecuador de esta Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC 37) en la que volvió a ser presencial y después de las palabras del hermano país de Nicaragua, queremos aunarnos a sus declaraciones y el Gobierno del Perú desea reiterar la voluntad del gobierno de trabajar conjuntamente con la FAO por los objetivos y prioridades establecidos y acordados en esta Conferencia Regional.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La Argentina en primer lugar desea agradecer y reconocer la excelente organización por parte de Ecuador de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC 37) y quisiera referirse a algunas de las prioridades regionales de la FAO acordadas en la LARC 37 que tuvo lugar en Quito, Ecuador en el mes de marzo de 2022 que, creemos, merecen ser destacadas en esta sesión con vistas a la preparación del próximo Plan a plazo medio (PPM).

En esa línea y como cuestión que deberá ser seguida por la FAO en la elaboración del documento del PPM y no solo, quisiera destacar que la LARC 37 en varios pasajes del Informe, documento LARC/22/REP, párrafos 17 y 19, destacó la necesidad de que la FAO utilice lenguaje acordado a nivel multilateral, en especial el acordado en la Agenda 2030 para la elaboración de sus Documentos programáticos, Estrategias y Planes de Acción. Por otro lado, destacamos la importancia de contar con mayor información sobre las Iniciativas Un país, un producto prioritario (UPUP), 1 000 aldeas digitales y otras. Sería oportuno que la FAO brinde información a los Miembros sobre las mismas con vistas a lograr la máxima repercusión posible del Programa de trabajo en todos los niveles; nacional, regional y global.

La cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular debe ser una parte importante del próximo PPM, ya que la FAO debe potenciar aquellas ventajas comparativas, técnicas y contextuales de los países en desarrollo y facilitar esquemas de transferencia de conocimientos. Y como expresara elocuentemente mi querido colega nicaragüense, la cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular debería ser complementaria de la cooperación Norte-Sur. No toda contribución a la FAO debe medirse en términos financieros. Los países en desarrollo, tenemos soluciones para resolver muchos de nuestros problemas.

La Iniciativa Mano de la mano y los esquemas actualmente disponibles aún no han explotado del todo el potencial de la cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular. La juventud también deberá ser centro del trabajo de la FAO. Hay que implicar a este sector poblacional en emprendimientos agrícolas, a través de los planes técnicos y de innovación de la Organización. De la misma manera, el trabajo de la FAO en equidad de género y el empoderamiento y autonomía de las mujeres deberá seguir siendo profundizado. Adicionalmente, LARC 37 solicitó que la FAO otorgue mayor importancia al análisis prospectivo, la gestión del conocimiento, la digitalización de los sistemas agroalimentarios y la mejora de las experiencias innovadoras en los países, subregiones y regiones, en especial para promover el arraigo rural con énfasis en los pequeños productores de la agricultura familiar, en particular los campesinos y pueblos indígenas.

Dos últimas cuestiones respecto del próximo PPM. No deberá descuidar los ámbitos normativos, técnico, de políticas propios o compartido, en especial aquellos con implicancia para el comercio mundial, como la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) o el Codex Alimentarius. Y, asimismo, los países de mi región solicitan que la FAO preste asistencia técnica a los Miembros para fortalecer y mejorar su capacidad, resiliencia y acceso a los mercados, a las cadenas de suministro de alimentos y al comercio de acuerdo con las reglas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC).

Permítame felicitar y reconocer el gran compromiso de Guyana quien, a pesar de las enormes dificultades como consecuencia de COVID-19, y no solo decidió asumir la responsabilidad de organizar la próxima Conferencia Regional que permitirá visibilizar particularmente a la región del Caribe en el marco de los grandes desafíos en seguridad alimentaria y la Agenda 2030.

Con estos comentarios y agradeciendo a usted, Señor Presidente, por haber compartido con nosotros los debates en Ecuador, solicita que las prioridades anunciadas y todas aquellas contenidas en el Informe, LARC/22/REP del LARC 37 sean incluidos en el próximo borrador del PPM para 2022-2025 a fin de atender las necesidades, capacidades y contextos propios de nuestra región.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

Comienzo mi intervención agradeciendo profundamente al Gobierno de Ecuador por el excelente trabajo de haber tenido este 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC 37) y nuestro agradecimiento a Guyana por el compromiso para hospedar la próxima 38.º sesión en 2024.

Me queda muy poco que agregar después de escuchar a los países que me han antecedido, sin embargo, yo creo que una oportunidad como esta implica también compartir experiencias y aquí me detengo porque quiero reconocer de manera especial el trabajo que el Director de la Oficina Regional y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Señor Julio Antonio Berdegué Sacristan, ha hecho para esto. Y si de algo sirve para otras regiones, considero que el éxito de esta LARC 37 tiene básicamente dos razones. La primera fue que esta sesión se hizo después de un largo proceso de diálogo entre todos los países del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) y la FAO. Fue un proceso de diálogo que comenzó mucho tiempo antes de la sesión. Entonces, quizás, una primera lección aprendida y que, personalmente, agradezco nuevamente al Sr. Berdegué es su deseo de llevar a cabo estas discusiones de diálogo antes de la sesión.

El segundo tema que me parece que es fundamental y tanto para el seguimiento o las acciones en la región como para el futuro de la FAO es que en la región se logró por primera vez, en mi opinión en mucho tiempo, focalizar las discusiones en temas trascendentales de común interés para los Miembros y para la FAO. En algunas sesiones anteriores terminábamos con 60, 70 prioridades imposibles de cumplir. En esta ocasión se ha hecho un gran esfuerzo de focalización y me parece que, si bien los problemas son enormes --todos lo que se han enunciado--, un gran éxito ha sido que, por primera vez, se ha dado un esfuerzo por focalizar. Y yo creo que, si mantenemos en la FAO un esfuerzo de focalización en problemas urgentes e importantes, podemos ir avanzando.

El otro tema importante que hay que reconocer en esta sesión y, nuevamente, reconozco la apertura de la FAO para conversar con nosotros es el buscar un alineamiento entre las prioridades de la FAO con las políticas nacionales. En esta ocasión tuvimos a todos los ministros de agricultura de los países presentando sus políticas nacionales. Creo que esto sienta un precedente muy importante porque la FAO no puede actuar de manera independiente si no es en alineación y en apoyo a las políticas nacionales.

Entonces, me parece que estas tres lecciones que se generan durante LARC 37 pueden ser de uso para otras regiones, particularmente para las regiones de lo que llamamos el sur. Es decir, un proceso de preparación, un proceso de focalización y un proceso de alineación con las políticas nacionales.

Con esto termino, nuevamente agradeciendo al Gobierno de Ecuador, a la FAO y a Guyana por mantener viva la esperanza de una agricultura progresista en América Latina y el Caribe.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

The Bahamas wants to add its congratulation to the Government of Ecuador on putting on the Regional Conference. It was a first for the team from the Bahamas having been a part of a new administration and I must say it was quite impressive. We also want to acknowledge the role of the Independent Chairperson in conducting those meetings.

We certainly believe it was very fruitful and for us a learning experience. we want to also say special thanks to Ms Renata Clarke, who is the Sub-regional Coordinator, for helping to guide us and acquaint us to the workings of the FAO and through the process of the conference, and of course the Assistant

Director-General who was exceptional in helping us to understand the process and guiding us through and again we really look forward to our sister country, Guyana, hosting the next Regional Conference and want to serve early notice that we would be petitioning as soon as we can to be a host of an upcoming Regional Conference.

**Sr. Elias REYES BRAVO (México)**

Nada más quiero hacer un comentario. El distinguido colega de Ecuador ha estado levantando la mano físicamente porque seguramente quiere intervenir y no ha apretado la manita. Quisiera hacer solo ese comentario y ojalá que Ecuador nos pudiera dar su mensaje habiendo sido el honorable país sede de la Conferencia Regional.

**Sr. Patricio Esteban TROYA SUAREZ (Ecuador) (Observador)**

Debo empezar disculpándome por no estar físicamente presente, pero, lamentablemente, un miembro de mi familia ha sido diagnosticado con COVID-19 y debo respetar los protocolos de seguridad que se han establecido para este efecto.

Mi delegación quiere empezar agradeciendo de manera muy sentida la participación de todas las distinguidas delegaciones de América Latina y el Caribe que estuvieron presentes en el Ecuador, cuya participación y cuyas contribuciones han sido fundamentales para el éxito de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC 37). De igual manera, quiero transmitir el agradecimiento de mi gobierno a todo el equipo de la FAO que estuvo presente en la ciudad de Quito, el Director General, Dr. QU Dongyu, el Director de la Oficina Regional y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Señor Julio Antonio Berdegué Sacristan, cuya magnífica intervención fue vital para el éxito de la sesión, todo el equipo local de la FAO incluyendo, por supuesto, la Secretaría y traductores a quienes agradecemos por su contribución.

Yo quiero hacerme eco de todo lo dicho por mis queridos colegas y amigos del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) que han hecho uso de la palabra y me hago eco también de sus acertadas puntualizaciones sobre los elementos que han considerado dignos de ser destacados durante la LARC 37.

Nuestro período de sesiones tuvo lugar en Quito, Ecuador, del 28 de marzo al 1 de abril de 2022, en modalidad híbrida en vista de la pandemia de la COVID-19 que todavía nos afecta. Tuvimos 586 participantes de 33 Miembros, incluyendo la presencia del Jefe de Estado del Ecuador, un Primer Ministro, un Vicepresidente de la República y 64 ministros y viceministros en representación de sus respectivos países. La representación del Ecuador contó con la valiosísima participación de distinguidos delegados de nuestra región, incluyendo a nuestro Relator, el Embajador Sr. Mariano Jimenez Talavera, Representante Permanente de Honduras ante la FAO.

Consideramos especialmente importante destacar lo que dijo el Presidente de la República del Ecuador que resaltó la importancia de este foro de debate como una forma de encarar los desafíos y las oportunidades actuales para la alimentación, la agricultura y las economías rurales. Hizo hincapié en la importancia de la reducción de la malnutrición, particularmente la desnutrición crónica infantil. Asimismo, la generación de empleo rural, el fomento del comercio agroalimentario para ampliar las oportunidades económicas rurales. Subrayó la oportunidad de abordar los efectos del cambio climático en la agricultura, la protección de los suelos agrícolas y la ciencia y la innovación para prevenir amenazas sanitarias a la población agrícola.

La LARC 37 recomendó que se continúen e intensifiquen los esfuerzos de movilización de recursos para el fomento de inversiones públicas y privadas en apoyo de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031, los marcos de programación por países destacando la importancia de determinar y materializar de manera proactiva nuevas oportunidades para aumentar la eficiencia de la Organización, y así como otorgar importancia al análisis prospectivo, a la gestión del conocimiento y a la digitalización de los sistemas agroalimentarios, tanto como a la mejora de las experiencias innovadoras en los países, subregiones y regiones.

La Conferencia Regional recomendó a la FAO continuar apoyando a los Miembros para garantizar que los sistemas agroalimentarios y las cadenas de valor se recuperen de los efectos negativos de la pandemia de la COVID-19, continúe apoyando a los Miembros en la implementación de políticas

nacionales para reducir todas las formas de malnutrición, aliente la adopción de medidas urgentes para contribuir a que los sistemas agroalimentarios se adapten y contribuyan a la mitigación del cambio climático, adopte la implementación del Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031 al contexto local y, de manera muy especial, destaque las tres iniciativas regionales que fueron adoptadas, fueron impulsadas en Quito, la *Iniciativa regional 1, Sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles para proporcionar dietas saludables para todos*, la *Iniciativa regional 2, sobre Sociedades rurales prósperas e inclusivas* y, la *Iniciativa regional 3, sobre Agricultura sostenible y resiliente*.

Destacamos la elección de Guyana como próxima sede de la LARC 38. Destacamos su esfuerzo y compromiso y agradecemos el apoyo que recibimos de parte de la FAO incluyendo, por supuesto, el apoyo suyo, Señor Independiente del Consejo, mi querido amigo Hans, cuya presencia en Ecuador es y será siempre bienvenida. Nuevamente reitero mi agradecimiento tanto al equipo de la FAO como muy especialmente a todas y cada una de las delegaciones de América Latina y el Caribe que honraron con su presencia en Quito la LARC 37.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ambassador, first of all for your strong concluding remarks, and on behalf of all of us, certainly those who participated in the Regional Conference, thank you for the excellent organization and warm hospitality received in Quito. We all wish your family member a speedy recovery from COVID-19.

With that, we have concluded our remarks on this Report.

#### **Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences**

##### **Point 9. Conférences régionales**

##### **Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.5 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting 10-13 January 2022 and Ministerial Meeting 7-8 February 2022)*

*Point 9.5 Rapport de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 janvier 2022 [réunion des hauts fonctionnaires] et 7-8 février 2022 [session ministérielle])*

*Tema 9.5 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 de enero de 2022 [reunión de oficiales superiores] y 7 y 8 de febrero de 2022 [serie de sesiones de nivel ministerial])*

(C 2023/18)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We can now turn to Sub-Item 9.5, e *Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East*, held in Baghdad, Iraq, from 10-13 January and that was the Senior Officers Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting from 7-8 February 2022. The documents you can find in C2023/18. Again, our thanks go to the excellent organization, sometimes in difficult circumstances, done by the Government of Iraq and of the warm hospitality received by those who could participate.

#### **Introduction to Sub-Item 9.5: Report of the 36th session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting 10-13 January 2022 and Ministerial Meeting 7-8 February 2022)**

*H.E. Muhammad Karim Al-Khafaji, Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 36)*

I am pleased to present the salient highlights of the Report of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 36). The Conference was comprised of a Senior Officers Meeting, which was convened in virtual modality from 10 -13 January 2022, followed by a hybrid Ministerial Meeting, which was held from 7 - 8 February 2022 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Focusing on the theme of “Transforming agrifood systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Near East and North Africa”, the Senior Officers Meeting deliberated on the four central Regional Priorities, namely (i) Rural transformation for youth employment and income, (ii) Transforming agrifood systems to promote healthy diets for all, (iii) Greening agriculture and (iv) Building resilience for food security and nutrition, as well as on the cross-cutting issue of gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment in the Near East and North Africa region.

The Ministerial Meeting conducted its deliberations through three ministerial roundtables, exploring the linkages between the four Regional Priorities and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

I would like to take this opportunity to summarize, for the Council’s attention, the key outcomes related to programme and budget matters emanating from NERC 36:

Following discussion of the results and priorities for FAO in the Near East and North Africa region, Members endorsed the proposed programme of work aimed at pursuing the implementation of the four Regional Priorities, whilst addressing the accelerators and cross-cutting themes with a view to delivering on the FAO corporate strategies and initiatives. Members also supported the proposals to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Regional Office. In this connection, the Regional Conference further called upon Members and FAO to work together towards achieving the objectives set in the programme through strengthened cooperation, a wellarticulated strategy to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and the progressive transition from a project approach to a programmatic approach.

Moreover, the Regional Conference endorsed the Multi-year Programme of Work 2022-25 for the Near East Regional Conference. The Regional Conference commended the inclusive process outlined in the roadmap of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. Members recommended that FAO consider certain elements in the formulation of the Strategy, notably the specificities of local contexts and the disparities between countries in the region, facilitating access and technology transfer and in particular intellectual property rights, capitalising on local knowledge and attributing attention to the role of small producers, women and youth.

The Regional Conference also welcomed the development of the new Strategy on Climate Change and urged for greater consideration to be attributed in its finalization to regional and local contexts, situations and needs. The important role of science, technology and innovation in addressing the impact of climate change on agrifood systems and fostering adaptation was emphasized. The Regional Conference recognized in this connection the opportunity presented by the 27th and 28th Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP 27 and COP 28), to be hosted by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates respectively, to accelerate action on climate change and maximize access to climate finance in agrifood sectors. Members were called upon to participate actively in the regional consultation on the Strategy on Climate Change and to provide inputs on regional and country needs and priorities on climate change and agrifood systems.

Finally, as there were no official candidatures presented to host the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East, the Conference called upon the Near East Regional Group to discuss and agree on the date, place, Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 37th Session, in consultation with the Director-General, prior to the end of the year.

Thank you and I am happy to respond to any questions you may have.

**Mme Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional pour le Proche-Orient)(Langue originale arabe)**

Au nom du Groupe, nous aimerions vous remercier de l'excellente organisation de la présente session. Nous apprécions beaucoup vos efforts Monsieur. Nous aimerions également remercier la FAO qui a organisé la Conférence régionale en Irak, et nous remercions le gouvernement de l'Irak de l'excellente organisation de cette Conférence régionale.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Bureau régional au Caire, et Abdel Hakim Anouar de l'excellente organisation et la coordination qu'il a réalisé avec notre groupe, pour avoir un programme de travail lors de notre Conférence régionale, nous le remercions de ses efforts, et de la collaboration avec les



fonctionnaires en Irak, lorsqu'il a préparé cette Conférence régionale à Bagdad. La Conférence a été un grand succès, grâce à tous ces efforts.

Divers ministres et hauts fonctionnaires ont participé à cette conférence. Le Sous-Secrétaire pour le ministère de l'agriculture est ici, et va prononcer sa déclaration en modalité virtuelle.

**Mr Mondher RJEB (Tunisia)**

Tunisia is delivering this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

First, we congratulate the Government of Iraq and FAO for successfully organizing the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East.

We welcome the conclusions and the recommendations of the session that provided an opportunity to emphasize the urgent need for actions towards sustainable, resilient and efficient agrifood systems in the region, given the increasing food insecurity and the growing challenges imposed by climate change, water scarcity and conflicts.

We encourage FAO to support the countries of the region in their efforts to transform agrifood systems and achieve food security, through the implementation of the regional priorities and the promotion of knowledge, technology transfer and innovation.

We particularly consider the recommendation that FAO support the countries of the region in addressing water scarcity and climate change issues, including in the context of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

We also welcome the development and adoption of the FAO Strategies on Science and Innovation, and on Climate Change, and we encourage FAO to support the region members to benefit from the opportunity of hosting the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) and the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in the region by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, to boost the efforts of the region towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

With these few comments, the Africa Regional Group endorses the Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East.

**Dr. Mithaq Abdul-Hussein (Iraq)(Original language Arabic) (Observer)**

We would like to express our thanks to the Chair of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) group and we thank as well the Assistant Director-General and the regional representative for the Near East and North Africa Group, Mr Abdul Hakim Elwaer.

We thank FAO in Baghdad as well as all those countries that participated in this Regional Conference. Baghdad has been honoured to host the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (NERC 36) in an in-person and virtual mode. The participation has been remarkable. We had over 400 participants. Out of them, 25 ministers participating in a virtual mode. More than 24 countries have been represented in this Regional Conference.

NERC 36 held in Baghdad applauded the efforts of the Director-General of FAO and supported the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, calling for the transformation of the agrifood systems to make them more inclusive, more efficient, more sustainable and more resilient. It is confirmed as well, the four regional priorities in line with the FAO Strategic Framework. The aim is to support the regions, countries, so that they can improve their agri-food systems in light of the Strategic Framework.

The four regional priorities focus on various strategic issues of interest for the countries of the region, especially the empowerment of women and youth and the sustainable agriculture that will help us counter malnutrition and the other diseases and issues faced by the region.

The Regional Conference commended the efforts of FAO when it comes to progress reports regarding food security and nutrition at global levels. FAO has been devising various programmes and strategies and the Regional Conference supported the Strategy on Climate Change and the Science and Innovation Strategy to respond to the pressing needs of today. It welcomed as well the initiatives launched by FAO, especially the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative.

The Regional Conference welcomed the multisectoral approaches adopted by FAO. The Regional Conference pledged to start the comprehensive and inclusive rural transformation and to mainstream agroecology across its agricultural sectors. We welcomed the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to be held in our region, in Egypt in particular.

The Regional Conference urged all partners, especially the international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, and the other international organizations to provide more investments in the region, through innovative funding mechanisms to assist us in our efforts to ensure the transformation of the agrifood systems. The Regional Conference focused on the necessity to counter the various common challenges, including through our shared efforts to establish a regional trust fund to manage animal diseases and transboundary diseases.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Excellency, for the excellent hosting of the Regional Conference and your warm hospitality for those who could participate in person.

### **Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences**

#### **Point 9. Conférences régionales**

#### **Tema 9. Conferencias regionales**

*Item 9.6 Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America  
(United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)*

*Point 9.6 Rapport de la septième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (États-Unis d'Amérique, 12-14 avril 2022)*

*Tema 9.6 Informe de la séptima Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte  
(Estados Unidos de América, 12-14 de abril de 2022)*

*(C 2023/LIM/1)*

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now we turn to the last Sub-Item 9.6, *Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America*, which was held in the United States, from 12-14 April 2022. The document is *C2023/LIM/1*.

#### **Introduction to Sub-Item 9.6: Report of the seventh informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)**

*Ms Michelle Sison, Chairperson of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC)*

It is our pleasure and honor to present the Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America held from 12-14 April 2022.

The Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) was established in 2010 as a forum for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the North American Region (United States of America and Canada) to strengthen collaboration between the region's Members and the Organization. Though informal in its format, as distinct from other Regional Conferences, we consider the priorities detailed in the 2022 iNARC Report to be a formal declaration of the North American region's views regarding FAO's strategic programming. Canada and the United States of America expect these views be given equal consideration to the reports of other Regional Conferences in FAO's budgetary and operational planning and reporting. Through the iNARC meetings, we have sought to express the North American region's views on FAO's work and activities globally, as well as our region's views on effective institutional governance.

### **Overview**

Deeply concerned by global trends in food security, the North American region (the region) recommends FAO use its unique position as a lead UN food security agency to enhance system-wide coordination and action, notably by way of its policy advice and recommendations, its scientific

standard setting function and technical cooperation role. The region also recommends FAO utilize its leadership to address the escalating food crisis and far-reaching effects on global hunger of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine. The region reaffirms its commitment to strong collaboration with FAO and its Members, appreciating the frank and open exchange of the biennial Informal North America Regional Conference (iNARC).

The region calls on FAO to continue to aspire for best-in-class management to foster effective governance, transparency and internal management practices; focus on implementation of ambitious climate change and science and innovation strategies; and extend its attention on pandemic recovery and building food systems resilience, prioritizing sustainable productivity growth, free and fair trade, gender-responsive approaches and co-development initiatives with indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities. The North American region emphasizes FAO's enduring added-value supporting normative work and standard-setting bodies, underpinned by science.

The priorities for the region include:

1. Ukraine and impact on global food security
  - a) Provide sufficient resources, data analysis, gender, and climate-responsive policy recommendations.
  - b) Keep food and fertilizer markets open and transparent.
  - c) Assist countries worst affected with overcoming food security challenges.
2. Governance
  - a) Foster Member consensus on a robust code of conduct for elections.
  - b) Welcome a Management and Administrative Review of the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN (JIU) as soon as possible.
3. Climate Change and Resilience
  - a) Increase support to Members for sustainable productivity growth, reducing emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration in agriculture, and adaptation, through an ambitious, cross-cutting approach inclusive of innovations and building on relevant international initiatives.
4. Science and Innovation
  - a) Deliver world-class tools, advice and public goods to address current and emerging threats.
  - b) Promote science and innovation as critical to building more sustainable, equitable, productive and resilient food systems.
5. Agricultural Trade
  - a) Provide technical assistance to help countries realize the benefits of trade and enhance global food security.

The highlights of the proceedings of the iNARC were:

- There was a consensus from North American region speakers that Russia's war on Ukraine has exacerbated the already dire global food security situation.
- The FAO delegation stressed while more funding is required to address humanitarian needs in Ukraine, it must strive to achieve balance with the other global food security crises, which before the war in Ukraine, were already at levels not seen since World War II.
- The region emphasized support for the vision and goal of the Science and Innovation Strategy noting the importance of science and innovation to creating resilient sustainable food systems that are able to produce more with less.
- The region underlined FAO's critically important role in addressing the climate crisis and said the Strategy on Climate Change would guide FAO during this decisive decade for climate action
  - Canada and the United States of America discussed how mitigation should be equally important and captured as a standalone goal of the Strategy

- The region emphasized the importance of the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Program in fostering resilient food systems, noting Canada's financial contribution of CAD 22.4 million, and the United States of America's contribution of USD 10 million.
- The Rome-based Agencies should strengthen collaboration at the global, regional and country levels.

The North American region broke out into bilateral sessions and covered a range of topics, including: Related Global initiatives: the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Coalitions and the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 27); New/Innovative Protein Developments and Sustainability Benefits to Food Systems; Gender Equality and Indigenous Peoples; The Committee on Fisheries and Fisheries Issues, especially in relation to climate change and resilience; The Committee on Forestry and Forestry Issues; Food Systems for Healthy Diets; Standard Setting Bodies; Private Sector Strategy; One Health, African Swine Fever (ASF), Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and the Codex Alimentarius (CODEX); Food Loss and Waste; and Governance, with FAO urged to reinforce and empower existing governance structures to maintain and improve efficiency of guidance and decision-making at the Council.

### **Conclusion**

Participants noted that the exceptionally strong partnership between North America and FAO is grounded in a strong commitment to science, innovation, and the Organization's global role supporting normative and standard setting work for food and agriculture. The region highlighted the critical role food systems must play in emissions reduction and the need for technology to accelerate food system transformations. The North American region envisioned an agile, accountable and effective FAO delivering world-class tools, advice, and public goods to address current and emerging threats to global food security.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like to open the floor for Members before I give the floor to the representative of the hosting country.

### **Ms Mietani CHAUKE (Zimbabwe)**

Zimbabwe and Eritrea are delivering this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

The Africa Regional Group would like to reiterate its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat and yourself for organising this FAO Council session and we thank you for smoothly chairing this session.

The Africa Regional Group expresses its appreciation for the document that has been presented, and welcomes the recommendations included in the Report of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America.

The Group notes and appreciates the North American region's commitment to address the challenges facing FAO and its work to support global food security, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Ending Hunger (SDG2), and to ensure productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors. The Africa Regional Group agrees that negative trends globally in these areas are exacerbated by the increasing impacts of climate change, COVID-19's effect on production and food prices, declining global productivity growth and conflict.

In this regard, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the continued support that the Informal North America Group gives to FAO, whether through funding or partnerships, to achieve FAO's goal "*to achieve food security for all, and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.*"

We welcome the North America region's understanding on the urgent need for expanding climate resilience and adaptation work in FAO's Programme of Work, specifically the need for climate-smart agriculture for reducing agriculture's greenhouse gas footprint and the importance of reducing agricultural methane emissions, as well as to support collective action in the food production sectors to become more resilient and sustainable.

With regards to conflict, Africa calls for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the full knowledge that conflict is one of the key drivers of hunger. A lot of food insecurity is caused by conflicts. Africa's commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflict is evidenced by the recent visit by the President of the African Union to Russia, where the African Union's position for the need of a political solution to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and its grave human and economic costs to the region and the world was expressed. Africa appeals for the unrestricted movement of cereals and other key commodities and the need for their safe passage to mitigate the devastating economic and socio-economic effects of a growing food and energy crisis, further hampering global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is the continent's fervent hope that dialogue and compromise would be pursued for a negotiated settlement in the interests of global peace and stability.

The Africa Regional Group once again reiterates its appreciation for the support the Informal Regional Conference for North America provides to the work of FAO.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We regret that against the background of disruption to the food security and nutrition situation, which is observed in the world as a whole, and in particular also in the North American region, the United States and Canada prefer to dedicate a significant portion of time of their conference to discussing the situation in Ukraine and in addressing accusations against the Russian Federation.

Now, no time was found to discuss the consequences of the actions of the NATO forces in Afghanistan and their consequences, the result of which have led to 20 million Afghans being at barely survival level in terms of food security. There is also no doubt that no time was found to discuss the protracted occupation by the United States of part of the territory of Syria, east of the Euphrates. This is not a comfortable discussion for civilized states to discuss rather than other humanitarian subjects.

It is also interesting to see the American statement and that of President Joe Biden on the record inflation rate in the United States, 8.6 percent, and see that and hear him quoting that this is attacks on growing food prices and gasoline prices, fuel prices. This is a strange accusation. I am not an expert on the American taxation system, but this tax is not being paid into the Russian budget or into the pockets of President Vladimir Putin.

There is no doubt as to the right of United States and Canada to elect the subject, the trends of the discussions during their conference, but I would like to draw attention to the ambiguous economic and foreign policy consequences of their decisions, unilateral economic sanctions sidestepping the United Nations Security Council against a number of countries, and I think of the blockade against Cuba that has lasted for decades and which has of course no relation to the conflict in Ukraine. This resolution is taken concerning the embargo by the United Nations.

We also would like to draw attention to the alarming trend of the formation of coalitions with restricted membership inviting certain countries but not inviting others on what undemocratic criteria. What we see in practical terms is the formation of what I would call food blocks. We believe that this undermines the intergovernmental mandate of the United Nation system organizations, including FAO, and also the unity of the international community in working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG2, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

Now, in the light of all of this, Russia disassociates itself from the report of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America and we repeat this and want this position to be reflected in the Report of this Council Session.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

If I may, I will deliver the remarks as the hosting country of the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) and then I would like to turn to my colleague and Co-Chair from Canada for her remarks, and then, if possible, a short right of reply to the preceding speaker.

The 7th INARC was held virtually in mid-April and reaffirmed the North America region's strong collaboration with FAO, with its members and fellow regional groups, encouraging the organization to continue to aspire to the best-in-class management and governance within the UN system.

We appreciated the strong support for the Conference by FAO offices, many of them present in the room and online today, and by the Director-General for his participation in a high-level session, and also to particular emphasis by the FAO liaison officer in Washington D.C. and her team.

The Regional Conference recognized the significant efforts of FAO over the past biennium, including strong uptake of regional priorities in the Strategic Framework and a robust response to the global pandemic. The world needs an FAO with a strong governance backbone that pursues its mandate and is a strong advocate for evidence-based efforts to increase sustainable productivity growth, social inclusion, sustainability, and one that enables all food systems actors, countries, producers, civil society, the private sector, and consumers to collaborate on solutions to our common problems.

Noting the primacy of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as underpinning for FAO's Strategic Framework, the United States and Canada recalled the importance that the organization's decision-making should be driven by science and evidence, and called on the FAO to be a model among UN specialized agencies in an effective, efficient, relevant, transparent, and accountable UN organization that draws on internationally negotiated and agreed language in its strategies, policies, programmes and products.

The INARC Report notes the North America region is deeply troubled by the challenges facing FAO and its work to support global food security, to achieve the SDGs, especially in ending hunger, and to ensure productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. These negative trends in these areas are exacerbated by the increasing impacts of climate change, COVID-19 effect on production and food prices, declining global productivity growth, conflict and most recently Russia's unjustified and illegal invasion of Ukraine. The INARC recognized FAO's value as a knowledge centre, called for its implementation of the decisions taken at the 169th Council, and urged the Organization's leadership in marshalling a response to address the escalating global food crisis.

Beyond the current crisis, the region encouraged FAO to continue prioritizing the building of food systems resilience and pandemic recovery, while also pursuing in its policies and programmes gender responsive approaches, co-development of initiatives with indigenous and vulnerable communities, and practices that underpin free and fair trade. Our informal conference emphasized North America's region's support for ambitious climate change and science and innovation strategies, indeed we were thrilled those were adopted earlier this week, and the opportunities to apply science, technology and innovation to achieve sustainable productivity growth.

In closing, I want to emphasise to the Council the critical role North America region ascribes to these food systems solutions in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting environmental stewardship, while reversing negative trends in food security and accelerating progress towards zero hunger.

If possible, to now turn to my Canadian colleague and co-Chair.

**Mme Julie ÉMOND (Canada)**

Je ferai mon intervention en français ce matin. Le Canada souhaite remercier les États-Unis pour le rapport de la 7<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale Informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord, auquel nous nous joignons. Nous voudrions aussi remercier le Secrétariat pour les échanges francs et ouverts que nous avons eu tout au long de la Conférence en avril. J'aimerais simplement réitérer quelques points d'importance pour le Canada ce matin, et je vous promets que je serais brève.

La Délégation canadienne tiens à souligner la pertinence de l'appui de la FAO, notamment ses avis et recommandations sur les politiques, son rôle important quant à l'établissement de normes fondées sur la science, mais aussi par la mise en œuvre d'approches qui tiennent compte des questions de genre et l'élaboration conjointe d'initiatives avec les peuples autochtones et les communautés vulnérables. Nous croyons aussi que la FAO devrait poursuivre son assistance technique auprès de ses Membres afin qu'ils puissent tirer parti des avantages du commerce et dans le but de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

La région Amérique du Nord a aussi demandé à la FAO de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour que soit programmé et achevé rapidement aux Membres le rapport de l'examen des questions de gestion et d'administration du corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies, mieux connu sous le nom de GIU, prévu pour 2021, mais différé. La région Amérique du Nord a pris note avec satisfaction de l'engagement du Directeur général exprimé dans ses conclusions de donner suite à cette requête dans les plus brefs délais.

Enfin, et sans reprendre les propos de ma collègue des États-Unis, par la force des choses, l'invasion illégale et injustifiable de la Russie en Ukraine aurait été au centre de nos échanges, et notamment à l'instar des discussions que nous avons eues depuis et dans cette session du Conseil. Nous recommandons à la FAO de continuer à partager le fruit de ses analyses sur les effets de la crise sur la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial, œuvrer pour que les marchés des aliments et des engrais restent ouverts et transparents et aider les pays les plus touchés à surmonter leurs difficultés en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have concluded the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America, but I understand United States would still intervene, hopefully very briefly because we already have discussed yesterday the consequences of conflict.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

In order to be brief, I will just mention that in response to the previous speaker it is the United States' view that the Russian Federation's actions constitute a clear violation of Article 2 paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter, which states, "*All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state [...]*".

The Russian Federation's actions also have a clear impact on global food security, which is squarely within FAO's mandate and, as such, the Regional Conference discussed the matter. I believe we have clearly covered this in yesterday's Item 6 discussion. In that regard, I will also draw colleagues' attention to the right of reply statement made by our Deputy Permanent Representative yesterday under Agenda Item 6, which covered our views on sanctions.

Thank you very much, and I do want to also acknowledge and thank the representative of the Africa Regional Group for the excellent comments on the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) Report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded our review of the *Reports of the Regional Conferences* and we turn now to the draft conclusions. I will read them out and then we will go through them one by one.

- 1) The Council reviewed and welcomed the recommendations on programme and budget matters contained in the Reports of the five Regional Conferences, as well as the Informal Regional Conference for North America, held between January and May 2022, and in particular:
  - a) appreciated the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, which is guided by the transformation to more efficient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind, and the efforts to localize the Strategic Framework and the specific conditions, needs and priorities of Members;
  - b) urged the Organization to support Members to implement their national policies to reduce all forms of malnutrition and promote healthy diets for all;
  - c) emphasized the importance of accelerating agricultural transformation and sustainable development in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with existing contexts and priorities;
  - d) encouraged FAO to continue its work to ensure agrifood systems adapt and contribute to mitigating climate change and address the degradation of natural resources and ecosystem restoration;

- e) welcomed the Organization's flagship initiatives, including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Green City Initiative, the 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, and the One Country One Priority Product Initiative and supported the implementation across the regions;
- f) appreciated the full alignment of FAO's country level planning with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process; and
- g) stressed the importance of the One Health approach to effectively manage biological hazards and risks across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors.

We added, as requested, three footnotes. One is referring to the document, but two footnotes... "*Russian Federation disassociates itself on the Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe,*" and the other one is "*Russian Federation disassociates itself from the Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America.*"

With that, now we turn to deal with the conclusions.

I first turn to the chapeau which reads, "*The Council reviewed and welcomed the recommendations of the programme and budget matters...*" etc. Can we agree to the chapeau?

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I just want to draw the attention of the Secretariat, so that "*the Russian Federation disassociated from paragraphs 30 and 40 of the Report of the Regional Conference for Europe,*" so not from the whole report, but from the specific paragraphs.

While speaking about the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America we disassociated from the whole document.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

As always, I have a question. Do we need all the paragraphs? It is just extremely detailed. We are going to leave something out. My suggestion will be that we just finish with the chapeau. That is what we are doing, we are approving and that is about it, because otherwise we are going to have an infinite list on numbers. My suggestion will be respectfully just stay with the chapeau, eliminate everything else because that is already how we have done, but that is just my humble opinion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We always try for brief and short conclusions, so the proposal of Mexico is to only have the chapeau and not all the specific paragraphs.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

My voice to my colleague, the Ambassador of Mexico, I think it is a very wise idea and suggestion.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous serons flexibles sur le détail des sous-paragraphes, en revanche, je veux souligner un élément extrêmement important. C'est que nous devons "*endorse*" les recommandations des comités des conférences. "*Endorse*" et non pas "*welcome*".

Je me réfère notamment à la pratique du Conseil, en particulier le précédent rapport qui était à son paragraphe 16. Il est indispensable d'endosser les recommandations, le simple fait de "*welcome*", fait qu'elles n'auront aucun effet contraignant. Je pense que cela va dans le sens aussi du lexique. Si nous avons "*endorsed*" nous n'avons pas besoin de toute cette liste. Nous serons flexibles sur la liste, mais encore une fois, nous avons absolument besoin de modifier le verbe.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

A mí me parece que lo planteado por la Embajadora de Francia, Excma. Sra. Céline Jurgensen, tiene un punto importante en que estoy de acuerdo. Y creo que, como ella expresó, no es incompatible con lo expresado por mi querido Embajador de México, Excmo. Sr. Don Miguel Jorge García Winder. Nosotros somos flexibles, pero dentro del contenido propuesto, por ejemplo, incluyen algunas



niciativas que requerirían algunas aclaraciones y buscar mayor información y abriría una discusión que, quizás, podríamos evitar.

Yo respaldaría la posición de que deberíamos plantearnos que hay ciertas prioridades que cada Conferencia Regional estableció que deberían ser incluidas en el Plan de plazo medio (PPM), eso es lo que hemos pedido. Así que, dejen sentada esa posición.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

We would like to express our support for the very pragmatic suggestion from Mexico and we also support France's inclusion of "*endorsed*" rather than "*welcomed*."

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

We would like to support the Mexico proposal, in particular because the Reports are for noting and we are not necessarily bound by the previous handling of the Reports. So, the question is we established what was required for each of the Regional Conferences, in which case those reports were processed in accordance with the framework of FAO. In essence, this is about noting. We would then be comfortable with the proposal for endorsement of the overall reports.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

We also support the pragmatic approach proposed by Mexico for the chapeau and support the use of the word "*endorsed*" to be consistent with the 165<sup>th</sup> Council where we did the same thing. I would note that I believe after the endorsement by Council, the usual practice is for the Conference to approve the Reports, and so hence the use of the word "*endorsed*."

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for your support, but for Conference it is a different approach, but let us keep it to the Council.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We believe that this suggestion made by Mexico, it is a good one, let us not enter into details, let us capture the whole spirit of all recommendations. Brazil fully supports the recommendations made by the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, but I do not know if it is the practice of FAO to endorse other regions recommendations as we did not take part in each of the discussions that were involved in other Regional Conferences.

I do not know what is the practice that FAO has adopted in the past regarding this, the recommendation and the reports that have been written and taken in other Regional Conferences. Maybe we should review how we can proceed on that, because I have doubts about the idea of endorsing something that we, as Brazil, we did not take part.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Sweden would follow what many of the previous speakers have said, that we would support a very pragmatic approach by the Mexican Ambassador to delete the points, so we can be a bit more straightforward here and we would also support the proposal from France, seconded by Argentina, to use the word "*endorsed*."

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

We also support the very pragmatic suggestion made by the Ambassador of Mexico.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

I remember that previously it was also our Mexican colleague who saved us from a long debate from the previous report, so we would appreciate this proposal to only leave the chapeau. We concur with the concern with our previous Brazilian colleague for the Council to use the word "*endorse*," because the Council is compromised for the Members from all different countries and we also have concern that because we may not participate, actually we did not participate on the other Regional Conferences' discussion, so for the Council to endorse another Regional Conference we have some concerns. We would prefer your previous proposal using the word "*welcomed*."

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

First, we thank the pragmatic proposal from Ambassador of Mexico. We support to streamline the text. Regarding the chapeau that we are talking about, we would like to add, to be more nuanced and probably close to the reality, after "*programme and budget matters*," we add, "*notwithstanding different contexts and priorities*."

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Íbamos un poco rápido y estaba tratando de pensar sobre el problema que aquí tenemos, porque por un lado cada uno de los participantes de cada Conferencia Regional está absolutamente convencido en refrendar donde participó y en lo que discutió y lo que consensuó y lo que negoció. Pero aquello que no fue consensuado y negociado por cada región, lo que ha pasado en las otras regiones, no necesariamente y, en algunos casos incluso, son prioridades que no necesariamente coinciden. Pueden ser hasta incluso conclusiones que contrastan, por lo tanto, es complejo plantearse un refrendo a todo lo que ha pasado en cada Conferencia Regional. Ese es un dato de la realidad.

En segundo lugar, me preocupa la cuestión del Programa de plazo medio (PPM). Porque lo que nosotros pedimos es que las conclusiones de nuestra Conferencia Regional sean incluidas en el PPM. Entonces, me parece que acá deberíamos ser muy cuidadosos de manera que el lenguaje sea lo suficientemente general para que no fuerce a que cada uno de los Miembros en función de lo que acordó en su Conferencia Regional intente colocarlo en el Informe del Consejo. Por lo tanto, lamento en este caso no coincidir con la posición de Francia, a pesar de que en primera instancia me parecía bien si la idea era que cada uno desde su propia región endosara sus propias conclusiones, pero teniendo en cuenta que es un *Report* para todos, es imposible poder endosar todo lo que se ha discutido en cada Conferencia Regional.

Así que, me parece que es mejor plantear el tema de la bienvenida, el *welcome*. En todo caso hacerlo lo más sintético posible en el contenido.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see now a long list of speakers. Let us see how we can finalize this. I think there is an agreement in the room to delete the specific subparagraphs. I think that everybody is supporting. So, if that is in agreement we delete all the specific paragraphs. Thank you, Mexico, for your proposal.

Then, we go back to the chapeau. I think we can have a long discussion when it comes through "*programmes and budget matters*" because we do not know the budgetary aspects that are in a different recommendation, so we cannot of course say then that we welcome it because we did not go in.

Would it not be better to just speak about whether it would be "*welcomed*", "*endorsed*", "*the recommendations contained in the Reports*", because then we do not also have to go into "*notwithstanding different contexts and priorities*," which is very much related to the national level, not the Council level.

Last but not least, I give the floor to the Secretary-General on the practice on "*welcome*" or "*endorsement*" the regional reports.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Perhaps the Legal Counsel can also expand on that. It might be worthwhile recalling that the onus on the Council is to review the programme and budgetary aspects of the Reports of all the Regional Conferences. The Conference then examines the policy and regulatory matters that arise from those Reports, again, across all the Regional Conferences. That then can inform the choice of the verb that the Council may wish to use, but I think the Legal Counsel might be able to shed some more light.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Simply to confirm the guidance of the Secretary-General, which is found in the Basic Texts under Rule XXXV of the General Rules of the Organization, which specify, and here I quote, "*the Regional Conferences shall report to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees, in the areas of their respective mandates on programme and budget matters, and to the Conference on policy*

and regulatory matters. *The Reports of the regional conferences shall be presented by the Chairperson.*" For that reason, the General Rules of the Organization related to the functions of the Council, Rule XXIV, paragraph 2(f) reflects that "*the Council shall review, in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution and Article XXXV of these Rules the reports on programme and budget matters of the Regional Conferences*". Thus, to the extent that the Council would endorse the Reports of the Regional Conferences, this would be limited to programme and budget matters.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

As you well noted that the Russian Federation refrained from supporting the Report of one Regional Conference and we abstained on certain paragraphs of the report of the Regional Conference for Europe. Russia was not alone at the Regional Conference for Europe and there is another country which abstained from the support of the Report, and the report was put to a vote and a dozen of countries who participated in the Regional Conference did not participate in voting.

Having said that, our preference to be factually reflected in this Report, so I would say that the Council "*reviewed the recommendations*", but in order to search for a compromise definitely we cannot endorse something which we abstained. So, in the spirit of compromise, we can agree to the word "*welcomed,*" but definitely we cannot agree to the word "*endorse.*"

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I would like to point out that if we change the word "*endorsed*" to any other verb, it would be a significant departure for the Council. Councils 165 in 2020, 160 in 2018, 154 in 2016, 149 in 2014, and 144 in 2012 all said, "*the Council endorsed.*" And then the formulation has been a little bit varied, but largely it has either "*endorsed the recommendations*", "*endorsed the conclusions*" or "*endorsed the specific programme and budget matters*" of all the regional Reports, but that has been the language and the formulation of at least the last five biennia.

Therefore, I guess, I would like to hear from colleagues what has changed in the practice of FAO and its Members that would merit a change of this practice, especially in light of the Legal Counsel's intervention about our responsibilities in programmatic and budgetary matters in endorsing what the Regional Conferences put forward.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais faire écho à ce qu'a dit ma collègue des États-Unis. La pratique de toutes ces dernières années de ce Conseil a été d'endosser les recommandations des différentes conférences régionales. Même celles auxquelles chacun d'entre nous n'avait pas participé. Je voudrais juste vous donner un exemple, puisque vous pouvez nous croire sur parole, mais c'est bien de l'entendre. Par exemple, le Conseil 165, paragraphe 16, "*The Council reviewed and endorsed the recommendation on program and budget matters contained in the reports of the 5 regional conferences, and of the informal regional conference for North America.*".

Et vous pouvez trouver ce même type de langage dans les autres rapports précédents. Donc, il me semble très important d'endosser les recommandations, nous pouvons ajouter quelque chose sur les contextes régionaux, comme cela a été proposé, mais c'est important d'endosser ou approuver les recommandations, sinon et je le souligne pour nos collègues, elles n'auront pas d'existences et elles n'en seront pas suivies d'effets.

Nous l'avons vu dans le passé, quand le Conseil a utilisé le mot "*welcome*". Si certaines délégations se dissocient sur le rapport, c'était le cas de la Fédération de Russie, elle s'est dissociée sur certains paragraphes, cela a été reflété dans les rapports concernés. La même chose est faite ici. Donc, j'en appelle aux collègues, pour s'en tenir, à la pratique de ce Conseil, conforme aux textes fondamentaux.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me remind everybody, whatever word we use, our task is to review the recommendations in the reports of the Regional Conferences on programme and budget matters. That is the task of the Council, and that we have done this morning. Then we have to see when it comes to the specific recommendations in these reports, not in previous reports. Can we endorse those or can we not endorse them all?

That is what we have to decide. It is not about whether or not we used in the practices before in the past, but if we look to the recommendations, because it was asked also by Brazil, can we endorse as the Council the recommendations in the Reports of the Regional Conferences? That is our task. If we can endorse them, I think we have to use the word “*endorsed*”, if we cannot endorse them all, we cannot use the word “*endorsed*”.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for the clarification which is useful indeed. Our preference though is for “*endorsed*”. We do think that the practice has its own standing as a long-term one, not only because they have just been repeated, but because there is the sense attached to that which is the strong sense for the Council Members to really approve and say be a very colloquial way by in what is already been discussed during the Regional Conferences. This is why Italy would really appreciate to keep the word “*endorsed*”.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

We would want to suggest that we take the guidance from the Secretariat on the legal standing of the Council, which is our mandate as the Council is with respect particularly to budget, so we should be “*accepting*” or “*welcoming*” the Reports, and “*endorse*” the recommendations that are related to programme and budget, and that I think would simplify the framing of the chapeau, otherwise we are going to get into other details.

All various groupings that made submissions this morning from the various regional groups, we all had an opportunity to assess what was then in the context of the mandate of the FAO and we have all at least in many instances outlined some of those recommendations that are already aligned with some of the strategic programmes of the FAO.

So, there is really not much danger from assessing the objective and what has been presented by the reports in relation to the FAO's mandate. So, we would go with “*endorsing the recommendations related to the programme and budget,*” but the Reports, all of them, should be welcomed, because that is the kind of legally-accepted provision that I think we could agree to.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. At least we put in “*reviewed and welcomed the reports,*” and then we see what we do with the recommendations. With that, we break for lunch.

*The meeting rose at 12:10 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 10*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.10*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>SIXTH PLENARY SESSION SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>15 June 2022</b>

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:08 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 08  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.08  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences (*continued*)****Point 9. Conférences régionales (*suite*)****Tema 9. Conferencias regionales (*continuación*)****CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends, I hope that you had a refreshing lunch, could relax a little bit, so that we will have a fruitful and positive second session of today. I know with your spirit, certainly it can be successful.

We came quite far with the conclusions of Item 9 but we could not finalize them yet. I am at this moment working, because there are different views, and I tried to contain not only what was previous the decision of the Council, but also consider recommendations which I think are already endorsed by the Council, which we then can endorse, but also other elements, and I am working on a compromised language on that Item.

However, I need a little bit more time for that. Also to make sure that is in a legal sense right, what I have in my head and also in informal consultations listening to you. I will come back to that later on.

I postpone the finalization of the conclusions for Item 9. We already agreed to the very helpful suggestion of Mexico to not go into all those specific elements. I will come back with a draft proposal to you as soon as possible.

**Item 10. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee (May 2022)****Point 10. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-troisième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-onzième session) (mai 2022)****Tema 10. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 133.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 191.º período de sesiones (mayo de 2022)**  
(CL 170/10; CL 170/17)**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like now to turn to Item 10, because we have to make progress in the work we are doing. I would like to take up Item 10, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 191st Session of the Finance Committee*. Everything recommended you will find in documents CL170/10 and CL170/17.

**Introduction to Item 10: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee (16, 17 and 20 May 2022)**

*Ms Imelda Smolčić, Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee*

Mr Chairperson, Members of the Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee. This Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 170/10, Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 16, 17 and 20 May 2022).

The Joint Meeting examined, among others, the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, the Update on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration and the Update on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Strategic Exercise. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

Regarding the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, the Joint Meeting welcomed the document and its improved presentation and readability. In particular, the Joint Meeting commended FAO's resource mobilization efforts during the biennium, reaching the level of USD 2.7 billion despite the exceptional challenges posed by COVID-19; appreciated the progress in FAO's multilingualism efforts; and recommended the Report for endorsement by the Council.

Members welcomed the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and their Coordinated Response, and highlighted further strategic collaboration among the RBAs within the broader UN context and in alignment with the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) repositioning.

In relation to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Strategic Exercise, the Joint Meeting invited FAO Members to conclude the review and finalize a decision through the continued consultation on specific regional allocation shares to be reviewed by the Council for submission and adoption at the 43rd Session of the Conference.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our report.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

If you read the request of all the members of the Joint Committee, that is on the opening page of the document, the members of the Joint Meeting requested the Council to endorse their recommendations. We are now going to see whether or not we can have a positive conclusion, following the request of the Joint Meeting.

With that, I would like to open the floor to the Members on giving their reactions/comments on the recommendations of the Joint Meeting. May I ask your cooperation to maintain our speaking limits for three minutes when you speak on behalf of your own country and five minutes if you speak on behalf of a group of Members so that we can have ample time to finish our Agenda this week.

### **Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia welcomes and endorses the Report of the May 2022 Joint Meeting and we thank the Chair for her leadership throughout this meeting. Australia notes that many of the items discussed served to highlight the importance of transparency, accountability and solidarity across FAO – from headquarters through to decentralized offices, and indeed across the entire United Nations system. In this regard, we take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of the Joint Meeting focusing on areas, which continue to ensure this transparency, accountability and solidarity, as well as ensuring alignment of all organisational outputs against the new 10-year Strategic Framework.

### **Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, ainsi que la Moldavie, la Géorgie, Saint-Marin, la Turquie et l'Ukraine se rallient à la présente déclaration.

Nous souhaiterions tout d'abord remercier la Présidente de la Réunion conjointe pour avoir conduit la réunion avec brio. Nous saluons le nouveau format, plus bref, du rapport sur l'exécution du programme qui nous a présenté lors de cette Réunion conjointe. Nous nous réjouissons des progrès réalisés pour accroître l'efficacité et l'efficience du programme de coopération technique, qui constitue un outil important pour aider les pays à atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Nous saluons également les efforts déployés par la FAO pour examiner la répartition des ressources du Programme de coopération technique (PCT) allouées à chaque région. Nous attendons avec intérêt les prochaines étapes de l'exercice stratégique. Nous rappelons la nécessité de préserver l'accent mis par le PCT sur les besoins des pays les moins avancés. Nous prenons note avec satisfaction des informations actualisées sur la mise en place du pôle de coordination des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires, et nous attendons avec intérêt les informations actualisées qui seront transmises aux États membres, notamment s'agissant du programme de travail agréé avec le groupe de supervision.

Nous soulignons combien il est important, tout particulièrement dans le contexte de la situation internationale actuelle en matière de sécurité alimentaire, de transformer les systèmes alimentaires dans le monde entier. La réalisation du programme 2030 et des ODD doit rester notre objectif commun. La solution aux problématiques auxquelles nous sommes confrontées repose essentiellement sur des systèmes alimentaires durables et résilients.

Par conséquent, le pôle de coordination doit jouer un rôle déterminant pour faciliter la transformation des systèmes alimentaires, et tirer le meilleur parti du système des Nations Unies. Nous attendons avec

intérêt les résultats, d'ici la fin de l'année 2022, de l'étude de faisabilité sur le regroupement des services administratifs, y compris ceux du siège, dans le cadre de la collaboration entre les organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome.

Nous nous réjouissons de poursuivre lors de la prochaine Réunion conjointe notre discussion sur la manière dont les cadres de programmation par pays de la FAO sont élaborés en conformité avec le plan cadre de coopération des Nations Unies pour le développement durable, afin de parvenir à des résultats sur le terrain. Par la présente déclaration, nous adoptons le rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 133<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité du Programme et de la 191<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité financier.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I would like to start with our appreciation to my colleague Ms Imelda Smolcic, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, for her excellent leadership in conducting the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Furthermore, we would like to thank all Members of both Committees for their dedication, compromising and reaching a consensus. The past was not easy; however, we should be very proud of getting there.

Under this Agenda Item, I would like to highlight just two issues. Israel appreciates the views expressed by the Joint Meeting in welcoming the recommendation of the joint evaluation; Israel supports the encouragement or further and stronger strategic cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs).

With regard to the update on the UN Food System Coordination HHub, Israel fully supports the request from FAO management to strengthen the Hub's ability within existing programmatic and budgetary frameworks and without creating any new or duplicative mechanisms. Regarding the Hub, we also wish to reiterate the Joint Meeting recommendation for regular updates not only to Members but also to national conveners.

With these remarks, we recommend that the Council endorse the Joint Meeting Report.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

We would like to wish everyone a successful continuation of the Session under your leadership Chairperson.

The Russian Federation supports the adoption of the Report of the Joint Meeting of FAO Programme and Finance Committees and would like to make the following comments in relation to it.

We commend FAO leadership on its efforts to effectively implement the agreed Programme of Work in 2020 and 2021 and on its emergency response measures to counter the social economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome FAO's work to attract additional donor funding. At the same time, we believe that Members need to take measures to fully meet their financial obligations to the Organization.

We are convinced that the regular budget, which is formed by assessed contributions, is the foundation of FAO's work.

On Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration, we note the work done to identify promising areas for cooperation this work is particularly relevant in the context of the growing instability in the global food and financial market, as well as its humanitarian consequences.

We support the conclusion that the United Nations development system (UNDS) reforms agreed by the Members should serve as a starting point in building cooperation between the RBAs and with other UN system organizations. We expect to see additional efforts to find areas of complementarity, saving resources by merging the programme and administrative activities of the RBAs both in the field and at Headquarters.

We support the analysis of the prospects for combining functions in the areas of management, financial activities, personnel management, information and communication technology (ICT), and logistic services and procurement. At the same time, we pay great attention to the need to preserve the



functions and powers of each organization in the area of humanitarian assistance in accordance with their statutory mandates. It is necessary to guarantee the financing of RBAs cooperation from the regular budget. This is the way to ensure progressive, transparent and results orientated collaboration.

With regard to the functioning of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, we would like to emphasize that this Hub was created at the initiative of the UN Secretariat as a follow-up to the UN Food System Summit. Proper intergovernmental discussion of these results did not take place. Thus, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the work of the Coordination Hub it is necessary to have a clear understanding of the agreed tasks and powers of this new body.

With regard to oversight by FAO Members of cooperation of Country Programming Frameworks, the discussion on this issue during the Joint Meeting demonstrated the interest of a narrow group of countries in this format for the secretariat Reporting. It is still not entirely clear to us what FAO Country Programming Frameworks actually are.

We are only aware of such programmes existing in World Food Programme (WFP) where they are funded from donor funds and regularly approved by the WFP executive board. We should like to ask the secretariat to provide us with appropriate explanations of the implementation of such programmes in the Organization.

**Mr Addisu Melkamu KEBEDE (Ethiopia)**

On behalf of the Africa Regional Group, allow me to present our reflections on the Joint Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee.

The Africa Regional Group appreciates the Director-General for presenting a comprehensive speech and the attention he has given to the Joint Meeting done last time.

The Group welcomes the update on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration particularly the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among RBAs and the status of the feasibility study for the RBAs on the integration of administrative services.

The Africa Regional Group took note of the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among the United Nations RBAs and encouraged further strategic collaboration among the RBAs.

We appreciate the RBAs Management's firm commitment and support to the RBAs collaboration agenda for enhanced success of shared objectives.

The Group also welcomed the RBA Coordinated Response to address the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation and recognized the importance of pursuing joint collaborative efforts within the broader UN context and in alignment with the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) reform, in particular at a country level.

Moreover, we commend the need to further strengthen collaboration in both emergency response and development programmes.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, the Africa Regional Group appreciates the continued inclusive and transparent process based on the principle of universality and the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the FAO Council.

Appreciating the works of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, we encourage FAO Management to identify opportunities to further strengthen the capacity of the Hub in support of its initial operations within the existing programmatic and budgetary frameworks, in order to support Members in implementing their national food systems pathway.

Finally, we encourage FAO to regularly update us including through the Governing Bodies and appraise the permanent representatives to FAO when communicating with national conveners as well as the UN Agencies and high-level political forum.

With these comments, the Africa Regional Group endorses the Joint Meeting Report.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España refrenda las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia francesa de turno de la Unión Europea en su integridad, al tiempo que establecemos los siguientes puntos que queríamos resaltar:

En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer a los equipos de ambos Comités, de Finanzas y del Programa, con sus Presidentas la Sra. Doña Imelda Smolčić Nijers y la Excm. Sra. Yael Rubinstein a la cabeza, por su extraordinario trabajo.

Quisiéramos destacar la importancia del establecimiento del Centro de Coordinación de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios (*Coordination Hub*), que ahora más que nunca demuestra su pertinencia, y del que esperamos seguir estando informados en el futuro.

Asimismo, subrayamos la necesidad de seguir estando informados sobre el desarrollo de los marcos de programación por país de la FAO, dada su utilidad para implementar las acciones y el apoyo técnico de la FAO en el terreno.

Con estos comentarios, España aprueba el Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 133.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 191.º período de sesiones.

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

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

First, we would like to express our appreciation to FAO on the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee contained in documents *CL 170/10*.

The Asia Regional Group has been following with great interest, the progress of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Strategic Exercise since it was first kicked off in 2021.

Asia Group acknowledges the need for a continued inclusive transparent process based on the principle of universality and the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the Council.

We deemed the exercise to refine the criteria of resource allocation and re-imagine the TCP as an excellent opportunity for Members to jointly shaping a more realistic needs of TCP for each region.

We noted the various possible scenarios of the regional shares allocation resulting from the application of different set of weights to the seven criteria and are of the view that the choice of weights should be based on best available data and science. That said, the most recent data and choice of variables used in the exercise are key to aid future discussions on original TCP shares.

With regards to the within-region distribution of TCP resources we call on Regional Representatives to continue close consultations with Members considering ways to ensure greater uniformity, while keeping the required flexibility to respond timely to country situations and specificities.

In the same vein, we are also of the view that TCP operational guidelines and related TCP criteria for project approvals should undergo continuous refinement. Whilst we took note of the revised TCP Manual which now aligned to FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and indicators, we also would like to emphasize that priority should be given to the implementation of national pathways for transformation of agrifood system. This is particularly pivotal to ensure that TCP projects can genuinely create catalytic impacts and contribute to the global agrifood systems transformation.

To this end, we would like to renew our commitment to continue engagement in transparent and inclusive consultation process aimed at refining criteria and approach for regional TCP resource share and within-regions distribution.

Turning to UN Food System Coordination Hub, we applaud the Hub's main development after its establishment. Nevertheless, we request further information on Food Systems Solutions Dialogue, which were recently launched. We reiterate that, in order for all Members to successfully implement the national pathways that are designed to be aligned with the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) thematic focus and SDGs, final resources are of paramount importance.

Whilst we took note, that the Hub is not a funding mechanism, we welcome with appreciation the Hub's initiative to join hands with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Bank to explore the call for new food finance architecture.

Having said that, however, the Asia Regional Group is interested to understand better on how the funding mechanism would be implemented, including its structure, size of the funding a Member could acquire and the criteria for such funding to be granted.

It is also interesting to note that up to 15 countries would be selected for the first cohort to receive the funding for the implementation of their national pathways. In this connection, we call on the Hub to provide further details on this and maintain inclusive consultations with Members so as to ensure maximum benefit of the innovative funding.

**Ms Xi LI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

China welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting and thanks both Chairpersons for their leading role.

We are satisfied with the process of developing the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) strategy and appreciate the response of consultations conducted by FAO management. We encourage the continued inclusiveness and transparency of the consultations and stress that the criteria for resource and location should take full account of the specificity of each region. The location of TCP resources among Members within each region should maintain continuity and stability and should ensure the consensus among Members.

China encourages FAO to continue to play a leading role in implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and encourages the Coordination Hub to focus on strengthening the support to Members.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan associate itself with the joint statement of Asia Regional Group delivered by distinguished colleagues of Malaysia. Japan would like to make a very short comment.

We, as a Member of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee had a very intensive discussion. The overall conclusion of the discussion has been incorporated in this Report, after a very difficult negotiation, to reach the final agreement by all Members of both Committees.

Japan endorses this Report of the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee.

**Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia aligns itself with a statement made by Malaysia on behalf of Asia Regional Group. Indonesia welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting, and Report shed lights on the extraordinary work of FAO to assist countries in need to contain the effects of the pandemic.

The holistic and effective approach taken by FAO is proven to be success and results base. Indonesia aligns itself with the Join Meeting's decision. In this relation, there are few things that Indonesia would like to add.

First, Indonesia looks forward to hearing FAO analysis of the rule and effects of the earmarked contributions in delivering FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, compared to unearmarked contributions.

Second, Indonesia conveys its appreciation on the collaborations among our Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and encourages further strategic collaborations among them based on their comparative advantages and their complementaries, while avoiding overlaps and competitions to optimize the evasion, use of resources.

Third, and lastly, Indonesia acknowledges the continued inclusive and transparent process based on the principle of universality and the criteria approved by 166th Session of the Council.

We support the readiness of regional representative to keep the required flexibility to respond to regional specificities and ensuring effective Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in the evolving context within the countries and regions.

This is why Indonesia stands ready to assist FAO in delivering the TCP effectively.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La Argentina desea agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Finanzas, Sra. Doña Imelda Smolčić Nijers, por la excelente conducción de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 133.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 191.º período de Sesiones. En cierta manera, las conclusiones del Informe que la Argentina espera que el Consejo endose, tienen como hilo conductor la demanda genuina de algunos países, entre ellos mi país, la Argentina, de “pensar fuera de la caja”. Se trata de buscar sinergias, romper compartimentos estancos y ser innovadores en el trabajo día a día.

Innovar significa que exista una mejor y mas eficiente colaboración en el terreno entre los organismos con sede en Roma (OSR). En ese sentido, la Argentina oportunamente se cuestiona la necesidad de que cada OSR tenga que tener su propia iniciativa para responder a problemas globales, como por ejemplo la guerra en Ucrania.

En ese contexto, no sorprende por qué algunos planes de respuesta para Ucrania hayan obtenido menos del 10% del financiamiento previsto.

Por otro lado, “pensar fuera de la caja” implica poner en práctica lo que se dice. No dejar a nadie atrás implica seguir trabajando en el mejoramiento del proceso de asignación de recursos en el marco del Programa de cooperación técnica (PCT), porque el desarrollo es acción humanitaria anticipada.

Hay un deber moral de actuar antes de que ocurra la emergencia, y para ello existe el PCT. Estamos ansiosos por culminar el proceso de relanzamiento del PCT sin que ninguna región vea sus necesidades invisibilizadas, los pobres en cualquier lugar que se encuentren deben ser priorizados.

Hemos recibido información del Centro de Coordinación de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios. Existen muchos deberes por delante para reforzar las sinergias necesarias para sostener sistemas alimentarios sostenibles.

Tenemos la certeza que el Director de la Oficina para los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (OSG), Sr. Stefanos Fotiou, con su gran experiencia y disponibilidad, tendrá en cuenta las discusiones de la reunión conjunta para llevar las tareas pendientes a buen fin, en particular lo relacionado a la comunicación permanente e irremplazable con las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma, en respeto de las prácticas de la Organización anfitriona del Centro.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina endosa las conclusiones de la reunión conjunta de los Comités asesores del Consejo.

**Ms Siti Normaznie ABDUL MUTTALIB (Malaysia)**

My delegation would like to align ourselves to the statement made by the Asia Regional Group that was delivered by Malaysia.

Malaysia noted with appreciation and great interest, the progress of the review and strategic exercise on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Coordination Hub, and thanks FAO for the inclusive consultative process being engaged.

We too, appreciate the initiative by FAO to share calculation spreadsheets through the Members Gateway, which has helped increase understanding of the calculations and multiple scenarios for the regional TCP resource shares. Malaysia is particularly concerned with the high incidence of degradation of biodiversity, poverty, and prevalence of undernourishment for the Asia-Pacific region and without prejudice to the ongoing exercise on indicative resource allocation to regions, we opine that the region deserves considerable shares for the criteria examined.

That said, the greater the likelihood of incidence to occur, the higher the resource shares are expected.

Malaysia took note of the well-defined set of additional region-specific criteria developed by Regional Representatives based on the guidance provided by Management. As the responsibility and accountability for the use of the regional indicative TCP allocations is assigned to Regional Representatives and at country level to FAO Representatives, we would like to call on FAO to give equal and timely attention to the needs of, and increase communication, with Members without country representatives like Malaysia, in order to benefit fully from the indicative base allocation available for them. Further, while acknowledging the completion of the revision of the TCP Manual, my delegation calls on FAO to continuously refine the Manual and respond to country-specific procedural challenges so as to facilitate timely approval of requests for TCP and TCP facility.

To this end, my delegation stands ready to engage in the ongoing exercise to refine the criteria for regional and within region resource shares.

With respect to the update on the UN Food Systems Food Coordination Hub, Malaysia would like to echo the call made by the Asia Regional Group for the issuance of a detail mechanism of the proposed support to the 15 countries, as the first cohort to receive funding support for implementing their national pathways under the new food finance architecture. While we are fully aware that the support should be country-driven, we urge the Hub to maintain inclusivity and be reasonably flexible, particularly in the selection of up to 15 countries for the first cohort.

Malaysia welcomes the aspirations of the new food finance architecture to move away from short-term investment practices. In this context, FAO must ensure that “*no one is left behind*” from receiving the technical capacity and support needed to build local capacities in implementing national pathways, if one does not have the sophistication in data collection and scientific evidence at local level.

