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Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixtieth Session - Cent soixantième session -
160.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 3-7 December 2018

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018

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

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**SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(7 December 2018)**

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2018

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.36 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today. A special word of welcome to new Council Members: Austria, France, Jordan, Russian Federation and Viet Nam.

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document CL 160/INF/3. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, who has joined us and I now invite him to address the Council. Mr Graziano, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is an honour to open the last Session of FAO Council in 2018.

Let me start by saying that some weeks ago, as you know, the Programme and Finance Committees met to discuss many issues that are part of the agenda of this Council Session.

The meetings, particularly the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, progressed in a very serene atmosphere.

Member Countries debated in a constructive way, among themselves and with management, seeking to find consensus in all matters.

The Informal Seminars, like the one we had last Friday, are certainly contributing to make the meetings of the Governing Bodies more positive and productive.

Since only 16 members of the FAO Council participated in the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees as members, let me repeat some points of view that were discussed.

First of all, I would like to highlight once more the findings of the 2018 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.

SOFI 2018 shows clearly that the rise of hunger in the world is not the only big malnutrition problem that the international community is facing nowadays. Obesity is growing at a steady pace, affecting developed and developing countries, and accounting for 672 million people nowadays.

Furthermore, more than two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiency globally.

The coexistence of undernutrition, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies, what we know as the triple burden of malnutrition, is spreading and affecting almost every country in the world.

The international community needs to urgently address this situation by promoting transformative changes in our food systems.

Let me remind you that the SDG 2, our Zero Hunger Goal, is not just about feeding people, but nourishing people by providing everyone with the necessary nutrients for a healthy life.

In this sense, I want to congratulate FAO Members for agreeing to develop the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, within the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

It is very important that the CFS approve sound and concrete policies on nutrition, establishing clear roles and responsibilities for governments, civil society and the private sector.

FAO is highly engaged in taking part in this debate.

One month ago, FAO organized in Madrid the First World Parliamentarian Summit on Hunger and Malnutrition, alongside IFAD, the Spanish Government and the European Commission. More than 200 parliamentarians from 80 countries attended the event.

They stressed the importance of specific legislation for promoting healthy diets, and exchanged ideas and experiences on labelling, advertising, nutritional education and also the ban on harmful substances in food production.

We are about to enter the Decade on Family Farming 2019-2028.

I am glad to notice that the reports of FAO technical committees, which will be discussed during this Council, highlight the importance of supporting family farmers in adopting and scaling up effective and sustainable practices.

As you know, just two weeks ago, FAO organized here at headquarters the First International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers.

The event had an excellent and diversified turnout, from high-level officials to representatives of farmers' associations, and included the participation of European Commissioner Neven Mimica, African Union Commissioner Josefa Sacko, and the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King.

The Symposium produced recommendations that will help to guide FAO's work on innovation, particularly with focus on creating more employment opportunities for youth and women.

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees approved a proposal to make some adjustments in the structure under the Deputy Director-General of Programmes (DDP).

Let me highlight the two most important aspects of this proposal:

First, we want to redefine the name of the existing Technical Cooperation Department (TC) to better reflect its current activities.

After the FAO reform, and especially since 2012, the current TC has been focused on coordinating and supporting decentralized activities related to project operations. It is no longer as it was in the past, when the TC was responsible for consolidating and centralizing at headquarters all functions related to FAO services provided to members at country level.

In this context, the Joint Meeting has recommended the TC Department be renamed as the Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department (PS).

The second aspect of the adjustments is to reinforce the potential of South-South Cooperation by establishing a dedicated office for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Furthermore, we are adjusting the reporting line of some divisions under DDP. All these adjustments, of course, are on a budget-neutral basis.

Let me also highlight that the workload of DDP has increased a lot in terms of projects and resource mobilization over the last two years since it was created.

FAO is mobilizing increased extra-budgetary resources, especially coming from big projects related to GEF and the Green Climate Fund.

For example: FAO is now the fourth largest partner of the GEF, with a USD 700 million project portfolio, and was just selected to be the leader of the new GEF7 Dryland Landscapes Impact Programme, for a value of USD 109 million.

Regarding the Green Climate Fund, FAO has supported countries in the approval of projects worth USD 218 million. Four more Green Climate Fund proposals are expected to be approved early next year, and all of them are big projects.

So there is a need to strengthen FAO's capacity in relation to programme delivery and monitoring. The proposed adjustments will allow the DDP to move forward in this regard.

I would like to refer to two other topics discussed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

First, the RBA collaboration.

The Joint Meeting has recommended a greater engagement with Members in the preparatory and follow-up activities on the meetings we have in the three Secretariats. We agreed that this recommendation should not be understood neither as a creation of a new bureaucracy layer nor as an encouragement for Members to promote micromanagement on the work of the RBAs.

It is basically about establishing an information mechanism to keep members engaged in the global aspects of the collaboration among the three Rome-based Agencies.

The second topic I wish to highlight is the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority.

As requested, Management has elaborated an action plan on this issue, which was presented last Friday during our Informal Seminar.

Sexual harassment was also discussed during the UN Chief Executives Board, CEB, in New York last October. A common definition and common policy to be implemented across all the UN System was agreed upon.

It was also agreed that the survey that is currently being made across the UN system will be processed and the results will be made available as soon as possible. In fact, we expect to have some news by the end of the year.

So we are moving forward in tackling sexual harassment and sexual exploitation not only at FAO but in the UN System as a whole with a common policy.

Let me take this opportunity to mention that FAO has succeeded in hiring more women over the last years.

Last August, I received a letter from the Executive Director of UN Women congratulating FAO for having "met" or "exceeded" 93 percent of all UN-SWAP performance indicators in the period 2012-2017.

The letter highlighted that, at the close of 2017, close to 43 percent of all professional posts were held by women in FAO. I can tell you that this percentage has increased as we are concluding 2018 and we are now above 43 percent.

This is FAO's highest representation of women in the last years.

In relation to geographic representation in FAO'

I also urge all Members to pay their 2019 contributions early in the New Year to avoid any further liquidity challenges that would negatively affect our ability to implement FAO's mandate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to list some important events in 2019 in which FAO will be involved.

In mid-February, we will co-organize the Food Safety Conference in Addis Ababa together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the African Union.

In April, we will join WHO and WTO in the organization of the Trade and Food Safety Conference, in Geneva.

In May, FAO will support the Rural Revitalization Conference, in Beijing.

Also in May, we will organize alongside IFAD the Family Farming UN Decade Conference here in Rome to celebrate the launching of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.

Furthermore, FAO will participate in other important events, such as Green Week in Berlin on Innovation, the AgriFish Investment Forum in Oman, and the UN South-South Cooperation Summit in Buenos Aires and most probably a migration conference that is being planned for Mexico City.

To conclude, I would like to ask all of you to keep in this Council Session the same positive atmosphere that prevailed during the Programme and Finance Committees, and focus our debates on substantive matters for the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition in the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General for your comprehensive statement.

I would now like to open the floor for any comments from delegates. The Director-General will be with us until 10.45 am to respond to your comments or questions, then has to leave in order to address an emergency situation.

Do I take it that no one has any comment or question to ask?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

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

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

CHAIRPERSON

I now pass the floor to the Secretary-General to explain the procedure for asking for the floor, and to provide us with an overview of document delivery for this session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

With regard to document delivery for this session, I wish to inform that out of 23 Main documents, 19 were published by or before the deadline of 5 November. Four documents were reports of Council Committees that took place after this deadline and were published immediately after the end of their Session.

Finally, in line with the UN-wide “PaperSmart” initiative, I wish to remind Members that hard copies of Council documents are available on a “print-on-demand” basis and can be requested at the Documents Desk. The Draft Council Report will be made available electronically in the password-protected area of the FAO Members Gateway, as soon as available.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we move on to item 1, I have to inform you that South Sudan is considered to have resigned from the Council under the terms of Rule XXII, paragraph 7 of the General Rules of the Organization regarding arrears in payment of financial contributions. Therefore, South Sudan is seated with the Observers, and the remainder of the term of office of the vacant seat until 2021 will be the subject of an election at the June 2019 session of the Conference.

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 160/1 Rev.2; CL 160/INF/1 Rev.1; CL 160/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we can move on to item 1 which is *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable*, as set out in documents CL 160/1 Rev.2, CL 160/INF/1 Rev.1 and CL 160/INF/3.

Document CL 160/1 Rev.2 contains the Provisional Agenda, which was sent to all Members on 3 October 2018, together with the invitation to this Session.

I should like to propose the addition of sub-item 20.1 *Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*, as two seats have become vacant due to the departure of two members.

Furthermore, please note that item 10 *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse* is presented to the Council for discussion and decision.

Does this proposed amendment to the Provisional Agenda meet with the approval of the Council?

Thank you.

We move to the Provisional Timetable contained in document CL 160/INF/1 Rev.1, I would like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting after the close of plenary on Wednesday 5 December, while the adoption of the Report is foreseen for Friday morning.

The following matters considered by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and by the Committees on Agriculture and on Commodity Problems will not be discussed under the respective Reports, but be deliberated upon as follows: *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention*

of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse, to be considered under item 10; and *International Days and Years*, to be considered under item 11.

References to the relevant paragraphs in the reports of the committees are provided in the Provisional Timetable under the respective items.

With regard to item 8, *Report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, I have been informed that the Chair of the CFS will not be available on Tuesday afternoon due to unforeseen circumstances. In this regard, I wish to propose that the item be rescheduled to Wednesday morning after item 9, if the Council is in agreement.

Does this Provisional Timetable, with the proposed amendment, meet with the approval of the Council?

I see it does.

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

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

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

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations amongst the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: Mr Thanawat Tiensin of Thailand, Mr Thomas Duffy of the United States of America, Mr Elías Rafael Eljuri Abraham of Venezuela.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mr Vlad Mustaciosu of Romania as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Russian Federation, Sudan and Zambia.

Are there any objections or comments?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided.

I will now hand over the floor to the Secretary-General for some further information regarding submission of statements. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind Members that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting, a copy of the text should be provided to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The email address for submission of statements will be projected on the screen behind

the podium and is also given in the Order of the Day. Timely submission of texts is also of considerable assistance for the verbatim reporters and ensures greater accuracy.

Finally, I wish to remind Members to speak slowly when delivering statements to ensure accurate interpretation.

CHAIRPERSON

I also wish to remind Members that following the discussions on each item of the agenda, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session.

In this regard, in line with the practice implemented at our previous session, the draft conclusions will be projected on the screen behind the podium after the close of discussions on each item.

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

In this regard, I wish to emphasize that the conclusions should be concise and focus on decisions made by Council, with some flexibility afforded to the Drafting Committee in finalizing the draft report, while not re-opening substantive discussions, which remains the prerogative of the plenary meeting.

Finally, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting punctually.

Item 3. Reports of the Technical Committees

Point 3. Rapports des comités techniques

Tema 3. Informes de los comités técnicos

Item 3.1 Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (1-5 October 2018)

Point 3.1 Rapport de la vingt-sixième session du Comité de l'agriculture (1-5 octobre 2018)

*Tema 3.1 Informe del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura
(1-5 de octubre de 2018)*

(C 2019/21 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentleman, we begin our substantive work this morning with the Reports of the Technical Committees.

In order to maintain the schedule of work outlined in the Order of the Day, speakers, including observers, are kindly requested to keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible. Preference should be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

We will start with sub-item 3.1, *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture*, which took place from 1 to 5 October 2018. The document before Council is C 2019/21 Rev.1.

As agreed earlier, issues related to International Days and Years should not be discussed under this item, but under item 11 when it is taken up.

I will now invite His Excellency Ambassador Mohammad Hossein Emadi, who was elected Chairperson by the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, to present the report.

Mr Mohammad Hossein EMADI (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

I have the honour to report the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to the distinguished members of the 160th Session of Council.

Let me first thank the ex-COAG Chairperson, Mr Francois Pythoud, Ambassador of Switzerland, for his very active and productive work, and for chairing the 26th Session in a most appropriate and effective way.

I would like to point out the major results of the Committee to the Members. First of all, the Committee called on FAO to continue its support to countries in mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda in an integrated way. The Committee requested FAO, subject to resource availability, to develop voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste to be submitted to the next session of COAG. The Committee supported the Ten Elements of Agroecology, and requested FAO to further revise them to reflect the discussions of the session.

I must explain that the revised version will be presented to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference instead of the Council, as advised by the Council Secretariat, given that this document is highly technical in nature.

The Committee requested FAO to prepare, in collaboration with the Bureau, a draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of the Organization. The document will be submitted to the next Council for adoption.

The Committee stressed the need to strengthen the role of youth through education, entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, co-financing, capacity building and rural-based youth organizations.

The Committee requested FAO and partners to develop a rural youth action plan, based on existing instruments, to be submitted to the next session of the COAG, and requested FAO, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to strengthen its work on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), including its Secretariat.

Concerning the proposal for the establishment of the sub-committee on livestock, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on administrative and financial implications and to develop terms of reference that include rationale, function, structure and implementation modalities to be considered by its Bureau for submission to the next COAG session.

Concerning the Fall Armyworm (FAW), the Committee requested FAO to allocate more resources to plant protection, including through South-South Cooperation; to strengthen collaboration with partners, and to disseminate lessons learned from countries' experiences, in particular from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Committee requested FAO to engage actively in national, regional and international discussions on how to implement the "Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture" on the ground. The Committee supported the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) as a key coordination mechanism to adapt water scarcity in agriculture.

The Committee mandated FAO to develop a strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, for consideration by the Programme Committee and Council, and to be presented to the FAO Conference in 2019, in view of the preparation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD. The Bureau was mandated to undertake an inclusive consultation process to prepare a revised text of the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers.

I need to mention that this process is under decision and all of the meetings arranged for the coming months are to include all partners in order to reach a decision on this issue in the coming months.

The Committee asked FAO to ensure sustainable funding for the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme to the CODEX Alimentarius and for the IPPC, including from the regular budget and asked FAO to integrate all recommendations of COAG 26 into FAO's work in food and agriculture.

Lastly, the Committee endorsed the proposal by the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to establish the observance of an "International Year of Fruits and Vegetables" on an exceptional basis in 2021. It also endorsed the proposal by the Government of Argentina to establish the observance of an

“International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste”, to be celebrated on 29 September each year and the proposal by the Government of India to establish the observance of an “International Year of Millets” on an exceptional basis in 2023.

These are the main decisions that were taken and the conclusion is that the report of 26th Session of COAG is submitted to the 160th Session of Council for consideration and adoption.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

La Delegación Argentina desea agradecer el trabajo del Comité de Agricultura y al Presidente Pythoud por la destacada actividad que ha tenido el Comité en el 26.º período de sesiones. Quisiéramos destacar que hemos detectado algunas imprecisiones en la traducción del Informe al español, las cuales vamos a compartir con la Secretaría por escrito.

Quisiéramos también hacer algunos comentarios respecto al Informe: en el párrafo 39 se hace referencia a promover enfoques transformadores e integrados en favor de la agricultura sostenible en sus dimensiones económica, social y ambiental, lo cual nos parece muy relevante. Sin embargo, no acompañamos la mención específica a “agricultura climáticamente inteligente” ya que existe un gran número de enfoques y herramientas en favor de la agricultura sostenible, por lo que no se debería destacar una opción sobre otras. Asimismo, como hemos destacado en reiteradas ocasiones, el enfoque de agricultura climáticamente inteligente que promueve la FAO es aplicado solo por algunos países y no por todos, por lo cual no nos resulta apropiada su mención específica.

Para finalizar, quisiéramos destacar que el párrafo 17 del Informe señala que el Comité solicitó a la Secretaría que preparara, en colaboración con la mesa, un proyecto de resolución acerca de la mayor integración de enfoques agrícolas, incluida la agroecología. Al respecto, consideramos esencial que al momento de redactar la mencionada resolución, se tengan en cuenta todos los enfoques y herramientas disponibles para la promoción de la agricultura sostenible, evitando dar preponderancia a algunas opciones sobre otras.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We thank Mr Emadi for introducing the Report of COAG.

Afghanistan endorses the report of the 26th Session of COAG and wishes to limit its intervention to the following four points.

First, as a country with its arid and semi-arid climate, Afghanistan strongly supports the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) simply because it provides the bridge between water scarcity, climate change, food production and poverty eradication, especially in conditions of conflict.

Second, Afghanistan favours an integrated approach to sustainable agriculture, which combines biodiversity, agroecological practices, innovations and diversification within the context of family farming. Afghanistan also strongly supports Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) In support of sustainable agriculture, Afghanistan appreciates the Update on Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the Draft International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers.

Third, Afghanistan gives high priority to improving the economic status of young boys and girls residing in rural areas. By adopting a territorial approach and placing emphasis on vocational training, it is possible to unlock the high potential of youth for a better and prosperous living in rural areas and prevent their migration to urban centres and beyond.

Fourth, Afghanistan gives full support to the creation of a sub-committee on livestock in line with Rule XXXII.12 of the General Rules of FAO and Rule VII.3 of COAG. We look forward to receiving the terms of reference of the proposed sub-committee.

With these brief comments, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the 26th Session of COAG.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We welcome the report of the 26th Session of COAG. We appreciated the productive discussions on ways to accompany the transition towards more sustainable agriculture in a context of climate change, in particular the discussions on agroecology, sustainable food systems, and rural areas for youth. Indeed, we need comprehensive, innovative and sustainable food system approaches involving a wide range of actors to tackle the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, plant health and food security, and FAO has a key role to play in supporting these transitions.

We also appreciated COAG's concern about the spread of Fall Armyworm to Africa and beyond and we look forward to FAO's report to COAG27 on the spread of Fall Armyworm and FAO's risk assessment. Furthermore, we welcome COAG's request for a draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in FAO's future planning activities. We would also like to highlight COAG's request that FAO ensure sustainable funding from its regular budget for Codex Alimentarius scientific advice and for IPPC activities.

We recognise the importance of the livestock sector for livelihoods, food security and nutrition. This sector is having to face economic, social and environmental challenges in a context of climate change. We therefore look forward to working on the terms of reference for a sub-committee, to be considered by the Bureau for submission at the next COAG session. These terms of reference should not only give a full picture of the administrative and financial implications, but should also specify how existing initiatives such as the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock will be articulated with a sub-committee without creating any duplication of work. Moreover, the terms of reference should indicate how livestock sector stakeholders could be involved.

We note that the draft International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers is to be slightly revised to better reflect some regional specificities. We expect to see that the current spirit of the text, which we consider well-balanced and useful for increasing the sustainability of agriculture, will still prevail in the next version.

We welcome the work FAO is doing on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) within the 'One Health' framework. We welcome the commitment of COAG26 to see that AMR will become a standing item on the COAG agenda.

As we can see, COAG has given the new COAG Bureau a number of important tasks. The EU and its Member States are ready to fully engage in all these tasks, supporting the Chair and the Bureau in their mission.

With these comments we endorse COAG's report.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)

At this juncture, with my voice and that of Cabo Verde, we speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Firstly, we want to thank Mr Francois Pythoud, the outgoing Chairperson, for the leadership in steering the work of the Committee. We welcome Ambassador Mohammad Hossein Emadi as the new Chairperson of the Committee and we are looking forward to working very closely with him during his time in office.

We also appreciate the hard work of the team of the Secretariat led by Mr Robert Guei to support the work of the Committee. We want to seize this opportunity to welcome Mr Bukar Tijani in our midst as the new Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. Mr Tijani, you are welcome.

We appreciate the work of the Committee on Agriculture and we welcome the presentation of the report of its 26th Session that took place in October 2018. The work of the Committee on Sustainable Pathways to Engage Food and Agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was of utmost importance. We therefore welcome the discussions and conclusions on sustainable food systems on agroecology for utilizing rural areas for youth, on global international cultural heritage systems, on livestock, on Fall Armyworm in Africa, on climate and natural resources, including biodiversity, land, the global partnership and water scarcity.

Suite en français

Le Groupe régional Afrique a pris note de toutes les conclusions ayant sanctionné les travaux du Comité sur les différentes questions évoquées ci-dessus et nous les entérinons.

Nous souhaitons, néanmoins, que des actions conséquentes et spécifiques soient engagées en Afrique dans les domaines suivants: d'abord, la pénurie et la gestion de l'eau en agriculture, y compris les questions de financement dans le programme-cadre de coordination contre la pénurie en eau; deuxièmement, la mobilisation des ressources spécifiques pour lutter contre le changement climatique en Afrique; troisièmement, la poursuite des discussions sur le Code de conduite international sur l'utilisation et la gestion des engrais, en tenant dûment compte des propositions africaines, qui seront rendues publiques très prochainement; quatrièmement, la mise en place d'une stratégie opérationnelle pour stopper l'avancée de la chenille légionnaire d'automne en Afrique; enfin, nous attendons d'examiner, lors de la 27^{ème} session, la proposition relative à la création d'un sous-comité de l'élevage et comptons sur une proposition suffisamment détaillée.

Avec ces commentaires, nous approuvons le rapport de la 26^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We discussed renewal in rural areas, employment of youth, work in the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), Fall Armyworm in Africa and the various international years and days. Participants came to a consensus on important areas and China appreciates that.

Secondly, China believes that work in rural areas to create jobs for youth is an area of the utmost importance for the development of agriculture. Rural areas and their renewal are a systematic project of special importance for developing countries to attract young people to work in agriculture. This could be done through education, through capacity-building, through co-financing, and countries must play a very proactive leading role in this area. FAO should provide the technical assistance needed and take on a coordination role to contribute to the greater attractiveness of rural areas.

Thirdly, China notes the progress in the area of the GIAHS. We see an ever-increasing number of sites declared to be GIAHS and this is very useful in terms of broadening geographic representation. It means building awareness of people on the need to protect this agricultural heritage. China encourages FAO to organize forums on a regular basis concerning the GIAHS. We also propose efforts to step up the Secretariat's capacity in the area of the GIAHS.

Fourthly, China supports the proposals that have been made regarding the International Year for Fruits and Vegetables, the Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste and the International Year on Millets. These proposals are all very useful and can help increase the visibility of food and agriculture in the world. Stakeholders can be induced to recognize the importance of agricultural development.

Finally, China wishes to reiterate our support to FAO in South-South and Triangular Cooperation and all other forms and effective methods that can mobilize resources to reduce the supply and demand imbalance.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

Thailand has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

The Asia Group endorses the report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and would like to highlight some issues, which are of particular importance to the region.

Firstly, sustainable food systems development, sustainable intensifications of agriculture, adoption of agroecological approach for transformational change towards sustainability, reduction of food loss and waste, section-specific climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies should be prioritized further. Robust data-collection and analysis, agriculture statistics, development of indicators and tools to help monitor the progress of the implementations of the SDGs are also needed.