In this regard, Malaysia endorses the Report of the Joint Meeting.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

I wish to intervene specifically on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Review and Strategic Exercise.

We in the Bahamas wish to commend FAO for recognizing the need to re-evaluate its systems and considering the need to refine the criteria allocation to move beyond the traditional one of per capita income and take into account the specific needs of each region, such as overall poverty and inequality, vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity degradation.

We also acknowledge the efforts taken to develop the methodology, scenarios, and dissemination of information for further discussions. However, discussions have slowed, and conclusions are lingering while countries within the Caribbean region suffer from the need for increased agricultural financing and technical support.

Livelihoods dependent on the agriculture and fisheries sectors are impacted daily by climate change and economic challenges. As we continue to face rising food prices, there is a grave need for FAO’s support and innovative solutions to be disseminated throughout the region for adaptation and adoption.

The region cannot wait until June 2023 at the 43rd Session of the Conference for changes in funding allocations to be considered.

Noting the request from the region at the 168th Session of the Council, the Caribbean region once again calls for more inclusive discussions within the sub-region. It should be recognized that the Latin American and Caribbean region has the greatest number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – 16 out of the 33 globally. These SIDS are most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing socio-economic risks, largely due to slow recovery from natural disasters.

There is an additional need for special attention also at sub-regional level for fair distribution of resource allocation. There are Caribbean countries that receive the minimum allocation of USD 100 000 per annum in the biennium which is insufficient for a substantial catalyst for productivity in the sector, particularly when compared to other countries that receive higher allocations in addition to donor funds that are left untapped.

Despite the potential benefit of increased allocations based on the proposed criteria, the availability of updated data to measure the indicators is challenging for countries in the region. There is need for specific resources to be allocated to Caribbean SIDS for agricultural and fisheries for surveys to ensure that the data used to measure the indicators are the most recent. This will serve to provide a true reflection of the state of food and agriculture in the country, particularly with regards to poverty levels and inequality.

We call on FAO therefore to work closely within the region to assist in the provision of resources to access data tools and technology to build capacities of countries with respect to data collection. Often FAO developed data tools are utilized in the African and Asian regions, largely supported through donor funding. To truly engage in uniformity, we request that the Management of FAO advocate for donor funding for data collection in the Caribbean SIDS.

Lastly, the ability of Caribbean SIDS to recover from unforeseen climate shocks will greatly impact the quality of life on these islands. With increased occurrences of catastrophic natural disasters, there is a need to consider recovery periods from disasters or rather a country's level of resiliency as a criteria in determining TCP allocations.

With these comments, the Caribbean region is requesting that during the strategic review exercise, Management engages the sub-region specifically to ensure greater uniformity while keeping to the commitment to respond to the needs of the region.

The Bahamas endorses the report.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I will just take the floor very briefly to thank our Chairperson of the Joint Meeting for her efforts in forging a well earned consensus, and to say that the United States also endorses the Joint Meeting Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for a very concise statement, just to endorse the Reports, I think that is the shortest statement we have had during this Council. I very much appreciate it.

**Mr Thomas John KELLY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

The United Kingdom thanks the Joint Committee for the Report. On the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) evaluation, we would like to underline the importance of strategic collaboration in the context of the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) reforms, in particular at country level, especially with cross cutting issues and affecting not only FAO programmes, but all programmes across (RBAs).

Climate change is a good example. As we said yesterday, we look forward to seeing how the action plan to implement FAO Climate Change Strategy is working across the system in doing so.

We are pleased to receive the update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and look forward to regular updates to the Membership on the Hub's work and its emerging priorities.

The United Kingdom welcomes the proposed discussion on FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPF), we highlight the importance of ensuring alignment of the CPF with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), we think it would be very helpful to have all the CPF readily available on FAO website. This would also facilitate opportunities for greater engagement and strategic partnerships at country level. It would also make it easier for us to identify where we can use them to provide a platform to leverage innovative private and national funding sources to help deliver FAO goals towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We look forward to FAO update with a presentation of illustrative CPF from different regions at the next Council Session.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

I want to compete with the United States of America. Mexico also endorse the Reports and thank the Chairpersons for their leadership.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think it is good examples to speed up our work in the Council. I have no other requests for the floor. Now I turn first to the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting, my dear friend, Ms Imelda Smolcic. I echo the many compliments you received for your Chairpersonship.

**Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Solamente permítame agradecer a los miembros de la reunión conjunta, su dedicación y compromiso durante la sesión que tuve el honor de presidir, y a usted por acompañarnos. No tengo otros comentarios.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this is now a competition about brief and concise statements. I hope Management can follow that as well. Now I pass the floor to Ms Beth Crawford for remarks on questions about the Country Programming Framework (CPF).

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

I will be very brief. Just to say that, our Country Programming Framework (CPF) is, of course, the main planning document for FAO at country level and I was pleased to have been able to give an oral update on this at this Joint Meeting, and indeed that we can provide additional information that will be coming to the Council through the next Joint Meeting.

Maybe just a few points to highlight is indeed that the CPF, is now fully derived from the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). So we are part of the process the UN process at country level, where we fully participate in the UN country planning. And from that we derive the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF).

Another important element just to highlight, again, is how the Strategic Framework 2022-2031 really supports and facilitates the top-down and country bottom-up planning. So, with everything now fully aligned and in the Agenda 2030, everything measured through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that really allows us to bring these frameworks at country level and the Corporate FAO Framework together and to Report in a holistic manner to you.

There is lot of exciting things going on, and we look forward to giving you a further update on that at the next Session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I turn briefly to Ms Beth Bechdol on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

**Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Thank you to the Members who made very positive comments about the transparency and inclusivity of the approach we have taken with a strategic exercise for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

As has been stated, we look forward to continuing to bring to a conclusion, the exercise that has been ongoing to determine what the regional allocation shares will be moving into the period of 2023 and beyond.

I want to be clear, though, in saying that for the time being, while the exercise is still being conducted, we clearly have prioritized very efficient and I think much streamlined operationalizing of the TCP.

So, the current regional shares that have been in place the important prioritization, that our headquarters and our regional representatives for their regional and also sub regional allocations that they are taking are also a very high priority.

We also recognize the importance of continuing to streamline the process. I look forward to continuing to update all of you on that, and do very much appreciate the comments from the representative of the Bahamas about ensuring that we do pay attention to sub regional needs and priorities, especially the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as we continue to, I think reevaluate the overall process.

So, very important input. We look forward to continuing and actually concluding this strategic exercise to bring it to a complete conclusion.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we now turn to the draft conclusions and we put them on the screen.

- 1) The Council endorsed the *RReport of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 191st Session of the Finance Committee*, and in particular:
  - a) welcomed the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and its Coordinated Response, and highlighted the importance of further strategic cooperation among the RBAs within the broader UN context and in alignment with the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) repositioning;
  - b) looked forward to the conclusion of the review by Members through continued consultation on the criteria for the Technical Cooperation Programme's resource allocation shares within regions, with a view to submission to and adoption by the 43rd Session of the Conference;
  - c) commended the establishment of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub as a tool to support Members in implementing their national food systems pathways and requested FAO to update Members on a regular basis; and
  - d) looked forward to further information on the FAO Country Programming Framework at its 173rd Session later this year.

I start with the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (b). Can we agree to the subparagraph?

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

El subpárrafo (b), me gustaría, si pudiéramos mejorar la redacción, y decir "*Should be resource allocation among regions.*"

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is a helpful suggestion. Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (c).

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je reviens simplement sur la proposition au sous-paragraphe (b). La proposition que nous venons d'entendre. Je note que dans le rapport de la Réunion conjointe, c'était "*within*". Je pense que dans un esprit de flexibilité, nous pourrions avoir "*within and among*". L'allocation ne doit pas seulement être entre les régions, mais aussi se voir à l'intérieur d'une région.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Factually you are correct, because we already discussed, I think even in the last Council, at least the 168th Council, the criteria for amongst regions, but we still have to go also within the regions because that is also part of the work to be done. So, could we live with "*within and amongst regions*"?

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Si hablamos de flexibilidad, podemos ser todos flexibles. Pongamos "*among*" primero "*and within regions.*"

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is correct, because you first have to know your regional share before you can go into the regional distribution.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**



We agree with the proposal made by Argentina and France. Based on the previous intervention, we may suggest that after “*within region*”, we need to add “*based on Members’ consensus*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections. With that we have an approved subparagraph (b).

We go to subparagraph (c). Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Report I believe that we should keep a parallel with the the information or the Report that we discuss in the Joint Meeting. And as I see here, paragraph 13 of the Joint Meeting Report, we just noted that UN Secretary-General designate FAO as the host for the Coordination Hub.

So, in that regard, we would favour to delete “*commended the establishment*” and replace it by “*noted that the UN Secretary-General designate FAO as the host for the Coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system as a tool to support*”.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We support that suggestion made by Brazil and would like to request the addition after the word “*basis of including on funding*”.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Apoyamos la sugerencia de Brasil y de los Estados Unidos de América.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

Now I turn last subparagraph. Can we agreed to it? I do not see any objections.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Actually, this comes out a little bit as a surprise to us because it is not a discussion, actually really a debate happened on this discussion. So, we propose to delete this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It was raised by Members and it was replied by Ms Beth Crawford that she would and will give further information at our next Session. Of course, the Report reflects not only the Report itself but also the discussion in the Council. Of course, I am flexible, if Members want to delete this subparagraph it is fine with me as well. Proposals to delete this subparagraph.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We do not agree with the deletion of this subparagraph. It was raised and discussed here today, and so we propose to keep it in its entirety.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Echoing what the United States has just said, a number of delegations raised it today. As you say, Ms Beth Crawford also undertook to provide further information at the next Session of Council, so we also flag to support its continued inclusion in the Report.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous soutenons aussi le maintien de cette phrase qui correspond à ce qui a été discuté au sein de la Réunion conjointe, et qui correspond pour l'essentiel au paragraphe 14 du rapport de la Réunion conjointe. L'idée c'est bien justement d'en discuter à la prochaine Session.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan would also like to keep this subparagraph. .

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Italy would echo what Japan has just said. We would like to maintain the subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility with China to keep the subparagraph in?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We can be flexible but we kindly request if it would be agreeable to all the Members if, after the “*Country Programming Frameworks*” we add “*with full respect to country's sovereignty*”.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Based on what we said at the start of this Session, we would like to make a small addition.

We continue to note that the Coordination Hub was created based on the initiative of the UN Secretariat. Members did not take part in discussion on the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and our proposal was to ensure that Members had an opportunity to contribute to the targets and goals of the Coordination Hub in this connection.

We would like to make the following proposal in relation to this subparagraph. We support the proposal from the Brazilian colleague:

***Continues in English***

*“Noted that the UN Secretary-General designated FAO as the host for the Coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system and requested FAO to engage in inclusive consultations with Members regarding elaboration of the goals and objectives of the Fund”.*

Then I propose to do it “*as a tool to support Members in implementing their national food system pathway. And further requested FAO to update Members on a regular basis on the work and the funding thereof*”. That would be our suggestion.

***Continues in Russian***

I would just like to make another comment in relation to subparagraph (d). We remember the discussion on this in relation to the Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) in the Joint Meeting.

We remember how this was included in the Report of the Joint Meeting. This was the initiative of a group of countries, not all countries that participated in the discussion on this issue shared the same concerns that were expressed by the initiators of this proposal. That is why we would like the secretariat to continue to provide information on FAO Country Programming Framework.

We think this was an initiative of a small number of countries and the creation of new control instruments for accountability and expenses.

In our point of view is an element, which complicates the work of the Organization. The accountability mechanisms that FAO has already fully able to respond to the needs of Members, so I call on Members to be flexible when it comes to agreeing to wording on this proposal and we do support actually the proposal made by the Chinese delegation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I thought we concluded subparagraph (c) but you made a new proposal. I think, to be correct in your wording, it should be an objective of the Hub, because it is not a front but it is a Coordination Hub. Otherwise, it does not link to the first part of the sentence.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I take the floor with regards to the suggested addition of language in subparagraph (d).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first tackle subparagraph (c). Can we agree to subparagraph (c)?

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

I had also flagged up to discuss subparagraph (d).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first finalize subparagraph (c). Can we agree now to the text of subparagraph (c)?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We agree with the addition. Just a quick check. If you can check with the Management if the updates of the Hub is already on a regular basis or not. If it is, we would request that you add “*request FAO to continue to update to Members*”, if it is agreeable to everyone

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will ask it to Management. As far as I know, I have only seen one update. But I give the floor to Management.

**Mr Stefanos FOTIOU (Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals)**

The Hub has provided information updates as per request. We do not have a planned regular sequence, for example, every two, three, or four months but every time there was a request from the different Governing Bodies, we provided an update.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the language can stay as it is.

Argentina, is it on this or is it on subparagraph (d)? We are still on subparagraph (c).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Subpárrafo (c). Estamos ahí. No tenemos objeciones de la sugerencia del delegado de la Federación de Rusia, pero nos gustaría que después de “*objectives of the Hub*” quede en claro lo siguiente. “*Including actions on implementing national pathways*”...porque en definitiva, de eso se trata.

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

We are just thinking, Chair, with regard to subparagraph (c). We have the view that on the last lines, instead of “*funding*”, we would like to suggest “*a financing mechanism*” instead. Because even to the dialogue that “*recently launched*”, it is all about talking about the financing mechanism. That is the first one.

Since I have the floor, Chair, if I may quickly go back to subparagraph (b).

**CHAIRPERSON**

We now are going to negotiate backwards. We adopted subparagraph (a), we adopted subparagraph (b). Now, we are not going to reopen every subparagraph anymore again.

I think I am flexible with everything but let us move forward instead of backwards?

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

Minor ones, Chairperson. Just after the “*technical cooperation project resource allocation shares among and within regions*”, we would like to propose the insertion of “*update of operational guidelines*”, because it is part of the exercise and then continuing on with based on Members’ consensus. So our proposition is *update of operational guidelines*. Tha

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am getting lost now. Sweden, for which subparagraph? subparagraph (a) now or...? It is the only one that has not been reopened yet.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I have a question on the proposal from the Russian Federation concerning subparagraph (c). Just to say that Sweden is very interested to take part in the updates from the Secretariat and Management on how the Hub will develop, and I think looking forward to that.

But when we say that “we want Members to be... [regarding] elaboration of the goals and objectives of the Hub”, I am wondering if this is not already a given, because the Hub has a task which has been

given from the UN Deputy Secretary-General, so I am not sure that we would have a role as Members to elaborate on these goals and objectives.

Of course, we can be informed of the development and how this progresses but it might be not the correct way to put in our Report. So that would be my comment. Definitely consultations with Members of progress, but maybe not the elaboration of goals and objectives.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first go to subparagraph (b) to see if we have now finalized subparagraph (b). I do not see, for the second time, any objections. So, we agreed on subparagraph (b). Make it black so that it is not an invitation to reopen again.

We go to subparagraph (c).

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

Responding to the question from the representative of Sweden, the logic behind our proposal is as follows. Members took part in the preparation of the UN Food System Summit. We all know this. The outcomes of this Summit did not go through intergovernmental agreement. There was a decision from the UN Secretariat to have FAO host this Coordination Hub. We believe that, given that the outcomes did not go through intergovernmental discussions, the work of this Coordination Hub should be subjected to a very clear set of goals and objectives.

They should be set by Members because Members had no opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the Summit. We understand that the Hub is based at FAO but Members of FAO have the right to participate in the formation of the goals and objectives of the Hub. Because the outcomes of the Summit were not discussed by the Members.

This is the argument behind our proposal for this additional text in subparagraph (c). I hope I have answered the question asked by our colleague from Sweden.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

If you follow this line of argument, the question is whether it should be done in New York or in Rome because it is the UN Secretary-General who installed this Hub. We would not have any mandate to say anything... Yes, we can request but not decide on it. I will leave that up to the Members.

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Not to make life more complicated, but maybe some more words to clarify the sentence is probably worth to try.

First, regarding *“the elaboration of the goals and objectives”*, we would suggest *“the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Hub”*. That is the first suggestion.

The second one, just want to make a suggestion in terms of including *“actions on implementing their national system pathways”*. What we understand here, the Hub does not implement national pathways. Therefore, we would like to modify a bit with the words that you have actually mentioned before.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estoy de acuerdo con la sugerencia de Indonesia. Creo que mejoró lo que nosotros habíamos planteado, así que nos parece bien. Y con respecto al tema del rol de los Miembros, Presidente, usted es testigo de la cantidad de Miembros que han cuestionado la falta de un rol claro de los Miembros durante la Cumbre de Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios y está claro que no podemos ser convidados de piedra en la discusión sobre las acciones del “Coordination Hub”, por lo tanto, no solamente tenemos que recibir este proyecto sino tenemos que involucrarnos y ser partícipes, consecuentemente es importante remarcar el rol de los Miembros.

Así que, yo mantendría tal cual como está el texto de este párrafo con las sugerencias enriquecedoras de Indonesia.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

As you all know, I am the first person to echo the strong involvement of Membership in every decision taken by the Governing Bodies of FAO. However, we have to do it within the mandate. And within the mandate also of who is going to enforce a decision towards the UN Secretary-General. I think there we have perhaps an element for discussion. I would like to ask the Legal Counsel how to deal with this.

**MS Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Indeed, I have been following this discussion with great interest, and I am not sure I have an answer for you, I am afraid. As indicated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and some Members, this is a discussion in the context of the Food Systems Summit (FSS), which was a UN-led exercise. It is an outcome of that, as indicated in the wording. It was the UN Deputy Secretary-General who designated FAO as a host and I think the key is the word “*host*”. It is not FAO that is leading or which is directing the activities of this. It is a UN system activity in which FAO is one of those institutions.

In that light, I think, of course, the Members are engaging within the UN context. The Members are engaged in the policymaking, in giving direction and in assessing the outcomes. In the UN context, it is the same Members, but not necessarily sitting in an FAO setting.

That being said, of course, the Members would have the authority to receive information as to what is being done by their Secretariat to support the activities of the Hub. Beyond that, I am afraid I do not really have an answer for you but to indicate that, of course, there is a right to information, a right to provide feedback but, at the end of the day, this is a Hub which has been established at the designation of the Secretary-General, not the Director-General.

**Sra. Natalia ESCOBAR (Chile)**

En calidad de convocante nacional de los diálogos para la Cumbre de Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, la información que nosotros tenemos y en lo que hemos participado es que, efectivamente, el Centro de Coordinación de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios fue creado a petición del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas y sí tiene sus objetivos definidos. El punto en cuestión es aquel que no está definido cuál es el proceso de seguimiento de la Cumbre ya que el Secretario General habría señalado o habría dado una idea muy general de un proceso de seguimiento en el año 2023.

Lo que no entendemos es que si este proceso de seguimiento sería una Cumbre o una especie de rendición de cuentas de las propias hojas de ruta que cada uno de los Miembros representó frente o está elaborando. Algunos países no las han presentado aún. Y que, por lo tanto, el Centro brindaría una especie de asistencia técnica a aquellos Miembros que lo requieran, que demanden esta asistencia técnica para elaborar sus hojas de ruta, pero puede ser que muchos Miembros no requieran esa especie de asistencia técnica y simplemente lleguen al año 2023 a mostrar los avances de cumplimiento de sus hojas de ruta.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Sorry for taking the floor again but I am especially passionate about this subparagraph. Building on what the colleague from Chile just said, what we know is what we all remember is that the UN Food System Summit was a UN Secretary-General initiative and not a UN Members driven initiative.

The outcome of this initiative is the establishment of the Coordination Hub here in FAO. I actually do think that goals and objectives are already preset in New York, but what we should do here, and what they have so far, is including Members in its work plan.

Therefore, my suggestion is to change from “*the goals and the objectives of the Hub*” into “*the work programme of the Hub, including action on supporting Members and implementing their national food system pathways*”.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me he confundido en esta discusión, porque por momentos no tengo bien claro cuál es la gobernanza del “Coordination Hub”. Porque entiendo que la decisión es crear el “Coordination Hub” en el marco

de la FAO y, por lo tanto, entiendo también que el “*Coordination Hub*” debería seguir las reglas de la Organización porque si no es complejo. No me queda muy claro cómo queda la gobernanza.

Por otro lado, creo que es muy importante el tema del control y del seguimiento, y creo que los Miembros tienen que ser partícipe de ese proceso. Porque si no, estaríamos cometiendo errores que ya fueron planteados sobre lo que pasó durante el proceso de la Cumbre de Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios. En definitiva, el “*Coordination Hub*” debería ser un ámbito para apoyar y respaldar la implementación de los Miembros que lo requirieran de acuerdo a sus decisiones de vías nacionales.

Por lo tanto, me gustaría clarificar esta cuestión porque, repito, después de tanta discusión y después de tantas conversaciones no me queda claro cómo sería la gobernanza y cuáles serían las reglas aplicables al funcionamiento del “*Coordination Hub*” si no son las reglas de la FAO.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I was just consulting with the Legal Counsel. I think a couple of things are clear. First is that the Hub was set up by the UN Secretary-General with clear goals and targets that was already decided by the Secretary-General. FAO governance is involved as far as FAO resources are involved, because then you have the accountability mechanism via the Governing Bodies.

For the other part, because the governance of the Hub is not only with FAO but also with certain Members and lies with the UN Secretary-General, only when it comes to resources of FAO, FAO is involved. That does not say that we cannot be involved as the Membership and, as was suggested by Italy, having more consultations on the work programme of the Hub, filling in the gap, which we all, I think, many times discussed here in previous years within FAO. The involvement of the Memberships are crucial.

Therefore, I think that we can certainly, in the conclusion, formulate that we have an inclusive consultation in the involvement of the programming. And then, of course, we can also, if necessary, not only to the Director, but also to the Secretary-General, convey our messages. However, we have to make a distinction that we cannot set goals and targets, because they are already set, we can do work on the programme of work of the Hub, to support, indeed, the implementation of pathways by Members.

#### **Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I would like to lead a different angle about this issue. I listened carefully to the discussion here and I was also looking at the sentences and wording in subparagraph (c). It is a kind of *déjà-vu* for me because many elements are incorporated into paragraph 13 of the Joint Meeting RReport of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee.

This is one example. Council noted information in paragraph 13 of the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee and if there is something new, a new event that has happened, we could add it. However, there is no new movement after the previous Joint Meeting. Just took note of the information of paragraph 13 of the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee, of the Programme Committee. I think this is one way.

I do not know whether or not some event or something happened after the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, but basically there are no big differences from the previous meeting.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not think we need to mention it here because we are ready to endorse the Report. Therefore, we do not need a specific subparagraph. We do not want to add in what has already been said by the Joint Meeting.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me, at the outset, say that in as much we look at this sentence as having this place here, we would prefer a shorter version of the sentence that may read “*noted that the UN Secretary-General*

*designated FAO as the host for coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system”* and then we leave it there.

Probably we may add something like *“should follow the procedures of the UN system”* because what we believe is that, and probably the Legal Counsel might correct us, what we believe is that FAO is inclusive of management and Members.

Trying to make a line of demarcation between FAO entering in consultation with Members is somehow for us a little bit awful. And because we believe that FAO is FAO, there is only one FAO, which is inclusive of management and Members. This is our submission for now.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Cameroon, for making a short and more readable subparagraph. I do hope that we can come closer to a consensus.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We understand the difficult situation the Secretariat is in. A decision was taken by the Secretary-General to establish a Hub and there were outcomes of the Summit, which did not go through intergovernmental discussions. These are facts.

What we are trying to draw attention to here all boils down to the fact that the Coordination Hub cannot take any actions in relation to the outcomes of a summit that have not gone through Members discussions and debates.

The Coordination Hub coordinates efforts in relation to the implementation of goals. Which goals? Goals that have not been agreed upon by Members. This is the crux of the problem. We are very grateful to the Legal Counsel for the explanation of the context of what has happened. We understand that the decision that was taken by the UN Secretariat and FAO is the platform where the outcomes are going to be discussed that have not gone through Members' discussions. However, I would like to note that the Coordination Hub will prepare outcome documents for the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit that have not been agreed upon.

Therefore, if the Hub prepares outcome documents on the goals, we need to include the participation of Members in the work of this Hub. We understand that a decision has been taken. We need to clearly understand how the Hub will act and work and how it will prepare Reports. The Hub will not independently create and prepare Reports.

The Reports need to be prepared with the participation of Members, otherwise we will be in a situation where the Hub will operate with goals that are not clear. And the Hub will then need to Report on the implementation of these goals, goals which have not been agreed upon by Members. I hope I have been clear.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, you were clear. However, the Hub is hosted by FAO and is not owned by FAO or is part of the FAO. It is established by the UN Secretariat. I think we all agree in the room that Membership should be much more involved in the work of the Hub. However, the question is whether or not this discussion should not take place in New York, where either ECOSOC or the General Assembly gives a clear recommendation of the involvement of the Members in the further work of the Hub, because the Hub is not only related to FAO, but also related to other UN system organizations.

That is the question. Because even if we take this decision, we cannot direct our work to the Secretary-General. That is why I think we have to follow the UN system in this respect. That is why what was proposed by Cameroon comes closer to where we are within the UN system.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Listening carefully to all Members, I believe that we are close to a conclusion. Of course we did not create the Hub but, of course, FAO Members should have a participation in or supervision of its work.

So regarding that, I believe that if we delete the sentence after *“regarding implementation of the goals and objectives of the Hub, and also the work programme of the Hub”* and just say *“consultation with*

*Members regarding its work, including actions...*” I think it can work. I think it is simpler and encompasses what is expected from us to monitor what is going on and the actions that are taking place by the Hub.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us try to finalize this work, because I have now got a long list of speakers. We put now the suggestion of Brazil and delete all the deleted elements, that we have a better understandable subparagraph.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)**

Actually, I would like to support the comment made by Japan. I would like to look at our Mexican colleague, because we would like to count on the wisdom of the Joint Meeting. It clearly mentioned in paragraph 13 (d) that “*encouraged FAO management to identify the opportunities to further strengthen the capacity of the Hub*”. In order to support the Members in implementing the National Food System pathways. I think it has been clearly mentioned in the Joint RReport of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. So, we can follow the RReport of the Joint Meeting without having much discussion on this during the Council.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

I would like to suggest that we take the suggestion by Brazil on the way of simplifying, because it should be our understanding that the establishment of the Hub is more a catch phrase for what we have to do in relation to FAO.

The functions and activities that we would be responsible for in terms of governance would relate to the use of FAO resources in terms of alignment of the actions that are related to the food systems or food systems pathways.

I think that we are accepting that the establishment of the Hub, has a bearing on the FAO in terms of coordination, but also in terms of the functions of FAO, there is relevance in terms of what we can do. That is what we would then have to take responsibility to call for financing.

Just from the experience that there are decisions that are taken at various other UN platforms that includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are a number of the SDGs that were adopted in Rio, or in Brazil, but we are responsible for three SDGs as FAO and we have managed to outline exactly how the governance would work in that respect.

This is why I am saying that, at least, what we have now as the proposed text would take us closer to what we could justify reasonably in terms of governance.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do hope that this could meet the consensus of the whole room.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In the spirit of trying to find a simplified text and noting the fact that the Hub and the team working on that is still identifying some of the things that they are doing, they have analysed national pathways and are working forward.

I would offer the following after “*the coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system*” and then “*and requested FAO to update Members on a regular basis on its work programming and funding*”. In support of Members and that it builds on Italy's intervention earlier and the still diffuse nature of exactly what it is going to be so when we hear the word programme we will have a better sense of what follow-up may be required.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I thought we were almost there because the element, which was mentioned by many, about the involvement of the Membership in the work would be lost. So, can we not see whether or not we could agree on what is now on subparagraph (c) in black on the screen?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**



I fully support your proposal to maintain this text with the current wording. We thank the representatives of South Africa and Brazil for their comments. In relation to this text, we think it is crucially important to keep the wording in relation to the inclusive consultations with Members. If the text as proposed by Brazil and South Africa, are acceptable to colleagues, then we can fully support the wording as it currently appears on the screen.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think hopefully we are there.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solo para agradecerle a Sudáfrica la propuesta y lo acompaño en la sugerencia de mantener esta salida para tener el consenso e ir para adelante.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see nodding in the room. I think we have now agreed subparagraph (c). Thank you so much.

Now we have only one subparagraph to solve, unless Guatemala would like to go back to the agreed subparagraph (c).

**Sra. Cecilia Beatriz CÁCERES VALDEZ (Guatemala)**

Prometo nada controversial. Únicamente creo que debemos aclarar a qué Centro de Coordinación nos referimos en la primera línea, si podemos agregar: “*Food Systems Coordination Hub*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We certainly should use the official name. I think we have now solved the subparagraph (c).

Now we go to the last subparagraph (d) and let us look forward to further information, etc., with the insertion of “*respect to country's sovereignty*”.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

We do not agree with the proposed addition from China “*with full respect to country sovereignty*” because we do not understand the relevance as it relates to the sentence. Members’ sovereignty is enshrined in the FAO Basic Texts. By inserting this language, we are implying that FAO would disregard state sovereignty as it develops or updates us on country programming frameworks.

Furthermore, the Report should reflect the discussions that took place in this Council and Report conclusions, not to revisit previous discussions but rather to reflect discussions we had. And in no time today did we hear this phrase come up. Therefore, we believe it is inappropriate to insert here, and that the rest of the text reflects the discussions that took place today.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Our preference would also be to keep the language as originally drafted. We believe this formulation reflects the discussion that occurred during Plenary today. Additionally, we understand that with the commitment by management to undertake this activity, that it would be conducted as a matter of course in line with the FAOs principles of accountability and transparency.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme mes collègues qui précèdent, nous souhaitons garder la formulation initiale. Qui est par ailleurs en ligne avec les conclusions du rapport de la Réunion conjointe. Je me réfère notamment à son paragraphe 14.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have have any other speakers requesting the floor. Could this be a reflection in the room to contain the original subparagraph?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We would like to explain a little bit the rationale why we propose to delete this subparagraph and also we would like to recall the discussion that happened on the Joint Meeting. The reason is not that we

are against this idea to have received more information, especially as a Member. Accountability and transparency are always welcome. What actually we want to stress is that previously on the discussion of the Joint Meeting, one country, actually more than one country, especially from the developing countries, raised the issue.

Currently, the mostly vital thing and important thing for FAO to do, and especially for our Governing Bodies to discuss, is about the implementation of this strategy and doing the technical thing and to make sure FAO work as a specialized agency focusing on the food security issue and the nutrition issue, and the poverty issue.

Our main idea is that we are not against it for any information disclosure. As Members, we always welcome this. The issue is that we already have 20 Items on the next Council meeting, which is already fully packed, and with this kind of extra information proposed by only a small country, actually, it squeezed the time for us to discuss the concrete thing. We also appreciate that FAO's Management positively offers the chance to brief us about this, the information of the Country Programme Framework.

We remain with this flexibility. We can accept that we maintain this request and look forward to further information. What we do not understand is that why the countries want to delete *with full respect to countries' sovereignty*, especially when it is stressed that it is actually enshrined in the Basic Texts of FAO.

We think that this idea will be agreeable to all these countries, otherwise what we can get from this information is that maybe it is not a widely recognized idea with the full respect to country sovereignty.

In addition, one more problem for this information disclosure issue here, I would like to ring the alarm for all these developing countries and also for a lot of countries only with small missions, is that we if we recall what happened yesterday, like a lot of initiatives, people request for more information to be shared among the Members. But actually all this information required by the Members has already been shared on the website, and some Members they request it because there is too much information so they cannot find the appropriate information.

This is our concern, that we need to focus on the critical issue that concerns most of the countries, especially for those countries who suffer from poverty and hunger issues. So we would like to explain our rationale a little bit so that we can show our flexibility to accept this request.

Look forward for further information but we insist on "*with full respect to country sovereignty*", unless any country is against this idea.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It is in the Constitution of the FAO that all the work done by FAO has to be in full respect of the sovereignty of countries. The question is whether we need to repeat it because before you know we have it in every subparagraphs.

#### **Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

You have already said what I would like to say. This sentence is a very practical sentence and a pragmatic sentence of our work, what we will do. This is not the place we talk about a general concept or something like that. Japan prefers the original text of subparagraph (d).

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we get two sides of the room, could we not make the text much more practical? Could we not say, "*appreciated the willingness of FAO management to give further information on FAO's country programme work at its 171st Session*"? Then it is just a factual statement that was stated by FAO Management, which I do not think needs to then go into more specificities about the work. Could that not be an agreeable subparagraph? Can we agree to this? I see nodding. Thank you so much.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We appreciate the attempt that again, this is the Report of the Council. The Council is there either to take the decision or to advise. ... I am not very comfortable with that. Probably if we can reword it to make sure that this is the thinking of the Council, not to involve or to take note of what Management has said, what we do, we have to look forward to further information.

I think it is better to rephrase it. I am not very comfortable with “*appreciated the willingness of management*” because it looks like it is no longer the RReport of the Council, of the Governing Body.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Do you have a concrete suggestion how to get out? Because we try to get out of the deadlock.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Well, since you are putting me on the spot, I wish to suggest something, say, “*invited FAO management to give further information on FAO country*” Because it should play the role of the Governing Body. Because if you say, “*appreciated*”, for me it is not guidance which is given by the Council. The Council should give guidance.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be agreeable? I see nodding.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

We have looked once again at the recommendations from the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We understand that the Council gave a recommendation to have more information provided to the 171st Session. I think this is moving us a bit too far ahead too quickly, because the Members agreed to consider the matter at the Joint Meeting. This does not automatically mean that this will go to the next Council Session. Therefore, with all respect for the proposal made by the Ambassador of Cameroon, I think we could perhaps propose another text and put that to Members for consideration.

***Continues in English***

“*Noted their recommendation of the Joint Meeting as contained under Item 6 and welcomed information on FAO Country Programming Frameworks*”.

***Continues in Russian***

When we do this, we do not express a clear link here to whether information will be provided to the Council or the Joint Meeting, we are saying that the recommendation is from the Joint Meeting and our interest in receiving further information on this issue.

So in short, it would not be correct to refer to the 173rd Session of the Council because the Joint Meeting agreed to discuss this issue at the Joint Meeting there was no talk of ascending this issue to the 171st Session of the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Many delegations or Members of the Council referred to the FAO Country Programming Framework, requested further information. Management stated that it will give this further information at the 171<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council.

Therefore, I do not see why we have to now leave it open, because there is an agreement of the Members that you want to have the information. There is an agreement of Management to give it and, of course, it can be discussed before the Council in a Joint Meeting, which is normally being done.

I do not see the problem there with the text that was proposed by Cameroon. Because there is no disagreement at all neither by the Members because they want the information, either by Management because they are eager to give this information. So, why make it vaguer?

I am just an Independent Chairperson but can we not just go with the proposal of Cameroon? Of course, it can be discussed within the Joint Meeting, in its next Session. Is there flexibility for the Russian Federation to go along?

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

I think with the addition of “*at its 171st Session*” we could accept either of those two suggestions.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We support Cameroon’s suggestion.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

You were talking about looking for compromised solutions. Compromised solutions means taking into account the views of various parties. We think that our proposal allows various parties to receive information. The only issue here is when information is provided. We have every respect for the proposal made by Cameroon. We have an issue, however, just with relation to the definition of the Session where this issue will be looked at. By way of compromise, we could agree to wording without specifying the Session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are getting bogged down on problems that, in my opinion, do not exist, because information can be given.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We just said that we are flexible on both of this idea. However, we just want to know what happened to our proposal “*with full respect to countries’ sovereignty*”. Please add it back.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are not getting there, and I do not know why. Perhaps we need to snack or something to get refreshed. Because we are making everything now so complex.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voulais simplement exprimer mon soutien à la proposition du Cameroun telle qu'elle est reflétée à l'écran, qui a le mérite de la clarté. En tout état de cause, comme vous l'avez dit, le management s'est engagé à le faire. La Réunion conjointe l'examinera. Le rapport de la Réunion conjointe sera examiné à la prochaine session du Conseil. Donc, nous en parlerons en tout état de cause. Donc, faisons simple et il me semble que cette proposition du Cameroun a le mérite d'être directe et conforme au mandat du Conseil. S'agissant de la remarque de la Chine, nous avons déjà exprimé nos indications sur ce langage, et je note que cette formulation ne figure pas dans le rapport de la Réunion conjointe auquel participait la Chine. Donc, j'espère que nous pourrions en effet avoir de la flexibilité là-dessus.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Another attempt to get us there. If you say “*after the 171st Session, as appropriate*”. So in the event that there is something happening, which makes it not possible to do, then we have at least covered that as well. If we say “*as appropriate*”, would that then fly for the Russian Federation. Because I think at this moment, you are the only Member who cannot agree to the text.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

I think you proposed that we take a short break. I think that would help us. If that would be possible Chairperson, I think that would provide an opportunity for delegations to have some talks on this matter. Unfortunately, we need a little bit of time in order to be able to agree on wording with other delegations. I cannot give you an answer to that question right now.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am really surprised by this because I think that all other delegations can agree to the text. However, of course, if a Member asks for further consultations or perhaps instructions from capital, I will leave it for now. I will come back after the break. Otherwise, you have to make a choice whether or not you disassociate yourself for this conclusion. I think it would be a pity because I think it is much more practical than in principle. However, I leave it open. We continue now. We do not go to the snacks because the snack is not ready yet and we will lose valuable interpretation time.

**Item 12. Reports of the 189th (17 December 2021), 190th (18 February 2022) and 191st (16-20 May 2022) Sessions of the Finance Committee**

**Point 12. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-neuvième, cent quatre-vingt-dixième et cent quatre-vingt-onzième sessions du Comité financier (17 décembre 2021, 18 février 2022 et 16-20 mai 2022, respectivement)**

**Tema 12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 189.º (17 de diciembre de 2021), 190.º (18 de febrero de 2022) y 191.º (16-20 de mayo de 2022) del Comité de Finanzas**  
(CL 170/12; CL 170/15; CL 170/16)

*Item 12.1 Status of current assessments and arrears*

*Point 12.1 État des contributions courantes et des arriérés*

*Tema 12.1 Situación de las cuotas corrientes y los atrasos*

*(CL 170/LIM/2)*

## CHAIRPERSON

We finalize our conclusions after the break and we go now to Item 12, *Report of the 189th, 190th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee*. You can find those Reports in the document CL170/12, CL170/15 and CL170/16.

Of course, it includes also Sub-Item 12.1, *Status of current assessments and arrears*. The introduction of the Chairperson has been circulated to everybody.

### *Introduction to Item 12: Reports of the 189th (17 December 2021), 190th (18 February 2022) and 191st (16-20 May 2022) Sessions of the Finance Committee*

*Ms Imelda Smolčić Nijers, Chairperson of the Finance Committee*

Mr Chairperson, Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the Reports of the 189th, 190th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 170/15, Report of the 189th Session of the Finance Committee (17 December 2021), CL 170/16, Report of the 190th Session of the Finance Committee (18 February 2022) and CL 170/12, Report of the 191st Session of the Finance Committee (16 - 20 May 2022), respectively. The Council is requested to approve the Reports of the 189th, 190th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee.

While the 191st Session dealt with FAO matters, the 189th and 190th Sessions were convened to deal with World Food Programme (WFP) matters. Our reports on WFP matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration.

The 191st Session of the Finance Committee examined the financial position of the Organization, budgetary, human resources, oversight and other matters within its mandate. These are presented in detail in document CL 170/12. I would like to highlight the following matters for which action is requested by the Council, except for those matters referring to Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization, which are covered separately under item 17 of the agenda of this Session of the Council.

On the Committee's review of the Financial Position of the Organization, the Council is requested to urge Members to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions. On the Committee's review of the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2020-2021 Biennium, the Council is requested to note the Finance Committee's approval of the final budgetary transfers arising from implementation of the 2020-21 Programme of Work.

On the Committee's review of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee – 2021 Annual Report, the Council is requested to endorse the editorial changes provided in the updated Terms of Reference of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee as presented in Annex II of CL 170/12.

On the Committee's review of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee Membership, the Council is requested to endorse the extension of Mr Fayezul Choudhury's term on the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee for a further, final three years.

Finally, the Council is requested to note the Committee's guidance to Management on all other matters within its mandate and covered during the Committee's considerations at its 191st Session.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our reports.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I open the floor for Members to give comments or reactions.

### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Nos commentaires porteront sur le *rapport de la 191ème session du Comité des Finances*. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, la Moldavie, l'Ukraine, la Turquie, l'Islande, la Géorgie et San Marin se rallient à la présente déclaration. Nous souhaiterions tout d'abord remercier, féliciter la Présidente du Comité Financier, l'Ambassadrice, Madame Imelda Smolicic, pour avoir conduit avec implication et efficacité les travaux du Comité. Nous accueillons l'essentiel de ce rapport avec satisfaction.

Il aborde plusieurs questions importantes, qui doivent être résolues pour poursuivre l'amélioration de la gouvernance de l'efficacité, de la transparence, et de la redevabilité de l'organisation. Des efforts continus sont nécessaires pour pallier les risques financiers à long terme et garantir des mécanismes de contrôle efficaces, un environnement de travail sûr et stimulant, qui puisse attirer durablement du personnel qualifié, améliorer la parité homme femme afin, à terme, de rendre l'Organisation plus efficace et inclusive dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030.

Le financement des obligations liées aux avantages du personnel demeure un risque important à long terme pour l'organisation. Nous félicitons la Direction pour ses efforts visant à élaborer des mesures permettant de réduire les coûts et nous accueillons favorablement les projets d'analyses complémentaires. Nous incitons la Direction à poursuivre ses efforts pour trouver une solution à cette question, en collaboration avec les membres du système commun des Nations Unies, et nous l'encourageons à continuer d'impliquer et de tenir informé le Comité à cet égard.

Nous partageons les inquiétudes dont le Comité fait état, s'agissant des lacunes systémiques dans les contrôles, particulièrement dans les bureaux décentralisés. Nous invitons instamment la Direction à accroître encore ses efforts pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations de contrôle s'agissant des Bureaux décentralisés et des risques élevés depuis longtemps en suspens. Ces mesures sont également essentielles pour atteindre les objectifs des indicateurs de performances clés, en matière de contrôle. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre du plan stratégique de gestion des ressources humaines, et nous observons que la question de la parité au niveau des postes d'encadrement n'est pas encore réglée.

Nous encourageons également la Direction à poursuivre dans ses efforts pour améliorer l'efficacité des pratiques de recrutement, afin de ne pas perdre le bénéfice de candidature de personnes qualifiées, du fait d'un manque de communication et de la longueur de la procédure. Nous exhortons la Direction à prendre des mesures pour mettre en œuvre dès que possible, les recommandations formulées dans les rapports du corps commun d'inspection, et pour garantir la reprogrammation en temps opportun de l'examen de la gestion et de l'administration par le Corps commun d'inspection (CCI), conformément aux engagements pris devant le Comité Financier.

Ainsi, nous adoptons les rapports du Comité Financier dans leur intégralité.

### **Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia welcomes and endorses the Reports of the 189th, 190th and 191st Finance Committee. We applaud the Chairperson for her strong leadership and express our appreciation to all Members for their constructive and collaborative approach during the meetings.

With regard to the 191st Session of the Finance Committee, Australia takes the opportunity to highlight the need for a concerted focus by Management to improve the overall performance of decentralised offices, noting the collective findings of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee, the Inspector-General and the Ethics Officer with regard to systemic weaknesses and areas for improvement within the decentralised office network. We welcome the commitment by Management in this regard and we look forward to ongoing, proactive and fulsome engagement with Members on this issue.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation supports the conclusions and recommendations of the Finance Committee and considers them as a basis for work on optimizing the work of FAO and WFP. We commend WFP's leadership on its efforts to raise additional donor funds in 2021 to meet humanitarian response needs and the need to increase reserves for its own advanced financing mechanisms, the internal project lending facility, and the global commodity management facility.

We welcome WFP Management's generally conservative approach in this area. With regard to the administrative and budgetary aspects of FAO activities, the Report of the 191st Session of the Finance Committee, we support the work of FAO Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu to improve the performance of and reform of FAO's organizational structure. We highly appreciate the effectiveness of the internal control mechanisms.

Turning now to the optimization of internal processes at FAO, it is of fundamental importance that it be guided by common approaches to solving common problems and development actions in the organization of the system, agreed upon at the level of the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination and the UN General Assembly. Any attempt to reach an individual decision taken at the level of individual parts of the UN system leads to its undermining.

In view of this, we do not support the intention of a number of countries to find a solution in an expedited manner and in violation of the principles of unity of action within the framework of a single system to the problem of accumulated, unfunded post-retirement entitlements to staff.

We would like to recall that the work on agreeing on ways to resolve the issue of accumulated debt is being carried out within the framework of the UN General Assembly, and relevant recommendations have been prepared and are under consideration by Members. We believe that a similar approach should be taken with regard to the establishment of the investigative function with regard to the Director-General of FAO.

We note the assertive intention of a number of countries to create such an instrument in FAO outside the general context of work in the UN. We see no reason for such a rush. The FAO Finance Committee has prepared a recommendation that boils down to the need to follow coordinated, UN-wide actions when addressing this issue.

Despite the efforts made by FAO management to mobilize and increase voluntary funding and increase its total volume in the FAO budget, we believe that the assessed contributions of Members should remain the financial basis for the implementation of FAO's programme activities. We call for the payment of assessed contributions in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the FAO Financial Regulations. We consider it important to ensure that Members can make their assessed contributions in national currencies on the terms and conditions set out in Resolution 14-2007. This is all the more relevant in view of the current global crisis.

With regard to the issue of the Management and Administration Review by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the issue of the restoration of voting rights in the Conference, we plan to address these issues under the relevant Agenda Items.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

I will be brief again and note that the United States can join consensus in endorsing these three Finance Committee Reports.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

First of all, the Asia Group would like to commend the excellent work carried out by the Finance Committee under the outstanding leadership extended by the distinguished Madam Chair, Ms Imelda Smolicic.

We would also appreciate FAO's efforts to address various challenges relating to its Financial Position, Budgetary Matters, Human Resources and Oversight.

Among the three reports prepared by the Finance committee, we would like to take up the 190th Session's report since it was exclusively held for intensive discussion and thorough examination on FAO matters.

We would also like to highlight some pertinent points from the report, with focus on the issues, which are not covered by the other agenda items of this Council.

First, with regard to the Financial Position of FAO, the Asia Group notes with appreciation that FAO's liquidity is expected to be sufficient to cover operations' needs through the end of this year.

In this regard, we also recognize that FAO's cash flow health is depending on the timely payment of assessed contributions and wish to draw Members' attention to the recommendation by the Finance Committee on this particular point, which urges Members to make payments of assessed contributions in time and in full.

Second, with regard to the Budgetary Matters, the Asia Group appreciates the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2020-2021 Biennium.

Asia Group takes note of the information in the report, such as the use of the 2018-2019 unspent balance, final budgetary transfers among chapters in the 2020-2021 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), and appropriate treatment of the unspent balances in accordance with the Financial Regulations and the consistent practices.

Third, with regard to the Human Resources issues, the Asia Group appreciates the efforts made by the Human Resources Division and welcomes the progress in the implementation of "Human Resource Strategic Plan", despite the challenges in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would also like to urge FAO to continue its effort to implement the Strategic Plan, in particular, towards the realization of gender parity and geographic representation targets, and sincerely request to substantially reduce the vacancy rate both in headquarters and in Decentralized Offices.

Fourth, with regard to the oversight related issues, the Asia Group welcomes the series of Annual Reports, respectively provided by the Inspector-General, the Ethics Office and the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee, which include positive conclusions on FAO's oversight mechanisms.

We appreciate the operation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, the works carried out by the Ethics Office and the progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Oversight Advisory Committee and look forward to receiving further updates on their relevant activities towards the further enhancement of FAO's governance.

With that, I conclude the Asia Group's joint statement.

With your permission, Chairperson, I would like to make Japan's national statement.

To be brief, Japan, or I should myself as a member of the Finance Committee, had a very intensive and fruitful discussion with other esteemed committee members from Ethiopia, Niger, Thailand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Mexico, Panama, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, Australia as well as many FAO Management under the presence of many silent observers. I did my best and collaborated with other committee members to try to make the best report as a result of our discussion.

Therefore, Japan's national statement is just one sentence. Japan endorses the Reports of the Finance Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON**



As I said yesterday to Indonesia, we get two for one within five minutes. First, I thank you on behalf of the Asia Regional Group for your remarks and your support of the endorsement of the Report and for your very brief statement, on behalf of Japan, to endorse the Report. Very much appreciated.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

We will be speaking on behalf the Near East, and we would like to focus on the Report from the 191st Session of the Finance Committee. We noted that the liquidity of the Organization is as planned in order to cover the operational needs for these two years. We would urge Members to pay their contributions fully and in due time so that we can recover post-COVID-19.

As far as voting rights are concerned for those arrears in payment of their contributions, the Near East group would support the measures proposed by the Organization in order to examine voting rights, whilst guaranteeing flexibility and also reorganization of Member contributions.

We note how important it is to accept contributions in national currency. On the Inspector General's Report, the Report includes an extensive overview of the Inspector General's Office for the period in question.

To conclude, the Near East Group has taken note of the information presented by management on measures taken to address the recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and also to address the question of Members who violated the rules of the UN system. And we note that, as quickly as possible, procedures should be introduced so that they can be considered in the Finance Committee and they can be brought into line with rules adopted within the UN.

We second the statement made by Japan, and we would hereby like to approve the RReports from the Finance Committee.

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

La Guinée avec le Niger et le Kenya intervient sur le point 12 de l'ordre du jour, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Le Groupe régional Afrique se félicite de l'esprit d'objectivité qui a caractérisé l'examen des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour des 189ème, 190ème et 191ème Sessions du Comité Financier de la FAO. Nous souscrivons aux recommandations formulées par le Comité Financier, au cours de ces sessions.

Le Groupe régional Afrique note avec satisfaction les pertinentes informations fournies sur les questions traitées au cours de cette session, la 191ème. Notamment l'évaluation actuarielle des obligations relatives au personnel, l'exécution du budget et les virements entre programmes et chapitres budgétaires pour l'exercice 2020-2021, la gestion des ressources humaines pour l'année 2021.

Nous félicitons la FAO pour son agilité en matière de gestion, qui a permis de s'adapter au contexte difficile et imposé par la pandémie de la COVID-19, et d'assurer la continuité et les activités d'opérations dans les Pays membres. Particulièrement ceux du continent africain au cours de l'année 2021.

Le Groupe régional Afrique encourage la FAO à poursuivre la mise en œuvre du plan stratégique de gestion des ressources humaines, qui constitue un atout majeur pour l'Organisation. Nous attirons l'attention de la Direction sur la récurrence des problèmes de taux de vacances de poste qui reste encore élevé et des délais d'annonces de ces vacances de poste qui cause un problème pour les pays en développement en particulier, et demandons à cet égard, à la FAO de rallonger ce délai.

Aussi, nous nous attendons à une réorganisation des bureaux de pays, pour qu'ils apportent un soutien plus efficace au niveau national, et subnational. Relativement à la parité homme/femme, nous encourageons la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts surtout en ce qui concerne les postes de dirigeants de haut rang. Sur la base de ces commentaires, nous demandons au Conseil, d'approuver les recommandations et conclusions du Comité Financier de ces différentes sessions.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia francesa de la Unión Europea en nombre de la Unión y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que deseamos destacar los siguientes aspectos:

Nos gustaría comenzar, en todo caso, agradeciendo a la Presidenta del Comité de Finanzas, la Sra. Imelda Smolčić, por su compromiso con el Comité y a los miembros por los trabajos realizados.

Alentamos los esfuerzos que se han realizado para seguir mejorando la gobernanza, la eficacia y la transparencia de la Organización y esperamos que continúen en el futuro.

Entendemos que son especialmente importantes los trabajos en la gestión financier de la organización, en la creación de un ambiente de trabajo propicio para el desarrollo del potencial de los empleados, así como en la mejora del equilibrio de género en el camino hacia la paridad, especialmente en puestos directivos.

Animamos a FAO a que aplique las recomendaciones presentadas en los informes de la Unidad Conjunta de Inspección (JIU), a la mayor brevedad posible y a que garantice la reprogramación del examen de la gestión y la administración de dicha unidad independiente, agradeciendo expresamente al Comité de Finanzas sus trabajos en este asunto.

Con estos comentarios, España apoya los informes del Comité de Finanzas.

#### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Ma Délégation s'aligne à la déclaration prononcée au nom du Groupe Afrique par la Guinée, et nous nous exhortons donc à payer nos contributions afin de permettre à la FAO de réaliser son programme, en dépit de la situation économique particulièrement difficile que traversent de nombreux Membres. Cependant, nous sommes tout aussi préoccupés par le contenu du rapport annuel de l'année 2021 de l'Inspecteur général, notamment en son volet relatif aux audits des Bureaux décentralisés dans le bureau de mon pays, ainsi que le niveau élevé des allégations relatives à la fraude et aux pratiques relevant de la corruption et à la violation des normes de conduites. C'est pourquoi nous réitérons notre appel au renforcement du rôle et à la décentralisation de la mission du bureau de l'Inspecteur général, pour un contrôle de proximité plus accru, afin que les bureaux décentralisés bénéficient d'une optimisation du niveau des compétences dans la gouvernance.

En ce qui concerne les Bureaux décentralisés dits de niveau élevé d'exposition aux risques pour l'Organisation, les enquêtes menées à distance jusqu'à présent par le bureau de l'Inspecteur général, représentent un premier palier qui a été franchi. Nous estimons qu'elles méritent d'être complétées par des missions sur le terrain, pour plus de consultations avec les partenaires, en particulier les gouvernements des pays concernés.

Nous formulons les vœux que cette demande figure dans le relevé de conclusion de la présente session.

Enfin, nous tenons à saluer le travail fait par l'Inspecteur général. Malgré les contraintes financières et sanitaires, ainsi que la volonté affichée de la Direction générale, de faire de la FAO une organisation vertueuse, et respectueuse de la déontologie, dans tous ces segments, surtout au niveau de ses Bureaux décentralisés qui constituent son bras opérationnel et sa vitrine.

Avec ces quelques commentaires, ma Délégation approuve ce rapport.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We align with the statement of Asia Regional Group. We are satisfied with FAO's financial situation, in particular, that against the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, FAO still ensures that the approval rate and implementation of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects.

We acknowledge the result FAO achieved in increasing voluntary contributions and encourage Management to continue to strengthen partnerships. We note with appreciation that since its institutional reform, FAO has effectively stepped up and improved its oversight system.

In order to avoid institutional risks, we request FAO to align with the common practice of the UN system. At the same time, since only seven and a half years are left to the deadline of 2030 Agenda, we think that the priorities for FAO and its Governing Bodies should be the implementation of every

strategy on the ground to play an irreplaceable role as the specialized agency in agri-food sector, especially helping developing countries with food security and poverty.

Therefore, we call on the Governing Bodies to focus more on specific discussions on food and agriculture issues. We welcome the annual Report on Human Resources and hope that FAO will take effective measures to solve the severe geographic underrepresentation of certain Members.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

Very briefly, just wanted to reiterate United States support for Management's commitment on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) investigative function Report that they are committed to addressing the recommendations, and procedures would be developed as soon as possible for consideration by Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Finance Committee. We think it is very important and I just wanted to reiterate that in this context.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I have no other speakers on the floor, I first give the floor to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee with appreciation.

**Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

He seguido con atención el debate de los Miembros del Consejo. En términos generales, los 189, 190, y 191.º períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas fueron fructíferos y fue posible tratar en ellos una serie de cuestiones cruciales a las que se ve enfrentada la Organización sobre la situación financiera, asuntos presupuestarios y supervisión.

Lo único que me resta decir en nombre de los miembros del Comité es mi aprecio a la Secretaría por su asistencia a las deliberaciones y la gratitud a la FAO por brindarnos la oportunidad de contribuir a la labor de la Organización. Por último, agradecer las amables palabras de los Miembros del Consejo hacia la labor desarrollada por mí durante el período de sesiones. Han sido muy generosos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give briefly the floor to Mr Laurent Thomas.

**M. Laurent Thomas (Directeur-Général Adjoint)**

Pour le coup, je peux être très bref, puisqu'il n'y a pas eu de question directe posée au management de la FAO. Je voudrais simplement remercier les Membres du Conseil pour leurs orientations, que j'ai suivies avec beaucoup d'attention, ainsi que mes collègues en charge des différents domaines administratifs de l'Organisation.

Je peux vous confirmer que nous nous engageons à mettre en œuvre avec la célérité et l'importance qu'elles exigent, les recommandations sur la gestion des ressources humaines, financières, la gestion des risques, et tout ce qui concerne les contrôles internes. Mais aussi les recommandations en termes de contrôle des fraudes, et ce qui concerne le Comité Conjoint d'Inspection des Nations Unies. Nous sommes prêts, enfin ou nous nous préparons à poursuivre la discussion en ce qui concerne l'évaluation actuarielle des obligations relatives au personnel, et nous apprécions beaucoup à cet effet, les recommandations du Comité des Finances.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Dear friends, it is time for a break to re-energize because I see not so many smiling faces again in the room. We need a snack to re-energize ourselves. Let us have that snack and we come back at 17:15 hours.

I have more than half an hour break to start our work for the third Session. We first take up the conclusions that we still had to do on the Joint Committee. We go for a break.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:42 to 17:17 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 42 à 17 h 17*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.42 a las 17.17*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished delegates, I hope that nobody escaped. Welcome back, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends. I see more happy faces now with new energy, and I am looking around to see whether or not anybody escaped the building because we are still in Council session.

I would now like to take up the draft conclusions of the Sessions of the Finance Committee, and I put them on the screen.

1. The Council endorsed the Reports of the 189th Session, the 190th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee, and in particular:
  - a) urged all Member Nations to make payment of assessed contributions on time and in full;
  - b) urged Management to continue its efforts in the implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Plan;
  - c) endorsed the extension of the term of Mr Fayezul Choudhury of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee for a further, final three years and the proposed update to the Terms of Reference of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee; and
  - d) noted the importance, as conveyed in the 2021 Annual Report of the Inspector-General, of strengthening internal control, in particular in high risk areas and Decentralized Offices.

Short conclusions, but I think that could be done also by listening to all your statements.

Let us go with the chapeau. Can we agree to it? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (a).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We prefer the wording, "*welcomed the reports with an endorsed*".

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous souhaitons garder le mot "*endorse*" qui correspond non seulement à la pratique suivie par la FAO pendant de multiples années, mais également à ce qu'ont dit une immense majorité de délégations, pendant ce débat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

When I opened my statement, it was clear that the members of the Finance Committee requested the endorsement of the Report. It is up to the Council to endorse, of course.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We also echo our French colleague. We want the word "*endorse*" because that is the past precedent of the Council meetings to endorse the reports of the Finance Committee.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Like colleagues from France and United States, Japan would like the word "*endorsed*" because I do not want to downgrade the importance and value of our discussion of the Finance Committee.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with the previous speakers, we strongly favour the word "*endorsed*." When we listen to the delegates take the floor in the previous Session, I think virtually everyone said they endorsed the report and so we think that the report here should also reflect that. And it also reinforces the role of the Committees that provide their advice to this Council.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We concur our opinion with colleagues from Cameroon. We prefer to use the word "*welcome*." And we do not think that we have to use "*endorse*" simply because previous Council also did the similar thing because this is we need to reflect what happened in this Council.

We also noticed that not everyone in their statement, not all the region is, like at least now for the Asia region endorses this Report. So, we prefer to use the "*welcome*."

And one more issue is that concerning that there is a lot of discussion happened on this Finance Committee concerning a lot of issue that we have not discussed on this Council. So, we would like to propose we remain “*welcome*.” And then we see the discussion result from if it is aligned with the Finance Committee's conclusion.

**Ms Lieslot GERMONPREZ (Belgium)**

I would like to add Belgium's voice to France, United States of America, Japan and Canada, to keep the word “*endorsed*” as was requested by the members of the Finance Committee.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I would like to support those who said that they would like the word “*endorsed*.” I think Canada put it very clearly that if we endorse the Report, this has to do with how we see the work of these Committees. I think now personally, I am in this Committee. We had a very good discussion. We did that for other members. I think it is also about respecting what these Committees are doing and how we take this forward.

That would be one valuable point in why we endorse the Reports, also that show the value of them. In addition to that, some of the issues that were discussed in the Finance Committee will come back in this Council and those might be where other Members want to express another view. Of course, we will come back to those discussions during this week. So, for that matter, I would support using the word “*endorsed*.”

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I think I would opt for the word “*welcome*” because the Council is giving its own views on the Committee's Reports, so we do not need to endorse the Report. We welcome those Reports and then we give our own views as Council on those Reports.

**Sra. María de Los Ángeles GÓMEZ (México)**

Solo para refrendar la opinión de otros Miembros en que es importante la palabra “*endorsed*” porque de esta manera estamos fortaleciendo el trabajo que todos los Miembros llevamos a cabo en los Comités.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Actually, the words “*endorsed*” and “*welcome*,” they are almost similar. But at this point of time, I think we have to endorse. I think we have to say “*welcome*” because at the end of the day, we are going to also see the articles, and then we may do some arrangements there. Otherwise at the beginning, we have to say, “*the Council welcomes the Reports*.” “*Welcome*,” I think it is the experience we had also before this time. And primarily, we have to start with that one. But I do not know, in other things we can say endorses. So, I prefer to be welcoming the Reports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first then go to the subparagraphs because if we agree to the subparagraphs, we can have a last sentence of endorsement.

Let us first go to subparagraphs (a). Can we agree to para (a)? I do not see any objections.

Then we have “*Urge management to continue its efforts in the implementation of the human resource strategic plan*.”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No estoy en contra del subpárrafo (a), en el sentido que es obvio que lo ideal sería que los países puedan pagar sus contribuciones, pero también debo señalar que las situaciones que son absolutamente críticas y excepcionales que estamos viviendo y que fueron señaladas por todos los Miembros durante las discusiones en el día de ayer y hoy por la mañana, por lo cual me parece que el párrafo quizás... Yo no fui miembro del Comité de Finanzas, pues yo traté de mantenerme inactivo en la discusión, pero me parece que en todo caso habría que señalar algo que previera circunstancias o algo como por

ejemplo “In particular”, “into account”, “taking into account their circumstances and challenges”, or “as much as possible”.

Algo que, de alguna manera, pueda poner en consideración las situaciones críticas de los países. Al menos, quiero dejarlo para las actas. Si no tiene consenso, lo respeto, pero quiero enmarcar esto porque es un tema sensible para muchos países en un contexto tan crítico de inseguridad alimentaria.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Argentina. So, the proposals for subparagraphs (a) is “*taking into account any extraordinary circumstances.*” Is that agreeable?

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I am afraid we cannot accept this. It is a Member obligation to pay and one could always cite some type of extraordinary circumstance. And so, we prefer the original language as it was.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As we are now negotiating the text of the conclusions, I cannot give the floor in accordance with Rules of Procedures to Observers. I am sorry for that Venezuela.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai bien pris note de la suggestion de mon collègue argentin. Comme les États-Unis, notre préférence irait au langage initial, et je note aussi que cette question soulevée par l'Argentine, fait l'objet et a fait l'objet de consultations spécifiques sur un projet de texte, pour prendre en compte les cas spécifiques. Donc, il me semble que c'est dans ce cadre, que cette discussion devrait avoir lieu, mais il me semble de notre responsabilité en tant que Membres d'envoyer le message d'un soutien de principe à ces obligations qui sont celles de tous les membres des Nations Unies.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Sweden would agree with what has already been said by United States and France, to have the original text as it was. I think this sends the signal to us as members to fulfil our obligations and also that we care about this Organization, that the assessed contribution is important for FAO to function. So, for that reason, we would like to keep the text as it was.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

With all due respect, for my esteemed colleague of Argentina, I would like to keep the original sentence for this subparagraph because this is a fundamental responsibility for the member countries. I like to keep the original sentence for this.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo les agradezco a todos mis estimados Colegas los comentarios. Como miembro de los países en desarrollo tengo la obligación moral de decir que hemos hablado muchas horas sobre las problemáticas de la inseguridad alimentaria, el COVID-19 y sus consecuencias. Hemos hablado horas sobre el conflicto de Ucrania y las consecuencias sobre la seguridad alimentaria. Y ante todo eso que hemos discutido me sentí con la obligación moral de plantear algún elemento que pueda atenuar un tipo de obligación que, por supuesto, todos quisiéramos poder cumplir en tiempo y forma, pero que siempre a veces hay circunstancias excepcionales.

No me preocupa romper ningún consenso, simplemente que quede registrado que cuando hablamos de inseguridad alimentaria y cuando hablamos de todos los eventos que hemos discutido durante todo este día y ayer, no puede pasar desapercibido que eso tiene consecuencias también en la capacidad de los Miembros para poder cumplir con sus obligaciones. Entonces, tenemos que ser coherentes en las cosas que decimos y después cómo de alguna manera generamos posibilidades para que los países que más efecto negativo tienen sobre sus realidades, como consecuencia de todo lo que hemos discutido, tengan alguna vía de salida.

Simplemente lo dejo para las actas, para el *verbatim record* y, por supuesto, Presidente, estoy en sus manos y no voy a afectar el consenso si la idea es mantener el texto. Pero que quede bien claro lo que he expresado.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Anyhow, it will be of course taken up in the Verbatim Records.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We would just like to add our voice to the other delegations that have requested keeping the original text.

**Ms Julie ÉMOND (Canada)**

Evidemment, j'aimerais ajouter la voix du Canada à celle des autres Membres qui ont demandé à ce que la proposition soit retirée. Cependant, je voudrais saluer la flexibilité de l'Argentine, je pense qu'on peut maintenant nettoyer ce sous-paragraphe.

**Ms Nosopho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

I just wanted to reflect and confirm that the Honourable Delegate from Argentina is reflecting discussions as they pursued, or that were ensued in the last year through the situation under the COVID-19 pandemic, which were then circumstances that were beyond expectations. However, in the text of FAO does not necessarily make the provision as explicitly. So, it might just be that we need to record the situation and not necessarily provide for it in the text of the Council decision.

The correct basis is that only the general committee of the conference can decide on whether there are extraordinary circumstances or not. We can just record that the word that was raised here, but in terms of the decision, it is not possible to reflect it as such.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

First of all, we would like to thank Ambassador of Argentina for the flexibility and for bringing up this important issue and the flexibility. Actually, I just want to propose if that will be the way out to change the word “*urged*” to “*called upon*”, but if that is not the case, that is okay.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal is now to replace “*urged*” by “*called upon*”. So could we go along that we maintain the text but replace “*urged*” by “*called upon all Members to make payments of assessed contributions on time and in full.*” Of course, in the Verbatim Records, the remarks are taken up from Argentina and, if necessary, we have to address it at the Conference.

We go to subparagraph (b). Can we agree to this subparagraphs? I do not see any objections.

Then we have the endorsement. “*Endorsed the extension of the term of Mr Fayezul Choudhury...*” Probably I will pronounce his name not correctly but as nobody can pronounce my name correctly, that is why they always call me Hans and nothing else. That is much better.

I do apologize if I pronounced the name not correctly “*...on the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee for a further final three years, and the proposed update to the terms of reference of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee*”.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Our proposal is to replace “*endorsed*” by “*approved the extension of the term of Mr Fayezul*” because the Council has to take the decision. It has to take the decision whether to approve or not.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Cameroon, with your experience, we have to approve this and not to endorse because the decision is with the Council. Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We go to the last subparagraph, *noted the importance as conveyed in the 2021 Annual Report of the Inspector General of strengthening internal control, in particular in high-risk areas and decentralized offices*. Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Une suggestion, pour renforcer un petit peu le message, notez l'importance est assez faible, la suggestion est de dire, "*underline the importance as conveyed...*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to replace “noting” by “underlined”?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I always want to come back to the fact that the Council is the decision-making Body. So, if you want to make a decision on a Report of the Inspector General, we make a decision on it. I believe that either “noted”, “underlined”. What is the wording? Because what I want to say is that "*instructed the strengthening of internal...*" No, not "*instructed*" because this is a little bit too hard, but something around that line, "*the strengthening of internal control*", because that is what I believe we have to say.

Referring to the annual report of the Inspector General, that is only one report, but it should be general. It should come from any other report or whatever. Probably the Legal Counsel can help us with the right wording here, because we have to take a decision on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was going to propose a text but leave it gladly to Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

My recommendation would be to put “note” at the beginning, so you could have "*noting the importance as conveyed in the 2021 Annual Report of the Inspector General, requested strengthening of internal control.*"

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je pense qu'on va renforcer un peu la deuxième partie, pour dire : "demande à la FAO de renforcer le contrôle interne, particulièrement dans les Bureaux..."

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think what was proposed by the Legal Counsel is most strong wording. “Requested” is a very strong wording as a decision of the Council.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I would like to thank the Legal Counsel for having proposed this stronger language. We would suggest adding the following sentence, “*Bearing implications for the agreed programme of work and budget.*”

With the idea that strengthening internal control measures should have and could not have implications for the agreed Programme of Work and Budget. So, that is the addition we would suggest.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

While Eritrea appreciates the Legal Counsel because it has modified by the Legal Counsel appropriately. The first one is “noting,” and then the second one “requested”. And “requested” is appropriate also, without adding any phrase at all. I think it is better to accept the statement made by the Legal Counsel.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Perhaps I did not say the text correctly, "*bearing in mind*".

*Continues in English*

“*Bearing no implications for the grid Programme of Work and Budget.*”



***Continues in Russian***

I apologize if I first gave the text in a different way.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je pense que des bureaux à risques représentent un risque pour l'Organisation. Il est beaucoup plus important que l'Inspecteur puisse renforcer le contrôle, et j'utilise les termes de l'Inspecteur lors de la réunion du Comité Financier qui disait : "il s'agit de regagner la confiance des bailleurs. Donc, des réserves qui consistent à dire qui n'entraîne pas les implications financières autres." Je pense que le travail de l'Inspecteur, a pour vocation de rassurer les clients et les bailleurs. Donc ce morceau de phrase ne tient pas la route pour nous.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

The beginning of the phrase right now, "*notes the importance*", but does not necessarily note the importance of what. So, we would suggest including "*noting the importance of internal in oversight as conveyed in the annual report*", then "*requested in the strengthening of internal control*". And perhaps in line with the last intervention, perhaps the Russian Federation could explain the "*bearing implications as agreed Programme of Work and Budget*" to understand a little bit better, where they are going with that to see how that might be worked in.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I would suggest that we should stop at "*decentralized offices*" because internal control is one of the most important concepts which every organization has to have for all its activities. So, stopping at "*decentralized offices*" means all high-risk areas and decentralized offices. So, it covers everything and not put this "*bearing no implications for the Programme of Work and Budget*", I do not quite understand what it actually means.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

In our understanding the proposal linked to strengthening the internal control mechanisms can require different implications, for instance, increasing the number of workers, the inspections. It can have implications that will have a budgetary implications. So, sending a signal that the Council is in favour of strengthening of the internal control.

We should also understand at what cost, what resources will be needed to strengthen the internal control. If we do not consider that, then it may mean that the strengthening of internal control would not receive the necessary funding. So why have I suggested this language that would exclude any additional expenditure for the internal control?

Our idea is that if additional funding is given to the internal control, then it should be done not at the cost of the increase in a budget because we are working within the constraints of a zero-growth budget. It could come from other gains and resources, savings in other areas of the Organization. That is why we suggested this language, which excludes the possibility of additional expenses and budget implications. And we think that the level of budgetary expenditure should be based on the principle of the zero-growth budget that was agreed on.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous avons écouté les collègues avec attention, et je vois le raisonnement des deux côtés. Nous serons flexibles, mais je pense qu'il appartiendra à la FAO de procéder à ces redéploiements dans le cadre de son budget. Donc, je pense qu'avoir une formulation plus simple, comme le proposait mon collègue du Congo, et mon collègue du Pakistan, aussi me semble sans doute préférable. Encore une fois, nous ferons preuve de flexibilité. Par ailleurs, je soutiens aussi ce qu'a indiqué mon collègue du Canada, en effet, la phrase est plus compréhensible avec son ajout.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

When it comes to risk or weakness in internal control, no organization takes that risk. Internal control has to be the primary issue and it strengthens the operations of the organization, the risk to the operations of the organization, risks to the financial expenditure of the organization. So, one cannot be

flexible with internal control. So, it has to have a priority. Every organization gives priority to internal control because it contributes to smooth and safe operations of the organization.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I understand perfectly our colleague from the Russian Federation. It is true that internal controls here cannot be cost free. So that is why probably he brought this idea. I understand him, we will prefer, as Pakistan said, that we keep it shut there and leave it at “*decentralized offices*”, knowing perfectly that the Finance Committee approves the work of the Inspector General, including its budget. I think we are adding things that we know automatically considered upfront.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We understand the position of our colleague from the Russian Federation and our position is similar. We strongly prioritize internal controls. I would like to propose a shorter phrase that hopefully may help get reach a consensus. That would be, if the colleague from the Russian Federation would accept the wording, “*within existing resources*,” again, to reiterate the point that we do have a zero nominal growth budget, and we want to have FAO prioritize the internal controls or with the resources it currently has.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In fact, that was word for word, what we were going to propose, so we can go along with that.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

We also wanted to unveil the African Chair in appreciating the concern raised by the Russian Federation, but we would rather have a similar way wording that is would end after “*the Decentralized Offices within the appropriated budget*”, which is similar within the approved budget, because we do not necessarily want to say without a burdening on financial implications, because it is prudent in terms of governments to make sure that we do provide adequate resources for strengthening of internal control processes within an Organization. So just within the appropriated or approved budget is what we would go with.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

We were going to also come in. First, I will start by saying our preference would be to finish after “*Decentralized Offices*”. But in the interest of finding consensus, we were going to propose something very similar to what the United States has proposed, the text “*within existing resources*”.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je remercie les États-Unis et l'Afrique du Sud. Je voulais seulement rappeler que le rapport de l'Inspecteur dit que pour l'année qui couvre la période de ces investigations, le bureau de l'Inspecteur a réalisé des économies parce que les missions n'ont pas été effectuées pendant cette période, à cause de la pandémie de COVID. Donc, dans l'esprit de consensus, nous pouvons accepter ce qu'ont proposé les États-Unis, c'est-à-dire mettre un point à ce niveau-là, “*dans le cadre des ressources existantes*”.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I would still recommend that we should stop at the “*Decentralized Offices*” because no organization is going to set up a system of internal control, which goes beyond the available resources. You have to operate within the available resources. So, I see this reference to “*within existing resources*” a superfluous aspect, because I have not come across an organization, because setting up an adequate system of internal control goes beyond its resources. It always has to operate within its resources.

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

J'ai écouté avec intérêt les différentes argumentations des différentes délégations, je voudrais supporter vraiment la proposition du Pakistan, parce que la question qui est soulevée, c'est: est-ce que du point de vue opérationnel, l'inspection de contrôle interne va aller au-delà des ressources qui sont déjà

disponibles. Il serait bien que l'on s'arrête au niveau de "*the higher risk area and decentralised offices.*" Mais dans l'esprit de flexibilité, peut-être qu'on peut accepter la proposition des États-Unis « *dans le cadre des ressources existantes* ». Je comprends très bien la proposition de la Fédération de Russie sur la neutralité budgétaire de cette opération, mais dans la pratique, comme l'a rappelé le Pakistan, il est techniquement impossible qu'un contrôle interne aille au-delà des ressources qui lui sont allouées.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I understand very well the arguments that have been put forward regarding the strengthening of internal control. But I am trying to understand on the basis of my practice and experience, how the Secretariat can follow this request from the Council to strengthen the internal control. And on the basis of this request, I see that the Secretariat will make a proposal for how to strengthen internal control, which may include an increase in staff numbers, increase in the number of working hours, and this will lead to budgetary implications. If we speak of request, then I think we also have to take into account the financial implications working within that request. Therefore, we think that mentioning the sources of financing and here at FAO that there will not be additional implications for the budget. We think that it is significant. It is important.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have been listening very carefully, and I think we will all be the same. The question is how do we formulate it. I think the closest we got, although perhaps it is superficial, is going "*within accessing the resource*". I saw flexibility in the room, at least, although perhaps it is not needed and does not do no harm to the text. Could we not go with that text? Because otherwise, I think using a lot of time for saying the same.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I know how the Organization can go beyond the resources available. Would the Governing Bodies let the Organization spend beyond the budget which it is available to it? How does it go beyond the budget? Has it ever gone beyond the budget?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I understand your argument, but I think several Members want to at least see this "*within existing resources*". It is clear what you have said. So perhaps if there is a flexibility.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am really trying to reflect on what we want to achieve here. We are requesting the Secretariat to strengthen internal controls. It is already a decision that we are taking, and it is reflected in the budgetary allocation. That is how I look at it.

It will be definitely considered when we are preparing the budget. So that is what we want. So, if we say "*within existing resources*", do we want to say that, by being very prescriptive here, we are not trying to water down what we are requesting the Secretariat to do. So that is my big problem here because we are being too prescriptive here within existing resources. And we know certainly that the budgetary procedures are tight. We, Pakistan, tend to agree that we leave it up to a period after "*decentralized offices*" and the rest is understood on its own.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Again, I think I will be the most flexible person in the room, as long as we get a consensus. For me, we can go either way. So, I think it is up to you to find the solutions for this. Someone to make a reflection to *within accessing resources* I would like to have a full stop. We can also say, "*as reflected in the approved Programme of Work and Budget,*" but it is another phrase because then it is clear that it is already reflected.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Actually, if we request, it means it will involve a budget, it will ask something. Therefore, I do not think there is a need of reiterating again and again and saying, "*the approval of the existing resource*"

and so and so forth. It is very clear, as clear as crystal. Just make a full stop after “*decentralized offices*” because already it is explained in the first two, three lines, not in the importance of internal oversight, and then “*request the training of internal control, particularly in high-risk areas and decentralized offices*”. I think it is very clear and appropriate. Let us make a full stop there and it is enough.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We are going now to interpretation of arguments. Is there flexibility in the room to have a full stop, after this discussion? I think we are all meaning the same. Because we all know that it has to be within existing resources that is reflected in Programme of Work and Budget. So, I think, and as we already stated in the document which we approved. It is a flexibility just to have a full stop after decentralized offices so that we have an agreement? I see nodding. Is there anybody really against it? Let me phrase it that way. I do not see any. So, with that, I think we have a consensus on this issue.

Then we do not have yet a consensus on “*endorse*” or “*welcome*”. Eritrea made a proposal in the first line, say “*welcomed the Reports of the three Sessions.*” And then we could have at the end of paragraph, “*with this, the Council endorsed the Reports of the Finance Committee*”. That is 26.

With this, the Council endorsed the Reports of the Finance Committee, because we have reviewed all the recommendations. I think we did not say no to any other recommendations and I heard many delegations, when we reflected on the Reports, asking for endorsement.

If this is not agreeable, then we have to keep this Report pending because I do not see any possibility to get... Because there is a majority for “*endorsing*”. Some Members asked for only “*welcoming*”, but I do not see how to find a compromise between those sides.

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I had requested the floor for subparagraph (d) which is sorted out now.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

Just quick comments. On the previous discussion we found it is very interesting. And we noticed that the principle here is that if we see that adding the initiative or any action that is impossible, for it goes beyond the existing resources, or it cannot go against with approved budget. This should be common sense. Then there should be no further comments to stress on this particular issue. We respect this principle, and we wish that it can be followed on our future discussion.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, China, but I think that is what everybody now agrees to. We need to remind ourselves every time when we bring up this an issue.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am not sure that we did that last sentence because once we have welcomed... There are many issues that are in those Reports on which we have not yet a consensus from this Council. You have the issue of restoration of voting right, which is there. You have other issues that are not discussed in some of this Report. Unless we say we endorse as they pertain to subparagraph (a), (b), (c), and (d), then we can endorse it. If we go beyond that, then it is becoming difficult. I agree with you that we will not come to a consensus here, so we leave it for you to guide us.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We agree with your approach here. I think this is something similar to what we discussed in the Council in December at the 168th Session to have a welcoming of the reports, then offering the guidance of the Council, and then the group of observations to then endorse the reports. So perhaps in this case with these observations, the Council endorse the reports.

#### **Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia strongly considers that the Council should endorse since many Members did not express their endorsement during the debate. Additionally, as you have noted, it is specifically what Council

has been asked to do. However, we do understand the position of some Members expressed that there are still several matters that were considered by Finance Committee that are yet to be considered. We also wonder whether we would best be served, addressing these items first, before returning to finalise this element of the Report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I see the list growing. What I will do, I will keep this subparagraph pending until we have considered all the Items on the Agenda which we refer to, which we considered by, because we have of the Programme of Work to be done in the Council. There are some Items which we still have to discuss and to finalize. Then I come back to this issue, but as asked by Cameroon to give guidance, we have several choices. Because these are specific paragraphs which were highlighted during this discussion that are important. There was a request of the members of the Finance Committee to endorse the recommendations. If we will be welcome them, then we do not do what was requested by the members of the Finance Committee.

We have to give guidance as was stated by to the recommendations, each of the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Then we have to go through the list of recommendations of the Finance Committee, one by one, to see whether or not we only would like to welcome them or whether or not we would like to endorse them or whether or not we would like to deny them.

I leave that for your consideration. When we have finalized the discussions with all the items of the Finance Committee, whether or not we go through an exercise of each of the recommendations, because if you only “welcome” in a legal sense, it does not say what you do with the recommendations. So, you can go either way that was in discussion. I will leave that for your consideration. We will come back to it when we have finalized the other items of the Finance Committee and then, after your careful thoughts, perhaps a good night rest or good nights of rest, I would further consider the recommendations.

I would like to postpone this discussion until we have finalized all the elements, which are later on our Agenda.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We have the 189th Session, which has nothing to do with the FAO. So, it is another problem that we have to consider. This is pertaining to WFP. So, these are things that it is a big game that we are trying to...

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We are not going to prolong this discussion because otherwise, it takes valuable time. We know that we have to come back to it. If there are suggestions for improving the language, please send them to the Secretariat.

I will present them when we try to finalize this Report.

With that, I would like to continue now with, hopefully, a conclusion of the last item on the Joint Meeting when it comes to the Country Programming Reports. The last proposal I asked the Secretariat to put it on the screen is that we in say “invited Management to give further information of your Country Programming Framework at the 171st Session as appropriate”. Would it now be agreeable to say as appropriate?

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

We can accept this “*as appropriate*”, but we still prefer like to maintain our previous proposal “*with full respect to the country's sovereignty*”. And if anyone requests us to delete it, we have to admit that it is not our... we did not get authority to delete that, we need to consult with our capital.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

On the work of our Session, I could agree with this formulation, but from our point of view, the request to provide this information to a next Session is not fully...

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have an informal agreement but we wait for final approval by China, based on consultations with capital.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I can go along with the wording but I think we should stop at “*the 171st Session*”. We are always asking the Secretariat for information. Here the Secretariat is saying they will give it to us at the next Session. Why do we have a problem with that?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I tried to comfort all Members and that was also to get the Russian Federation on board, so I do hope there is flexibility to agree to this based on the final approval of China.

**Item 13. Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022)**

**Point 13. Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022)**

**Tema 13. Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022)**

(CL 170/13)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We continue now our work because the Chairperson of the Programme Committee had a national obligation to be virtually present. I would like to continue now with Item 13, *Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters* (CCLM), which is contained in document CL170/13 and CL170/21. The report of the 160th Session of the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters under Item 17, because that is restorational voting widespread after a suspicious Session last week. We deal with that Report, hopefully, tomorrow. Of course, the introduction given by the Chair of the CCLM has been circulated.

**Introduction to Item 13: Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022)**

*Ms Alison Storsve, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*

During the 115th Session, held from 21 - 23 March 2022, in a hybrid virtual modality, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) considered i) a Concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development and ii) the Participation of private sector as observers at the FAO Governing Body sessions.

The Committee was also provided with an Update on the FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights and considered the Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights. During the same session, the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) provided the CCLM with an update on his informal consultations with Members on the Code of Conduct for Voting and the Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization.

In addition, the CCLM considered a proposal to change the name of the Regional Conference for Europe as well as a proposal to amend Staff Regulation 301.13.6 concerning the Organization’s Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme.

Further to its consideration of the Concept note, the CCLM underscored the primacy of the legal basis and criteria contained in the Basic Texts vis-à-vis the development and promulgation of the wide range of FAO products. Recognizing that the Note was non exhaustive and that the relevant process would be guided by the substantive content of a product, the CCLM encouraged inclusive, transparent and open consultations with Members, where the means of development for a FAO product was unclear or ambiguous. The Council is invited to note this document as a practical orientation tool to

guide Members, recalling its earlier recommendation against the elaboration of a formal standardized procedure.

Regarding the Participation of the private sector as observers at FAO Governing Body sessions, the CCLM recalled that decision-making remains the prerogative of FAO Members. It recommended that the ICC convene informal consultations on this issue; in particular, to elicit from the Membership its interest in developing a permanent observer status for private sector entities and recommended that, pending the approval of guidelines on the subject-matter, the current ad hoc arrangements continue to be applied. The CCLM finally expressed its readiness to continue consideration of this matter at its 116th Session, observing that approved guidelines should be included in the Basic Texts. The CCLM welcomed the “Update on the FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights” and looked forward to considering, at its 116th Session, FAO’s intellectual property rights (IPR) policy. It expressed the view that the Data Protection Policy is consistent with the Basic Texts and, contingent on comments it provided during the session and which are outlined in its Report, it recommended the promulgation of the Policy with a view to its early implementation. The CCLM also looked forward to receiving information at its 116th Session on linkages between the promulgated Data Protection Policy and the IPR policy, as well as on the alignment of other instruments with the Data Protection Policy.

Upon consideration of the document, entitled “Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights – Proposal for an improved internal coordination and its alignment with corporate policies on Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights”, the CCLM recalled its mandate to address legal and constitutional matters and, specifically, to assess the alignment of this document with the Data Protection Policy. It looked forward to receiving an update on alignment of this work, as well as other instruments, with the Data Protection Policy.

The ICC provided updates on two substantive matters. Firstly, a detailed update on his consultations with the Membership on a draft Code of Conduct for Voting. The CCLM took note of the development of an ICC proposed text and confirmed its readiness to consider the draft Code of Conduct for Voting, when available.

Secondly, noting the impact of arrears on the Organization's financial situation, the CCLM appreciated the ICC’s update on his consultations on the restoration of voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization. It welcomed the ongoing work being undertaken with a view to addressing the recommendations of the 168th Session of the Council on a procedure for timely submission of applications, types of information, means of payment and payment plans. The CCLM expressed its readiness to consider, within the context of its mandate, any criteria developed by this process or draft resolution for consideration by the Council and the Conference.

Upon consideration of the CCLM document entitled “Regional Conference for Europe – Proposed change of name”, the CCLM observed that the proposal had not met all the procedural steps as described in the document. It expressed its readiness to consider this matter upon completion of the initial steps in this process.

The CCLM endorsed the amendment proposed to Staff Regulation 301.13.6, which aims at changing the name of the Associate Professional Officers (APO) Programme to the Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor to Members of the Council to reflect on the Report and the recommendations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and their request to endorse their recommendations.

### **Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia notes and endorses the Report of the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). We take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson for her strong leadership and welcome the strong support provided by the Legal Counsel and her team.

Australia recognizes the important role that this Committee plays in ensuring the work of the Organization is conducted in line with the Basic Texts. We also note that there are a number of important governance matters currently under consideration – from the development of a voluntary code of conduct for voting through, to streamlining of FAO policies of Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights. In this regard, we welcome the willingness of the Committee to convene additional meetings as appropriate to ensure a smooth passage of matters of high priority so as to validate, within its mandate, the work being conducted through informal inter-Sessional activities with all Members.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, l'Ukraine, la Serbie, la Turquie et la Géorgie se rallient à cette déclaration. Nous souhaitons tout d'abord remercier la Présidente, Madame Alison Storsve, et les membres du Comité des Questions Constitutionnelles et Juridiques (CQCJ), pour la direction donnée à nos travaux et pour leurs implications dans ceux-ci. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction les résultats auxquels est parvenu le Comité. Nous souhaiterions rappeler les points suivants.

Nous saluons la préparation de la Note de synthèse relative aux types de produits de la FAO et à leurs modalités d'élaboration, qui constitue à nos yeux un outil utile d'orientation, fournissant aux Membres des recommandations non exhaustives, sur les pratiques de la FAO à ce sujet. Nous partageons le point de vue du Comité selon lequel les procédures suivies sont guidées par les Textes fondamentaux, en fonction du contenu de fond du produit considéré.

Nous encourageons la FAO à organiser des consultations inclusives et transparentes avec les Membres, lorsque les modalités d'élaborations d'un produit de la FAO ne sont pas claires. Nous prenons également note de l'opinion exprimée par le Comité s'agissant des critères de participation des acteurs du secteur privé, en tant qu'observateurs aux sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO. Nous insistons sur le fait que la nature intergouvernementale du processus de prise de décision de la FAO doit être préservée, et que la norme, règle ou mesure élaborée au niveau international ne saurait obéir à un quelconque intérêt particulier.

Nous encourageons l'organisation de consultations pour sonder l'intérêt des Membres concernant l'établissement d'un statut d'observateur permanent, pour les entités du secteur privé, en rendant aux organes compétents, afin qu'ils puissent en discuter et prendre une décision. Nous notons avec satisfaction le résultat des discussions du Comité concernant la politique de protection des données.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les recommandations du Comité qui recense de nouveaux éléments à intégrer dans cette politique, en mettant l'accent sur l'introduction d'un mécanisme indépendant de contrôle, permettant de mettre en place une politique de protection des données moderne, complète et conforme aux normes internationales en la matière. Nous appelons la FAO à organiser après l'entrée en vigueur de cette politique, de nouvelles consultations avec les membres, au sujet de mécanismes de recours et d'autres éléments qui pourraient être nécessaire, pour que cette politique demeure adaptée à l'objectif visé.

Nous rappelons qu'un élément important des politiques de la FAO sur la protection des données est encore attendu, il s'agit du cadre sur la propriété intellectuelle. L'adoption récente par la FAO, par ce Conseil, de la Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique et de la Stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation, qui font référence à ces politiques sur les données, rend d'autant plus nécessaire l'élaboration urgente de ce document manquant.

Nous soutenons les conclusions du Comité, qui estime que la proposition de changement de nom de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe doit encore passer par plusieurs étapes procédurales, avant de pouvoir être examinée par ce Comité, lors d'une de ses prochaines réunions. En conclusion, nous félicitons le Président indépendant du Conseil, vous-même, pour les consultations menées sur le code de conduite relatif au vote, et sur le rétablissement du droit de vote des États Membres en retard dans les paiements de leurs contributions à l'Organisation. Avec ces observations, nous adoptons les résultats et les recommandations de cette 115<sup>ème</sup> Session du Comité.



**Ms Nadine Rosario M. MORALES (Philippines)**

The Philippines has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We welcome the Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and its consideration of the Agenda Items in line with the Basic Texts. Among others, we welcome the Concept Note, in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development, which while not exhaustive, is a practical orientation tool that will help guide the development of FAO products.

The Asia Regional Group believes that the development of the Concept Note will provide a clearer reference for the Governing Bodies and relevant Committees along with their subsidiary mechanisms in FAO in developing their policy products. On the participation of the private sector as observers at the Governing Body Sessions, we underscore the importance of maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the Governing Bodies and decision-making, being the prerogative of FAO Members.

In view of the approval of FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2021-2025), we also welcome the recommendation for the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to convene informal consultations to elicit from Members its possible interest in developing a permanent observer status for private sector entities. We further welcome the CCLM's views on the FAO policies on Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), bearing in mind the need to align FAO instruments with the Data Protection Policy. We also note that the IPR Policy is still being developed and we await updates on this.

We appreciate efforts of the ICC to address recommendations of the 168th Session of the Council under restoration of voting rights of Members in arrears and the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization, which we know will be discussed separately. We encourage the ICC to continue the consultations open to all Members of the draft resolutions.

**Mr Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal) (Observer)**

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its Members. We agree that careful evaluation is needed on the proposal to create a status of observers to the private sector. For that hand, it is relevant to think about the definition of "*private sector*" to be considered, as well as the concept of partnership, since permanent observer status is to be granted to those who will have partnership agreements with FAO in the context of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2021-2025).

Considering this, we would like to put forward two questions for consideration of the Council. The first is the reason why Rule XVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) regarding the participation of international nongovernmental organizations in the Conference does not apply to private sector entities as expressed in paragraph F and paragraph 9 of the reference document to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

The second question is the Observers' access to the Governing Bodies without distinction, considering the very different nature and roles of the Governing Bodies. Moreover, we believe that the issue should be addressed by the Council, through its assisting Committees, to evaluate and put forward to the Conference the participation of private sector entities as observers in the Governing Bodies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Speakers on my list, I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and I would like to thank her for her flexibility to already be here present this evening and also to postpone the awards, which she is going to receive in the United States. My congratulations with the awards which are to be given to you.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I would like to first offer thanks to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)'s Members, the CCLM Secretary, the Legal Counsel, the staff briefers, the interpreters, and all those who supported not one but two meetings of the CCLM this cycle. I would also like to thank colleagues in the room today and online for the feedback from Council Members on the Report of the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCLM.

I only have a few responses to the comments raised and appreciate the views that Members have expressed. First, just to note, we welcome the opportunity to review Agenda Item 2, *Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development (CL 170/INF/6)* and hope that the Council will note that is a useful guidance document, as several Members mentioned. I appreciate the number and diversity of comments that were just expressed in the last ten minutes on the private sector's potential participation.

I think the CCLM's conclusions in that regard were meant to elicit exactly these comments and so that is why the CCLM requested that some consultations be held with a view to drawing out these views. The question raised by Portugal did come up briefly in the CCLM and, for awareness, the CCLM saw that the Rule that you pointed to – Rule XVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) on international nongovernmental organisations – might not fully cover corporations. This is just not clear.

And so, while the participation of civil society seems clear already in the Basic Texts, this question on private sector came forward to the CCLM from Management because there have been an increasing number of requests and because with the promulgation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2021-2025), the Organization expects even more requests, not only here at FAO Headquarters, but also in some of the Article XIV Bodies and other Statutory Bodies. So that is where that Agenda Item came from and I think this diversity of views will be helpful to elaborate through further consultations.

I am happy to turn back to the Chairperson and whether you would like me to introduce in this Session the 116<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCLM.

**Ms Xi LI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

We welcome the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the consultations open to all Members. We realise that the Code of Conduct for Voting and the restoration of voting rights for Members in arrears have far-reaching influence. Therefore, we need to make sure that relevant documents are mutual, comprehensive, and reflect the views of all Members. Therefore, we fervently request that detailed texts for discussion need to be agreed by all Members before being submitted for the approval of the Governing Bodies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) whether or not this remark needs further reflections from the Chair?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I note that on the Code of Conduct for Voting, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), at its 115<sup>th</sup> Session, received and considered an update from the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and welcomed the opportunity – once a text is agreed – to review that text in the CCLM. The CCLM has not yet reviewed a document on the Code of Conduct for Voting.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I can add that the formal consultations are not finalised. We are still in the informal consultations and to see when we can arrive at the consensus of all Members. Of course, everybody can participate, which we will hear later this week. We continue these consultations after the summer break. China, would you like to come back?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

I heard my colleagues' feedback and want to reiterate my request. First, I want to express my appreciation to the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the informal consultation, which we appreciate very much, and would also kindly request informal consultations for both the Code of Conduct for Voting and the restoration of voting rights for Members in arrears, because these concerns major governance issues. So, we request they draft a resolution that before being sent to the Governing Bodies, needs the consensus of all the Members.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is how I work and I live by that rule, because it does not make sense to bring anything to the Governing Bodies if there is no consensus within the Membership.

With that, I think we can turn now to the conclusions of the draft Report of the 115th Session of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

1. The Council endorsed the Report of the 115th Session of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters, held from 21st - 23rd March in 2022, and in particular:
  - a) noted the proposal to change the name of the Associated Professional Officers Programme to the Junior Professional Officers Programme and endorsed the amendment proposed to Staff Regulation 310.13.6;
  - b) invited the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to convene informal consultations on the participation of the private sector as Observers at FAO Governing Body Sessions and to report to the next Session of the Council thereon and noted that pending the approval of guidelines the current and ad hoc arrangements would continue to be applied.

That is what is on the Report of the 115th Session, of course we still will discuss later on the 116th Session of the CCLM. But it is not the moment for this Report. This is only on the conclusion on the 115th Report.

I go now with the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau?

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I do not have a problem with the wording, as such, but I think the Council has to be consistent with all the Committees that report to it, and this consistency would apply to whether we should use the word “*endorse*” or “*welcome*”, because it is outstanding in one Committee and should be outstanding once we have decided whether it should be “*welcome*” or “*endorse*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Two remarks: first, we already agreed on the Joint Meeting that we endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting and, it depends on the Report itself whether or not you can endorse or you can only welcome them. That has to be seen report by report.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) just outlined the principle that the basis of our previous Session on the discussions regarding this matter indicated that any decision that the Council makes is set out on the request by this Governing Body and therefore we are underlining in the Report what we had already requested. So, we have to make decisions and the decision of adopting, and I ask my learned colleagues what exactly does “*adopt*” mean in English?

It does mean approval, it is the same word and therefore we should not shy away from making decisions on the basis of the word that we have actually requested from the Committees. And that is the responsibility of this Governing Body. So, I would go along with the ruling of the ICC that we make decisions based on the Reports themselves, as we consider them individually, but being informed by that fact that we had made the actual decision in previous Sessions of the Council for the words that are taken by the Committees. And, if we move on that principle, then we are consistent with whether we are “*endorsing*” or not. But, we should also adopt this.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

We were not able to take the floor on the consideration of the previous point. Our comment is on “*endorse*” versus “*welcome*”. If we use the word “*endorsed*”, it means, as the Ambassador from South Africa said, that we are agreeing with the recommendations that were prepared by the Committee. This, we saw in the previous discussion, that the Council was not in a position to endorse the Report until it had considered all of the recommendations therein.

We would recall that in this Session, in the framework of the Report of the relevant Governing Body, there is discussion on “*endorsed*” or “*welcomed*”. Here, we are using *endorse*, but this did not prevent a number of countries discussing the recommendations. Therefore, I think it is not only a matter of one or another turn, but we should consider the recommendations prepared by the Committee. And therefore, since we had, when we moved away, in a previous case, from the recommendations of a relevant Governing Body we suggest that, in this case, instead of “*endorse*”, we use “*welcome*”, because there has already been a precedent in which we moved away from a recommendation that had been put forward by the relevant Committee.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous revenons en partie à la discussion que nous avons eue. Comme vous l'avez justement souligné, et comme cela a aussi été indiqué par la Conseillère juridique, le verbe “*welcome*” n'emporte aucune conséquence juridique. Si nous voulons que les recommandations, les requêtes formulées par les Comités aient un effet, soient suivies d'effets dans la vraie vie, par la FAO, nous devons endosser ou approuver ou adopter les rapports. Sinon, c'est juste du vent. Donc, notre responsabilité ici, en tant que membres du Conseil c'est de prendre des décisions. Donc, soit nous rouvrons tous les rapports, paragraphe par paragraphe, et là nous avons sans doute deux semaines de Conseil, et il me semblait que de précédentes consultations avec vous, le souhait général était d'avoir des sessions du Conseil plus courtes, plus centrées, avec des conclusions plus courtes. Là, je rappelle que pour le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CCLM), il y a 41 points. Donc, souhaitons-nous rouvrir tous les 41 points ? J'insiste encore. La conséquence juridique, d'avoir le verbe “*welcome*”, c'est qu'il n'y a pas de conséquence juridique. Cela ne sera pas traduit par des faits. Donc, si nous voulons exercer notre responsabilité de membres du Conseil, nous devons décider. Pour cette raison, nous souhaitons garder l'utilisation du verbe “*endorsed*” ou “*approved*” ou “*adopted*”. Mais quelque chose qui prend une décision.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Firstly, we would like to also agree with the positions expressed by, firstly, Canada, I believe, and now France around the hesitation to use the wording “*endorsed*”. We think it is very important that the Council can “*endorse*”. I fully support some of the reasons raised by France just now. As noted previously in my statement, Australia endorses this Report and our understanding is that the primary reason for us postponing the finalisation of the text of the Report of the Finance Committee – and leaving the “*welcome*”/ “*endorse*” language unfinalised – was largely in recognition of the fact that some elements of Finance Committee are yet to be discussed at this Council Session so it should not have any bearing in this particular discussion.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with some of the previous interventions we fully support the endorsement of this Report. We believe the document and the Report has been submitted to this Council several weeks ago, so all Members have had time to amply consider all of the recommendations therein and share any views they may have had in the previous discussion and, in that regard, we have heard agreement with its findings.

Canada is a Member of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and was part of the group that recommended that “*endorsement*” in that process and, in that regard, we see no issues within the recommendations that we would not agree with. In that regard, we think that “*endorsement*” is the appropriate verb in this stage, also noting that in the subsequent pairs that we have not discussed yet, there is nothing that is turning around any of the decisions that are in the Report, so we seem to be in agreement with it.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Our concern is that, actually, there is one Item, for example, the *Restoration of the voting rights of Members in arrears*, that has yet to be discussed, so...

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, because that is the Report on the 116th Session.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Yes, exactly, but this is also discussed about this issue.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

The point raised by the distinguished delegate of France is very important, of course. We have to decide as a Council that if we “endorse”, we take note of the document. It is up to the Council each Session to decide regarding the Reports of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Finance Committee. Of course, it is not an automatic process, it depends on the content of each Report and, of course, it depends on the moment and if there is a consensus in the Council to adopt.

But as I see here, there is this proposition here, under paragraph 26, where we are suggested to “endorse” the Report as prepared by the CCLM and then we highlighted a few documents. So, a few points, there is a selection of Items that are proposed here. So, in this regard, we have to see how to manage this kind of thing in the future. Or, we are endorsing the whole package or we are endorsing just a few ones and others are not concerned by us.

I believe that the drafting of our discussions here that should merit some kind of refinement. For instance, here we are saying in subparagraph (b), “*invited the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to convene informal consultations*” we got the private sector as observers. I do not have any recollection that we, as a Council, discussed this important issue right now. So, the way this Report is presented, it brings some confusion maybe to all of us. So, maybe we should reflect on how to proceed in that.

Of course, if the Council decides that the whole package, the whole Report, deserves our endorsement we could go along with that. There is no doubt about that but I think that the matter that we are using, if there are some conflicted issues that are inserted in one or two Reports, that should be considered apart. And, in this case, we should endorse the Report but regarding subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), the Council just took note of that.

Therefore, that is the problem of the Report that we are trying to adopt rightly. I do not have any formal suggestions right now but it seems that that is the confusion because we are just approving something that we are not reading or dealing with as a whole right now.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps it is an important element that you raised because it was yesterday where Mexico proposed to delete a whole series of elements to make it clearer what we are deciding on. Of course, the conclusions of the Council are the conclusions of the Council and whether that is “welcome” or “adopting”, and sometimes an element is highlighted by several Members so that is why, for example, subparagraph (a) was mentioned. But we can do without it, because we all were present at the Council, so it is not necessary to have subparagraph (a). If that raises confusions about the endorsement, I think it is better to delete subparagraph (a).

On subparagraph (b), I think that is necessary because that is not up to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to give instructions to the Independent Chairperson. It has to be done by the Council. So you can endorse and then invite the Council to do those informal consultations. Informal consultation means world membership and only when there is consensus will come back for decision to the Governing Bodies by the CCLM as well as the Council.

I think it is important to realise if I look to the Basic Texts, and I have been working now for almost 30 years with FAO, I think we have built a governance system where we have preparations by the Technical Committees and we have preparations by the Governing Bodies and we all have appointed members of the regions in those Governing Bodies to prepare a decision by either the Council or the Conference.

Of course, those dedicated persons are working hard on recommendations to the Council or to the Conference for decision. I think it is important to realise that. Of course, then the documents are carefully prepared by those Committees, but it would be the Programme Committee, Finance Committee, or the CCLM to facilitate decision-making by the Council. The documents have been

approved by the members on behalf of the whole Council and the Conference to do that work, to adopt the Reports, and then send it to Council for further discussion and revision. We have received the Reports in time and it is up to us to see if we have read the reports, if we have read the recommendations, whether or not we can agree to those recommendations or if we say, “we cannot agree to them, further work has to be done”, or we cannot agree to them and we say “we do not agree to them”.

However, I think it is as also said by the Ambassador of South Africa, as a Council we have to take decisions. Our representatives have asked us to take a decision. If we say “*we welcome a report*”, then we leave the decision open because there is no decision taken on the recommendation. We welcome the recommendation but it is not clear, also for Management, what to do with the recommendations. If we do not want to adopt a recommendation, we have to say that, so that Management is not going to implement the recommendation, because we blame Management later on that it would have to bear cost for the budget and we do not want it.

If we support the recommendations of those Committees, then we can use different forms to concur, we can approve, or we can endorse. This decision is asked by the Governing Bodies and by the Committees to us. That is why it is so important that we just do not say “we use a different word in the same Report” because as you also said, Brazil, it depends on the substance of every report what to do with the recommendations and, if needed, we can go through the recommendations one by one. But that has to be requested by the Members or if we think we can support all the recommendations we can say “we endorse” or “approve”.

If we can support 10 of the 12, we should specify the 10 in our decision and leave open the other two for further work or no decision. I think that is the way how it should work with reports because if every time we say “we only welcome”, it says that the Council will say “at this moment we cannot take a decision on the recommendation”. I think that is important to realise.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I appreciate all the effort of explanation that the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) is making. But, even saying we “welcome” is a decision of the Council. It is a decision to say we “welcome”, so let us not say that when we are saying we “welcome” we are not taking a decision. We are taking a decision by saying we “welcome”. But I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the Reports of the Council Committees are brought before the Council to advise the Council.

And, mind you, the Finance Committee, for example, deals with matters concerning the World Food Programme (WFP). How does the Report take in WFP? They are barely presented to advise the Board and every time they are discussing an issue which has been discussed by the Council it is noted in the decision box. That is all. We are treating it differently in FAO but the key element here is that it is brought before the Council to advise the Council.

We are not forced to examine those documents. But the Council put it in the Agenda for examination but, we are not obliged to because they are brought before the Council to advise the Council. So, I believe that probably the best way to go about it is that Members should get involved into the discussion on how to handle that in the next Sessions, because this is also an informal consultation.

We want to give the ICC some work, which is for him to try to see if it is worth discussing the way forward with those Reports. But what I say here is, we here, we are only in the position to welcome the Reports of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and nothing will change that in our minds because we look at it as an advisory report to the Council. And the Council has to take its decision on every matter that was discussed by those Committees. This is how it should be, and it must be like that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I fully agree with you on all the elements you have said because indeed also “welcoming” is a decision of the Council. It is a decision whether you welcome or you take another decision. It is a decision. And indeed, the Governing Bodies, like the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) are advisory bodies to the Council and they

have done their work because they have formulated recommendations and ask now a decision of the Council on those recommendations. That is now up to you as Members of the Council to take a decision on those recommendations. That can go, as I said before, either way because it is up to the Council Members to decide on them. In that respect, I fully agree with you.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I agree with the points made by Cameroon. I would like to repeat what the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) has emphasised several times – and Cameroon has done so as well – and I think other Members have done it too. This is the Report of the Council. Our Report. We have to avoid giving the impression that we are rubber stamping the Reports of Committees who are advisory to us.

So, we have to put in our Report the results of our discussions and it is nothing to do with “endorsing”. We could say we reviewed the Report of the Finance Committee, or we reviewed the Report of the Programme Committee, and then give our own opinion as Council. So, the question of “welcome”/“endorse” will not be there. We reviewed those Reports, they were advisory to us, and based on that review, we got our version of the Report. So, perhaps we should proceed that way and that will really be our Report.

Another matter which I would like to draw attention to is we should avoid using the word “noted”. I see in subparagraph (d), “noted” the proposal to change the name of... What is our view? We should give our view there and not note. What does “noted” mean? I do not understand. But, we use it very, very often. It is like standing on the fence, as it were, because we do not know what to say and the easiest way is to say “noted”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Again, I fully agree with you because that is exactly what I think we are doing in this moment, because it is nothing about rubber stamping.

The Committees, Programme and Finance have done their work. They gave recommendations in their Reports, not our Reports, and those recommendations are now in front of us. Of course, as you have rightfully said, it is up to the Council to see what the Council will do with the recommendations. That should be part of the decision. Whether we agree to them, whether we disagree to them, whether we want to see more work.

If it is “noted”, we do not like “noted”, we can already withdraw this subparagraph (a) for this decision, but we could take a decision with whether we would like to change the wording or not. And that is the decision of the Council because we have to take decision. We could refer it back for further work to the Committees but the Committees have done their work, with representative of our regions in their Committees and ask now, “look through the report”. Here you have our recommendations, and please, Council, take a decision on those recommendations, whether you want to do this one by one, *en bloc* or partly, because I think that is up to us here now, in this room. So that is what is in front of us.

We have now a document *Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)* with clear recommendations to the Council what to do with those recommendations. And I think it is up to us to see what we will do. Indeed, we can welcome them only, that is also a decision, but you can also do other things. That is exactly what we have to do in this Session.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I was hoping to intervene in my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). I just wanted to note for Members the reason why subparagraphs (a) and (b) are enumerated and the Chairperson has alluded to this, but I can go into a bit more detail. In the 115th Session of the CCLM, two Items came before the CCLM that are in the CCLM’s purview to determine the legality of, but are not in the purview of the CCLM to decide.

So, for example, with subparagraph (a), the CCLM reviewed the name change of this programme and found that the name change is fully consistent with the Basic Texts and has no issue to be worried about from a legal perspective. Therefore, our Report invited the Council to approve this and it requires the Council’s decision because it involves an amendment to the Staff Regulations and the

CCLM Governing Body cannot amend Staff Regulations. However, the CCLM can recommend to this body, the Council, to “endorse”, “approve”, “agree” the amendment to the Staff Regulations. So that is hence why A is pulled out of the Report – elevated from the Report – in slightly different words from the Report.

And in subparagraph (b), I think we heard from Members a number of comments about this Item which were anticipated by the CCLM. The CCLM was offered to consider a document prepared by Management that arose because Management was receiving requests for private sector participation in Governing Body meetings. The CCLM, from a legal perspective, reviewed that this topic is not treated in the Basic Texts sufficiently to give the Organization guidance.

In the CCLM, Members did not feel it was within our remit to presume the opinions of Members of whether they would like to go down this road of inviting the private sector to Governing Body or any other meetings of FAO without first full consultation of the Membership. Hence, the CCLM stands ready to consider this matter but invited the Council to ask the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to convene a series of these consultations because, as the ICC noted, the CCLM does not have the remit to task the ICC.

I hope that helps clarify to Members why these two elements of the Report of the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCLM have been brought forward for a particular decision in addition to the chapeau, which I believe in this case is merely shorthand for an unblocked adoption of the Report, if you will, which could be accomplished, as the ICC mentioned, any number of ways.

#### **Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

I would like to also confirm with Cameroon and the distinguished delegate of Pakistan about the basis of what, I think, is causing us a bit of a difficulty in handling the decisions in the Reports. I would like to come back to what is coming out of the documents of FAO as a previous practice.

Although we currently indicated that for each we need to apply our minds, we cannot say it is because we made a decision in this fashion in the previous meetings. But the practice has been that you have decisions that -- I mean, there are verbs that we have been using, “confirming”, “supporting” the recommendations, and even “letting”. So, these are verbs that we have used in decisions.

And there are no ‘decision verbs’ that will put “noting”, “welcoming”, “highlighting”, and “appreciating”. Those are standard practices and I think that what we need, from what I am hearing – for example, in this document of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) – is that all we needed to do is to go with these decisions. We have sections here in this Report, and also as reported by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC). If you go to the section that is dealing with policies, Section 21, has got policy reflections and implications which require decisions here.

Therefore you lift that and you say from Sections 1, 2, 3, these are neutral, we do not need a decision based on whatever. Then as Council Members we will go to section 21 and understand this policy and implications. And therefore, in that case, we cannot be [XX], we have to be “approving” or “endorsing” that recommendation from the Committee.

Similarly, in areas where there is a legal barrier which abandons this Report, and she has already outlined in respect of, I think, intellectual property decisions. Again, both have got legal standing and we need to have that enumerated in that decision metrics. And then, lastly, when you have financial implications, it would also make it easier that these are the decisions that we would like the Council to make because of financial implications.

Therefore, the others are neutral and we can “note”. So, it is not correct that we cannot “note”. We can “note”, we can “appreciate”, but certainly we have to make decisions. And, therefore, it is not going to cover us to always just have a broad chapeau that says we have “endorsed” the Report or not. We have to get to decision metrics. And I think it will help if we just have that decision metric so that any participating Committee will have a clear reflection as a Member of the Council on how we are making those decisions.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**



Thank you very much, South Africa, I very much concur with your wording because we have to be precise and also international law proficient. You always have to know from legal consequences, what you decide and where you just say. I thank you for your advice. I give the floor to Canada, followed by Indonesia and then later I will cover the proposal how to proceed to come to a more specified decision of the Council.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Thank you to all the Members for sharing their experiences and perspectives. I have to say, I am learning a lot this evening and it is actually a very useful conversation, so I appreciate that. And, I have to say, it is also given me pause in my role on the Programme Committee in how we formulate our Reports.

Because, I think what is becoming clear is, what is in those Reports, the exact verb that we come up with, really has an influence on how we treat them here. Having looked through the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) that is before us right now, I have gone through and just circled where it says “recommended” and there are five spots in the Report where the CCLM is “recommending” something to happen and that is in paragraphs 15, 17, 21, 23, and 25. Others are “considered” or “highlighted” and I think there is not anything for us to decide on there because that was the CCLM taking its time to do its job and then they came to the conclusion that there was a number things, five paragraphs, where they recommended some action.

And that is, perhaps, where we need to focus ourselves on, as highlighted by South Africa very clearly just now. In our case, we have gone through those recommendations and we agree with them all and in that case we feel like we can “endorse” the report in its entirety. Two of those paragraphs 15 and 17, are captured on the screen in subparagraph (b). Others are not. But I think, perhaps, that is the consideration that we might have to be effective as a Council, to consider exactly what’s been recommended and really honing in on those. As I say, in our case, we agree with the five spots where it says “recommended” and we agree with those recommendations and we would endorse them and, for elements where the Committee considered something, it is not for us to offer an opinion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In that case, you can say “welcome the report on those elements”.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Like what has been said by other colleagues, we learn a lot from this conversation because we are learning how to formulate the conclusions or even decisions of the Council. In our understanding, that the Council is making a decision, not only just concluding the deliberation but, of course, after reviewing and analysing whatever documents comes up to its attention, the Council can do whatever they deem necessary because it is the mandate of the Council, which has been delegated by the Conference.

So that comes to the Council itself, in our view, how to formulate the conclusion or decision that it has to make. In our view, in terms of the wording itself, the word “welcome” is actually actionable enough in the sense that it gives some kind of approval for the follow-up of whatever that the Council welcomes in terms of the Report or other document that contains some kind of things that need to be followed up.

But in essence, the Council is making decision on its deliberation and if you want to highlight or emphasise on a certain point then, of course, we can go stronger than “welcome” as has been the practice of the Council in “inviting”, “requesting”, “endorsing”, and whatever verbs that are felt appropriate by the Council. So far, that is the opinion of our delegation but for the future if we can have some kind of ground rules in terms of the wording or putting the verb on the Report or recommendation on the Technical Committees, that is probably best way forward.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En effet, cette discussion est intéressante, et comme l'a souligné ma collègue de l'Afrique du Sud, en réalité, ce que cela montre, c'est que ce serait utile d'avoir une matrice un peu plus précise pour savoir ce qui nécessite une décision. Ce qui a des implications budgétaires, etcetera. Dans l'attente de cette

pratique, dans l'attente d'une telle matrice, la solution qui avait été retenue jusqu'à présent, c'était justement d'endosser les rapports, et d'ajouter ou de nuancer ou de contredire certains éléments qui étaient dans ces rapports. Cela a été fait dans une optique d'efficacité, pour éviter de passer en revue toutes les recommandations de tous les rapports, parce qu'il y en a beaucoup. C'était aussi dans une perspective de respect du travail des collègues et d'intégrité des travaux des Organes directeurs. Comme cela a été dit à plusieurs reprises, y compris par la Conseillère juridique, le simple verbe "welcome" n'emporte pas d'effet juridique pour le management. Cela ne l'aide pas à savoir ce qu'il doit faire. Donc, pour cette raison, notre préférence est de conserver le mot "endorse" et bien sûr le Conseil peut ajouter, nuancer ou retirer comme l'avait dit le collègue du Brésil.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I give four speakers the floor because we have to close at 19:30 hours. I was trying to see if you were still awake. But I promised the interpreters to stop at 19:30 hours sharp but what I will do anyway, I will go forward with new draft conclusions based on this discussion to see whether or not also what was said by the South African Ambassador and Brazil to seek how to specify. Then, we can get out of the problem between "welcome", "approve", etc. But for that we need to finish at 19:30 hours to do our homework for tomorrow.

#### **Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Let me put things simply, only the exception was the Council last December to use the word "welcome". Before that, for several decades – not just one year, for several decades – FAO used the word "endorse" for the Finance Committee, Programme Committee, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). I think there is wisdom continuing from the past even after the endorsement of the recommendation. Maybe Management have some flexibility for the recommendation. For example, some recommendations can be done immediately, some recommendations might need some time to implement, or some recommendations, from the Management, side can provide another option for conclusion. Management can have such types of flexibility even after endorsement of the Reports of the Finance Committee, Programme Committee, and the CCLM.

So, in that sense, we are talking about only one exception last December but, I think, we had experience and knowledge about how to address recommendations by the subsidiary Committees of the Council and so, in that sense, I would like to keep the word "endorse" because after endorsing the Report, Management can say what we can do, what we cannot do, what we need some conditions for implementation of recommendations etc.

I have a very strange feeling why some Members try to devalue the discussion of the Members at subsidiary Committees of the Council and why some Members would like to give the freehand for the management of the Secretariat. I think Management needs guidance from the Council and the Council's role is giving guidance to Management based on the formal discussions at Sessions of subsidiary Committees of the Council. That is the reason why I strongly prefer "endorse" and maybe why we have a long history and experience for how to address the recommendation by the subsidiary Committees of the Council.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me thank the Ambassador of South Africa for the well-articulated argumentation she used. I would not like to come back to that because I believe that we have in front of us a lot of opinions and food for thought. But I would like to give the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) – you said you want to go and do some homework tonight – so let me also thank the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) for explaining globally why they came to the subparagraphs (a) and (b).

Let me just give you what I think for subparagraphs (a) and (b) before you go and reflect tonight. The first thing is that we have to take a decision and this should be reflected in the language, the way we put it. So I got inspired by the previous proposal by the Legal Counsel, noting the proposal to change the name of the "Associate Professional Officer Programme" to the "Junior Professional Officer Programme" and approve the change of the name recommending the Conference, because it is for the

Conference to change this Staff Regulation, I believe. So, you need a consultant that can probably change that better, recommend it to the Conference too, and address the issue of the Staff Regulation appropriately. Something like that.

Then for inviting the ICC, I went again this last weekend to the Report of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA). Well, I was trying to see what the IPA gave as instructions for the work of the ICC and I have the feeling that we have been responding too much on the work of the ICC. So please, again, this is concerning subparagraph (b), we will really want to go and revisit the Report of the IPA on what was assigned to the ICC, because here every word now you can give the ICC work, including the CCLM, requesting that you should complete our consultation.

That was not part of the IPA and that is why I have problems with this. I have lots of problems with subparagraph (b), because it has to be linked to the Report of the IPA. What is the role of the ICC? It waived the private sector. The ICC is the link between the Members and the Secretariat. That is it. So we are bringing in now to the facilitation to the private sector, observers and so on. Yes, we are responding, so if we want to respond, let us discuss that and look at it accordingly.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

When I was younger, when I was still studying, and that was quite a long time ago, I did homework to a very good friend where we did it together. Of course, you are more than invited to do the homework together this evening.

#### **M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

À la lumière de ce qui a été déjà dit par différentes délégations, on se rend compte qu'on est peut-être pris au piège par notre méthodologie de travail. Nous sommes appelés à faire l'arbitrage entre notre responsabilité de prendre les décisions en tant que Conseil. Donc, de faire avancer les choses, de ne pas ergoter sur certains projets qui sont importants et qui sont suivis par le management à travers les Comités techniques.

Nous avons aussi la responsabilité d'examiner les différents points généralement soumis par les Comités techniques. Souvent, il existe des points litigieux ou qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de consensus. Enfin, nous avons la responsabilité de la commodité du travail, comme ne pas avoir de texte assez long, illisible et discutable. Je pense qu'à la lumière de ces éléments, il est plus judicieux que nous options pour quelque chose comme ce qui a été proposé par le Brésil et l'Afrique du Sud de changer même, ou en tout cas de revoir, la rédaction des rapports du Conseil en tenant compte des points litigieux, et parfois des points qui ne reflètent vraiment pas, en substance ce dont on a besoin au niveau du Conseil. Je parle par exemple des rapports concernant le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), alors que nous sommes le Conseil de la FAO. Les rapports liés au PAM doivent être discutés au niveau du Conseil d'administration du PAM.

Je pense qu'il serait très judicieux que nous ayons cette rédaction en mentionnant effectivement, en prenant la décision avec les mots et les termes et lexiques appropriés, par rapport à certains points tout en, naturellement, mettant l'accent sur d'autres points qui ne feraient pas l'objet d'une décision explicite, comme le réclame Madame l'Ambassadrice de France.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

I also learned a lot this evening, so I want to be constructive. I noticed that, previously, the Legal Counsel explained the difference between “endorse” and “welcome” is that when it comes to certain suggestions you need action and then you only use “endorse”. So, as the South African Ambassador previously explained, any of four of them make the suggestions needed to be taking actual action.

For the rest, we only use “welcome” to show our positive attitude toward this expression of the previous Reports of the subcommittees. So, do you think that it will be agreeable that we “welcome” this Report and, for Reports which requires actual decision-making, we single it out and discuss it in the Council so that all the Council Members know exactly what kind of decision they are making? In case, in this way, we can avoid the Council being a ‘rubber stamp’.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

You would be very much welcomed in my homework team.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Very briefly, of course, we all agree we have to reconstruct the Management Secretariat to do what we want. We had this discussion in November for “welcome”/“endorse”; anyhow, I am here with the Report of the Council from April-May and we have here, I believe, perfect guidance for work and reports because here we say “*Report of the Session of the program meeting.*”

Paragraph 24, “*the Council consider[s] the recommendations and, after that, all important issues are considered independently and we adopt the verb necessary.*” For instance, the *FAO Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)*, we approve it as letter (f), and the *2021-2023 Action Plan for Implementation of FAO’s Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* as letter (h). So, we can consider as a chapeau, we “consider” the Report and then we “adopt” the decisions regarding any talk that deserves decisions, as, I believe, Canada also mentioned. So, a very generic chapeau and then a decision from our side, or we just “acknowledge”, we just “welcome” some talk that deserves further considerations in the future.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, with this discussion you are already doing part of my homework, which I very appreciate.

**Ms Lieslot GERMONPREZ (Belgium)**

I just wanted to add having the word “endorsed” as the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) also said for the point on the Finance Committee, as we are convinced the Council is a decision-making body, so it is for the Council to decide. So, we endorse a report and then the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) – and the Report of the CCLM Report precises where we “endorse” or “welcome”, etc. And, in addition, I would just, in the homework exercise, as an advice tomorrow morning from the Legal Counsel as we heard some voices say that FAO has nothing to say and the World Food Programme (WFP) reporting on financing, as far as I know, it is still upon the FAO, it is still on the FAO mandate, so maybe we could get a clarification on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am certain clarification will be given tomorrow morning. Thank you so much, this was a very excellent and even more fundamental discussion, which we very much needed to get out of some of the misunderstanding about wording, but also the role of the Council. I have seen it as a very positive guidance towards ourselves, towards the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), and the Secretariat to prepare decisions. We are going to work on that. You will see a new draft conclusions on the Report of the 115th Session Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and we will do that also for the issues for the Programme Committee to see whether or not we can find a practice where we do what we need to do when it comes to decisions, or only reviewing, etc.

Thank you so much, again, for a very fruitful, positive day. Have a very good rest, have a very good dinner, and be energised for the full last day tomorrow. We are getting there because we are ahead of schedule. We are getting to Friday. On Friday we will also have the Drafting Committee, because otherwise you cannot finalise our work. Tomorrow I can make an announcement about the members of the Drafting Committee because I hope that everything has been finalised when it comes to the Management.

Thank you so much for a great day. See you tomorrow at 09:30 hours sharp. Meeting adjourned.

***The meeting rose at 19:34 hours***

***La séance est levée à 19 h 34***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 19.34***

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>16 June 2022</b>

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:37 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 37  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.37  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Portions marked as [XX] were inaudible due to technical reasons. Please submit all corrections  
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**Item 13. Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022) (continued)**

**Point 13. Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022) (suite)**

**Tema 13. Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022) (continuación)**

(CL 170/13)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, could you take your seats? I hope that you have had a relaxing second part of the evening yesterday and could reenergize yourself. I hope you had a good sleep. I think we had an excellent and more fundamental discussion of the role of the Council in relation to the Governing Bodies, the Committees of the Council, and I think it was needed to find a way forward on what we have to decide within the Council. The Secretariat and I did our homework. I did not see any other team members which were invited, but I hope to have their support this morning.

We will now continue our work of today, and we have to, of course, make a lot of progress today, but I think the last three days were very successful. I am counting on you to make the fourth day of the Council also successful so that we can finalize our work hopefully by tomorrow afternoon.

Of course, tomorrow we will have the Drafting Committee and that is foreseen at the beginning of the afternoon or perhaps even at the end of the morning, directly after the closure of the Council meeting. We need a Drafting Committee and I do hope that by the end of the morning, I do have the Members of the Drafting Committee because I still do not have a full Membership of the Drafting Committee. It is very much needed if you want to conclude our work on Friday. So, hopefully, I will receive the notes by the end of this morning.

Then of course today we are going to hopefully finalize our conclusions on the 115th Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Then we continue with the Report of the Drafting Committee, followed by Item 15, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*; Item 17, *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*; Item 18, *Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations*; and Item 7, *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform*. If we still have time, then we will take up other remaining issues. I do hope that we can do this, because it gives us a very positive forward-looking outcome for the Council.

With that, we take up the conclusions of the 115th Session of the Committee on the Constitution and Legal Matters. What we have tried to do, based on a discussion of yesterday, was more or less a decision box. What we do is, we look to the conclusions of the recommendations in the Report of the CCLM. When it comes to elements which I think should be noted or acknowledged by the Council, we do this. Then we also have clear recommendations from the CCLM asking a decision of the Council, and that are, which was already said yesterday by some of the Council Members, that are four.

That is what we have done now in the draft conclusions. We make a distinction between what we should acknowledge or note, and then go into the decisions which are asked by the CCLM of the Council. Then, of course, it is up to the Council to see whether or not they can take the decision.

I will now put on the screen the new draft conclusions on the 115th Session of the CCLM. I will read them out and then we go through them one by one.

- 1) The Council welcomed and reviewed the *Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters*, and in particular:
  - a) acknowledged the Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development which can serve as a practical orientation tool to guide Members; and

- b) noted the procedural steps involved in the proposed change of name of the Regional Conference for Europe.

Then we go to the decision.

- 2) Furthermore, with regard to specific recommendations of the CCLM, the Council:
- a) decided to amend Staff Regulation 301.13.6, changing the name of the Associate Professional Officers (APO) Programme to the Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme, as recommended by the CCLM;
- b) agreed that the Data Policy should be revised to address the following: i) that the language expressing the requirements of affirmative consent be strengthened, with the cases where implicit consent could exceptionally be relied upon clarified, including setting limits to the duration for which implicit consent could form a basis for data processing; ii) that the linkages between the internal bodies addressing data protection and data in general be clarified, for example through the definitions set out in Annex I to the Policy; iii) that the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee could discharge an independent oversight function with regards to the data protection; and iv) that the Data Protection Policy reflects the rights of data owners who are not data providers;

It is a clear request of a decision by the CCLM.

- c) agreed that the FAO Policy on Data Protection should be promulgated with a view to its early implementation, revised in accordance with the recommendations of the CCLM, and that informal consultations should be held with Members, as recommended by the CCLM;

(d) requested the Independent Chairperson of the Council undertake informal consultations with FAO Members on the matter of participation of private sector observers in sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies, in light of the approval at its 165th Session of the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025, in particular to elicit from the Membership its interest in developing a permanent observer status for private sector entities; and with a view to submitting a proposal for approval to the Council through the CCLM; and

- e) agreed that pending the approval of guidelines for participation of private sector observers in sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies, the current *ad hoc* arrangements continue to be applied.

That is how we developed the decision box, and I do hope that this concurs with the discussion which we have had yesterday.

With that, I would like to go through the elements one by one. So, I start with Item 1, the chapeau, *“the Council welcomed and reviewed the Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters, and in particular”*.

Can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

Then, *“(a) acknowledged the Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development which can serve as a practical orientation tool to guide Members”*.

Can we agree to (a)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait, j'avais pris la parole pour le chapeau. Je continue d'estimer que cette méthode, même si je vois certains intérêts, présente l'inconvénient de devoir pour le Conseil, réouvrir absolument tous les rapports des Comités un par un, si nous procédons ainsi. Renégocier toutes les recommandations, et il ne me semble pas que ce soit une méthode suffisamment efficace, ni que nous ayons le temps pour cela.

Notre préférence est de rester à la pratique qui avait été faite jusqu'à présent. D'endosser les rapports, et si certaines recommandations spécifiques du rapport méritent des nuances, des ajouts, des modifications, elles sont incluses. D'une certaine manière, c'est l'inverse de cette méthode. Le principe qui a été fait au moins ces dix dernières années, dans plus de 22 rapports, c'est d'endosser les rapports, et on ajoute des considérations supplémentaires.

On endosse les rapports avec des considérations supplémentaires, mais on ne rouvre pas tous les paragraphes un par un de chaque rapport, parce que cela suppose aussi de voir paragraphe par paragraphe, si nous sommes d'accord avec le fait que ce que vous avez indiqué ici reflète les recommandations de ces Comités. Donc, étant donné le fait que nous sommes jeudi, il me semble que pour des raisons d'efficacité également il semble préférable de se concentrer sur les seuls commentaires que nous souhaitons ajouter au rapport.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We strongly agree with France here. It seems that going down this path would diminish the roles of these Committees, and I might add that it is this Body, the Council, that elects the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and trusts them with their mandates. Those mandates are carried out, we painstakingly consider all these issues, we produce the Report, which is shared with all Members in all United Nations languages, and we have an opportunity for Members who are not on those Committees to comment during the deliberations.

But then when the Committees come to this Body and ask for the Report to be endorsed, it seems like a loss of trust in those Committees that we have elected, if we are going to reopen the Reports and go through all of the paragraphs one by one. I might also point out it is not a very good use of our time or resources.

I hate to think of what these meetings are costing us in terms of translation and air conditioning and meeting services and, to proceed down this path is, I feel, just not very good use of the taxpayer funds that sent us here to do our job and provide the guidance and oversight to this Body. So, we strongly agree, we think we can do better than that, and just “*endorse*” the Reports as the Committees that we elected have asked us to do.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Brazil believes that your suggestion is a very good one. I do not believe that we are saying that we do not trust any kind of Committee that brings to us information, recommendations. We are just being very clear here that we welcome and review the Report and, regarding that, as your proposal suggests on paragraph 2, that the main recommendations – all the recommendations that emerged from the Committees – are explicitly included in our deliberations and in our Report.

So, I think that for the clear message that we are sending here is that we accepted and reviewed the Reports of each one of the Committees, and then we are trying to elaborate on them. It is up to the Council to decide on that, to review and decide what is good or what should be moved forward. Maybe some issues are not available or not ready to go on. So, it is in the mandate of this Council to review and to say what should be decided and what should be implemented, according to the recommendations made by each Committee.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I agree with the proposal of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and I entirely agree with the comments made by Brazil. In fact, for the Council to give its opinions on the Reports of its advisory Committees is not negating those Reports, it is the Council deciding. Otherwise, what is the point of us meeting and discussing here – 49 of us – really just to rubber stamp a Report of 11 Members or nine Members? It is true, we have elected them, but it does not mean that each time we have a Report from them, we just endorse and move on. We have to analyze those Reports and give our own opinion.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Adelanto mi disculpa por las conversaciones previas al inicio de esta reunión que eran siempre en tratar de ayudarlo, Presidente, y no en tratar de complicarle el trabajo. Déjeme decir que acompaño claramente la posición de Brasil y de Pakistán en este tema. Pero, desde un modo constructivo, nosotros creemos que los comités son órganos clave en la discusión, en la elaboración de determinado tipo de asesoramiento al Consejo. Pero el Consejo no es una escribanía que le tiene que poner un sello a todo aquello que arriba al Consejo.



El Consejo es un ámbito más amplio aún que tiene la posibilidad de analizar y en algunos casos, sobre todo los miembros que no han sido parte de las discusiones y de las negociaciones en cada uno de los comités, tienen la alternativa la posibilidad de analizar más en profundidad las cuestiones ahí conversadas, discutidas o sugeridas por nuestros colegas.

Por lo tanto, me gustaría que no se percibiera como una visión contraria o crítica o de deslegitimación de los comités sino, por el contrario, que esta reunión es el enriquecimiento de lo que pasa en cada uno de los comités.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We appreciate the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) bringing us what is there. This is what we were expecting, not to reopen the debate again on what we discussed yesterday. Because, as we are reopening the debate now, then what we tend to avoid in the Council – since we have worked hard for that, for the unity of the Council – we tend to believe that we are more and more divided, which is not what we are aiming to.

We believed that yesterday we had closed the debate on the procedure and that is why we gave the ICC the mandate to go and to write this. Now, we are reopening everything. Is that the best way to move forward? Is that the best use of our time? I am not so sure that this is making the best use of our time, because the ICC has worked hard yesterday night to bring us this, even if some of us are not totally agreeing to everything that the ICC put there, but this is a good job and let us work on what the ICC presented to us.

The ICC gives us the right guidance on how to proceed now, not to reopen the debate we had yesterday.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

First of all, I appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and other related persons. Nonetheless, Japan strongly prefers to endorse the Report, not to reopen the discussions or elements of the conclusion of the subsidiary Committees. The reason, as I said yesterday, is that Japan does not want to decrease the value of the conclusions of the subsidiary Committees.

We exhausted much time, knowledge and discussions at the subsidiary Committees – that is the first reason. The second reason is that even after the endorsement of the recommendations, Management has flexibility how to implement the recommendations using its knowledge and experience. I think from such a point of view, we strongly prefer to “endorse” the Report. It will be good guidance for the Secretariat and it will make FAO a more robust organization.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We concur with the previous speaker, our colleagues from Brazil, Pakistan, Cameroon and Argentina. We appreciate the fantastic work of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC). We see the excellent homework that the ICC presented us – we appreciate this sincerely. We notice that a lot of concerns from our colleagues are, for example, because the Subcommittees are authorised to provide suggestions. We have to consult, we took note and we sincerely appreciate all the excellent work done by the Subcommittees, but it is also the job of the Council to make decisions – as our colleague yesterday mentioned – and to make the actual concrete decisions on what kind of suggestions should be put forward.