Secondly, with particular regard to innovation, we would like to recall that innovation has several dimensions - political, social, cultural, economic and technological. The input of innovation for smallholders and family farmers really depends on families' core generation of knowledge, as well as on communication, accessibility, availability, applicability of innovation by smallholders and family farmers. Innovation should always be monitored and evaluated to verify that it is linked to smallholders and family farmers and that it really benefits them.

Thirdly, in the approach to sustainable agriculture, we see agroecological methods, agricultural diversification, increasing biodiversity, supporting Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) to have the highest potential to benefit small-holders and family farmers. Work on GIAHS should also be encouraged in the framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming.

Fourthly, we recall that the Asia Group has already welcomed the draft International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers as a useful tool to support sustainable agriculture and sustainable soil management. The adoption of the revised text should not be further delayed and we look forward to adopting the revised text at the Conference next year.

Fifthly, we support FAO's programme assistance to strengthen national food safety control systems and to modernize food safety systems consistent with a needs-based approach.

Lastly, we acknowledge the key importance of the livestock sector for food security and nutrition, livelihood and poverty eradication. We renew our support to the establishment of the sub-committee on livestock. We welcome the Committee's decision that the special theme of COAG 27 in 2020 will be "sustainable livestock for SDGs".

Mr Viktor VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

After one year of interruption, Russia is once again taking part in the Council as a fully fledged Member. We look forward to fruitful cooperation in this important Governing Body of the Organization.

We highly value the outcomes of the discussions on the development of food and agricultural systems, which took place during the 26th Session of COAG. Sustainable food and agricultural system development is the basis for achieving food security and economic growth. We welcome FAO's work in this area and in the area of development of the theoretical basis and the practical implementation of the agroecological vision as one of the approaches to ensuring sustainable agricultural development. We would like to point out that this, and equally important themes, were discussed during the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, which took place this year and was hosted by Russia in Voronezh.

Russia strives to ensure the sustainable intensification of its own agricultural system. President Putin of the Russian Federation, set very ambitious targets for 2024, namely to increase the yearly export of agricultural products to USD 45 billion. Our country is in no way indifferent and it supports international development cooperation in this area. The Russian Federation is financing a number of international projects for sustainable food and agricultural systems and we are providing support to FAO programmes for sustainable soil use and for combatting anti-microbial resistance in food chains in a number of commonwealths of independent states. We recently decided to provide, through FAO, support to Syria to

restore and develop its agricultural system in addition to the 600 tons of humanitarian aid of food support that we contributed this year alone on a bilateral basis. Moreover, in the last few years we have been carrying out joint projects with FAO, WFP and IFAD to scale-up school feeding in programmes in Central Asia and the Transcaucasian Region, making use of local produce of small-scale farmers.

We would especially like to support the Organization's work in the area of sustainable soil management. To strengthen intergovernmental collaboration in this area, the government of the Russian Federation decided to make an additional voluntary contribution to FAO's budget of USD 2 million for the implementation of a joint project in this field. And speaking of FAO's recent results in the area of soil management, we would like to welcome the development of the Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers according to the COAG decision in its 26th Session. This document is currently under development by the Secretariat of this Organization and we are ready to participate actively in this work.

We would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the participants of this Session of the Council to the event that will be held to celebrate World Soil Day on 5 December here at FAO headquarters. During the meeting, once again, the Glinka World Soil Prize, named after the Russian soil scientist, will be awarded. We would like to invite all delegations and look forward to your active participation in this event.

Ms Alaa Mazher BOKHARI (Pakistan)

Pakistan aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Asia Group and support the findings and recommendations in the report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

In particular, we fully endorse the recommendation of the Committee in paragraph 12 of this Report stressing the importance of developing the voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste. The Government of Pakistan has expressed its commitment by including this in our National Food Security Policy.

We would also like to convey support and appreciation to the recommendation of the Committee at paragraph 22 of the Report by highlighting Pakistan's focus on engaging fully trained youth in the country's agriculture sector across the supply chain, which will not only provide better opportunities to the youth but will also help in modernizing the agriculture sectors.

Lastly, we also endorse the recommendations at paragraphs 29 and 30 highlighting our special attention to the livestock sector as the Government of Pakistan has launched plans in two of its most populous regions, Punjab and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, targeting millions of small farmers to become self-sufficient in milk and milk based products and to expand meat production. We are also establishing Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zones in the country and incentivizing saving and calf fattening programmes that would significantly help in realizing the country's potential in the livestock sector.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

We would like to express our appreciation for the work done by FAO in promoting integrated approaches across agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The livestock sector has an important contribution to make in these efforts, in particular to the goals related to poverty and hunger eradication, food security and nutrition, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, health and well-being, climate change actions, sustainable economic growth and decent work, among others. We therefore welcome the decision of having "sustainable livestock for SDGs" as the special theme of COAG 27 in 2020.

We also look forward to the future report on the establishment of the sub-committee on livestock. Regarding the structure of the subcommittee itself, we take this opportunity to point out that it would be

of extreme importance to have its discussions based on scientific evidence. We consider that this point should be expressly incorporated in its future terms of reference.

Furthermore, Brazil appreciates the recognition of agroecology as one of the approaches to implement the five principles of sustainable food and agriculture, as well as the support given by COAG to the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative and the Ten Elements of Agroecology. We note the postponement of the discussion of the resolution on sustainable agricultural approaches and look forward to participating in debates on this topic.

We also welcome COAG's decision to continue exploring synergies and complementarities between agroecology and other approaches. Brazilian agricultural policies and programmes on the use of agroecological approaches and biotechnology tools show how both instruments can complement each other and contribute, each one in its way, to fostering agricultural innovation and sustainable agricultural development models.

We also welcome the decision to request FAO to develop a strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, as well as for the Organization to continue to act as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform.

Finally, we express our satisfaction with COAG's request for FAO to take the lead in collaboration with relevant actors to develop voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste. We believe these instruments would provide an important contribution to our efforts towards the achievement of food security and nutrition.

Mr Daiji KAWAGUCHI (Japan)

First of all, Japan appreciates the COAG Chair and the Secretariat for developing the comprehensive report. Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group's statement delivered by Thailand.

In addition, Japan welcomes that we all share the same understanding on the importance and urgency of ensuring sustainable funding for the Food Safety Scientific Advice programme and also the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and encourages FAO in its further efforts.

I would also like to mention that the same points of these comments from Japan also apply to the report of CCP to be discussed in the following agenda item.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States is encouraged by the Committee's recognition of the importance of sustainable funding for the international standards work done by the Codex scientific advice programme and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). We took special note of the incoming Chair's point on the possibility of using FAO's regular budget as a source of funding for that important work.

We also welcome a report on the Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Action Plan as a standing agenda item for the Committee.

Regarding agroecology, the United States will contribute suggestions to the Ten Elements of Agroecology. As the Committee acknowledges, further revisions are needed to this document. The Committee also welcomed the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative but in doing so stressed the need for FAO to develop an action plan with partners, taking into account country needs and capacities. Members also requested FAO to continue applying agroecology as one of the approaches to implement the five principles of sustainable agriculture and to continue exploring synergies and complementarities between agroecology and other innovative and sustainable agricultural approaches.

We therefore support Argentina's caution regarding the resolution called for in paragraph 17 of the Report and we concur that FAO should be looking at all forms of sustainable agriculture and not appear to favour one technique over others.

We appreciate the Committee's recognition that agroecology can be one of the methods of sustainable agricultural production but is not a preferred agricultural practice or a one-size fits all solution for sustainable agricultural production.

We therefore also agree with Argentina regarding paragraph 39 that climate smart agriculture should not be emphasized within the report and we agree that it is not the right solution for all agriculture challenges.

We are encouraged that the Committee requested FAO, under the five principles of sustainable food and agriculture, to strengthen its normative, science and evidence-based work on agroecology, and to continue exploring synergies and complementarities between agroecology and other innovative approaches to sustainable food and agriculture.

We note the importance of the topics proposed for international days and years; however, we encourage Members to be mindful of the 2013 FAO Policy on International Observances. The over-proliferation and poor timing of these days and years can cause an undue administrative burden on the Organization and to many of them also minimize the importance of these proclamations.

Finally, the United States continues to share its colleagues concerns regarding the Fall Armyworm situation in Africa and we encourage FAO to promote the use of appropriate science-based tools to sustainably manage this invasive insect pest.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del Informe del Comité de Agricultura de su 26.º período de sesiones. Felicitamos al Presidente saliente de dicho Comité Excmo. Sr. François Pythoud, Embajador de Suiza, por enfocar su trabajo siempre en la búsqueda del consenso, así como también deseamos darle la bienvenida al nuevo Presidente del Comité Excmo. Sr. Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Embajador de la República Islámica de Irán, al cual le ofrecemos nuestra colaboración y le deseamos el mayor de los éxitos.

El COAG constituye uno de los Comités que está vinculado más directamente con el mandato de la FAO. La Seguridad Alimentaria depende en gran parte de la riqueza y mejor aprovechamiento de nuestras tierras cultivables, siempre en consonancia con la preservación y cuidado de este medio de subsistencia.

En ese marco, apoyamos a la FAO por la labor realizada en relación con los Sistemas Alimentarios Sostenibles teniendo en cuenta la dimensión cultural, como lo señala el Inform. Asimismo, los felicitamos por la realización del Seminario de Alto Nivel de Expertos sobre Sistemas Alimentarios Indígenas, recordando las palabras pronunciadas por el Director General Graziano Da Silva en dicho seminario "sin los pueblos indígenas, no lograremos el ODS-2".

En cuanto al tema sobre la Agroecología, respaldamos que la FAO siga aplicando este enfoque para poner en práctica los cinco principios de la alimentación y la agricultura. También respaldamos los 10 elementos de la agroecología, como una guía para promover sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles.

En este sentido, uno de los retos de la Revolución Bolivariana es la construcción de un modelo de producción agrícola que garantice la seguridad y la soberanía alimentaria – hoy en día más que nunca bajo ataque – y que al mismo tiempo se posicione como alternativa al sistema capitalista del agronegocio; de ahí que la agroecología juegue un papel importante para nuestro país.

Asimismo, apoyamos las actividades realizadas en el marco de la Iniciativa de los Sistemas importantes del Patrimonio Agrícola Mundial (SIPAM) ya que constituye una experiencia exitosa de preservación del ecosistema y la biodiversidad.

Nos sumamos al apoyo de la creación del Sub-comité de Ganadería en el marco del COAG.

Por último, queremos dejar constancia de nuestro respaldo a las iniciativas propuestas en el Comité de Agricultura sobre la celebración de un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras, el Día Internacional de la Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos y un Año Internacional del Mijo.

Con estos comentarios La República Bolivariana de Venezuela aprueba el informe.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je tiens tout d'abord à soutenir la déclaration faite au nom de l'Union européenne et ses États Membres. Je souhaitais, en complément, remercier la FAO pour son engagement sur le thème de l'agroécologie, qui est pour nous une voie prometteuse pour engager les exploitations agricoles et les systèmes alimentaires vers des performances améliorées au plan environnemental, économique et social. Il est important de poursuivre la capitalisation d'expériences sur cette thématique.

Je voudrais aussi souligner l'importance que nous accordons au thème de l'élevage partout dans le monde. Ce secteur est confronté à de nombreux défis: sanitaires, économiques, environnementaux. Il fait l'objet de nombreux débats. La FAO doit être en mesure d'apporter une expertise de qualité et de favoriser le dialogue sur toutes ces questions. Et nous sommes prêts, aux côtés de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, à nous impliquer dans les réflexions qui ont été lancées lors du COAG à ce sujet.

Je voudrais enfin rappeler toute l'importance que mon pays attache à la question de la jeunesse et de l'attractivité des zones rurales. C'est l'une des priorités de notre coopération. La création d'emplois ruraux décents pour les nouvelles générations constituera un élément central de l'atteinte du Programme 2030 et permettra la lutte contre la pauvreté, le développement des territoires ruraux ainsi que le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire des populations.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

We would like to thank the previous Chair of COAG for leading us in a very fruitful week in October. We would particularly like to highlight one of the recommendations, and that is the one in relation to the need for sustainable funding for the standard-setting work of FAO, in particular the joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme that supports Codex and the IPPC. Both of these are pillars upon which much of FAO's work is based, as without safe food and healthy plants, there is no food security for anybody. On that basis, we echo COAG's call for these functions to be sustainably funded from FAO's regular budget.

In relation to the recommendation that the Secretariat prepare a draft resolution for the Conference on "sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology", in consultation with the COAG Bureau, we also stress the need to ensure that all approaches are in fact reflected in the Resolution. As our Region's representative on the Bureau, we look forward to working with the Secretariat and our COAG colleagues on that.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We would like to highlight the very important role of the Technical Committees in general. We appreciate the use of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs as a common framework for the Committees.

We endorse the reports, which give valuable guidance for the setting of priorities for FAO's work. The Nordic countries would like to pay attention to an issue, which concerns not only COAG but the other Technical Committees as well. As other speakers already have stated, we stress the need to ensure sustainable funding from FAO's regular budget for Codex Alimentarius scientific advice and for IPPC activities.

The Nordic countries welcome that certain cross-cutting general topics, like this year climate change, sustainable development and biological diversity, are put on the agenda and discussed in all technical

committees. Highlighting these common topics helps to ascertain that FAO works in an integrated manner, and the organization gets a reminder to strengthen or uphold technical competence in these matters. We welcome the decision to present an outline of the biodiversity plan for decision at the Conference in June 2019.

Finally, I would like to comment on one issue concerning COAG, it was requested for the Secretariat to prepare a report considering pros and cons relative to the establishment of a sub-committee on livestock. The Nordic countries would like to remind that one of the elements, which should be considered, is how FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance could be integrated into this work.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

La Delegación de México felicita al Comité, así como a su Presidente durante el período pasado Excmo. Sr. François Pythoud, Embajador de Suiza, y al Presidente actual Excmo. Sr. Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Embajador de la República Islámica de Irán, por el éxito alcanzado durante el 26.º período de Sesiones del COAG.

En esa sesión se abordaron varios temas, todos de gran importancia; desde la cuestión del gusano cogollero pasando por el SIPAM (Iniciativa de los Sistemas importantes del patrimonio agrícola mundial), jóvenes en el sector rural y la cuestión de la ganadería. Permítame unas palabras sobre la diversidad biológica.

Por lo que se refiere a la formulación de la estrategia sobre diversidad biológica, esperamos con gran optimismo que el mandato emanado del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura para que la FAO elabore una estrategia sobre la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas, velando por la coherencia con otras estrategias de la Organización como la relativa al cambio climático, para someterla a la consideración del Comité del Programa y del Consejo y presentarla a la Conferencia de la FAO en 2019, en vista de la preparación del Marco Mundial de la Diversidad Biológica posterior al 2020 del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

Con miras a construir esa estrategia, el párrafo 48 del informe invita a realizar diálogos regionales sobre la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas.

En este sentido, me es muy grato informar la celebración del primer Diálogo Regional de Alto Nivel sobre la Integración de la Biodiversidad en los sectores Agropecuario, Forestal y Pesquero (DRANIBA), celebrada en la Ciudad de México los días 29 y 30 de octubre del presente año, en la cual participaron varios países de América Latina y el Caribe. De esta reunión emanaron valiosas conclusiones que fueron presentadas en la 14 Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica (CDB) que concluyó la semana pasada en Egipto.

Estas conclusiones seguramente serán de utilidad para la construcción de la estrategia sobre diversidad biológica en la FAO. Señor Presidente, cuente con el apoyo de México para esta tarea.

Con estos comentarios, México apoya el informe del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

The meetings of the Committee on Agriculture were very active and useful under the Chairmanship of our friend, the Ambassador of Switzerland. Thank you to him. And also thank you to the current Chairperson, Ambassador Emadi.

I would like to refer to the issue of water scarcity. My country, the Kingdom of Jordan, is one of the countries which is most water-impooverished and one of the main producers of fruit and vegetables, 3.5 million tons annually. That is because of the huge effectiveness in use of water and the new systems we have. We are ready to work together with the countries in the Organization to share our success to ensure that we can help with agricultural production. We hope that FAO will support the pioneering

countries in this field by setting up, for example, an international centre on water scarcity in Jordan. We have many experts on this theme.

In addition, Jordan welcomes the dialogue on the Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers. We are happy that we will be able to discuss the production of fertilizers in this Committee. My country also fully supports the setting up of a sub-committee on livestock and also an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

Finally, it is an honour for us to take part in the Council as a new Member.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like to join others in expressing appreciation to the former Chair of COAG who steered very substantive discussions during the meeting of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

The meeting considered a wide range of issues, vital to the agriculture sector and how to support the transition towards more sustainable food systems. We would like to highlight a few issues that Canada believes are of particular importance for FAO's work.

Canada joins many other countries who, at the Committee and today, requested that FAO ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget for the Scientific Advice Programme of the Codex and for the IPPC. We were actually very encouraged as well by the statement of the current COAG Chair in this regard. We also support FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We believe that the technical work of FAO is essential to these global public goods, which benefit all countries and help ensure safe food.

Regarding the recommendations on agroecology, Canada had suggested revisions to strengthen the proposed Ten Elements of Agroecology and we will be happy to share them. We fully support agro ecological practices as one of the approaches farmers can choose to use to increase productivity sustainably. Like many others, we would like to highlight that this is one of the approaches that farmers can use and that others, such as sustainable intensification or using biotechnologies to achieve sustainable agriculture, have to be part of the range of tools that are being considered so that we look at economic, environment and social dimensions of sustainability. We also feel that the Innovation Symposium and the discussions will shed further light on how to achieve this at the required scale.

For those who were able, like us, to participate in the meeting of the Programme Committee, we felt that the discussions on the evaluation of FAO's Strategic Objective 2, which is the biggest programme and which relates to sustainable agriculture and food systems, were very useful in highlighting the need for integrated and transformative approaches to look at trade-offs and synergies and go beyond just looking at one particular model or approach. I think it was strongly highlighted that it is local-specific and there is no one-size-fits-all. We, therefore, feel that this, as well as climate-smart agriculture, brings a very good contribution, in terms of conceptually looking at the different wins and trade-offs that can be realized when you look at concrete solutions.

It is in this period that we look forward to continuing the discussion with other Members on the draft resolution on sustainable agricultural solutions and how these approaches can be integrated into the future planning of the Organization. We also look forward to additional consultations on the draft International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers, which will help this be a more inclusive initiative.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, representing the 15-member CARICOM Sub-Region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and advocating equally the interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), intervenes to endorse the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

We wish, in particular, to underscore the need for the Secretariat to continue and strengthen the regime of support being provided to our countries. While this may sound like a recurring theme, but it is increasingly clear that there is need to remind that the complexities involved in integrating and mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture into the 2030 Agenda are no less daunting for the small than it is for the large countries. In reality, it is more so. Despite limitations of size, we too need to meet this challenge responsibly for our own survival. The truth is, that in this endeavour, small is indeed in some respects a curse!

There should, therefore, be empathetic understanding when we make the point that development with equity demands consideration of enhanced assistance to SIDS in such areas as integrated policy support, capacity building for creating and maintaining multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms for better governance, mobilization of resources to deal with the impacts of climate change, soil and land use and management and building sustainable farming systems taking into account of course the critical matter of biodiversity.

We welcome the emphasis on revitalizing rural areas and exploring more comprehensively opportunities to harness the creativity and energy of youth, as a dynamic force in the transformation of our food and agriculture sectors.

Alas, small though we are, institutional siloization remains an issue of immense proportions. We are yet to craft workable systems and mechanisms, and design feasible arrangements and appropriate incentives to so influence behaviour change that public institutions more effectively collaborate and coordinate to engender the coherence so sorely needed for meeting the objectives of 2030 Agenda, thereby putting our countries on a sustainable development path.

In this regard, we look to FAO's leadership and its in-country alliance with the UN Country teams and other development partners for assistance and guidance in fashioning appropriate institutional pathways towards the sustainable development envisaged by the SDGs.

CHAIRPERSON

That brings the list of Members who have spoken to an end. Does any other Member want to take the floor? If not, I will open the floor for observers. I give the floor to Senegal.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Le Sénégal salue le rapport présenté par Son Excellence Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Ambassadeur de la République islamique d'Iran, à qui nous souhaitons la bienvenue à la tête du Comité de l'agriculture. Nous saisissons également l'occasion pour rendre hommage à Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Pythoud pour le brio avec lequel il a présidé le Comité.

Le Sénégal appuie la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe Afrique par notre distingué Représentant du Cameroun et insiste sur l'appel qu'il a lancé pour des actions spécifiques concrètes en faveur des pays africains, notamment en ce qui concerne l'agroécologie, les SIPAM, la jeunesse rurale et la lutte contre la pénurie d'eau dans l'agriculture.

La pénurie d'eau est particulièrement ressentie dans le Sahel, avec l'assèchement continu du lac Tchad, l'ensablement des fleuves du Niger et du Sénégal, et l'avancée du désert du Sahara. Ce problème de pénurie d'eau compte parmi les causes majeures et structurelles des conflits qui gangrènent cette partie du continent africain.

Le Sénégal lance avec insistance un appel pour que la FAO élève le problème de la pénurie d'eau au rang de priorité mondiale et qu'elle la fasse figurer en bonne place dans sa stratégie de lutte contre les changements climatiques, la faim et la pauvreté.

Le Sénégal souhaite également que l'agroécologie continue à figurer parmi les priorités de la FAO comme initiative essentielle en faveur d'une agriculture durable. À cet égard, le Sénégal exprime sa préoccupation

au sujet de la révision des dix éléments distinctifs de l'agroécologie, qui devait être approuvée par le Conseil avant d'être soumise à la Conférence, mais sera directement portée à l'attention de l'organe suprême de la FAO. Nous craignons en effet que cette démarche ne retarde le consensus sur la pertinence des dix éléments définis par les experts et acceptés par le groupe des amis de l'agroécologie ou que le consensus éventuel auquel la Conférence parviendrait ne s'écarte de trop de ce que nous avons obtenu jusqu'ici. Nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat nous apporte des éclaircissements sur cette question.

Enfin, au sujet des SIPAM, le Sénégal réitère son souhait, exprimé lors de la 26^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture, de voir cette initiative focalisée sur les pays du Sud, notamment les pays d'Afrique, dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud.

M. François PYTHOUD (Observateur de la Suisse)

Nous voudrions tout d'abord remercier l'Ambassadeur Mohammad Hossein Emadi pour la présentation du rapport de la 26^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture et lui souhaiter aussi beaucoup de succès pour la conduite du Comité au cours des deux prochaines années.