Also, we showed our respect by welcoming all this and reviewed carefully all these Reports. The only difference actually is that we changed this kind of thing from “endorse the whole Report” into “make individual decisions by taking the affirmative consent from the Council”. Because, here we are, the Governing Body, we decide what kind of decisions should be made – it can only be made by the Council instead of the Subcommittee.

So, we also share the concern with some of our colleagues saying that we do not want to waste time, because maybe some topic is controversial. So, we see that exact value of this debate happening here. If this topic is controversial, then let us debate. Let the debate happen at the Council, because it is decided by the 49 Members with four representatives for each region. So, also we notice that some

colleagues said that even though the Subcommittees made their decision and Management enjoy the flexibility, here we want to say that this not mutually exclusive.

Here we make this decision at the Council exactly to say, to instruct Management actually even though the suggestion stays the same. We still remain the same, leaving enough room for the flexibility of Management. Here at the Council, we make the decision to give clear structure to Management on what to do and what not to. To add value for us to do this, it is not just about only legitimate issues – and authority here to make these decisions – but also we can see that if we can have full concern about what kind of decision exactly we are making.

So, here we would like to say we fully respect and appreciate the work of the ICC and we think that these things should be done in this way.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Let me start by thanking all Members for yesterday's very insightful discussions. I do believe that it is leading us to very important decisions that might touch on this Council's impact, efficiency and transparency. The Council is equipped with Committees to have greater capacity to analyze issues, find solutions, and take informed decisions. Canada recognizes and greatly values the work of these Subcommittees, and these dedicated groups invest significant time for informed debate and analysis of key issues, typically at the request of Council or Conference. The recommendations made by these committees to Council must be given weight.

In the absence of endorsement or approval, as clarified by Legal Counsel yesterday, they do not provide direction to the Organization. In this regard, Canada feels strongly about endorsing the recommendations of the Committees. With the time provided to review the documents, we believe delegations can assess the merits of the recommendations and come to the Council floor prepared to accept, reject or propose to modify these recommendations.

We assume that where countries are Members of Subcommittees, they will always choose to endorse in full the Reports, as they agreed to their release. Where possible also for other Reports, we believe we should strive to endorse Reports in full, in the interest of the efficiency of the Council. If Members disagree with certain recommendations, we assume they will raise those concerns on the Council floor for reasoned debate with other Members to come up with an acceptable decision of the Council, be it to accept, modify, reject or send back to Subcommittees for further work.

We further assume that silence on recommendations means no objection and therefore also no reason to oppose endorsement of a given recommendation. The time to raise any concerns is during our Council deliberations and we should not allow ourselves the luxury of saying we did not discuss it so we cannot endorse it. Broadly speaking, we believe this discussion merits further inter-Sessional work, perhaps through informal consultations on these working methods.

Canada strongly feels this Council should provide clear direction to the Organization by deciding on the recommendations of the Subcommittees, either by endorsement *en bloc*, or by enumerating any distinct recommendations and our position on each of them. This can lead to efficient national statements where we focus on any recommendations which we believe merit further debate, and ultimately to greater clarity to both Members and Management on what has been decided and adding transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

On this Item specifically, as we said yesterday, we agree with the recommendations in the Report and we endorse the Report in full.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

First of all, we are thankful for the very insightful debate that we are having today and yesterday. We also thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the approach and proposal regarding this matter. Allow us to convey several points. First, like we have said yesterday, for us, “welcome” has the definition of making the recommendations and all decisions actionable by the parties concerned. We would like to stress that.

That is why we feel that the word “welcome” is quite strong to be put here. However, we also believe that, in principle, the Council has the mandate to do whatever it likes regarding the recommendations

from the Technical Committees. We also believe that the Council has the power that it can address the recommendations from the Technical Committees, as well as any issues deemed necessary by the Council, even if it is not mentioned in the Reports of the Committees. So, those are the principles that I think we believe in.

In relation to that, we support the ICC's approach on this one, in particular paragraphs 1 and 2. In paragraph 1, in fact, we would like to switch the word "review" and "welcome", so "review" comes first, because we are reviewing the document. Then we "welcome" the document so it becomes actionable. That is what we believe for that matter. Noting that, the Council can also choose if they deem necessary to use other words, other verbs – "endorse", "support", "embrace" or whatever verbs that are deemed necessary by the Council – as long as we can agree.

But, for us, "welcome" has been enough to capture the idea of making the Reports of the Committees actionable.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I think we all agree that the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) did a great job, so I really thank the ICC so much for his leadership in this. I would like to advocate for "endorsed" on top of "welcome" and "reviewed", because these are three different processes.

We "welcome" that the Report has been prepared and submitted; we "review" them as a Council; and we "endorse" them as a supreme act of the Council in order to make them, as my distinguished colleague from Indonesia has just said, actionable, in line with a different way to Management. I say that because Italy is not part currently of Finance Committee, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), nor Programme Committee.

So, we are in the position to feel very much comfortable and grateful for the work that colleagues have done in the different Committees, and – having reviewed them and consulted along the process – happy to endorse them. Except, of course, some of the colleagues in the room may feel that some of the conclusions made in the Report must be argued or must be discussed further.

But there is a general principle, reading the first line. I still feel is something is missing as per the conclusion of the act, plus the Committees have been tasked by the Council and endorsed by the Membership to go through deeper into the singular subject, way more than we can do here.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España, en este punto, al igual que han hecho otros países, como Japón, Estados Unidos, Francia, entre otros, consideramos también que la manera más adecuada por una cuestión básica de respeto al trabajo de los comités, es emplear el término "apoyar" los informes de los consejos. Y, además, esto es una cuestión, pero además hay que tener en cuenta que somos nosotros quienes debemos cumplir con nuestras obligaciones y creemos que es la mejor manera para guiar el trabajo de FAO.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The work of these subsidiary Bodies deserves our due attention. These bodies, whether that be the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Programme Committee, or the Finance Committee, offer us their expertise, and this expertise helps us to do the work of the Organization as a whole and to do it properly. We cannot not take into account the opinion of these experts.

The decisions taken are often preceded by lengthy negotiations and often there was consensus that is garnered. Having said that, the Members of these Committees, which are Members of the Council, often continue the discussions which already took place at the Committee here at the Council, regardless of the final decisions already taken. They continue to put forward arguments, which were already voiced at subsidiary Body Sessions.

They put forward counterarguments as well, calling into question the conclusions that were reached as a result of painstaking work in the Committees. Unfortunately, at the 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council – I'm not going to name any names – but, there was a situation whereby a decision taken by the Committee, despite the support for the final Report, that decision was reviewed, based on some initiative of countries which depart in that decision which was taken at that subsidiary Body.

We believe that the use of the word “*endorse*” in this context does not necessarily express full agreement of Council Members with the recommendations of the Committees. As I said earlier, we need to respect these recommendations, but even the Members of these subsidiary Bodies, they do not always stick to the conclusions reached in these Committees. As a result, we should like to thank the ICC for the proposed draft decision.

We believe it strikes a good balance, taking into account the positions of all parties. This draft goes through the recommendations, the Council issuing those recommendations and decisions, based on Committee inclusions, thereby confirming the expertise thereof of these Committees. The Council also thereby issues an assessment of these decisions and takes these decisions further, drawing on its own expertise.

Therefore, we believe the document on the screen reflects the positions of both parties, we are in favour of maintaining both terms in the chapeau, “*welcomed and reviewed*”, and then we would go through the specific recommendations issued by the Committee. We believe that is a very balanced approach to this draft decision.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia supports the statement just made by Canada and, as we did yesterday, we reaffirm our strong preference for “*endorse*”. We would consider any departure from this decades-long practice would warrant comprehensive consideration and discussion. So, we would see value in additional inter-Sessional work, as was suggested, since it is clear that we are unlikely to reach a decision today. For the purpose of this Council, we should stick with prior practice unless specific concerns on Reports are raised during the Plenary discussions, which we do not believe happened in relation to this Item yesterday.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Nous saluons la perspicacité de votre proposition. Je me suis plongé un peu dans les Textes fondamentaux de la FAO. Le mot qui est utilisé ici est “*examine*” : “*Examine les recommandations et peut approuver les recommandations.*” Les recommandations, ce n'est pas tout le rapport. Le rapport prépare à la décision, parce qu'il y a des décisions qui relèvent du Conseil, et des décisions qui relèvent de la Conférence. Donc, si les Textes fondamentaux nous disent que nous devons examiner les recommandations des Comités, ou les approuver, cela ne veut pas dire que nous allons approuver le rapport en bloc. Voilà, c'est là le problème.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)**

Actually I was deciding not to take the floor, but I think I like the work that has been put forward by the earlier delegations, Brazil, Pakistan, Cameroon as well as Argentina. Having listened carefully to the colleagues, especially Canada, I believe that we can say that South Africa would believe what we have, but we have to be flexible if we want to make progress.

I am not sure if it takes anything away if we allow then on the chapeau to still include the “*endorsement*” so that we can continue, because where we are differing, it is in some of the areas where we should really make clear indications on whether we are “*approving*” or “*endorsing*” the decisions or recommendations. So, the Report could say “*welcomed and reviewed*”, or “*welcomed, reviewed and endorsed*”, because, as other colleagues, in the spirit of wanting to make progress, these are the words that are reflected in previous Reports of the Council.

So, it is not necessarily one or the other, but enabling us as the Council to apply our minds to the discussions that were undertaken in the past, even in this Item. Yesterday, we were not quite clear because there were areas where there were delegations raising the fact that we do not want to rubber stamp Reports, we do not want to endorse the whole Report. But, I think we need to now make progress, which is my considered suggestion that we accept the chapeau but with an addition of “*endorsement*” if our delegations would agree.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Antes que nada quiero agradecerle a usted por su propuesta. Nosotros compartimos la opinión de los colegas de Brasil, China, Pakistán. Nicaragua es parte del Comité de Asuntos Legales. Somos seis

miembros. Quiere decir, una parte solo que representa los grupos regionales. Lo mismo sucede con el Comité de Programa, el Comité de Finanzas, donde nosotros no participamos sino como observadores.

Tengo en mente el organigrama de la FAO donde está la Conferencia, tenemos el Consejo y tenemos los órganos rectores: el Comité de Programa, el Comité de Finanzas, el Comité de Asuntos Legales. Y después los órganos técnicos. Creo que eso lo sabemos todos.

El Consejo es el órgano antes de la Conferencia y es acá donde tenemos que tomar decisiones sobre los informes que se nos presentan. Si decidimos aquí que pueda ser bienvenido o revisado o aprobado, la decisión la vamos a tomar acá los 49 Miembros.

Nosotros repetimos que agradecemos sus propuestas. Estamos de acuerdo con sus propuestas. Y creo que podría ser, también, un punto donde podemos empezar a discutir porque tenemos que revisar todas las propuestas que nos llegan de los otros comités.

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

Actually, we did not intend to take the floor in this debate. However, we are compelled to echo the assertion made by some of the distinguished speakers – Pakistan, China, to name a few – that this Council is not a rubber stamp.

Second, this does not mean in any way to disregard and disrespect the work of the Council Committees, because we think that this – and we strongly believe – that this Council has responsibility and tasks to undertake.

Lastly, is that the Council has the responsibility to do what it deems right and what is not. Finally, we can go along with formulation of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and support it.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

We really appreciate the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the hard work over the last three days; not only for the last three days, but even before that. Actually, we have to make progress and we have to be very efficient, otherwise we not being effective with our time. One of the most important things is that we have to use our time very effectively. Even yesterday, even today in the morning, we are talking about the same words. They are almost all the same, whether you have said “welcomed”, “endorsed”, “embraced”, and so on and so forth, they are almost all the same.

Of course, you cannot be on a very single area for all of us, that is definitely quite sure, which is happening in the whole world. Therefore, as it has been also mentioned previously by certain colleagues, by South Africa, we can put the words at the same time, we can say “welcomed and endorsed”, or “welcomed and embraced” and so on and so forth. Otherwise, we are not using our time very efficiently. Even at this point of time, I was not interested to take the floor, but I did because everything is repeated again and again.

Therefore, I think it can be, as Bangladesh previously – I do not know, even by China and others, or maybe by South Africa – which is very correct, so we can join two words and we can conclude.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I thought we had a very good discussion yesterday, actually, that was on an Item on how we, as Council, are working and in our view, we would be open for, and I think we could improve our ways of working as a Council. And, I have to say that I concur very much with what Canada said and also Australia, and I think if there is any task we will give the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), that would be to help us to improve how we work in the most efficient way. So, any kind of further discussions after this meeting, we would be very willing to take part of that.

For us, as Sweden, it is important that we “endorse” the recommendations of the Committees, those we agree with, and I think that is what I hear from all delegates, and that is what we – Japan put that very clearly yesterday – that is our task and our responsibility as a Council to give tasks further on to Management. So, for that reason, “endorsed” would be an important word to have in this. I understand what the ICC has done here would be to put, in number 2, trying to put more clearly what we would, as Council, “endorse”. That would be part of our work as a Council.

So, building on what South Africa said, the sentence "*furthermore we would endorse the recommendation of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)*" that would take us further than we would have put that. That, clearly, that might be a way to take us further. But, I think we can definitely go on discussing how we improve the way we work together and be very clear and transparent on what we are deciding on.

I think part of the problem might be that if we have long stop recommendations here, does it mean that we first have a discussion where we hear what everyone is saying? We do not hear that there are any deviations from what is in the Reports, then we come back to a discussion where we open up all and every point for a new negotiation? That might take us strangely in another direction. So, that would be our comments.

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

Je pense que nous sommes partis de tous les débats qu'on a eus hier sur notre méthodologie de travail, sur quelles sont les meilleures bases de moyens pour parvenir à des rapports qui soient de bonne dite et qui soient efficaces dans le travail du Secrétariat. Nous apprécions le travail qui a été fait par le Secrétariat et par vous-même Monsieur le Président. Nous pensons à notre niveau, que les différentes délégations ont le même objectif, c'est-à-dire prendre des décisions utiles et efficaces sur la base des recommandations faites par les Comités Techniques, qui sont les Comités Consultatifs, mais une différente approche.

La question qui se pose, est-ce qu'il faut adopter le rapport en bloc, avec le risque que certains points n'aient pas fait l'objet de consensus? Ou bien, faut-il adopter le rapport en partant des points spécifiques qui pourraient faire l'objet de préoccupations majeures pour certaines délégations et dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation. Par souci de compromis, nous pensons que nous devrions tenir compte de l'approche, qui tient compte des préoccupations des autres. Si nous adoptons le rapport en bloc, de notre point de vue, cela pose même un problème d'ordre éthique.

C'est vrai qu'on a reçu des recommandations utiles, efficaces, des Comités Techniques, mais il est de notre responsabilité en même temps de regarder ces points et de donner notre avis là-dessus. Je pense que le débat ne se pose pas. Maintenant, entre les deux approches, si nous commençons par le mot, l'expression sacro-sainte de "*endorsed*", donc approuver dès le départ, ou si nous commençons par "*accueillir*" et "*examiner*", avant de donner nos avis, quelle est l'approche qui tient compte vraiment des préoccupations majeures.

Sur cela, je pense que le travail qui a été fait par le Secrétariat depuis hier, avec la coordination du Président indépendant du Conseil, nous permet d'avoir une structure de texte qui tient compte, non seulement, de l'adoption, puisqu'il y a des points inscrits dans le rapport, qui vont faire l'objet de décisions explicites. Mais en même temps, de tenir compte de la préoccupation des autres, que chaque point du rapport fasse l'objet de la terminologie qui serait de la décision adaptée.

Sur cela, je voudrais me joindre à votre approche, qui est l'approche de cette proposition qui est là, et de certaines délégations et appeler aussi les autres délégations à comprendre, en tout cas, choisir entre les deux approches de l'adoption en bloc, et l'adoption en tenant compte des différents points spécifiques.

Qu'est-ce qui est plus dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation, dans l'efficacité du travail, qui nous fait gagner du temps, et peut-être qui améliorerait aussi notre méthode de travail dans les prochains rapports.

**Ms Lieslot GERMONPREZ (Belgium)**

Like many other speakers before, also Belgium feels very strongly about endorsement of the recommendations of the Council Committees. The Council should strive to endorse the Reports of all the Council Committees, as we trust and appreciate the precious work done by our elected Members in these cCmmitees.

Of course, if any Council Member has a specific concern, we can raise this specific issue during the Council and explain the reservation. I think a good proposal was made by Canada to organize consultations on the Council working matters to avoid these time and money-consuming debates during the Council in the future. For the purpose of efficiency of this Council, we ask to stick to prior

practice and, on this Item specifically, Belgium “*endorses*” the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in full.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)**

Yo sí quisiera, Señor Presidente, hacer una invitación a todos a reflexionar en la idea central que Canadá presentó y que ha sido apoyada por Australia y Sudáfrica. Me parece que Canadá, más que hablar de unas palabras, habla del proceso y qué tenemos que seguir. Veo que tenemos dos problemas, un problema es la coyuntura de este momento y otro es movernos hacia el futuro donde seguramente usted nos convocará para conversar sobre la relación que establecemos entre los comités y el Consejo.

Este consejo, sin duda no tiene que venir a estampar cosas. Es un órgano de gobierno y tiene que aprobar. Sin embargo, si consideramos que como Consejo podemos revisar, entonces, la palabra “*welcome*” es buena porque lo recibimos y agradecemos. La segunda, revisamos. Espero que todos lo revisemos. Y parece que la tercera tiene un problema con “*endorse*”.

En toda la conversación durante la conversación del día de ayer no encontré ninguna oposición de ningún país a las ocho recomendaciones que vienen aquí. En algunos casos, los que intervenimos lo hicimos para poner nuestro interés de país o nuestra región, pero no para oponernos al Reporte. Entonces, me parece que no hubo oposición al Reporte, por lo tanto, quien sugiere que se puede usar la palabra “*endorse*” está correcto porque no hubo oposición. Lo que sí hubo fueron sugerencias y de aquí que su segundo párrafo sea importante. Las sugerencias y las instrucciones pueden ser a dos niveles, uno, pedirle al Consejo que retome algunas cosas y, la otra, llevar o sugerir llevar esto a la Asamblea General de la Organización.

Si hubiera algún problema, si alguien hubiera expresado que tiene problemas, por ejemplo, con la propuesta ocho de corregir las regulaciones del personal 301.13.06, entonces, hubiéramos dicho no apoyamos el Reporte porque este Consejo no está de acuerdo en estas circunstancias.

Entonces, me parece que podemos salir adelante porque yo no encontré, a menos que algún país lo haya dicho, “*No lo puedo apoyar por esta razón*”. Entonces, no lo apoyamos. Este Consejo no está para apoyar, está para discutir y para dar instrucciones. Entonces, me parece que aquí tenemos dos coyunturas, una, en ningún momento a lo mejor por el cansancio y por la distancia no he escuchado a un país que se oponga contra las recomendaciones de ninguno de los comités. Lo que sí hemos encontrado es recomendaciones adicionales que le damos instrucciones a los comités. Entonces, yo creo que lo podemos dividir un poco utilizando los dos *chapeau* que tiene usted. En el primero “apoyamos, recibimos, agradecemos, revisamos y apoyamos en lo general las propuestas”. Adicionalmente, le pedimos a los comités que realicen a, b, c, d o x extra-funciones. Creo que es una parte de nuestras posiciones.

Y, segundo, yo apoyo la propuesta de Canadá de que en este comité revisamos, discutimos, estamos de acuerdo y damos mandatos para que se vaya mejorando las cosas. Tal vez valga la pena conversar un poco más adelante de cómo vamos a llevar esta articulación. Si alguien tiene una oposición que diga, “*No me gusta el subpárrafo (c), cambiémoslo*”. Pero nadie lo dijo. Nadie lo dijo. Dimos una serie de sugerencias que se pueden poner adicionales como mandato del comité. Entonces, me apena. No tengo una solución. Creo que es más fácil encontrar las fórmulas de fertilización para los diferentes suelos que encontrar una solución a esta conversación.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

First, I would like to echo really what my Italian and Mexican colleagues and other delegates were saying. I think the Governing Committees work very hard for weeks really to come with very good Reports and I think the word “*endorsed*” just is right. Here we are discussing words where we have so many issues to discuss.

We have to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we have Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have climate crisis, we have a lot of things to do – zero hunger – and here we are discussing words. For us, Israel, I think “*endorsed*” is really the right word, but as a matter of compromise, maybe we can do “*the Council welcome and support the Report,*” because in our view “*reviewed*” is a very weak and vague kind of word. So, we can do either “*welcomed and endorsed*”, or “*welcomed and support*”, or any kind of compromise in that time.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

May I ask if we use the word endorsed, what will happen to the topics that will be discussed this afternoon and tomorrow, like the topics of governance of FAO statistical and other data activities, and the restoration by the Conference of the voting rights? So, will you remove those Agenda Items and not be discussed anymore? Or are we preempting the discussion on this Agenda Item if we say endorsed at this moment?

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Items that are still on the Agenda will be dealt with separately, so we will have separate conclusions. So, with that, of course, what we decide here on the 115<sup>th</sup> Report does not include the decision, for example, that we made on the resolution for reinstalling the voting rights. That will be a separate Item with separate conclusions. I see now a long list again for people who want the floor. We do not have time for another round because I think we are going around in circles. We have to find a compromise or further consultations.

My suggestion would be to consult on the following, but not again in this Council, because we have to go to the Report of the Programme Committee otherwise we do not finalize our work in the Council. Therefore, my suggestion is to consult on the following. We have several good suggestions. One could be that we either say "*refute, welcomed, and supported the Report.*" The other element could be that we say in part two, "*furthermore endorsed the recommendations in the Report,*" and then the decisions which are there.

I would like to ask everybody to consult on that and any other, but I would like now to stop this discussion, we will come back to it because otherwise we have already had five hours on this and we need to do more work on other issues as well. With that, I would like to postpone further discussion on this Item.

**Item 11. Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022)****Point 11. Rapport de la cent trente-troisième session du Comité du Programme (16-20 mai 2022)****Tema 11. Informe del 133.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (16-20 de mayo de 2022)**

(CL 170/11; CL 170/INF/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We take up now Item 11, *Report of the 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022)*, which you can find in document CL170/11 and CL160/INF/6. The introduction by the Chairperson has been circulated to you.

**Introduction to Item 11: Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022)**

*H.E. Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee*

Mr Chairperson, Members of the Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee. The 133rd Session of the Programme Committee was held from 16 to 20 May and its Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 170/11, Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 16- 20 May 2022).

The Programme Committee had 16 items on its agenda, including four items for information. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council. The Committee welcomed the thematic Strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation, with the integration of guidance from relevant Governing Body sessions and recommended the Council to consider and endorse them.



The Committee welcomed the Evaluation of FAO's contribution to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Sustainable Development Goal 6) and Management's Response, and underlined the fundamental importance of sustainable management of water resources to FAO's core mandate.

The Committee welcomed the clarifications made to the proposal for improved internal coordination of FAO statistical activities and other data for statistics, particularly with regard to its alignment with FAO's corporate policies on data protection and intellectual property rights.

In relation to the Concept note regarding the types of FAO products and the means for their development, the Committee supported the conclusions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 115th Session on this matter and invited the Council to note this document as an orientation tool to guide Members.

The Committee also took note of the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action by the Quadripartite under FAO's leadership.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor to the Members of the Council for remarks, comments or suggestions.

#### **Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

I kindly request if you could give the floor to the delegation of Zambia.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It is my pleasure to give the floor to the delegation of Zambia for the statement on behalf of the African Regional Group.

#### **Mr Mubukwanu SILUMELUME (Zambia) (Observer)**

Zambia and South Africa makes this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Chairperson, Ms Yael Rubinstein, for her leadership, and the Secretariat and the team for all their hard work. The Africa Group commends the work of the Programme Committee, noting the breadth of important issues presented for its consideration.

We wish to record the importance of effective and meaningful involvement by Members in the development of FAO strategies and policies, such as the Climate Change Strategy, and the Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as the FAO Data Policy. We stress the need to maintain a constructive and respectful dialogue both among Members, and between Members and FAO Management, in order to achieve sustainable food systems, Zero Hunger, Global Food Security and better nutrition.

The Africa Group welcomes the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-31 with the integration of guidance from relevant Governing Body sessions, as well as the recommendations from FAO Regional Conferences, and appreciated the open, inclusive and transparent consultative process in its development. The Africa Group also welcomes the inclusive, transparent and consultative process for developing FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy.

The Africa Group fully agrees with the 133rd Programme Committee's recommendations of underscoring the importance of governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights.

We further echo the importance of increased coordination of One Health activity through the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by which UNEP joined the former Tripartite to form the new Quadripartite for One Health, and stressed the importance of collaboration between FAO and other quadripartite partners.

The Africa Group endorses the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as the recommendations on the matters within its mandate.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Serbie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, l'Ukraine, la Géorgie et Saint-Marin se rallient à la présente déclaration. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction le rapport du Comité du Programme et saluons l'important travail accompli par les membres du Comité, ainsi que les efforts de sa Présidente, Madame Yael Rubinstein pour le diriger. Les connaissances sont au cœur des travaux de la FAO, pour fournir des informations et harmoniser les normes dans le domaine de la nutrition, de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture et de la pêche grâce à ces publications et ses bases de données.

Conformément aux propositions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, et du Comité du Programme, nous ne sommes pas favorables à une procédure formalisée pour l'élaboration des documents et des publications. Les procédures doivent être guidées avant tout par les textes fondamentaux, en fonction du contenu du produit. Lorsque les moyens d'élaboration des produits de la FAO ne sont pas clairs, nous encourageons l'Organisation à garantir des consultations participatives et transparentes avec ses Membres.

Les Membres contribuent à la définition des axes stratégiques de la FAO et donnent des conseils pour la mise en œuvre de ces programmes et leurs exécutions financières. Mais ils ne peuvent, ni ne doivent se substituer à l'expertise de la FAO. En ce qui concerne l'évaluation de la contribution de la FAO à l'Objectif de développement durable 6, garantir l'accès de tous à l'eau et à l'assainissement et assurer une gestion durable des ressources en eau, nous demandons que les ressources en terre et eau soient valorisées dans les actions de la FAO, et prises en compte dans le Cadre stratégique de l'Organisation, et dans les diverses stratégies et politiques pertinentes, pour permettre un véritable changement en profondeur et un engagement à long terme.

Nous demandons également que les questions liées à l'eau et à l'assainissement, y compris la qualité de l'eau et de la pollution émanant de l'agriculture, soient traitées avec suffisamment d'attention, notamment, en les inscrivant de manière régulière à l'ordre du jour des Comités existants. Nous accueillons avec grande satisfaction la mise en place de la quadripartite "*une seule santé*", qui comprend la FAO, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE), l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), et le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE).

Nous soulignons l'importance d'une collaboration étroite et constructive entre la FAO et les autres partenaires de la quadripartite. Nous attendons avec intérêt le processus de consultation à venir, avec les Membres de la FAO, pour apporter des contributions pour finaliser le plan d'action conjoint "*Une seule santé*". Nous saluons également l'inscription d'un point sur les cadres de programmation par pays de la FAO à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session du Comité du Programme, et de la prochaine session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Nous attendons avec intérêt les informations qui seront fournies par la FAO, ainsi que les discussions qui auront lieu sur cette question.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne les autres sujets abordés, nous espérons recevoir au cours d'une prochaine session des informations sur les avancées et les réalisations des activités de la plateforme internationale pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture numérique. Nous souhaitons enfin la bienvenue à la nouvelle Directrice du Bureau de l'Évaluation de la FAO, Madame Clemencia Cosentino et nous soulignons le rôle important de cette mission d'évaluation indépendante pour guider les actions de la FAO.

Par la présente déclaration, nous recommandons au Conseil d'approuver et d'endosser le rapport de la 133<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité du Programme.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Permítame decir que había pedido la palabra para el punto anterior que quedó pendiente con una propuesta de solución que espero que cuando volvamos sobre ese punto me dé la posibilidad de intentar de buscar más adelante la solución.

La Argentina desea agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Programa y a su secretaria por el excelente desarrollo de la sesión que terminó antes de lo esperado. Toda una novedad para el Comité de

Programa con pleno consenso. La Argentina ratifica su apoyo a las conclusiones allí alcanzadas como resultado del diálogo entre los Miembros y le gustaría brevemente referirse a un par de cuestiones.

Primero, en referencia a la nota de exposición de conceptos en relación con los tipos de productos de la FAO y los medios para elaborarlos. Fue un tema en el que hemos realizado una muestra de la flexibilidad que nos caracteriza dado que encontrábamos valor agregado en establecer algunos procedimientos guías para que los Miembros y la Secretaría pudiesen construir un proceso claro y transparente para la elaboración de estrategias y planes de acción sin querer volver al debate que mantuvimos en el Comité de Programa.

Queremos solamente reivindicar la necesidad de que los comités asesores del Consejo, finanzas, asuntos constitucionales y de programa se ciñan a sus respectivos mandatos a la hora de elaborar sus conclusiones. Cuestión que sobre este particular no creemos se haya respetado en su totalidad, sobre todo vinculado al trabajo del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM). He escuchado hablar de transparencia en muchas oportunidades en estos debates, pero cuando hemos pedido establecer procedimientos claros y previsibles no tuve suficiente eco a pesar de que es un factor clave de transparencia. Creo que es fundamental ser coherentes.

Segundo, agradecemos a la FAO por su reacción respecto a lo solicitado por el comité en el párrafo 14(d), es decir, la puesta en marcha del proceso consultivo con los Miembros de la FAO con vistas a la elaboración del Plan Conjunto sobre Una Salud por parte de la asociación cuatripartita. La Argentina quisiera una vez más puntualizar tres principios básicos para la elaboración del plan de acción: uno, que se utilice lenguaje y principios acordados multilateralmente; dos, que se respeten los acuerdos multilaterales vigentes en materia sanitaria, fitosanitaria, como el acuerdo Acuerdo sobre la Aplicación de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias (MSF) de la Organización Mundial de Comercio, el que estipula que los Miembros basarán sus medidas sanitarias o fitosanitarias en normas, directrices o recomendaciones internacionales; y, tres, que el involucramiento de múltiples actores en su trabajo no afecte el trabajo de elaboración que necesariamente debe ser conducido por los Estados.

Tercero, en cuanto a la estrategia del sector privado, reconocemos los progresos y logros alcanzados. La Argentina entiende fundamental la presente estrategia ya que es crucial para potenciar e implementar el marco estratégico de la FAO a partir de su complementariedad con las estrategias y políticas de la FAO ya existentes, pero también con las próximas estrategias de la FAO sobre cambio climático y ciencia e innovación.

Queda trabajo por hacer. Confiamos en la Sra. Beth Bechdol respecto de este tema para que la estrategia sobre el sector privado mejore el equilibrio respecto de la cobertura geográfica, los tipos de entidades del sector privado y las esferas temáticas de colaboración. Asimismo, se deberá trabajar en que las colaboraciones con el sector privado tengan en cuenta objetivos relacionados con el comercio.

Con estos comentarios la Argentina endosa las conclusiones del 133.º período de sesiones del Comité de Programa, pero recordando que, si no hubiera habido consultas informales posteriores al Comité de Programa que forzaron modificaciones a lo consensuado en el propio *Report*, no hubieran sido aprobados aquí en el Consejo las estrategias de cambio climático y de ciencia e innovación. Por eso, Presidente, es fundamental ser flexibles en la manera de resolver el punto anterior que quedó pendiente.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with our previous intervention, as a Member of the Programme Committee, we endorse the Report and all of its recommendations in full. and we thank the Programme Committee Chair for her leadership, guiding the work of the Committee, and the Secretariat for their support.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

China delivers this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. First of all, Asia Regional Group commends the leadership of the Programme Committee Chairperson, Ms Yael Rubinstein, and the efficient work of PC Members and the PC Secretariat. We would like to highlight the following points.

We welcome the Preparation of the MediumTerm Plan 2022 to 2025, which is expected to endorse and reflect those four priorities of the Asia and the Pacific Region underscored in the Regional

Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) 36, for accelerated transformation of agrifood systems and for the achievements of the four pillars to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), proving strong support to the Asia and Pacific Members.

The APRC calls for FAO's support to scale up actions in Asia and in the Pacific region, to promote climate resilient agrifood systems and digitalization in agricultural value chains, with a particular focus on smallholders and family farming operations. Therefore, Asia Group supports the formulation of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and the first ever FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, and reiterated the importance of an open, inclusive and transparent consultative process.

We also recommend that FAO adopt a regional approach when implementing those two Strategies to meet the specific needs of Members and agrifood system stakeholders in our region. We welcome the internal coordination work of FAO on statistical and other data activities, clarification and note with appreciation the leading role of FAO on data protection in a comprehensive and transparent approach.

Asia Group notes with appreciation the progress of the mainstreaming of One Health approach in FAO's work, and the coordination of One Health activities on the cross-party partnership. We welcome the initiative of developing a One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) and encourage FAO to strengthen the capacity building for the third technicians. We recall the recommendations on the APRC 36 Report, leading a high-level regional consultation on One Health and developing a policy brief or opposition paper for Asia and the Pacific region.

We welcome FAO's significant contribution to COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, which provide vital support for the rural economic revitalization in many areas. We also welcome FAO's contribution on the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Concerning further encouraged collaboration among United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs). We echo the committee's statement on the needs for each of the three to perform within this mandate and avoid overlap, competition and duplication of their work.

Asia Group encourages further RBAs collaboration on the field. We join the Programme Committee in welcoming the concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development. While it is not exhaustive, it is a practical operation, orientation to all, that it can help guide Members in the development of FAO products.

Asia Group believes that the development of the concept note will provide a clearer reference for the Governing Bodies and relevant committees, along with the subsidiary mechanism in FAO in developing their policy products. We also welcome the Programme Committee's recommendation to encourage inclusive and transparent consultation with Members. We have means of development for FAO products are clear in particular to ensure appropriate Members involvement on Strategies and action plans. We welcome updates on progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021 to 2025 and on the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture.

With these comments, Asia Group welcomes the Report for the 133<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee.

Now, I would like your permission to give the floor to China for the national statement.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now give the floor to China for its national statement.

#### **Mr Bo LI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We would like to align ourselves with the statement for the Asia Regional Group. China welcomes the recommendations formulated. We support the inclusive discussions that were held at the Programme Committee that definitely has led to a constructive approach, taking into account the interest and the voice of our Members on the basis of a consensus.

#### **Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional statement delivered by the distinguished delegates of China. We have two points to make from a national viewpoint. First, we take note of the progress on the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture.

As we have already mentioned in the discussion of the Agenda Item 5, Japan is keen to make contribution to this platform, because we believe it has a major role to play in enhancing digitalization in agriculture in the world. In fact, Japan has already made its nomination for the Intergovernmental Representative Group Member for the platform. On the other hand, as stated by the Director-General on Monday, only 20 out of 27 Members have been received by FAO. Therefore, several Members are still missing, which is the bottleneck that hinders the platform establishment.

Taking this opportunity, Japan gently requests FAO to speed up the process by encouraging the Members to make nominations with specific deadlines, and to make flexible response, such as to initiate the platform with the current 20 Members, only if each region has provided some nominees and their regional diversity is ensured.

Furthermore, we also take note of the progress on the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement. In order to actively make a contribution to the implementation of the Strategy, Japan made a nomination for the candidate for the informal private sector advisory group. We are looking forward to continued updates on the progress and the outcome on the implementation of the Strategy and we are keen to provide continued support for FAO's work on this matter.

With these observations, Japan ends its intervention by expressing that the Council should endorse the findings and recommendations of the Programme Committee.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

We would like to thank the Chair and Committee Members for their contributions during the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, and for the development of its Report. Australia welcomes this Report, and we endorse all of its recommendations in full.

**Mr Paul WELCHER (United States of America)**

The United States of America congratulates Members of the Programme Committee for completing the difficult task of comprehensively reviewing FAO programming. The United States strongly welcomed the recent approval of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. We also welcome the selection of Clemencia Cosentino to the position of FAO Director of Evaluations. She brings tremendous experience to the position, and we look forward to working closely with her and her team. We join others in endorsing the Programme Committee's Report.

**Mme Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional pour le Proche-Orient)(Langue originale arabe)**

Les stratégies en matière de science et d'innovation et relatives au changement climatique sont très importantes. La coordination entre les Membres de la FAO et les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome est également très importante. Cela nous permet de redoubler d'efforts. Nous saluons le travail d'arrache-pied effectué par le Comité.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia de turno francesa de la Unión Europea en nombre de la Unión y los 27 Estados miembros y, a su vez, queremos hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos.

En primer lugar, queríamos agradecer la presentación del Informe del Comité de Programa y valorar muy positivamente el trabajo realizado por sus Miembros y por la Presidenta, la Embajadora Yael Rubinstein por el liderazgo de este comité.

Uno de los ejes de las tareas de FAO es proporcionar información y armonizar las normas en los campos de la agricultura y la alimentación a través de sus publicaciones y de sus bases de datos. En este sentido, no estaríamos de acuerdo en establecer un procedimiento formalizado para la elaboración

de los documentos y publicaciones, puesto que puede constituir una traba para la producción de información.

También hacemos un llamamiento a FAO para que el agua y el saneamiento se aborden de manera transversal incluyéndolos regularmente en la Agenda de los comités existentes por la importancia fundamental de la gestión sostenible de los recursos hídricos para el mandato básico de FAO. Alentamos a FAO a continuar prestando apoyo a sus Miembros en el desarrollo de sistemas de regadíos sostenibles que contribuyan a la consecución de las metas pertinentes del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible número seis, agua limpia y saneamiento.

Acogemos con agrado la creación del cuatripartito, Una Salud, que incluye a FAO, la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE), la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y al Programa de la ONU para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) y destacamos la importancia de la colaboración entre FAO y los demás socios.

Con estos comentarios, España apoya la adopción por parte del Consejo del Informe de esto 133.º período de sesiones del Comité de Programa.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor. I now give the floor to the Chair of the Programme Committee, with compliments given to Ms Yael Rubinstein.

#### **Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

Firstly, I am really honoured to present the Report to the Council today and I ask the Council to endorse the Report. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Programme Committee for the hard work during the Session. We were able to overcome so many differences and positions, and we did a great job.

I would also like to thank our beloved Jiani Tian and her team for wonderful help. Obviously, to my Vice-Chairperson, the Ambassador of Argentina, for his help and friendship, and I would like also to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the new Director of Evaluation, Ms Clemencia Cosentino, and look forward to closely working with her. Last but not least, I would like obviously to thank the interpreters, translation, technicians, cleaning services to make it possible for us to have a very successful Session.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

There were not many questions, but there were some specific remarks about the water management policy, so I give the floor to Ms Maria-Helena Semedo.

#### **Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)**

I would like to thank the Members of the Programme Committee, the Members of the Council, for encouragement in order to give more visibility to the work FAO does in the water and sanitation. Coming from the Evaluation Report, as is in the Management response, we commit to give more visibility to water in FAO work, in the implementation of the Strategic Framework, and to provide some framework in how to integrate water and sanitation in FAO work in a more cross-cutting and integrated way. The question of water quality and pollution is also referred by some of the Members, and the same on sustainable irrigation systems. All of them will be taken into consideration as we move forward in developing the new Strategy of water in FAO.

Just also regarding the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), we took note of the guidance of the comment from Argentina and for sure will be taking into consideration while we are integrating all the comments we receive from Members, not only in FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and to finalize the action plan.

I think those are what we have and all the congratulations for the establishment of the quadripartite. I think now we have it established and we are continuing to do our work in a more constructive collaboration as it has been recommended by the Members.

## CHAIRPERSON

We turn now to the draft conclusions of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee. I will read them out. I would already say that we keep open the chapeau because there are, of course, consultations on the previous chapeau as well so let us not have another hour-long discussion on the chapeau, as at the moment, we have found a solution for the chapeau. Any previous item we find will hopefully also be a solution for this one.

I will read them out.

1. The Council reviewed, welcomed and supported/endorsed the *Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee*, and in particular;

- a) acknowledged the Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development which can serve as a practical orientation tool to guide Members;
- b) supported the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) by the Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE and UNEP) under FAO's leadership and its continued engagement in existing One Health initiatives and structures;
- c) noted with appreciation the progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025; and
- d) welcomed the evaluation of FAO's contribution to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and Management's response, and underlined the developmental importance of sustainable management of water resources to FAO's core mandate.

I would now like to focus only on the sub-items because we keep the chapeau pending, so that we at least finalize the sub-items and to see then what we have to do with the chapeau.

I start now with subparagraph (a), "acknowledged the Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development which can serve as a practical orientation tool to guide Members".

Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I thank the Secretariat for preparing this wording, but, as I recollect from the discussions we had during the Programme Committee, it does not reflect quite well what we have agreed. So, I suggest to adapt this language to reflect more accurately what we have decided in the Programme Committee. So, in this case, after "*Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for the development*," delete the rest of the sentence and include "*providing known exhaustive guidance on the practice of the Organization in relation to the types of FAO products.*"

Then we could also include the subparagraph (b) that we have decided also in the Programme Committee, "*The Council encouraged inclusive and transparent consultations with Members where the means of development for FAO products are unclear, in particular to ensure appropriate Members involvement on Strategies and action plans*". It is the same language that we adopted in the Programme Committee, I believe that with those modifications we can reflect the discussion that we had.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

With respect to the suggestion of our colleague from Brazil, our Asia Group statement mentioned that we appreciated this concept note, it serves as a practical orientation tool to guide Members. I myself being a freshman here, I see value in that concept note and we thank those who have put their efforts in developing that. So, I do not see any conflict with the recommendations of the Programme Committee..

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I would just note that in the Programme Committee Report, subparagraph (c) under this Item, was to invite the Council to note this document as an orientation tool to guide Members. So, we would recommend retaining that language as was originally included by the Secretariat.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the paragraphs now on the screen? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (b), “*supported the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) by the Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE and UNEP) under FAO's leadership and its continued engagement in existing One Health initiatives and structures*”.

Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (c), “*noted with appreciation the progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025*”.

Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (d), “*welcomed the evaluation of FAO's contribution to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6) and Management's response, and underlined the developmental importance of sustainable management of water resources to FAO's core mandate*”.

Can we agree to this subparagraph?

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous avons une suggestion d'ajout à la fin de ce paragraphe qui est fondée notamment sur un élément des recommandations du Comité du Programme, en particulier son sous-paragraphe 18 (e). Nous proposons d'ajouter à la fin, après “*mandate*”: “*mandate, in particular by encouraging discussion by relevant Governing Bodies.*”

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this insertion? I do not see any objections, so included.

With that, at least we have decided in a positive manner on the four subparagraphs. We keep the chapeau opening for further informal consultations and I am sure that we will find a way out, as we have always done.

#### **Item 15. Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights**

##### **Point 15. Gouvernance des activités statistiques et autres travaux de la FAO en rapport avec les données et mise en conformité avec les politiques transversales de la FAO relatives à la protection des données et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle**

##### **Tema 15. Gobernanza de las actividades estadísticas y relacionadas con otros tipos de datos de la FAO y armonización de dichas actividades con las políticas transversales de la Organización sobre protección de datos y de derechos de propiedad intelectual**

(CL 170/11; CL 170/13; CL 170/18)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We turn now to Agenda Item 15, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*, which you can find the document in CL 170/18 before you.

The introduction has been circulated.

#### **Introduction to Item 15: Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*



The Council document CL 170/18, Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, is a revamped version of Programme Committee (PC) document PC 132/5, Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities.

On the one hand, it summarizes document PC 132/5, and on the other hand, clarifies the relationship between document PC 132/5 and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) document CCLM 113/4, FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights: FAO Data Protection Principles and Rules.

In addition, it also addresses a series of other queries expressed by Members regarding document PC 132/5.

The first major clarification included in the present document regards the scope of the term "data", and by extension, the relationship between document PC 132/5 and document CCLM 113/4.

The present document clarifies that the term "data" as used in document PC 132/5 is limited to data for the elaboration of statistics and does not extend to other kinds of data, such as Human Resources or personal data.

Thus, it differs in scope from document CCLM 113/4, and is also distinct from the CCLM's earlier consideration of data protection matters.

However, data protection and confidentiality principles can also apply to statistical data. Therefore, once the policy on Data Protection is formally endorsed, relevant statistics policies and procedures will be reviewed by FAO's statistics internal coordination structure to ensure that they are fully aligned with the Policy.

In this respect, I should recall that FAO statistics is already rather advanced in the implementation of the main principles foreseen by the data protection and confidentiality policy under review, as explained in paragraph 28 of CL 170/18.

The current document further elaborates on the proposal for an improved internal coordination of FAO's statistical and other data activities related to statistics.

As presented in document PC 132/5, the proposal is articulated across four major priority action areas:

1. Integrate and improve the internal coordination of FAO data and statistics;
2. Strengthen the statistical capacity of Decentralized Offices;
3. Optimize resource allocation and intensify resource mobilization;
4. Improve the quality of the IT infrastructure supporting data and statistics work.

With respect to these arrangements, the present document clarifies that these arrangements all pertain to FAO internal coordination structures. As such, the document does not foresee adjustments to FAO's external governance mechanisms in which countries can be involved in strategic decisions concerning statistical matters, though these are recalled in paragraph 16.

I would also like to recall that the recent 133rd Session of the Programme Committee has already been briefed on the substantive content of this document, whereas the CCLM, at its 115th Session, assessed the alignment of this document with the Data Protection Policy and decided to close its consideration on this matter.

Based on the above considerations, the Council is invited to review this document and endorse its recommended actions.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

If necessary, we have a presentation afterwards, but we first go to the reflections of the Members of the Council on the document.

I give the floor to the Members of the Council to give their reflections on what is in the Report on this Item.

**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by South Africa and Cabo Verde.

FAO's briefings on statistical governance and on data protection and intellectual property rights are appreciated. The deep analysis carried out by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and Program Committee on this matter are also much appreciated and the Committee's recommendations in this regard are supported.

Statistical Governance and Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights are central to guarantee FAO's fulfilment of its mission and the efficient delivery of its objectives in realizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building trust amongst all stakeholders as a technical assistance agency.

We recognize and support the need to align statistical activities with cross-cutting FAO policies on Data and Intellectual Property Rights, and we recommend its pursuit.

We appreciate the information that has been given clarifying several aspects on data definition, monitoring, Members involvement, and local level strengthening capacities.

On the improved internal coordination of statistical and other data activities related to statistics, the framework presented gives the necessary assurance since it responds to the main guidelines and strategic documents guiding FAO's work.

We welcome the proposed measures to strengthen statistical capacity of the FAO Decentralized Offices. Its implementation is urgent and of paramount importance since capacity building at local level can result in reinforcing FAO's data collection while promoting ownership and the empowerment of Members.

We regard it as important that resource mobilization is optimized to support the continuity of statistical work at local level and improving IT infrastructure to support statistical work as well as strengthening the link with academia in the interest of sustainability.

We recognize with appreciation, the work of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics, an important statutory body of FAO and recall that at the 26th Session of the Commission held in 2019, it was clearly outlined that there is a need for assistance to enable African Members to expand their statistical capacity to monitor and report the Sustainable Development Goals indicators under FAO custodianship and we call upon FAO to facilitate such assistance.

In conclusion, with these observations, the Africa Regional Group recommends that FAO continue improving its activities as outlined in the document *CL 170/18* on Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, and endorses the suggested action as outlined in paragraph 30 of the document.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne, et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, l'Ukraine, la Turquie, la Géorgie et San Marin se rallient à la présente déclaration. Nous saluons les informations en matière de gestion des données contenues dans ce document. Les données et les statistiques sont en effet au cœur du mandat de la FAO, et nous sommes convaincus qu'il est essentiel que les organes directeurs aient l'occasion d'échanger à ce sujet de manière régulière.

Nous souhaiterions rappeler combien les données statistiques sont importantes pour la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 et des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Le document de référence fournit des informations utiles sur la nature et la portée des données qui alimentent les activités statistiques à la FAO. Toutefois, nous notons qu'il ne répond pas complètement à la demande formulée lors de la 168<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil de la FAO, qui visait à clarifier les liens entre les questions relatives à la gestion des données, à la protection des données, et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle. Cet objectif n'est que partiellement atteint.

Les liens entre ces trois questions doivent être faits tout particulièrement au sein de la FAO, par la coordination des différents organes internes, chargés des statistiques, de la protection des données, et des données en général, comme cela a été souligné par le Comité des Questions Constitutionnelles et

Jurídicas lors de sa dernière session. Il est important de progresser au même rythme, dans la mise en œuvre des instruments, et du cadre dans lequel ils s'inscriront, notamment le cadre juridique.

Nous saluons l'engagement de la FAO, de mettre à jour ce document à la lumière de la politique relative à la protection des données. Nous souhaiterions par ailleurs recevoir davantage d'informations sur les accords de partage de données entre la FAO et les autres institutions onusiennes, les organisations internationales et d'autres entités. Les accords de partage de données représentent une partie essentielle de la gouvernance des données et nous devons nous assurer que les données partagées avec les autres organisations ou entités soient bien traitées et gérées conformément aux normes de la FAO en la matière. Comme suggéré par le Comité du Programme, nous aimerions que la FAO organise des échanges techniques, informels sur les outils qu'elle utilise en matière de données et de statistiques.

Nous pensons que ce type de consultation technique permettra d'enrichir et d'éclairer nos discussions en matière de politique sur les questions liées aux données. Suite à ces observations, nous attendons avec intérêt une nouvelle version actualisée de ce document, ainsi que la poursuite de nos discussions portant sur les données, tant du point de vue technique que politique.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La Argentina agradece al Señor Torero por la elaboración de los documentos para consideración en el presente punto de Agenda y reitera la importancia y la función central de la labor estadística en el mandato de la Organización reconocido en el primer párrafo del artículo 1.º de los textos básicos.

Permítame, Presidente, reconocer que el documento presenta una aclaración que, entiendo, es fundamental. Fundamental porque aclara el alcance de la palabra gobernanza que tiene un componente de coordinación interna, término introducido en los documentos actuales, y otro relacionado con la gobernanza externa, de control o supervisión de los Miembros. Este último componente fue resaltado por la Argentina en la sesión pasada del Comité porque entendíamos que la gobernanza no se agota con mejor coordinación interna sino con la rendición de cuentas a los Miembros que, en definitiva, son los dueños de los datos que se suministran como insumos al trabajo estadístico de la FAO y, a su vez, son los últimos beneficiarios y/o consumidores de las estadísticas resultantes.

La gobernanza por parte de los Miembros permite crear confianza mutua y apropiarse de los mismos a partir de un sano intercambio de información en pos de la mejora de la labor estadística de la Organización. Un ámbito de gobernanza por parte de los Miembros facilitaría también la validación de datos que surgen de fuentes alternativas que por su tempística y complementariedad son bienvenidas, por supuesto, pero no obstante deberían ser revisados por los propios Miembros conforme a la naturaleza intergubernamental de esta Organización.

La gobernanza externa es fundamental aún teniendo en cuenta el rol relevante para el seguimiento de los indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030. En efecto, la FAO es la agencia de custodia de las Naciones Unidas para 21 indicadores de los ODS y es una agencia contribuyente para otros cinco. En esa línea, valoramos lo mencionado en el párrafo 16 del documento CL170/18 y subrayamos la pertinencia que los órganos rectores de la FAO consideren debates estratégicos sobre estadísticas agrícolas. Por ello, somos partidarios que el propio Comité de Programa y el Consejo se aboquen periódicamente al seguimiento de la labor de la FAO en materia estadística en tono con la importancia que los s de la FAO otorgan a la misma.

La idea es que podamos tener una permanente interacción —un permanente contacto— con los responsables que llevan adelante este trabajo.

Finalmente, apreciamos que los mecanismos de coordinación interna se encuentran con la estrategia de los datos del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas. En esa línea y en función de los debates sostenidos recientemente en los órganos de gobernanza sobre esta cuestión, sugeriríamos que en el grupo de oficiales superiores y en el grupo de coordinación de datos de la FAO, que supervisa y asegura que los datos sean impulsores de la labor de la Organización, se incorpore la Asesora Legal y los respectivos representantes regionales.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina toma nota de los documentos previstos con las sugerencias realizadas.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia welcomes the update on the Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, and we appreciate confirmation that these activities will be aligned with the cross-cutting FAO policies on the Protection of Data and the policy on Intellectual Property Rights. We strongly support the strengthening of FAO statistical capacity at the country level through Decentralized Offices – particularly in the South West Pacific region, where data gaps continue to present a significant challenge.

Australia highlights that data and statistics are one of the fundamental building blocks underpinning FAO's technical analysis and knowledge production. Accordingly, we consider it important for FAO to maintain an open dialogue on its activities in this area, to enable appropriate Member engagement, particularly as it relates to the collection and verification procedures for alternative and innovative data sources, such as Big Data and geospatial information.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Indonesia delivers this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We appreciate FAO's proposal in formation and the recommendations contained in document *CL170/18* on the Agenda Item. We need for a better alignment of all our work and activities in holding data or statistics, with the ongoing promulgation of data protection and intellectual property right (IPR) frameworks. It is crucial to avoid silo mindset in our common objectives. We see the important linkages between the promulgated data protection policy and IPR policy, as well as under alignment of other instruments with data protection policy.

We take note that the document put the emphasis on improved internal coordination on statistical matters, including between country and regional and FAO headquarters. This is also very pertinent that there are gaps at levels. In this connection, we look forward to receiving an update within the context of the development of the data protection policy on alignment of this work, as well as on the IPR framework. We encourage FAO to further develop these two documents in line with the Basic Texts and other internationally agreed standards and related protocols, including the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy, the Chief Executive Board for Coordination System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics, and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

We appreciate that FAO has developed a data protection policy through consultative process by engaging with Members as well as the regional groups and other relevant stakeholders. Informal consultations should also be held with Members concerning redress mechanisms, observing that this could take place after the promulgation of the policy. We also hope that the same consultative process could also be done with the Intellectual Property Rights Policy.

Lastly, the changing technology landscape and operational needs of the organization may require the two policies to be reviewed and adjusted from time to time, upon consultation with the Members, to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

With this statement, we are looking forward to engaging constructively in the development of the policies to better integrate, improve and strengthen the work and activities of FAO.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia welcomes the effort by FAO to continue improving internal coordination of FAO statistical activities, in particular, to integrate the coordination mechanisms of FAO data and statistics, increase the statistical capacity of Decentralized Offices, optimize resource allocation and intensify resource mobilization. Further, continuous efforts to make FAO data and statistics to be robust, sustainable, flexible and re-usable through an improved IT infrastructure are encouraged in order to meet new needs, for instance those data to support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Malaysia reiterates that FAO must continue to ensure the accuracy of the data that is inclusive and exhaustive, and simultaneously these data should be collected, verified and published to transpire the true and closest outlook of the agrifood sector at global, regional and country levels. While there has been excellent progress with respect to internal statistical governance at FAO, Malaysia encourages FAO to continue its collaboration for external governance, with more country involvement and

participation in strategic discussions on agricultural data and statistics to ease the facilitation, adoption and implementation of statistical norms and standards at country level, thus, close the gaps, minimise the overlaps and reduce the inconsistencies of FAO's data. Malaysia applauds FAO's external statistics governance that is currently structured at regional level such as the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

Malaysia supports FAO's proposal to strengthen the capacity of FAO Decentralized Offices themselves, in particular, through the regional Committees for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSAs). FAO could support Members in matters relating to statistical assistance at country level, further utilize the statistical studies and regional statistics training institutes provided by CCSA.

Malaysia echoes the need for all FAO's work and activities involving data or statistics to be aligned with the on-going promulgation of data protection and intellectual property rights (IPR) and welcomes the data protection FIRST Principles such as fairness, integrity, responsibility, security and transparency which could be easily adapted to technology and daily application. These Principles are fundamental for FAO in balancing the usage of relevant tools and measures in data management and adequate level of protection and intellectual property. In this regard, FAO must continue to provide Members with the update relating to the development on the Data Protection Policy and the IPR Framework.

With these comments, Malaysia endorses document *CL 170/18*.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

The United States of America endorses the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters conclusions on this matter in its 115th Session Report. The United States of America endorses the Programme Committee recommendations on this matter in its 133rd Session Report. We appreciate that both those Committees considered this matter within their respective mandates. We also appreciate that both Committees, one from a legal perspective and one from a programmatic perspective, emphasized the importance of the alignment of FAO's data activities with the policies on data protection and intellectual property rights, which are under development.

Finally, like other speakers, we support and underline the importance of FAO's statistical work which permeates everything from its technical, innovation, science and evidence-based underpinning of its policies, programmes and initiatives to its support to normative and in standard-setting work, to FAO's analysis of the current crisis exacerbated by the situation in Ukraine.

**Mr Koyama TSUTOMU (Japan)**

Japan supports the statement on behalf of the Asia Group and expects that the discussion will be accelerated, due to its importance for FAO to have a framework for the protection of data and intellectual property rights, which will be the umbrella for the data activity of the Organization in the future. Japan would like to underscore the importance of the protection and the privacy when open-source data is used, and of the protection of the intellectual property rights, and expresses the hope that the framework will exclusively state those points.

Japan requests that the process of developing the framework will be transparent so that the views of the member countries are fully reflected.

**Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We align ourselves with the statement made by the Asia Group. China welcomes FAO's internal coordination of statistical and data activities, and appreciates the fact that FAO's statistical work is comprehensive and forward-looking in terms of implementing data protection policies. We encourage FAO to strengthen statistical capacity building at regional and national levels. Finally, we emphasize that the Programme Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters should consider relevant topics within the respective mandate so as to avoid overlaps of responsibilities and duplication of work.

**Mr Abdelmageed Mohamed ELTAYEB (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan supports everything that was said on behalf of the Africa Group. We welcome the efforts made by FAO to strengthen its statistical capacity, with a view to strengthen its work and guarantee intellectual property rights. We look forward to the contribution of these efforts in the agriculture reform of Sudan.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Como siempre, España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia de la Unión Europea, Francia, en nombre de la Unión y los 27 Estados miembros al tiempo que queremos hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos.

Uno, agradecemos la información contenida en este documento y el trabajo elaborado por el Doctor Torero y su equipo, pues los datos y las estadísticas están en el centro del mandato de la FAO toda vez que ambos son factores indispensables para la consecución de la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Para España resulta fundamental que los órganos rectores tengan la oportunidad de abordar esta cuestión de forma regular y con la tempística adecuada.

Dos, durante el 168.º Consejo de la FAO se solicitó a la misma aclarar el vínculo entre la gobernanza de datos, la protección de los datos y los derechos de propiedad intelectual - objetivo que solo se cumple parcialmente. Por ello, instamos a FAO a proporcionar dicha información, así como los acuerdos de intercambio de datos entre FAO y otras agencias de Naciones Unidas, organizaciones internacionales o de cualquier otra entidad.

Para concluir, alentamos a FAO a que organice debates técnicos informales sobre los datos y las herramientas estadísticas que emplea.

**Mme Ely Salem ZEINEB (Président du Groupe régional pour le Proche-Orient) (Langue originale arabe)**

Bien entendu, nous accueillons favorablement ce document, et nous attendons un plus grand renforcement des capacités dans le domaine de la protection des données et des droits de propriétés intellectuelles sur le plan national. Nous attendons les informations actualisées dont ont besoin les pays. Il est important de poursuivre les discussions à ce sujet, et œuvrer à améliorer la gouvernance encore plus.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now turn to the Observer, Venezuela, as the last speaker.

**Sr. Luis Geronimo REYES VERDE (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de) (Observador)**

Muy buenos días a todos. Un saludo al Economista Jefe por su presentación, el Señor Máximo Torero Cullen. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del documento *CL170/18* y saluda el interés de la FAO en la gobernanza de las actividades estadísticas.

Acogemos con agrado que el Informe 133 del Período de Sesiones del Comité de Programa de mayo donde estableció el alcance del término "datos" y su referencia con fines estadísticos por parte de la administración. Con esta aclaratoria se delimita el ámbito de acción.

En cuanto a la mejora en la coordinación de datos y estadísticas, estamos a favor que se tome en cuenta las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Comisión de Estadística de Naciones Unidas y las comisiones regionales de estadística en cuanto al ámbito agropecuario, lo relativo a la coordinación de estadística para la Agenda 2030, el fortalecimiento institucional, los macrodatos y las estadísticas de género, ya que estos tópicos están en el Marco Estratégico de la FAO 2022-2031.

En cuanto al fortalecimiento de la capacidad estadística de las Oficinas Descentralizadas de la FAO, sería pertinente conocer si las oficinas regionales y subregionales de la FAO cuentan con una unidad estadística. Asimismo, no queda claro en el documento si el reforzamiento a la capacidad estadística de los países depende del fortalecimiento inicial de las oficinas descentralizadas regionales y subregionales de la FAO. Si esto es así, ¿nos gustaría saber cuánto tiempo estiman que tomaría este proceso?

De igual manera, deseamos destacar que en las oficinas de estadística de los países Miembros se cuenta con recursos humanos formados que, con acompañamiento de la FAO y al tener la cooperación internacional, puede ayudar al fortalecimiento de las oficinas de estadísticas de otros países. Ello ayudaría a utilizar los recursos de la Organización y avanzar en forma más rápida sin perder la rigurosidad técnica.

En cuanto a la armonización de las actividades estadísticas con las políticas transversales de la FAO sobre protección de datos y derechos de propiedad intelectual y en referencia a la difusión de microdatos con el uso masivo de datos geográficos, agradeceríamos conocer las garantías que ofrece la FAO para evitar que, a través de cruces simultáneos, de variables y datos geográficos, no se pueda llegar a identificar las unidades de análisis. En este caso, individuos, viviendas, predios, parcelas, empresas y otros datos sensibles al tema de la confidencialidad o el secreto estadístico.

Por último, cuando los organismos de las Naciones Unidas usan estadísticas de fuentes no oficiales, le están dando un carácter oficial a fuentes que no siguen los marcos globales y nacionales de la actividad estadística. Nuestra delegación expresa su preocupación respecto a que se utilicen fuentes de datos no oficiales para referirse a situaciones nacionales como lo reflejan algunos informes de la FAO y el PMA.

Estos serían nuestros comentarios con respecto a este tema.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor. I now give the floor to Chief Economist Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and thank him for his hard work, and you have a presentation, perhaps you can use it for your remarks.

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

I do not think we need to do the presentation because it was basically to set up the scenery. So, let me thank you all Members for your important comments and for understanding the importance of data for statistics, which is the concept we have in mind.

Let me briefly respond to some of your questions and comments. First of all, we will be happily doing informal briefings as requested by several of you, to keep you up to date on what we are doing and the information that we have.

I think having this document is extremely important because it will facilitate to coordinate across all the different units of FAO that provides this type of statistical information. Second, we will prepare a dashboard to share all the different agreements and partnerships that we have for transparency purposes. We will work across the offices because everything is fully transparent, everything is acknowledged in every point of data that we have, so that we do not have any concern about the information that we have.

There is no information that cannot be shared in terms of the partnerships that we are doing for that. So, we will increase and prepare that. It will take some time, but we will prepare that and hope to have it as soon as possible. Also, with regard to the comments of Argentina and others, we coordinate with the Legal Office on the topics, so that will be important.

In the case of the sharing of the information of agreements, if there is any case where information is confidential, we will specify in that dashboard, so that it is known that there is a confidentiality behind the information, and therefore we will clearly state that for that specific case there is confidentiality. I fully agree with the comments of the USA, the importance of the respective mandates and I think that by itself clarifies what we tried to clarify in the document.

The internal structure of data and the statistics, as is explained, is linked with the data protection rights and intellectual property rights, and in the document in para 15 we are billing it the coordination structure with executive data, champion and data for combination group. Then in paragraph 27, we say that this structure will review the statistics polices and procedures according to the policies and data protection as soon as it is promulgated. So, we will follow that and we will respect, again, the respective mandates of each of the different Governing Bodies.

With that, and with all the interest of doing formal briefings to sharing information, I stop and hope we can move forward.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Mr Maximo Torero. As always very concise, clear and direct which we very much appreciate and of course, we appreciate your hard work and your team on this important issue. Now, I present to you the draft conclusions and I follow the same practice as just before. We keep open the chapeau for the final consultations, and hopefully, agreement on how to deal with it but I do hope that we can already agree on the subparagraphs.

I will read out the draft conclusions.

1. The Council reviewed, welcomed and supported/endorsed the analysis of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, and in particular:

- a) acknowledged the clarifications to the proposal for improved internal coordination of FAO statistical activities and other data activities related to statistics, particularly with regard to its alignment with FAO's corporate policies on data protection and intellectual property rights; and
- b) reiterated the importance and critical role of the Organization's statistical work.

2. With regard to specific recommendations of the Programme Committee and the CCLM, the Council decided:

- a) that the Data Policy should be revised to address the following: (i) that the language expressing the requirement of affirmative consent be strengthened, with the cases where implicit consent could exceptionally be relied upon clarified, including setting limits to the duration for which implicit consent could form a basis for data processing; (ii) that the linkages between the internal bodies addressing data protection and data in general be clarified, for example through the definitions set out in Annex I to the Policy; iii) that the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee could discharge an independent oversight function with regards to data protection; and iv) that the Data Protection Policy reflects the rights of data owners who are not data providers;

Of course, this is the exact language of the CCLM.

- b) to request that Management to continue improving its activities on governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, continue to improve internal coordination of FAO statistical activities, and clarify the linkages between the internal structures addressing data protection, data and statistics governance and data;
- c) to request an update on the alignment of FAO's statistical activities with FAO's corporate policies on data protection, once these have been promulgated; and
- d) to request informal technical discussions with Members on the content, use and technical characteristics of data and statistical tools and platforms deployed by FAO.

we keep the paragraph pending and I see that France is asking for the floor already.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Et en fait, j'avais demandé la parole avant que vous ne commenciez vos débats, parce que je voulais rebondir sur les réponses de l'Économiste en Chef, et dans l'intérêt du temps, je vais être brève. Je remercie l'Économiste en chef pour ses informations, et je voudrais simplement qu'il puisse nous donner, évidemment pas le détail, mais la liste des organisations, des entités, et institutions onusiennes avec lesquelles la FAO a conclu un accord de partage de données. Deuxième point, est-ce qu'il peut nous donner des indications sur la date à laquelle la FAO organisera un briefing technique informel.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

Prior to going through these conclusions, I wanted to just check on one matter that appears to be confused. Subparagraph 27(a) pertains to the data protection policy of FAO, which is not under this Item. I understand that this Item is the statistical governance, which was considered by the Programme



Committee and by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). The data protection policy actually is part of the 115th CCLM Report that we considered under the previous two items before this one. I do not think that that is a matter to be considered or remarked under this Item.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us deal with it when we come to that paragraph. Let us first ask Mr Máximo Torero to answer the question of France.

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

First on the partnerships, as I mentioned, we will develop a dashboard, as we have to check case-by-case what are the legal issues behind each of the agreements, if they can be made public or not. As soon as we have it, we will share it with everybody and we will provide the list of all those partnerships. I do not have a list right now as it is not a simple list to develop.

Second, in terms of the briefings, we will immediately check on the calendars and arrange them as soon as possible when these briefings can be done. For sure, we can start I hope early next month with the first briefing and then move forward but we will need to check calendars to be able to do that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for your positive response.