La Suisse soutient l'ensemble des recommandations contenues dans le rapport. Nous aimerions toutefois relever les points suivants:

Premièrement, nous soutenons, en particulier, les recommandations invitant la FAO à renforcer ses activités visant à élaborer des méthodologies et indicateurs de référence pour mesurer la performance en matière de durabilité de tous les systèmes agricoles au-delà du seul rendement. La FAO est en position de force avec les travaux sur l'indicateur 241 pour fédérer les initiatives existantes et faciliter l'élaboration d'un cadre et de paramètres de référence pour mesurer la performance à tous les niveaux, du niveau national à la ferme. Pour la Suisse, disposer d'un cadre de référence pour la mesure de la performance en matière de durabilité est une condition *sine qua non* pour pouvoir évoluer et promouvoir la contribution d'approches comme l'agroécologie à la transition vers des systèmes agroalimentaires plus durables.

Deuxièmement, la Suisse salue particulièrement les recommandations visant à accroître le rôle et l'engagement des jeunes, hommes et femmes, dans tous les secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Dans ce contexte, l'élaboration d'un plan d'action pour les jeunes ruraux par les trois organisations ayant leur siège à Rome et l'Organisation internationale du travail est un pas important pour élaborer une approche coordonnée au niveau des organisations internationales concernées.

Finalement, nous soutenons l'engagement de la FAO dans la formulation du Cadre mondial sur la biodiversité pour l'après-2020. L'élaboration d'une stratégie interne sur la biodiversité et le renforcement de la plateforme pour l'intégration systématique de la biodiversité représentent deux exemples concrets pour assurer une prise en compte de la biodiversité agricole dans ce nouveau plan d'action mondial.

J'aimerais également saisir cette occasion pour remercier de toutes les magnifiques paroles que j'ai entendues et rappeler simplement que cela a été un plaisir pour moi de présider ce Comité pendant ces deux dernières années. Cela restera une des expériences les plus enrichissantes de mon séjour à Rome.

Mr Gabriele CHECCHIA (Observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta)

I would like to say a few words on the Sovereign Order of Malta. It is an Organization that has, as you know, a Permanent Observer status with the United Nations, including FAO. We will provide a few comments on current issues that concern this Council.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is a religious order of the Catholic Church with more than 13,000 members. It is a subject of international law and has diplomatic relations with over 100 states, the European Union, and as I said, it has a Permanent Observer status at the United Nations, including FAO. It is neutral, impartial and apolitical. It assists migrants and deprived people in many countries. For instance, it is actively involved in providing medical assistance to the Italian Coast Guard with its operations in the Strait of Sicily saving and having saved many lives. It is also training the Libyan Coast

Guard. It is engaged in the process leading to the Global Compact on Migration and Refugees at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

As regards current issues, FAO's flagship publication "2018 State of Food and Agriculture", released on 15 October 2018, explores the connections between migration, agriculture and rural development. These are all topics that the Order of Malta follows with great attention. A very relevant publication with the Global Compact on Migration, under discussion next week in Marrakesh. The Order, drawing from its long-term experience in assisting migrants and refugees, stresses the need to reaffirm and respect humanitarian laws and human rights. We strongly believe that no human being is illegal and therefore she/he always has rights. Unfortunately, too often, these rights are not being respected. If you take away the status of human beings, you take away basic rights. Therefore, we also believe there is a need for stronger cooperation between migration authorities and tribe protection services to enhance protection of women and girls, who are often subject to different sorts of physical and psychological violence during their dangerous journeys.

The Order wishes to sign on with the Holy See and FAO in their joint appeal to support human rights and make fisheries socially sustainable. Fraudulent recruitment practices, tribe labels, absence of written agreements, withholding of wages, blacklisting, violence, intimidation and other abusive working conditions affect the Fishery sector, unfortunately; and they undermine the efforts of those who respect the rules.

Finally, let me underscore that the Order warmly supports FAO's work on Strategic Objective 3 on reducing rural poverty and Strategic Objective 5 on increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, which should be a priority for FAO, including work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. It welcomes its vision on risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection and migration in close partnership with others. The Order of Malta strongly believes that particular attention should be paid to the comparative advantage of faith-based Organizations in delivering humanitarian assistance. In fact, these Organizations have strong connections with the community and are often already present in the conflict before natural disasters or conflict occur.

Mr Mohammad HOSSEIN EMADI (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Thank you all for all the comments. I am sure that it is not easy to comment on 22 speakers. I just need to follow some of the general and major issues that we in the COAG group will follow.

First of all, I really thank all Members for their complimentary comments, for the support to the COAG group and to the Chairperson. I also appreciated that they reaffirmed and re-endorsed the issues that were discussed in the COAG report. I am sure that without the support of Members through the democratic system that FAO has, we cannot do anything. I am so happy to see again the support of the Members' for COAG.

I can say that we, as the new members of the Bureau and the new Bureau of COAG, will ensure that we shall try our best to include reported issues, concerns and considerations that were named in this meeting. However, this can be only be done based on our capacity and institutional capacity, complying with the FAO Basic Texts, rules and regulations and, of course, with consensus.

Meanwhile, according to the diversity of some of the comments, which were mentioned here, we can see the state diversity at international level that is expressed and rooted from the biodiversity and the difference of the countries based on their situation and circumstances. Naturally, different states in FAO and in the United Nations have their own distinct interests, concerns and sensitivities. The beauty of FAO is to bring all this diversity together through consensus. This is not possible without interactive dialogue and constructive discussions, which give us the best possibility, through the floor that FAO gives to all of us.

I am sure that there are two major reasons for the diversity among the three major issues that were discussed in COAG. Of course, for agroecology, as mentioned amongst some of our Members, there is

some sort of agreement but we in the Bureau are responsible to find consensus. Then we have the issue on the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers and the sub-committee on livestock. These are the three major issues where we can see diversity amongst the respective Members. I am sure the main reason for this is due to the different interests, situations and the status of the different countries in FAO. There is also what I could call a misconception or misunderstanding of some of the words, which make this sensitivity a hindrance to constructive dialogue. In the Bureau of COAG, we try to create an environment, through the Members of the Committee, which represent all Members, with constructive dialogue, where we can discuss the matters, raise the issues and reach a consensus as far as we can and based on the institutional capacity of the COAG.

I am sure that with the experience we have and also by following FAO rules and regulations, together with a sense of mutual understanding among Members, this is not a hard job. Certainly, it is not an easy job, compared to other committees. You can see from the report. This Committee has a much wider range of activities: agronomy, water, land, sustainability and livestock; and all these areas are included in this Committee. Since the scope of this Committee is not easy, I am convinced that to fulfil the task, to carry out the activity, and to complete the mission of the COAG Bureau in the next two years will not be an easy job. I am confident that with consensus, discussions and mutual respective dialogue among the Bureau Members we can come up with an agreement. I confirm to you again that we will discuss all the concerns of the Member countries. Based on our capacity, we will try to reach a consensus that will satisfy everybody. Meanwhile, we will examine and review the jargon that may create some misunderstanding among the Members and respective countries.

I promise that we will talk over and deal with diversity through consensus. This is the beauty of the United Nations and FAO through which, there is no alternative but to find a common goal through diversity, discussion and dialogue.

Mr Bukar TIJANI (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I want to stand on existing appreciation and welcome for the Chair's support. I also want to add a few remarks to the report by His Excellency Hossein Emadi, on the way forward on the Committee work. I would like to comment on the reporting in the next Council and follow-up actions.

I acknowledge Members' comments and clarifications required for the establishment of a sub-committee on livestock, which I believe has echoed across Members.

I want to say that the Secretariat would work across departments, Members and also others who would contribute to the Ten Elements of Agroecology, as well as the five pillars that are therein. I think this is something that we have to revise the draft for so that we will make contact and also agree with Members on what to do.

There is a lot of reflection on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). I believe there are calls for maintenance as well as geographical spread, which is important. There is going to be a meeting of the interagency coordinating committee or group, which will be discussing about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in late December. This is something that we are following and as next steps, this meeting would consider what happened before, including the call for action in Accra, Ghana, over the last two weeks. In fact, FAO, WHO, OIE, UNEP and other Organizations are making a lot of contributions. We believe that this is something of global importance and FAO would definitely be following this matter.

The Code of Conduct on Fertilizers is something that has been discussed and it will continue to be discussed for presentation at a later stage: next month in January 2019, then in May 2019 and also finally it will go to the consideration of United Nations Secretary-General.

Moreover, we believe this issue will be discussed at the COAG and the FAO Conference in June 2019.

One area that has been discussed a lot is the rural transformation and revitalization, especially for youth employment. I believe Members have reported this and it is important for us to follow up in that respect. Our Chair of COAG has also emphasized this issue, which will be definitely followed. This is something very important across many regions in the world and in the globe.

I also think that that contributions from Members are very much valued, for example insights received from the Finance and Programme Committee, the recent Innovation Symposium and the Kigali Youth Employment in Agriculture. We shall consider all inputs and we will follow up on behalf of FAO.

Mr Robert Gouantoueu GUEI (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

As for the question from Senegal, I would like to clarify that His Excellency was requesting clarification on why the Ten Elements of Agroecology was not discussed by the Council. In that regard, the Chair of COAG said that in his presentation, there was a number of documents regulatory nature and technical nature. He was advised by the Council Secretariat that the latter be submitted to the Conference, which is regarded the more appropriate Governing Body to examine this document.

Having said that, the Ten Elements were actually revised by COAG. It was approved by COAG but with some suggestions that were made for improvement. So it is not that I do not think the whole document was to be discussed. Yet the Conference will be just looking at the revisions that were proposed, which have been incorporated in that document.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now conclude on sub-item 3.1. As I mentioned at the outset, the text will be projected on the screen behind us and I will read the text so that non-English speakers can follow it through interpretation.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), in particular:
 - a) the main priorities identified for FAO's work in food and agriculture to be taken into account in the review of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, including FAO's involvement in interdisciplinary activities and multi-stakeholder partnerships;
 - b) the promotion by FAO of sustainable food systems, sustainable funding of Codex Alimentarius scientific advice and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standard setting activities, livestock production, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), the revitalization of rural areas for youth, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring, water scarcity, agroecology, biodiversity and climate change, as well as gender mainstreaming, innovation including biotechnology and investments for sustainable agriculture development;
 - c) highlighted the importance of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the need for progress reporting to be a standing item on the COAG agenda;
 - d) the Ten Elements of Agroecology to be further revised by FAO to reflect the discussions of the session and to present the revised version to the 41st Session of the Conference;
 - e) the preparation by FAO, in collaboration with the Bureau, of a draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of the Organization, to be submitted to the next Council for adoption;
 - f) the need to strengthen the role of youth through education, entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, co-financing, capacity building and rural-based youth organizations and the development by FAO and partners of a rural youth action plan, based on existing instruments, to be submitted to the next session of COAG;
 - g) the continuing focus on GIAHS;

- h) the request to the Secretariat to prepare a report on administrative and financial implications, and the terms of reference that include rationale, function, structure and implementation modalities, for the establishment of the sub-committee on livestock, to be considered by the COAG Bureau for submission to the next COAG session, and for subsequent review by the Programme and Finance Committees;
- i) the need for FAO to emphasize its work on plant protection, including through South-South Cooperation; to strengthen collaboration with partners, and to disseminate lessons learned from countries' experiences, in particular from Africa, Asia and Latin America on Fall Armyworm;
- j) the engagement by FAO in national, regional and international discussions on how to implement the "Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture" on the ground;
- k) the support to the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) as a key coordination mechanism to adapt water scarcity in agriculture;
- l) the development by FAO of a strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, for consideration by the Programme Committee and Council, to be presented at the FAO Conference in 2019, in view of the preparation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- m) for the COAG bureau to undertake an inclusive consultation process to prepare a revised text of the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers to be presented to the 41st Session of the Conference.

It is a lengthy summary but we have attempted to capture what Members' statements incorporated.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Quería solicitar al Señor Presidente si puede volver al punto e). Respecto a este punto, quisiéramos incluir "integration"—la integración de todos los enfoques y eliminar "including agroecology", la integración de todos los enfoques de la agricultura sustentable, porque si dejamos "including agroecology" tendríamos que poner otros elementos o estaríamos privilegiando un enfoque, y fue muy claro que hay que tener en un plano de igualdad todos los enfoques.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

In my opinion, point b) covers too many things. Is it possible to break it?

M. Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Pourrions-nous revenir sur votre proposition concernant la chenille légionnaire d'automne au point i)?

Nous la trouvons trop directive et en même temps trop limitative. L'Afrique demandait une étude pour la mise en place d'une stratégie opérationnelle en vue de combattre ou stopper l'avancée de la chenille légionnaire. C'est le premier élément de notre proposition, important surtout en Afrique, que nous souhaitons voir repris de manière à ce que nous ayons satisfaction.

Les leçons apprises et l'expérience peuvent aider, mais ce n'est pas l'action. Ainsi, comme nous voudrions une stratégie, nous reprenons au début et proposons: "The need for FAO to have an operational strategy in regard to stopping the advances of Fall Armyworm in Africa".

Les autres éléments de la proposition peuvent rester tels quels et après le point, le texte continuerait ainsi: "Further, FAO could continue its work on plant protection...", etc. Telle est notre proposition à ce niveau.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

If I am correct, I think this is the first time that we have used this method of having the recommendations on the board after the technical committees. So, I very much like this practice, but I suspect we might have a little way to go to ensure that what we have on the screen what actually reflects the discussion on

the floor. I believe this does not entirely show the discussion held on the floor, but I am very willing to work with it if that is the best way to proceed.

Having said that, there was something that we raised and many other delegates raised too, which was about the need for sustainable funding from the regular budget. The current reference is in point b). In fact, I would suggest we make this a separate point and we could use language similar to that which we used in the Council earlier this year. If I have your good grace, I will read out my suggestion very slowly.

So it would be a new point, which would read: “emphasized the importance of international standard setting work such as Codex and IPPC and stressed the need for sustainable funding from the regular budget for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and the IPPC”.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We just wanted to speak in support of the interventions made by colleagues so therefore we support the new point c) as proposed by Australia. We support the Argentine change to old point e).

We would note in our point, we do not think it is a good idea to single out agroecology. We think agroecology is implicitly included in “all sustainable agricultural approaches” so we fully support the Argentine proposed change along those lines.

And finally, we support the Cameroonian intervention into old point i) on Fall Armyworm but we would like to make one addition, which I think is on new point k). At the end, it talks about experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America. We too suffer from Fall Armyworm in North America. We are offering lessons. So we would like to add “and North America” after Latin America and take out the “and” in front of Latin America.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

We would like to support the new point c) and in new point f), we would like to see “including agroecology”. I mean, this was a decision in COAG.

Mr Piefrancesco SACCO (Italy)

This is to second what my colleague from Austria just said. Due to the need to respect the decision adopted by consensus in COAG, we think that “including agroecology” should be kept in point f).

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

Chairman, thank you for your summary of our discussion. We can agree all in all with the text that you have proposed. As regards to point b), we would like an addition of a mention of the importance of the work in the area of sustainable soil management. This subject was discussed in the session of the Committee on Agriculture and we think it would be important to reflect that in the discussion and in that area of activity of FAO in the Chairperson’s summary.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank our colleague from Cameroon for his proposal regarding the Fall Armyworm. We agree with the proposed strategy and we also need to stress the work and action in various regions, not only in Africa but also in other parts of the world.

We, in the Near East, also suffer from the Fall Armyworm so I agree with the proposal to say “and any other regions” and not restrict the regions to Africa or Asia only.

Mr Sid Ahmed M ALAMAIN (Sudan)

I would like to echo my colleague from Cameroon with regard to the Fall Armyworm. I think it is very important, as my colleagues mentioned. We would like to have not just a strategy but a “comprehensive strategy”.

And then before “to stopping”, you can add “to eradicating and stopping”.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

La Delegación argentina desea destacar que el Consejo es un órgano superior y tiene la competencia para mejorar, ampliar e introducir sus propias conclusiones. A la luz de lo manifestado, entendemos que si bien el COAG ha enviado una recomendación, el Consejo tiene toda la competencia para darle un sentido más amplio que refleje los intereses y las expresiones manifestadas por los delegados en este Consejo.

Recogiendo lo que han dicho varias delegaciones, creemos más oportuno no incluir en el literal E la mención a uno de los enfoques, porque tendríamos que solicitar incluir también otros enfoques que son de interés de un grupo importante de delegaciones. Por tal motivo, preferimos mantener una redacción general que diga “todos los enfoques” y eliminar la mención a un enfoque específico.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would also like to support the proposal made by Australia for the new point c) and as well, the proposal made by Argentina for point e). I think just her argument that was presented right now makes sense, especially since I think in the COAG discussions, that was under the specific agroecology item.

However, after such discussions, there were further discussions, including in the Council and Programme Committee, and I feel that the wording proposed now reflects much more the intent of the discussions.

I would also have a question about new point h). I feel that the GIAHS is already included in point b) and I am not sure what it means here when we look at section E of the report of COAG where it talks about “subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources”.

So it is unclear to me why it is mentioned twice and it is such a short statement for point h) that I do not know how it compares relatively to the other topics that were mentioned in point b).

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je reviens sur la discussion du paragraphe f).

Je crois qu’il faut se rappeler d’où nous sommes partis. Lors du Comité de l’agriculture, nous avons discuté de l’agroécologie et l’idée était au départ d’avoir une résolution sur ce sujet.

Je crois que tout le monde a écouté les arguments pour un élargissement à toutes les approches agricoles durables, «all sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology» parce que c’est bien ce dont nous parlons suite à tous les travaux de la FAO sur ce sujet. Dans cette perspective favorable pour la durabilité de l’agriculture cette formulation représente un pas en avant, et nous en remercions d’ailleurs l’Argentine, les États-Unis d’Amérique, le Canada et d’autres pays. Je pense que tout le monde en est d’accord, bien sûr l’agroécologie n’est pas la seule réponse, il y en a d’autres et je crois qu’il y a consensus là-dessus. L’idée de cette résolution était de souligner l’apport de toutes ces approches avec un point particulier sur l’agroécologie, mais cela doit bien sûr intégrer les autres dimensions.

Cette formulation, agréée lors du Comité, a été, je crois, suffisamment inclusive pour prendre en compte les commentaires de ceux qui comprennent qu’il y a également d’autres approches, et convenait à tous.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to support what has been mentioned by my French colleague. It is a great language and we spent a lot of time here discussing agroecology as one approach of sustainable agriculture management. So I wonder why it is still in brackets as this was agreed language in COAG.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We align ourselves with Argentina’s observations as the relationship between Council and COAG. What is the point of having Council if we cannot review and make better these types of points? So in terms of

arrangement, a legal arrangement between the two bodies, Council is the superior body. So we take note of colleagues' views of language and agreements and COAG but we do not find it dispositive.

That said, as we argued before, we believe that agroecology is one of many sustainable agricultural approaches. If it is necessary to single out agroecology, we would add that other sustainable agricultural approaches also be included. So our proposed language would be “including agroecology” inserting “and biotechnology”.

If we are going to become more specific in what our sustainable approaches are, we would invite other colleagues to come up with other suggestions as well.

On point h), we support Canada's questions on specific reference to GIAHS in this context. Noting that was already referred to in point b) and noting that the report is already very long; we would recommend its deletion.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

I would like to support what was just said by France and the European Union and remind that of course we agree that the Council is an organ above the different committees. However, the countries that are opening up a new discussion here, took part in the discussions of COAG. So we are becoming a drafting committee here.

We prefer to keep the initial wording for point f) and remind that we are taking the functions of the drafting committee and overcoming your efforts in trying to summarize the dialogue just taken.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for this draft conclusion text. It is a balanced and fairly comprehensive text based on the discussions.

I would like to echo the previous speaker and also my French colleague. We see that most of the text is in accordance with the agreed language and that we should limit our comments on bearing issues, which are possibly missing from this paper but I do not see many.

This being said, I would like to say that we liked the comment made by Australia on the sustainable funding of Codex and IPPC. This is a burning issue for this Organization.

Mr Piefrancesco SACCO (Italy)

As you may recall, during the last Council, I made a quick reference to the “beauty of the screen”, so this time allow me to make a quick reference to the “beauty of consensus”. We fully acknowledge what has been said by some friends and colleagues about the fact that the Council is an overarching Governing Body as compared to the Technical Committees. Still, we have to differentiate the more politically sensitive points as compared to other points.

Point f) is a particularly sensitive one due to the fact that it has two symposiums on agroecology behind it and Regional Conferences and the large discussions in COAG. COAG is a technical committee but as other technical committees, all Member States are on that committee.

The consensus reached on the draft resolution on the further integration of all sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, is a very sensitive and delicate one and we would recommend to stick to the original text you proposed for the reasons expressed by so many colleagues in this room today.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

Dans le rapport, aux points 60 à 63, sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations, il est question de maladies animales. Je souhaiterais vivement que nous mettions dans le rapport du Conseil, un point sur l'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Apologies for coming again on the new point f). I was looking in the COAG report, but I cannot find anything on biotechnology and actually I also did not hear anything today about biotechnology. However, I still remember all the efforts done in the last months around agroecology. So this was in the COAG, agreed language that this was one part and as colleagues already mentioned, it should be also reflected here.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original Language Chinese)

China supports the statement made by France. We think that in point f), we have to maintain agroecology because within FAO, agroecology has been discussed for over two or three years. FAO's experts and Members have discussed this at length and it has been supported by science. Agroecology is of huge importance to the development of agriculture around the world.

It is a main means for developing agriculture. This is based on our scientific discussions. There is consensus. The specific committees and the experts from Members have fed into this and it is based on their experience in bio agriculture. Moreover, agriculture based on machinery has been involved by way of drawing up comparisons.

We have also taken account of the SDGs. And the conclusion drawn is that agroecology could constitute a major part of agriculture around the world.

I think it is a future trend in agriculture. Agroecology is not on the same standing as biotechnology. Agroecology is a means of development and it is the future line of agriculture. It is also a method, a means, a technology. It is different to the question, however, of biotechnology.

Biotechnology involves the use of modern or traditional technology or genetically modified organisms (GMOs) et cetera. All of these issues are involved with biotechnology and require a huge amount of discussion.

We do not really have the scientific research in order to be able to support biotechnology and therefore we feel that by biotechnology should not be included here in this paragraph.

We therefore support France and we respect the conclusion drawn by COAG on the content of this paragraph.