We go to subparagraph 1(a). Can we agree to subparagraph 1(a)? *“Acknowledged the clarifications to the proposal for improved internal coordination of FAO statistical activities and other data activities related to statistics, particularly with regard to its alignment with FAO’s corporate policies on data protection and intellectual property rights.”*

I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (b), *“reiterated the importance and critical role of the Organization’s statistical work.”*

Can we agree to that? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph 2(a), and the request is to move this here and keep that in the Report of the 115th Session of the CCLM as was proposed by the Chair of the CCLM/USA. Can we agree to this? I do not see any objection. Then we delete it here.

Then we go to subparagraph (b), *“to request that Management to continue improving its activities on governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities, continue to improve internal coordination of FAO statistical activities, and clarify the linkages between the internal structures addressing data protection, data and statistics governance and data”*. Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c), which will be the new (b). *“To request an update on the alignment of FAO’s statistical activities with FAO’s corporate policies on data protection, once these have been promulgated”*. I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d), *“to request informal technical discussions with Members on the content, use and technical characteristics of data and statistical tools and platforms deployed by FAO”*. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quería preguntarle para ver si esta sugerencia puede capturar mejor algunas cosas que planteamos en el último párrafo en el que estamos en este momento. *“Requested FAO to provide regularly an updated information on the content, use and technical characteristic of data, and the statistical tools and platforms deployed by FAO through its Governing Bodies and informal technical consultations.”* Si no entiendo mal, el propio Economista Jefe mostró una enorme disponibilidad para tener esas reuniones por lo cual me parece importante agradecerse a partir de esta intervención.

#### **Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We were looking at this last proposal and we are asking ourselves if from our technical discussion what it has to do with governance? Because if we decide to embark into technical discussions for the Members, I do not know how that will go, and what will be the product of such a discussion, if we go into the technical and the nitty gritty of technical elements of the platform or the tools. Therefore, I would rather prefer the proposal made by Argentina to cover the first part, which is now in black, because that is what Membership we want, updated information, not to enter into technical discussions and so on.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I put forward to you whether or not we could approve the subparagraph as suggested by Argentina, which was now also supported by Cameroon. Can we agree to that subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

With that, we have at least finalized our subparagraphs, and the great thing is, before we break for lunch, you also have to look at the bright side of life, through your informal consultations, the chapeau, I think we have solved three Reports, which would be great.

Before I break for lunch, I give the floor to the Secretariat.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I would like to make a brief announcement. I would like to remind Members of an event that will take place at 12:30 hours in the Red Room, to which all Members are invited, organized by the United States Mission, entitled "*Efforts Towards Equity: what USDA, the United States Department of Agriculture, is changing to advance agriculture opportunities*" with a keynote address by Dr DeWayne Goldmon, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity to the Secretary of Agriculture, with opening remarks from Her Excellency, the Ambassador, as well as the Under Secretary, Mr Robert Bonnie, for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. At 12:30 hours in the Red Room. Most importantly, food will be served for lunch, which I am told is both good and free.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for that good news. And as further good news is that we can conclude our work tomorrow because I have received now all the Members of the Drafting Committee, so we will have a... And of course, I will announce it this afternoon. But we will have a Drafting Committee to make sure that they go through the Report so that we can adopt the Report. With all these good news items, I wish you a very good lunch; get energized for the afternoon session so that we can get further progress of our work of the Council. I wish you successful informal consultations. We see each other back at 14:00 hours sharp in this room. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:05 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 05*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.05*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>16 June 2022</b>

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:06 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 06  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.06  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 17. Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization**

**Point 17. Rétablissement, par la Conférence, du droit de vote des États Membres redevables d'arriérés de contributions financières à l'Organisation**

**Tema 17. Restablecimiento por la Conferencia de los derechos de voto de los Estados Miembros en mora del pago de sus contribuciones financieras a la Organización**

(CL 170/12; CL 170/13; CL 170/19)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished Excellencies, distinguished delegates, distinguished friends, let us join forces in getting agreement on the Items this afternoon, this evening and tomorrow. I know it is and will be possible, because solutions are always there.

Let us start now with the Item 17, *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*. You have seen the documentation that is CL170/19 and CL170/21.

You have seen my introduction, so I do not have to introduce it.

**Introduction to Item 17: Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization**

*Dr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council*

Article III.4 of the FAO Constitution states that a Member Nation in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization equal to or exceeding the amount due from it for the two preceding calendar years shall have no vote in the Conference. The same Article stipulates that the Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to do so is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation.

While there are no explicit provisions in the Basic Texts stipulating the procedure to be followed in this case, a practice has developed whereby the General Committee of the Conference examines requests by Member Nations to reinstate their voting rights in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution, and then reports to the Conference with its recommendation. Member Nations in arrears may request to repay their arrears through an instalment plan which is also reviewed by the General Committee and which then makes a recommendation to the Conference.

The 42nd Session of the Conference in June 2021 requested the conduct of a comprehensive review of the process of reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears, for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and supported by a process of informal consultations by the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

As Members are aware, the matter has since gone through review by a number of Governing Bodies, including the 113th and 115th Sessions of the CCLM, the 168th Session of the Council, the 188th Session of the Finance Committee and will be considered by the 191st Session of the Finance Committee prior to this review by the 170th Session of the Council.

In parallel, I have held informal consultations open to all Members of FAO on 4 March and 20 April 2022, which took into account the previous review of the matter by the Governing Bodies and which allowed a platform for Members to propose recommendations regarding the process by which Member Nations' votes are reinstated in accordance with Article III.4 of the FAO Constitution.

Council document CL 170/19 outlines Members' proposals made in the context of my informal consultations, namely with regard to a) the information to be provided to support a statement of inability to pay; b) payment plans; c) payments in local currency; and d) scale of contributions.

Members considered that those Member Nations in arrears requesting the restoration of their voting rights by the Conference should provide an explanation of the nature of the conditions beyond their control, supporting information and documentation, an indication of the measures to be taken to settle the arrears, and any further pertinent information to support such claim. Members also suggested that such a request be submitted at least two weeks ahead of the Conference concerned. Moreover,

Members further outlined the specific information to be provided by Member Nations requesting the restoration of their voting rights through a payment plan.

Such recommendations are presented to the Council as a draft Conference Resolution in Appendix A of document CL 170/19, for the Council's consideration and further guidance, as appropriate.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

You have also been made aware that the 160th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) met last week in order to discuss the issues, especially the draft Conference Resolution and the Report of that Session. The draft Report of that Session has an amended and updated version of the Resolution. So, let us focus on whether or not we consent the amended draft Resolution to the Conference for adoption. I also saw you all in the informal consultations, whether in person or virtually, and already appreciated and thanked you all for your willingness to work in a positive, inclusive process.

With that, I open the floor for Members to consider the Resolution and make their remarks and comments.

### **Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

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

We affirm the primacy of the Basic Texts, which not only clearly states when a Member Nation loses its right to vote but also, in equal measure, permits such Member Nation to vote if the Conference is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the Member Nation's control.

In particular, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has not spared any country or economy. The devastation of the pandemic is a reality, with some more affected than others.

We welcome the specific procedures proposed by Members on the Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization. We encourage the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to continue the consultations open to all Members on the Draft Resolutions.

With regard to the payment in local currency, we note that the Financial Regulations recognize that *“should a Member Nation or Associate Member pay any part of its current year contribution or arrears in a currency other than United States dollar or euro, it will be the responsibility of that Member Nation or Associate Member to ensure the free convertibility of that currency into United States dollars or euro.”* We affirm that due consideration has been made to the Financial Regulations and rules, and relevant resolutions at the 191st Session of the Finance Committee.

That was on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

### **Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

The United States of America opposes in principle the blanket reinstatement of voting rights reinstatements to countries in arrears. This is a position we have maintained in other United Nations (UN) agencies.

Membership carries with it obligations, and payment is one of those obligations. Making regular payments is a fundamental aspect of UN organizations' good governance and Members' adherence to the rule of law.

We as Members need consistency in our approach to rules across the UN system. FAO's operations and effective implementation of its Strategic Framework rely on the timely payments by Members of their dues.

We therefore welcome the draft criteria and resolution developed by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) in consultation with the full Membership.

The United States of America supports submitting the draft Conference Resolution for adoption by the 43rd session of the Conference.

We believe the draft resolution provides practical criteria that are consistent with the Constitution and Basic Texts that clarifies the process for making requests for the reinstatement of voting rights for Members in arrears.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Cameroon is speaking on this Agenda Item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The matter concerns the procedure for the restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in payment of their financial contributions to the Organization was raised by the 42nd Session of the Conference. A mandate was given and I quote, *“for the conduct of comprehensive review and the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears for consideration the relevant Governing Bodies, including CCLM, supported by a process of informal consultation led by Independent Chairperson of the Council, we, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Groups maintain that the practice developed by the Organization over the past years on the restoration of voting rights is consistent with the approach of most other UN system organizations, encourage the ICC to hold transparent and inclusive informal consultations open to all Members on the subject matter, taking into account the existing rules and procedures, the CCLM’s findings and recommendations and relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions as appropriate, inviting the ICC to report the progress to the Council at its next Session”* end of quote.

The Africa Regional Group participated in all informal consultations you organized, which fundamentally examined procedures for the restoration of voting rights by the Conference, including statements of inability to pay, payment plans, payments in local currency and scales of contribution.

The Africa Group welcomes the discussion that took place in the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters (CCLM), and we note the content of their Report of the 115th Session pertaining to the work being undertaken on the procedure for timely submission of applications, types of information, means of payment and payment plans.

It should be recalled and noted that a report of CCLM 116 was not posted early enough. We agree that each Member Nation has the right to vote, provided it is up to date with its financial obligations, vis-à-vis, the Organization.

If we agree with most of the proposals arising from the discussions, we remain opposed to setting a deadline for submitting the Statement of Inability, which, from our perspective, could be submitted even on the day of the meeting of the General Committee. For the above reasons we do not support the proposed resolution and call to continue the discussions for it on the content of that resolution.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

Australia notes and endorses the reports of the 191st Session of the Finance Committee and of the 115th and 116th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) with regard to the Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions. As we did during the Finance Committee, Australia takes this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and FAO Management to address the request of the 42nd Conference.

Australia recognizes that this matter has been raised several times in the past; however, we consider it appropriate for the issue to be re-examined presently in light of global economic consequences, including those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resultant heightened exposure risk to the Organization. In particular, noting the importance of establishing a clear timeframe for the submission of requests, as well as prescribing the need for a clear explanation from Members outlining why they have not been able to pay their fees and measures they have taken to address the situation, Australia supports the draft resolution contained in *CL 170/19* as amended by the CCLM.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, la Géorgie, San Marin, la Turquie et l'Ukraine se rallient à la présente déclaration. Nous accueillons favorablement ce projet de rapport et de résolution relatif au rétablissement des droits de vote des

Membres en retard dans les paiements de leurs contributions, qui nous semble ouvrir la voie à des pratiques plus transparentes.

Permettez-moi ainsi Monsieur le Président de vous exprimer notre reconnaissance pour les consultations fructueuses que vous avez menées de manière ouverte et transparente pour résoudre cette question complexe, mais essentielle. Comme vous le savez, la question du rétablissement des droits de vote, des Membres en retard dans les paiements de leurs contributions se pose depuis longtemps au sein de la FAO, et a été examinée de nombreuses fois par ses organes directeurs.

Nous pensons que le texte que vous avez préparé en consultation avec les États membres forment la base solide d'un futur consensus et d'une réponse positive à la requête formulée par la 168<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil de la FAO. Le projet de résolution, s'il est adopté par la Conférence, permettra d'améliorer considérablement la clarté, la transparence des procédures de rétablissement des droits de vote. Il alignera surtout les procédures de la FAO sur celles adoptées par d'autres organes directeurs et institutions des Nations Unies, et en premier lieu l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Nous pensons que la question des contributions et des arriérés ne peut se régler sans transparence. Les pays les moins avancés ne sont pas responsables de la plus grande partie des arriérés, mais ils sont au contraire souvent les victimes des défauts de paiements qui nuisent à la capacité de la FAO de répondre à leurs besoins. La grande majorité des arriérés est le fait d'un petit nombre de pays qui ne sont pas des PMA et dont les arriérés dépassent le million de dollars américains.

Ces pays représentent approximativement 95 % des arriérés à l'heure actuelle. Au cours des consultations, plusieurs Membres ont exprimé leurs préoccupations concernant les répercussions de la crise de la COVID-19 sur la capacité des pays les moins avancés à s'acquitter de leurs contributions obligatoires. Pour répondre à cette préoccupation légitime, nous avons suggéré de réfléchir à la faisabilité du passage à une application concomitante du barème des quotes-parts de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU), afin de prendre en compte les dernières évolutions économiques au moment de fixer les contributions des Membres de la FAO.

Cette méthode a ainsi été adoptée avec succès à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture, UNESCO, et nous pensons qu'il serait très intéressant que la FAO fasse de même. Les pays qui rencontrent le plus de difficultés économiques ne devraient pas se voir imposer une attente inutile d'un an avant de pouvoir bénéficier d'une réduction de leurs parts s'agissant de leurs contributions obligatoires.

Enfin, et en ce qui concerne le paiement en monnaie locale, nous pensons que le règlement financier et la résolution 14/2007 de la Conférence donnent déjà aux Membres une latitude suffisante pour payer leurs contributions en monnaie locale, lorsque cela s'avère nécessaire. L'adoption de dispositions supplémentaires permettant le paiement d'arriéré en monnaie non convertible représenterait un risque financier notable pour l'Organisation et n'aurait qu'une incidence marginale sur le paiement effectif des contributions.

De fait, nous observons qu'aucun Membre n'a indiqué au cours des consultations, qu'une telle mesure l'aiderait à s'acquitter de ces arriérés. Nous recommandons en conclusion, que le Conseil soumette pour adoption ce projet de résolution à la Conférence, lors de sa 43<sup>ème</sup> Session.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia, at the onset, aligns itself with the statement made by the Asia Regional Group.

My delegation commends FAO for the transparent and inclusive consultations being undertaken to address the issue of restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Members in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization through relevant Governing Bodies and the Independent Chairperson of the Council-led informal consultative process.

Pursuant to the mandate of the 42nd Session of the Conference in 2021 and having considered the review findings and in-depth analyses by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in 2001, my delegation has been following with great interest the consultative process regarding the issue since then.

We noted that the practice of FAO is consistent with the approach of most other UN System organizations. Nevertheless, due to the absence of the explicit provisions in the Basic Texts concerning the implementation of Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution, we remain convinced that there is a need to develop a clear set of procedures in justifying the restoration of voting rights of Members. We subscribe to the notion that minimum criteria should include, among others “*conditions beyond the control*” of Member Nations and an instalment plan.

Of particular importance, procedure must also set out timeline for submission of requests for the restoration of voting rights and we reasonably think that at least two weeks is required before the session of the Conference, to ensure a complete review of the requests.

To this end, we support the proposed specific procedures to be followed in the event of Members Nations requesting the restoration of their voting rights in accordance with Article III.4 of the FAO Constitution contained in document *CL170/19*. In the same vein, we are also supportive to Conference Resolution contained in *Appendix A*, for adoption by the 43rd Session of the Conference of FAO.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Nicaragua agradece al Presidente Independiente del Consejo por las consultas informales celebradas con los Miembros por el carácter inclusivo y transparente del proceso, así como el análisis comparativo sobre las normas y prácticas de otras organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Coincidimos con la importancia de definir un procedimiento lo más equilibrado posible que asegure a la FAO, por una parte, el cumplimiento de sus obligaciones garantizando la ejecución eficaz de su programa de trabajo, pero a la vez facilita a los países con atraso poder cumplir con sus planes de pago de cara a la Conferencia.

En este sentido, recomendamos que el proyecto de resolución sea flexible considerando la complejidad del actual entorno internacional y las capacidades financieras de algunos países que se han visto limitadas por circunstancias ajenas a sus voluntades. En cuanto al proyecto de resolución, el procedimiento centrado en los cuatro elementos, como son la información de cada país, debería aportar los planes de pago en moneda local y escalas de cuotas.

Coincidimos con las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) al respecto, pero a la vez consideramos que en el mismo espíritu de diálogo que hemos llevado a cabo hasta el momento, si fuese necesario, para poder abarcar todas las inquietudes de los Estados Miembros, de todos los grupos regionales y, si es necesario, se podría continuar este espacio abierto para lograr que todos podamos participar de nuestros derechos en la Conferencia general.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Chairperson, the Russian Federation would like to thank you for the consultations on the restoration and voting rights of Member Nations in arrears and the payment of their assessed contributions and also for having prepared the draft Conference Resolution. We believe that this draft reflects the contents of the consultation with the Member Nations.

The Russian Federation is grateful to the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and also to the Finance Committee for their consideration and assessments of the draft decision.

We consider it important, in terms of the restoration of votes, the measures to proof the collectibility of the contributions that the possibility of payment of assessed contributions in national currency not be excluded, in conformity with the provisions of the FAO Conference Resolution 14/2007, entitled “*Measures to Encourage Timely Payment of Contributions - acceptance of non-freely convertible currencies under certain conditions*”. However, we must note that we do not see how the CCLM made the point in considering the Session. We do not really understand the analysis relating to the possible accelerator to the FAO to the United Nations scale of contributions.

In principle, in the case that Council Member Nations were to reach a consensus on this decision, we would not oppose a corresponding request to the Secretariat. However, we believe it is necessary before making a decision on such a transition is taken, to have a clear assessment of the



administrative, financial and other possible consequences. Obviously, in accelerated transition to the United Nations scale of contributions would mean reorganising the calendar of work of FAO Governing Bodies and first and foremost of the Conference and Council.

It needs to be taken into consideration that the United Nations General Assembly adopts a three-year scale of contributions. This was adopted in December 2001 and therefore it is in force in the Triennium 2022-2024. The data that was considered was a development of a such a number of years and it is not possible to amend this scale of contributions in the last period, as a consequence of the pandemic, as mentioned also by the representative from France. We will not have those consequences; they will not be fully reflected in the scale of contributions that was adopted before 2024.

The FAO budget and rate of scale contributions, as adopted by Conference every two years, was adopted in 2022-23 biennium in June 2021. At the time of adoption of FAO budget, there was no renewed scale of contributions. Therefore, we would like to emphasise the need to study the added cost of the proposed accelerated transition to the United Nations scale of contributions.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Todos hemos discutido y acordado que estamos viviendo una terrible crisis alimentaria y que profundizó la crisis previa al COVID-19, que aumentó con la pandemia y las consecuencias de la pandemia, que, además, hay que sumarle la situación de endeudamiento crítico en muchos países, la propia crisis de cambio climático que tanto hemos discutido aquí y los conflictos existentes de todo tipo en el sistema internacional.

Ningún país en desarrollo dejaría de pagar sus contribuciones simplemente porque le place. Si lo pudiera hacer de manera absolutamente fácil sin afectar otras prioridades nacionales relacionadas con sus necesidades básicas.

Este debate me recuerda cuando estalló el COVID-19 y había países que decían que ya las vacunas estaban siendo distribuidas y, por lo tanto, teníamos que volver rápidamente a reuniones presenciales como si el mundo ideal fuera el mundo real. A veces es difícil, porque yo entiendo, es complicado cuando uno tiene unas situaciones de mayor confort, es complejo, a veces, ponerse en los pies de aquellos países más vulnerables.

En países que no habían recibido todavía las vacunas, pero nos pedían que tuviéramos que volver rápidamente a reuniones presenciales cuando ni siquiera los países o representantes de países en desarrollo tenían la posibilidad de ingresar a los territorios donde las vacunas existían porque, justamente, en muchos de estos países más vulnerables no había vacunas.

Entonces, yo creo que es fundamental salir de interpretaciones de carácter endogámico y ver el mundo real y no creer que el mundo real es el mundo ideal.

Podríamos también recordar, si queremos entrar en una discusión que sería interminable, los compromisos asumidos por los países donantes conforme el Global Compact, el pacto de financiamiento aprobado en la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas. Obviamente, no es mi intención entrar en la discusión sobre esto, pero podríamos hacerlo en términos de ver los diferentes compromisos que cada uno de los países ha asumido.

Pero le doy una mala noticia: con el nivel de aumento de los precios de los alimentos, lo que vamos a percibir en los próximos meses es un incremento de la crisis en los países y más dificultades para asumir compromisos porque es natural que así va a pasar. Entonces, creo que naturalmente y acá reitero lo que dije en otro punto, me parece que aquí también el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) se fue de mandato. Por lo tanto, creo que tenemos que volver a consultas informales para tratar de, bajo su liderazgo, encontrar puntos de consenso, pero, sobre todo, viviendo y construyendo sobre el mundo real, no sobre el mundo ideal.

Todos queremos que no se desfinancie esta Organización. Es fundamental que no se desfinancie. Todos los que podamos, tenemos que asumir los compromisos y honrarlos. Pero desconocer que hay países que tienen que pensar muy bien si poner una contribución o poder garantizar las necesidades básicas de su población, también hay que considerarlo seriamente.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan associates itself with the Asia Regional Group joint statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of the Philippines and would like to make its own national statement.

Japan's position on this Agenda Item is clear, rights and obligation need a package. The voting right payment of assessed contribution is necessary. If a Member Nation cannot make payments of the assessed contribution due to the conditions beyond its control, the Member Nation should fulfil its responsibility of accountability.

Based on such a basic position, Japan supports the draft Conference Resolution contained in the Council document *CL170/19* and amended in *CL170/21*, in particular, paragraph 3 of the Resolution is important because it could be two weeks at the deadline for the submission of the request in order to ensure ample time for the review.

Finally, Japan would like to express its concern regarding the current situation. There are still many Members, which are in arrears. It is critically important to reduce the number of countries in arrears as well to decrease the amount of arrears in order to secure fair and transparent governance. The effort to make payments of arrears should be continued by Members even in the case if it is little by little.

In addition, FAO Management should continue to facilitate Members in arrears to make payments and examine what kind of measures would be possible and taken to reduce the arrears.

**Ms Xi LI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

Regarding the two informal consultations chaired by the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC) we appreciated this, and we noticed that in the consultation process there are many regions and countries that have said that while improving review procedures, we should also take a full into consideration the inclusiveness operability and the limited payment ability of countries. Therefore, we believe that the draft resolution of the Conference should be negotiated by the Members and only after consensus is reached can it be submitted to the Governing Bodies.

In addition, we noticed that last week the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) reviewed this document for Members to review the CCLM Report and relevant recommendations have not given us enough time. Also this document has not been shared with Members as a Council document.

Therefore, we believe that to restore the voting rights means the basic rights of Members to participate in the governance of FAO. It is a very important governance matter. In order to ensure the draft resolution to be covered at the Conference and also the support to the Council needs to be impartial, inclusive, transparent and comprehensive.

We request that the draft resolution be consulted upon with all the Members and also only after consensus is reached can this be submitted for review by the next Governing Body Session. We hope that the ICC Report and the draft resolution can fully reflect the request raised by any regions and countries regarding ensuring its inclusiveness and operability.

Regarding the assessed contributions, China believes that the review of this matter should be strictly compliant with this Organization's regulations and Constitution and it also needs to be in accordance with the past Conference's practices. FAO has its own budget cycles, procedures and the review criteria is which are in accordance with FAO's characteristics. Therefore, in order to ensure the financial health and stability of FAO China supports to use the practice that it has been using up to now.

**Sra. Haifa Aissami MADAH (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de) (Observador)**

Agradecemos su encomiable labor sobre este particular, pero mi delegación desea hacer algunas puntualizaciones. Así como inicialmente se refirió en alguna medida durante los debates del día de ayer y en los cuales, lamentablemente, no pudimos participar dada nuestra condición de observadores, quisiera en este punto expresar que, si bien es cierto estamos totalmente de acuerdo sobre la necesidad de honrar los compromisos financieros que los Estados hemos asumido con la Organización, y mi país es uno de los países que se cuenta entre los mayores contribuyentes a la misma, también es importante observar esto con espíritu de flexibilidad y con alguna comprensión porque muchas veces esos atrasos - por lo menos, yo hablo en mi capacidad nacional, - no obedecen a un aspecto voluntario del país sino a

una circunstancia excepcional como es el caso de las sanciones que han sido impuestas y que imposibilitan el correcto desarrollo e intercambio como lo ha sido en el pasado del pago de nuestros compromisos financieros.

Dicho esto, no obstante, quiero destacar la firme voluntad de Venezuela de honrar sus compromisos porque entendemos que esto es esencial para la sostenibilidad de la Organización y estamos listos para hacer nuestros aportes y contribuciones y por ello estamos trabajando de cerca con todos los actores pertinentes dentro de la FAO para lograr establecer un mecanismo o canal seguro que permita, por ejemplo, a países como el nuestro que está siendo objeto de sanciones económicas y financieras, poder acceder a ese mecanismo y permita transferir los recursos en forma y tiempo.

No obstante, para aquellas delegaciones que insisten en el hecho de que los atrasos deben entenderse como falta de compromiso, yo desearía llamar la atención a que esa es una óptica sesgada y que, de verdad, no puede aplicarse como una fórmula única para todos los contextos. Muchísimos países que no están siendo objeto de sanciones tienen serias dificultades en virtud del propio contexto económico global que afronta el planeta y esas circunstancias que tienen que ser valoradas. Por eso, secundamos lo dicho por varias delegaciones en cuanto a la flexibilidad que debe obrar a la hora de la consideración de estos temas.

Por último, desearía también hacerme eco sobre el hecho de que es necesario contar con suficiente tiempo y conocer con antelación las enmiendas que han sido propuestas. Con esto concluyo de momento mi intervención.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We would like to start by thanking you for your informal consultations on this important matter and the progress that has been made. I just wanted to express a little bit of surprise regarding the facts we are hearing regarding the the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) going beyond its mandate. We know that the CCLM focused on the draft text that was tabled by the ICC and reflected on its conformity with the Basic Texts in line with its mandate. It offered some suggested adjustments to the text to improve its readability and accuracy and this process, the steps or fall squarely within the Committee's mandate. Of course, it is now up to the Council to take the recommendations the CCLM record on-board or not, and determine the way forward. As far as Canada is concerned, we can endorse the Report and the proposed resolution as amended.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the Observer, Syrian Arab Republic.

**Mr Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observer) (Original language Arabic)**

We are not a Member of the Council, however, I would like to thank you, Chairperson, for your efforts during the informal consultations regarding this matter. You have listened to the various views, and we believe that some positions are conflicting. The fact that some countries are not able to pay their contributions does not mean that they do not wish to do so.

We have plenty of difficulties like COVID-19 or other circumstances like the banking sanctions on Syria and this is keeping us from paying our contributions in hard currencies. That is why we believe that you need to give this topic the attention it needs, continue the consultations to reach consensus and continue following the practices of FAO when it comes to the acceptance of payments in local currencies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other speakers on the floor, so I give the floor to the Chairperson of the the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I did not have the opportunity to introduce this Item because, as colleagues understand, the 116th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) occurred in an extraordinary fashion. Because we were working to address the needs of this Council to respond to the tasking of the 42nd Conference, the intervening Council and then the three CCLM meetings in the interim.

Had I introduced the Report at the 116th CCLM, I would have noted a few of the following. First of all, I would like to recognise the work, the time, the cost and the dedication of CCLM Members and FAO staff and interpreters supporting the holding of an extra Session. I would like also to recognise the work of the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC) who undertook significant consultations with the full Membership on this matter. The CCLM considers this matter as instructed by the 42nd Conference at its, 113th, 115th and 116th Sessions, with consultations of the Independent Chairperson with all Members occurring during inter-sessional periods. As such at this 115th Session the CCLM stated its willingness to consider a document once the ICC's consultations had concluded.

The Finance Committee in its spring Session also considered this matter within its remit at the suggestion of the Finance Committee, having reached conclusions in recommendations for the Council on various specifics and financial indications of the resolution namely the local currency issue. The CCLM reconvened in an Extraordinary Session to consider the document once more and that is now what is before you along with resolution prepared by the ICC as a result of his full Member consultations.

The CCLM at its 116th Session, therefore, considers this matter as well as this Finance Committee's recommendations and thus produced the 116th Report with an Annex, several amendments to the resolution that harmonise the Finance Committee's recommendation while also certifying both the document, the Finance Committee recommendations and the resolution as amended as being consistent with the Basic Texts. This in fact is the mandate of the CCLM according to the Basic Texts.

I would note that the CCLM has Members from every region elected by this Council to represent the regions and with specific qualifications to consider legal matters in comportment with the Basic Texts. During two Sessions of the CCLM, there was consensus on the paper and the development on this Item that it was consistent with the Basic Texts. Beyond consensus Members of the CCLM, representing each of the FAO's seven regions expressed positive support for the document as amended by the Committee ensuring comportment with the Basic Texts.

Chairperson, if you will indulge me, I do take seriously the elected role of Membership in FAO Governing Body Committees, and it is truly an honour to chair one of those Committees and have the confidence of colleagues to an election to serve in that role. Therefore, I feel like I must comment for the efficiency of this Organization's work in giving the time and cost burden on the Secretariat, Management and Members to hold *ad hoc* and additional Sessions.

As a Committee Chairperson, I think it is my responsibility to implore Members to use regional representatives on the Governing Bodies to express the views of the regions. When it is evident that there is a clear lack of consensus emerging it would be much more efficient for the Organization to realise that prior to the convening of an additional Session or at noon at that additional Session before forging a consensus document to this Governing Body that then ends up being returned.

It is of course the prerogative of this Governing Body to return anything to the committees that the CCLM stands ready again to consider this document. With regard to the mandate questions that are being raised, the CCLM held its meetings on this matter at the instruction of the Conference, and at the instruction of the intervening Council. Our mandate was to consider the legality of the matter and we dispatched our mandate on the document that was presented to us. If Members of the Council choose to put to the CCLM in a different text the CCLM will of course similarly dispatch its mandate and review that text but I do not think in this case we have gone beyond the mandate of our Committee. We have responded, at some inconvenience and cost to the Organization's Members to this Council, to attempt to expedite its work.

I conclude my remarks and thank the Council colleagues for the feedback.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Life is always full of surprises, and sometimes surprises are really nice, and sometimes you have to swallow surprises, but that makes life so beautiful.

With that, I would like to propose the following conclusions on this Agenda Item.

1. The Council reviewed document CL170/19, *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*, and CL170/21, *the Report of the 116th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 8 June 2022)* and:
  - a) appreciated the open and transparent consultations held by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) on this matter and the substantive outcome of these consultations; and
  - b) welcomed the draft Conference Resolution .../2023, as amended by the CCLM at its 116th Session, and requested the ICC to continue his informal consultations with Members to achieve consensus before submitting an updated version of the Conference Resolution for review by the Council through the CCLM, with a view for submission to the Conference at its 43rd Session for approval.

Can we agree to this text?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

One simple question. Given the time of submission of the Report of the 116th<sup>h</sup> Session, we Members are a bit reluctant to consider it as a document of the Council because it was not submitted within the deadline for submission of documents.

I understand that there were some discussions and that the special Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) held a week before but that notwithstanding, we are still considering that the document came late because we needed enough time to discuss the proposed resolution with our capitals and we did not have that time.

That is why we are asking ourselves if we should consider that document as a real document, as it was there for information, because we are not happy with the deadline the submission of that document as it arrived to us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

*CL170/21* is a document of this Session of the Council. It is a main document. It is a matter of fact that it was published and translated later than the established deadlines for this Session. However, that has also happened in the past when there are meetings of Governing Bodies, and especially of Council Committees, which take place after those established deadlines. Then, naturally, the Reports of those Governing Body meetings are published later than the established deadlines, that is totally logical. Nevertheless, this does not obviate the fact that those Reports remain documents of that Session of the Council. And that is the case with *CL170/21*.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia supports the conclusion, the only change, perhaps, to remove the word, 'his' informal consultation and just keep gender balance, and "*for ICC to continue informal consultations*". Nothing, I think, needs to be changed. I think you are doing a wonderful job.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was not trying to change my gender, but it is correct that it should be gender neutral.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

We can accept this as well but for subparagraph (b) is it possible to add, since it is an updated version, before or after the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)., "*and the Finance Committee*" because presumably the Finance Committee should review an updated version before it goes to Council.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quisiera clarificar una cosa. Yo levanté la mano antes, quizás no se vio o yo me equivoqué en algún problema técnico, pero quería solamente hacer un comentario para no parecer que no leo los textos básicos. En los textos básicos lo que yo leo es que los miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) son elegidos por las regiones, pero no representan a las regiones, sino que están en su propia capacidad personal, como la propia Presidente del CCLM.

Solo hago esta aclaración para no tener que entrar en la discusión sobre si los miembros del CCLM representan la posición unificada de las regiones, porque si no tendríamos que abrir esta discusión y me gustaría evitarlo. Si hay alguna duda, les paso el artículo de los textos básicos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I followed the order as it came on my screen, so you came on my screen as the third speaker.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We can support the text on the screen as amended by Malaysia and by the United States.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We appreciate the transparent consultation, but we still want to quote a famous saying, always said by you, "*nothing is so great until everything is so great*". We still want to uphold the spirit, and in our view, since this draft resolution was not consulted with Members, we would propose to delete the first sentence, "*the Council reviewed the document*". Because this is a document that has not been consulted with Members, it should not be delivered to the Governing Body.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we say "*noted*"?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We actually would propose to delete this document from the Council because it is a draft resolution and has never been consulted to its Members. It is different from the spirit in what you always lead us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to be careful because the draft resolution was discussed with Members. Perhaps not finalized, but it was discussed in informal consultations with Members. However, to make a long discussion shorter, perhaps we could say "*the Council reviewed the issue of restorations*" and then it follows the rest of the text. At least we have reviewed the issue. Delete reference to the documents.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

À ce stade de la discussion je voudrais malgré tout exprimer notre surprise. Ce document existe, il est sur la table, nous pouvons nier la réalité, mais elle ne reste pas moins la réalité. Des consultations avec les États Membres qui le souhaitaient ont eu lieu, des longues discussions ont eu lieu, et ce texte a été soumis ensuite de manière régulière au Comité. Donc, vraiment, nous ne voyons pas pourquoi il faudrait supprimer ou modifier le chapeau du paragraphe 29, qui est strictement factuel. Encore une fois, je parle de faits. S'agissant du petit (b), nous pouvons être flexibles et accepter en l'état le paragraphe (b), mais je voudrais réitérer, "*for the record*" que nous estimons que le Conseil devrait recommander que ce projet de résolution soit envoyé à la Conférence. Toutes les indications, certains arguments qui ont été évoqués pendant les discussions, par exemple sur la question du délai, je rappelle que le délai figure dans une résolution de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies (GNU), que nous avons tous adoptée. Réitérée régulièrement. Toutes ces discussions ont eu lieu et donc je suis surprise d'entendre de nouveaux arguments. Donc, pour résumer, nous souhaitons conserver le chapeau d'origine, même si nous le regrettons, nous pouvons accepter le paragraphe (b), tel que modifié et nous encourageons les collègues à consulter avec leurs collègues des capitales, des régions et à New York.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan supports the draft decision. With regard to the chapeau, Japan has a flexibility for the original one and supports the Chairperson's version. I concur with the comment made by my French colleague; there is a fact that there is a document before us as a Conference document.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

For the chapeau, we have no strong view either way, but we want to revise subparagraph (b), because, as China mentioned, I am not sure that there is a draft resolution benefited of open and transparent consultations as the discussion itself was on the resolution. We will propose something that we wanted to capture on the screen. Subparagraph (b), "*noting the draft Conference resolution, discussed at the 116th Session of the CCLM, requested*" - then we will go away from the rest - "*the ICC to continue the informal consultation with Members with a view to achieving consensus prior to submission to the Conference*". We will leave it at that. We do not have to put "43rd Session" or whatever, that will be read in any other place.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

Several Members today commented on and discussed the document that exists that is a Council document, and that as France said, is a fact. So we also were shocked that the proposal to delete that, we cannot accept the proposed deletion in the chapeau.

In regards to the proposed addition at the end, we also cannot accept deleting the reference to the 43rd Session of the Conference since this is a Conference tasking so we would like to keep that section of the document.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Siempre tratamos de hacer gala de flexibilidad, a pesar de que creo que los procedimientos tienen que ser respetados. Cualquiera sea la razón por la cual no llegó a tiempo, nos hubiera gustado que hubiera llegado a tiempo, y las consultas existentes informales tenían como objetivo buscar finalmente el proceso del consenso, cosa que no fue logrado. Consecuentemente, creo que, si bien quizás podemos aceptar la propuesta suya, respecto del *chapeau* y el punto del subpárrafo (a), nos parece que en el subpárrafo (b) íbamos con una propuesta más de fondo, dejar solamente el párrafo a partir de "*requested the ICC*" pero creo que la sugerencia de Camerún nos permite ser flexibles y apoyarla, así como está planteado en la pantalla.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

With regard to the chapeau, we believe that the reference to the document *CL170/19* which includes on pages 6 and 7 the draft resolution is important to maintain. We would recall the fact that in the beginning of that document it states, "*the Council is invited to review the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate*". We believe the direction is quite clear on that document, so we prefer to retain the chapeau as it stood.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia can go along with suggestion made by you, Chair. The only thing I have to point out is the fact that the draft Conference resolution is contained in document *CL170/19*. Therefore, there needs to be a reference in the chapeau if you are going to note the draft Conference resolution in subparagraph (b). Perhaps one way I can think of is to say "*review the issue*" and then, "*as contained in document CL 170/19*", so that would give reference to subparagraph (b). If not, you are just discussing an issue, the draft resolution comes up from which document? It does not go alone.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We understand very well the principles of your work and the representative from China already mentioned that very clearly what you say, 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed' by all Members. Here we would like to bring another fact to the request that was given by Conference. The request goes as follows I will now read it out in English the exact words and these are words taken from the document *CL170/19*.

*Continues in English*

*“The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to hold transparent and inclusive informal consultations open to all Members on the subject matter”.*

***Continues in Russian***

We understand very well having also taken part in the consultation and with this work you have done. However, we came to the conclusion as we have heard comments from Members. The comments are on the draft of the text which was not fully approved with widespread consultation and therefore thanking you once again for the consultations, we do see the arguments put forward by the representative of China and we agree with the fact that the draft resolution did receive support of many Members.

From a procedural point of view though, we see the difficulty, therefore we support the draft as we have it here on the screen with the amendments, but referring to the document *CL170/19*, the reference is not fully correct, because here we see the instruction, but not the confirmation. Therefore, we think we should keep to, with reviewed and we agree with the proposal from Cameroon on subparagraph (b) that was made.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

As a relatively new Member of the Council, I just want to give an opinion that I certainly believe represents my region.

The Bahamas is a paying Member and notwithstanding if there are other countries in our region who are not up to date, we seek to still represent their views. I do find it often, certainly in this Council, somewhat offensive that we waste considerable time debating issues that I find illogical. We support the original form of the chapeau. I do not feel the need for the changes that are being debated. Notwithstanding the fact that we are a small country, I think we speak on behalf of our region.

I find it unreasonable on behalf of the country and the region I represent to have this exhaustive debate, and frankly sometimes I wonder what is the issue that some countries are seeking to. What is the objective? For the record, the chapeau should remain as it was proposed.

**Mr Benjamin ROSS (Australia)**

In relation to the chapeau, I would first like to register our concern about the removal of the document titles, as has been mentioned a few times now, including recently by distinguished delegate from the Bahamas. The chapeau as originally drafted is grounded entirely in fact, and in relation to subparagraph (b), I would also just like to express our preference for the original formulation, including the amendments that were proposed by the delegates from the United States and Malaysia.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do have that patience and I have all the patience even to go into the weekend, because I think with the mood that we have now in the room, we are not making today a lot of progress, also with the chapeaus and now this issue. Everybody assured me before the Council that we should not have a Saturday Session. It was not only my goal but also my target as Independent Chairperson, and it is still my goal and my target, but for that I need also your corporation and your flexibility to focus on the issues which really matter.

Now we will go into the nitty-gritty of the elements, because I do think what we want all to say is that we should continue the inclusive, comprehensive consultations with the Members in order to get a consensus on this issue. Of course, formally when you look to the Basic Texts if consensus is achieved on this issue it has to go via the Finance Committee, by the system, via the Council before it can go to the Conference. It is also stated in the Conference decisions.

To be honest I am a little bit lost on what we should and should not do in the text of what is now on the screen. I do not know whether there is flexibility to say that *“the Council noted”* and then we mention the two documents, because two documents are part of the description in front of us. Otherwise, we will have a long discussion on the chapeau, but we know the documents as was rightfully said by Malaysia, if we speak about the resolution those who were not part of the Council asked where did we get those two solutions.



I think at least we have to make reference to which document that resolution can be found. So that is why I would like to propose to maintain the references to these two documents, I would say instead of 'reviewed', 'noted'. Would that be a compromise? I see China nodding. Can we all agree that we say 'noted'? Because then at least we have reference to the documents that we are discussing, also for the consultation because I would be glad, also in the weekend, to have informal consultation, but of course it will be done after the summer break, and not in a weekend.

I think we have an agreement on subparagraph (a). I am now on the chapeau and paragraph (a). Then we go to the different changes in the text of paragraph (b).

Can we agree with the first proposal that is on the screen, "noting the draft Conference resolution discussed in the 116<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCLM" instead of "welcoming the draft resolutions?" I do not see any objections.

I do not think there will be a problem if we replace "his", by "the". Then we go to the third proposal. Can we agree to "with a view to achieving"?

### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

We appreciate the contribution made by our colleague from Cameroon, however, as we said before, we think that the consensus needs to be reached before this draft resolution is sent to any of the Governing Bodies, that is including the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and also the Finance Committee, so actually we prefer the original extraction. We hope it will be agreeable to all other colleagues.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility to go along with the proposal of China to go back to the original text? I do not see any objections.

Can we go along with the insertion of "the Finance Committee"? I do not see any objections. Now we will clean up the text to make sure that we have a finalized consensus on this text. Can we agree now to the conclusions as they are on the screen?

Thank you very much for concluding this Agenda Item, which brings us hopefully back to Adoption of Report on Friday.

### **Item 18. Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations**

#### **Point 18. Reprise de l'examen de la gestion et de l'administration de la FAO par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies**

#### **Tema 18. Reanudación del examen por la Dependencia Común de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas de la gestión y la administración en la FAO**

(CL 170/12; CL 170/20)

### **CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Agenda Item 18, *Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations*. You can find the documentation in CL170/20. The introduction by Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of the Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP) has been circulated to you.

#### **Introduction to Item 18: Resumption of the Management and Administrative Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations**

*Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget*

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) is the external oversight body of the United Nations (UN) system. FAO is one of 28 participating organizations. The JIU has 28 Participating Organizations and FAO has a long history of fruitful association with the JIU. The Organization contributes 3.7 percent of the Unit's yearly costs, or approximately USD 0.25 million annual contribution.

FAO values the work of the JIU particularly with regard to benchmarking with other UN entities. FAO works closely with the JIU in support of their reviews and, at any point in time, is involved in multiple reviews which require active involvement and significant time commitment by FAO senior staff. JIU Reports and the UN system-wide comments are published on FAO's website.

The JIU periodically carries out Management and Administration Reviews (MAR) of Participating Organizations, with the JIU generally undertaking one or two MARs per year. The proposed JIU MAR for FAO has a long history. The JIU first approached FAO at the end of 2018 regarding programming an MAR. Given that 2019 was a transition year for the leadership of FAO, both sides agreed that early 2020 could offer a good opportunity.

The incoming Director-General in 2019 welcomed this opportunity, noting that this would offer the JIU's independent lens at the beginning of the transition process from the previous administration to the new one in assessing the managerial, administrative and governance arrangements required to deliver FAO's mandate.

The JIU subsequently did not include the FAO MAR in their 2020 Programme of Work. In January 2021, the JIU communicated to FAO the inclusion of the MAR in the 2021 JIU Programme of Work. FAO welcomed this first concrete step and looked forward to the early commencement of the review to feed into the planning and transformation processes already underway. In June 2021, the JIU communicated that they planned to start the review in early July 2021. FAO provided the JIU at that time with background documentation to facilitate the start of their review (such as our planning documents).

At the end of June 2021, the JIU communicated postponement of the start date to September 2021. At the end of September 2021, the JIU informed that they could not start the review before the beginning of November 2021.

At the end of November 2021 (30 November 2021), FAO received the first official communication from the JIU on the FAO MAR. The memo indicated that "data collection/research and a desk review had started in earnest". FAO assumes this refers to the JIU's review of the planning documents that had been sent earlier in the year. The memo also indicated that the timeline and draft Terms of Reference would be communicated in due course.

At this point, the Organization realized that, regretfully, the JIU MAR for FAO could not meet the original purpose agreed in 2019, namely to provide an independent lens at the beginning of the transition process.

FAO also considered that a review, which would effectively take place in 2022 was too early to comment on the impact of changes introduced through the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget approved by Members in 2021, including organizational transformations.

On 13 December 2021, FAO therefore proposed to the JIU to defer the MAR to spring 2024 to allow FAO the opportunity to take concrete actions to implement the recently approved Programme of Work and to ensure that both FAO's and the JIU's efforts invested in this exercise would be conducive to useful and practicable results.

On 14 January 2022, the JIU responded that based on the information presented, the meeting of Inspectors decided to suspend the review with immediate effect and to assess its viability in future programmes of work. The JIU also noted that it was not in a position to commit to FAO's proposed dates to resume the review. The JIU during this period also asked FAO, through its JIU focal point, if autumn 2023 would be amenable, which FAO confirmed it would be.

The JIU to date has not communicated when it expects to undertake the FAO MAR. FAO reiterates its full commitment to undertaking and supporting the JIU MAR as soon as a mutually convenient date is agreed with the Joint Inspection Unit.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor to the Members to make any comments or remarks.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

We thank the Secretariat for the update document as well as copies of the correspondence between FAO and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the Management and Administration Review (MAR) of FAO.

In the interest of saving time, we will not comment on some of the points mentioned in the correspondence as they are not central to the core issue of the timing of the review. We would however, like to briefly comment on one point in the correspondence and that is the issue of independence of the JIU. In all three of their letters, the JIU mentions the issue of independence.

Judging from the correspondence, it is not clear why the JIU felt the need to draw attention to this issue, as no one was disputing the question of their independence. This is also very clear from the Director-General's letter of 5 June 2022, which unequivocally states, and I quote: *"We also fully agree that it is not for the Organization's management to unilaterally decide that a JIU review should be deferred to a later time. Indeed, such a decision lies solely with the JIU..."*

Our experience is that, in all such reviews, before making its decisions, an independent oversight entity such as the JIU, needs to interact with Management to obtain its views as well as other relevant information, following which the JIU must evaluate these views and then independently make its own decision. The provision of comments by Management should not be interpreted as interference but as a contribution to enable the JIU to make its independent decision. An independent oversight entity like the JIU cannot operate in isolation.

We will now revert to the core issue of the timing of the review. The important question is how to ensure that the findings and recommendations of the review are of maximum benefit to Members and the Governance process as well as to Management so that actions could be taken in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

The answer to this question is dependent not only on the timing of the review but also for the JIU to stick to the timing proposed by itself. In this connection, it is obvious from the following that the frequent changes of date by the JIU of the timing of the commencement of the review resulted in the delay of the review. This is apparent from the following:

At the end of 2018, it seems there was an understanding that early 2020 would be an appropriate time for the review. The value of this timing of the exercise was that it would offer the JIU's independent view at the beginning of the transition process from the previous administration to the new one in assessing the administrative, managerial and governance arrangements required to deliver FAO's mandate.

The 2020 timing of the review would also present a useful opportunity for taking on board good practices that would have been helpful to the new administration in its initiatives for introducing reforms in the Organization.

However, the JIU did not include the FAO MAR review in its 2020 programme and subsequently suggested to FAO that the MAR would be included in its programme of work in 2021.

In January 2021, the JIU communicated to FAO the inclusion of the MAR in its 2021 programme of work and this was welcomed by FAO because the results would feed into the planning and transformation processes underway.

In June 2021, the JIU communicated that the review was planned to start in early July.

At the end of June 2021, the JIU communicated the postponement of the start date to September 2021.

At the end of September 2021, the JIU informed that they could not start the review before the beginning of November 2021.

At this point, it became clear that the review would effectively get underway in 2022 and MAR could neither meet the original purpose agreed in 2019, namely, to provide an independent view at the beginning of the transition process, nor would it be advantageous because the reforms and transformations approved by the Governing Bodies were in process and had not been completed. It is in this context, that the suggestion for deferment was put forward for JIU's consideration. It would be

more beneficial to the Governing Bodies and the Management to have the review when the reforms have been completed so as to see the impact and functioning of the reforms.

This is particularly so, because the review is a comprehensive one, and as per the JIU would cover the Organization's governance, accountability framework, monitoring and reporting, oversight, human resources, financial and budgetary processes and strategic planning.

When considering the timing of the review, the aspect of maximum benefit to the governance process as well as to Management should be borne in mind. In this respect, the timing suggested by Management is in our view a valid option. Of course, the JIU would in that case have to obtain the approval of its legislative bodies.

**Mme Espérance NDAYIZEYE (Burundi)**

Le Burundi prend la parole sur le point 18 intitulé : Reprise de l'Examen de la Gestion et de l'Administration de la FAO par le Corps Commun d'Inspection du Systèmes des Nations Unies CCI au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Le Groupe régional Afrique remercie le Comité Financier pour ce document contenant les informations actualisées sur ce point. Nous saluons la mise en place par les Nations Unies du CCI qui est un organe de contrôle externe, qui contribue à garantir l'efficacité en matière de gestion et d'administration par ces recommandations sur les meilleures pratiques et contribue aussi à une meilleure coordination au sein des organismes des Nations Unies, ce qui renforce la transparence et la redevabilité envers les Membres.

Nous saluons la participation active de la FAO aux examens du CCI par la disponibilité des fonctionnaires durant cette période pour fournir les données suivant le thème. Nous nous réjouissons également que cette contribution de la FAO soit hautement appréciée par le CCI et que le Secrétariat, FAO, CCI aient des échanges fréquents et réguliers. Cependant, le Groupe régional Afrique note que le dernier examen en date de la gestion et de l'administration de la FAO a été effectué en 2002 suite au report répétitif des autres examens en 2018, 2020, 2021 par la FAO et le CCI. Nous saluons l'engagement de la Direction de la FAO à soumettre la gestion et l'administration à l'organisation de l'examen du CCI et à faciliter cet examen dès qu'une date convenant à deux entités aura été fixée.

Le Groupe régional Afrique recommande à la FAO et au CCI de se convenir sur une date d'examen la plus proche, tenant compte de la fréquence des examens annuels des organismes des Nations Unies, que le CCI s'est fixée. Cela permettra l'évaluation des programmes en cours comme le Plan Stratégique 2022-2023, le Plan à Moyen Terme 2022-2025 et le Programme de Travail et de Budget 2022-2023.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La Macédoine du Nord, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, l'Ukraine et la Géorgie se rallient à la présente déclaration. Le Corps Commun d'Inspection des Nations Unies avait prévu un examen de la gestion et de l'administration de la FAO au titre de son Programme de Travail pour 2021.

Au début de ces travaux, le CCI a reçu à la mi-décembre 2021 une demande de report de cet examen au printemps 2024 de la part du Directeur général de la FAO. En dépit des efforts déployés par le CCI pour poursuivre l'examen, la date de sa reprogrammation n'a toujours pas été confirmée. Nous sommes préoccupés d'apprendre le report de cet examen. Le fait que la FAO demande le report de cet examen est une situation inédite.

Nous souhaitons à cet égard rappeler deux principes fondamentaux qui doivent présider aux relations entre la FAO et le Corps Commun d'Inspection, du fait du rôle central et unique de ce dernier au sein du système des Nations Unies. Tout d'abord, l'indépendance du CCI, qui est sa raison d'être et qui est consacrée dans ses statuts. Nous demandons instamment à la FAO de respecter les procédures établies du CCI qui contribuent à l'amélioration de la gouvernance, de la responsabilité, de la transparence et de l'efficacité de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Cela implique également de respecter la prérogative du CCI, de définir la date de l'examen en vertu de l'article 9 de ses statuts, accepté par la FAO. L'autre principe est celui de la responsabilité, partagée entre le Corps Commun d'Inspection, les États Membres, c'est-à-dire nous, et les organisations participantes dont la FAO, s'agissant du mandat et des résultats concrets du CCI sur l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies.

En effet, comme le dispose l'article 6 du statut du CCI, que la FAO a approuvé et par lequel elle est liée, les organisations participantes doivent apporter leur entière coopération aux travaux du CCI. Nous prenons note du document de référence fourni par la FAO, s'agissant de ce point et de ses explications quant à la demande d'ajournement de report de l'examen du CCI. Nous prenons également acte de la correspondance récente entre le Corps Commun d'Inspection et la FAO. La suspension de l'examen, n'a clairement pas été décidée d'un commun accord avec le CCI. Qui plus est, il est à notre avis profondément regrettable que les États Membres n'aient pas été informés de cette demande de la FAO, nous apprécions d'avoir finalement pu consulter la correspondance entre le CCI et le Directeur général.

Nous sommes également préoccupés par les observations du CCI concernant les disparités importantes entre les explications fournies au Conseil de la FAO et les raisons données par le Directeur général à l'appui de sa demande de report. Le CCI est le seul organe de contrôle extérieur indépendant du système des Nations Unies, grâce à ses recommandations, il joue un rôle primordial dans l'amélioration de l'efficacité, de la gestion et de l'administration des institutions et par là même dans la réalisation du programme 2030.

Nous souhaitons souligner les avantages que les conclusions de l'examen du CCI pourraient avoir sur la gouvernance de la FAO, notamment en termes d'amélioration de l'efficacité organisationnelle intersectorielle, des résultats des programmes et de la cohérence en matière de la gestion du personnel. Le CCI occupe en effet une place unique pour fournir aux organisations participantes et à leurs États membres un état des lieux détaillé de certaines des questions et difficultés qu'ils ont à résoudre de manière urgente.

Grâce à son regard transversal sur le système des Nations Unies, le CCI peut identifier les bonnes pratiques qui pourraient échapper aux autres mécanismes de contrôle interne propre à chaque organisation. Pour toutes ces raisons, l'examen du CCI est un aspect majeur des bonnes pratiques de gestion et de gouvernance au sein de la FAO. Du fait de cet ajournement et de l'absence de progrès à cet égard, l'examen a pris un retard considérable alors même que le dernier examen de la FAO par le CCI date d'il y a 20 ans. La mise en œuvre des bonnes pratiques qui seront identifiées par le CCI profitera à tous les Membres de notre Organisation et à son personnel, et par là même aux millions de personnes soutenues par la FAO dans le monde entier.

En conclusion, nous souhaiterions terminer en remerciant le Comité Financier d'avoir abordé cette question au cours de sa 191<sup>ème</sup> Session. Nous demandons à la Direction de la FAO de prendre de manière urgente toutes les mesures nécessaires à la reprise de l'examen du CCI dans les plus brefs délais à la date que le CCI aura fixée et de tenir les Membres régulièrement informés de l'avancée de cette question. Nous attendons avec intérêt de recevoir le rapport d'examen de la FAO par le CCI, conformément à l'article 11 du statut du Corps Commun d'Inspection des Nations Unies.

**Mr Pierre-Emmanuel DE BAUW (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the statement just delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

First of all, we would like to thank our colleagues at the Finance Committee to have discussed the suspension of the joint inspection at its 191<sup>st</sup> session, and we welcome their conclusions.

Belgium hereby underlines the crucial role of the Joint Inspection Unit (JUI) in the United Nations (UN) system, its functions, powers and responsibilities under its Statute, as well as the benefits that could be drawn from the results of the review for efficient management and administrative functioning of FAO.

Indeed, good governance is the cornerstone of the UN system in general and is crucial for FAO, especially during uncertain times with rising food insecurity and in the light of the rising demand for non-earmarked voluntary contributions. We herewith stress the potential benefits the conclusions of the Management and Administrative Review could have on the Organization in terms of governance, accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

This inspection has been awaited for as long as 20 years; the last one took place in 2002. It should be recalled that the FAO has statutory commitments (in particular Chapter 9, Articles 56 to 59 of the

UCM Statutes) to participate in and cooperate with JIU inspections. We regret that the inspection, which had just started by the JIU team, was suspended unilaterally and without being justified. There is no precedent for such a situation. Furthermore, this postponement affects the independence of the JIU. If Management and executives do not participate, it is a missed opportunity.

We recall that Belgium has a long-standing commitment to support rules-based multilateralism. In 2009, Belgium adopted a policy of core funding of the international partner organizations for multilateral cooperation. Its aim is to support funding stability, predictability and provide sufficient financial resources to enable international partner organizations to carry out their core mandates while delivering effective results.

In this regard, for more than ten years Belgium has allocated non-earmarked core contributions to the Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) to support the FAO Regular Programme budget, and is a top donor to the FAO Special Fund for Emergency Activities (SFERA) in the humanitarian field. In order to be able to continue to advocate for non-earmarked voluntary contributions and to ensure good value for money to our taxpayers, good governance, accountability, transparency and efficiency are key.

In this respect, let us emphasize the need for FAO Membership to exercise their oversight and governance prerogatives. We therefore call on the Management of the FAO to do everything possible to comply with the statutes and to facilitate the resumption in the short term of the work started by the JIU.

**Ms Elissa GOLBERG (Canada)**

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) is the only independent external oversight body of the UN system. It is mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations UN systemwide. Given that FAO is a UN system actor it has a duty to collaborate and cooperate fully with its work.

Canada has been particularly interested in seeing the JIU being able to conduct its assessment of the FAO not only because it has been 20 years since it has last done so, but because we know based on all of our experience of working with the JIU that it offers a valuable look under the hood. It offers a look under the hood that is different from what the internal evaluation function of the individual agencies offer. It is also able to look at the way that the Organization operates in comparison to other organizations across the system and that is part of the value proposition that the JIU offer us in this particular context.

It offers that opportunity to also determine course corrections to help organizations understand what things might require some strengthening to make sure that they continue to be best in class, and that is something that we all aspire the FAO to be, and to remain, which is an organization that is best in class in helping those that require support with respect to agriculture and food security.

We believe in this particular context that the JIU's assessment will also deliver benefits to the Governing Body for all the reasons I have already stated and to FAO's Senior Leadership Team. It is for this reason that Canada has requested that the FAO take all the necessary steps for the swift scheduling conduct and completion of the Report of publication to Members of its planned and, unfortunately, postponed 2021 Joint Inspection Unit Management and Administrative Review (MAR).

It was also something that we discussed in the context of the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC), which points the FAO's Director-General made a commitment to us in that context that the management administration review by the JIU would be resumed as soon as possible and no later than 2023. Therefore, we feel that this commitment has already been emphasised and we would like to reiterate it in this particular context.

Bearing that in mind it would be very useful for us to hear from the FAO Secretariat the new timeline that has therefore now been confirmed.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

We acknowledge the points raised by the distinguished and experienced colleague from Pakistan. We also note the representation on the update on Management and Administrative Review (MAR) of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of United Nations. With this connection, we have the view that the

MAR should be undertaken in a timely fashion and would be opportunity for the Governing Bodies and Management to have the review when the reforms have been completed to see the impact and function of the reforms in a transparent manner.

To this end, we call on FAO to continue working with JIU to initially agree as soon as possible on a common date to undertake the Management and Administration Review and inform the Members accordingly.

Furthermore, it would be prudent for FAO to formulate a policy to be done continuously and not allow almost a lapse of 20 years for this review to take place.

**Sr. Gonzalo EIRIZ GERVÁS (España)**

España apoya las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia de la Unión Europea y por sus 27 Estados miembros. Asimismo, mostramos nuestra preocupación, como otros Estados Miembros de la FAO, por el hecho de que se pospusiera por parte de FAO la revisión administrativa y de gestión. Un hecho sin precedentes en el ámbito de Naciones Unidas.

También nos preocupa que el texto facilitado por FAO tenga, según la Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), inexactitudes y omisiones. Confiamos en que el equipo de gestión de FAO aprecie el valor del JIU, cuya función redundante en el bien de todo el Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y que se realice esta evaluación para mejorar. Ser más eficientes y aprender de nuestros errores, sin poner en riesgo la propia reputación de FAO, es un bien de enorme valor para todos nosotros.

Es por ello que solicitamos que se realicen todos los pasos para que el JIU pueda hacer su trabajo y reanudar lo antes posible esta evaluación.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARRHIGH (United States of America)**

The United States believes the FAO should work with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to reschedule the Management and Administration Review (MAR) for a mutually agreeable date as soon as possible and ideally prior to the fall of 2023. We understand the final date selection is up to the JIU and we did take note of FAO's 5 June letter to the JIU. We would urge FAO to continue to convey in writing, its clear willingness to collaborate and cooperate fully with this review and to proceed with the MAR at the earliest opportunity.

We believe that this review is in this organizations interest. FAO has a good story to tell on many of the internal reforms and I think we heard many of the previous speakers note that this review is a means to obtain an external, independent feedback, suggest refinements and areas for further development that could help steer future organisational planning.

Our expectation is that FAO leadership will continue to keep Members fully informed about its discussions with the JIU and consult with Members about decisions such as this.

We conclude by asking that FAO shows responsibility with regards to the rescheduling of this review at the earliest possible opportunity and as was discussed and highlighted by our Canadian colleague, it was discussed with the Director-General during the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC). We also urge FAO to continue to rebuild positive relationship with the JIU.

**Mr Soumitra MONDAL (India)**

India joins the European Union and its 27 Member States in seeking swift resumption of the review by Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) at the earliest convenience, which is long overdue.

**Ms Xi LI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

First of all, we would like to show our appreciation for the Management of FAO to provide us with very detailed information and we approve the highly efficient supervision system of FAO.

We notice FAO has been working effectively with Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)'s work such as is mentioned in the review and Report. Back in 2019, FAO actively mentioned that JIU should conduct review before institutional reform.

We agree with Pakistan, but Pakistan's intervention has helped us to remind us about 2021-2022 the review has been long delayed. Therefore, we believe this job is, actually the delay has been proposed by JIU and we believe we welcome the review by JIU. We would like to see the review would be effective.

Therefore, FAO requested to delay the review in the beginning of 2021, we noticed that JIU has mentioned this. The main purpose of the review is to conduct independent analysis, evaluation of the management and administrative reform of FAO, because considering the interval is longer of the institution and due to the limitation for the human resources and financial resources of the JIU to make the best use of UN resources and to guarantee the effectiveness of the review, we believe that the review should be conducted later rather than started in a hasty manner.

We believe what is most important for FAO, at the moment, is to realise the Strategic Framework which was approved by all Members to support all Members to solve the issues related to food security and to decrease poverty. We stress again that FAO has to find the balance of the efficiency of administrative and management.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation welcomes the transparent character of the interactions of FAO Secretariat with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) regarding the agreed timeline for the Management and Administration Review.

Discussions of this issue during the FAO Finance Committee Session from 16-20 May and also the Secretariat's publishing of the correspondence between the Director-General and the JIU clearly demonstrated the exact reasons and the arguments for the actions of a failed leadership. We fully share these reasons. It is evident that the FAO's Management undertook active steps relating to the administrative steps for conducting the review in 2020 and early 2021 after the election of the new Director-General to the Organization which occurred in the summer of 2019.

This inspection should have served as the basis for the subsequent transformation of the Organization, and this has been repeated by Management. However, the context of JIU's heavy workload conducting it within the agreed deadlines and, a very important point, these were deferred more than once and not owing to FAO's initiative, proved not to be possible. These circumstances did not deter FAO's Management from engaging in the reform of FAO for the purpose of the accelerated achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda.

In this light, a JIU review is not a routine analysis of the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations System Organization, its aim is to enhance the Organization's performance taking into account best practices, standards to improve coordination, to boost effective collaboration.

We consider it fully justifiable that such a review be conducted as an analysis of the outcomes of the transformation initiated by the Director-General. In this connection we support the intention of the FAO management to agree on new dates for the review taking into consideration JIU's timeline of work and its approval by the United Nations General Assembly, because we know that the JIU's calendar for next year has already been agreed.

**Mme Maria De Fatima JARDIM (Angola)**

L'Angola s'associe à la déclaration du Groupe africain mais nous sommes conscients que la transparence, la réglementation peuvent renforcer l'efficacité des institutions. Même l'Angola a maintenant un programme particulier, un programme national à cet effet. Nous aussi apprécions les efforts déployés par la FAO pour la mise en œuvre progressive des réformes envisagées dans le cadre stratégique dans le Plan à Moyen Terme et dans le Programme de Travail et le budget. Étant donné qu'il s'agit d'un processus visant à atteindre les objectifs de développement 2030, nous attendons des progrès aussi diligents, opportuns et dynamiques que possible. Nous estimons qu'il est pertinent que le CCI évalue les résultats concrets, la mise en œuvre du cadre stratégique comme il est opportun. Mais enfin, nous convenons l'importance de continuer à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour que la reprogrammation de l'examen pour l'inspection, la gestion et l'administration de la FAO soient confirmées dès que possible. Il faut encourager, il faut dire et consentir que la Direction de la FAO ait



fait tous les efforts, à travailler beaucoup pour ce cadre stratégique que nous avons adopté pendant cet important Conseil.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I will try to be very brief. I would like to echo some of the previous speakers such as the United States, France, Canada and others who believe that this Management and Administration Review should take place as soon as possible.

Fortunately, we have not been convinced by the rational explanation that FAO gave for postponing this review. This review must be done in time that we will see the reviews and the necessary reform will be done based on the Report before the next elections of the Secretary-General.

This is not a burden for FAO, but rather it is an opportunity for them to show their excellence and to put to the mutual necessary reform, and we will diagnosis it. So I hope the FAO will not lose these opportunities.

I am very much convinced that what is the real rationale and motive to postpone the review by the time of the 2024, and also to see the rationale behind the subject of this delay among the other Member States.

We should make a joint effort with FAO among the Members to try to make the credibility of the Organizations as high as possible. That is beneficial for everyone here and I would like to see that very soon.

**Mr Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal)(Observer)**

Portugal aligns itself with the European Union (EU) and its Member States statement just delivered by France.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the Finance Committee members that placed the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Management and Administration Review of FAO in the Committee's Session agenda. Indeed, we fully agree that the information to FAO Members on the review and its resumption should have been made in due time by FAO management.

Secondly, we welcome the conclusions of the Finance Committee on the issue. Considering the importance of the Management and Administration Review for management, but also for the governance duties of FAO Members, the resumption of review by JIU is relevant for having an independent analysis of the last 20 years of FAO's Management, and, in particular, to the current Organization's governance, accountability framework, monitoring and reporting, oversight, human resources, financial and budgetary processes, and strategic planning, as mentioned in the conclusions.

We took note of all the information delivered on the issue and look forward knowing when the review can be scheduled. As mentioned by Canada, United States of America and others, we are also awaiting that the FAO Management can duly inform Members on the ongoing process.

**Ms Isabelle FRAGNIÈRE (Switzerland)(Observer)**

We appreciate the opportunity to express ourselves regarding the Management And Administrative Review of the FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Switzerland believes such a review of the FAO, particularly after 20 years since the last one is indispensable and overdue, and in this respect, we would support the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union.

Through valuable insights on its functioning the review will allow the FAO to improve its efficiency and agility in a fast-changing world in order to ultimately improve its impact on the ground.

We therefore call on the FAO to cooperate fully with the JIU throughout this process to allow for the resumption of this review as soon as possible, as also requested in the recent 191st Finance Committee.

As a Member of the Geneva Group, Switzerland reconfirms its engagement and collaboration to keep working together to improve the UN and the FAO's transparency, accountability, governance and management.

**Mr Thomas John KELLY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)(Observer)**

The United Kingdom supports the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and comments made by others. We would like to reiterate the importance of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) as an independent body across the UN system. As Burundi on behalf of the African Regional Group noted, it supports effective management and reinforces transparency and accountability with Member States.

The review is an opportunity for FAO it allows us to take stock of the progress of reforms that have been introduced in recent years and it will identify areas for prioritisation of reforms going forward as well. We were concerned to learn that the JIU encountered obstacles in proceeding with its Programme of Work as endorsed by Member States with regard to its planned review of FAO and as a result, unfortunately, they have been postponed.

We recognise that FAO has now shared the exchange of letters and would urge FAO Management to be more open like this in sharing communication with Membership in the future. Not engaging with the Membership early enough risks misperceptions. Open consultation and exchange with Membership, forces understanding and partnership opportunities.

Moving forward now, we call on FAO to work in full collaboration with the JIU to reschedule and to ensure swift resumption of the review, as India said, cooperating with the JIU as they conduct the review and keeping Members regularly updated on progress, also in the Finance Committee discussions.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I just wanted to comment on one aspect because I have heard many colleagues refer to the question of independence, which I agree is very important for any entity, which is a sort of review entity like the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). But I must point out, however, that from the correspondence which has been disputed there is now evidence of any interference in JIU's independence. What is clear from the correspondence that the Organization gave its views, and it is supposed to give those views the JIU cannot operate in splendid isolation it has to interact with each body, which it is reviewing to get its views.

The JIU was supposed to make its independent evaluation of those views and make a decision. Why did it not make a decision to carry on? Why did it make a decision to suspend the review? That is the question the JIU should be answering, so there is no interference in the independence of JIU. There is no evidence that the Organization unilaterally suspended the review. There is plenty of evidence in the correspondence that the JIU unilaterally suspended the review. So we should be asking the JIU why did you do that? The organization gave its views about the timing. The JIU could have rejected those views since it is independent and evaluate those views and say, no we carry on. But it did not. It suspended the review. So I would like to ask JIU, I would like to appeal to Members, ask the JIU, why did you suspend the review?

**Ms Elissa GOLBERG (Canada)**

Since this issue is coming up again, I would just reiterate the points that the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) has made in its correspondence and that it had offered at the UN General Assembly a few months ago as well when it took the floor when asked questions about this issue.

I do not think the issue at this point is very much about the where and the why from my perspective and certainly what my delegation tried to emphasise its earlier intervention is the point is we want this assessment to move forward. Therefore, we are very much interested in the way ahead.

We are very much interested in hearing from the Secretariat that dates will be confirmed in short order so that this assessment can proceed. That would be to the benefit of the Organization and to all of us as Membersthat are interested in seeing the FAO continue to be a high performing organization and demonstrate some of the successes that it has had as the United States had pointed out earlier.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Pour revenir brièvement sur certains points et notamment sur certains arguments évoqués tout juste par mon collègue du Pakistan et je voudrais tout d'abord soutenir ce qui a été indiqué par ma collègue du Canada. Juste citer les faits tels que rapportés par le Corps Commun d'Inspection. Je vais les citer en anglais. *“We therefore point out that the statements and characterization in the document to the FAO Council Seal 170/20, that “the suspension of the review was a mutual agreement” would be incorrect and contrary to the facts, as no conversation about this matter took place before receiving your letter.*” Un peu plus loin. *“As an independent oversight entity, it is the JIU that decides on the elements that it will focus on”.* Par ailleurs, nous nous félicitons que dans la lettre du Directeur général du 5 juin 2022, le Directeur général reconnaisse et soit pleinement d'accord avec le fait qu'il appartient uniquement au JIU de décider de la date de cet examen. Je voudrais me référer à la lettre du Directeur général. Je cite. *“We also fully agree that it is not for the Organization’s management to unilaterally decide that the JIU Review should be developed at a later time. Indeed, such a decision lies solely with the JIU.”* Encore une fois, je pense que ce qui nous intéresse maintenant, c'est d'avoir des engagements fermes de la Direction sur l'avenir pour que cette évaluation, qui est due de très longue date, et qui se fera au bénéfice de tous, de nous-même mais également des populations les plus vulnérables dans le monde, puisse se faire très rapidement. Je ne peux que faire mien les mots du G77 à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en mars 2021. Je me permets de les lire en anglais puisque ce sont les extraits du discours du G77. *« The Group wishes to reaffirm its longstanding support to the important work the JIU has as the sole independent and external oversight body mandated to apply a system-wide perspective in the examination of the work of the United Nations ».* Et je pense que nous pouvons tous souscrire à cet important rappel.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

We would like to note that not an initiative of FAO nor decision of FAO was the Management and Administration Review (MAR) deferred. The document shows that in 2019, the Management turned to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and responded to the proposal for this review. But then, for a number of reasons, many Members have asked why this review was not held. I think that question could also apply to 2020, 2021, when, on initiative of JIU, an agreement was not reached on, conducting the MAR in FAO.

We read the correspondence carefully, and what emerges from the correspondence is that, between the Organizations, there had been contact, which is appropriate. The Members of the Council should understand at this point what the way forward is. We believe we have clear indications that have been given and are ready to support them, namely that we support dialogue between JIU and FAO to determine the dates, taking into account the workload of the JIU and the work line that has to be approved by the General Assembly.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I give the floor to Ms Beth Bechdol for remarks.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

Thank you, indeed, for the focal point at FAO for the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), which is why I am pleased to take the floor on this topic. Maybe just first a few words in general on the JIU. FAO has really a long and fruitful association with the JIU. We work closely with the JIU in support of the reviews, and at any point in time, we are involved in multiple reviews, which require active involvement and time commitment from FAO senior staff.

Just in the past weeks, we have actually welcomed two different delegations to FAO now that people are also able to travel to meet with them to ongoing reviews. I would also just highlight that the JIU Reports and the UN system-wide comments thereon are published on FAO's website.

Turning then to the JIU Management and Administration Review (MAR), indeed, the JIU periodically carries out these Management and Administration Reviews, generally undertaking one or two MARs per year. I would highlight that the JIU has 28 participating organisations. That may answer some of the questions about the long timeframe between one MAR and another. I would also just reiterate that this programme, this timeframe, is fully under the authority of the JIU.

Indeed, FAO was first approached in 2018 to do a JIU MAR. That was after, indeed, the last one, which was in 2002. At that time, both sides agreed that 2020 would offer a very good opportunity to have that independent lens from the JIU at the beginning of this transition process from the previous administration to the new one.

Subsequently, the JIU did not put the FAO MAR in their 2020 Programme of Work. We do not have the reasoning for that, but they did then subsequently include it in the 2021 Programme of Work. The JIU then postponed the start of the MAR a few times during 2021, and it was at the end of November 2021 that the first official communication was sent to FAO on the FAO MAR.

We are pleased that we have been able to share all of the correspondence with you, and I am pleased to hear that the Members have read those carefully. If there is any omissions or clarifications, we are happy to provide those. The JIU did not elaborate on what may have been missing from the Council documents, but we hope that with the Council document and all correspondence that the positions and the discussions that took place are clear.

As you know, FAO considered now that the review could no longer be undertaken with what was in mind when it was first established and discussed in 2019, which is to provide that independent lens at the beginning of the transition process. FAO also considered that a review, which now effectively would take place in 2022, because I would point out that the letter at the end of November 2021 still said that the timeframe in terms of reference would be communicated in due course.

Then we also felt, therefore, that a review that would effectively take place in 2022 was really too early to comment on the impact of changes that we are introducing now through the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work.

We also wanted to ensure that both FAO's and JIU's efforts invested in this exercise, which is a big exercise, would be conducive to useful and practicable results. Therefore, indeed, FAO suggested that the review be deferred until Spring 2024 to allow us to take concrete actions in working-level discussions. At that time, the JIU also asked FAO, that was in discussion with me, if the autumn of 2023, the Fall of 2023, could also be a suitable date, and FAO confirmed that it would be.

It was then in January that the JIU responded that the meeting of inspectors, the JIU inspectors decided to spend the review with immediate effect and to assess its value ability in future programmes of work. So here, indeed, we would just like to reiterate again that such a decision, as some of the distinguished Members have said, lies solely with the JIU. So, it indeed would not be correct to say that it is a joint decision. It is a decision that lies solely with the JIU. And they communicated that decision.

In JIU's most recent correspondence of the 3rd of June, it also, again, reiterated that JIU's internal process for determining its annual Programme of Work requires both a consensus among the inspectors on the topics to include in a particular year, as well as the internal capacity to deliver on the topic.

As we have also communicated in the correspondence that you have seen, FAO welcomes and values the JIU's independent lens, with a view to ensuring maximum effectiveness and efficiency, which is in the interest of FAO and its Members. FAO has reiterated to the JIU its full commitment to supporting the JIU MAR, and we look forward to the JIU identifying a date when it will be able to deliver at FAO MAR.

Chairperson, I believe that the Director of Cabinet would also like to intervene, if that is okay.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Mr Godfrey Magwenzi for some remarks.

#### **Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Director of Cabinet)**

What I wanted to say was said by Pakistan and the Russian Federation in their second interventions, the questions that I wanted to direct to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). However, since I now have the floor, I will just say a few points, which I think have been lost in the discussion or not been taken into account.

The first point is that FAO welcomed the opportunity to have this Management and Administration Review (MAR). We actually enthusiastically welcomed it, and we were looking forward to this MAR. Second, look at the evidence. I am inviting Members to look at the evidence. If you do not trust the document we prepared for Council; that's okay. But look at the evidence - the letters that were exchanged. That is the core evidence that we have.

The JIU MAR was in the Programme of Work approved by the General Assembly for the year 2021. The JIU writes to FAO end of November, saying they are now actively looking at this. I am just paraphrasing here just in case somebody decides to actually quote what they said. I am paraphrasing. There is silence for two weeks in December. The Director-General in the middle of December writes to them, not postponing, but requesting that they postpone.

There is no law against making a request that I am aware of. A request can be made. Anybody can request anything. However, it is up to the person being requested to grant the request or deny it. The JIU is quiet. It is only in January of 2022, long past the implementation of the work plan approved by the General Assembly, that the JIU writes saying, "We suspend the MAR."

The question that they should be asked, and I am glad that Members are in touch with the JIU, when they wrote their letter in November, they were quiet in December, until the DG wrote to them. Were they going to do a MAR in the two weeks of December that were left before 2021 came to an end? Because they are using our letter of mid-December, requesting them to postpone, saying this prevented them from doing the MAR. They could just have said, look, we are coming, it is in our work plan for 2021. We cannot postpone it. We do not have the mandate from the General Assembly to postpone it. So, we are coming.

And they could have come. However, they did not. The question that the Members should ask them is, "The MAR was in your approved work plan for 2021. You waited all year until there was only one month left to start doing this thing, to start talking about it. Were you giving it priority? Was this a priority for the JIU?" Clearly, it was not. So, let us examine the evidence that is before us.

Last point, FAO did not postpone or suspend the MAR. FAO requested the JIU to postpone. The JIU in January 2022 suspended the MAR. We did not. Therefore, it is not correct to say, "*Management unilaterally suspended.*" We did not suspend the MAR. The JIU suspended the MAR. Their letter is there, saying we suspend the MAR. And as the Russian Federation said, and I think the United States also said, we cannot tell the JIU when to come. They have to prepare a work plan, submit it to the General Assembly. The General Assembly approves it, and then they will come.

Even if you tell us to go and tell them to come, we can do that. We can invite them. However, they have to have a plan that is approved by the General Assembly for them to come. We cannot do it for them. So, we are waiting for them to give us a date according to their own approved work plan.

**Ms Elissa GOLBERG (Canada)**

I thank the Director of Cabinet for his clarifications. I think what I would like to make sure does not get lost in the conversation, because I think we are all very clear on the documentation that we have read, what you are hearing is that there is a strong desire by the Membership to see this kind of an assessment go forward as soon as possible.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je remercie Beth Crawford pour ses explications et son engagement très clair, très déterminé. Je dois dire que j'ai été un peu plus surprise par les propos du Chef de Cabinet. Nous réitérons notre souhait qui a été exprimé par tous, que cette inspection se tienne. Nous avons tous lu la correspondance. Pour, à des fins de transparence, il me semblerait par ailleurs nécessaire que ces lettres que nous avons eues, grâce notamment aux lettres du JIU, puissent être mises sur le site du Conseil, à des fins de transparence. Je souhaite réitérer notre souhait que cet examen se poursuive, mais j'ai été particulièrement rassurée par les propos de Beth Crawford sur l'engagement plein et entier de la FAO à coopérer entièrement avec le Corps d'Inspection, à respecter pleinement son indépendance et en particulier conformément aux statuts du Corps d'Inspection, accepté par la FAO, à attendre les indications données par le JIU concernant d'une part le timing de cette évaluation et d'autre part l'étendue de cette revue.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

We are aligned with the colleagues from Canada and France. We would definitely like to see this take place as soon as possible. But, interestingly, [XX] of the views of France. So, in that case, I am very much curious to what has actually happened in the... I would also like to hear the leadership's views on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded our deliberations on this Agenda Item.

I prepared brief forward-looking conclusions. Also to avoid that I am becoming a judge in this issue because I heard so many times "evidence this" and "evidence that", and I think what we need now is to get the work done. That is also what was said by many Members as well as by Management.

So, I would like to propose the following conclusions:

1. The Council took note of the information provided in CL 170/20, *Update on the Management and Administration Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations* and information provided on the Members Gateway.
2. The Council requested Management to take steps to ensure that the rescheduling of the Management and Administrative Review with the JIU be confirmed at the earliest opportunity, and with due regard to the potential benefits of the results of the review for efficient management and administrative functioning of FAO; and
3. The Council requested Management to provide regular updates to the Members on the progress on this matter with the JIU.

With that, I propose to you the first conclusion, "*the Council took note of the information provided in CL 170/20, Update on the Management and Administration Review of FAO by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations and information provided on the Members Gateway*".

Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to the second paragraph, "*the Council requested Management to take steps to ensure that the rescheduling of the Management and Administrative Review with the JIU be confirmed at the earliest opportunity, and with due regard to the potential benefits of the results of the review for efficient management and administrative functioning of FAO*".

Can we agree to this paragraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Deux suggestions, d'une part pour prendre en compte les courriers intervenus depuis le rapport du Comité des Finances, puisque pour le Comité des Finances, je souligne qu'il n'y avait aucun document écrit, aucune lettre. Donc, pour prendre en compte les documents intervenus après le Comité des Finances, l'assurance du management que nous avons entendu, je souhaite changer le mot "*at the earliest opportunity*" par "*at the earliest convenience of the Unit*". Puisque nous venons tous d'entendre non seulement dans la lettre du Directeur général mais également les propos de Madame Beth Crawford que bien sûr c'est la "*This decision lies solely with the Unit*." Je cite Madame Beth Crawford. Donc, "*to the earliest convenience of the Unit*" Et remplacer "*with your regards to*" par "*recognising the potential benefits*". J'explique "*with your regards*" donne l'impression que la date devrait être décidée en fonction des potentiels bénéfiques. Comme nous l'avons indiqué comme cela a été très clairement par le JIU, par la Direction, la décision de programmer la revue appartient à la seule unité, ou seul Corps Commun d'Inspection. Donc, remplacer. Ce n'est pas "*with*", il faut supprimer "*with*". Recognizing the potential benefits. Et on supprime "*and*" aussi.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

In fact, the second paragraph, which says, "*The Council requested Management to take steps to ensure*." What steps did Management take? Because we had the whole discussion, Members emphasizing the independence of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). And it is the JIU which makes the decisions. It is the JIU which has the independence. Therefore, it is for the JIU to take steps, not

management to take steps because otherwise there will be the whole debate. Why is management interfering? And why is Management taking unilateral steps? JIU should take the initiative and take the steps that it has to because it is considered independent.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

For paragraph 31, I think the deletion of France changed the meaning. But I am more radical, keep only to “*convenience of the Unit*” and erase everything else. We know what the purpose is. That would be the end to “*the Unit*.” The rest we already know.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We fully support the rationale provided by the distinguished colleague from Pakistan. From our standpoint, our appeal to the Management, that can cover only what the FAO can do, not the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Throughout our discussion, Ms Céline Jurgensen of France said that the decision to conduct a review is something that falls within the mandate of the JIU. However, here, it would seem that we need to somehow prompt the JIU to take that decision.

As for the proposal on the second part of that paragraph, from our standpoint, nothing has changed because when the Finance Committee considered this issue, there was a very clear understanding of the fact that the Secretariat is in very close contact with the JIU. And there are no issues which could result in this review being postponed. Therefore, we would like to stick to the original wording.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARHIGH (United States of America)**

Having heard the comments of the distinguished delegate from Pakistan, I have a possible suggestion, to replace “*to take steps to ensure*”, we could perhaps put “*communicate in writing its willingness to ensure that the rescheduling of the MAR with the JIU be confirmed at the earliest opportunity*.”

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I would just like to point out the proposal made by France, while I understand the basis behind it, to ensure that the independence of the Unit, but in the sense, it looks as if the Unit has direct overview, even over the General Assembly. Because I think it was made clear that the Unit needs to get the approval or mandate from the General Assembly.

I think we should either reference the General Assembly to some extent to show that the mandate of the General Assembly is crucial in this sense. Of course, the Unit cannot at its own convenience decide without going through General Assembly. We have to give some credit to the General Assembly.

That option, of course, to just delete that comment of “*Unit*” because when you say, “*the earliest opportunity*,” we all recognize that the Unit is independent. So, the word “*convenient*” at this point may not carry the weight that we would wish it to be.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

Building on what the United States has just offered, which I think it is an excellent compromise, I actually think that what FAO Management can also do to ensure the full cooperation to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Maybe, we could also say that “*the Council requests the Management to ensure full cooperation with the JIU and communicate in writing its willingness...*”.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I think the United States and Italy’s proposals make sense. I think that is a good compromised languages. Responding to what the distinguished colleague from Pakistan said, we are not in favour to buy that kind of argument. This Council is not mandated to make their suggestions, retractions, and some others, on the Secretariat. So, we are talking about what the Secretariat can do.

According to the explanation made by the FAO Secretariat, the FAO requested the postponing of the implementations of the reviews because December 2022, it is just to our timing the Strategic Framework 2022 [XX]. But it is very clear that many of the Members States wish that this language should be done as soon as possible.

So, it is very simple. If you request that, the Secretariat should be able to withdraw this kind of request or the argument. If they say that, they can certainly express a willingness to accept, to accommodate that the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) would be implementing the reviews at their earliest convenience.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I just want to thank the United States for their proposal, and I confirm I can go along with the wording proposed by them.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estuve callado escuchando los diferentes aportes de los colegas. Estuve muy atento a lo que dijo Estados Unidos, Pakistán, Italia, en particular. Me parece que, quizás, si me permite sin tratar de inventar la rueda – y si ayuda –, aparte de apoyar la sugerencia de México que me parece apropiada, quisiera sugerir el texto: *“Fully facilitate to the extent possible.”*

Creo que de alguna manera captura lo que planteó también Pakistán sobre lo que realmente puede hacer este Consejo, pero también lo planteado claramente por los Estados Unidos y por Italia.

Espero poder ayudar.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir la formulation proposée par mes collègues italienne et américaine: *“Requested management to ensure full cooperation with the JIU and communicate in writing its willingness...”* Je voudrais par ailleurs revenir sur la question de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, parce qu'il y a une confusion à cet égard. Le JIU est seul responsable de la définition de son programme de travail. C'est l'article 9 de son Statut. Son programme de travail est contenu ensuite dans un rapport sur ses activités et c'est ce rapport qui est envoyé à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. L'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en prend note, c'est tout. En aucun cas, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ne modifie pas le programme de travail du JIU, ce serait aussi contre son indépendance. Donc, je souhaite souligner ce point, car on en reste bien à la notion que seul le JIU est responsable de son programme de travail. C'est-à-dire de la date de l'examen, et du contenu. Et l'Assemblée générale ne modifie pas cela. Elle peut en prendre note, comme elle l'a fait par exemple dans sa résolution 75/270 du 16 avril 2021.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see at least we have an alignment or at least a compromise with the text proposed by the United States in the second line. We still have to see what we do in the first line. However, I think I heard several delegations supporting the compromise proposal by the United States. Hopefully, we can then at least take that on board so that we delete *“take steps to ensure.”* But *“communicate in writing its willingness.”* So, at least that is out of the way.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We also wanted to clarify how the UN General Assembly adopts the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report. We take it as our starting point that JIU Report is an annual Report, so it would make sense to adopt it once at the end of the year following the period when the JIU conducts its reviews. So, as per established practice, JIU Reports are adopted at the end of the year, in the month of December. We believe that these circumstances need to be taken into account when discussing Report adoption.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us focus on the text. I go to the fourth line. Can we say, *“at the earliest convenience of the Unit?”* Is that agreeable? I do not see any objections.

We have two other brackets, and I learned in negotiation that you always start with the most far-reaching bracket, and that is the deletion of the full last part of the sentence. Can we agree to delete it? I do not see any objections.

We have only to solve the two brackets in the first line. *“To fully facilitate to the extent possible,”* or *“to ensure full cooperation with.”*



**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I would like to go along with the proposal made by the United States. I think “*be willing to ensure full cooperation with the JIU*” is what we have been talking about all Session today. I think that really demonstrates the willingness of Council for management to do so. Therefore, I think we should just maintain “*we request management to ensure full cooperation with JIU,*” and then continue the rest.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable for the room? France, is it also agreeable for you?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait je voulais proposer quelque chose de légèrement différent. L'idée de “*full cooperation*”, c'est le statut du JIU. C'est l'article 6. : “*The Inspector should be accorded full cooperation.*” Donc, peut-être qu'on pourrait suggérer quelque chose comme “*Recalling the importance of full cooperation, the Council requested management to communicate in writing, etc.*” “*Recalling the importance of full cooperation with the Unit, the Council requested management.*” Donc comme ça, on rappelle l'importance, ce qui est factuel, c'est le statut du JIU et ensuite on va à la partie opérationnelle : “*The Council requested Management to communicate in writing its willingness...*” etc. J'espère que cela peut combiner les deux suggestions. Je pense que nous avons été plusieurs à souligner l'importance de cette disposition sur la coopération.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Presidente, para facilitar su gestión, pido eliminar la propuesta que sugerí de texto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, at least we have one bracket then erased. We have still two to solve.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I cannot go along with any wording that speaks about corporation because from the correspondence that was released, we found that there was nothing about cooperation. One side gave its views, and the other side, instead of evaluating those views and giving its independent verdict, as it were, because it is supposed to be an independent unit, it suspended the review. Why did not it carry on? Where was the lack of cooperation? So, why we are talking about cooperation now? Cannot we do away with the wording of cooperation and stick to the original wording, which was proposed by the United States?

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I just want to state our support for this proposal made by the United States regarding “*communicate in writing its willingness*” because we believe that is what is transpired from the discussion today from the Management and from the Members.

**Ms Jennifer A. HARRIGH (United States of America)**

As we all know, for Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to conduct its reviews, it depends on the full cooperation of the body that it is reviewing. Therefore, we think it is very important to retain this language on cooperation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any suggestions for compromises? Let us first take up the last subparagraph. “*The Council requested management to provide regular updates to the Members on the progress of this matter with JIU.*” Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

I was consulting with the Legal Counsel whether or not we need the remaining two brackets. As I see the schedule of the Joint Investigation Unit, that you have to cooperate. And we also have seen in the letter that the Director-General will cooperate. So, if it is assured, do we need to have it then still in the text? It is not a question whether or not you should cooperate because you are obliged to cooperate. The Director-General already clearly stated in this letter that he will cooperate. Do we need then the text in the brackets, either one of those?

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

In case colleagues feel that they have to put this wording of cooperation there, we could... You see, the way it is worded at the moment, it gives the impression that there was no cooperation before. However, that is not what is apparent from the correspondence that was released. We should perhaps say, "*Recalling the importance of continued full cooperation*," so it can give the impression that there was no sort of incident of non-cooperation, as it were, because at the moment, the wording gives the impression that perhaps there was not any cooperation or lack of cooperation before. Therefore, now it is "*recalling*", and that is not what happened, according to the correspondence. Perhaps we could say, "*the continued full cooperation*."

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that bring us closer to an agreement?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je n'entrerais pas à nouveau dans la discussion sur les lettres entre le JIU et la FAO qui montrent qu'il y a en tout cas des opinions divergentes sur ce point. Donc, pour essayer d'aller de l'avant. Est-ce qu'on peut, à ce moment-là remplacer le "*recalling the importance*" par "*noting with appreciation the assurance from management that it will fully cooperate with the JIU*." "*The Council requested management to communicate in writing its willingness*," etc. "*Noting with appreciation the assurance from management that it will fully cooperate*." Quelque chose comme ça.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see several speakers, but maybe to the floor that we have the assurance from Management. So, could this text not work? "*Noting with appreciation the full cooperation*." Could that not do the trick for this subparagraph? I see five speakers, but only if you are against this text could you take the floor. We have five speakers against this text.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have really been reluctant to enter into this discussion, but the text as it is here gives me some trouble because it is like there is a kind of suspicion between the Membership and the Secretariat. It is already disturbing in that sense. However, our idea is always to be positive when it comes to trust between Membership and the Secretariat.

I would prefer another drafting if I may, to read as follows: "*In line with the procedures within the JIU concerning*" end of quote "*full cooperation*," "*the Council*," and then we move on. That is the suggestion. Because in the way it was drafted first, there is no cooperation. And there is a kind of suspicion. So, I want to remove that suspicion there.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I just want to say that I concur with the proposal made by our distinguished colleague from France regarding the "*noting with appreciation the assurance from Management that they will fully cooperate*." However, I think just to take into account what Pakistan just mentioned, I think it is important that we put it in a positive light. So, perhaps we could say, "*it will continue to fully cooperate*," to reflect the fact that Management has been cooperating with JIU that "*it will continue to fully cooperate with JIU*."

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to insert that "*it will continue to fully*." We have five minutes left of implementation time. Could we please get it done in those five minutes?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I will support the French colleague's proposal, as which is much more reflecting the discussion that we made.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It was made by Malaysia, Chairperson.

**Sra. Stefania COSTANZA (Italia)**

Solo quisiera aclarar que no había ninguna intención de generar sospechas en la propuesta, sino que lo que el *management* puede hacer. Eso dicho, estoy de acuerdo con cualquiera de los compromisos que podemos tener en eso.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility of Cameroon to go along with the proposal, “*Noting with appreciation the assurance from management that we will continue to fully cooperate with the JIU*”? Because I think that meets many concerns of the room and positive reactions.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

When you have the experience of drafting a Report of a Governing Body, it is difficult to go along with something that is “*noting appreciation of the assurance*” because that is what is given to you. If you have to take the decision as the Governing Body, and on the business of what to take the decision, it is up to you.

For me, I am a little bit reluctant to go along with this issue of “*noting with appreciation the assurance from management*.” It is not our Report. So, we have a neutral document that gives us a way forward for decision making. That neutral document is the procedure within the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). It is not what Management is telling us. That is my thinking behind my suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If we do both, it is not that you cannot try. If you say, “*In line with the procedures within the JIU concerning full cooperation and noting with appreciation the assurance of Management*,” then we capture both thoughts because I think it is also that you appreciate the willingness to do everything. Would that not do the trick?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Pour essayer de tenir compte de la remarque de mon collègue, tout en conservant le “*full cooperation*”. Est-ce qu'on pourrait éventuellement avoir la chose suivante. On commencerait à “*Council requested Management to communicate in writing its willingness that the rescheduling of the Management and Administrative Review with the JIU be confirmed at the earliest convenience of the Unit and that the review will take place with full cooperation of FAO in line with the procedure of the JIU.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to avoid having too many paragraphs now or suggestions to consider because then we will get a Christmas tree, and I thought we were almost there.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

We take into account the views from specifically Cameroon, that it says within JIU already will contain cooperation. So, we do not repeat “*concerning full cooperation.*” Perhaps we can say, “*In line with the procedures within JIU and nothing with appreciation,*” and delete the words, “*concerning full cooperation.*” So, that would cover both the concerns of Cameroon and, of course, the other delegation.

Like I said, the notion of cooperation is already apparent in the procedure since we keep talking that JIU is independent, and Management is already cooperation with them.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would the suggestion of Malaysia now bring us to a consensus? Can we agree to the subparagraph as it is now on the screen? Is there anybody against it? I seen none. Thank you so much.

With that, we have concluded this Agenda Item. It is the highest time for the snack, and again, we have different snacks today. So, enjoy the snack, and we will reconvene at 17:30 hours.

Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting was suspended from 17:02 to 17:35 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 17 h 02 à 17 h 35*  
*Se suspende la sesión de las 17.02 a las 17.35*

- Item 7. Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform**  
**Point 7. Informations actualisées sur l'action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la covid-19: construire pour transformer**  
**Tema 7. Información actualizada sobre la respuesta de la FAO a la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19): construir para transformar**  
(CL 170/7 Rev.1)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Dear friends, hopefully, with these beautiful snacks, you are energized for a fruitful not evening or night, but at least beginning even Session, where I do hope to do the following things with your cooperation. First, we will go into Agenda Item 7, *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform*. Then, hopefully, we will endorse the Members of the Drafting Committee.

I hope, with your cooperation to also finalize the conclusions on the Agenda Items under the Written Correspondence Procedure so that tomorrow morning we can focus on the chapeaus and other paragraphs for the Reports of the different Committees. I know there are still consultations going on, and perhaps those consultations bring us closer to a consensus. Therefore, this time, perhaps they need some hours in the night instead of me. Of course, I am always willing to help.

Let us now start our deliberations on the *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform*, and the document in front of us is *CL 170/7 Rev.1*. The introduction to this Agenda Item by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, has been circulated to you.

#### **Introduction to Item 7: Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected economies worldwide, with millions of people losing their jobs and income, and being pushed into poverty and hunger. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021 estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 - as many as 161 million more than in 2019.

The 2022 Global Report on Food Crises estimated that 193 million people in 53 countries and territories experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (IPC/CH Phase 3-5) in 2021. This represents an increase of nearly 40 million people compared with the already record numbers of 2020. This number includes conflict as a main driver, pushing 139 million people in 24 countries/territories into acute food insecurity, up from around 99 million in 23 countries/territories in 2020.

In 2022, COVID-19 recovery efforts have been affected by the war in Ukraine, which is having various repercussions across the world. According to the recent World Economic Outlook by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), global economic growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2021 to 3.6 percent in 2022 and 2023. This represents 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023, respectively, than projected in January 2022.

FAO has been intensively working on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme since the start of the pandemic and has extended this comprehensive programme to July 2023.

With operational requirements totalling USD 1.32 billion, this Programme has, as of February 2022, received confirmed and pledged contributions totalling USD 466 million, or approximately 35 percent of the target.

In terms of regional focus, the African Region has so far received the largest (and increasing) amount of voluntary contributions and FAO's resources – 38 percent of the total – followed by the Near East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean Region, respectively, currently standing at 30 and 13 percent.

The Programme has mobilized political, financial and technical support to reach a large share of rural populations and to relaunch the economic activities. These efforts included innovative data sources to monitor and rapidly assess the impact of COVID-19; scaling up and expanding national social protection programmes across different regions; analytical work on the impact of the pandemic on agrifood trade, including e-training on food safety; early warning systems together with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to monitor the animal-human interface while advancing the comprehensive One Health approach, as well as contingency planning for pastoralists' safe transhumance to winter pastures (e.g. Afghanistan), etc.

The Programme further demonstrated the critical importance of a robust monitoring system for real time data and analysis, including early warning systems, price monitoring and identification of vulnerability hotspots and bottlenecks, as well as the need for a strong link between short, medium and long-term policy decisions and measures, with an emphasis on women as the group hardest hit by the pandemic in agrifood systems.

The process also highlighted the need for policies and strategies that would address structural issues related to inequalities and immediate and concrete responses required to ensure decent work and economic undertakings in the informal economy.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Thursday 26 May 2022, at 15:49*

Australia thanks FAO for continuing to provide Members with updates and assessments on its response to COVID-19. We note the importance of ensuring that FAO's emergency and crisis response architecture takes a systemic and integrated approach to reduce duplication and achieve synergies across programming, where possible, to boost food system resilience. We also encourage FAO to learn and disseminate lessons from across different country and crisis contexts, where appropriate.

We would be interested to better understand the reasons for the relatively low funding for the *Trade and Food Safety Standards* (TFS) and *Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic* (PNP) – and encourage FAO to continue to focus on these areas, given their critical importance to FAO's overall response under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme (RRP). We also note the critical relevance and interconnectivity of the work under the TFS, in particular, to FAO's ongoing responses to the war in Ukraine, including through the provision of technical market and commodity analysis. Additionally, as the first country to partner with FAO's multilateral Agrifoods Systems and One Health Programme Fund, we welcome the notification of new partnerships to support this critical element of FAO's work. We would welcome further information from FAO as to how the PNP area of the COVID-19 RRP is being supported, relative to other elements of the One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA).

Noting that the impacts of COVID-19 have been disproportionately felt across the globe, we affirm our support for a rebalancing of resourcing to ensure that the Asia and Pacific region, particularly the SouthWest Pacific are adequately supported. With the programme extended until July 2023, we request further information as to how FAO may intend to achieve this balance.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Original language Russian)**

*Submitted Friday 27 May 2022, at 15:47*

Dear Director-General, We thank you for the information note on item 7 of the Agenda of the 170th Session of the FAO Council "Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform". First, we take note that as of February 2022 FAO has mobilized 35 percent of the USD 1.32 billion needed to implement FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. We further note that a major part of the funds received were provided by the World Bank (USD 155 million).

It is a matter of concern that out of the six priority areas identified in the Programme, two areas, namely trade and food safety standards, and preventing the next zoonotic pandemic, have been continuously underfunded, receiving just eight and five percent of the total amount mobilized respectively. Additionally, it is a matter of concern that Europe and Central Asia account for only three percent of the funds mobilized, even though it is in Europe that outbreaks of animal and zoonotic diseases have recently been identified, including foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, and monkeypox. Thus, we would appreciate additional information on the reasons behind this clear imbalance, and on measures that FAO is planning to take in this regard.

Second, the note refers to the current situation in Ukraine and its impact on food security, while failing to mention sanctions and other restrictive measures that play a much greater role in breaking supply chains throughout the world. We request that the Secretariat provide a detailed explanation citing statistical data on the impact of unilateral economic sanctions and other financial, economic, and trade measures of a coercive nature that have been introduced against a number of countries, bypassing the UN Security Council, thus limiting the ability of countries targeted by sanctions to rebuild after COVID-19, including in developing agricultural production, ensuring animal health, food security, and good nutrition for all. We expect that FAO's answer will also contain specific suggestions regarding steps that the Organization plans to take to remedy the situation, including as a member of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.

Third, the Russian Federation will be grateful to receive factual information about the activities of the Food Coalition. Specifically, we are interested in data regarding the ten proposals that were selected to be funded out of the Coalition's budget, as well as which countries will benefit within this grouping. We are seeking information regarding the amount of funding that the Coalition was able to attract, its main donors, and FAO expenditure in support of the Coalition's activities. We would also like to request information on the focal points in charge of coordination for this topic. Mr Director-General, please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

## **INDONESIA**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 16:55*

Indonesia appreciates FAO's continuous updates on its comprehensive efforts to respond to the short-term and longterm effects of COVID-19 on global food security and nutrition. We welcome the progress of the seven priority areas under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. Within its mandate, we encourage FAO to continue its monitoring and analytical work and assist Members in recovering the different impacts of COVID-19 at a global, regional and country level, together with UN bodies and other development partners.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 03:20*

Japan is supporting FAO through voluntary contributions to strengthen the food production and supply system and to maintain and strengthen the free, open, and fair trade. Since last year, we have supported FAO in developing the guideline mentioned in paragraph 41 for building a more resilient and seamless global food supply chain. The work will be completed soon. The State of Food and Agriculture 2021 (SOFA) 2021 defined that systems, institutions, and people are considered resilient when they have at their disposal the five capacities: Preventive, Anticipative, Absorptive, Adaptive, and Transformative. Considering those perspectives, we support FAO's work to develop guidelines to assist developing countries in formulating policies to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains to external shocks. We hope that all stakeholders such as FAO, Members, and other development agencies will utilize this agricultural guideline when strengthening the resilience of the agricultural supply chain in developing countries.

Regarding the Food Coalition, we acknowledge the details of 10 proposals currently shown on the FAO website, and some projects are planned to continue until 2026. We would like to ask you to provide us with additional information in writing on how the coalition will be organized and developed, including whether countries that did not submit any proposal, will have opportunities to

cooperate with the Food Coalition in the future or how FAO contains each project outcomes under the umbrella of the coalition.

Finally, Japan would like to ask FAO about its vision towards seven priority areas on the Programme to contribute to the global food systems after COVID-19. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has worsened the global food security situation, and we are now facing a global food crisis. In this circumstance, FAO's current efforts are important to address the complex challenges of global food security, so we would like FAO to explain the outcome of its works in the 7 key priority areas concretely.

## **MALAYSIA**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 14:02*

Malaysia appreciates the continuous efforts by FAO to seek to mitigate the enormous impacts of COVID-19 at global, regional and country level, including to agrifood systems and their resiliency. Malaysia recognizes FAO's key role in the gathering, analysis, production and dissemination of data, information and assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition through the use of real-time monitoring systems and data information platforms. Malaysia applauds FAO's focus on seven areas of work especially Data for Decision-making: Ensuring quality data and analysis for effective policy support to food-systems and Zero Hunger and Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery: Protecting the most vulnerable, promoting economic recovery and enhancing risk management capacities.

***Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría***

Preventing the Next Pandemic (Covid-19 Response and Recovery Programme (RRP) Priority Area) remains high on FAO's agenda and is fully reflected in its One Health Programme Priority Area (OH PPA). The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) has been instrumental in delivering FAO's largest One Health capacity building programme over almost two decades now, with remarkable and constant investment in the Asia and Pacific region. Moving forward, the extension of the FAO Covid-19 RRP provides a crucial advocacy tool, helping to underline the importance of the food and agriculture sector in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR). FAO recognizes that further awareness raising is required on this point, as pandemics are viewed as a human health issue, rather than recognizing the importance of cross-sectoral work, including agriculture and environment ministries and stakeholders. The progress made under FAO's Quadripartite Chair last year yielded the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), citing a core joint action track on zoonotic diseases. The OH JPA is gaining visibility and helping underline the importance of a One Health approach, emphasizing the need for heightened investment, including into pandemic preparedness at the source (e.g. tackling drivers and risk factors of pathogen spillover at the wildlife-livestock-human interface).

The lack of recognition of the crucial role of food and agriculture in Preventing the Next Pandemic (PNP) is somewhat reflected in the low USD figures attributed to the Covid-19 RRP PNP. However, it is also important to note that FAO's PNP and One Health work is gaining attraction, as a number of new funders have come on board (more information below).

Moving forward, FAO is stepping up outreach for its PNP work and for One Health, actively engaging members and partners through all channels, including via high level events. A key G20 One Health side event will take place on 8 June 2022, hosted by the presidency of the G20, Indonesia, in Lombok. A One Health policy brief drafted by the Quadripartite (FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO)) will result. Also, a brainstorming session on 22 June 2022 at the European Development Days in Brussels will discuss how to put the OH JPA into action.

Our motto here is one programme for joint results through multiple sources of funding and partnerships. We thank Australia for joining as first partners to the Agrifood Systems and One Health Programme Fund (MUL). This flexible fund fully aligns with FAO's OH PPA and incorporates PNP/

Priority Area (PA6) as a key pillar. The Joint FAO/WHO Centre (CWJ), in its lead of the OH PPA, plans to host an initial steering committee in June or July 2022 with Australia (at Australia's convenience) to discuss the allocation of their funding and also strategize together how to magnify outreach efforts to attract new partners. A Fund brochure and FAO One Health webpages are being refreshed for this purpose and the Fund showcased at key events - noting important synergies with other One Health funding in support of the OH PPA, alongside funding jointly managed with the Quadripartite (for example the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF)).

We take note of the rebalance of support to the South West Pacific and the CJW team is ready to discuss this. A Fund/MUL steering committee meeting is planned.

Also, it is important to note that the Covid-19 RRP PA6 and the OH PPA attracted new partners such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the European Union, Directorates-General (EU DG)/Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (SANTE), with others showing keen interest in the work. While these sources of funding are not channeled through the flexible MUL, these partners are contributing to important programme results for the OH PPA and PA6 respectively (tagged in our project reporting system). We hope to soon launch a dashboard of One Health funded FAO projects to display this more accurately for partners and to support identifying further needs and gaps.

The FAO OH PPA represents FAO's contribution to the Quadripartite OH JPA. A joint resource mobilization task force has been working on a joint Quadripartite resource mobilization and investment leverage plan, including raising the profile of a One Health approach in G20 Health and Finance Ministers' Task Force meetings and prospective financing mechanisms (including the discussion on setting up a Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) World Bank Financial Intermediary Facility and also related discussions on the Pandemic Treaty). FAO would appreciate Australia's support in underlining that the Quadripartite should be part of the governance of this Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) as Pandemic PPR cannot be achieved by the World Bank and WHO alone. In addition, beyond Pandemic PPR (One Health is more than emerging zoonotic diseases, and includes Antimicrobial Resistance, Neglected Endemic Diseases etc.), concerted outreach for supporting national pathways to implement the OH JPA (i.e. strengthening National One Health approaches and systems) will progress this year. Building on successful joint Quadripartite funding mechanisms, such as the AMR MPTF, will be key.

FAO appreciates the comment provided by the Russian Federation. The low allocation of funds in the cases mentioned is also due the categorization in the monitoring system. For instance, if a budget for the next zoonotic pandemic is mobilized for emergency purpose, the allocation would automatically be shown under the first pillar related to Emergency and not necessarily under the technical area of work. The pillar on Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic under the COVID-19 Programme, which includes One Health, has recently attracted USD 10 million from United States American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for early warning and better biosecurity (committed end of year 2021 and being programmed over 2022-24). To note, and as an example of the above, some of the funds on early warning and pandemic response and preparedness were, as we understand, channeled as part of emergency contributions.

With regard to the reference and clarification related to the current situation in Ukraine and its impact on food security, the Secretariat has published a specific document CL 170/6, Impact of the UkraineRussia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which includes detailed information. Concerning the sanctions and considering that they don't include food and fertilizers, FAO is actively looking at levels of imports by import dependent countries, and how they are evolving over time to be able to provide policy and technical assistance support accordingly.

The activities of the Food Coalition in 2022 have been mainly focused on following up on the project proposals that have been received in response to the call launched last year at the G20 Foreign Affairs and Development Ministerial meeting in Matera. The call was aimed at inviting FAO Members to submit proposals to build multi-country and multi-stakeholder coalitions focusing on: (i) Global humanitarian response plan; (ii) Economic inclusion and social protection; (iii) Reduction of food loss and waste; and (iv) Agrifood systems transformation.



Ten proposals, submitted by a total of 27 countries and 37 non-state actors, were selected. Currently, the Food Coalition is mobilizing financial and technical expertise, with technical support from FAO technical divisions, for initiating activities on three of the proposals, involving 10 countries, focusing on: (i) the creation of a global network of farmers' markets; (ii) strengthening school feeding programmes in three Latin American countries; and (iii) promoting the uptake of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in three Asian countries.

Additional funds have been mobilized to: (i) scale-up technical assistance; (ii) support Ukraine through social protection interventions; and (iii) support the G20 Peer-to-Peer projects - a collaboration mechanism to share knowledge for sustainable agricultural systems, as mentioned in the Joint Communiqué of the Ministries of Agriculture.

For more details on the proposals: <https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/projects-portfolio/en>

Additionally, in light of the current global challenges and crises the Food Coalition has embarked on a brainstorming exercise to rethink its role and contributions. In doing so, the Food Coalition has expanded its areas of work beyond response and recovery from COVID-19 and according to its new vision and way forward. The Coalition has five pillars intentionally designed to address the fundamental and largely inter-connected challenges that we face now, and those that we might face in the future.

Under its revamped Vision and Way Forward and, more specifically, under its Pillar 1, Response to and recovery from global crises, and Pillar 2, Advocacy for solutions, the Food Coalition has hosted - on 27 May 2022 - its inaugural high level dialogue on "The impact of global crises on food security: women as key agents in transforming agrifood systems". The panellists have included eminent women from politics and civil society. The Food Coalition's main donor is the Italian Government with total announced contribution of EUR 15 million over a number of years, and the Government of Israel also contributed USD 50 000.

FAO thanks Indonesia for the recognition of FAO's work to address the negative impact of COVID-19, and takes note to continue and strengthen the monitoring and analytical work.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I open the floor to the Members for their remarks, suggestions, and comments on COVID-19: Building to transform. Who may I give the floor to first?

If there are no requests for the floor, then I will conclude but that would be a surprise. That would be a unique event.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je suis ravie de prendre la parole pour introduire ce débat et break the floor. J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États Membres. Les pays suivants se rallient à la présente déclaration : la Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, la Serbie, l'Albanie, la Bosnie Herzégovine, l'Islande, la Moldavie, la Turquie, la Géorgie, l'Ukraine et San Marin. Nous apprécions les informations fournies au sujet de l'action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la COVID-19 ainsi que les efforts déployés par l'Organisation pour atténuer les nombreux effets négatifs de la pandémie sur les systèmes alimentaires.

Notamment dans le cadre de son programme global de réponse et de relèvement face à la COVID-19, nous souhaitons souligner le rôle essentiel joué par le Système d'information sur les marchés agricoles (AMIS), le Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture (SMIAR) et le Système de l'échelle de mesure de l'insécurité alimentaire vécue (FIES), qui apportent des données utiles pour permettre une prise de décision rapide en connaissance de cause pour faire face à la COVID-19.

Nous avons constaté que les données les plus récentes publiées par la FIES datent maintenant d'un an et nous souhaitons recevoir des informations actualisées sur la façon dont la FAO et les autres organisations ont continué d'être informées des effets de la COVID-19 grâce à ces données. Nous notons que les autres des six domaines prioritaires sont en bonne voie, pour atteindre les objectifs

préétablis et nous attendons avec intérêt des informations actualisées sur les deux domaines qui bénéficient d'un financement moins important.

Je cite : "Normes relatives au commerce et à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments." Deuxième citation: "Prévenir la prochaine pandémie zoonotique." Nous souhaitons également demander à la FAO de préciser dans ses comptes rendus les différences entre son programme d'action pour faire face à la COVID-19 et son programme général de travail car ces deux programmes semblent souvent similaires.

Nous saluons la signature du Mémorandum d'Entente quadripartite en mars 2022 grâce auquel le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE) a été associé sur un pied d'égalité aux efforts coordonnés et collaboratifs déployés pour accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'approche «Une Seule Santé ». Cette participation du PNUE apportera une contribution décisive à la prévention de l'apparition de nouvelles maladies. Nous espérons qu'elle se traduira également dans les actions et les programmes du plan d'action conjoint « Une Seule Santé », actuellement en cours d'élaboration.

Nous réaffirmons parmi les principaux enseignements tirés que la crise de la COVID-19 a prouvé plus que jamais qu'il était urgent de mettre en place des systèmes alimentaires résilients et durables pour une alimentation saine dans les limites planétaires. Il s'agit notamment de renforcer la résilience des emplois et des moyens de subsistances dans le milieu rural, d'élaborer des politiques agricoles et alimentaires adaptées, de donner accès aux marchés et à des programmes de protections sociales et d'accorder une attention particulière aux soutiens des exploitants familiaux et des petits exploitants, notamment des agriculteurs et des groupes les plus vulnérables. Nous remercions la FAO de veiller à ce que le présent point soit mis à jour et abordé de manière régulière.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer término, queremos agradecer al Economista Jefe de FAO, Doctor Maximo Torero, por la elaboración de este documento que nos actualiza sobre las acciones de la FAO para atender los impactos del COVID-19. Fundamentalmente, en materia de seguridad alimentaria y funcionamiento de los sistemas agroindustriales.

Nos gustaría expresar acuerdo en la mención que realiza el documento sobre la particular prevalencia y gravedad de los efectos de la pandemia en los países en desarrollo. Creemos que esta referencia es justa, ya que los países del denominado Sur global, como indica el documento, aún están enfrentando las consecuencias devastadoras de COVID-19. Si bien para algunas regiones la nueva realidad ya es un hecho y el COVID-19 y sus implicancias se transformó en una suerte de mal recuerdo, todavía persisten severas consecuencias en los países en desarrollo que se traducen en más pobreza, más hambre, más exclusión y más inequidad.

Es importante que la velocidad de los sucesos diarios no imponga una memoria selectiva de corto plazo. En esa línea, nos gustaría rescatar lo indicado en los párrafos 10 y 30 del documento sobre las áreas prioritarias que detectó la FAO para desplegar acciones que impulsen las estrategias en vistas a superar situaciones críticas producto de la pandemia, así como la mención en el párrafo 19 sobre que no hay soluciones únicas que encajan en los diversos contextos y necesidades de los países.

También pensamos que es adecuada la diferenciación que se hace en el párrafo 13 sobre que la FAO debe concentrarse en un abordaje basado en el desarrollo más que la atención en la emergencia. Ya como lo indicamos en el 168.º período de sesiones del Consejo, entendemos que la fase de respuestas inmediata se encuentra agotada, por lo tanto, se hace necesario una mejor evaluación de las futuras acciones de FAO frente al COVID-19. Y también queremos destacar la importancia de las herramientas tecnológicas y las soluciones digitales para poder continuar con el trabajo normativo de la agencia y permitir desplegar respuestas basadas en los contextos específicos sobre el terreno.

Como hemos expresado en otras oportunidades, creemos que el valor agregado de la FAO no está en la respuesta a la emergencia, más allá de que en este caso la situación sí lo ameritó, sino en la construcción de cimientos sólidos para erradicar las causas profundas de la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición.

Al hablar de causas profundas nos gustaría detenernos en lo que señala el documento en el párrafo 64 sobre problemas estructurales que vienen desde hace años. El COVID-19 es un hecho trágico que aportó más estrés a los problemas sistémicos que impactan sobre los sistemas agroproductivos. Por

ejemplo, desde hace años está pendiente la liberalización del comercio agrícola que, como una respuesta a la pandemia, ha sufrido aún más presión y restricción debido al incremento de subsidios disruptivos y medidas paraarancelarias injustificadas. A esto también se suma la fuerte expansión monetaria utilizada por algunos países para superar la pandemia a través de inyecciones de enormes masas de capital para reactivar sus economías, pero lamentablemente esto tiene y tendrá un efecto muy duro en los países en desarrollo ya que la inflación global y el encarecimiento de los precios de los alimentos, que impacta en los más pobres, es indudable.

Por otro lado, como bien apunta el documento: situaciones de crisis, conflictos y shocks, se han prolongado por los actuales, también tienen una ascendencia negativa en la seguridad alimentaria mundial, ya que influyen en la disrupción de algunas cadenas de suministros que, justamente, poseen una particular importancia para la producción de alimentos.

Quizás la moraleja o las lecciones aprendidas, como dice el documento, deberían ser la necesidad de transferir recursos, conocimientos y tecnologías a los países en desarrollo, permitir y alentar un comercio internacional de alimentos abierto basado en reglas y no discriminatorio y predecibles, y evitar la aplicación de medidas que tiene un efecto catastrófico entre los países más vulnerables.

Para finalizar, que lo veo ansioso. Les prometo, ya termino. Entendemos que la mención que se hace en el párrafo 55 sobre la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios no nos parece adecuada, ya que se trató de un proceso que no supo o no pudo incorporar a los Miembros en sus debates. Y, por lo tanto, sus recomendaciones no tienen un acuerdo multilateral. FAO tiene que orientar sus actividades en línea con el consenso de sus Miembros, no sobre propuestas parciales o sesgadas.

Con estos comentarios, agradecemos el documento, tomamos nota de su contenido y nos tomamos el atrevimiento de sugerir que veamos toda la película sobre la inequidad y no solo una fotografía en un momento específico.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

As COVID-19 disrupts agricultural systems, the Philippines sees the grave dilemma of a worldwide food emergency. This FAO Report is critical in focusing our attention on the need to prioritise health by guaranteeing a steady supply of resources and, consequently, taking quick action.

The Philippines expresses gratitude to the FAO for its continuing efforts to provide the Members with updates on its response to COVID-19 and its impact on food systems. The pandemic has worsened inequality, exposing the need for policies and measures to address economic disparities, particularly among our fishermen, farmers, and their families.

The Philippines recognizes FAO's assistance to the Department of Agriculture, for example, in digitising government services and facilitating market linkage and supply chain management and optimisation. The support mitigated the impact of COVID-19 by ensuring food supply continuity and assistance to the affected disadvantaged sector. The Philippines emphasises the importance of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, particularly the rapid assessment of COVID-19 impact on Philippine food supply chains in 2021.

This has been crucial in realigning the country's Strategy to the right policies and programmes that would eventually help assure food security and strengthen social security legislation operational instruments. The Philippines strongly endorses the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action for its ambition of collaborative action and consensus building to create a better post-COVID environment.

We encourage FAO, along with its equivalence in One Health, to fully participate in the next stages of origins studies led by the World Health Organization (WHO) within the areas of authority, such as global epidemic recovery efforts and zoonotic disease control. As there is an urgent need to construct resilient and sustainable food systems, the Philippines invites FAO to make implementing changes to meet the local context of the targeted communities' alternative approaches to urban and rural areas.

We also advocate for flexibility in operational processes and requirements to allow for rapid response to the needs of the most vulnerable in the attainment of an inclusive post-pandemic recovery. The Philippines acknowledges FAO's critical part in the development and distribution of information and

analysis of the implications of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition. We encourage FAO to sustain its outstanding monitoring and analytical work by implementing robust monitoring systems for real-time data and analysis as well as vulnerability assessments and policy evaluation.

It is critical for FAO Members and other stakeholders to have consistent and accurate information throughout channels in order to properly plan for and respond to the indirect impacts of COVID-19.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Philippines, on behalf of the Asian Regional Group. Sorry, I thought all the Asian countries could go behind you and I would invite them to go behind you.

#### **Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Distinguished colleagues, we are also very grateful for the update and the Report from Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist. Over the course of two- and a-bit years of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all seen for ourselves the comprehensive effect it has had on food security, disrupting value chains, slowing economic activity, shrinking livelihoods, on top of other corrosive effects. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, only 57 countries in the world can boast 70 percent vaccination rates amongst their population. The majority of these countries are high-income countries.

On the contrary, in developing countries, first and foremost in Africa, what we have seen is an increase in the number of infections, while vaccination rates do not exceed 10 percent. According to, once again, the WHO, last week, despite all of the measures being taken, there were three million new COVID infections. We are concerned by the fact that new challenges are being added on top of COVID-19, such as the new Ebola virus disease outbreak, the Hepatitis of unknown origin and monkeypox.

According to WHO data, as of 14 June, in 39 countries, there were already 1 600 confirmed cases of monkeypox. In light of this very challenging world food security situation and the potential risk of a new pandemic emerging, the attention that FAO pays to combating their nefarious consequences on agriculture should not falter. FAO is a specialized United Nations Agency, and it is incumbent upon FAO to lead their response to the impact of the pandemic, the impact it is had on food security, including by ensuring unimpeded operation of food value chains.

In light of the above, the Russian Federation has proposed a number of recommendations, including with regard for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). General Assembly Resolution 74-306: “*Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*”, that’s the title of the Resolution. Resolution 76-264, dated 23 March 2022, State of Global Food Insecurity, a recent resolution. I hope that you have had an opportunity to acquaint yourself with our proposals. An official translation of these was disseminated two weeks ago through the Members Gateway, the Delegates Portal. We hope that our comments will be taken into consideration.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Distinguished colleagues, Brazil would like to first thank FAO staff and all those involved in putting in place the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, which focuses on the most vulnerable countries and people, wherever they are. We should not underestimate the devastating effects the pandemic continues to infringe on the poorest, especially those in the developing world. Food insecurity and hunger have risen to even more alarming levels, which is undoubtedly directed to the staggering poverty rates and, consequently, its diminished access to food markets and inputs.

With regards to the seven priority areas of work highlighted in Document *CL 170/7 Rev.1*, Brazil would like to express its support and alignment with most of the policy recommendations and actions put in place by the Agency, especially those related to humanitarian response plans, economic inclusion and social protection as well as those reaching to foster a more transparent, free and rule-based international trade.

Despite these efforts, on section “(g) *Food Systems Transformation: “Building to transform” during response and recovery*” of the document, it is stated that the Food Systems Summit has significantly contributed to greater understanding of the Agrifood Systems matter and its role in building back

better during the aftermath of the pandemic. Regarding this topic, let us not forget that the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) did not receive undisputed support during its preparation course, not that its outcome was multilaterally agreed by Members.

Hence, Brazil understands we should avoid these sorts of recommendations in FAO's official documents. Furthermore, in both paragraphs 56 and 57, the document makes unbalanced recommendations to improve and stimulate the production and demand of domestic produced Agrifood products, overvaluing the mass food value chain to the detriment of all the value chains we all know are as important as the national ones to guarantee food security and nutrition for all.

With these remarks, Brazil would like to kindly ask FAO's management to refrain from making reference to the outcomes of the Food Summit once, as previously mentioned, its recommendations were not subject to a negotiated process.

**Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Malaysia)**

Malaysia appreciates the continuous efforts by FAO to seek to mitigate the enormous impacts of COVID-19 at a global, regional and country level, including to agrifood systems and its resiliency. Malaysia recognizes FAO's key role in the gathering, analysis, production and dissemination of data, information and assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition through the use of real-time monitoring systems and data information platforms. Malaysia applauds FAO's focus on seven areas of work, especially Data for Decision-making: Ensuring quality data and analysis for effective policy support to food-systems and Zero Hunger, and Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery: Protecting the most vulnerable, promoting economic recovery and enhancing risk management capacities.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Africa Regional Group primarily commend the FAO Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council for organizing the 170th Session of the FAO Council meetings, and appreciated the Director-General for the interactive involvement and we commend and congratulate the Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, for the hard work and pertinent Report. Eritrea and Tunisia present a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

More than two years after the start of the global pandemic, its negative impact on health, economy and social systems are evolving and likely to endure over the coming years or so. In the world today, many developing countries are facing market overlapping crisis in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the war in Ukraine with rising food, fuel, and fertiliser price rising inflation, economic downturn, and climate changes are causing a great increase in hunger, poverty, and inequality.

FAO has been intensively working on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programmes since the start of the pandemic and has extended this comprehensive programme up today. Therefore, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the Report, and appreciates and underlines the valuable input of the FAO for further supporting, and providing consideration regarding the support, especially for the developing countries.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España naturalmente apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la presidencia francesa de la Unión Europea en nombre propio y de los 27 Estados Miembros, además queremos señalar lo siguiente:

Agradecemos y apreciamos el Programa de Recuperación y Respuesta frente a la COVID-19 de la FAO y sus áreas de trabajo, que entendemos que están contribuyendo a reducir los efectos de la pandemia sobre los sistemas alimentarios, sociales y económicos.

Agradecemos a FAO y a su departamento económico por sus trabajos, aportaciones e innovaciones, como el seguimiento en tiempo real, el análisis de alertas tempranas y la identificación de focos de vulnerabilidad, que ayudan a los Estados y Organizaciones a tomar las mejores decisiones posibles.

Coincidimos en las conclusiones de FAO sobre la importancia de luchar contra las desigualdades y dedicar esfuerzos especiales para las mujeres, que han sido desproporcionadamente afectadas por esta pandemia.

Apreciamos que, siguiendo las indicaciones de los miembros de FAO en pasados Consejos, se haya coordinado con otras agencias de Naciones Unidas y animamos a reforzar estos enlaces para aprovechar sinergias y reducir duplicidades, destacando el papel del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en estas circunstancias.

Acogemos con agrado que el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) se haya unido oficialmente al enfoque *One Health* en marzo de 2022. Consideramos que el trabajo de análisis de la pandemia para prevenir futuras zoonosis requiere el fortalecimiento del enfoque “Una salud” en coordinación con la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE), la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), permitiendo identificar futuras pandemias de origen animal u otro origen.

Por último, quisiéramos subrayar la importancia de apoyar la capacidad de resiliencia de los sistemas alimentarios, en particular los eslabones más débiles como los productores a pequeña escala, asegurando la continuidad de los mercados y el acceso a los alimentos de los más vulnerables.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

We thank FAO for its work in addressing the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterate our support for the work FAO is doing to address the medium- and long-term impacts, which will set the foundation of long-term recovery.

In the background document on this topic, FAO makes clear that a new conflict has significantly and negatively affected COVID-19 recovery efforts. As FAO noted in the background document, this crisis adds additional uncertainty to an already-complex picture and will increase the number of hungry people around the world.

It is important that this evolving context be reflected in the Council’s Report. I suspect we can agree on neat and streamlined conclusions to this Agenda Item. If we are to cite hunger resolutions, there are two recent ones reflecting the current context that we think would be appropriate to include a United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/L.1 and in particular L.2, which explicitly covers food security.

As Secretary of State the Honourable Anthony Blinken said at the recent Ministerial Global Food Security Call to Action, hosted by the United States of America, the United States of America has announced more than USD 2.3 billion in new funding for emergency food assistance to meet global humanitarian needs since February. Following this statement, the Congress of the United States of America approved approximately USD 5.5 billion in additional funding for humanitarian assistance and global food security.

The United States is proud to support the development at FAO and the coordination and implementation of the One Health Programme priority area, among various FAO divisions, including the FAO Animal Production and Health Division, the FAO Office of Emergency and Resilience and the FAO Joint Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance and Zoonosis, among others.

The United States supports FAO’s contributions to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery and its One Health work, as evidenced by the USD 10 million investment in One Health’s institutional strengthening, made late last year. We welcome the recent extension of One Health Plus to One Health Quadripartite, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a full partner.

I would like to elevate an invitation to FAO made by my esteemed colleague from the Philippines, that the Organization participate in all future phases of COVID-19 origin studies within the areas of its mandate.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Sweden aligns ourselves with what has already been said by France on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. During the last two years, we have seen the negative effects of the

COVID-19 pandemic on food security, especially hitting the most vulnerable and also increasing the gender gap. We welcome the efforts undertaken by FAO through its COVID Response and Recovery Programme, the policy advice given to Members, as well as how the Organization has been advocating for keeping value chains open.

The pandemic has been one driver that has increased food insecurity, but the situation for food securities, of course, a more complex one, as outlined in Document *CL170/7 Rev.1*. It is important, in our view, that FAO, when addressing the issue of food security will take an integrated, systemic approach to how to deal with a multitude of drivers, such as conflicts and climate threats, in addition to the consequences following from the COVID pandemic.

It is also important to find the best way to cooperate with other parts of the United Nations system, to address the acute as well as the medium-term and long-term responses to humanitarian and development needs of countries. I think this was also what was clearly outlined by the Director-General at the beginning of this week in his opening statement.

This underlines the need for sustainable transformation of our food systems. With specific reference to the COVID-19 crisis, Sweden would like to underline the need to build global resilience, to be better prepared for the next pandemic, where a strong cooperation within the United Nations, but also at country level, based on a One Health approach, should be one of the most important lessons learned from the pandemic.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Indonesia appreciates FAO's continuous updates on its comprehensive efforts to respond to the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 pandemic on global food security and nutrition. We welcome the progress of the second priority areas under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. Within its mandate, we encourage FAO to continue its monitoring and analytical work and assist Members in recovering from the different impacts of COVID-19 at the global, regional, and country level, together with UN bodies and other development partners.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor.

I turn the floor to the Chief Economist for some reactions.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Thank you very much for all the comments. I think that one of the most important things, and that is why we want to extend the COVID-19 programme into 2023, is the fact that we realize, and we understand that the COVID-19 has not only created short-term problems, but also medium- and long-term problems, which is an exacerbation of inequalities.

Second, it also makes us understand that, because of COVID-19, the traditional identification of hotspots of hunger were not the same. In addition, there was a need to collect new data to be able to achieve and to identify those hotspots. That is clearly reflected in how hunger is increasing, despite of the expansion of the social protection programmes in many countries.

This is very linked to informality too, which is a structural problem that we need to target because COVID-19 targets all the economic activity and the informal sector where normally that were people that were not poor because they were able to get an income through their informal activities. Most of the developing countries are extremely informal, huge rates of informality. This was very clear in Latin America, for example, and also very clear in many parts of Africa.

That brings to us very important structural issues that we need to start to tackle within the seven areas that we are working, and why it is so important that we keep working on these, to keep identifying, as the last speaker mentioned, we need to have a programme of transformation of the agrifood systems that increases resilience.

We were able, in 2021, to issue the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), on exactly the topic of resilience. That helped us to understand how much capacity countries have on absorption, which was also very useful for what we are facing today, which exacerbation, as the US mentioned, in terms of

COVID-19 plus the war in Ukraine, because capacity of absorption, is related to procurement of food. In addition, it is related to how much I produce, how much I have in stocks, and how much I can import when I am an import-dependent country.

That is exactly what the SOFA 2021 did, which helped enormously to understand the challenges and dimensions of resilience, which are three. One is early warning, and that's where One Health plays a crucial role. So, the quadripartite is central here, and thank you so much to the United States of America for the support that they have done. Second is the absorption capacity where we have measuring in the SOFA. Third is how we can build back to higher level improvement, a more resilient situation. That's where all the investments in infrastructure for Agrifood systems our Director-General was mentioning as very important.

Again, I think continuing working on this topic and continuing updating the data, and you must understand, it is very difficult to disentangle the data of what is only COVID-19, what is COVID-19 plus the war. Okay? We are doing our major efforts with the modelling exercises, but we keep updating all our indicators.

What I can tell you now is, we are going to launch the State of Food Insecurity on 6 July of this year. What we predicted last year of the impacts of COVID-19, sadly, has become a reality when we capture those numbers. Therefore, again, we are intensively working and trying to keep all the information as much updated as possible.

Thank you again so much for all your support, and we will keep working on this very hard as a comprehensive approach within our new Strategic Framework.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and your team, for your excellent work and comprehensive reply to remarks and comments.

#### **Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I appreciate the great work done by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, and his team. We greatly support FAO's response to the COVID-19 situations. Japan also participated in the effort with FAO by providing some of the specific systems. We hope that we can continue to work together.

Just one thing, there is no doubt that the COVID-19 made a great negative impact on world food security. At the same time, that already aggravated the situations, has become even more complex, and aggravated by the current situation in Ukraine, namely the Russian aggression against Ukraine. This aspect should be appropriately reflected in the analysis in the future. However again, very much appreciate the work done by the FAO.

#### **Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished representative of Japan that we are currently discussing the consequences of COVID-19, not other Items on our Agenda, the COVID-19 situation. Well, the conflict in Russia and Ukraine has nothing to do with the COVID pandemic.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded our consideration of Agenda Item 7, and I would like to present to you the draft conclusions.

1. The Council welcomed document CL 170/7, *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform*, and in particular:
  - a) noted the persistent negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing disruptions with the highest impact on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;
  - b) emphasized the crucial role of FAO in achieving food security and sustainable agrifood systems and welcomed the results achieved by FAO through its comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme and its seven priority areas of work, including geographical balance in providing assistance to Members within the programme;



- c) expressed concern about the increased gender gap and growing food insecurity among women, as well as the drastic drop in nutrition interventions, in particular nutrition programmes in schools;
- d) requested FAO to continue to monitor the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, including analysis of the impact on agrifood systems, i.e. supply chains, smallholder farmers and family farmers, women and youth, Indigenous People and other vulnerable groups;
- e) encouraged FAO to strengthen and mobilize more support for the One Health approach, standard setting and work preventing zoonotic diseases;
- f) noted the initiative of the UN Secretary-General of the establishment of a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and encouraged FAO to continue actively participating in it by, inter alia, providing information on food prices, fluctuations in markets and factors that influence these trends; and
- g) emphasized the importance of cooperation between Rome-based Agencies and other relevant entities within the United Nations system.