Sr. Elías Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Igualmente respaldamos la posición de Francia y completamente lo que ha dicho China y, por supuesto, las conclusiones a que llegó el COAG sobre esta materia.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

L'Italie parle de «beauty of the screen», il existe aussi «beauty of consensus». Nous avons commencé une discussion un peu difficile qui a pris une tournure de négociation et s'est transformée, comme disait le Brésil tout à l'heure, en Comité de rédaction. Il faut bien que nous nous mettions d'accord sur ce que nous devons écrire, même si je sais que vous aurez peut-être des difficultés à accepter une de nos propositions, qui, dans un Comité plus réduit, pourrait obtenir un consensus plus large.

Nous proposons au Comité de rédaction d'écrire entre parenthèses ou entre guillemets «including agroecology»; c'est en tout cas notre point de vue, car je vous rappelle que sur cette question, même si d'autres collègues peuvent prendre la parole, le Cabo Verde et le Cameroun parlent au nom du Groupe Afrique, ce qui veut dire que tous les Membres du Groupe Afrique appuient ce que nous disons.

Nous soutenons donc l'idée émanant du Comité technique, qui s'est déjà largement exprimé sur ce thème. Ce serait plus simple pour tout le monde, car nous n'avons ni le temps ni les moyens de recommencer une nouvelle négociation. Le Conseil ayant une position plus élevée comme élément de gouvernance, il reste pour la FAO un élément suffisamment politique et c'est à ce niveau un peu plus élevé que nous essayons

de prendre une décision, tout en entérinant des décisions techniques provenant du Comité technique. Nous pensons que le plus simple, à ce stade, serait de respecter ce qui a été fait au niveau du Comité technique.

Concernant la proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire, je voudrais m'assurer qu'elle soit prise en compte parce qu'elle est importante et que nous pensons pouvoir la soutenir.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

In relation to point f) on the sustainable agriculture resolution, as you will recall in Australia's intervention, we did say that we supported that and that all forms of sustainable agricultural approaches needed to be reflected in the resolution.

We seem to have two sets of views here, but I think in all of the interventions I heard today, everybody agreed that agroecology is one of the approaches to sustainable agriculture. It is just not the only one.

In the spirit of consensus, I wonder whether one option would be to amend what is currently in square brackets and to say, "Including agroecology as one of these approaches", which merely reflects the views that I heard on the floor today that we all agree that it is one of the approaches.

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

We would like to support the statement of a number of delegations, in particular China, Austria and France, on the fact that we should not include the concept of biotechnology in point f). Looking at the report of the COAG, we do not find any reference to biotechnology as an approach for ensuring sustainable agricultural food systems and sustainable agriculture.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Just two points. I fully agree with Australia's suggestion to add "including agroecology as one of these". I think that will solve the problem.

But now, what happens to point b)?

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Sobre el párrafo f), estoy de acuerdo con Francia, China y otros colegas que han hecho un llamado a dejar la referencia a "agroecología". Como se menciona allí, al decir "including", significa que es claramente que es uno de los métodos de agricultura y en ese sentido la propuesta de Australia nos ayuda a clarificar más este tema. Como se mencionó en las discusiones del COAG, hay varias formas de trabajar en agricultura como la biotecnología, la agroecología y otras, y al mencionar "including agroecology" es simplemente mencionar lo que ya hemos discutido en el COAG.

En ese sentido, como otros colegas ya han mencionado, hago un llamado a dejar estas referencias.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Au préalable, je voudrais appuyer les déclarations faites par les délégations comme la France et l'Australie, qui vont dans le sens du maintien du terme « agroécologie » pour refléter effectivement les discussions que nous avons eues lors du Comité de l'agriculture. Je pense que le Conseil devrait se référer aux avis techniques du Comité qui est compétent en cette matière.

Je voulais revenir aussi sur le point b) concernant les dix éléments de l'agroécologie. Le paragraphe me paraît très vague puisqu'il parle seulement de refléter les discussions que nous avons eues. Puisque ce document doit être soumis à l'appréciation de la Conférence, qui n'est pas à mon avis un organe technique mais plutôt un organe politique, il serait bon que l'on reflète dans ce paragraphe la nécessité d'en discuter avant de le soumettre à la Conférence, en particulier avec le groupe des amis de l'agroécologie.

Je ne sais pas s'il est possible d'ajouter dans ce paragraphe, par exemple, « le Conseil... ». À moins que je ne sois pas autorisé à faire cette suggestion?

CHAIRPERSON

Senegal, in fact it was an error. Observers are not given the floor to comment on the summary of the Chair. So I would request that we move on. Switzerland has requested the floor. Switzerland is an observer. I wonder whether we should give the floor since he is the ex-Chair. But we should treat all observers alike. So I think we will restrict the floor to Members and I give the floor to China.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

On point g), “Continuing focus on GIAHS”, I think this paragraph is very important as per funding and outcome of the COAG, so we should keep this paragraph as a standalone paragraph, because the work on GIAHS is very dynamic work created by FAO.

Today in the world and in lots of countries and regions, this work on GIAHS is highly valued and this is a basis and a bridge to put together traditional and innovative agriculture. So we should emphasize in this document, this initiative. It is not too much to have two appearances in this document.

For instance, sustainable agricultural development appeared several times in this document and we think we should emphasize furthermore. Therefore, we think we should keep this paragraph.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Quisiéramos hacer referencia al párrafo sobre la resolución, el tema de los “approaches” a la agricultura sostenible. Nos parece que, al no haber consenso en este Consejo sobre cambiar el texto que viene del COAG, la propuesta de Australia a reforzar la idea de la agroecología como uno de los “approaches” para este tema es el más apropiado.

CHAIRPERSON

Members, I have just been informed that our interpretation time has come to an end but I have still got two speakers on the list. So I think we will carry on this discussion after the lunch interval. We have to break now because we do not have interpretation anymore and we will start again at 14:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:31 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.31

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018
SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2018

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.39 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 3. Reports of the Technical Committees (continued)**Point 3. Rapports des comités techniques (suite)****Tema 3. Informes de los comités técnicos (continuación)**

Item 3.1 Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (1-5 October 2018) (continued)

Point 3.1 Rapport de la vingt-sixième session du Comité de l'agriculture (1-5 octobre 2018) (suite)

Tema 3.1 Informe del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (1-5 de octubre de 2018) (continuación)

(C 2019/21 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the second meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order. We were looking at the conclusions for the item on COAG. Since then, during the break, I am informed that Argentina and the United States of America agreed to the Australian proposal. So the wording now is:

“...the preparation by FAO, in collaboration with the Bureau, of a draft resolution on the further integration of all sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology as one of these approaches, in the future planning activities of the Organization, to be submitted to the next Council for consideration”.

Another intervention was from Afghanistan. His suggestion was that old point b) was somewhat long and it should be broken up, which we have done. So there are new points b) and c) breaking the previous paragraph up. With these amendments, I assume the summary can be adopted.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Could you please read what point b) says?

CHAIRPERSON

b) the promotion by FAO of sustainable food systems, livestock production, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), the revitalization of rural areas for youth, Sustainable Development Goals monitoring, water scarcity, agroecology, biodiversity, sustainable soil management and climate change, as well as gender mainstreaming, innovation including biotechnology investments for sustainable agriculture development;

c) emphasized the importance of international standard-setting work such as Codex and IPPC and stressed the need for sustainable funding from the regular budget for the joint FAO/WHO food safety advice programme and the IPPC.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

On point c), when we come to the funding, it gives the impression that the funding will be entirely from the regular budget. I think any programme of FAO has to compete with other programmes of FAO for funding. So here we assume that Codex Alimentarius and IPPC will get the full regular funding irrespective of that competition with other priorities of FAO.

I do not want to make trouble. The only thing I want to add at the end of point c): “but not excluding other sources of funding”.

CHAIRPERSON

Ok, Afghanistan, we will add that.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I just wanted to express a preference on keeping the specific point on GIAHS but I see that it is still there, so thank you.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Pouvons-nous reprendre la question en rapport avec le Code de conduite, s'il vous plaît?

Continues in English

Where it says: "for the COAG Bureau to undertake a consultative process to prepare a revised text of International Code of Conduct for the Use of Fertilizers..." I would suggest to add: "Taking into account the regional proposals, including the African proposal".

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

In relation to the suggestion made by Afghanistan, I understand the point they are making, but in terms of the interventions from the floor during the discussion, they were about stressing the need for sustainable funding from the regular budget. The point that Afghanistan raised is a valid one but that applies to every single activity of FAO and it was not discussed on the floor and I do not think it needs to be reflected here and because if we did, we would have to put that caveat on every item because it applies to everything.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we have become a drafting committee. That was my fear when there was the request to put the summary on the screen. The summary is supposed to be indicative. What is the Drafting Committee going to do on Wednesday?

So I think we should stop arguing about words and see whether the summary captures the gist of the discussion. Whereas we are arguing on each word. Let the Drafting Committee do that. I think that the gist of the interventions is captured in the summary.

So with your agreement, I would like to go forward and conclude on this item.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

I am happy to move forward but can I ask that point c) be left as it was before the lunch break and we will continue the discussion in the Drafting Committee?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We will move that way. So we have concluded sub-item 3.1.

- Item 3.2 Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (26-28 September 2018)***
- Point 3.2 Rapport de la soixante-douzième session du Comité des produits (26-28 septembre 2018)***
- Tema 3.2 Informe del 72.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (26-28 de septiembre de 2018)***
(C 2019/22)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now take up sub-item 3.2, *Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems*, which took place in Rome from 26 to 28 September 2018. The document before you is C 2019/22.

Again, I wish to remind that issues pertaining to International Days and Years will be considered under Item 11 and not under this item.

I now invite Mr Fredrik Alfer, who was elected Chairperson by the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, to present the report. Mr Alfer, you have the floor.

Mr Fredrik ALFER (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

It is my honour and pleasure to present to you today the Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), which took place from 26 to 28 September 2018.

I would like to start by expressing my personal appreciation to the members of the former CCP Bureau for the effective management of the work and the organization of the session.

The 72nd Session of the CCP had a rich agenda covering a number of important items that were grouped into four major substantive areas: i) world agricultural commodity markets; ii) policy matters; iii) programme matters; and iv) governance matters. The agenda was prepared in close consultation with the CCP Bureau.

All the items were covered during the planned time, with high interest by the Members. The Committee appreciated the content and substance of the documents prepared for the Session and expressed its support to the work undertaken by the secretariat under the CCP mandate.

While I am sure you have gone through the report, I would like to highlight the following points:

Under world agricultural commodity markets, the Committee reviewed and discussed the market situation and short- and medium-term outlooks.

A decade after the food price crisis of 2007-08, world agricultural markets are very different today. Production has grown strongly across commodities, and in 2017 reached record levels for most cereals, meat types, dairy products and fish, while the stock levels of cereals climbed to an all-time high. At the same time, growth in global demand has started to decelerate.

The outlook for global food supplies in the coming year is positive, with robust production prospects and inventory levels taming prices. Nevertheless, erratic weather, trade policies and currency exchange rates all pose mounting uncertainties to markets.

Regarding commodity prices, after recording large declines in 2015, international food prices continued to slide in 2016, although less markedly. However, in 2017 international price quotations tended to recover, resulting in an increase in the value of the Index for the first time since 2011. In October 2018, the FAO Food Price Index averaged 163.5 points, down 7.4 percent from its level a year earlier and reaching its lowest level since last May.

The Committee stressed the importance of FAO's commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook work and the reports produced. It underlined the importance of strengthening these activities and supporting Members in an effort to achieve target 2.c of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2), which is "Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility". It has also urged government and other stakeholders to continue improving the monitoring of supply, demand, trade and prices of food and agricultural commodities and to make the data and information publicly accessible in a timely manner.

On the medium-term projections, which are produced jointly by FAO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Committee stressed the importance of these projections and their usefulness and relevance to inform policy decisions, while underlining the importance of liaising with national and regional institutions and recommending South-South and Triangular Cooperation to promote their uptake and use by decision makers. It also recommended the inclusion of other commodities that are important for food security.

Under the item on policy matters, the Committee emphasized the role that agricultural trade can play as an enabler to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 on poverty and SDG 2 on hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. It also underlined the importance of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory,

equitable and predictable bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral trading system that is conducive to world food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agricultural development. In this regard, the Committee welcomed FAO's support to Members in agricultural trade agreements and stressed the importance of continuing this work.

The Committee also welcomed the 2018 edition of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)* on the theme "Agricultural trade, climate change and food security". Debating the findings, the Committee recognized the role that agricultural trade can play in addressing climate change, as well as contributing towards world food security, promoting agricultural productivity growth globally, and potentially reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

In this regard, the Committee underlined FAO's role to enhance and facilitate policy dialogue at global, regional and national levels at the juncture of trade and climate change, including the Paris Agreement and the WTO agreements, and to strengthen the mutually supportive role of these multilateral accords considering their respective mandates. It also urged FAO to continue strengthening its capacity development activities to help countries overcome the growing challenges they face, especially in addressing the impact of climate change.

Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged the particular vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the way their food production is affected, underlining the importance of open, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory international and regional agricultural markets to enable them to meet their food requirements.

Under agenda item 4 on programme matters, the Committee endorsed the following two reports: the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 39th Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Hard Fibres and the 41st Session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, which was held in Tanga, Tanzania, in November 2017; and the Report of the 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea, held in Hangzhou, China, in May 2018.

The Committee also endorsed the proposal by the People's Republic of China to observe an International Tea Day on 21 May of each year. The Council will consider this proposal under agenda item 11.5 and will be invited to endorse the draft Resolution for the International Tea Day. It is expected that the proposal will be presented to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2019, following endorsement by the Conference next July.

Under FAO's programme of work in trade and commodity markets, the Committee welcomed the achievements in 2016-17 and appreciated the variety of products and services aimed at improving market transparency, informing policy decisions, promoting responsible agricultural investment, and supporting global and regional governance processes. It also endorsed the main priorities for FAO's work in the areas of commodity markets and trade, as presented in document CCP 18/6, for consideration in the review of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21.

Also under programme matters, the Committee debated possible themes for the next edition of SOCO to be published in 2020. Three proposals were put forward by the secretariat: agricultural global value chains; a foresight analysis of agricultural trade patterns; and innovation in inclusive agricultural markets.

The Committee found the three proposals relevant and requested the secretariat to pursue further consultation with the CCP Bureau on the matter.

Under agenda item 5 on governance matters, the Committee welcomed with satisfaction FAO's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in particular with reference to the work and activities under the mandate of the CCP, and requested FAO to continue this work. It also expressed appreciation for the contributions of the CCP to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The Committee then reviewed its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW). It appreciated the increase in inter-sessional activities and encouraged their continuation in the future. It also approved its MYPOW for the period 2018-21.

Finally, the Committee welcomed FAO's Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform and took note of the information received regarding its establishment. The scope of the Platform is global, aiming to improve coordination of policies and practices to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and by a wide range of stakeholders.

I should also like to report that under various agenda items, the Committee underlined the importance of FAO's standard-setting activities and expressed support for this work, including ensuring sustainable funding.

In closing, I am very pleased to report on the consensus that prevailed throughout the Session and the rich and constructive discussions that took place under the various agenda items.

With this, I would like to invite the Council to endorse the Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which was held from 26 to 28 September 2018.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr K.D.S RUWANCHANDRA (Sri Lanka)

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

We would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Commodity Problems for the excellent summary of the report.

We also appreciate the comprehensive content of the Report of the 72nd Session of CCP, which captured the essential points arising from the debate.

We would like to highlight and give comments to several aspects of the report, which we deem of significant importance.

First of all, the Asia Group appreciates the quality of the report on world agricultural market situation and its short-term and medium term projections which are useful and beneficial for national, regional and global policy making. We consider of great importance efforts to further strengthen the value of FAO's work on commodity market monitoring by promoting its wide uptake and use by more and more decision makers, including through the platform of South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Asia Group encourages FAO to increase its support for capacity building in developing countries in the area of agricultural markets monitoring and analysis, as well as trade policies for food security and nutrition. We urge that support should also be provided to developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters in order to assess damages caused by the disasters and its impact on markets and price volatility. This could consequently help in inspiring post-disaster agricultural development strategies.

The Asia Group welcomes the report on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 2018, which in general gives a positive overview and outlook on the international agriculture trading system. We wish to emphasize the increasing drive of emerging economies in global agricultural trade, which contributes to rising per capita incomes and reduced poverty levels. This is demonstrated in the SOCO report by the fact that from the top 20 major agricultural exporting countries, 7 of them are emerging economies from Asia, which represent 14.7 percent of global export of agricultural products. We wish to stress the importance of maintaining and expanding this momentum to other developing countries and regions.

The Asia Group would like to underline that agricultural trade within a multilateral trading system that is universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and predictable can indeed become a game changer in ensuring economic and social progress for millions of smallholder farmers worldwide. Furthermore, it can enable the achievement the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 on poverty and SDG 2 on hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

We wish to also stress that addressing problems related to market access of agricultural commodities should become a global priority. It relates to the increasing challenges faced by agricultural commodities

from developing countries, which include a proliferation of non-tariff barriers, related to disguised sanitary and phytosanitary controls, technical regulations, and the promotion of regional environmental guidelines that are often more restrictive than international norms. These challenges directly erode the ability of the countries to maintain the sustainability of their production and also hinder the positive contribution of agricultural commodities towards the attainment of the SDGs.

The Asia Group wishes to reiterate our support for the proposal to convene an Intergovernmental Group (IGG) meeting on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats in 2019, and to formulate voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils in support of the SDGs.

The Asia Group also underscores the need to maximize the potential role of international trade in stabilizing markets in regards to the uneven impact of climate change to global agricultural trade which threatens to widen even further the economic and food security gaps between developed and developing countries. We emphasize the need to enhance the role of agricultural trade in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and its potentials in reducing global greenhouse gas emission; as well as the importance to further support Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Finally, the Asia Group would like to reiterate our support for the proposal to observe an International Tea Day on 21 May, while emphasizing its rich health and nutritional benefits. We request the esteemed Council endorse the proposal, to subsequently be presented to the next Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 for adoption.

With these comments, the Asia Group endorses the report.

Ms Jacinta NGWIRI (Kenya)

Kenya and Lesotho make this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

First, we appreciate the secretariat for comprehensively capturing the issues that were deliberated by the 72nd CCP as we can see in this report that is before the Council for consideration and endorsement.

The Africa Regional group welcomes FAO's work in commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook and urges its continued support to countries. Indeed, Member countries play a critical role in improving the monitoring of supply, demand and trade of commodities, which are used to come up with these important trends that are beneficial to all of us.

The Africa group supports the need to examine climate change impact in agricultural-related trade and the need for targeted mitigation and enhanced capacity for resilience to resource poor countries. This is necessary in order to lift vulnerable countries from dependency on relief.

We note and support the Committee on underlining the need for open, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory international and regional agricultural markets, through which countries will be able to meet national food security requirements.

While appreciating the medium term outlook trends and emerging issues, the Africa Regional Group wishes to reiterate the fact that other commodities which are considered of importance for food security should also be included. We note that the uptake and utilization of the medium-term projections can also be improved through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The Africa Regional group supports aligning the production cycle of the State of Agricultural Commodity markets (SOCO) to that of CCP. This will enable CCP to come up with interventions relevant to the SOCO. We also welcome the three themes proposed for the next SOCO: agricultural global value chains (measurements and policies), agricultural trade patterns (foresight analysis) and innovations in inclusive agricultural markets.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional group supports the proposal for an International Tea Day as endorsed by the Committee. We believe this will provide an opportunity for more work and awareness creation on importance of tea including nutritional and medicinal values.

With these few remarks, the Africa Regional Group wishes to endorse the report of the 72nd Session of Committee on Commodity Problems.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

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

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the report, which reflects the debates that took place during the last CCP session.

We note with attention the importance of strengthening FAO's commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook work and its support for members in their efforts to achieve target 2.c of SDG2.

As regards the 'medium-term outlook: trends and emergencies', we value the quality, relevance and role of the agricultural outlook in setting out medium-term trends in world agricultural markets and encourage FAO and the OECD to further strengthen their cooperation.

We welcome the update received on the WTO agricultural negotiations and on regional trade agreements; trade is an integral part of the Sustainable Development Agenda and, in this particular case, has a key role to play in ending hunger (SDG2). The EU reiterates the importance of an open and rule-based multilateral trading system.

Given the important role of agreed standards in international trade, we endorse the Committee's support with regard to strengthening the work of FAO's standard-setting bodies, including ensuring sustainable funding.

We welcome the recommendations on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO). The EU considers that, under the Paris Agreement, each country is responsible for planning its National Determined Contribution, taking into account the prospects for and importance of agriculture and food in its overall national strategy. The FAO Secretariat should therefore continue to focus its attention on helping members, at their request, to address the challenges of their national agro-food carbon economy through consistent sets of policies, including agricultural policies, with the aim of tackling food security, nutrition and climate change challenges and meeting our commitments (2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement).

Through its technical capacity, wealth of knowledge and monitoring expertise, FAO can make an important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in particular with regard to the work and activities carried out under the CCP mandate and in the context of the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. We welcome FAO's ongoing support.

With these comments, we endorse the CCP Report.

Mr Sid Ahmed M. ALAMAIN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for this report which presents all of the work of this session and the themes discussed in relation to international commodity markets for agricultural commodities and also in relation to policies, programmes and governance.

We welcome the Organization's role in the outlook, monitoring of the markets and everything in relation to food security. We ask the Organization to continue supporting countries to make sure that there is a monitoring and evaluation and analysis system that can put in place adequate policies to confront price volatility in relation to the current market situation, and the short-term outlook, the volatility in cereal markets, and some other commodities that are affected by decisions taken by a number of countries which are protection decisions.

This has an impact on farmers and in particular on smallholder farmers to produce the majority of commodities in developing countries. Also in relation to the outlook, the medium term outlook, this draws attention to the importance of the link between national, regional institutions and cooperation

between South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to strengthen the funding for these products and commodities and the implementation of policies.

Now in relation to the WTO negotiations on agriculture, we welcome the role played by FAO and the work to increase institutional and technical capacities of Members and the efforts to have a trade system which is strong, equitable and able to strengthen food security and nutrition.

We have noted that there are a number of conflicts in relation to commodities and there are technical barriers that represent a problem for developing countries that are unable to respond or if they do, it costs them a lot of money.

So we support FAO's role in relation to the implementation of a number of criteria in cooperation with Codex Alimentarius. Sudan calls on all Members to cooperate with the WTO and FAO to ensure that commodities from the least developed and developing states are able to have a favourable treatment of their commodities to guarantee their participation in international and economic systems.