I go one by one.

The chapeau, *“the Council welcomed document CL 170/7, Update on FAO’s Response to COVID-19: Building to transform”*.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I do not have any comments on the chapeau as such. What I would like to propose is something for subparagraphs (a) and (b). In these subparagraphs, perhaps we could refer to resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, resolutions focusing on the fight against COVID-19. These are resolutions which set for concrete, practical measures for all UN system agencies aimed at combating COVID-19. Indaation, this, of course, includes FAO. Thus, in subparagraph (a), I would like to introduce the following wording.

***Continues in English***

I will read it in English. *“Recalls UN General Assembly Resolution 74-306 of 11 September 2020, named Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic,”* end of quote.

A new subparagraph (b), *“Recalls also UN General Assembly Resolution 76-264 of 23rd May 2022,”* quote, *“State of Global Food Insecurity,”* end of quote. As other delegations said on previous occasions, we are just recalling the resolutions, not adopting them, approving, or endorsing them.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for your proposals. We make the note as subparagraph (c) was in our first resolution. However, let us first see whether or not we can agree to the chapeau. I do not see any objections.

Then we go to the first proposed new paragraph, *“Recall the UN General Assembly 74-306 named Comprehensive and Coordinated Response.”*

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I appreciate the suggestions of two resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to be added to this section, but I have a bit of a concern in that we have considered the COVID-19 Agenda Item in Council numerous times over the past two and a half years. I do not think that we have recalled the UNGA resolutions related to COVID-19 in any of our former Council resolutions on this particular Item.

I guess I am wondering why these particular ones are listed out as I can see there are many, many other UNGA resolutions that deal with COVID-19, including *Resolution A74/L.57* and, maybe more pertinently, including the current context as reflected by FAO’s background document and the comments from management and the Chief Economist that a new crisis is negatively affecting the

globe's ability to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely UNGA Resolution *A/RES/ES-11/L.1* and *L.2*, which deal both with the negative effects of the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

I would like to avoid a proliferation of UNGA Resolution references here, but certainly, we could do the research quickly to add all of the resolutions that might be relevant to this Agenda Item, if that is the desired approach. Our preference would be just to stick with the resolutions that the Secretariat has put on the screen.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

Well, I just want to bring to the attention to our distinguished American colleague that L documents are not the resolution documents. They are draft documents. Thus, they have been to the United Nations General Assembly because you can check and verify the references to the resolutions in the United Nations (UN) website. I do not see any other reference to any other resolutions that have been provided by the FAO Secretariat related to the UN General Assembly.

On other Agenda Items, we had references to specific resolutions by the UN General Assembly that were adopted not by consensus of the General Assembly, and some delegations, they muscled through the decision to endorse by the decision of the FAO Council the resolution which has nothing to do with the mandate of the FAO.

Therefore, this resolution, specifically two resolutions, they specifically focus on. The first one is on the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was the first resolution that was adopted by the UN General Assembly, and actually, it was based on the proposals by the UN Secretary General, Mr António Guterres, on the specific measure that must be done by the UN system; how to fight pandemic COVID-19.

The second one was approved quite recently, and this was a consensus resolution by the General Assembly. It was supported by the whole Membership of the United Nations. It also contained very specific measures and assessments of the current situation in food security.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous souhaiterions également nous en tenir à votre proposition initiale et ne pas mentionner les deux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies (AGNU) en question. J'ai noté d'autres propositions d'additions de résolution, nous préférons nous en tenir à votre proposition initiale, et donc supprimer les nouveaux (a) et (b).

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I also have some kind of - together with others - feeling by the deliberation that what is the rationale to pick up particularly the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution here? I am not very much convinced towards the correlation with the discussion of FAO Council. Thus, I deem to support the French proposal to delete subparagraphs (a) and (b).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us keep this subparagraph pending, and let us continue with the other paras and see what we do at the end.

We now go to subparagraph (c). "*Noted the persistent negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing disruptions, with the highest impact on the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.*" Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have the feeling that some of the elements of this subparagraph are hanging and if we note: "*Okay, fine, I am fine with that*" or "*no, I do not like the remark.*" But they are ongoing disruptions. Can we not add "*in food systems worldwide*"? There are words that I do not like very much. I do not know, but we tend to use them very often: "*vulnerable*" - there is no status of vulnerability, this is a volatile system. So, I do not know if we can really qualify people as vulnerable. We can accept probably poor, marginal, or a state of vulnerability at a given point in time, something like that. I do not think there is any country, individual, or group of individuals which could qualify as vulnerable. Let me leave it

here, but you know my viewpoint here. I am probably trying to bring in another wishful thinking, but...

**CHAIRPERSON**

We could also put a semicolon after what you are suggesting, “*ongoing disruptions on food systems worldwide.*”

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Yes, “*ongoing disruptions on food systems worldwide*”, and we leave it there.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable to do? I do not see any objections. Thank you, Cameroon.

Then we go to subparagraph (d), “*emphasized the crucial role of FAO in achieving food security and sustainable agrifood systems and welcomed the results achieved by FAO through its comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme and its seven priority areas of work, including geographical balance in providing assistance to Members within the programme.*”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solo una clarificación menor, pero creo que es un valor agregado en ese subpárrafo en la primera línea. “*Emphasize the crucial role of FAO in achieving food security and nutrition, while promoting sustainable agrifood systems.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Argentina. Certainly, I think nutrition should be there. Can we agree with the additions? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (e), “*expressed concern about the increased gender gap and growing food insecurity among women, as well as a drastic drop in nutrition interventions, in particular nutrition programmes in schools.*” Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Can we then go to subparagraph (f)?

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

How does that paragraph relate to the COVID-19 issue? That is a general statement, how does it relate to COVID-19? If it does not relate to what we are discussing, because it is general, why do we need it?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

One of the important findings during COVID-19 was that the most affected sectors were female intensive labour sectors. That is why it is a concern about the increase in the gender gap. And that is because disruptions happen in the value chain at the processing stage, and those are with higher proportion of female workers. And that is why we put this subparagraph there.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

The question, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, is if that is caused by COVID-19 or is it caused by structural things? If it is caused by COVID-19, then we should put “*expressed the concern about the increase in gender gap caused by COVID-19.*” Because I got the feeling that it is something more than COVID-19.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Exacerbation of the gap is because of COVID-19. So, we can include “*exacerbation because of COVID-19.*”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Preferiría que en la segunda línea de ese mismo subpárrafo, en lugar de decir “*nutrition interventions*” me parece más apropiado hablar de “*nutrition policies*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With these changes, can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (f), “*request that FAO to continue to monitor the impact of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, including analysis of the impact on Agrifood systems, EA supply chains, smaller farmers and family farmers, women and youth, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups.*” Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (g), “*encourage FAO to strength and mobilize more support for the One Health approach, standard setting and work preventing zoonotic diseases.*” Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Brazil would like to support the proposals made, but we would like to make some amendments. Before “*support*”, I believe that we are talking about “*financial support*,” so let us be more precise here. Then, after “*for the One Health approach,*” “*within FAO mandates, namely standard-setting and work preventing zoonotic diseases,*” because we are not talking about everything under the One Health approach, but what FAO is supposed to do.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I would like to go back to subparagraph (a), just to clarify some questions. Why only Indigenous People and not people in the capitals?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first finalize subparagraph (g) and then we come back to (f), otherwise we do not know where we are anymore, at least, I am not.

We go now to subparagraph (g). Can we agree with proposed changes to subparagraph (g)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je réagis sur la proposition (g). Je vois bien le lien entre “*mobilise*” et “*financial*”. Par contre, je le vois moins avec “*strengthen*”. Ceci parce que le soutien pour l’approche «Une Seule Santé» , n’est pas que financier. C’est aussi un soutien politique, un soutien en termes de “*capacity building*” etcetera. Nous allons recevoir un plan d’action One Health. Donc, je pense que pour cette raison, l’adjectif “*financial*” est trop limitatif. Notre préférence serait de le supprimer, cela comprendra bien sûr aussi de la mobilisation financière, mais pas seulement. Par ailleurs, on peut accepter « *within FAO’s mandate*”, bien sûr. Par ailleurs, “*namely*” est aussi restrictif. Je remplacerais “*including standard setting and world preventing zoonotic diseases.*”

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I had some impression that the adjective “*financial*” does not need to be only “*financial support*.” I think we should not revise the scope of “*support*.”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estuve escuchando muy atentamente la propuesta de Brasil y también los comentarios de Francia y de Japón que, me parece, pueden ser apropiados. Podríamos quizás, para ser más amplios, hablar de “*more political and financial support*”, que es lo que dijo la representante de Francia. No solamente es un respaldo financiero sino también político y, creo que, si agregamos “*political and financial*” estamos siendo más amplios, me parece.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us tackle first brackets in the first sentence.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Encore une fois, nous pouvons nous amuser à tout énumérer mais même l'ajout du mot politique, et je remercie mon collègue Argentin de l'avoir ajouté, mais cela ne couvre pas tout ce que la FAO peut faire. Par définition, et comme nous avons mis "*within FAO's mandate*", cela couvre toutes les activités potentielles de la FAO. L'expertise, évidemment, la question des données, l'assistance technique, le soutien politique, le soutien financier, et cetera. Plutôt que d'avoir une longue liste, c'est la raison pour laquelle nous proposons de supprimer "*political and financial*" et de se concentrer uniquement sur le soutien. Nous acceptons "*within FAO's mandate*" qui ne nous pose pas de difficulté, je pense que cela suffit, et je l'espère.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To avoid a lengthy discussion, could we not say "*to strengthen and immobilise more support, including political and financial support*"? Would that be agreeable? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to "*FAO mandates*" and then is it agreeable to speak about "*including*"?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I have been participating in these discussions at FAO but it is always underlined that FAO, regarding One Health approach, is focused on standard-setting and work on zoonotic diseases. I do not know what the other activities are, if FAO Secretariat could explain. So far, I am confused about just saying "*including*." For me, it is basically just two areas that FAO has expertise and could contribute to the One Health approach.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

I will have to consult with the Chief Scientist. I do not want to say something that is incorrect.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estaba pensando que quizás podemos poner "*within FAO's mandate*". Y punto ahí. Pero no sé si eso satisface la posición de los colegas, simplemente estoy tratando. Porque creo que es lo que decía Brasil, ese es el mandato básicamente de la FAO, pero a ver si estamos de acuerdo. Si no están de acuerdo los colegas, yo retiraré la propuesta.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Do not go too fast with withdrawing because I saw some happy faces in the room, which I always like and also some thumbs up. So, we could we go along with just stating "*within FAO's mandate*"? So that we avoid an exclusive or inclusive list of activities.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I would just like to, at this point, thank Argentina for that proposal, because otherwise I would be quite happy to talk about what One Health could include, but I think it is a good proposal to put a full stop.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I totally agree. I think what Argentina just said is excellent. I think we should stop at "*mandate*," because "*FAO mandate*" covers all the rest of the areas.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have an agreement in the room for this subparagraph.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I would prefer to wait for the answer of the Secretariat to see and learn what FAO is conducting under the umbrella of One Health. If it is more than that, I can assume that the proposition made by Argentina is a very good one, but just to learn what we are talking about here, I prefer to wait for the answer of the Secretariat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To help Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, if you cannot reach the Chief Scientist, perhaps you can reach out to Ms Maria-Helena Semedo because she certainly knows it. Oh, Management is leaving us.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

If we consider that FAO is made up of Members and a Secretariat, then the issue of political support would work. But, in case we want to speak about the Secretariat, how much can we involve the Secretariat in seeking or bringing political support? I am trying to understand here, because I always say FAO is Members and a Secretariat, personally. If that is understood, then I go along with this, but if there is another mindset, then I do not see how we can request or encourage the Secretariat to carry on political support.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This pair are pending because at this moment we cannot reach anybody from Management who can give an answer. So, we go now to subparagraph (h), “*noted the initiative by the UN Secretary-General of the establishment of a Global Crisis Response Group of Food, Energy and Finance and encouraged FAO to continue actively participating in it by, inter alia, providing information on food prices, fluctuations in markets, and factors that influence these trends*”. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to the subparagraph (i), “*emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies and other relevant entities*”. I would say, “*within the UN system*”.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I have no problems with this last subparagraph, but I would like to make a proposition for a new subparagraph, if you allow me.

**CHAIRPERSON**

First, I do not see any objections to this paragraph. Then, I go to Brazil for a new paragraph.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We can place it here, or after the One Health approach, it is up to the Members to decide on that. Anyhow, it is something that we have already adopted in another FAO Council Session from last year, that I believe reflects the importance of the matter, the discussions, the paper produced by the Secretariat, and all the work developed by FAO.

The idea is to use the wording that we have adopted in May 2021 Session, and it goes “*recognized the importance of trade for contributing to the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food, as well as the stability of markets and the limitation of extreme food price volatility, recalled and underlined the importance that, in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and in keeping with their commitments under the WTO agreements, Members correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions, as well as eliminate and not create unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade in agricultural markets.*”

I think it is the agreed language that we have adopted last year and we should use it here to emphasize the importance of trade into the recovery of countries after COVID-19.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have nothing to say about what Brazil added. I have a new subparagraph to add, if I may.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first deal with this subparagraph and then I am going to come back to you for a new subparagraph. Can we agree to the subparagraph proposed by Brazil?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me acuerdo perfectamente de que estaba en el texto del anterior Consejo y que venía del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (CCP). Me parece muy atinado.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see any objections. Then I turn to Cameroon for a new subparagraph.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The new subparagraph reads as follows “*welcomed the establishment of the FAO-African Union (AU) Commission Task Force on the impacts of the COVID-19 on food and nutrition security in Africa. Encouraged FAO and other stakeholders involved to extend and strengthen the functioning of this multi-partner platform for a more inclusive and collaborative coordination*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That was exactly what you said. “*Extend*” instead of “*withstand*”. That was because I heard “*extend*.” Let us first focus on subparagraph (k) before we go back because I think United States of America wants to go back to the trade issue.

We first deal with subparagraph (k). Can we agree to subparagraph (k)?

**Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

It is on subparagraph (j).

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Thank you. I would also like to go back to subparagraph (j).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first see if we have an agreement on subparagraph (k).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Sí, respaldo el subpárrafo propuesto por Camerún.

**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

We welcome Cameroon’s subparagraph (k). We were just wondering, since this task force was already established in 2020 it would seem odd that we, in 2022, would welcome its establishment. So what we would rather prefer is to welcome the contribution of the FAO African Union Commission Task Force on the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity in Africa in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and encourage FAO and others and it just goes on. What we are doing is to welcome its contribution because it is already established, as it were.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Malaysia will support the subparagraph as stated by Cameroon just to add the word “*extends support*” because it looks like “*extend*” is by itself without any explanation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the subparagraph, “*welcoming the contribution of the FAO AU Commission Task Force in mitigating the impact and also the inclusion of extend support?*” Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (j) on the trade issue.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

It took us a moment to read through this. I agree that the proposal by the Brazilian colleague has merit to discuss the importance of trade in the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food and, indeed, we agree that Members should prevent trade restrictions and distortions, as we have discussed under a few other items during the Council Agenda. But I also recall painstaking negotiations about language around the World Trade Organization (WTO) and so I wonder if we can go back to language we used in the Council 168 Report, in this regard? Where we highlighted the importance of global food supply chains. I can either read it out or I can tell you the reference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please read it out, because we need it for our interpretation purposes.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

It is subparagraph 11 (k) of the Council 168 Report. *“Highlighted the importance of global food supply chains and open nondiscriminatory, predictable, and rules-based multilateral trading systems under the World Trade Organization and taking into account the mandate of FAO in this respect.”* We would be okay with the beginning of this subparagraph (j) proposed by Brazil, recognized the importance of trade for contributing to the availability, accessibility, through the word volatility and then maybe replace the second part with *“and highlighted”* in lieu of that, if that would meet with Members’ agreement.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I want to insert a term to the Brazilian proposal. *“Prevent trade disruption”* instead of *“prevent trade restriction”*. I want to insert the words *“prevent injustice by trade disruptions”*. But, at the same time, I think that we can live with the United States’ proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us think as much as possible to one of the two agreed languages in the Council so that we do not have a long evening on trade.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Dos cuestiones. En primer lugar, en otro contexto nos parece que somos flexibles con la propuesta que hacen los Estados Unidos de América. Pero solo para que todos sepamos, la propuesta que hizo Brasil proviene del párrafo 51 del Informe de 42.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia que lo endosó y que, justamente lo que hizo esa Conferencia fue endosar el Informe del CCP 73. Quiero decir, estamos hablando de la Conferencia y, además, es sumamente pertinente porque además captura lo que hemos dicho aquí en el piso.

Y, después, podemos seguir con esto, pero solo recuerdo de que lo que Brasil planteó fue endosado por todos los Miembros en la Conferencia pero después, además, en la propuesta de Estados Unidos de América hay algo que no me quedó claro porque yo vi ahí *“under the World Trade Organization”*. ¿Es *“in line”* o *“under”*? Porque hemos tenido discusiones sobre este tema con respecto a las estrategias. No tengo bien claro, ¿está diciendo *“under”* o *“in line”*? Es lo único que quería ver si podía ser corroborado por los Estados Unidos de América.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Notre préférence est d'avoir quelque chose d'un petit peu plus court. Sur la base du langage agréé proposé par les États-Unis. Nous pouvons accepter la proposition américaine d'avoir le début, jusqu'à *“volatility”* et ensuite, *“and highlighted the importance of global food”*. Donc nous supprimerions la partie du milieu, *“And recalled and underline”*, jusqu'à *“agricultural markets.”* Les deux sont du langage agréé, mais il nous semble que la proposition américaine a le mérite de la simplicité, de faire plus court. Nous sommes dans un point sur le COVID, et donc ne déséquilibrons pas trop.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I did not quite understand the motivation of the United States delegation because here we are not treating or dealing with unknown language. This was adopted by Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), the Council, and the Conference, by the way. So we all here have approved this language and I would like to thank the distinguished delegate from Japan to increase or to make better the text inserting *“unjustified”*. I believe that all of us, all the countries represented here, are not in favour of unjustified trade or unjustified barriers.

We are not talking about all kind of trade restrictions, all kind of barriers, but those unjustified. So the objective here is very precise. I do not know if the United States or France has any kind of problem with this kind of language because I am a little bit confused about the idea to suppress ~~the~~ to mention *“to correct and prevent unjustified trade restrictions”* or *“to not create unnecessary and unjustified barriers”*. That is, I think, the main concept we are dealing here and I presume that all here should be in the same boat. I would like to hear from the United States why this language is not acceptable.

**CHAIRPERSON**



Our biggest concern is that we have the whole evening on trade. It is 19:00 hours, we still quite some work to do so may I appeal to everybody to go along with at least one of the two agreed texts.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

First of all, we would like to support the paragraph proposed by Brazil in full. For two reasons: first, this paragraph, as the distinguished delegate from Brazil has mentioned before, has been approved by the Council even the Conference before and I think it is also in line with the recommendation from the Chief Economist and the FAO management regarding the importance of preventing unjust barriers for trade for specially at the time of the international food crisis at the moment. So, I also do not understand why we should not focus on removing “*the unjustified barriers to trade especially in the time of such an international food crisis*”.

**Ms Alice BLICHFELDT (Australia)**

We welcome the proposal from Brazil and we certainly support its intent. However, we do feel the United States proposal is perhaps more concise and, in our view, still captures the substance of the Brazilian proposal with the reference to the rules-based multilateral trading system within that it prevents unjustified barriers to trade, open, predictable, non-discriminatory trading systems. We think that encompasses that level of data. So, we would prefer the United States formulation for the second half of that subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please find a way forward on this because what we are now going to see is that we have Members for (A), Members for (B), both are agreed language. We can, of course, use both of them in the text because both are already agreed by all of us and even by the Conference in each one. But let us not have a long discussion over issue where I think we have an agreement on that it should be in, but let us have some flexibility not to have a long evening about trade.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I hope we can resolve this quickly. Thank you to the distinguished Ambassador from Argentina and also to my colleague from Brazil for pointing out these precise references. With that, I think we can withdraw our second proposal.

To the question by the Ambassador from Argentina about the specific formulation. The second formulation includes a number of adjectives about the multilateral trading system, which is standard language, and that is what that flew. But having found the reference, we can go with the Brazilian subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, United States of America, for your flexibility. Could we now agree on the text?

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

We just like to thank the United States for the flexibility and I can go along with the subparagraph as suggested by Brazil and Japan.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this text? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen because he has found somebody from Management, which is great, because you are part of Management as well. So, you can decide now.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

There is a document in the Programme Committee, 16- 20 of May, where all the roles and activities of FAO on the One Health approach is specified. Also, on the webpage of FAO there are clear activities, which include strengthening monitoring and surveillance; understanding risk factors; developing capacities. Capacity-building is also another activity, reinforced veterinary and plant health infrastructure, increasing the capacities of food and agriculture sectors to combat and minimize Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and finally promoting food safety at national and international

levels. So, I think the recommendation of Argentina will be the one that will best fit. If you want to refer to a document, we can refer to the Programme Committee document of the 133rd Session (16-20 May 2022).

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the best way is to have a semicolon after “*within FAO mandate*” because there are more activities and only standard setting etc. Could we agree to that?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We could agree of that after the explanations provided. As the mandate of FAO is preserved, it is okay for me. I could gladly agree with the proposition made by Argentina. But I would like to come back to, if you would allow me, Chairperson, to subparagraph (e) after we finish this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have now an agreement on subparagraph... We have to solve the political issue. Could we not just say “*including financial support*”? Because it does not exclude anything else. So, “*encouraged FAO to strengthen and mobilize more support, including financial support for the One Health Approach, within FAO’s mandate*”. Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e).

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe it is a small amendment but we got in the final part of this paragraph, which says in particular the nutrition programmes in schools. It is about that I believe that we could consider a small amendment. Instead of using “*nutrition programmes in school*” we could use “*school feeding programmes*”. I am not sure that “*nutrition programmes*” are the correct sentence here or if it captures the whole spirit of school feeding. So, my suggestion is to amend this final sentence to say, in particular, “*school feeding programmes*”. That is my feeling regarding that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this small amendment? I do not see any objections.

We only have the reference because I think we have then concluded the subparagraphs but we have to go up now because we have to hear the reference to the two UN General Assembly resolutions. Any remarks on those?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

Our preference would be to delete (a) and (b) and just leave this cleaner. I think it will be a bit more expeditious. I will call that the Mexican solution, because I think earlier this week we went with a speedier approach by deleting and omitting rather than debating. However, if we are to include on the resolution recollections then the United States cannot accept (a) and the reason is that this resolution comes from two years ago and we believe the context has significantly shifted.

This resolution was passed at the height of a pandemic for many many countries and the context has indeed evolved as noted by the FAO background paper, the intervention of the Chief Economist during this Session, and the interventions of many delegates, including the United States of America. We could agree to recall UN General Assembly resolution 76264 of 23 May at letter (b) if it is also paired with recalling resolution ES/11/2, which is the one that describes the current context of the conflicts in Ukraine and its specific impact on food security. With those two resolutions paired we think that it recalls both the most recent and the most relevant resolutions in tandem which correspond most closely to the FAO background document for this Item.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was hoping on the compromise to have at least one but I would like to avoid bringing in the Ukraine issue in the COVID-19 paragraph. So we are now dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. So, let us find a way out.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I think in line with some of the discussions we have been having over the past two days, where we want to focus our Council Report on decisions and that we were trying to move away from recalling or noting, in this sense we would recommend not including these two paragraphs that only recall and do not actually direct the Council to do anything. So we would go along with what our United States colleague just called the Mexican solution to delete these two subparagraphs.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I just want to say that on the previous discussions, namely on Ukraine. So, some delegations proposed to make a specific reference, not only the reference, but to endorse the General Assembly resolutions, which were not supported by the General Assembly itself by consensus. They were voted and by doing this they established a practice by endorsing something here in this Body, which was not adopted by the UN General Assembly.

In order to look for a compromise, I just also want to bring to the attention of all the colleagues so in the spirit of compromise, Russia will not insist on making reference to the first resolution of 74/306 though it is specifically related to the question of the COVID-19 and it arrives for very specific actions how to tackle the problem and it is more relevant now than it was two years ago. But because it is not a consensus resolution and I want to avoid this practice here in this building, to make references to the resolution that are not consensual.

But as far as the second resolution is concerned and this is Resolution 76/264, which was just recently adopted, it is called not “*the state of*” but “*State*” with a capital letter, “*State of global food security*”. Yes, and this resolution was adopted by consensus and it has a very specific reference both to the COVID-19 and it has special references to the role of the Rome-based Agencies for example paragraph 15 encourages Members to support national pathways and actions, areas emanated from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

The second operative paragraph calls for ensuring affordable access to foodstuff purchased by the United Nations agencies, in particular the World Food Programme. Paragraph 17 requests the Secretary General to Report periodically to Members on new developments on the global food security situation including through the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance. This group was actually mentioned in subparagraph (h) of the very same document we are discussing right now.

So, if other colleagues will be supportive of a compromise, we will limit only to the referring to the consensus resolution and, of course, we will not drag Ukraine or other conflicts. We can mention Afghanistan, Syria, and other conflicts.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is a compromise possible to delete (a) and maintain (b)? And only focus on COVID-19?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

In the spirit of flexibility, we could accept only the reference to (b), 76264. I would like to state, though, that it is our our recollection from the discussion earlier that a number of delegations mentioned the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war that is ongoing in Ukraine, are inextricable and I believe that that statement was echoed by the Chief Economist and by the FAO background paper Thank you, but we can accept the single reference to 76264 at (b).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you so much, United States, for your flexibility. So we will delete the former (a). And I think with that we have a compromise and agreement on this Agenda Item.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I am sorry, I was shouting too loudly but actually it was fixed by the Secretariat that they remove the word “*also*” because in the original wording it was the word “*also*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded our Item with consensus.

We are going to Friday and for that we need a Drafting Committee. So, I am now going to present you the Members of the Drafting Committee and hopefully you can approve those.

The Members of the Drafting Committee are Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, China, France, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, and the United States of America. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee is Her Excellency, the Ambassador of South Africa.

I would like to say that it was made aware to me two dissociations which will be footnoted in the Report and that is the Members of the European Union and the United States dissociate themselves from the nomination of the Russian Federation, and the Russian Federation and Belarus dissociate themselves from the nomination of France, and this will be in a footnote in the Report.

With that, I hope we can endorse the Members of the Drafting Committee. I do not see any objections. It is so decided.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. L'Union européenne et ses États membres se sont dissociés de la nomination de la Fédération de Russie au Comité de Rédaction. L'Union et ses États membres veulent réaffirmer leurs fermes condamnations de la guerre d'agression injustifiée et non provoquée menée par la Russie contre l'Ukraine, ainsi que de son impact sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la nutrition. Comme ce Conseil l'a réaffirmé, dans la décision adoptée lors de sa 169<sup>ème</sup> session spéciale, je cite : "L'agression commise par la Fédération de Russie contre l'Ukraine avec la participation du Bélarus est contraire aux objectifs et aux buts de l'Organisation qui figurent dans le préambule de sa Constitution et aux obligations acceptées par la Fédération de Russie et le Bélarus en tant que membre de l'Organisation." Nous demandons que cette dissociation soit reflétée dans une note de bas de page du rapport de cette session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I already said, there will be a footnote in the decision.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I do not want to be repetitive in enumerating many conflicts and interventions that were committed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, including the Members of the European Union. Some of those interventions are still going on in various parts of the world. At the same time, it was the position of my country not to drag FAO into resolution of the political crises; this is the role of the UN bodies.

Our intention to be in the Drafting Committee is not a political position, it was a practical proposal from my delegation to be constructive and to find solutions in a quiet manner rather than to drag all the Membership into discussions of issues that are not relevant to the FAO discussion. Having said that, I once again reiterate the position of my delegation, that we abstain from supporting France as part of the Drafting Committee but this is for technical purposes.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see that the Observer, United Kingdom, is asking for the floor but this is a decision-making Item for which, of course, observers cannot take part in, I would say, the negotiations on the decisions. But, of course, I can give you the floor.

**Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

Recognizing that we are just an Observer to this Council, we would, however, still like to state as a Member of the European Regional Group that we also join France in their statement on behalf of the European Union Members in their dissociation with the nomination of the Russian Federation to the Drafting Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This will be included in the Verbatim Records, but not in a footnote because a footnote is only referred to Members.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

Just want to ask the United Kingdom because they associated with the statement of the European Union – are they still a Member of the European Union?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us not go into this discussion. We have concluded this Agenda Item.

You know me, as your Chairperson, that I push you a little bit. There is still time available so that you can focus all your consultations on the chapeaus of the reports, that we try to also finalize the conclusions on the Written Correspondence Procedure.

As agreed by the Council on Monday morning under the *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable*, there were several Items – 14, 16, 19, 20, and 21 – taking place through a Written Correspondence Procedure and the written exchange among Members and the Secretariat is available on the website of the Council.

**Item 14. Dates for submission of nominations for the Office of Director-General****Point 14. Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général****Tema 14. Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Director General**

(CL 170/14)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to start trying to conclude the conclusions, and first is Agenda Item 14, *Dates for submission of nominations for the Office of the Director-General* found in CL 170/14 and the draft conclusion which I put forth to the Council sets the dates of 1 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 as the period during which Member Nations could submit nominations for the Office of the Director-General. Can we agree to this conclusion? I do not see any objections.

**Item 16. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council (29 November-4 December 2021)****Point 16. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent soixante-huitième session (29 novembre-4 décembre 2021)****Tema 16. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 168.º período de sesiones (29 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2021)**

(CL 170/LIM/3)

We go to Item 16, *Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council* found in CL 170/LIM/3.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**INDONESIA**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 16:55*

Indonesia appreciates the completed status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the FAO Council and notes the information contained in document CL 170/LIM/3. We welcome the updates on the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit and the progress of its Coordination Hub and would appreciate being kept informed of future updates in this regard.

**ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el lunes 30 de mayo 2022 a las 20.27*

Señor Presidente, España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la UE en nombre propio y de sus 27 EEMM, al tiempo que desea hacer hincapié en la importancia del papel del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) y su Panel de Expertos de alto nivel (HLPE) en el seguimiento de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios de Naciones Unidas.

Agradeceríamos más información sobre esta participación del CSA y sus resultados.

Además, quisiéramos subrayar los progresos planteados en el seno del Comité, especialmente a través de la celebración conjunta con el “Hub” de un evento previsto durante el Foro político de alto nivel de Julio 2022, así como el evento especial previsto para realizar durante el plenario del Comité de octubre 2022, dedicado al seguimiento de la Cumbre, todo ello en total cooperación con el “Hub”.

Muchas Gracias.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 20:50*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the abovementioned agenda item for the 170th Session of the FAO Council.

We thank FAO for updating Members on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council.

First of all, the 168th Council emphasized the need to consider all approaches to sustainable agriculture production in the results framework. In response to this request, it is indicated in document CL 170/LIM/3 that “the results framework refers to integrated and innovative approaches throughout”. However, the EU and its Member States regret that the Programme of Work and Budget puts emphasis on special innovations such as technologies and climate smart agriculture, while the Strategic Framework 2022-31 itself refers, for example, to agroecological approaches, conservation agriculture, integrated agriculture or agro-forestry. Therefore, we ask FAO to follow up further on this request, making sure that the full range of approaches is well reflected in the results framework.

Secondly, we thank FAO for the information provided concerning the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. However, we regret that comments remain silent on the cooperation of the Coordination Hub with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), which are key elements of the international governance of food systems and are both mentioned as components of the follow-up system in the Secretary-General’s Statement of Action. We ask FAO to update Members about the engagement of the CFS and of its HLPE in the follow-up system coordinated by the Hub. We indeed strongly believe in CFS’s added value to promote food security and nutrition and sustainable food systems through its useful products, by providing independent scientific advice and analysis, and its convening power as being already well advanced on multi-stakeholder engagement and providing an inclusive platform.

We take note with appreciation of the information provided by FAO regarding the status of implementation of the other decisions of the 168th Council. In particular, we appreciate FAO’s efforts to promote the policy recommendations on “Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches”, including in the context of its participation in the Coalition for Agroecology. We invite FAO to continue its efforts in this regard, as well as to promote all CFS policy products.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 03:20*

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Japan would like to reiterate the necessity of regular updates of all the factual information of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi), including outcomes, all public and private entities concerned, and the financial state of each project. Current publicized information on the HiHi projects is insufficient to ensure transparency and for sharing good practices through the HiH Initiative and the geospatial platform. Especially, Japan requests disclosure of financial revenues and expenditures, including the use of regular budget and voluntary contributions for all related projects of HiH Initiatives.

Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS)

The follow-up framework of the UN Food Systems Summit is very important.

While various coalition and activities are moving forward, the Coordination Hub should have the function of grasping each stakeholder’s action and offering the necessary information and supports in

a timely manner so that Member countries and various stakeholders can implement their activities smoothly.

The Coordination Hub's activities and working schedule are still unclear, as explained in the document submitted to the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee. Japan would like to request FAO to offer more details, such as the overall budget for the Coordination Hub's operation, the surplus and budgetary plan of FSS, the surplus transferred from the World Food Programme (WFP) to FAO, and to promote effective communication and coordination amongst each countries' activities as well as coalitions and alliances launched by various leading organizations.

With a view that an FSS stocktaking meeting is scheduled in the coming year, Japan expects FAO to provide all Members with the information on the schedule as early as possible on what actions FAO intends to undertake for the global food systems and the roadmap if involvements of the Members will be required.

#### FAO Framework on the Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights

The Framework for the Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, currently being drafted, is very important as it will function as one umbrella for full control overall data management related to FAO's mandate.

Japan expects that the framework will explicitly protect the privacy and intellectual property rights when data is utilized as open information. These points are what Japan would like to highlight.

The Report of the 168th Session of the Council stressed the need for the Framework to be updated regularly by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). However, there should be a mechanism to update the Framework in a prompt and ad-hoc manner instead of discussing it at the regular CCLM meetings. Japan highlights this need if the Members or FAO staff recognize any problem in the internal coordination (governance) of data and statistics at FAO.

#### Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Global food security is badly affected by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Japan would like the CFS to report its current concrete action and plan on how to deal with this matter now and in the future. For instance, Japan requests that the CFS considers an evidence-based policy proposal on public assistance backed by the Members and private sector investments to the Ukrainian agriculture sector to restore production and strengthen the supply chain for global supply distribution with clear demarcation of scopes.

#### Code of Conduct for Voting

Japan expresses full and sincere respect to the Independent Chairperson of the Council and his leadership, keeping an open, inclusive, and transparent consultation process in drafting a code of conduct for voting. Japan reiterates that it is essential that at least concrete and substantive measures to secure the secret ballot are referred to in FAO's code of conduct to ensure trust in FAO's fair and transparent governance through the implementation of the Code. Under the continued leadership of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Japan also expects that Members would participate in serious discussions in each Regional Group to develop a meaningful draft of a code of conduct so that it will be concluded in time for the Conference in the coming year.

Japan requests FAO to present a roadmap for the next Conference with a summary covering the issues discussed among the Members so far to ensure sufficient time for Members to prepare for a discussion.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub has concentrated its activities during the first months of its operations on identifying the country needs and maintaining the momentum of national processes for food systems transformations. This has given the opportunity to the Hub to develop a work plan that is demand driven with a view to serve the needs of Members. Looking forward, the Hub will prioritize

two actions: 1) Reaching out to the actors of the ecosystem of support to identify products and services that can be offered to the countries to support implementation of their transformations. In this work the Hub will reach out to all UN entities and to all coalitions to identify knowledge products that can be useful for countries transformation pathways. 2) Continuing the work on science and thought leadership on agrifood systems thinking. In order to continue receiving advice on scientific knowledge and innovation the Hub will reach out to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), the members of the former Food Systems Summit Scientific Group, and other relevant eminent scientists and science networks to identify opportunities to strengthen thought leadership for agrifood systems transformations. Within the spirit of coordination, the Hub will create a science advisory board representing various fields of sciences (i.e. the natural, social, economic and applied sciences as well as sustainability science, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary) dedicated to addressing systemic challenges in a holistic manner. The Hub will collaborate with these broad-based scientific groups, including the HLPE, to support countries to implement their agreed-upon national pathways.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub will ensure that information regarding the action on food systems' follow up will be widely shared with Members. The Coordination Hub will be available to provide information updates on its activities and working schedule as per the request from Members. The Hub has not received any funds from the former UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Secretariat. No surplus has also been transferred so far to FAO from the UNFSS Trust Fund that was hosted by the UN World Food Programme (WFP). The UNFSS stocktaking meeting is an initiative announced in the UN Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit. The Hub is in direct contact with the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) to jointly develop a draft schedule and draft roadmap for the organization of the meeting including proposals on coordination with Members.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi) has been providing constant updates in all Programme Committee and Council Sessions since its inception. It also has a web page, which will be also be updated with additional details on the activities done at country level. The Geospatial Platform is also publicly available and has its own web page (<https://www.fao.org/hih-geospatial-platform/en/>). The HiHi assures its transparency by making all this information publicly available. Finally, the HiHi is a country driven and country led program, where FAO is just a technical facilitator.

In addition to the information made available through its web pages, the activities and resources applied to the Initiative are subject to the FAO rules, accountability framework and oversight mechanisms applicable to all FAO activities.

Data protection frameworks form an important component of data management. The data protection framework will function within the context of the overarching data management framework, as reflected in document CL 170/18, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the crosscutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights - Proposal for an improved internal coordination and its alignment with corporate policies on Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights*. The Data Protection Policy will further clarify the distinct but interrelated functions and linkages between the data protection mechanisms and the broader internal coordination mechanisms addressing data and statistics.

As reflected in CL 170/13, *Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (21-23 March 2022)*, the Data Protection Policy may need to be reviewed and adjusted from time to time to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, and this should be done upon consultations with Members. The text of the Data Protection Policy, which is before the Council, will be amended to reflect the guidance of the Council, including guidance of the CCLM if endorsed by the Council, and it would be operationalised in accordance with the guidance of the Council. The Policy addresses all categories of data: public, confidential, sensitive, personal and non-personal data. Upon receiving the guidance of the Council, the intention is to immediately promulgate the Policy to ensure appropriate levels of protection of data in the context of all activities of the Organization.

As reflected in document CCLM 115/3, *Update on the FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* and CL 170/13, work on the intellectual property rights policy will now commence and will follow an inclusive and transparent process. An informal briefing is already



scheduled for 27 September 2022 to brief Members and seek their inputs on an initial draft policy, which will be circulated to Members in advance.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We report the following conclusion, “*the Council took note of the status of implementation of these issues taken at this 168th Session*” and then the dates. Can we agree to this draft conclusion? I do not see any objections.

**Item 19. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main Sessions 2022-2023**

**Point 19. Calendrier 2022-2023 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales**

**Tema 19. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2022-23**

(CL 170/LIM/1)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 19, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main sessions 2022-2023* found in CL 170/LIM/1.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**INDONESIA**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 16:55*

Indonesia welcomes and thanks FAO for the updated calendar for 2022 and 2023 set out in document CL 170/LIM/1.

**JAPAN**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 03:20*

Japan appreciates FAO’s efforts to organize its various meetings to be online or hybrid during the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan regards it as important to hold in-person meetings and supports FAO's continued efforts to provide options to facilitate meeting participation by introducing an innovative way, such as a hybrid format, as necessary.

Japan requests FAO to consider fundamental reforms to improve the efficiency of Governing Bodies meetings based on past discussions and decisions. For example, too much time in the meeting is spent on draft negotiations, preventing deeper substantive discussions. It is causing the extension of the meeting, and negotiations of items that continue over multiple years must be improved from an efficiency perspective. Japan would like to ask FAO to review the past discussions on improving efficiency. It is one of the ideas to establish a working group of volunteer countries for fundamental reforms on that matter.

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría*

The Secretariat appreciates Japan’s comments on the efforts of the Organization to find innovative methods to facilitate Member participation in Governing Body meetings, and takes due note of its comments with regard to improving efficiency in the same.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I propose to you the following draft conclusion:

1. The Council approved the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies for 2022-2023 as reproduced in *Appendix D* to this Report.

Can we agree to this conclusion? I do not see any objections.

**Item 20. Tentative agenda for the 171st Session of the Council****Point 20. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante et onzième session du Conseil****Tema 20. Programa provisional del 171.º período de sesiones del Consejo***(CL 170/INF/2)***CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Agenda Item 20, *Tentative Agenda for the 171st Session of the Council* which can be found in *CL 170/LIM/2*.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**INDONESIA**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 16:55*

Indonesia notes the tentative agenda for the 171st Session of the Council.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 20:50*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the abovementioned agenda item for the 170th Session of the FAO Council. We would like to request that the following item be added to the agenda of the 171st FAO Council: Review of Decentralized Offices Network and presentation by the FAO of the strategy concerning the Decentralized Offices Network: for discussion and decision.

**JAPAN**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 03:20*

Grain exports from Ukraine have been disrupted, and global food and fertilizer prices are soaring by Russian aggression against Ukraine. Russia's aggression triggered the global food crisis, and the international community must work in solidarity to resolve this difficult issue. It has raised concerns about food insecurity, particularly among countries in the Middle East and Africa, which heavily depend on grain imported from Ukraine.

One of the most urgent issues on global food security caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine is to take concrete action as soon as possible to resolve the stagnation of Ukraine's grain exports. FAO is still deploying field teams within Ukraine even in the continuing situation, where Russian aggression is intensifying and can respond to these issues in coordination with the government of Ukraine and other international organizations. Ukraine has serious concerns about its grain storage capacity as the harvest season approaches. Given the situation, FAO is responsible for urgently expanding its grain storage capacity in Ukraine, taking into account Ukraine's condition and needs. Japan also requests that the status and outcomes of these efforts by FAO and the impact of Russian aggression on global food security be placed on the items of the next Council.

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría*

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received regarding document CL 170/INF/2, Tentative Agenda for the 171st Session of the Council, and takes note of the requests by the EU and Japan in this regard.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal is:

1. The Council endorsed the Tentative Agenda of the 171st Session as contained in *CL170/INF/2*.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais rappeler que nous avons, pour l'Union européenne et ses États membres, formulé une proposition. Je sais que le Japon aussi en a formulé une. Notre proposition était la "*review of decentralised offices network and presentation by FAO of the Strategy concerning the decentralized offices network for discussion*", et nous avons bien noté que dans ces commentaires écrits, la Direction de la FAO a indiqué qu'elle prenait en considération nos propositions. Donc, je pense qu'il faudrait refléter le fait qu'il y ait eu des propositions des États membres et qu'elles seront prises en considération. Donc, cela ne peut pas être le document en tant que tel.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this conclusion? I do not see any objections.

**Item 21. Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO****Point 21. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****Tema 21. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO**

(CL 170/INF/4; CL 170/INF/4 Web Annexes 1-3)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to the last Item and that is Item 21, *Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO* in CL 170/INF/4 and CL170/INF/4 WA1-3.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**INDONESIA**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 16:55*

Indonesia thanks FAO Secretariat for providing information regarding developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO as outlined in the document CL 170/INF/4. Indonesia supports FAO's active role within the three fora as mentioned in the document.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday 30 May 2022, at 20:50*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the abovementioned agenda item for the 170th Session of the FAO Council.

The EU and its Member States thank FAO for all the information provided. With respect to the information on the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), we would like to highlight the importance of the developments of COP 15 to the CBD and the negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and from COP 26 to COP 27 for the mandate of FAO. These developments are especially relevant in relation to the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

We also thank FAO for informing the Membership about the Global Network against Food Crises and the recent policy dialogues it facilitated. In view of the deteriorating food security situation in the world, the work of the Global Network against Food Crises is only gaining in relevance. The information provision by FAO is therefore timely. We would, however, welcome that this information is elaborated upon, including by pointing the Membership to the relevant website and documentation. We would also welcome a presentation to the Membership in a Council setting in due course, preferably at the next Council.

Furthermore, we would like FAO to expand on the views it holds on the orientations and developments of the Global Network against Food Crises. In particular we would like to ask FAO what its vision is on the role of the Global Network when it comes to addressing the root causes, the global challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change, and contributing to building resilience of agriculture and food systems while providing humanitarian assistance. In addition, we would like to

ask about how the Global Network can be better integrated in the wider work of FAO beyond the Office of Emergencies.

## **CHILE**

*Presentado el viernes 3 de junio 2022 a las 16.41*

Chile felicita a FAO por la iniciativa de generar un nuevo parámetro denominado "Índice de pobreza multidimensional rural" que se encuentra trabajando en conjunto con la Universidad de Oxford. Sobre el particular se agradecerá compartir que definición de ruralidad se utilizó para el índice, toda vez que Chile tiene interés en conocer la propuesta y compararla con el sistema de indicadores de calidad de vida rural que se utiliza en territorio nacional, bajo de la definición de ruralidad de la OCDE".

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Thursday 9 June 2022, at 03:20*

The Global Report on Food Crises, published on 4 May 2022 by the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), reported that 193 million people in 53 countries and territories were in crisis or worse (the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/The Cadre harmonise/harmonized framework (CH) Phase 3 or above) in 2021, and that the ongoing war in Ukraine could push more people into hunger.

We are deeply concerned that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a significant negative impact on global agrifood systems due to rising prices of food and agricultural inputs. In order to ensure food security, we need to strengthen our agrifood system in the mid- and long-term by implementing short-term measures. We have supported FAO in developing the guideline to assist developing countries in formulating policies to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains to external shocks since last year. Japan reminds that FAO focused on the resilience in agrifood systems and developed a suite of resilience indicators in the State of Food and Agriculture 2021 (SOFA) and expects FAO to play a leading role in strengthening the resilience of developing countries with the guideline.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO thanks the European Union for its critical role in founding, as well as its continued active engagement in and support to, the Global Network Against Food Crises. The Global Network has a dedicated website that can be found here: <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>, which includes regular updates on the latest analyses, events and statements of the Global Network and its partners. Key new information includes: the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises; the outcomes of the High-Level dialogue on food and nutrition crises in the Sahel, which was co-organized by the Sahel and West Africa Club, the European Union and the Global Network Against Food Crisis; and a new page that brings together partners' analyses of the impacts of the war in Ukraine in food crisis contexts. FAO stands ready to provide a specific presentation on the Global Network whether during the next Council session, should this be requested by Members, or in another agreeable context.

The Global Network recognizes fragile food systems and rural marginalization, together with environmental, political, and economic crises, as root causes of food insecurity, which in food crisis countries are often compounded by conflict and insecurity, weather extremes, and economic shocks. In food crisis countries, pre-existing fragilities have progressively been exacerbated by the impact of different crises and shocks with a cumulative effect. Not only are all those crises impacting at the same time, but the compounding effect of each is making the situation worse year after year.

Against this background, the Global Network has been providing consensus-based data and analyses to improve understanding of the root causes, magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity in support of decision-making at national, regional and global level. Based on these efforts, the current focus of the work is expanding to use this evidence to jointly identify solutions across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus to address the specific root causes of food crises in a given context. The approach of the Global Network is to convene stakeholders across the nexus through dedicated policy dialogues at country-level bringing together governments, UN agencies,

nongovernmental organizations, resource partners, the private sector and civil society. The objective of these dialogues is to reach a joint understanding of the root causes of food insecurity based on evidence and jointly define priorities and actions to address the root causes of acute food insecurity and strengthen the resilience of local food systems.

FAO fully recognizes the importance of the Global Network Against Food Crises and supports the activities of the Global Network which extend across the Organization. Although the Global Network has a strong presence in FAO's Office of Emergencies and Resilience, it is also well integrated into other parts of the Organization. In its efforts to provide quality and timely data and analysis, the Global Network works in close collaboration with several divisions within the Economic and Social Workstream, under the guidance of FAO's Chief Economist. In particular, with the Markets and Trade Division (EST) and the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA), which hosts the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) representing the gold-standard for acute food insecurity analysis in food crisis countries and a fundamental building block of the Global Report on Food Crises and for the work of the Global Network. Moreover, with regard to the efforts at country level, the Global Network works closely with FAO Representations, leveraging also other relevant FAO technical capacities according to the countries' specific needs. This for instance includes the collaboration with the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP) on social protection as a viable nexus approach in food crisis countries.

The FAO Statistics Division is delighted to acknowledge the interest of Chile in the Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI) jointly developed by FAO and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI); and stands ready to provide further information as requested.

In particular, the FAO Statistics Division wishes to notice that the R-MPI can be applied to rural areas defined on the basis of any criterion relevant to Members, or any internationally agreed criterion of rural areas.

Details on the R-MPI are found in the joint FAO-OPHI report available at [https://www.fao.org/foodagriculture-statistics/resources/publications/statistical-development-series/en/\(FAO and OPHI. 2022. Measuring rural poverty with a multidimensional approach: The Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index. FAO Statistical Development Series, No. 19. Rome, FAO.\)](https://www.fao.org/foodagriculture-statistics/resources/publications/statistical-development-series/en/(FAO%20and%20OPHI.%202022.%20Measuring%20rural%20poverty%20with%20a%20multidimensional%20approach:%20The%20Rural%20Multidimensional%20Poverty%20Index.%20FAO%20Statistical%20Development%20Series,%20No.%2019.%20Rome,%20FAO.)) Should this be appropriate, the FAO Statistics Division stands ready to communicate further details and address more specific questions in a dedicated meeting.

FAO acknowledges and welcomes the continuous strong support of Japan in the implementation of its plan of work and reaffirms the Organization's continued commitment to strengthening the resilience and sustainability of food systems as a means to support vulnerable livelihoods.

FAO is grateful for the support received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF). This has made it possible for the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA) and the Trade and Markets Division (EST) to carry out joint work in the framework of the project "Guidelines to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains". The guidelines are being finalized and take into consideration very valuable feedback received from MAFF.

The guidelines will serve as an international reference on resilience of agrifood systems to different types of shocks. They are expected to be widely distributed among policymakers and used as a first line of advice for country agricultural policy decisions in the context of shocks. The Government of Japan may present the guidelines at a number of international meetings, including G20 meetings.

The indicators developed for the 2021 Report on the State of Food and Agriculture are being incorporated in a number of efforts that focus on the resilience of agrifood systems. In 2022, FAO plans to include the Dietary Sourcing Flexibility Index (DSFI) in FAOSTAT and update it annually thereafter. The DSFI is also being adopted as one of the indicators to measure resilience capacities by a consortium of institutions that include the Johns Hopkins University, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), FAO, WFP, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Bioversity International, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CARE and others. Finally, the suite of SOFA indicators are being used to inform national policy debates on agrifood systems resilience in Indonesia and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposed conclusions are:

1. The Council received Briefing Notes on the following topics for information only:
  - a) The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and from COP 26 to COP 27;
  - b) Digital for Impact: Leveraging FAO Digital Public Goods to accelerate progress towards agrifood systems transformation and SDG1 by the Rural-Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI); and
  - c) Preventing and addressing acute food insecurity at its roots – the Global Network Against Food Crises and Emergency reaction.

Can we agree to these conclusions? I do not see any objections. Thank you so much.

We have now dealt with the Items under Written Correspondence Procedure. We still have some time left over but I will let you go now. Tomorrow morning we are going to, hopefully, successfully conclude the remaining items, and that is the chapeaus and some subparagraphs of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Reports as well as, of course, *Any Other Business*.

I think we were, again, very positive and successful today. We covered a lot of items. So I let you go now for a restful second half of the evening, a very good dinner, even a very, very good rest so you that can come back super-energized tomorrow, in the full spirit of compromise, so that we conclude our remaining items tomorrow morning, as early as possible, so that directly after the conclusions of that morning session or half-morning session, the Drafting Committee can start its work so that hopefully in the beginning of the afternoon – I am always optimistic by nature and looking to the bright side of life – we can start the adoption of our Report.

With that, I thank you so much for your hard work, your positive approach, and your willingness to compromise. We adjourn the meeting to 09:30 hours sharp tomorrow morning. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 19:31 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 31*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.31*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>NINTH PLENARY SESSION NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>17 June 2022</b>

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:37 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 37  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.37  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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las correcciones a: [Verbatim-Team@fao.org](mailto:Verbatim-Team@fao.org)

**Item 13. Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 March 2022) (continued)**

**Point 13. Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 mars 2022) (suite)**

**Tema 13. Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de marzo de 2022) (continuación)**

(CL 170/13)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, good morning, distinguished delegates, good morning, dear friends, thank God it's Friday. With your positive approach, we are going to finalize our work today, and hopefully even before the evening.

Hopefully, we can finalize our work quickly this morning so that the Drafting Committee can do its work. Then, in the afternoon, we will have the Adoption of the Report.

As we all know, we came very far yesterday, but we still have some chapeaus to finalize. If you finalize one, we have finalized them all, so we can do it in five minutes, but I think I am too optimistic.

Let us now turn to, as it is scheduled, Agenda Item 13, *Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*. I put on the screen where we arrived at, because we were a bit bogged down on "*welcomed, reviewed, supported, endorsed,*" all those words, you could add another word, "*embraced,*".

I do not know whether the informal consultations have found a consensus on how to get out of this deadlock. If not, because I see nobody asking for the floor, first to see whether or not there is any agreement on having "*reviewed, welcomed and supported*"? Of course, if there is no agreement, I have to hear it. We do not have to repeat the arguments because we went through the arguments for five hours, but otherwise I will put another proposal to you.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

To be first, we can accept "*reviewed and welcomed.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

What I understand, that China can go along with "*reviewed and welcomed.*" I have to make sure whether or not that would be feasible.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

I think we are on the same line with China. We have reviewed it and welcomed it and what can we say more than welcomed? Thus, let us make our decision at this point of time. We cannot spend a lot of time. All of our time we are spending on these two, three, four words. So, is there any problem with saying that? So, I accept it and I endorse it.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I think when we talked about this, we said we would be looking at it on a case by case basis per Report, and I think, in the case of this Report, there was no questions raised. If I recall correctly, because we have so many different Reports. In this case, I think "*and supported*" is a valid one, because I do not think there was anyone who questioned any content of the Report. So, we were happy with the formulation that you had on the screen. That may not be the case for all Reports, but in this case I think it was an accurate reflection of the engagement from the floor.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

À l'évidence, les deux paragraphes sont liés. Le 26 et le 27. Donc, il me semble que comme l'a dit le Canada, ce rapport en l'espèce, ne posait pas de difficultés. Nous faisons des observations spécifiques dans le paragraphe 27. Donc, je pense qu'il faudrait, le cas échéant, ajouter un paragraphe 28, disant : "*With those observations, endorsed the Report of the Committee.*"



**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I really do not see what is the problem with supporting the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) as well. I would rather go with the Council "*reviewed, welcomed and supported.*" I do not see any problem with "*supported*".

**Mr Robert BOENISH (United States of America)**

The United States prefers the intervention offered by our French colleague.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Just a point of note, since in paragraph 27 you already have the word "*endorsed*", under the word "*supported*", would it have any great bearing? Thus, for me, if you were to continue to use the words you formulated, "*reviewed and welcomed*", and then have the word "*endorsed*" in paragraph 27, I think that is sufficient. However, we are happy to go along with the consensus.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we still are bogged down on how to approach and what method we should use. Therefore, I tried to think about the way around this problem, because there is no consensus on the wording. My proposal would be the following. We have a first paragraph 26.

Instead of the chapeau, we say in 26, "*The Council acknowledged the work of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in its 115th Session.*" Then we have paragraph 27, which then reads, "*With regard to the Report, the Council,*" and then we have subparagraphs (a) and (b).

Then 28 would read, "*With regards to the recommendations in the Report, the Council decided to,*" and then we do subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d). So, that is a method to go around the long discussion about "*support, endorse, welcome,*" etc. So, we go back to the top. We will fix the paragraphs later on. It is about the method now.

This would be the idea to find a way forward on this Item, we say, "*The Council acknowledged the work of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in its 115th Session.*" Then we say, "*With regard to the Report, the Council,*" and then we acknowledged and noted, and then we say, "*With regard to the recommendations, the Council decided to.*" I hope that would be an elegant way out of our deadlock.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous apprécions votre désir de faire preuve d'imagination. Mais, objectivement: "*Acknowledge the work of the Committee, the CCLM.*" est vraiment très faible. Je rappelle que dans les responsabilités du Conseil, au titre des textes fondamentaux, il s'agit au minimum de revoir le rapport. Donc : "*acknowledge the work.*" C'est vraiment extrêmement faible. Aucune mention n'est faite au rapport. Pour nous, cette formulation qui, encore une fois, est un ensemble, est très faible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, we can always say "*appreciate*" as a more positive verb.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We appreciate your effort to lead us through on this. We have no problem with the addition that you brought. It is a matter of fact, what you are saying there. So, for us, there is no problem. Where the problem is the new paragraph 28 reading "*with regards to*", and probably we would like to add "*specific recommendations in the*", because we, again, take note of your note on how to handle matters in the Council, and then you instructed some element in that Report which are discussed elsewhere. So, we will prefer, "*with regards to specific recommendation in the Report*". The rest can follow and we see what we can do with that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think "*specific*" is very much a good element to include in this when we speak about the specific recommendations.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

Actually, we were ready to go along with your proposal and with your wording and, once again, it was noted already that we start this morning with splitting the hair, but maybe to make this work a little bit easier, I believe that our distinguished representative from China, in her previous interventions, she mentioned that her delegation can go along with the words "*reviewed and welcomed*." So, instead of the word "*appreciated the work*," can we say that "*the Council reviewed and welcomed the work of the Committee*," and then we have your text with the words, "*Council decided on the review of the work of the Committee*." I think that we can kill with one bullet various fishes.

**Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

I really appreciate the way you have addressed this. Maybe you had a lot of time to think on that issue and, really, I appreciate it. At the end of the day, I really agree with what you are proposing. But even now, if we cannot say we appreciate and welcome, I do not think there is any problem. So, we have to accept it and we have to continue our work.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Permítame agradecerle, Presidente, por todo el trabajo que se ha tomado para intentar juntar temas que a veces son muy difíciles de unir. Creo que hay muchos colegas que han demostrado nivel de flexibilidad y de actitud constructiva y que usted conduciendo el proceso de conversaciones ha permitido llegar a esta propuesta que a mí me parece absolutamente aceptable y creo que nos debería permitir ir hacia adelante. Tenemos muchas cosas todavía que resolver.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

As Argentina, we believe that your proposal is a very good and balanced one, so we are more than ready to support it. Just an observation regarding subparagraph (a) paragraph 27. Maybe we should keep the same language that we adopted for the Report of the Programme Committee Report, or the section of our Report here. Because right now I think the two mentions to the Concept Note are a little bit different. Thus, I believe that we should keep it as a mirror.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep the exact language in subparagraph (a), but let us first see whether or not we can have now the approach approved.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I am flexible, but I would tend to agree with the intervention made by the Russian Federation, because after all the Council is supposed to review the Reports of the Committees before coming to its conclusions. Thus, although I am flexible with the wording, I would prefer the words "*reviewed and welcomed*," because that is the work of the Council - to review the work of its advisory Committees before it decides on that work as it were.

**M. Mohamed Nassir CAMARA (Guinée)**

Merci beaucoup pour votre contribution dans ces reformulations. La Guinée voudrait apporter son soutien au texte tel que cela a été amendé, et tel que proposé. Notamment, en maintenant: "*The Council reviewed and welcomed the work of the Council Committee [XX]*."

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Agradecemos su esfuerzo esta mañana para encontrar una salida. En principio, apoyamos su propuesta y después de haber escuchado las otras delegaciones, entre estas nuestro colega de Pakistán, Sr. Khalid Mehboob, creemos que el lenguaje que deberíamos de utilizar es exactamente ese: "examinó y acogió con acción."

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I would like to be flexible for the wording, but more and more I continue the discussion, my thinking goes back to my original position. Why cannot we endorse the Report of the formal meeting of the

Members? Why cannot we even support the Report of our discussion about our Members? I cannot understand why this kind of discussion will be continued.

I remember one point, maybe if my understanding is correct, my dear Ambassador of Mexico said "endorsed the Report and after the review of the Council", for example, this is good, this is premature but this needs more time or something like that.

I think it is a constructive way, "once endorsed and supported *the Report, then at the view of the Council*", it is the most constructive way, from my point of view. Thus, as I said, I like to be flexible about the wording because it is not a matter with the wording, it is a matter with the intention of the Council. It is part of the discussion today. So, I refrain from continuing my intervention because more and more we continue, I will go back to the original position of endorsement. So, I refrain from talking to that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

What was said yesterday by Canada, I think certainly we need more reflections on how to work with Reports, etc. I think we need to take that up in the informal meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for next Councils, and certainly we will put that on the Agenda. But we have to find a way forward for this Council. With this proposal, I do hope that we can find, at least for this Council, a way forward so that we can conclude our work.

#### **Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

In contribution to this subparagraph, I am in line with Pakistan and propose that we maintain the word "*reviewed and welcome the work.*"

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

It is an interesting discussion and it points to the need that we need to have more discussions going forward. I think for paragraph 26, we certainly appreciate the work of the Committee, so I would go there. I think our task in this hall is to review the Report. Thus, I think in paragraph 27 we would want to see, in line with what Pakistan had said earlier and others, "*to welcome and review the Report,*" as a minimum, to reflect that in paragraph 27.

In paragraph 28, I think we need to tie back to the work that is contained in that Report and endorse the recommendations made. So, while I appreciate the strong verb of "*decided to,*" I think this might be a spot for us to go back to "*endorsed the recommendations to.*" And then recalling the intervention from France earlier, to have a paragraph 29 with these observations, "*the Council endorsed the Report,*"

Because, again, in this conversation, we never had any questions about the Report, so we are softening the front end, that is okay, but ultimately, maybe it is not okay, but that is the trend we are going towards. But at least at the end, in the debates we had on this Report, we did not ever question its content. And so, we can make the specific observations, make specific decisions, that is all good, but it would be useful then to wrap it up in a paragraph 29 that acknowledges that conclusion.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

But if this is on the table, we go back to the five hours of discussions we have had and I do not see the possibility to get any decision on the Reports. It is, of course, up to the Council whether or not they want to take any decision or not, by consensus, and we can go until tomorrow morning, tomorrow afternoon, to Sunday, but we have heard the discussions, you have heard the positions, at this moment there is no agreement to say that we endorse the Report.

Whether we like it or not, there is no agreement on it. So, we have to see where we go from there, because we can repeat our five hour discussions over yesterday and the day before, but this is not bringing us to a consensus. So, that is why I tried to find a way forward, a way around using those verbs. But if they come in again, I am afraid that we are bogged down again.

#### **Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA (Indonesia)**

Just a thing to add also is that we welcome your efforts here to bring the consensus and I think we can go along with either "*appreciated and reviewed*" and also "*welcomed*" because, as stated before, I think my delegation views that "*welcome*" is actionable enough for actions to be taken in follow-up. And on the paragraph 28, I think the wording "*Council decided to,*" is pretty much in line with the FAO Basic Texts, because the Basic Texts clearly mention that the Council makes decisions on matters pertaining to its mandate. So, we can support that.

**Mr Robert BOENISH (United States of America)**

The United States agrees with interventions by France and the recent intervention by Canada. We find it hard to see why there is need to break decades of consensus on "*endorse*". In multilateral bodies the common and longstanding practice is to go with precedent in the face of a proposed change, while promising to study and deliberate a possible change in the meantime. Thus, we believe the onus to change the Council' longstanding practice lies not with those who wish to preserve it, but those who wish to change it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask all delegations to do their utmost to find a compromise? Because, I thought in the beginning we had found a way forward, but now we are going to reiterate positions. We know the positions. We know that those positions at this moment are not merged into consensus. Thus, I ask then also the delegations not to repeat their position, but to then also say how to find a way forward listening to the position of others; where do we find the bridge?

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

As interpreters probably know, I am not an English-speaking person, but I have written several articles in my lifetime and when I do not understand the words, I go back to the source, and that is called a dictionary. If I look at the dictionary, the definition of endorse, I am reading, it says "*the clear public approval of support of.*" Thus, if you want, we can use endorse, put a footnote and say, "*according to the dictionary this is the definition of endorse, we declare the public support and approval of this Report.*" That is what the dictionary is there for.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Nuestra delegación es flexible con los textos, como siempre hemos sido muy amplios en el pensamiento. Esta explicación que acaba de dar el colega de México, Sr. Miguel Jorge García Winder, tiene su lógica. Vamos al diccionario y ahí dice las palabras como son. La propuesta de mi colega de Francia, Sra. Céline Jurgensen, es como un artículo negociable que permite ampliar.

En eso soy flexible, lo que no puedo ser flexible y en esto debo ser muy claro, es que estamos perdiendo tanto tiempo para definir dos o tres palabras de un texto cuando el mundo se desmorona a pedazos, cuando la gente se muere de hambre, cuando siguen problemas de seguridad alimentaria en todo el mundo y nosotros llevamos dos o más horas discutiendo una o dos palabras. Me parece que es un poco irresponsable de nuestra parte. Así que, pido a los compañeros, a todas las delegaciones, que seamos flexibles, que seamos sensatos y apuremos este tema para poder seguir adelante y cerrar esta sesión del Consejo con la altura que se merece.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Costa Rica, also reminding us of why we are here and why we need to find consensus.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir ce qui a été indiqué par mes collègues du Canada et des États-Unis. Remercier aussi les collègues notamment du Mexique et du Costa Rica pour leur flexibilité. Rappeler aussi que comme la Conseillère juridique l'a indiqué, il y a bien une différence d'implication juridique entre les mots "*welcome*" et "*endorse*".

Cela étant, première observation, comme je l'ai indiqué, c'est une appréciation d'ensemble que nous devons avoir sur ces différents paragraphes. L'un étant lié à l'autre. Donc, c'est un paquet d'ensemble, 26, 27, 28 et le cas échéant, un nouveau 29. Nous pouvons apprécier "*welcome*" le travail du Comité

mais nous devons "review" le rapport. C'est ce que nous demandent les basic texts. Je me réfère aux règles 24, paragraphe 2 des basic texts. Ce sont les textes.

Nous devons "review the Report". Comme nous l'avons proposé, nous pouvons avoir un paragraphe conclusif, un nouveau 29, qui dirait, et si les délégations pensent qu'il y a d'autres endroits dans notre rapport sur d'autres Agendas Items qui méritent d'être pris en considération, on peut les mentionner : "*With these observations and conclusion under Agenda Item X and Y, the Council endorse the Report.*"

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

France, may I ask you, you have listened to the different interventions, how do you see or find a way out? Because, you clearly heard that the endorsement of the Report is not acceptable for a part of the room, so, where do we find the compromise? Because, we can repeat the discussions and the arguments, but somewhere we have to find flexibility in the room to move forward and to get out of this deadlock.

That is why I proposed a working method where, indeed, we appreciate and we can say we welcome the work. We have specific elements to the Report which we would like to highlight, and in line with the Basic Texts, and the Basic Texts is always under my pillow when I go to sleep, we say that we take the decisions we need to decide on, because that is in the Basic Texts as well.

I urge everybody, let us show flexibility. It is Friday morning. We can have another five hours, but, as you have seen, it does not bring us closer to either only using "welcomed" and "reviewed" or say "endorsed", because the room is split. If the room is split, we have to do something to find a trigger to get forward, to find a compromise, and I urge all groups to work together on a compromise, and be creative, be innovative, be whatever, but we have to find a compromise.

That is what we are looking for on Friday morning, at 10:10 hours.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creía, la verdad, que su propuesta era la mejor y sigo creyendo que era la mejor salida porque la decisión por consenso es un proceso de decisión que busca no solo el acuerdo de la mayoría de los participantes, sino también persigue el objetivo de resolver o atenuar las objeciones de la minoría para alcanzar una decisión más satisfactoria. Siempre hablamos de que el consenso, de alguna manera, genera la insatisfacción de todos y eso es el mejor resultado. Pero no es la unanimidad. Por lo tanto, el consenso no requiere, para ser obtenido, de la unanimidad porque si no habría colegas que estarían muy insatisfechos.

Hay varias cosas que quiero remarcar. La primera es que el Consejo decide y esa decisión no está condicionada por nada. Somos nosotros autónomamente los que tomamos la decisión y los informes que recibimos, tienen un nivel de asesoramiento, por lo tanto, tenemos la autonomía para decidir. Creo que está claro que cuando hay un argumento que no me produce mucho placer es cuando se habla de los antecedentes.

Cuando hablamos de los antecedentes, tenemos que recordar, es importante justamente para ayudar consejo que, por ejemplo, el Informe del Comité del Programa fue forzado a ser reabierto para que pudiera, de alguna manera, acomodar posiciones de algunos Miembros a través de las consultas informales con usted, Presidente, en la Estrategia de la FAO para el cambio climático (2022-2031). Si nos hubiéramos ceñido a endosar el contenido del Informe del Comité del Programa, lo que hubiera pasado es que no hubiera habido una Estrategia para el cambio climático porque, obviamente, había algún punto allí que era muy incómodo para algunas delegaciones. Y las reuniones informales permitieron acomodar esas insatisfacciones y hoy tenemos la Estrategia para el cambio climático.

O sea que, no podemos tener una posición que endosamos pero no endosamos, depende si nos gusta o no nos gusta. Creo que está claro que el Consejo tiene el derecho y la potestad, según los Textos Básicos, que para mí son el diccionario. Yo agradezco a los colegas que hablaron de los diccionarios, pero por lo menos el diccionario que yo manejo es el de los Textos Básicos, eso es lo que trato de mirar. Y ahí lo que veo es, "El Consejo tiene el poder de decidir".

Pero, además, también recuerdo lo que pasó en la sesión anterior del Consejo en el cual tampoco se endosó. No es una cuestión de cuántos Consejos endosaron y cuántos no. Es decir, hay una dinámica. Creo que tenemos la oportunidad de discutir en sesiones informales *a posteriori* cómo manejar este tipo de situaciones. Hemos nosotros planteado que los procedimientos requerirían tener algún proceso de predecibilidad y no ser tan flexibles, pero los mismos que hoy plantean endosar no nos acompañaron en esta posición. Y nosotros lo que queríamos era predecibilidad.

Así que, creo que hay que ser flexibles. Yo invito a los colegas a tratar de buscar una alternativa. Repito, creo que el Consejo decide en aquellos puntos en que coincide. Entonces, nosotros tenemos algunos puntos que coincidimos y eso necesariamente implica que tomemos, revisemos y analicemos lo que viene de los distintos Comités. Me parece que esta es la lógica y es una discusión que no va a terminar porque nadie puede imponer al otro una posición. Yo creo que hay que confiar en la Presidencia, hay que confiar en su liderazgo. Usted, Presidente, está tratando de construir una salida y creo que cuando hay un momento donde se bloquean las posiciones, creo que es el momento de confiar en quien conduce el proceso. Porque si no confiamos en quien conduce el proceso, esto realmente no va a tener ninguna solución.

Creo que vamos a salir insatisfechos todos, pero tenemos que confiar que, en definitiva, va a ser la única forma de conseguir el consenso. Por lo tanto, reitero que creo que usted, Presidente, es al que le tenemos que dar la confianza para que nos guíe en este proceso como lo está haciendo y tratemos de salir con su propuesta porque, repito, es la única alternativa que veo para desbloquear esta situación.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We all know that a good compromise is a compromise in which everybody is equally unhappy. It remains that everybody is equally unhappy, but as long as we are equally unhappy, I think we have a good compromise.

#### **Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Chairperson, you actually took the words out of my mouth, because I wanted to say that we need to be equally unhappy. However, with all due respect, I think that the way to handle it is not to use words that are weakened, unless it does not make any sense. What we say right now is sometimes just to use words that does not make any sense for the adoption or accepting of the Report. We really need to have strong language especially taking into account what our colleagues from Costa Rica was just saying very strongly, and I do support it completely.

I suggest we take the Mexican Ambassador's suggestion and use the footnote and the dictionary, and really go forward and make this conclusion quite a strong one, and not really to use it in very vague and weak words.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

We are very glad and ready to accept your proposal and we also go along with the "*review and welcomed*." I know that the last thing you want is to repeat our debate for the five hours, I just want to briefly explain a little bit our position. It is not like we are unsatisfied with the job of any of the sub-committees, especially including later on we will discuss about the Programme Committee's Report where we are part of the Programme Committee.

What really matters is that we want the decision to be decided by the Council on its own with affirmative consent and informed choice of all the Council Members. Here we are not speaking on any of the Members of this sub-committee, but here we presented here as Members of the Council, therefore we request for the consensus and we make a decision as Members of the Council, not the Member of the sub-committee.

Thus, we are not here to create any divergence, but instead we are here to call the biggest unity of all these Council Members, to leave this autonomy and authority to the Council, and leave the Council to make the decision. Of course, we respect and we appreciate deeply all the sub-committees' suggestions and their work, but this kind of appreciation we can strongly express in our Report of the Council, but not at the cost of autonomy and authority of this Council. It might be the exact same with

the Council making exactly the same decisions with the sub-committee, but the end does not justify the means.

This is the reason we want to explain why we cannot endorse this Report, because we want a decision to be made by the Council. Also, our colleagues say that we need a stronger word to confirm our decision. Here we want to say the decision from the Council is the strongest decision.

Thank you very much, Chair, for your proposal, we accept it willingly.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Dear friends, we have four options. One is to go with the compromise I proposed. Second option is that we use language, some delegations “welcomed”, some delegations “endorsed”. It is fair that we do not have consensus. The third option, which for me is worst case scenario, is that we are going to vote. The fourth option is that we leave the Reports open, which I think we cannot do, but there are four options.

I break now for 15 minutes to give you time either to think about it, or to see whether or not there is a possibility to find a way forward on those four options, or any other creative option, to find each other, take a cup of coffee, tea, water, I cannot say take a drink. Hopefully we will do that at the end of the afternoon, but we have to move forward if we want to conclude this Council.

This is because I saw that we are now going to repeat arguments and we have done that already for five hours. Please consult and find the spirit of getting a compromise where we are all equally unhappy. I break for 15 minutes and we come back at 10:35 in this room. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting was suspended from 10:21 to 11:03 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 10 h 21 à 11 h 03*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 10.21 a las 11.03*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Friends, first let us praise that after two years we could meet in person again and because we could meet in person, we could have these kinds of informal consultations with each other in the room. Because, it would have been impossible to do so when we only had a virtual setting of the Council.

I already think that we should praise, that we can now sit, talk, conciliate each other, to find a compromise, and I think, when I see now that we have even already done some drafting which will be finalized, I do hope that we have solved the issue on this Report and then probably also on the other Reports. I wait for the proposed text, and then hopefully we can move on and finalize our work so that the Drafting Committee could start.

As I see that the Ambassador of France is holding the pen, can I give her the floor to present the results of the informals, with, hopefully, as we say often here in Rome, will there be white smoke?

#### **Mr Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (Mexico)**

I did not consult with anyone. Normally I try to think by myself, alone, and I want to propose, again, an approach for these three Committees and see if it works.

My suggestion will be that whatever we put in writing be composed of three parts. The first paragraph, in which we say something like “*the Council appreciates the work of the,*” in this case Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, “*and reviewed its Report from its 115<sup>th</sup> Session*”, because that is what we did. We did not review the work, we reviewed the Report. Thus, we can put that as a chapeau.

The second big one will be, “*with regard to this Report, the Council*” and I say this recognizing that the Council is the authority to propose this to the future, and then we put a list of all the recommendations that we have, we welcome, we suggest this to be changed.

Then we finalize with a third big paragraph that says, “*taking these observations and recommendations in consideration, the Council,*” and I leave it blank because we can approve, endorse, reject, whatever we want, the Report from the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

This is my opinion, shows exactly what we have done in here - we have reviewed the Report, we have made comments, and then we make a decision, we either endorse it or do a public support of the Report, or we return it to the Committees. Fortunately, in none of the conversations we have decided to return it. We have not.

Thus, my suggestion will be if we can put these three big chapeaus or paragraphs, it will probably help us on advancing. I am certain that the second one is going to be the most difficult because that is where we have more conversations and more differences, but that is what we have done. The Council is the maximum authority.

Ambassador Carlos Cherniak has been very clear in recognizing the Basic Texts. Nobody is changing the Basic Texts, but we review, and actually we reviewed the Report, we did not review the work. I was in the Finance Committee. None of this Council were there to review my work, just the only thing that we reviewed was my Report, so, we reviewed the Report.

I want to suggest that we construct these things around this area and see if we can make some progress. At least we have chapeau number one in agreement because that is what we do.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to France, informing us about the informal consultations, what they arrived at. Let me put that on the screen.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous avons, avec plusieurs collègues essayez d'aller de l'avant, et de faire preuve de grande flexibilité. Voilà, un mélange qui recueille un intérêt large et un soutien assez large. Bien sûr je ne peux pas parler pour toutes les délégations, nous n'avons pas pu voir toutes les délégations. Mais voilà ce qu'on pourrait proposer. Je lis en anglais "*The Council reviewed the Report of the Committee*", that would be the similar chapeau for all the Reports of the Committees.

*"The Council reviewed the Report of the Committee on Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), except for Agenda Items X and Y, taken under separate Agenda Items."*

Donc il faudrait mentionner, lister les points qui sont traités de manière distincte dans l'ordre du jour. Suite, nouveau paragraphe : "*with these observations, the Council endorses the recommendation of the Report on the Items which are not listed above*" et je remercie notamment mon collègue du Cameroun et du Pakistan, pour ces suggestions. Ce serait un chapeau, un langage qui pourrait être décliné sur les différents Comités.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It would mean that we then delete the rest of the text of the paragraphs.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think it was worth the 15 minutes you gave and, as you can see from our colleague from France, we were able to come to a breakthrough, hopefully. I know that is not everybody who were there. Ambassador of South Africa, France, Pakistan, Malaysia, and many others, Canada, we tried to work out this language, which I think is going into the nitty gritty of each of the recommendations.

We agreed to come up with these two paragraphs which now may help us to finalize the Report. As Cameroon, we can give our support to what the Ambassador of France just said.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I thank all of you who worked so closely together to find a way out of this. In the meantime, we are already looking to the Agenda Items which we have to list here, which are dealt with in other separate Agenda Items, so that we have the complete text.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

We appreciate the Ambassador from France's proposal very much and we kindly request to list all the recommendations below. The reason is that we appeal to all the Council Members here to think about,



in the sub-committee, are you sure you fully represented? Have you ever experienced the circumstances that you try to voice out your opinion but likely you are overwhelmed by the other side?

In addition, we want to kindly appeal to all the Members, are you sure you are certain with all these recommendations made by the sub-committee? Are you 100 percent? This is an affirmative choice and this is... Whether you need affirmative consent, the choice you made, is it an informed choice?

The basic logic for us to propose to list all these recommendations and the decisions made by the Council is very simple. We want the Council to make the decision. A lot of our friends and colleagues talk about the efficiency, but this is actually a matter of feasibility. On one hand, they worry about that people may have different views on different Agenda Items. Thus, they do not think that we have enough time to discuss on this issue. However, here I would say I see the value of this controversial issue here.

If they assume that all the sub-committees' suggestions can go through very smoothly, quickly, then the efficiency for discussion of this recommendation will not be an issue. However, if they worry about the controversial issue that might be reopened, we see this is exactly why the debate should happen on the Council. Here I would like to appeal to every Member to think about, are you sure you know all this information about all the sub-committee's suggestions, and do you really want to make decisions by sub-committee or would you rather make the decisions here as the Council Member?

This is our request, kindly to please list all these recommendations. If we agree, as we have already expressed in our Report, if we agree on these recommendations, there is no problem of the efficiency problem, and if there are disputes, then let us debate it.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

In the meantime, we are going to list the recommendations in the Report of the 115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), as you requested, in paragraph 27.

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

In fact, I wanted to say exactly what you said, as a matter of clarification, because paragraph 27 says, "*with these observations.*" Thus, the text of paragraph 27 is the last one. Before that goes the views of the Council on various recommendations. That is why it is saying, "*with these observations, the Council endorses.*"

Thus, there is the chapeau, which is paragraph 26, then the Council's views on perhaps various recommendations, whatever they are, and then the last is "*with these observations, the Council,*" with additional text.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We still have some work to do.

#### **Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)**

Of course, I think we are a little bit in agreement, but I would like also to bring the points which were proposed by Mexico. We can "*review*" and "*appreciate*" in the first chapeau, and then within the Report we can propose certain points, otherwise we cannot in detail go with all the Agenda Items or with the issues or the proposal by the Committees. Thus, that makes it very hard.

Therefore, in the second chapeau we can propose some issues which are very important for the Council, and then in the third chapeau we can "*approve*", "*reject*" or "*endorse*" certain issues, which we feel they are very important. At the end of the day, what I would like to say is that let us bring also the point of Mexico, which was previously addressed.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Give us five minutes to work on the text, and then we will bring it back to you, because I think there is an agreement on how we deal now with the issues. We bring them now in the text and then hopefully we can go smoothly through the text.

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

For us, probably, a little bit of constructive ambiguity is maybe useful here. I am just wondering whether... Because it will take a lot of time if we want to analyse one by one. Can we put probably the words "*as appropriate*," after recommendations, on the para 27? So, we are saving ourselves from scrutinizing each and every possible recommendation, and probably any other issue that maybe come up in the discussion of the recommendations.

#### CHAIRPERSON

Let us first do our work. For example, if you look through the Report from the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, there were, I think, only four recommendations which we have to decide on. It is not a full list but there were only four. I think we can list them and then see how it works. Give us five minutes and then we will put it on the screen and hopefully we get an agreement.

I think we can continue. We put it on the screen. I am not going to read it out in total, but we do it one by one, also to save a little bit of time so that we can finalize before we break for lunch. Of course, I will read the paragraphs out and we will see whether or not we can agree to the paragraph.

*"The Council reviewed the Report of the 115th Session of the Committee and Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), except for governance of FAO statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on protection of data and intellectual property rights, and restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member nations in arrears in payments or financial contributions to the organization, taken under separate Agenda Items that were the two which were not dealt with."*

Now, we list those specific, which came out of the Report.

*"The Council:*

- (a) acknowledged the concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development, providing non-exhaustive guidance on the practice of the organization in relation to the types of FAO products, and encourage inclusive and transparent consultation with Members where the means of development for FAO products are unclear in particular to ensure appropriate Members' involvement on Strategies and action plans which can serve as a practical orientation tool to guide Members."*

That is the language which we already agreed on. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

- (b) "noted the procedural steps involved in the proposed change of name of the Regional Conference for Europe."*

I do not see any objections. Then we go to:

*"With regard to specific recommendations in the Report of the Council:*

- (a) decided to amend staff recommendation 301.13.6, change the name of the Associate Professional Officers Programme to the Junior Professional Officers Programme, as recommended by the CCLM."*

Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we have subparagraph (b):

- (b) "agreed that the data policy should be revised to address the following:
 
  - i. that the language expressing the requirements of affirmative consent be strengthened, with the cases where implicit consent could exceptionally be relied upon when clarified, including setting limits to the duration for which implicit consent could form a basis for data processing;*
  - ii. that the linkages between the internal bodies addressing data protection and data in general be clarified, for example, through the definitions set out in Annex 1 to the policy;*
  - iii. that the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee could discharge an independent oversight function with regards to data protection; and**

- iv. *that the Data Protection Policy reflects the rights of data owners who are not data providers.*”

That is the exact language in the Report.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait j'avais juste une question juridique, pour le A. Est-ce que c'est au Conseil de décider d'amender ou c'est à la Conférence ? C'est juste une question juridique. Nous reviendrons, le cas échéant sur le (B), mais pour le moment, ma question portait sur le (B).

**CHAIRPERSON**

I know the answer, but I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu, Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Yes, it is for the Council. If I may refer the Members of the Council to Rule XL, paragraph 4 of the General Rules to the Organization, , which stipulates that *“the Director-General, with the approval of the Council, shall promulgate such general staff regulations as may be necessary”*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this explanation, can we still agree on subparagraph (a)?

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Chairperson, I thought we were on subparagraph (b)?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, but it was a question on subparagraph (a).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Subparagraph (a) is okay, it is subparagraph (b).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Okay, yes. Then we go to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

You just read subparagraph (b). Okay, I do not know if we go to the chapeau, if this subparagraph (b) is relevant again.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This is a separate Item.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Yes, so it is no longer relevant here?

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, it is.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is the data protection?

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is a different Item. It was also dealt with differently by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous étions en train de regarder le langage, mais encore une fois, de manière générale, comme nous l'avons souligné, l'idée est de se concentrer seulement sur certaines recommandations, et pas sur toutes. C'est l'idée de la formule que nous avons proposée. Nous allons regarder ce paragraphe.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is a paragraph, which was agreed by in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which is a recommendation to the Council to agree on it, and what I do is exactly what China asked me to do: to see that we have the recommendations, which we are endorsing.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En termes de méthode, comme nous l'avons souligné avec plusieurs collègues, l'idée est de se concentrer non pas sur toutes les recommandations une à une, mais seulement celles qui méritent des amendements, des compléments ou des contradictions, pour gagner du temps. Sur le fond, le B ne pose pas de problème pour nous, mais encore une fois, la méthode qui se concentre uniquement sur celles des recommandations qui ont besoin de décisions particulières, ou de compléments, c'était de la formule générale que nous avons proposée pour tous ces rapports des Comités.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I very much understood your remarks, but it was also the question of China to at least list the recommendations in this decision. So, it was an agreement on the text. There were only four recommendations in this Report, so I think there would not be a problem. We can see other Reports, but I do not think it would be a problem to list those four, but I heard that you are in agreement with the text of (b). With that, I think we could continue with the other two.

Subparagraph (c) *"agreed that the FAO policy and data protection should be promulgated with a view to its early implementation, revised in accordance with the recommendation of the CCLM, and that informal consultations should be held with Members, as recommended by CCLM."* Can we agree to this subparagraph?

Then subparagraph (d), *"requested the Independent Chairperson of the Council undertake informal consultations with FAO Members on the matters of participation of private sector observers in its Session of the FAO Governing Bodies, in light of the approval at its 165th<sup>th</sup> Session of the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, in particular to elicit from the Members in its interest in developing a permanent observer status for private sector entities and with a view to submitting a proposal for approval to the Council through the CCLM."*

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

Sorry to interrupt your smooth proceedings, Chairperson, but I do just want to go back to subparagraph (c) because in subparagraph (b) we are talking about data protection policy, in (c) we are talking about the FAO policy on data protection. Are we talking about the same thing? Maybe we can have just the same data policy protection.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Consistent with each other, thank you. Can we agree to subparagraph (d)? I do not see any objections.

Then subparagraph (c) *"agreed that pending the approval of guidelines for participation of private sector observers in the Sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies, current ad hoc arrangements continue to be applied."* I do not see any objections.

And then we have the subparagraph, *"With these observations, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Report on the items, which are not listed above."*

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme nous l'avons indiqué dans notre discours, nous préférons supprimer le subparagraph (e), nous estimons qu'il convient de ne pas préjuger du résultat des discussions sur les guidelines. Donc, notre préférence est de supprimer le paragraphe (e), et de s'en tenir uniquement au subparagraph (d).

**CHAIRPERSON**

For me it is, of course, fine, but it is not prejudging because it is only in the meantime that the current arrangements stay in place. It is not prejudging the outcome. That is what I understood, but I can give the floor to the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to explain.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

Indeed, when we considered this Item, and it is covered in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) document about the private sector observers, there are current ad hoc arrangements that are followed by FAO, when these types of requests come in, and so, because the CCLM did not feel like it was a position to prejudge the views of Members on changing those procedures, it recommended for the consultations to occur with Members, and indeed during the Plenary on this Item, a number of Members expressed views indicating that this needs further discussion.

But in the meantime, CCLM recommended that FAO continues its current practice, which is to consider these on a case-by-case basis. I believe the document goes into it further but to be clear, it is rare that private sector observers attend any Governing Body sessions, and by Governing Bodies it includes also the Technical Committees. But there have been cases in the past, when a private sector entity, in partnership with FAO, was invited to a Session on a particular Item relevant to that partnership for a briefing, and that is the type of ad hoc arrangement that currently exists.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope with this explanation France can also agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci beaucoup à la Présidente du CCLM pour ces indications. Donc, sur la base de ce qu'elle a indiqué, et de mes remarques, parce que là nous préjugeons, "*pending the approval*", qui ne seront peut-être pas approuvés. Donc, ma suggestion est de dire : "*Noted that pending the result of these informal consultations of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the current ad hoc arrangements continue to be applied on a case-by-case basis.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Do you agree?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Est-ce que j'ai bien retenu ? De la présentation de la Présidente du CCLM que c'était le cas. "*To be applied on a case-by-case basis.*" Le verbe au début serait "*noted that*". On prend note, et pas "*agreed*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

France, with respect to your remarks, of course, the recommendation asks for a decision by the Council, and of course, the Council can note, but it leaves it open. So, I think what was also asked.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Your comment has answered what I was going to say. But another aspect "*pending the results of these informal consultations,*" is that assigning a decision-making to the informal consultations? Because pending the results means if the result is positive, a decision can go forward, or if it is negative, it will not. It is giving a decision-making aspect to the informal consultations because the informal consultations have to be endorsed by a Governing Body entity.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we could add, "*and endorsement by the Council.*"

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

If it is helpful to Members, we have often used the phrasing "*in consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies,*" in cases like this, if that is helpful to Members.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that was said by Pakistan. It is not only consideration, but we need a decision by the responsible Governing Body, and that is the Council. Perhaps we could then say, *"and the endorsement by the relevant Governing Bodies,"* because what I understand from Legal Counsel is that depending on the outcome, it could be even the Conference, who should take the final decision.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir ce qui a été dit par la Président du CCLM. La décision, elle est prise là. Elle est prise et nous avons pris de votre remarque juste et de celle du Pakistan. Donc, la décision, elle est prise *"agreed"*. Par contre, je redis, nous ne pouvons pas préjuger du résultat des consultations par les Governing Bodies. Donc, la formulation de la Présidente du CCLM est meilleure. Donc: *"Agreed that pending the results"* etc., *"and their consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, the current ad hoc arrangements continue to be applied."*

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu because this is a legal issue.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Here I wonder whether the Members would consider, because you are very correct that of course until you have a decision by the Governing Bodies, the outcome of consultations would remain simply that, the outcome of consultations. Moreover, yes, it is not clear, especially looking at the history of discussions on this matter, that there will be an outcome, which provides for rules or procedures.

Consequently, I wonder whether the Members might wish to consider a formulation, which would introduce *"any decisions thereon"*. Here we would, just to suggest, *"the results of these informal consultations of the ICC and any decisions thereon by the relevant Governing Bodies."* With the introduction of the word *"any"* that would not be prejudging because you may not have a decision thereon. That is simply for your consideration.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. It is always good to have legal advice in this. Could we agree to the proposal of the Legal Counsel?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Si je me souviens bien de la discussion qu'on a eue juste avant, les Governing Bodies ne prennent pas nécessairement de décision. C'est le Conseil ou la Conférence qui prennent des décisions. Donc, je pense que la formulation serait peut-être plutôt : *"any recommendation done by the relevant Governing Bodies, as appropriate."*

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solamente déjeme hacer este pequeño comentario. Se suponía que había una parte de los colegas que estaban disponibles a endosar el Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Y todo este ejercicio era, justamente, para facilitar y ser más eficientes y para ir más rápido. Estamos haciendo todo lo contrario. Solamente quiero mandar esto porque quienes, de alguna manera, consideramos que era mejor no endosar y facilitar directamente el ejercicio, ahora vemos sorprendidos un ejercicio que estamos complicando y demorando aún más toda esta actividad.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I think the Legal Counsel's wording is appropriate because it says the relevant Governing Bodies, so it can go through the Subcommittees or Committees, but the decision would be with the relevant Governing Body, whether it is the Council or the Conference. So, I would support the Legal Counsel's suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do hope with this explanation we could all agree to this subparagraph.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

This is just trying to be helpful, if it addresses the concern of our Ambassador from France. If we could go back to the original language of approval of guidelines, I think the concern was preempting the private sector will participate, but if we change "for" to "with regard to participation" will that work? Or if the earlier alternative works too?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je ne suis pas sûre que la proposition de ma collègue soit reflétée. Je ne l'ai pas comprise. Est-ce que la Conseillère Juridique, s'il vous plaît, peut nous indiquer si le mot "*Recommendation thereon by the relevant Governing Bodies.*" Le mot "*recommandation*" serait correct ? Et pour mémoire, j'ai demandé aussi, s'il vous plaît, "*as appropriate*", à la fin de Governing Bodies. Puisque par définition, nous ne pouvons pas préjuger du sens des décisions. Pour répondre à mon collègue Argentin, brièvement, nous avons toujours dit qu'il s'agissait d'endosser les rapports avec des considérations, quand il y en avait. Comme nous avons indiqué dans notre discours, nous avons endossé le rapport du CCLM avec nos observations. Donc, nous sommes parfaitement cohérents avec nous-même. Nous nous concentrons dans l'intérêt du temps sur les seules recommandations qui le méritent, et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous estimions que les paragraphes précédents n'avaient pas besoin d'être remis dans ce rapport.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us not negotiate back. We are almost there. I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

In this context, I would recall we are talking about potentially the status of Observers in Governing Body sessions. At this moment in time, these are addressed in the Basic Texts, firstly, in the General Rules of the Organization, but also in Volume II of the Basic Texts, where there are provisions concerning the granting of observer status, at the moment only addressing international, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Thus, this would be the logic of needing a decision, if there was going to be a transformation or an adjustment to the rules on observer status. Similarly, should the Members decide to close this discussion and not amend the Rules, there would need to nevertheless be a decision taken. Thus, I think "recommendations" may not reflect that ultimate outcome, the decision to proceed or adjust, the decision to maintain the *status quo*, or indeed a decision to completely close the matter.

Therefore, from my legal perspective, I am not sure that that reflection of "recommendation" would necessarily reflect the need at some stage for a decision to be taken, whatever the outcome of the informal consultations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this explanation, could we agree to this paragraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

De revenir sur ce point. Mais donc, quels sont les relevant *Governing Bodies*? C'est le Conseil et la Conférence, en fonction des sujets? Je pense qu'il faut les mentionner, parce que sinon, les "*relevant Governing Bodies*" peuvent être les Comités et ce n'est pas aux Comités de décider sur la participation du secteur privé. Donc, je souhaiterais, peut-être pour tenir compte de l'explication juridique qui a été apportée par la Conseillère Juridique, mentionner spécifiquement qui sont ces *Governing Bodies*. Le Conseil et la Conférence? Je vois la Conseillère Juridique qui acquiesce. Donc, je pense qu'il faudrait dire: "*And any decision thereon by the Council and the Conference, as appropriate.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see nodding. She was already saying that, "*by the Council or Conference, as appropriate*". Can we now agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We have the last, which is probably already agreed, "*With this observation, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Report on Items which are not listed above.*"

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

A quick question to ask the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and to the Legal Counsel. The change above on subparagraph (e), is this any substantive change or any added value from the suggestion from the previous CCLM Report?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. Which of the ladies goes first?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I do not really have a comment to add. I think that is in the hands of the Council. The Council is deciding whether to list all the recommendations or whether subparagraph (e) is actually already covered by paragraph 29. That is not for the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to decide.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Ms Donata Rugarabamu.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

In this context, once again I would not have an opinion. This is the Report of the Council. Should the Council wish to specify more clearly the processes they wish to follow in this context, that would be a matter for the Council. I really do not have more to add than that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My suggestion is to leave it in to be sure, because that was also the result of the consultations of the Group, so that if we missed anything, at least we have dealt with it.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

I appreciate the answer provided by the Legal Counsel and the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Actually, China has no issue with the previous subparagraph or the current subparagraph. We are flexible with either one.

I think, whether we should go through with paragraph 29, actually the decision lies on the one that had proposed to change subparagraph (e), if they think that the discussion is meaningful and makes actual change of the previous suggestions. So, we think that we need to delete paragraph 29. If they think that it is exactly the same, we should come back to the original sentence. Thank you very much, Chairperson. It is a decision by the one who proposed the change of subparagraph (e).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, but we did change something, so I would really propose to keep paragraph 29 as it is, and do not change... So, keep the paragraph as it is, because we have at least changed one of the recommendations. Can we now please agree to this text? I do not see any objections.

With that, we have concluded our work on the Report, and of course, thank you and I applaud the group and the whole Council that we have now found a method for working on the other Reports.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Sorry, I did not fully comprehend your suggestion. So, that is the previous discussion under the change of the subparagraph (e). Was it meaningful or not?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Yes, it is meaningful so actually it means that the recommendation is different from the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). So, it makes paragraph 29 self-contradicted. Therefore, we have to delete the self-contradicted paragraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**



No. I will bring paragraph 29 back, but, please, let us... We got an approval and I think a very delicate arrangement in the group. Let us maintain that arrangement, and that we can continue our work. I am afraid that we go back to 10:00 hours sharp, when we started our meeting.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

I promise that this is the last chance I take the floor on this Item. I just wanted to raise this issue. Previously, we agreed on the last subparagraph with the observation, “*the Council endorsed the recommendation of the CCLM Report*”. Actually, we have this view that prejudged... thinking that the recommendation, just as a lot of our colleagues said... actually we have no issue with the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

Now, it seems that some Members, actually who is also the same group of people that proposed to endorse this as a whole, has a different opinion on the specific suggestion on this Report. So, to be very honest, we are totally okay with subparagraph (e) and paragraph 29. We just want to make sure that this Report, the Council Report, did not go self-conflicted.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Listening to the comments made by the distinguished colleague from China and also based on my observations, I would like to humbly suggest for paragraph 29, “*endorse the Report on the Items which are not listed above,*” because the recommendations are listed in the Report, so just the Report endorsed and the listed Items are not included. I am not sure.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I can break for another hour to give the group back the task to see whether or not we can stick to what they came up with, but I would really ask for flexibility of everybody. Let us get it done. Let us agree to paragraph 29 as it is. That was the outcome of the group. It was a very delicate balance. Everything that we changed now will change the meaning. Please let us continue with the other Reports.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I totally agree with your views. I think paragraph 29 should remain. Basically, when you talk about observations of the Council in reference to the four Items listed above, so I think it is well within our mandate to do so. Therefore, I would really urge the Members to agree to this paragraph 29 and move on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree now to the conclusions? I do not see any objections, so decided.

Thank you all.

**Item 11. Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022)(continued)**

**Point 11. Rapport de la cent trente-troisième session du Comité du Programme (16-20 mai 2022) (suite)**

**Tema 11. Informe del 133.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (16-20 de mayo de 2022) (continuación)**

(CL 170/11; CL 170/INF/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we continue with the same method of work to the other Reports and hopefully, I think they can go faster because we have less elements to decide on.

Let us first now turn to the *Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee*. Give us one minute to make the same changes that we have done for this Report.

Dear friends, I think this can go quite fast, I hope, because we already considered and approved the separate Items in our deliberations. We only have to do paragraphs 23 and 25 which are now put on the screen.

"The Council reviewed the Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee, except for the Programme Implementation Report, the FAO thematic Strategy on Climate Change and the FAO thematic Science and Innovation Strategy," and there has to be a sentence behind it because we are missing a part of a sentence. Then, consistent with what we have done with the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Report. Can we agree to this chapeau?

Then paragraph 25 (a), (b), (c), (d) – we already agreed to those subparagraphs. And at the end, then we say, "with these observations, the Council endorses the recommendations continued in the Report of the 130th Session of Programme Committee." And then we miss a phrase again. Make it consistent with the CCLM so that we have exactly the same language everywhere. Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections with that. So decided.

With that, we have finalized the Report of the Programme Committee. Thank you so much.

**Item 12. Reports of the 189th (17 December 2021), 190th (18 February 2022) and 191st (16-20 May 2022) Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)**

**Point 12. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-neuvième, cent quatre-vingt-dixième et cent quatre-vingt-onzième sessions du Comité financier (17 décembre 2021, 18 février 2022 et 16-20 mai 2022, respectivement) (suite)**

**Tema 12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 189.º (17 de diciembre de 2021), 190.º (18 de febrero de 2022) y 191.º (16-20 de mayo de 2022) del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)**

(CL 170/12; CL 170/15; CL 170/16)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We go to the paragraph on the *Report of the 189th, 190th, 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee*. Give us, again one minute to do the same trick as we have done for the other two Reports.

I think we can do a fast track on this one as well, because we already dealt with the specific Items. So, I will read out the first paragraph.

"The Council reviewed the Reports of 189th, 190th, and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee except," there is a typo in that, "except for Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contribution to the Organization, taken up under separate agenda items." Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Il manque aussi la question du JIU qui a été prise dans un Agenda Item distinct, et qu'il faut rajouter.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, you are correct. We are getting tired. We have included now this Item. So, can we now agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections. So decided.

Subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c), (d) – we are already agreed.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I do not know whether we can go back to the list of Agenda Item...Items that were examined under... Where is the statement of contribution or something like that, I think that were also examined on the...I do not know whether it is Agenda Item 10 or something like that. There is another one on...

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Under Agenda Item 10, we only have the restoration, but we are checking now. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

In fact, I confirm, two matters considered by the 191st Session of the Finance Committee were, in this Session of the Council taken up under separate Agenda Items, namely under Items 17 and 18. I am not

sure of the other matter, and would be grateful of the specific one which the delegate wants to highlight.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. Can we now agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections. So decided.

As I said, we already dealt with 28. Then we go to 29 with the same language again, "*with these observations, the Council endorses the recommendations contained in the Reports of 189th, 190th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee, which are not listed above.*"

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Sorry that I did not do my homework as well as you did. I just want to know what are the other suggestions that are not listed above? Because we see obviously from the previous discussion on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), even the country that insists so strongly to endorse the recommendation as a whole also has this question, and a great contribution to amend the specific recommendation and suggestions. So, we see the value of this kind of discussion. Therefore, we kindly request you to do as what you did on the CCLM Report, to list all these questions, all the suggestions above.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Should there not be the word "*except*" in the last line in paragraph 29?

*"Except for those listed above."*

**CHAIRPERSON**

So, your suggestion is? I did not catch your remark.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

No, I was saying should there not be...? There we are. It has been put now... "*except*". It was not there before. I was suggesting...

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, correct, yes. Give me one moment.

Thank you, we have checked.

And these are the... which came out of the 190th, 191st Session, I think, of the Finance Committee because the others were related to the World Food Programme (WFP). So, we have listed them.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I believe some of the confusion perhaps is the "*except for those which are not listed above*" which refers to the Items which have been taken care of in a different Agenda Item, which refers back to the chapeau in paragraph 27. So, we are endorsing the Reports that have been modified by those observations.

But I think we could, for clarity, except for those noted in paragraph 27 or except for those Items dealt with under separate Agenda Items.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

Thank you very much for your clarification. Thanks that this recommendation is already listed here. Thank you also for Canada's proposal. We want to make a small suggestion with this observation, "*the Council endorsed the recommendations listed above*" since these are all the recommendations that are proposed by the Finance Committee.

And the World Food Programme (WFP) issues, we try to find some words with these two Reports.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

Just to be consistent with the conclusion under the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), where we mentioned just the words "*which are not listed above.*" If you do that here now,

are we looking back again to the previous conclusion? Trust me, I do not want to go back, but I think we have to be careful in how we word this out, because it would seem that the Council Reports are not in tandem with each other.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Certainement, je peux souligner comme mon collègue malaisien, qu'il suffit de reprendre la formulation utilisée pour le Comité du Programme que nous venons juste de faire. Je crois que c'était dit "*For those Items not listed above.*" Il suffit de reprendre la formulation que nous venons tout juste d'agréer pour le Comité du Programme, mais par ailleurs, bien sûr nous souhaitons conserver l'accord qui a été conclu jusqu'à présent et endosser les recommandations du rapport. Donc, nous souhaitons reprendre la formulation trouvée pour les Comités précédents.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we be consistent in our wording? I hope that we found a way for all the Reports to have the same last paragraph, which makes our work easier and consistent. Could we agree to this, please? Can we be flexible in this?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We promise taking the floor for the last time on this Item. We are a little bit confused, since all these recommendations have already been listed above, what are the suggestions that are not listed, except for the two WFP issues? If that is the case, I think that it does not make any actual change of the idea we want to use. Thus, if we have the wording like this, "*list all the suggestions and the recommendations from the Council.*" I think that just for affirmative consent, we want to make sure that the recommendations we endorse are the recommendations we know. If it is all listed above, let us just make it, "*endorsed the recommendations above*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

We took the same approach with the two other Reports. We checked, but we are not perfect and we are not working in a perfect world, so we could have missed one. Of course, we can suspend the meeting and go line by line, but it takes a lot of time. That is why I would like to be sure that we are consistent also with the other two Reports, where we did the same to keep this language, to make sure that we did not miss anything. Is there flexibility to go along with this paragraph, so that we read the same paragraph in all the three Reports?

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

I understand that nobody is perfect. This is the reason why we mentioned "*the recommendations listed above,*" in case that somebody maybe lets slip away something from their mind. We want to make sure that all the choices we make are with consent and informed choices.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am leaving it in the hands of the Council now. Because, if we delete "*which are not listed above*", then I have to break for an hour to go through the documents to make sure that we have not missed anything, and that takes a lot of time of the Council. We did not do that with the other two Reports. Let us maintain the same practice - keep the sentence here in case that we missed something. I leave it up to the room.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous souhaitons procéder de la même manière que pour les autres Comités. Reprendre le même langage. C'est pour cela d'ailleurs que nous avons proposé je crois le mot "*Items*" qui était dans le CCLM. Mais encore une fois, nous souhaitons reprendre la même formule et la même méthode que dans les deux autres rapports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Malaysia made the same appeal to go along with, to be consistent. Can we agree to this subparagraph? Otherwise, China, then I ask you to put a footnote, unless Council wants to break for another hour, but then I cannot assure you that we are not going into Saturday. Of course, China, you can disassociate

yourself from this subparagraph, but we did it with the other Reports, so why not doing it with this Report? I hope there is some flexibility.

**Ms Xi LI (China)**

We, of course, do not want to disassociate with the Report that you made for us. The reason why we raise this question is because we have your words on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), that there are only four recommendations from the Council. But here, if you can be certain that these are all the recommendations and requests, the decision needs to be made by the Council, we are totally okay with this. The only thing why we are not flexible on this issue is because you said there is some kind of danger. We just want to make sure that you are sure that this is all the recommendations and decisions that need to be made by the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I went through the Reports, and I did read carefully all the Reports, these are the decisions. Then we have an agreement, unless we should disagree, but can we agree now to this text? The decision is reached.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

If an agreement is reached, then we are not going to make our proposal. But if not, we clearly understand.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we have concluded again the Report.

**Item 15. Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights**

*(continued)*

**Point 15. Gouvernance des activités statistiques et autres travaux de la FAO en rapport avec les données et mise en conformité avec les politiques transversales de la FAO relatives à la protection des données et aux droits de propriété intellectuelle** *(suite)*

**Tema 15. Gobernanza de las actividades estadísticas y relacionadas con otros tipos de datos de la FAO y armonización de dichas actividades con las políticas transversales de la Organización sobre protección de datos y de derechos de propiedad intelectual**

*(continuación)*

*(CL 170/11; CL 170/13; CL 170/18)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 15, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*. Give us a minute to do the same practice as we have done before.

Dear friends, we go in the same manner. Again, we are lucky that we already dealt with the specific Items, as well as the specific decisions. We only have to do which we already agreed. We only have to do paragraphs 28 and 31. So, 28, "*the council reviewed the Reports of the 150th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and the 130th Session of the Programme Committee on the Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cost-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights.*" Can we agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to 31. China, indeed, I checked these are the recommendations which are listed in this document. So, "*with these observations the Council endorse the recommendations of the Reports on these Items, which are not listed above.*" Can we agree to this text? I do not see any objections.

We have another Item solved.

**Item 9. Reports of the Regional Conferences** *(continued)*

**Point 9. Conférences régionales** *(suite)*

**Tema 9. Conferencias regionales (continuación)****CHAIRPERSON**

Now, before we go to any other, there is this one Item left and that is the Reports of the Regional Conferences. Let us see how we can solve those. We had only one chapeau, as was proposed by Mexico. Give me one minute again to see how we can do the same, but I think that we have to be very careful. At first, I follow at least the chapeau.

Dear friends, we continue with this in the same practice as we have done. So, "*the Council reviewed the Reports of the five Regional Conferences, as well as the informal Regional Conference for North America held between January and May 22*", can we agree to this paragraph? Then, we have paragraph 2, "*the Council endorsed the recommendations of the programme and budgetary matters, taking into account that those recommendations specific to the regions will be implemented within the region concerned*".

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I have a question and a comment. First, could we have a look at the references to the Regional Conferences' documents 16 and 17, the footnotes, and also paragraph 2?

Regarding paragraph 2, the Council is "*endorsing recommendations on programme and budgetary matters*," which have not undergone the expertise of the relevant bodies. I do not think that is the right approach, therefore we are not prepared to lend our support to this wording.

**Continues in English**

Perhaps we could say that "*the Council noted the recommendations on programme and budgetary matters, and requested the relevant FAO Governing Bodies to review them in due course*."

**Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus) (Original language Russian)**

We just have a technical comment. In the footnotes 16 and 17 there is no mention of the Republic of Belarus. Where has it gone? We also do not agree with those relevant sections of the Report. We would like the Republic of Belarus to be added to footnotes 16 and 17.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will add Belarus in the footnotes.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

I just want to take into account the changes made by our distinguished colleague from the Russian Federation. While I can understand the spirit in which the comments are, I would say that the recommendations by the regional meetings are actually very important for the regions, and I think most regions do endorse the recommendations too.

For me, the Council need to note that, for instance in the Asia Group, we have endorsed those recommendations by itself. It would be unfair for certain regions to only accept what noted when there are regions which accept recommendations in their totality. In the spirit of compromise, I would still believe that your initial formulation would be something that can be accepted.

Also, as a precaution, we do have the wording that "*those recommendations specific to region will be implemented according to region's concern*," or we can say "*those recommendations specific to regions will be considered or deliberated within the region's concern*." That would solve the issue of what our colleague from Russian Federation is trying to allude to.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I have some difficulty with the word "*noted*." What exactly is the role of the Council? These are the Reports of the Regional Conferences. We know it is "*programme and budgetary matters*." Is it just to note what the Reports are saying or is it to make some sort of a decision on them? Perhaps the Legal Counsel can clarify.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give, of course, the floor to the Legal Counsel later on, but we have already decided on many of those. For example, all the Regional Conferences recommended to endorse the two Strategies, which we have done. We cannot go back and now say no to those recommendations. I think that would be strange.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Thank you to the distinguished representatives of Malaysia and Pakistan for those comments. We would like to support the call and the request to get some information and clarification from the Legal Counsel. The recommendations tabled by the Regional Conferences, do they need additional discussion? Can they be adopted and acted upon? There is expertise of programme and budgetary matters, analysis of programme and budgetary matters, and then also legal issues. Would be grateful for that clarification.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give to floor to the Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I understand that the question relates to the role, functions and authority of the Regional Conferences. As Members are well aware, the Regional Conferences are Governing Bodies of the Organization. Their functions are set out in Rule XXXV of the General Rules of the Organization, and in particular under paragraph 2.

I will not read all of the provisions now in the interest of time. Nevertheless, what one can see from Rule XXXV is that they are meant to provide fora of consultation but, at the same time, review and advise on the priorities of their region. However, they do not take decisions on budgetary and programme matters, rather they advise on the priorities of the region to be taken into account in the Organization's programme and budget delivery and in the planning, more specifically.

Thus, under paragraph 3 of Rule XXXV, it is stated that "*the Regional Conferences shall report to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees in the areas of their respective mandates on programme and budget matters, and to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters*".

This would suggest that these are not decision-making bodies on programme and budgetary matters, rather they are identifying for their regions, the priorities of their regions to be taken into account in the Organization's programme and budget planning. It would seem to me, therefore, that the decision would need to be taken by the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can endorse the recommendations in this respect.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

That was a very helpful input from the Legal Counsel, because we think it really is essential to recognize and value the need for regional recommendations to be given weight in the Organization. We were quite comfortable with your original formulation. Alternatively, after "*on programme and budgetary matters,*" you could add "*in their capacity as regional input and recommendations to the work of the Organization,*" which is similar to the tail end of the phrase that was there, but perhaps a different formulation is acceptable. But we were happy with what you had

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Very briefly, we support your proposal. I think it is a balanced one. I think all the concerns raised by some delegations are incorporated in paragraph 1. I think it accommodates all the interests, I believe so. But I believe that paragraph 2 also should be kept as proposed by you, because I think we should give an endorsement for the "*recommendations to be implemented regionally.*"

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait, ce que je voulais dire a été dit par mon collègue du Brésil. Nous soutenons votre proposition initiale.

**Mr Robert BOENISH (United States of America)**

We believe that it is essential also, as our colleague from Canada mentioned, to recognize and value the Regional Conferences. Thus, we can support your original proposal, and also could support the addition provided by our colleague from Canada.

**Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)**

There is a concern, and what I was about to say I have to adjust it based on what the Legal Counsel has brought forward. I would simply want to encourage colleagues to be mindful that unless we want to have extended Councils here for weeks at a time, I think sufficient regard should be given to Reports that have come out of the regions. I am uncomfortable with changing the paragraph 2 to the language that was proposed by the Russian Federation. I think we ought to be mindful to the need to allow Regional Conferences to be able to put forward their proposals.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I would like to thank, first of all, the Legal Counsel for a very complete explanation. And, as Italy already said the day before yesterday, Regional Conferences are unique opportunities for the countries to get together and to review and plan what is needed to them. Then, it would be a contradiction not to trust them, and therefore Italy would really appreciate to have paragraph 2 to stay exactly as you proposed it with "*endorsed*."

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to thank the Legal Counsel for the clarification provided. We understand that it is up to the Council to make this decision. If the majority of Council Members have a consensus in the understanding of paragraph 2, and if they are prepared to support the wording you proposed, we are prepared to withdraw our proposed language. In other words, we are prepared to stick to the original text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I think we have an agreement on the text -the text as it was - and I will now put it on. As it is supported, I think, by almost all delegations. If there are no objections, then we have agreed to the Reports of the Regional Conferences.

**Item 22. Any Other Matters**

**Point 22. Questions diverses**

**Tema 22. Asuntos varios**

*Item 22.1 Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*

*Point 22.1 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel*

*Tema 22.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal*

*(CL 170/LIM/4 Rev.1)*

*Item 22.2 Code of Conduct for Voting*

*Point 22.2 Code de conduite sur les procédures de vote*

*Tema 22.2 Código de conducta para las votaciones*

*(CL 170/INF/7)*

*Item 22.3 Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies*

*Point 22.3 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO*



***Tema 22.3 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO***

**CHAIRPERSON**

We now turn to the last Item of our Council. I see more happy faces now. Let us wrap it up fast so that the work can be done by the Drafting Committee. Item 22, *Any other matters*.

Sub-Item 22.1 is the *Appointment of a representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*, and we do have a name. The document in front of us is *CL 170/LIM/4 Rev.1*, and in paragraph 37 you can see "*in accordance with Article VI, confirmed the appointment to the Staff Pension Committee, Mr Jerzy Nowak, Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to FAO, replacing Mr Vlad Mustaciosu, former Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to FAO, as alternate representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension.*" Can we endorse the appointment of Mr Jerzy Nowak?

**Ms Ekaterina VYBORNOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The issue of staffing relevant technical FAO Bodies, the Russian Federation takes it as a starting point that this process should be depoliticized, transparent, and competitive as per established practice.

Members of the Staff Pension Committee of the WFP are agreed on following consultations in Regional Groups. This mechanism exists to ensure that we have goodwill and agreement for the Members of the Groups on the fact that they are going to be properly represented in the Staff Pension Committee. We believe that we need some basic information about the candidates in order to be taking such decisions.

Yesterday we discussed the call for the process to become as transparent as possible and, unfortunately, our request within the European Regional Group to get additional information about the candidate from Poland was not answered favourably, and we did not have information in the Session documents either. We would like to underscore that we were not asking for detailed information. There were no hidden motivations behind our request, but we were told that all we could get was the candidate's name and current position.

We are simply baffled by why this is happening. For that reason, the Russian Federation would like to disassociate itself about the decision of including the Polish candidate in the make-up of the committee. We would like this reflected in the Report of this meeting. In order to avoid such situations in the future, we would like for the Secretariat and the Staff Pension Committee to resolve this issue and to make arrangements for information to be provided, as a standard Curriculum Vitae from the candidates. This will make it easier to agree on candidate choice, including agreeing this candidate choice with our capitals.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will put the footnote in the Report with your disassociation to this candidature, but I think the Council now can approve or has approved the candidature of Mr Nowak, and I thank the Council for that.

Then we go to Sub-Item 22.2, the *Code of Conduct for Voting*. I hope we can be very brief on this. We are still in a consultation on the Code of Conduct for Voting. You have seen the draft report, which is not a Draft Report for the Council. It is a draft report for the informal consultations. We are working hard. It is sometimes two steps forward, one step backwards, but that is what we are used to, I would say.

We will do our utmost to give a full report to the next Council Session to see whether or not we could arrive to a consensus. It depends on the consultations. Consultations are done in a very good atmosphere but, of course, there are still differences of view.

We will continue after the summer break with these consultations and, of course, we can only come forward with proposals if those inclusive, transparent and open and comprehensive consultations will lead to a consensus.

I would like to remain or stop here also for the sake of time. We come back to the next Council, we continue our hard work and, with the spirit of many, perhaps, we can arrive at the consensus on the Code of Conduct for Voting.

If there are no remarks, I would like now to turn to Sub-Item 22.3, *Statement by the representative of FAO Staff Bodies*, and I would like to welcome Ms Susan Murray, General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff to give a statement on behalf of the staff representative bodies. Very much welcome. Sorry that you had to wait, but we are all ears to you.

**Ms Susan MURRAY (Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies)**

Good afternoon, I do not mind waiting – I have done this before. I am glad you have managed to finish your business. I will be brief because I am sure you will want to leave. Independent Chairperson of the Council, Director-General, Secretary-General of the Conference and Council, Distinguished delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Staff Representative Bodies are grateful for the opportunity to speak before the Council. This is always an important occasion as it allows us to share with you the perspectives of the staff we represent. We trust that you value the direct, honest – and hopefully constructive feedback – from the representatives of the staff around the world who work daily to deliver on the important mandate of the Organization.

At the time the Director-General took office, almost three years ago, it was widely understood that major reforms of human resources (HR) policies and internal justice were badly needed. When we addressed you the last time, while we voiced concern over the slow pace of reforms, we were still optimistic that progress would be achieved, and that this would take place through proper and meaningful consultations with the Staff Representative Bodies.

The Employee Satisfaction survey conducted in 2019-2020 highlighted issues with career stagnation, harassment and fear of retaliation. Inter alia, an Action Plan was prepared, under the leadership of Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol. In parallel, the HR Strategic Action Plan was developed by the Director of the Human Resources Division (CSH) and presented to the Finance Committee in November 2020. In 2020, there was a sense among staff that their concerns would be addressed and resolved.

Today, unfortunately our optimism is waning while a sense of disappointment is growing. Progress in HR policy reforms is stalling, while our relationship with Management seems to be moving in the wrong direction. Let us expand on this.

We are still awaiting urgently needed reforms that would recognize FAO staff based on their abilities and contribution to the work of the Organization.

Staff are anxiously awaiting a new policy to allow for job reclassification based on the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) Master Standard, as well as the possibility of job growth for staff members who have assumed higher levels of responsibility. HR shared a draft policy, which we feel might not meet the hopes and expectations of FAO staff, particularly professionals, however the process seems to have stagnated leading to prolonged frustration amongst all staff.

We are still awaiting proposals for a revised recruitment policy with more transparency, better oversight mechanisms, and explicitly codified opportunities for qualified internal candidates. We consider the current recruitment policies inadequate, be it in the view of recruiting the most suitable candidates, of granting opportunities for internal candidates, or of ensuring a fair and unbiased process. In the meantime, we have presented clear proposals and suggested some concrete and practical measures for immediate implementation to ensure more transparency while awaiting the new recruitment policy.

FAO needs to specifically address gender inequality to realize the objective of its updated Action Plan, which aims at *achieving gender parity at the professional level by 2022 and for senior positions by 2024*. We are still far from these objectives with no clear implementation plan to reach them.

In light of the [Statement on Racism](#) of 12 October 2020, in which the Director-General pledged to work to root out racism and race discrimination in FAO, a survey was launched and completed by late 2021. The results showed that 24 percent of the organization responded. The feedback from staff was

that the survey, although welcome, was not considered completely anonymous resulting in a limited response. We are waiting for clear measures to be taken to reach an Organization with zero tolerance to racism.

In addition, as staff representatives, we are feeling a growing sense of frustration as our interactions with Management are increasingly characterized by a lack of responsiveness and long delays.

We are very concerned about the refusal to undertake formal consultations on an issue that is indisputably of major significance to conditions of service and staff welfare (Terms of Reference [TORs] of the Ombudsperson), which we see as a clear contradiction with the terms of our Recognition Agreements with the Organization.

We have also been waiting a long time for a decision on the staff representation of General Service (GS) field staff, which will affect both FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) employees.

The Staff Representative Bodies always engage with Management in a constructive and collaborative spirit. We know we can provide insights from the perspective of staff that can contribute to improving the performance of the Organization. Proper and meaningful consultation with the Staff Representative Bodies enhances the confidence of staff in the staff-related policies and procedures adopted by the Organization, as well as in the day-to-day business of the Organization.

Notwithstanding the many important and engaging priorities the Organization has, we would like to urge Management and FAO Members to give a high priority to the much-needed HR policies and ensure CSH has the resources needed for preparing and implementing these policies in the short term.

We are here and we remain ready to engage with Management in a collaborative spirit and to contribute constructively to the preparation of new policies affecting staff.

Thank you very much for your attention.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ms Susan Murray, for your statement on behalf of the staff representative bodies.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voulais simplement remercier la Représentante du Personnel, pour son rapport, pour ses indications qui sont extrêmement importantes pour nous en tant que Membres du Conseil, et qui nous donne aussi des éléments supplémentaires dont nous tiendrons compte et nous avons pris note des préoccupations, notamment qui ont été exprimées, et il nous semble que cela aussi va dans le sens de l'intérêt du rapport que le Corps Commun d'Inspection pourra faire. Je veux pour reprendre certains de ces mots, souligner peut-être qu'une meilleure gouvernance, meilleure accountability, better transparency and better efficiency could be maybe new four betters that we could also take into account in our discussion.

#### **Ms Xi LI (China)**

We also want to join the distinguished Ambassador from France in congratulating and appreciating the staff representative. Also, we have a kind request on the Code of Conduct, which you just mentioned in oral briefing. We appreciate it very much, and we kindly request that, as you always lead us, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

We want your spirit enshrined in our Report, and we kindly request that we have the same paragraph on the restoration of the voting rights to be put it into the Council Report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for your compliments, this is my living guiding instruction with which I go to bed and stand up in the morning: Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

#### **Ms Mietani CHAUKE (Zimbabwe)**

I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues on appreciating the presentation by the representative of the employees. They are an important part of the Organization, and we should be concerned about how they feel, their conditions of service, and the measures that are being taken.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded Item 22, *Any other matters*. I will now let you go for lunch. The Drafting Committee will meet at 14:45 hours in the Green Room and we aim, of course depending also on the Drafting Committee, to 17:00 hours for the Adoption of the Report, in this room. But I say it is that we aim. We will let you know. We will send you an email when the exact time is known. It is a goal and a target, and we will try to achieve it, but it is not only depending on the Secretariat and me. We will send you the information.

I would say that at the end for the whole week, but thank you for this morning and that we could arrive with consensus on all the remaining issues. You deserve a very good and extended lunch. Not for those who are in the Drafting Committee, but for the rest, you have an extended lunch and hopefully we meet each other at 17:00 hours, but look to your emails for the exact time. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 13:13 hours*

*La séance est levée à 13 h 13*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 13.13*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Seventieth Session Cent soixante-dixième session 170.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 13-17 June 2022 Réunion hybride, 13-17 juin 2022 Reunión híbrida, 13-17 de junio de 2022</b>
<b>TENTH PLENARY SESSION DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>17 June 2022</b>

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 18:43 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 18 h 43  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 18.43  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends, Director-General, very much welcome to our, hopefully, last Session of this week. I would like to inform you that now the draft Report is ready for adoption in all six UN languages to obey the principle of multilingualism.

After a long, intensive and intense week, we all want to adopt the Report, I hope. We proceed with the Adoption of the Report. The relevant document is *CL170/Report for Adoption*, which is being made available to you via the Members' Gateway with the password.

Now I invite the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean Ngcaba to provide her remarks. I would like to compliment the Ambassador for her excellent work and excellent chairing of the Drafting Committee, which was very fruitful. Let us hear the results.

**Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean NGCABA (South Africa)(Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)**

Let me start by thanking you for placing your confidence in me to chair the Drafting Committee of the 170th Session of the Council. I want to thank the ten Members of the Drafting Committee, namely Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, China, France, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sudan, and the United States of America, as well as the European Union, for your work and dedication.

The Drafting Committee carried out its work in a constructive spirit and I applaud the collaboration by all those that participated and it has led us to the finalization of the Report for Adoption before this Council meeting this evening.

It is down to the collective efforts of the Members that our work was completed in a timely and efficient fashion. The Report for Adoption before you reflects that we have avoided any substantial changes to the conclusions of the Council. We stuck to the consensus of the Plenary on concepts and substance.

Finally, I would like to also thank the Secretariat, including the interpreters, for their outstanding work in the Drafting Committee meeting. With this, I would like to recommend that the Report be adopted *en bloc*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ambassador, and I thank all the Members of the Drafting Committee for their hard work, for their efficiency and making it possible to, hopefully, adopt the Report *en bloc*.

Now, I am proud to present to the Council the Adoption of the Report *en bloc*. Can we agree to the Report *en bloc*? It is decided.

*Adopted*  
*Adopté*  
*Aprobado*

It is now with a great pleasure, that I invite the Director-General to address the Council.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Dear colleagues, it is a bit surprising to me. No debate? No reaction? How could that be? It is an extraordinary Council. I want to congratulate you, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), you really walked the talk and made the Council more efficient, more effective, more fit-for-the-purpose.

I really thank all the Members here. You made your efforts, your contribution as you wish. We need debate, but after the debate, we need consensus. Because, in this world as never before, we need solidarity. We need to work together, not only talk and debate together. I really appreciated it.

At the opening of this Council Session on Monday morning, I conveyed appreciation to FAO employees and to the Members for the extraordinary efforts made during the first six months of this

year. During this week, we have continued to see your extraordinary commitment to the work of your Organization to address global challenges, in line with FAO's mandate.

I just had a joke with some friends, saying I am your number one servant. I did not read my contract with you, but this time I started reading my contract signed three years ago. Someone is still here, Mr Godfrey Magwenzi was one of them, to sign on behalf of you, to sign the contract with you. If you start to change the contract without informing me, I will start to ask the advice from my Legal Counsel. Because you changed the contract first, without informing me. I am a very transparent person. If we want to change something, look at the contract that you signed with me.

I also wish to congratulate the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr Hans Hoogeveen, for his effective, inclusive management. I know there are two important Strategies. I do not know how many informal consultations you made in total, at least more than 20. You spent a lot of money for translation even. I know some of my colleagues run out of budget and then I said, no, you can ask Members to increase the budget for the translation fees.

We need to keep the multilingualism and at the same time we have to keep the business moving. So, even for this translation fee, it is out of budget. The Director of the Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP), how did you deal with that with the Members? You have to tell the truth. We have to tell the truth.

This week you have made a historic contribution for FAO history, to endorse two key thematic Strategies. One is on Climate Change, one is on Science and Innovation. We know, you know how important they are. Based on the FAO Strategy Framework, we need more thematic strategies and then we need more action plans. You know the UN systems, only framework and then no strategy, no action, and then come to other new initiatives.

We need to be consistent to do something together.

Members, I expect us to be more deliverable. That will support Members to address the impact of the climate crisis and ensure that all the actors, especially small-scale farmers, have access to the best available science, technology and innovation, with concrete best practices in the future, for the transformation of our agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable.

You have also endorsed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2020-2021, which further demonstrated how together, in spite of the challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we delivered on FAO's mandate efficiently and effectively during this so difficult time. Because of your support, because of your cooperation to make FAO more visible and more impactful.

The first time I came here, I heard many suggestions. FAO was not that visible but you can see during the past three years, with my Core Leaders, with all the employees, we made FAO everywhere. You name it. From the Security Council to the humanitarian platform, G20, G7, regional, subregional even. From a legal aspect, it was not so visible but it also encouraged them to participate. The human resource management, training, digital, you name it, we try our best.

We said that to my colleagues, we should make FAO invest USD 1 or EUR 1, JPY 1 to make a USD 10/EUR 10 impact. Sometimes money is important, sometimes it is not so. We need some money. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative, I know you questioned so many times. We did not spend so much money. I told you the first time, when Mr Hoogeveen was an Ambassador, you are looking at the money, I am looking to change the business model.

Because I am from a small, poor family. I know many of the richer countries are asking each time, how much money are you spending on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative? One million, two million? I do not know. It is small money, but you will see a huge impact. After October, you will see how it will politically impact on the Members who need the most. It is not a question of money. You have a design. I said *ah aa l i i h l n*.

I had a very good talk with the former Ambassador of Canada. She was so elegant. I shared my thoughts with her. I said if you as Canada donates CAD 1 billion to the Members, at least you cover 50 countries within four years. With CAD 1 billion. And then divided by 50 times in four years, how

much money for one Member? It takes several years for a feasibility study, arrangements and then four years has passed, but CAD one billion maybe not, and then no deliverable.

It is just “enjoy the cake on the air”.

All the developing countries are not happy and your donor countries are not happy. I have never seen USD 1 billion from one Member. Therefore, we have to change the business model and then make FAO really valuable for the Members.

Some middle-income countries, I still remember they said, we want to also join the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. I said, let us help the vulnerable Members first and then we will bring the middle-income countries, even Europe.

You need to transform agrifood systems. Three years ago, you thought you had no problem with food security. But now, you face the food security problem. Not only for food, but for feed, fertilizer and fuel. How many ‘Fs’? Let us think bigger and longer and do concretely together, in a new business model.

This Council Session has further contributed to solidarity, ownership of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. That will take us a step further towards speeding up the transformation of agrifood systems and realising the *four betters* to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Dear colleagues, guidance and the recommendations provided by this Council are well received. I stand ready together with my Core Leadership, Senior Managers and their teams to move forward.

The current global food security situation calls upon us to act now. There is no time to waste. You can see, I said Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Mr Laurent Thomas, he is the most senior Core Leader. He has become completely white. Three years ago, he still had 10 percent of black hairs. Have you counted how many white hairs he has? We are not lazy boys and girls. We are working day and night. You did not increase my salary and bonus. No, even reduced. So, what is a capitalist? What is real efficiency? You should give an incentive to the managers, even USD 1 of bonus.

So, ICC, please, do not look at me. Several years ago, you made a big mistake to reduce the salary to my Core Leaders, the Assistant Director-General (ADG) and the Deputy Director-General (DDG). That is one of the issues. I officially request you to look at it. FAO is facing the challenge of a competitive situation. Even the Core Leaders have less pay than others. It is unfair. Please look at the issues next Council. You always have many ‘other matters’. Why do you not look at this ‘other matter’? We are human beings.

You just ask everyone to do more and better with less and less pay. That is not good. So start with that correction. You made a mistake, you have to correct it by yourself. I do not know in which Council it was made. Not yourself, you were the Ambassador. I think you were involved in that.

Dear colleagues, as I continuously said during my past months as FAO Director-General, my door is always open. I want to build a transparent FAO. Transparency means between Members and Management, among Members, and among Management. That is why I introduced the Reporting Line A and B. Now all the Core Leaders and all the Senior Managers, they are honest and transparent with each other. With all the information you start rumours, we know it much quicker than you.

I will be very frank with you. You get it on Friday, we had an action on Sunday. Because it is a digital effort. It is a transparent effort. No hiding. I am prepared for any challenges from you. If you want facts, I am ready to provide facts. I do not like fighting, because I am a humble small farmer's son.

Let us continue to work together, much stronger partnerships to overcome these extraordinary challenges for people, peace, planet and prosperity.

Let us do more and better with minimum pay, not less and less pay. Please take your role. Take your part. Not only ask us. I know, every time you ask us to do more. “We need further information”. How many information notes have we produced during the past three months? We are the largest Organization in the world. We are the largest in the UN system. You still ask more. How much money are you adding more? It is unfair.

Thank you, have a nice weekend.



*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, not only for your words, but certainly also for your leadership of this beautiful Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Dearest friends, at the beginning of this week I asked you, let us look forward and listen to each other, reach out to each other, build bridges and work together hand in hand for those who are left behind at this moment, and you did it. We did it together as 49 Members of the Council, but as 194 Members of FAO. We did it with Management and we did it with the staff. We did it together. We all are one FAO.

I also said, never in the history of the UN, the phrase and the spirit embedded in the sculpture at the United Nations Headquarters in New York has been more applicable than today. Because it is stated there: "*Mil dni f bl il dni nih* That is now our task. We have successfully concluded many Items but our task is now to bring them to action, to bring them to action for those who need it the most.

We can and should be proud of what we have achieved this week. The Director General said it already, never in the history of FAO we adopted two Strategies in one Council. We took all decisions, again, by consensus. We know that with the adoption of these two Strategies, the work is only at the beginning. Although one of the leaders for the strategy is out of money, I know for sure that when we start the implementation, the funding will come for the successful implementation of the Strategy, for all strategies.

My big, big thanks go to the interpreters, how they served us this week, sometimes giving us some overtime. My big thanks go to Mr Sergio Ferraro and his team.

Big thanks to the technicians and the cleaning staff, who every day granted we can stay healthy. The messengers, which you have seen all the week, and when they did not have to wear their mask, you could see their smiles.

Luckily, we do not see them here, but also the guards of FAO who are always there, not only to protect us but also to help us.

And all those staff, which we do not see here now but are working hard behind the scenes, give them a big applause.

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

And of course, my deep thanks and my deep gratitude go to Mr Rakesh Muthoo and his team and all the people who are sitting here at the podium, behind me and in the rooms. Without them, this week would not even have been possible and we could not arrive at the success we are now.

Dearest friends, I admire you for your spirit, for your flexibility, for your solidarity, for your dedication in your work, sometimes with a tear, but often with laughs. You made this success possible. You did it.

Now it is time to relax, before we are going to start working hard again. However, it is important also to celebrate, sometimes shortly, the success and we should celebrate the two Strategies.

Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, although she could not be here because she has obligations in Spain, and Ms Ismahane Elouafi, are delighted to celebrate the adoption of those Strategies and to raise the glass after the closure of the meeting here outside the room for the success of the Strategies and the beginning of the hard work to implement them. You are all invited for these drinks.

With this, it is my honour, and I am very proud, to declare this 170th Session of the Council closed.

*The meeting rose at 19:08 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 08*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.08*