Now in relation to reports on climate change, for example, we support FAO's role. As we all know, climate change represents the major challenge for the agricultural sector and for food security in general. Those who suffer the most from climate change are developing states because they use raw materials as a source of wealth.

Sudan is in the region that suffers the most from climate change, given our ecological system, which is very fragile. This is why we need to build our capacities to modernize our systems and to meet the needs of local communities to strengthen their ability to adapt to climate change.

Finally, Sudan welcomes the idea to create an intergovernmental working group on vegetable oils and to encourage the Organization to strengthen this group. We call on FAO to promote the creation of this international working group on vegetable oils given the important role that these commodities play in developing countries.

We call on the Council to adopt this report, which was adopted by acclamation at the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like to fully endorse the report presented here for Council's consideration. We believe that the meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems underline the importance of agri-food trade to enable farmers to earn better incomes and to support food security.

When the state of Commodity Markets 2018 Report was presented to the Committee, FAO remarked that the links between trade and food security were comparatively under explored. We fully agree with this assessment. As FAO has written, agri-food trade can help farmers earn better income, help reduce the volatility of food prices caused from local flooding or droughts and help consumers to access safe and nutritious foods.

As in the Committee, Canada here calls on FAO to increase its support for agricultural trade in a matter commensurate with trade's potential to reduce food insecurity, improve nutrition and help countries and regions adapt to the shocks from climate change.

We see the importance of these tools to improve market transparency as considered in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12.

Canada is currently the Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System. During the Committee meeting and today, Canada joins many other countries who requested that FAO ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget to strengthen the work of standard setting bodies such as the Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention.

Canada also thanks the Secretariat for the Committee's update on the negotiations of the World Trade Organization. Not mentioned in the report is the fact that a very informative side event was held during the CCT that featured Ambassador John Ronald "Deep" Ford, Chair of the WTO Agricultural Negotiations. This was an excellent session.

In summary, we endorse the Committee's report and wish to stress to this Council the need for more work by FAO in partial analysis, platforms to share information, guidelines for countries and practical tools to help facilitate agri-food trade in order to achieve the sustainable development goals and contribute to climate action.

Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)

China thanks the Secretariat for this document and thanks the Chair of the Committee. We align ourselves with the statement made by Sri Lanka on behalf of the Asia Group. China recognizes the importance of commodities trade in sustainable agriculture, especially in relation to ending hunger, promoting food security and nutrition and the sustainable development of agriculture in relation to the International Tea Day. This international day will allow tea agriculture to be promoted and promote the drinking of tea around the world, increase the production and consumption of tea and increase the incomes of farmers.

China thanks the Committee on Commodity Problems for having adopted China's proposal to make 21 May International Tea Day and we thank the Secretariat and the Bureau of the CCP, which included this proposal in the agenda for the 72nd session of the CCP.

We hope that this proposal will be submitted to the General Assembly in 2019.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank the Secretariat for this session summary and for the thoughtful analysis presented in the papers discussed in the Committee. We appreciate the CCP's continued focus on factual analysis as part of FAO's role as a knowledge organization.

We support FAO's work on data and transparency, including the short- and long-term commodity outlooks and FAO leadership in the area of food price monitoring and analysis through AMIS. We urge our fellow Members to commit to open and transparent sharing of market data to improve global coordination. Increased transparency, predictable policies and robust information systems are needed to instil confidence in markets.

The United States welcomes the provision of support to Members to facilitate participation in global trade processes and firmly believes that trade in food and agricultural products is critical to achieving global food security and sustainable agricultural development, and essential to ensuring long-term success in ending hunger.

In this regard, the United States strongly supports the standard-setting work of FAO – both food safety and plant health. All countries benefit from the standards defined in a neutral, science-based forum. The work of the IPPC and the Codex scientific advice programmes is of paramount importance in facilitating agricultural trade, strengthening biosecurity and ensuring food security, especially in the face of unprecedented challenges, such as those noted in the SOCO report. Providing sustainable and adequate funding to the standard setting work of both these organizations is now more than ever an indisputable priority for the safety, security and quality of our international food systems.

However, the United States notes that the World Trade Organization is the primary institution for discussing global trade rules, and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary forum for setting international climate change policy. FAO's mandate, and its comparative advantage, does not lie in enhancing or facilitating international policy dialogues on these issues, whether separately or in combination. Rather, FAO's comparative advantage continues to be in advancing technical knowledge, and supporting Members in the implementation of their efforts to improve food and agricultural systems, and achieve food security. In the view of the United States, the SOCO report did not

reflect this mandate, and comparative advantage, appropriately. Any recommendations contained in reports by FAO or its committees should respect the roles and mandates of each international institution.

We are therefore asking that the following language be included as a footnote to this Council's Report:

“The United States supports the role of the FAO in supporting Members in their efforts to achieve their food security and nutrition efforts, working towards a goal of food security for all. The United States further recognizes the role that agricultural trade, and climate change efforts, can play in supporting food security.

However, the United States disagrees with the characterization of trade in paragraphs 21 and 30 and will continue to promote open, transparent, and predictable international trading systems. Similarly, the United States takes note of paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Report of the Committee on Commodities Problems, and stresses these paragraphs contain recommendations that fall outside the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The United States underscores the respective mandates and roles of the Food and Agriculture Organization in working to achieve food security for all, the World Trade Organization as the primary institution dealing with global trade, and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change as the primary international forum for considering international climate change issues.

The United States believes the work of these institutions is more effective, and efficient, when their respective competences are respected.”

That ends the language of our footnote. I return to my national statement

We believe FAO provides a strong platform for identifying the challenges facing agriculture, as well as the problems that countries are currently facing in agricultural production, trade, distribution, and consumption. We remind everyone, however, that any discussion on what WTO Members should be negotiating in agriculture can only be undertaken at the WTO.

With these comments, the United States endorses the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems, while taking note of the discussions on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets report.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia greatly values the work of the CCP. We particularly appreciate the ongoing collaboration with the OECD on activities such as outlook. We would like to thank FAO for the two joint seminars that they held with the OECD here in Rome over the last few months and we encourage continued collaboration on similar events in the future.

We would like to also highlight CCP's emphasis on the need for sustainable funding for the Codex Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme and the IPPC. As speakers before me have said, these standards underpin global trade and they allow access to markets that provide farmers with real economic opportunities and individuals and communities with food security.

We were pleased that this important issue is again being brought to Council's attention through the CCP Report.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I do not have any comments because I do represent the Near East Region in the Bureau. However, Jordan supports the proposal of China regarding the observance of an International Day of Tea on 21 May. We support this proposal.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

I speak on behalf of the fifteen Member CARICOM States of the Latin America and Caribbean Region and I also represent the interest of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We wish to commend the

Committee on Commodity Problems and in particular, to endorse the observation made in the paragraph 30 which recognizes that small island developing states are buffeted by two major challenges, one, the challenge of the international trade system, and secondly the challenge of climate change.

In our considered view, and based on the experience that we have enjoyed so far, we recognize the capacity of the FAO Secretariat and the technical support it provides in enabling our individual countries within the small island developing states to be better prepared and enabled to deal with these considerable challenges, which we would not have been able to do more effectively otherwise.

With that comment, I endorse the Report of the Committee.

Mr Fredrik ALFER (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I do not have much to add. Just let me express my appreciation for the general and broad support for the report from the Committee meeting. I look forward to working with the Bureau, taking into account your comments here today and realizing your expectations and delivering outcomes to the Committee leading up to the 73rd Session of the Committee, and hopefully including also some intersessional activities to ensure that we have an inclusive process leading up to the next session.

I will pass the floor back to you, Chair, and the Secretariat to reply to the more specific questions.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

We want to thank all the speakers for their remarks and interventions. I just want to make a clarification with regards the work of the Organization vis-à-vis the WTO and the Framework Convention.

We do not provide a forum for negotiating trade policies. We identify, as a technical organization, how trade policies could impact food security and nutrition. Some of that impact can be strengthened if it is positive or reduced if it is negative using a policy instrument.

As a matter of fact, the SOCO this year talks about climate change and its differential impact on tropical and non-tropical countries and it examines the instrument by which our countries could promote security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture within the context of the trade rules, not putting those in question or proposing alternatives.

I would say that our work is complementary to the work of the WTO and the Framework Convention. We are a framework for promoting dialogue on issues regarding food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture on the basis of analysis of data and information.

This is just to clarify the issue related to what is the relationship between the FAO work and the work of other bodies, which we absolutely respect.

Let me also say that we do our work in close collaboration with OECD, as some of you pointed out, but also with the WTO and the Framework Convention so to make sure that there is no overlap in the institutional and mandate created.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the close of the discussions. I will try and conclude on item 3.2 and I would again highlight that the summary is the gist of discussions. The wording here and there will be for the Drafting Committee to work out and they have at their disposal not only the draft report which has the gist of the Chair's summary but also, if in doubt, they have the verbatim records so they can move the specific wording around. Hopefully, we will not act as a drafting committee here.

I conclude:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, in particular:

- a) underlined the importance of strengthening FAO's commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook work and the reports produced for improved market transparency and informed policy decisions, and supporting Members to achieve target 2.c of SDG2 to "Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility";
- b) welcomed the commodity medium-term projections produced jointly by FAO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and stressed their importance, usefulness and relevance to inform policy decisions;
- c) highlighted the importance of liaising with national and regional institutions and recommended South-South and triangular cooperation to promote the uptake and use of these projections as well as the inclusion of other commodities that are important for food security;
- d) welcomed FAO's support to Members in agricultural trade agreements and stressed the importance of continuing this work;
- e) underlined FAO's role to enhance and facilitate policy dialogue at global, regional and national levels regarding trade and climate change, including the Paris Agreement and the WTO agreements, and to strengthen the mutually supportive role of these multilateral accords considering their respective mandates;
- f) urged FAO to continue strengthening its capacity of development activities to help countries overcome the growing challenges in addressing the impact of climate change;
- g) stressed the need to undertake further analysis on the implications of trade and related policies for achieving food security and nutrition objectives;
- h) supported the proposal to convene an Intergovernmental Group meeting on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats in 2019 and to formulate voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils in support of the SDGs;
- i) endorsed the main priorities for FAO's work in the areas of commodity markets and trade for consideration in the review of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-2021; and
- j) expressed support for FAO's standard-setting activities and for strengthening this work, including ensuring sustainable funding.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

There is a decision that we took I think in the Council last year pertaining to point h). We asked for the convening also of other intergovernmental groups, including that of bananas and tropical fruits. That did not happen this year so I think it will be good to recall that again and presume that it is a new matter for consideration.

So because it is not a supported proposal, we can say probably after point h): "Outlined the importance of convening the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas and Tropical Fruits". I know perfectly that that was one of the things that we agreed upon in one of the Council sessions last year, but it did not materialize in 2019.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I will be making the same point as Médi.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

On point e), I like the paragraph but we should add a reference to the importance of an open and rule-based multilateral trading system. This is a message that is somehow missing.

It could be added at the end that we "reiterate the importance of an open and rule-based multilateral trading system".

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We have specific concerns with the proposal that was just evidenced by the European Union. Again, if consensus is that you all want to keep it in, we will need to disassociate from this entire report.

Going to the next line, for point e) where it says “FAO’s role is to enhance and facilitate policy dialogue”, our view is no, it could be “enhance” and instead of “facilitate”, “support policy dialogue”. We think “facilitate” goes too far in stating what FAO’s role should be.

On point h), we note a certain inconsistency in our colleagues today. As we look at paragraph 24 of the report, the CCP took note of this proposal. We see this language has been changed to “supported”, which is a much stronger point of view.

We spent much of the morning debating on whether or not to retain compromises that had been achieved in earlier sessions and we saw how this came out. So for the sake of consistency, we would ask that point h) be paragraph 24 of the actual CCP report which takes note of the proposal rather than supported.

Finally, noting our footnote, and we will leave it to the Secretariat as to how best to reflect this in the report language, and perhaps in the appendix document of any further reporting, from the United States perspective, “we endorse the Committee on Commodity Problems’ report while taking note of the discussions of the State of Agricultural Commodities Market Report” and that we would ask that the entirety of our footnote be included.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you please read out slowly your proposed text?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Let me stress that the language that the United States would like to be reflected is “endorsed the Committee on Commodity Problems’ report while taking note of the discussions on the State of Agricultural Commodities Market Report” and then we have about a fifteen-line footnote, which I read before.

CHAIRPERSON

There is a proposal from the European Union, which the United States has disagreed with so I would like to ask the European Union whether you insist on this wording?

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I think it just reflects the system that we are all living in. All of those who are Members of the WTO support exactly these principles and I am a bit surprised by the statement of the United States that they can no longer subscribe to these very basic principles.

CHAIRPERSON

Actually what we are trying to do is reflect what was discussed here, so may I appeal to you to withdraw that wording so we can go forward. Thank you, European Union. So with this, Item 3.2 has been agreed upon. We can move to the next item.

- Item 3.3** *Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2018)*
Point 3.3 *Rapport de la trente-troisième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juillet 2018)*
Tema 3.3 *Informe del 33.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca*
(9-13 de julio de 2018)

(C 2019/23)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to item 3.3, *Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries*, held in Rome from 9 to 13 July 2018. The document before Council is C 2019/23.

I now invite Mr William Gibbons-Fly, who chaired the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, to present the report.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

The 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome from 9 to 13 July 2018. As the Chairperson of the 33rd Session, I am very pleased to report the outcome of that meeting of COFI on behalf of the Committee.

Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the session and delivered opening remarks.

The first substantive item on the Agenda was Agenda item 4, State of world fisheries and aquaculture, where Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, introduced the 2018 version of the publication known as SOFIA (The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture). The Committee noted the improving quality of this publication, which was peer-reviewed for the first time, and recommended that in the future the report be shared with Members well in advance of publishing.

Under Agenda item 5, *Progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments*, the Committee: noted the progress of Members in implementing the Code and related instruments, but also identified gaps and constraints and underscored the important role of FAO in assisting Members to overcome these challenges.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of safety at sea and working conditions in the fisheries sector, and requested further strengthening of the close cooperation with the relevant international organizations.

Under Agenda items 6 and 7, the Committee endorsed the reports of the 16th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Ninth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. In doing so, the Committee:

- recommended the development of future guidance on social sustainability in the fisheries sector;
- reiterated its support for the work of FAO with respect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- encouraged efforts to harmonize Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) to prevent trade in products from IUU fishing while minimizing technical barriers to trade.

The Committee recommended that FAO develop sustainable aquaculture guidelines and recommended that FAO continue its work on aquaculture development in Small Island Developing States.

Under Agenda item 8, Fisheries and ocean governance, three sub-items were addressed, namely item 8.1, *Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*; item 8.2, *Small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance*; and item 8.3, *Global and regional ocean processes*. On these matters the Committee:

- requested that FAO provide additional technical assistance to improve their performance of developing States as coastal, flag, market, processing and port States;
- recommended further development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (commonly referred to as the Global Record);

- called for in-depth studies to support the development of guidelines on best practices for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment;
- called upon FAO to continue providing technical advice to the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization;
- encouraged continued work under the FAO Small Scale Fisheries Umbrella Programme and highlighted the importance of SDG 14.b on providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to both marine and inland fisheries resources and markets;
- requested that FAO develop a planning roadmap toward the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture scheduled for 2022; and
- reaffirmed the role of COFI as the most important international forum for policy debate and the adoption of policy instruments in the field of aquaculture and fisheries and requested that FAO increase its involvement in related international fora.

Under Agenda item 9, *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Committee requested that FAO continue to assist Members in strengthening statistical capacity and delivery of their data and information; and requested that FAO review potential opportunities of Blue Growth and Blue Economy initiatives and present this to the 17th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2019.

Under Agenda item 10, *Climate change and other environment related matters*, the Committee:

- requested the development of guidelines on climate change adaptation and mitigation in fisheries and aquaculture;
- requested that FAO prepare a fisheries and aquaculture biodiversity plan;
- endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and supported the development of a comprehensive global strategy to tackle issues relating to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear;
- encouraged FAO to continue its work on bycatch including marine mammal bycatch.

Under Agenda item 11, *FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework*, the Committee:

- reiterated its support for the Blue Growth Initiative;
- requested that the FAO Secretariat take into account climate-related and other global and/or sector-specific developments and trends, in the implementation of its Programme of Work and Budget;
- recommended that the FAO Programme of Work in 2018 should pay particular attention to the negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters on SIDS;
- stressed the importance of maintaining and further strengthening the technical competence of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture and requested that FAO maintain a strong field-level presence and visibility, in addition to its normative work to set standards and advocate policies and practices for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development;
- urged FAO to promote practices through South-South and triangular cooperation in the fisheries sector in order to enhance food security and nutrition; and
- supported the hosting of an International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the Science Policy nexus, planned for November 2019 in Rome.

One serious concern expressed by numerous participants was the delay in the availability of the relevant COFI documents. To address this issue, under Agenda item 12, *Multi-year Programme of Work*, the Committee agreed and urged the Secretariat to ensure that “All COFI documents, including SOFIA, are to be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the session.”

For the next session of COFI in the next biennium the Committee elected Mr Sidi Mouctar Dicko of Guinea as Chairperson of the 34th Session of COFI and Mr Shingo Ota of Japan as First Vice-Chairperson. Canada, Chile, Iceland, Jordan and New Zealand were selected as Vice-Chairpersons.

Under *Any other matters*, the Committee called for continued cooperation between FAO and the Republic of Korea with regard to the World Fisheries University and requested that the Secretariat develop a proposal for the possible establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management, to be submitted for consideration at the next session of COFI.

Finally, the Committee agreed that the 34th Session of COFI will be held in Rome in the third quarter of 2020 and you will be informed later this week under with respect to the proposed schedule of the 34th Session of COFI, among other meetings in the coming biennium.

This concludes my presentation.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for their support of my Chairmanship and express my appreciation and congratulations to Mr Dicko of Guinea as the new Chair of COFI.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire s'exprime au nom du Groupe Afrique. Elle félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous est soumis.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du nombre croissant des parties à l'accord de la FAO relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (pêche INDNR), elle encourage les pays à y adhérer et exprime son soutien à la FAO pour l'élaboration des directives techniques applicables à l'évaluation de l'ampleur et de la distribution géographique de la pêche INDNR.

Le Groupe régional Afrique salue les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des directives sur la pêche artisanale et se félicite de la proclamation de l'Année internationale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture artisanales en 2022.

Dans la même optique, il est recommandé à la FAO d'élaborer des directives sur l'aquaculture durable, en particulier pour l'Afrique. Nous appelons la FAO à poursuivre sa collaboration avec les organes régionaux des pêches et avec les organisations régionales de gestion des pêches.

Le Groupe régional Afrique apprécie et encourage la collaboration établie entre l'Organisation, le NEPAD, le Bureau interafricain pour les ressources animales de l'Union africaine (UA-BIRA), ainsi que les principaux organes régionaux africains et les institutions nationales chargés de la pêche, pour l'appui de la FAO dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de son Programme de travail 2018-2019, y compris la mise en œuvre de son cadre de politique et de réforme stratégique pour les pêches et l'aquaculture visant à améliorer ce secteur.

Par ailleurs, le Groupe Afrique demande à la FAO de continuer à aider les membres à renforcer leurs capacités en matière de statistiques et de fourniture de données et informations nécessaires au renseignement sur l'évolution de la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), notamment des ODD 2 et 14.

La région Afrique demande aussi de mettre en place des initiatives en faveur de la croissance bleue et de l'économie bleue, et d'aider à élaborer des pratiques optimales au service de la gestion de la pêche continentale.

En outre, le Groupe Afrique insiste sur la vulnérabilité des communautés de pêcheurs et d'aquaculteurs face au changement climatique et aux événements météorologiques, tout en se préoccupant de l'ampleur de l'incidence de ces phénomènes dans les petits États insulaires en développement.

Toutes ces préoccupations et recommandations auront assurément une incidence sur le Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2020-2021 au moment où, selon *L'État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde* (SOFI), la faim et la malnutrition n'ont cessé d'augmenter depuis trois ans et que des arbitrages devront être faits sur les priorités et les urgences.

À cet égard, notre Groupe demande à la FAO de tenir compte des évolutions et des faits nouveaux, notamment en rapport avec le changement climatique, ainsi que des priorités émanant des comités techniques et des recommandations des conférences régionales de la FAO.

Dans les domaines de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, le Groupe Afrique encourage le FAO à intégrer les activités régionales existantes sur la croissance bleue, à soutenir l'élaboration de nouvelles initiatives régionales et attend avec intérêt des informations à ce sujet.

Avec ces quelques commentaires, le groupe Afrique invite le conseil à approuver le rapport de 33^{ème} session du Comité des pêches.

Mr Ingu KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Government of Korea welcomes the outcomes of the 33rd Session of COFI. In particular, we believe that there has been much progress in the discussions on the fight against IUU fishing and support for small-scale fisheries. In this context, we endorse the COFI report.

The Korean government's plans to commit USD 2 million in the next five years and the next PSMA Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held in Korea. As Council Members may know, Korea hosted the fourth annual Asian Organic Rice Conference last September and we will continue to engage in and provide support to FAO's usual rice discussions.

As the Chairperson mentioned, Korea proposed the establishment of World Fisheries University or WFU and has been operating pilot programmes since 2017. At the last COFI, we reported a status update of the pilot programme and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Members who have supported us. We are delighted to inform you that the Korean government plans to jointly operate a pilot programme all together with FAO.

Hence, we are closely cooperating with the FAO Secretariat to conclude an MOU on the joint pilot programme.

Thank you very much for the encouragement and the support given to the World Fisheries University and I ask for your continued interest and support to the work towards the establishment of World Fisheries University.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

La Delegación de México se suma a las felicitaciones por un informe completo y propositivo y al alto número de acuerdos alcanzados en el 33.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca. Me refiero al reconocimiento por el apoyo que la FAO ha otorgado al Convenio de Diversidad Biológica con miras a la consecución de las Metas de Aichi para la biodiversidad, así como la participación de la FAO en la visión del CDB posterior a 2020.

No menos importante es la bienvenida que el Comité dio a la labor de la FAO sobre la integración de la biodiversidad y la solicitud para la preparación y puesta en práctica de un plan relativo a la biodiversidad en el sector de la pesca y la acuicultura como parte de su Estrategia para la biodiversidad y su contribución al Marco para la Biodiversidad para el período posterior al 2020 del CDB, aprovechando la Plataforma de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad.

Con relación al Programa de trabajo de la FAO para 2018-19 y la solicitud de que se prestara particular atención a los efectos negativos del cambio climático y las catástrofes naturales en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, con vistas a mejorar la pesca y la acuicultura en consonancia con el Objetivo Desarrollo Sostenible número 14 y la Agenda 2030, mi delegación destaca como un esfuerzo de

cooperación regional para el desarrollo sostenible en apoyo a mitigar los efectos del cambio climático el Fondo México-CARICOM-FAO, firmado en la FAO el pasado 14 de junio por el Canciller mexicano y el Director General de la FAO.

Esta estrategia de colaboración se enmarca en la Cooperación Sur Sur y Triangular, con miras a reforzar la capacidad de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en desarrollo del Caribe que conforman CARICOM, para que puedan acceder a la financiación de actividades relativas a la adaptación y resiliencia al cambio climático. Este Fondo ya contó con una aportación semilla por parte de México y FAO; otros países se suman a este esfuerzo y somos optimistas que otros miembros se incorporen a esta iniciativa para contar con un fondo robusto que beneficie al mayor número de países posible del Caribe.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

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

We welcome the results of COFI and acknowledge the extensive active participation of FAO members.

The EU and its Member States commend the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its excellent work in producing the 2018 report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA). However, we note with concern that the proportion of stocks fished at unsustainable levels still accounted for 31.4 percent of all assessed marine stocks in 2013. Clearly, more efforts are needed by States and the global community to bring stocks to sustainable levels.

However, there is still room for improvement of the report and FAO should consider developing standard indicators such as the dependence of fleets on stocks that are overexploited compared to maximum sustainable yields (MSYs) and/or on stocks that are currently depleted.

We also welcome the important decisions taken to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. These include the call for greater cooperation and information sharing between members, the launch of the public version of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, the work towards an in-depth assessment to regulate, monitor and control transshipment practices and the further development of guidelines to estimate the magnitude and geographic extent of IUU fishing.

We welcome the inclusion of items in the COFI agenda that relate to the broader international oceans agenda, which has been receiving more and more global attention in 2018. We welcome the inclusion of new items such as climate change, Agenda 2030 and Blue Growth. We also very much welcome the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and commend FAO's ongoing work on abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear to tackle the challenge of marine litter.

The EU welcomes the role FAO plays in the UN fora and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity. It is important to further enhance its participation and contribution and therefore vital that technical capacity and skills for fisheries and aquaculture are maintained at FAO.

We endorse the Committee's strong support for FAO's provision of scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius and we underline the need to ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget.

Finally, we would like to recall the comment made by the Committee as a whole that the COFI documents were received very late in the process. This affects the quality of the discussions and the efficiency of the Committee. We would like to see this issue addressed for the next COFI meeting.

With these comments, we endorse the COFI Report.

Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)

Japan delivers this Joint statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

In spite of our overall efforts to ensure sustainable use of marine living resources, as shown in the SOFIA report, the proportion of overfished stocks continues to increase in the aggregated fish stocks. We would like to emphasize our serious concern on the status, and commend a wider range of work by COFI to improve the management of fish stocks, particularly in ensuring implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for achieving sustainable use.

Combating Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing is indispensable to achieve this goal. The Asia group particularly has emphasized that IUU fishing cannot be eradicated by a single approach, but by encouraging multiple instruments, including Port State Measures Agreement, Catch Documentation Scheme, the effective regulation of transshipments, et cetera. At the same time, we have to ensure that these instruments be effectively promoted through capacity building.

Ensuring sustainability of the small-scale and artisanal fisheries (SSF) is also important for better governance in both developing and developed states. The Asia group stresses the need of further implementation of the SSF guidelines and development of monitoring system for implementing them.

Through better understanding on the impact of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, their vulnerability to climate change has to be further addressed. The Asia Group shares the concern, particularly on the vulnerability in SSF and SIDs. We also commend FAO's work on other environment-related matters, including the conservation of biodiversity, which is closely related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. For commercially-exploited aquatic resources, FAO should continue to actively cooperate with CITES and IUCN and utilize its own expertise to characterize and monitor the status of these species.

In addition to the governance issues of the fisheries sector, the Asia Group would like to emphasize that the work related to governance of oceans, so called "Global and regional ocean process", now continues to expand. In this regard, we commend active participation of FAO in various international fora concerning the oceans relevant to fisheries and aquaculture. At the same time, we have to stress that more efficiency will be needed in FAO to maintain the quality of its work vested by Members.

The Asia group reiterates its support on the Programme of Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework, since the demands are well reflected therein in a balanced way. Given the glowing needs for timely and effective responses to the complicated issues surrounding the ocean, we encourage FAO to further collaborate with RFBs, RFMOs and other international organizations, including UNDOALOS, CITES, CBD, WTO, IUCN, IWC and so forth, while ensuring efficiency in its work through avoiding duplication of efforts.

With these comments, we endorse the Report of COFI.

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

First of all, I would like to thank the Chair of the 33rd Session of COFI for the report and the wonderful work. The 33rd Session of COFI took place in a very constructive environment and this was the result of the very good work of the committee in the intersessional period.

We would like to take note of the presentation of the first version of the global record for fishing vessels, fishing vessels, refrigerated vessels and transport vessels. The global record is one of the best instruments in the fight against IUU fishing. We would also like to support FAO in the consideration of potential actions to increase accountability of Flag States in affecting control on ships and the fight against IUU fishing.

We support the decision to organize targeted studies in relation to transshipment following recommendations and best practices for resolving this type of sea fishing.

We also believe it is important for the development of small-scale fisheries, the proclamation of 2022, the International Year of Aquaculture. We believe it is important to raise awareness of fisheries in inland

waters and thus the work of the voluntary guidelines and instructions on inland fisheries would be very useful.

I would also like to make a few comments on the document itself, C 2019/23. This is in relation to the summary. In the third proposal, in point d), it says “the Committee expressed concern about transshipment activities and welcomed the global study on transshipment”.

I believe that this is not actually quite correct because in paragraph 55 of the report of the 33rd Session, it says that “the Committee expressed concern about transshipment activities which when inadequately regulated, monitored and controlled can contribute to IUU fishing”.

Thus, the Committee expressed concern about transshipment not in general but only when it contributes to IUU fishing. We would like this aspect to be reflected in point d) of the Executive Summary because it is very important for the Russian Federation and for several other countries for which transshipment at sea is part of their traditional practices in relation to fisheries. For example, in our country we have transshipment at sea which is strictly regulated. This can be done only in certain places and with the presence of inspectors on ships on both sides of the equation.

I would like now to focus on one thing in point g) of the summary. In the second section, it refers to “biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction”. I believe that this is not the main thing in this context.

The main thing once again is in paragraph 77 of the report of the 33rd Session where it says that “the Committee appreciated the ongoing work” and then the second part said that this process “should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies”.

I think this is the most important thing in this paragraph here and we would like this aspect to be reflected in point g) of the Executive Summary.

We spoke about this issue at the 33rd Session of COFI and we proposed consideration of the fact that fisheries be taken out of this framework in relation to this agreement.

With the inclusion of these proposals, we support the endorsement of the report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Deseamos agradecer al Señor Presidente del Comité el Informe presentado y al respecto quisiéramos hacer algunos comentarios.

En cuanto a la segunda parte del párrafo 10 del Informe, que hace referencia a la ratificación del Acuerdo sobre medidas del Estado rector del puerto, quisiéramos proponer que se utilice la redacción ya acordada en la Resolución 72/72 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en la cual se alienta a los Estados que aún no lo han hecho a que consideren la posibilidad de ratificar, aceptar o aprobar el acuerdo o adherirse a él.

Asimismo, en el Informe se alude en varios párrafos, en particular del párrafo 47 al 59, al término “Gobernanza”. Cabe afirmar que dicha palabra no aparece mencionada en el Código de Conducta de la FAO para la Pesca Responsable, ni en el Plan de Acción Internacional para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada. En el 30° período de sesiones del COFI, se reconoció que el término “Gobernanza” era amplio y general y que no estaba definido en ningún acuerdo internacional ni en otros instrumentos relacionados con la labor del Comité. En consecuencia, la Argentina solicita que se utilice el concepto “gestión” o el término en inglés “management” en lugar de “gobernanza”.

En relación con las referencias a las OROPs (organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera) en el Informe, en particular en los párrafos 73 a 85, deseamos destacar que su creación y funcionamiento está regulado por el Acuerdo de Nueva York de 1995, el cual carece de alcance de derecho

consuetudinario. Argentina no es parte de dicho acuerdo. El establecimiento de estas organizaciones no es un fin en sí mismo, ni son el único medio existente para la conservación de recursos en el espacio marítimo, y enfrentan una limitación inherente a las circunstancias de estar conformadas por un grupo de Estados que no representan a la comunidad internacional en su conjunto, ni necesariamente a los intereses de ésta. Además, son solo concebibles en la medida en que la situación política y jurídica de las áreas a las que se pretenda aplicar así lo permita.

Finalmente, en el Informe se hace referencia a dos conceptos: economía azul y crecimiento azul. Quisiéramos recordar que estos conceptos no están reconocidos en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, ni en los respectivos ODS. Por lo tanto, Argentina presenta su objeción respecto al uso de este concepto ante la falta de claridad de sus implicancias. Por lo expuesto, requerimos que se reemplace por “conservación y utilización sostenible”.

Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to endorse the report of the 33rd Session of the COFI and commend its hard work and the hard work of the Secretariat. We also associate ourselves to the statement made by Japan on behalf of the Asia Group.

I would like to make two comments. First of all, regarding the Blue Growth, in the context of stagnation of global capture fisheries production, aquaculture should be considered as the main way to meet the increasing demand of supply.

In the aquaculture sector, inland aquaculture is limited by space and environmental factors while marine aquaculture has a huge untapped potential. Therefore, FAO should pay more attention to the marine aquaculture and support the context of ready acceptance.

As for the fight against IUU fishing, China highly appreciates the efforts made by the FAO and other international organizations in fighting against IUU fishing. China, as a responsible fishery country, attaches great importance and sticks to the fishery system goals and we are determined to fight against IUU fishing.

We believe that the International Action Plan to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing adopted by FAO has clearly identified the definition and scope of IUU fishing. Stakeholders should, therefore, identify IUU fishing activities in strict compliance with this action plan and refrain from enlarging and complicating the definition of IUU fishing.

Currently at the international level, we have also relatively complete matters to fight against and manage IUU fishing. We believe that only by adopting an attitude of amicable consultation by strengthening communication and understanding of coordination and cooperation and by jointly adapting some efficient measures that we will be able to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and achieve the goals of sustainable fisheries.

Ms Alaa Mazher BOKHARI (Pakistan)

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Asia Group and takes this opportunity to appreciate the work of the Committee and to highlight that the Government of Pakistan is focusing on efficient management of natural resources and promotion of aquaculture.

Pakistan is bestowed with great potential for aquaculture development, especially inland aquaculture. Our Government is focusing on tapping this potential by introducing friendly policies and providing training to fish farmers by developing their skills.

We appreciate the work of FAO in the area of climate change through fisheries and aquaculture. Fisheries have a significant share in world food security, particularly in terms of food rich in nutrition, and in achieving SDG 2.

With this, Pakistan fully endorses the Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, with emphasis on the points raised in the joint statement of the Asia Group.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece a la FAO la presentación del Informe del 33^o período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, y en particular deseamos resaltar los siguientes asuntos que se señalan a la atención del Consejo.

Con relación a las Decisiones y Recomendaciones del Sub-Comité de Acuicultura del COFI en su novena reunión, celebrada en Roma del 24 al 27 de octubre de 2017, hacemos nuestras las recomendaciones que se alinean a la importancia que nuestro país otorga a dicha actividad.

En nuestro país, la acuicultura posee un gran potencial para las comunidades rurales y pesqueras, por cuanto puede contribuir al mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida del productor en el campo, disminuyendo la pobreza, al suministrar proteína animal de bajo costo y perfilándose como una fuente de empleo y de ingresos. De hecho, las actividades pesqueras son concebidas en función de la soberanía alimentaria, la satisfacción de las necesidades de la población y el desarrollo sustentable.

La legislación pesquera y acuícola vigente desde el año 2001 en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, entendiendo el papel estratégico de este sub-sector en el desarrollo económico y social, impulsa e incorpora al pescador como protagonista del proceso de transformación y ordenación en las comunidades pesqueras artesanales.

A través de la ley de Pesca y Acuicultura, hemos otorgado carácter prioritario a la atención a los productores acuícolas de pequeña escala. Se han organizados los Consejos del Poder Popular de Acuicultores y Acuicultoras, como órganos de participación popular orientados a promover, impulsar y organizar el desarrollo integral del sector acuícola.

El Gobierno Nacional considera como prioridad a los productores la atención a los productores acuícolas de pequeña escala, situación que está jurídicamente apoyada a través del Decreto con Rango, Valor y Fuerza de Ley de Pesca y Acuicultura.

Igualmente, resulta importante subrayar la prohibición establecida a la pesca industrial, entre otras de arrastre, dentro de las seis millas náuticas próximas a la línea de costa, que constituyó una medida inédita de conservación del ambiente, que al mismo tiempo benefició a los pescadores y pescadoras artesanales, sus asentamientos y comunidades, con lo cual se persigue lograr la restitución del medio marino.

En cuanto a la Gobernanza de la pesca en pequeña escala y artesanal, estamos plenamente de acuerdo con el contenido y en particular destacamos el párrafo 63 que subraya el papel activo que los actores de la PPE deberían en la toma de decisiones, así como el párrafo 64, el cual destaca la necesidad de reconocer y abordar la función especial de la mujer y la vulnerabilidad de las comunidades indígenas y locales y las minorías en la PPE.

Deseo aprovechar la ocasión para señalar que Venezuela no es parte de la CONVEMAR (Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar) y en tal sentido, reiteramos las reservas realizadas en todos los foros de debate vinculados a los asuntos de Pesca, Mares y Océanos, entre otros, que se rigen por dicha Convención, incluyendo las reservas realizadas en el marco de la Reunión de Río + 20 de los ODS.

Y por último queremos dar nuestro apoyo al proyecto piloto que está desarrollando la Universidad Mundial de la Pesca en Corea y creemos que la FAO debería unirse a dicho proyecto piloto de manera de avanzar en este trabajo.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the joint statement made by Japan on behalf of the Asia Group.

We would like to express our appreciation for the comprehensive and excellent summary of the report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

We would like to highlight and give some comments to the report, which we deem of significant importance.

We acknowledged the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other related instruments.

Thailand welcomed the increasing number of Parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (PSMA) Fishing of which Thailand is one of the countries who has ratified and implemented the Agreement to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. We would like to thank FAO for technical assistance on capacity building and implementation of PSMA to Members, including Thailand.

Since the agreement came into force in 2016, Thailand has stringently implemented it. We have continued our strong commitment to work with the international community to address this common challenge. We wish to encourage other countries to adopt and sign up to this agreement.

Regarding fisheries and ocean governance, the ocean issue is beyond combatting IUU fishing and the Code of Conduct. Therefore, we now have the opportunity to set a course for the stable and healthy use of the oceans and their resources in the coming decades. The great challenge we all face is to rationalise international ocean governance in order to safeguard the livelihoods of millions of people and the maritime resources. We together need to set up the ambitious goals for better ocean management and protection.

Thailand noted and welcomed the progress in implementing the small-scale fisheries guidelines. In addition, we also requested FAO to develop the monitoring system for implementation of the SSF guidelines.

Finally, we welcomed the report from the Republic of Korea regarding the pilot programme for the World Fisheries University and looking forward to the continued cooperation from FAO in making progress toward to the finalize and sign a host country agreement for a partnership and liaison office in Korea.

With this comment, we endorse the Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We also encourage all the parties to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and for better ocean management and protection.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada participated actively in the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries in July and we are happy to support the report as adopted. We regret that many countries, including ourselves, found it difficult to prepare for COFI due to the late release of many of the supporting documents. We would therefore like to reiterate the call, as expressed today by the Chair, for all documents, including the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report, to be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks before the session commences.

Priority issues that we have identified for this Committee have included strengthening fisheries management in the face of climate change, addressing derelict fishing gear, reducing marine mammal mortality, minimizing food loss and waste in the seafood value chain and coordinated action on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

We also appreciate the opportunity given recently by FAO for each country to validate the scores that FAO generated for each country on SDG 14.6 and 14.b based on our responses to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries questionnaire.

At COFI in July, Canada told Members about the successful conclusion of agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean. This is a first of its kind where states have

agreed to take precautionary steps that will enable data collection, scientific advice and conservation measures to be put in place before any fishery occurs on the high seas of the Arctic Ocean. We are pleased to be able to share with you today that Canada and other parties signed the agreement on 3 October 2018 and look forward to its timely entry into force.

We would also like to provide an update on the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference that was held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018. The COFI report welcomed the conference to be co-hosted by Kenya and Canada. We would like to note our appreciation that Japan also joined as a co-host in the lead-up to the conference.

Canada appreciated FAO's paper Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture presented at COFI. We are continuing to work with the FAO on plans to host an expert workshop in 2019 on fisheries management in the context of climate change to exchange information, views and best practices on how to factor and integrate these issues and changes in fisheries management decision-making.

The Committee welcomed the recommendations of the Expert Workshop on Means and Methods for Reducing Marine Mammal Mortality in Fishing and Aquaculture Operations. We encourage FAO to continue its work on this issue. We look forward to further engagement by FAO with its Members.

Finally, Canada was glad that the Committee acknowledged the special role of women and the vulnerabilities of indigenous and local communities and minorities in small-scale fisheries. Canada is a member of the Friends of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines group, guidelines that encourage the inclusion of marginalized people in decisions on fisheries, governance and management.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, we welcome the report. It speaks to the important role played by the Fisheries Committee and the strong effort made by FAO to achieve collaboration and balance in fisheries in order to attain the SDGs in the marine environment, the safeguarding of biodiversity, and the protection of the marine environment, as well as the implementation of policies to provide for sustainable management of these resources.

As regards Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), we support the enhancement and the stronger relations between RFMOs. We do hope that the Organization is going to continue making efforts in order to establish an RFMO for the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. These RFMOs play a very important role. Sudan supports the initiative of the World Fisheries University proposed by the Republic of Korea. This university will certainly contribute to the development of the fisheries sector, including that in our country. That is why we are very much in favour of establishing such a university.

Finally, we propose the endorsement of this report.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

It is a privilege for the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago to intervene to endorse the Report of 33rd Session of COFI on behalf of the 15 member states of the CARICOM Sub-Region of Latin America and the Caribbean. We also take the opportunity to advocate the interests of the SIDS generally.

At the outset, let me confirm that the fisheries sector is pivotal to the overall development of Members of the Caribbean and the SIDS. It underpins rural incomes and livelihoods, is an earner of foreign exchange and contributes significantly to food and nutrition security and employment. In consequence, its sustainability is vital to the well-being and survival of small islands and coastal states.

Understandably then, enlightened self-interest informs our support for initiatives developed and pursued by FAO which seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries – I make reference in particular to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Actions Aimed at Combatting IUU Fishing.

We therefore commend FAO for the continuing assistance provided to Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen fisheries legislation, targeting IUU fishing. Thus far, this has resulted in an updated Draft Fisheries

Management Bill incorporating licensing, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement systems; all part of important elements of a National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing. The Draft Bill also addresses many SDG 14 targets. We are also grateful for a regional Port State Support Project to improve the policy and legislative framework as well as capacity building for compliance with the Port State Measures Agreement. This is currently in implementation.

Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region also welcome an FAO project entitled “Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector” which is geared to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change by introducing measures in fisheries management, capacity building of fishers and improved governance.

We support the voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries with which the referred Draft Management Bill is aligned. In its implementation, due consideration will be given to the interests of artisanal and subsistence fishers and affected local communities, inclusive of initiatives for alternative livelihood opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism – of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member – formally approved a small scale fisheries protocol based on these guidelines at its 12th meeting in May 2018 and urged its members to actively implement the protocol. This underscores our recognition of, and support for, enhanced government arrangements for small-scale fisheries.

Finally, as fisheries-dependent states, we welcome the initiative of the Republic of Korea in pursuing the establishment of the World Fisheries University (WFU). We support the proposed collaboration with FAO in the Pilot Programme and look forward to its successful operation, culminating in setting up of the WFU in the near future.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I wanted to speak about fisheries, but there are some countries, including mine, which do not have access to an ocean. We have some limited access to the Red Sea and that is why my statement concerns paragraph 41 of this report of the session.

What I would like, is to ask for the decision of the Council to contain support for the improvement of aquaculture in inland areas as well as the protection of different species, the selective breeding and the strengthening of value chains, as well as the improved management of aquaculture, and this specifically for Members that do not have access to fisheries. Citizens in Jordan only have access to three kilos of fish per year, whereas the average worldwide is 23 kilos.

Jordan supports Korea's initiative for the establishment of a World Fisheries University. This university will be able to support those countries that do not have a real fisheries industry in order to improve inland fisheries, as is the case in our country.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

La delegación de Chile acoge el documento y reconoce el trabajo de la FAO en apoyar a los países en la lucha contra la pesca ilegal, no regulada y no reglamentada. El apoyo a los pescadores artesanales y hace un llamado a los países para adherir al Acuerdo sobre medidas del Estado rector del puerto (PSMA) como una herramienta destinada a prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal.

La delegación de Chile acoge de la misma manera la celebración del Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanal, en el sentido que estas actividades sensibilizan a la población sobre la importancia de una actividad pesquera sustentable y la relevancia de un consumo adecuado. Instamos a que la FAO mantenga su cooperación con los órganos regionales de pesca y con las Organizaciones Regionales de Ordenación Pesquera (OROP).

En cuanto al tema de la creación de un nuevo Subcomité de Manejo Pesquero, participaremos activamente en las discusiones e invitamos a todos los países miembros a mantener su contacto con los

representantes de sus grupos regionales en el COFI. Con estos comentarios, la delegación de Chile acoge el Informe del 33.º período de sesiones del COFI.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for the Netherlands)

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

The Netherlands Government would like to compliment FAO for its active role and excellent work with regard to the Ocean Agenda, especially in the framework of Blue Growth and food security. Not only should FAO strengthen its role for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture but certainly also when we look to mainstreaming biodiversity in this agenda.

As we have seen during the excellent Our Ocean Conference in Bali, the international landscape or waterscape is scattered. For that reason, the Netherlands government encourages FAO to strengthen its coordination role with regard to the many activities for our safe, sustainable and healthy oceans. We certainly need a strengthened role of FAO in the international community.

Secondly, the Netherlands government would like to highlight the need to do more work on lost fishing gear. If you look to the facts and figures, it is an underestimated and forgotten story. We would like to ask FAO how it could support the International Ghost Gear Initiative, especially via partnerships.

With that, I hope that these remarks could find their way in your conclusions.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Le Sénégal s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la Côte d'Ivoire au nom du Groupe Afrique et souhaite ajouter ce qui suit.

L'édition 2018 de *La situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture* (SOFIA) avait révélé entre autres que la proportion des stocks de poissons exploités au niveau biologiquement non-durable continue de croître à raison de 10 pour cent en 1974 à 33 pour cent en 2015. Le Comité des pêches avait à cet égard souligné que cette situation inquiétante appelait à une réaction urgente.

Aussi, en tant que pays côtier, dont l'économie est basée pour une bonne partie sur la pêche, le Sénégal souhaite faire écho à cet appel et demander à la FAO de poursuivre ses efforts pour appuyer les pays dans leur lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INDNR), puisqu'en effet, c'est bien la pêche illicite la cause principale de ce qui se passe dans les pays en développement.

Le Sénégal insiste par ailleurs sur l'importance de la coopération pour renforcer la pêche artisanale en vue d'augmenter la résilience des communautés qui en dépendent. Comme vous le savez, la pêche artisanale est encore très répandue dans les pays en développement, dont le Sénégal, et elle est en droite ligne avec les approches de développement durable.

En outre, le Sénégal réitère son adhésion aux instruments développés par la FAO pour promouvoir une pêche durable, dont notamment l'accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port, le fichier mondial, le code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et les directives volontaires de la FAO pour lutter contre la pêche illicite et promouvoir un écosystème marin durable.

Dans cet élan, le Sénégal en appelle également à la FAO pour un appui plus important en faveur des pays en développement en vue de protéger leurs ressources naturelles halieutiques.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Observer for Eritrea)

I would like to express my profound gratitude to FAO. To that extent, Eritrea appreciates and thanks FAO and the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive report for the 160th Session of the FAO Council.

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement presented on the report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries by Cote d'Ivoire and Algeria on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. To that extent, Eritrea has

the pleasure to deliver a statement on the Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries that was held during 9 to 13 July 2018.

Eritrea welcomes the progress on implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and requests FAO to further develop an implementation monitoring system for the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.

Eritrea acknowledges the increasing importance of sustainable aquaculture development for food security and nutrition and its potential to meet the growing demand to fill the gap in global fish supply.

Eritrea requests FAO to continue to assist Members in strengthening capacity and supporting Members in inland fisheries and to develop best practices for management of inland fisheries, and commends the work of FAO in the area of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture, including the comprehensive review on the impact of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture and adaptation options.

Eritrea endorses the priority areas of work for 2018-19 in support of achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 14. Hence, to progress and steer forward, the support of FAO, United Nations Organizations and the Global Trust Fund is required. Eritrea therefore appreciates you very much for your future support.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

Thank you to all the delegates who spoke and expressed their support and endorsed not only the report of the Committee but the work of FAO in this regard, with respect to all of the issues that have been raised.

I think most of the comments were generally positive. There were two delegations that actually were seeking perhaps small amendments or adjustments to either the body of the report or the executive summary.

I will make very brief comments with respect to the interventions by the Russian Federation and Argentina with respect to seeking changes to the report.

The Russian Federation was pointing out that in a couple of aspects, in particular with respect to transshipment and with respect to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process in the United Nations, the executive summary did not pick up the entirety of the concerns that were expressed in the report. I believe it is possible perhaps to make some small adjustments to reflect the comments from the Russian Federation because they do not affect the body of the report itself that was adopted by COFI. They were only with respect to the summary that had been drawn from the report by the Secretariat.

The comments and suggestions from Argentina, however, reflect requests to change, I understand, the language that is in the adopted report of the Committee. I believe that those changes become more problematic. But I am confident that the position of Argentina and the concerns expressed will be adequately reflected in the report of this meeting without changing the context of the previously adopted COFI report.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can now conclude on item 3.3 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, in particular:

- a) welcomed the 2018 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) publication and requested the Secretariat to address the timing issue with a clear deadline for future sessions;
- b) welcomed the improvement in the 2018 questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and noted the progress of Members on the implementation of the Code and related instruments, but also identified gaps and constraints and underscored the important role of FAO in assisting Members;

- c) endorsed the reports of the 16th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Ninth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- d) welcomed the increasing number of Parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and encouraged further adherence to the Agreement; welcomed the launch of the public version of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessel and Supply Vessels (Global Record); welcomed the global study on transshipment and called for in depth studies to support the development of guidelines on best practices for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment; and expressed support for the work of FAO in continuing to develop the technical guidelines for the estimation of the magnitude and geographic extent of IUU fishing;
- e) welcomed progress in implementing the Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines and requested FAO to further develop an implementation monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines; in this regard, welcomed the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022;
- f) noted the increasing importance of sustainable aquaculture development for food security and nutrition and its potential to meet growing demand to fill the gap in global fish supply, notably in inland areas; recognized the need to implement best practices in aquaculture and recommended that FAO develop sustainable aquaculture guidelines;
- g) appreciated the ongoing work to establish a new legally binding agreement for the conservation of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, noting that it should not undermine existing relevant instruments; and called for FAO to continue its cooperation with Regional Fishery Bodies and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;
- h) emphasized the importance of Members achieving the SDGs, especially SDG14; requested FAO to continue to assist Members in strengthening statistical capacity and delivery of their data and information; requested FAO to review potential opportunities arising from the Blue Growth and Blue Economy initiatives; and further requested FAO to support Members in inland fisheries and in the development of best practices for the management of inland fisheries;
- i) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear;
- j) welcomed FAO's work on bycatch, including marine mammal bycatch;
- k) endorsed the priority areas of work for 2018-2019, especially in support of SDG14;
- l) supported the hosting of an International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the Science Policy nexus, planned for November 2019 in Rome;
- m) noted the progress report by the Republic of Korea on the pilot programme for the World Fisheries University; and
- n) requested that all COFI documents, including SOFIA, be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks before the start of the Session.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

There are two elements that we would like to see better reflected. I hope I have not overlooked them. One is that we endorse the Committee's strong support for the FAO's provision of scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius and to underline the need to ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget. That is, I think, nowhere, if I see this correctly. I would like to see that included. The other one is the reference to work to address marine litter.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Es un resumen bastante completo, sin embargo creo que le falta un elemento que mi delegación mencionó, y es el relativo al plan sobre diversidad biológica. Quizás podríamos utilizar parte del

párrafo 102 del Informe, agregando un sub-ítem al final. Creo que podría ser algo en la línea de “solicitó a la Organización que preparara y pusiera en práctica un plan relativo a la biodiversidad en el sector de la pesca y la acuicultura, como parte de su estrategia para la biodiversidad”.

Para facilitar a la Secretaría, esto es una parte del párrafo 102 del Informe.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Con respecto al punto g), “solicitó a la FAO que continúe su cooperación con otras organizaciones regionales, incluyendo tales”.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

On the paragraph regarding small-scale fisheries, I believe that a number of delegations highlighted the importance of implementing them in an inclusive way, recognizing the special role of women as well as indigenous populations. I think it would be useful to reflect that with respect to the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.

CHAIRPERSON

Just a comment to the European Union before I give you the floor. Of the two points you raised, point i) would take care of your comment on the litter. Regarding your question on Codex Alimentarius, could you kindly indicate the relevant paragraph in the report as we cannot trace it.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

I am happy to repeat the paragraph that you would like to see added: “to endorse the Committee's strong support for the FAO's provision of scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius and underline the need to ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget”.

And on the marine litter, I guess it is fine.

CHAIRPERSON

Regarding the question of the Codex Alimentarius, we cannot find any reference in the Report of the Committee on Fisheries.

Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)

It is okay.

Ms Rosemary NAVARRETE (Australia)

Just to echo, actually, our colleagues from the European Union and to provide the right reference. It is para 25 of the COFI report that says the following: “The Committee expressed strong support for FAO's provision of scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Committee, noting the need to ensure adequate funding for this work”.

CHAIRPERSON

We will include a reference to this.

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

I would like to come back to the paragraph in relation to a “legally binding agreement for the conservation of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”. There was a proposal to include the word “other”. I believe the word “other” before “Regional Fishery Bodies” is superfluous here because it would mean that FAO is also a regional fishery body in this context. I believe it would be better to delete the word “other”.

CHAIRPERSON

Netherlands is asking for the floor but the practice is that Observers do not contribute to the summary and the conclusions of the Chair.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Entendemos que las OROPs están incluidas en los órganos regionales de pesca, por lo tanto preferimos excluir la mención a las RFMOs, o sea, a las OROPS en español. Pediríamos que termine la frase en “regional fishery bodies.” porque las OROPS están cuestionadas; no son reconocidas jurídicamente porque no corresponde al derecho consuetudinario. Nosotros preferimos no entrar en una discusión jurídica y darlo por sobreentendido.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

I thought this idea was captured quite nicely and in a balanced way with Argentina's first suggestion, which was to say “Regional Fishery Bodies, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. I thought that struck a good balance. I think deleting any reference to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations altogether is likely to engender much more discussion here in this room about the status of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. I would hope that Argentina's first suggestion could stand. And whether or not we include the word “other”, I will leave to the Chair.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Nosotros preferiríamos que no se incluyan, pero para alcanzar un consenso, lo aceptamos. Pero quisiéramos que deje constancia de que la Argentina no reconoce estas OROPs.

CHAIRPERSON

Should we leave the exact wording to the Drafting Committee? Because that is what they are there for.

Item 3.4 Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry (16-20 July 2018)

Point 3.4 Rapport de la vingt-quatrième session du Comité des forêts (16-20 juillet 2018)

Tema 3.4 Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (16-20 de julio de 2018)
(C 2019/24)

CHAIRPERSON

We move on the last sub-item 3.4, *Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry*, which took place from 16 to 20 July 2018. Please ensure that you have document C 2019/24 before you.

I will now give the floor to Dr Won Sop Shin, who was elected Chairperson by the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry, to present the report.

Dr Won SOP SHIN (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

The Committee on Forestry (COFO), which was organized together with the Sixth World Forest Week, aimed to find ways to translate political commitments to action. The session was attended by over 550 delegates from 105 Member Nations as well as 32 UN agencies and observers. High-level participants included one head of state, three ministers and 12 vice-ministers.

As is tradition for COFO, the agenda was developed on the basis of the recommendations of the six Regional Forestry Commissions and the outcome of the coordination with FAO Technical Committees, and certainly included the biennial theme for 2018-19.

The main agenda items were very inclusive in their focus, giving a broad overview of the SDGs – forests relationship, and included also halting deforestation, urban and peri-urban forestry, biodiversity mainstreaming, food security, climate change, the work on boreal forests, and supporting the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

Based on the cross-sectoral nature of the agenda, the Committee gave broad guidance to FAO.

It urged FAO to give high priority to scientific and technical expertise and to standard setting activities, throughout its work, including within the FAO budget.

Strengthen the implementation and monitoring of FAO's strategy on climate change, and strengthen collaboration across sectors to promote land-based solutions.

Develop a biodiversity strategy, which will include a plan to mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector and bring it to COFO's consideration, and clarify further the work of the biodiversity mainstreaming platform.

Link the work of the regional forestry commissions to other policy areas and strengthen attention to forest issues in FAO Regional Conferences.

While welcoming results so far, COFO encouraged more effective cooperation between the Committee and COAG, COFI, CCP and the CFS, including through organising intersessional joint activities.

The Committee invited FAO to consider future MYPOWs to cover at least three biennia, also taking into account the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

The Committee provided specific guidance to FAO in forestry and requested that FAO:

- support countries in strengthening the role of forests in achieving the SDGs through a wide range of actions, from policy development to involving stakeholders, capacity building and to improving awareness at all levels;
- help unlock the full potential of urban and peri-urban forests by providing policy and technical support, and build capacity on the planning, design, management and monitoring of such forests and strengthen collaboration in this regard;
- improve understanding of the implications of forest biodiversity loss for forestry, fisheries and agriculture, and disseminate knowledge and tools, such as the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox;
- promote forests' and trees' role in achieving food security by supporting countries to develop cross-sectoral policies and to integrate related objectives into sustainable forest management practices; promoting the use of existing operative guidelines for integrated land management; disseminating best practices and monitoring the contribution of forests to improving food security and nutrition; and
- continue its work on boreal forests within its existing programmes and available resources and through existing mechanisms.

The Committee also requested FAO give priority to supporting the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and continue to provide leadership for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

The Committee supported the following eight areas as priorities for 2018-2021 and recommended FAO work towards:

- halting deforestation globally, particularly from agriculture;
- addressing forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management;
- mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and strengthening resilience of ecosystems and communities to climate change through forests;
- increasing forest cover through restoration, reforestation and afforestation;
- improving forest-based livelihoods, prosperity and human well-being;
- policy coherence, i.e. mainstreaming forests through cross-sectoral and interagency approaches at all levels;

- increased means of implementation from all sources; and
- good governance frameworks at all levels.

In addition to strengthening further the collaboration between FAO Technical Committees and the CFS as aforementioned, the Committee invited several bodies to engage in enhanced collaboration and suggested that:

- key messages of SOFO 2018 be brought to appropriate fora, including relevant FAO Governing and Statutory bodies, as well as in other processes relevant to land use and forests including UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).

While acknowledging the progress made on the Global Core Set of Forest Related Indicators, COFO invited UNFF and other governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations to consider the use of Tier 1 and Tier 2 indicators in their reporting processes.

The Forum was invited to continue to engage FAO closely in its work on the Organization's areas of expertise, and use major analytical products of FAO.

Finally, COFO recommended deeper collaboration between regional forestry commissions and the Forum through its regional dimension, and suggested that this collaboration be flexible and fit to different regional circumstances.

This is a short summary of a very rich discussion by the Committee, and we very much look forward to the Council's endorsement of these recommendation.

I thank you for your attention.

Mr Won-Chul JOO (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea is honoured to deliver this statement of behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We thank His Excellency Shin Won Sop, Chairperson of the 25th Session of COFO, for his compact presentation and the report of COFO24.

From the people who are left furthest behind, to urban population in the developed world, we all live in and around forests. However, it took a long time before people realized that forests should not just be taken for granted and that we need to take joint action to go further. Forests are shrinking day by day, degrading daily life of both rural and urban people.

Thanks to the recent scientific research based on evidence, which is stated in the report of State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2018, we gained a clearer picture of the true value, impact and functions of forests in a social, economic and environmental point of view. Now, it is time to act - from tackling poverty and hunger to mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity.

First, the Asia Regional Group would like to point out the importance of sustainable management of forests. Being a key factor for achieving SDG2 (zero hunger) it acts as an enabling factor for enhancing timber legality, mainstreaming biodiversity and responding to climate change in a cost-effective way.

We welcome that COFO recognized importance of sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests and trees. We believe this approach can enable more people to realize that their daily life and well-being is closely connected to forests. In this sense, our special thanks go to FAO and member countries for their effort to raise attention to urban forests, especially the Government of Italy for hosting the 1st World Forum on Urban Forest 2018 in Mantova, Italy, last week.

The Asia Regional Group would like to underline the importance of cross-sectoral integration of forestry and agriculture. Food security, agriculture and forestry can no longer be treated in isolation. To address these altogether, we know that policy coherence across governments is essential. We would like to

encourage member countries to address agriculture and forestry together in formulating national development policies, which is critical to achieve the SDGs.

Last but not least, the Asia Regional Group believes we still need to pay more attention to livelihoods of those left behind in and around forests. We remember that many people left furthest behind are located in and around forests: around 40 percent of the extreme poor live in forests and savannah areas. We need to empower them, helping them act as agents of change.

With these comments, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

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

We welcome the State of the World's Forests 2018 report and its focus on the contribution that forests and trees can make towards achieving the SDGs. We encourage FAO to disseminate this information widely and promote its key messages.

We request that FAO support, including in its capacity as CPF (Collaborative Partnership on Forests) Chair, the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 as an effective means of accelerating the achievement of all SDGs, and monitoring progress. In this regard, we stress the importance of the Global Forest Resources Assessment as the main source of data on forest resources at global level, and we strongly support the Committee's call to give high priority to standard-setting activities and to provide sufficient funding for these activities within the regular FAO budget.

With great concern, we echo FAO's observation that many forests worldwide are degraded by unsustainable and illegal logging, dependence on fuelwood, mining, unsustainable agriculture, invasive alien species, unmanaged fires, storms, pests and diseases. Prompt action is needed now in order to achieve SDG15 and to promote awareness of the vital contribution of forests and the forest sector to all SDGs and to sustainable and resilient societies. In this regard, we also stress the important contribution that the valorisation of forest products can make to forest conservation by local communities.

With agriculture being one of the main drivers of deforestation, we underline the need to promote an integrated approach with regard to the forestry-agriculture nexus. It is vital to acknowledge that sustainable forest management and implementing sustainable agricultural practices are essential for achieving SDG 2 and SDG15. In this regard, we welcome the CFS policy recommendations on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition and we stress the importance of working on putting those recommendations into practice for both the agriculture and the forestry sector.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm our view that the priority areas of FAO's work on forestry should include the following: monitoring and assessment, forest ecosystem services, urban and community forestry, climate change, governance, the role of women and girls, youth, forest biodiversity, innovation in forest products, and education. Sustainable integrated land use, including landscape approaches, and forest degradation and restoration are also important priority areas. We also encourage FAO to further cross-sectoral collaboration in the UN system, in particular throughout the CPF (Collaborative Partnership on Forests) membership including UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as between FAO and the statutory bodies within FAO's Strategic Framework, and recommend promoting the latter's objectives.

To conclude, we endorse the COFO24 report and the recommendations therein.

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

The Russian Federation stands firmly in the need for sustainable forest management, improving our knowledge on the resources and the forest ecosystem services. Forests play a very important role in economic development, improving nutrition of the populations, soil conservation, carbon fixation and the functioning of the water cycle.

In this connection, we would like to support FAO's work in this area and also the priorities adopted by the Committee in this area.

Degradation of forests and woods continues to be a very acute issue.

At a national level, we are working very closely in this area, developing and implementing preventative measures. An example of our activity in this area is the law on the compensatory forest restoration. It consists in the fact that every plot of forest needs to be restored.

The reasons for forest degradation are not always manmade. We may consider also the increase in the scale and number of fires, forest fires, drought and other natural disasters. And this is another important issue that should not be neglected.

In the framework of international collaboration, we think it is very important to increase our scientific dialogue on forest fires. This is also important to consider urban tree planting and forest management. These are very relevant issues in our subject today and in the context of implementation of President Putin's initiative, Green Shield in particular.

The main task consists in improving the urban environment and the green park belts and also restrict the use of nature and other management regimes in certain areas.

In conclusion, I would like to focus on one equally important area of FAO's work, namely its work in the area of boreal forests. Boreal forests make a huge contribution to achieving the sustainable development goals as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate.

In boreal forests, more than one half of the wood is growing in the world. The boreal wood system plays a key role in providing for global ecological balance, biodiversity of flora, flora in the northern forests is unique. And speaking of climate regulatory function of boreal forests, I would like to mention the fact that boreal forests in Russia absorb more than 600 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.

In this connection, we support COFO's decision regarding the need to continue FAO's work in the specific area and in particular, within the framework of its joint work with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). From our point of view, it is important that the work in this Organization consider the specific role of boreal forests in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Ms Noriko SHIMAUCHI (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group joint statement delivered by the Republic of Korea.

In addition to the Asia Group's statement, I would like to add a few points.

Japan recognizes the importance of strengthening forest carbon sequestration capacity through prevention of deforestation and forest degradation as well as reforestation.

Japan would like to emphasize that forest related adaptation measures, such as disaster mitigation, are also important in tackling climate change.

Japan requests FAO to continue and strengthen its leadership so that forest-related issues will be properly addressed in international fora for agriculture and climate change.

With these comments, Japan endorses the Report for the Committee of Forestry at its 24th Session.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

La Delegación de México felicita al Presidente del Comité Forestal por dirigir una sesión fructífera y al Comité por reconocer la urgencia de contar con medidas para la puesta en práctica de la gestión sostenible de los bosques, que contribuya al cumplimiento de los ODS dentro de la Agenda 2030. El informe contiene recomendaciones al respecto que apoyamos plenamente.

Como parte de este apoyo a la agenda 2030, el respaldo a la iniciativa de la FAO de actuar como Plataforma para la integración de la biodiversidad en la actividad forestal, la pesca y la agricultura, de manera integrada es muy alentador. La integración de la biodiversidad en la actividad forestal es sin duda alguna clave para efectivamente hacer sostenible la gestión de los bosques.

Por esto, apoyamos el desarrollo de una estrategia relativa a la biodiversidad que incluya un plan para integrar la biodiversidad en el sector forestal, como se recoge en el párrafo 14(d) del informe. Un bosque con mayor biodiversidad es capaz de proporcionar más funciones y servicios.

Con estos comentarios, México apoya el informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

La République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Le Groupe Afrique remercie le Président du Comité des forêts pour sa présentation du rapport de la 24^{ème} session du Comité des forêts.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030, les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique, le Groupe Afrique reconnaît l'important rôle que pourraient jouer les forêts par rapport à ces problématiques. Nous demandons donc à la FAO d'appuyer les pays pour renforcer le rôle des forêts et des arbres dans la réalisation des multiples ODD et accélérer les progrès dans certains domaines, conformément à leurs priorités et stratégies nationales.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie l'initiative de la FAO visant à ce qu'elle fasse office de Plateforme pour la prise en compte systématique de la biodiversité couvrant les secteurs des forêts, de la pêche et de l'agriculture de manière intégrée. Nous demandons à la FAO de contribuer à améliorer les connaissances sur les conséquences de l'appauvrissement de la biodiversité forestière pour les forêts, la pêche et l'agriculture, sur les mesures à prendre face aux menaces du changement climatique pesant sur la biodiversité et son rôle dans la gestion durable des forêts.

Compte tenu de l'importance d'une gestion durable des forêts au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, le Groupe Afrique demande à la FAO d'aider les pays, notamment à élaborer des politiques intersectorielles qui intègrent les forêts, l'agriculture et les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition; à renforcer la capacité des institutions publiques et des communautés locales à intégrer les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition dans les pratiques de gestion durable des forêts, et à assurer le suivi de la contribution des forêts à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition.

Concernant la mise en œuvre du Programme de travail pluriannuel, nous apprécions les activités réalisées dans le cadre du Groupe de travail technique intergouvernemental sur les ressources génétiques forestières et du Programme de réduction des émissions causées par le déboisement et la dégradation des forêts dans les pays en développement (REDD+). Le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à poursuivre ses programmes et à aider les pays à élaborer des stratégies nationales, des documents de planification, portant sur des contributions déterminées au niveau national (CDN), des communications sur l'adaptation et des plans nationaux d'adaptation, afin d'agir pour réduire les émissions liées aux forêts et prendre des mesures d'adaptation.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie la stratégie de la FAO sur le changement climatique et le caractère prioritaire accordé à sa mise en œuvre. Le Groupe demande à la FAO d'encourager les différentes parties prenantes,

notamment les communautés rurales et les communautés autochtones, qui sont tributaires des forêts pour leur survie, à participer à l'action pour le climat et au partage des services environnementaux.

Au titre du travail de la FAO dans le domaine des forêts portant sur le Cadre stratégique révisé, le Groupe apprécie les huit domaines thématiques prioritaires dans lesquels la FAO mènera ses activités dans le Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021 (PMT). Nous appuyons la recommandation du Comité des forêts pour l'adoption d'une approche de l'agriculture et des forêts complémentaire et intégrée.

S'agissant de la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies pour les forêts, nous demandons à la FAO de continuer d'apporter un appui à sa mise en œuvre et à son programme quadriennal, et d'en aligner les activités sur le Programme de travail et budget 2020-2021 (PTB) relatif aux forêts, telles qu'inscrites dans le Cadre stratégique.

Avec ces commentaires le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport de la 24^{ème} session du Comité des forêts et les recommandations y relatives, et félicite le Secrétariat de la FAO pour son travail et l'excellence des documents préparés pour cette session.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada thanks FAO for organizing COFO and for its very important work on sustainable forest management. We are pleased with the outcome of COFO and in particular with FAO's focus on supporting implementation of the UN strategic plan for forests, long-lived wood products as part of climate change solutions, FAO's leadership under global core set of forest related indicators, the new focus on urban forestry and for its continued and invaluable work on wildland fire.

We also support calls again for FAO's continued work on standard setting and ensuring sustainable funding and as such, we support the adoption of the report.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for The Netherlands)

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. The Netherlands government would like to compliment FAO for its work on sustainable forest management, especially with the successful outcomes of the very successful conference in February of this year.

The Netherlands Government also calls upon FAO to strengthen its cooperation with the private sector, especially when you look to influencing market opportunities for sustainable forest management. And we would like to call upon FAO to also support global initiatives in this respect.

And last but not least, given the changes at United Nations Headquarters, I hope that FAO could strengthen its support for the United Nations Forum on Forests. They certainly need all the help now.

Mr Won Sop SHIN (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

I do not have any specific replies on each comment. Instead, I would like to appreciate the compliments and support endorsement, suggestions and ideas of the COFO report and on world forestry issues.

Forests and forestry embrace many issues like any other section and the diversity sometimes brings conflict, but diversity is a secret of forests and forestry. As the new Chair of COFO, I would like to deeply discuss about the issues emerging here with the Secretariat, which may be good sources for developing the agenda for next COFO or any other conferences relating to forestry.

Mr Hiroto MITSUGI (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Thank you very much for all of the comments and I very much appreciate the endorsement of the report. We will take into account your comments, which we will reflect on with our work in forestry. Of course integration is needed as a key word with the further development of forestry areas. So I am looking forward to work together with other partners, including private institutions and the United Nations System.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we can now conclude on sub-item 3.4.

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

- a) welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2018 (SOFO 2018), recognized the importance of forests for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and requested FAO to assist countries in strengthening the role of forests and trees in achieving multiple SDGs and in accelerating progress in accordance with national priorities, and to strengthen its role as coordinator of forest data reporting;
- b) requested FAO to promote action to halt deforestation and increase forest cover and support countries in sustainable management of all types of forests worldwide, developing policies and measures that lead to sustainable value chains for forest products, strengthening capacities in implementation innovation and in monitoring progress, including through data for the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators;
- c) recognized that sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests and trees and their integration in urban planning could help achieve the SDGs, ensuring people's health and well-being and tackling climate change, and requested FAO to support international dialogue and countries' efforts in this regard.
- d) recognized that the implementation of sustainable forest management was important for mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry and requested FAO to contribute to an improved understanding of the implications of forest biodiversity loss for forestry, fisheries and agriculture and to develop a biodiversity strategy, which will include a plan to mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector and bring to COFO's consideration;
- e) welcomed the policy recommendations, as endorsed by the CFS, on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition and requested FAO and support countries in developing cross-sectoral policies and integrated food security and nutrition objectives into their sustainable forest management practices;
- f) encouraged FAO and Member Nations to explore options for linking the work of the regional forestry commissions to other policy areas and to further mainstream the outcome of their meetings into the Regional Conferences;
- g) recommended that FAO continue its work on boreal forests within its existing programmes and available resources and through existing mechanisms, and include it in the next Programme of Work and Budget.
- h) requested FAO to:
 - i. continue to facilitate inter-sectoral dialogues to address the vulnerabilities and mitigation potential of forests, promote more holistic landscape-based approaches, and integrate forestry into national plans and actions to address climate change, including with the involvement of relevant stakeholders;
 - ii. assist countries to promote actions preventing deforestation and forest degradation and implement reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and alternative strategies, forest financing strategies and investment plans;
- i) supported the eight thematic priority areas for FAO's work in forestry in 2018-2021 and encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its contribution to global forest goals and targets, and to integrate them explicitly into the forest-related plans and programmes;
- j) requested FAO to continue to strengthen its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and to initiate new activities, including *inter alia* on forest education and support to smallholders; and

k) encouraged FAO to recognize the contribution to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 as an important sector of work of the Organization, and to include it in the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

That is the summary. I await your comments.

Ms Rosemary NAVARRETE (Australia)

I heard on the floor several mentions of the importance of the standard-setting and scientific advice of Codex and I fail to see it in the Chair's summary.

Would you like some language? I think that it could follow from many other mentions, I believe the European Union and others made a statement on this.

The paragraph in the COFO report was under section 7.1, *FAO's work in forestry under the reviewed strategic framework*: "urged FAO to give high priority to standard setting activities, including within the FAO budget". It is standard setting in general.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je prends la parole maintenant parce que j'ai l'impression que nous devenons boulimiques des «standard-setting activities». Ce n'est pas que l'on refuse, mais il faut être suffisamment spécifique. Que veut-on dans chaque comité?

Maintenant peut-être allons-nous avoir la question de la faune forestière ou de la faune qui se trouve dans la forêt, ou alors des produits forestiers non ligneux sur lesquels nous avons peut-être besoin d'activités de normalisation ou autres. Au lieu de donner une phrase passe-partout dans chaque comité, il serait souhaitable que nous soyons suffisamment spécifiques. Qu'attend-on du comité, sur quel genre de normes veut-on que le comité fasse un travail pour pouvoir bénéficier de la priorisation dans le budget ordinaire?

Je soutiens pleinement le travail des collègues de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux (CIPV/IPPC), pour y être toujours présent, mais j'ai l'impression qu'il y a boulimie de cette phrase. On en mange un peu à toutes les sauces alors que j'aimerais des choses concrètes. Il semble que nous n'ayons aucun élément essentiel à ajouter.

On pourrait laisser en l'état, mais il faut que le Comité de rédaction puisse s'y pencher sincèrement pour que cela ne revienne pas comme une mécanique mal huilée.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cameroon. In fact, it can be left to the Drafting Committee.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The Medium Term Plan of all of the departments of FAO contain standard setting, so there is no need to mention it. I am sure the ADG of Forestry can tell us. I doubt if forestry has the Codex Alimentarius.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

J'ai peut-être été inattentive, mais je voudrais revenir sur un point important concernant les populations rurales des communautés autochtones, qui sont tributaires des forêts. Il faudrait que cela apparaisse de manière précise et je disais dans mon intervention que le Groupe Afrique apprécie la stratégie de la FAO sur le changement climatique et le caractère prioritaire accordé à sa mise en oeuvre.

Le Groupe demande donc à la FAO d'encourager les différentes parties prenantes, notamment les communautés rurales et les communautés autochtones, qui sont tributaires des forêts pour leur survie, à participer à l'action pour le climat et au partage des services environnementaux.

Ceci est très important, car dans nos pays - particulièrement le mien, le Congo - ces populations autochtones vivent des forêts. Il faudrait donc qu'il y ait une action appuyée par la FAO pour soutenir ces personnes si on leur demande de vivre sans abattre les forêts.

CHAIRPERSON

We can introduce some wording in point h), sub-point i). We can change it with “including with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including rural and indigenous communities”.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

“...who depend on the forest for their livelihood.”

CHAIRPERSON

We will add that as well.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I wanted to thank you for your text proposal for point l) which we fully support.

There is one small part that we are missing and we have heard mentioned also from other delegates on the integrated approach with regard to the forestry agriculture nexus. I have a text proposal that could read: “underlined the need to promote an integrated approach with regard to the forestry agriculture nexus”.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Just to come back on the issue of standard setting, I think that we do feel that instead of having a bad digestion of all these issues that actually all the technical committees express and stress the need and the importance of such work and I think that is a consistent and coherent message that is worth highlighting. And we feel that in the context of COFO it is mainly the International Plant Protection Convention that would be relevant.

We are happy to work with other Members of the Drafting Committee to have this reflected but we feel that the fact that the COFO expressly urged FAO to give high priority to this work from the FAO regular budget is worth mentioning.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Canada. We can leave it to the Drafting Committee.

I have a question from Afghanistan. Perhaps the ADG of Forestry could respond to that?

Mr Hiroto MITSUGI (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

This is not the area of the COFO so maybe it is not our area to respond to the question.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I was not asking the ADG. The question of the Codex Alimentarius was raised to report as standard setting. What I said is that the work of every department includes standard setting. Forestry has several. Fisheries have several. Agriculture has several. There is no need to mention it.

But what I said, I do not think forestry works on Codex Alimentarius issues, not as you say. Forestry produces honey or certain insects that people eat and that is food. Codex Alimentarius comes in. But that is stretching it too far.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we can conclude on this item and for some of the issues and comments that have been made, Members have agreed that the Drafting Committee can deal with them so that concludes item 3.

Item 19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO**Point 19. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****Tema 19. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO**

(CL 160/INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now take up item 19, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 160/INF/4.

The Council will be given presentations on FAO's participation and contribution in other international fora, which are of relevance to FAO's mandate.

Following the delivery of all the presentations, I will open the floor for questions.

The first topic on the "Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Fourth Annual Gathering and Mayors' Summit (Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel, 4-5 September 2018)" will be presented by Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, who will also present the second topic on "Progress in the preparation of the UN Decade on Family Farming".

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division)

Good afternoon everybody. I know it has been a long session and I know everybody must be quite tired by now so this one is going to be short and sweet but also very interesting.

We wanted to share with you what work we are doing in terms of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and indeed in the relationship between food and urbanization. So our world is urbanizing. Is food on your agenda?

Now why is it so important to work on urbanization from the FAO perspective?

We know that today more than half of the population of the world lives in urban areas and this proportion could grow to almost 70 percent by the year 2050. We, therefore, have to think about the need of feeding all of the people who live in the urban areas.

Urban areas are the places where all forms of malnutrition coexist. At the same time, you have strong problems of hunger but you also have increasingly and quickly increasing problems of obesity and overweight. In the same city, you could have a concentration of all of the different forms of malnutrition and that needs to be addressed.

In that context, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact was launched with the intention of being the first and unique international protocol on urban food policies for food security and nutrition.

There are other city networks that deal with climate change, that deal with many other issues relating to cities but this is the only network of cities that directly looks at food security and nutrition security in the urban context.

There have been four Mayors' Summits since this initiative was launched in the context of Expo Milano 2015 so the first one took place in Milan and that is the one in the upper left of the screen. The second one was right here in Rome on World Food Day.

The third one was in Valencia, Spain, and just very recently last September, the fourth Mayors' Summit specifically looking at food security and nutrition within cities took place in Tel Aviv, Israel, last September.

Now what is FAO doing in this context? On the one hand, we help cities work on indicators, so our statistical people have developed a suite of indicators that will help cities monitor how well they are progressing towards all of the targets that are set within this framework in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

We are sharing lessons learned and knowledge among the cities, including the city-to-city cooperation, which has revealed a very cost effective way of ensuring that cities can learn from each other, and many of them have indeed developed very interesting practices that are easily shared and therefore cost effectively used by others.

Finally, we are also expanding the network, so ensuring that more cities are involved.

Here in this graph you see more dots to give you an idea of all of the signatory cities of this Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

We have been collecting good practices, best practices throughout the different signatory cities. Every year during each of these Mayors' Summits, there are proposals from different cities in terms of their own practices. There are awards that are given to a few of these good practices or best practices and we have collected them in a publication, which gathers many of them for the knowledge and benefit of other cities around the world.

We also have a platform. It is called our Urban Food Actions Platform, which is on the website and you can consult it to see what is going on in all of these signatory cities. What are the good practices? How are different cities addressing different problems, including on food waste, including on sustainable connections between rural and urban areas, including good practices in nutrition, including good practices in general. For example, let me just give you a little bit of news.

Just last week, the Mayor of London confirmed his intention to forbid all publicity of junk food throughout the network of transportation of London. So starting this February, nothing considered junk food will be publicized throughout the transportation network. This is an interesting piece of information and also could turn into an interesting practice for others to follow suit.

So we share this type of information and we do have this platform where we collect good practices, policies, data, and monitoring on all of the different indicators that we are helping cities implement in their work.

The city to city initiative is one initiative that I am particularly very fond of because it uses information and good practices of different cities and brings together a number of other cities and they exchange information and good practices.

Until now, we have thirty-four African cities. Our programme is starting in Africa. We will be implementing hopefully in other regions too.

I told you it was going to be short so thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

As I believe we all know, the UN Decade of Family Farming was proclaimed by UN General Assembly through its Resolution just last December. It is based on the successful achievements of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming and it intends to provide a framework for countries to develop public policies and investments to support family farming and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

That resolution asked both FAO and IFAD to lead the implementation of the decade in collaboration with other organizations. You may recall that the International Year of Family Farming was led only by FAO. The decade is going to be led jointly by FAO and IFAD and some of you may recall that our Director-General already invited the World Food Programme to join and they have accepted too. So we will be leading the Decade together.

An International Steering Committee has been already put in place. The structure of the Members are more or less similar to the one we had in place for the International Year. The function of this International Steering Committee is to provide strategic guidance in terms of how we conceive the impact

of the activities and the impact of the Decade, providing oversight on the implementation of the action plan and supporting resource mobilization efforts.

You may recall that all resources used to implement the Decade and the international years have to come from extra budgetary resources. So this Committee is also going to have an important role in helping the resource mobilization initiative.

Just recently, we held the first official meeting. We have already setup the Secretariat to guide and support the implementation of the Decade. It is jointly held by FAO and IFAD and its objectives are to coordinate the overall implementation of the action plan and to prepare regular reports and documents overseeing and of course the website.

We have a mandate to report back to the General Assembly every two years but then, of course, we will be reporting back to all of you as the Decade progresses and we will have chances to discuss on the progress.

The official launch is going to be during the first part of next year. What we are doing up until the initial launch? Right now, we are working on finalizing the guiding documents.

We have just launched, now in December, the action plan consultations. There are going to be extensive consultations both done online and a survey was already launched through our family farming knowledge platform. We will also have targeted and face-to-face meetings in order to have this consultation.

With the outcome of these consultations, we will put together a draft action plan that will be presented at the Global Conference on Family Farming which is going to be held in Bilbao at the end of March next year and is being currently organized by the World Rural Forum. The World Rural Forum was instrumental in the whole launch both of the International Year and of the Decade.

Until the launch, we will be working very strongly on the resource mobilization strategy and we will be contacting you to see how this Decade is going to be supported. We are also working on a communications plan and by the end of May, the dates will be one day between 27 and 29 May to be decided. At that time, we will have the formal launch and the action plan and guiding document will be presented and hopefully also endorsed at that time.

So this is the timeline which culminates in this launch event in May and before that, we will have all of the supporting documentation processes in order for us to have a full blown launch all ready as we are starting to implement the activities of this Decade. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our second and last speaker today is, Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, who will make a presentation on “UN Network on Migration and Global Compact”.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I have two challenges. One is the fact that I have to keep this in five minutes which is about the time it takes me to say hello, how are you doing. The second is I am speaking after Marcela and I can never be as short or as sweet as what she presents.

However, I will try.

Let me give you an overview of FAO's participation in global fora. First, migration is an important area of work in FAO. Given its mandate, FAO supports Members in addressing both the rural dimensions of migration as well as rural populations, agricultural and food systems.

FAO contributes to existing global mechanisms and fora on migration and engages with key partners at global, regional and country levels.

In 2018, FAO joined the UN Network on Migration, which, I will talk about in a minute, supported the negotiations on the Global Compact on Migration, and co-chaired the Global Migration Group (GMG). I have talked to this body in the past about the Global Migration Group. FAO also participated as an observer in the intergovernmental group, the Global Forum of Migration and Development.

Now, the GMG is passé. It has been dissolved. The Global Migration Group was the main body of the United Nations work on migration issues and it brought together twenty-two United Nations agencies and funds.

Since June 2014, FAO had been a Member of the GMG. By joining the GMG, we had the opportunity to gain access to a body on migration issues at global level on which we could put our own angle on migration related to rural development, agriculture and food security.

So being part of the GMG was an effective channel to interact and cooperate more systematically with other United Nations agencies, including a very close collaboration with the Rome-based agencies WFP and IFAD.

The GMG provided us, the Rome-based Agencies, with a wider platform for collaboration to better mainstream agriculture, rural development and food security concerns in the global migration debate.

This year, 2018, FAO co-chaired with the International Organization on Migration, the Global Migration Group. We worked in close collaboration with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the office has also been dismantled now, and the Parliamentarians for Global Action in all of the preparation office of the Global Compact on Migration.

The GMG ended its mandate in October 2018 and it has been replaced by the United Nations Network on Migration, which I am going to talk right now.

The United Nations Network on Migration was established by the Secretary-General. It will replace the Global Migration Group. Some of its principles are the same but it will build on the achievements of the GMG to ensure a coordinated United Nations system-wide support to Member States in implementing the compact, the global compact on migration.

In carrying out its mandate, the United Nations Migration Network will prioritize the rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, transit and origin.

The network will consist of those Members of the United Nations family that want to be Members. So it is going to be based on a voluntary expression of interest to be a Member. However, this network is more flexible and more agile than the Global Migration Network. It has an Executive Committee.

Now who is on the Executive Committee? The organizations that have migration as one of their main pillars of work and activity and who are willing to commit substantial resources through secondments and other means.

Now these eight agencies that are now designated for the Executive Committee are the IOM, the International Organization on Migration, the ILO, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the UNDP, the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

FAO will be in the extended Membership and then we will decide to participate in the various working groups that we feel that we can most contribute to, as well as in the United Nations capacity building

mechanism that supports efforts of Member States to implement the global compact and which actually is part of the Global Compact.

The United Nations Network on Migration will be officially launched next week, on 9 December 2018, at the margins of the Intergovernmental Conference for the Adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. FAO will participate in the United Nations network and we are also going to participate in the High Level Conference for the endorsement of the Compact.

Now what is this famous Compact? The Global Compact on Migration is a very major event on migration that happened in 2018 and it is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement on international migration. It recognizes that the country by country approach does not work, that it needs a cooperative framework and approach to individuals, in order to increase the overall benefits from migration while addressing the risks and challenges for individual communities and countries.

The Global Compact comprises twenty-three objectives, the first of which is about better data and information regarding migration. As I said, the High Level Conference to adopt the Global Compact will take place 10 and 11 December 2018 in Marrakesh.

Throughout the year, FAO has worked with the International Organization on Migration as co-chairs of the Global Migration Group in support of the Office of the Special Representative. What did FAO do?

FAO prepared two thematic briefing notes, one on migration, food security, agriculture and rural development and one on remittance together with IFAD.

And provided language suggestions to the various drafts issued by the co-chairs of the Compact.

We also highlighted the need to address the adverse drivers and structural factors that hindered people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods in the place where they lived to develop the context in which people will have alternatives to migration.

And to maximize the benefits of migration for rural populations, agriculture and food systems, FAO, together with the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, UNDP and WFP, is organizing a joint side event in the margins of the endorsement procedures on 9 December in Marrakesh on addressing the drivers of migration through sustainable rural development and food security. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I have one question for Marcela and one question for Kostas. For Marcela, in the Joint Secretariat of FAO and IFAD, do you have any place for the CFS? Because CFS has also an advisory group and a high-level panel of experts and they work on the same issues. So I would like a little explanation there.

On migration, does the Migration Group include also Internally displaced people (IDPs) because in the last six months, there have been millions of people, refugees who are migrants, returning back home. In at least two cases I know of, my own country and Syria, refugees coming back become IDPs. So they just switched, and the situation is as bad outside as inside. Does it intend also the IDPs?

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

Family farming takes place in countries. I have a sense of the overall architecture for the operation of the Decade of Family Farming. I do not have a sense of how countries where family farming takes place will become involved in this initiative.

Ms Marcela VILLAREAL (Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division)

Afghanistan, Dr Ayazi, we have the Steering Committee Members which include two representatives per each FAO Region, plus a number of different farmers' organizations, the United Nations organizations that are relevant for the work and also other stakeholders, civil society organizations and the private sector, academia, research organizations.

The CFS is not a Member of the Steering Committee but we have discussed how we could be interacting with the CFS because, as you rightly say, we work on very similar issues and we should ensure that the work of the Decade is going to reinforce the CFS and on the other side too. So this is an issue as a matter of discussion. We have put it on the table and we hope to come to you back with a more concrete response because we are still not very clear how that interaction is going to take place, but it is important.

For Trinidad and Tobago, thank you for your question. The Decade will be looking at, among other things, policies. Of course, the policies to support the family farmers will have to take place at the country level. So how to support the policy making in favour of family farming that will be done by the countries? Well, the countries will be able to see what is being done in other countries. There will be lessons learned. There will be data, information on which of the policies that have already been tried and tested in other countries work best in which conditions and in which situations.

So each country, we hope by the end of the ten years, will have developed a set of policies to support the family farmers, including incentives. For example, up until now, one of the lessons learned is that one of the most effective policies for family farmers is locals buying from family farmers for school feeding. So whatever programmes on school feeding, if they buy from the local family farmers, they will be firstly, helping children in school with better and more nutritious food and secondly, supporting family farmers and the local economy. So that is a lesson learned that has already been tried and tested in Brazil and which we hope other countries would be able to benefit from too.

So that is one kind of activity that is going to be implemented at the country level.

All activities in the end will be implemented at the country level. During the International Year of Family Farming, we constituted national committees on family farming to create awareness, to promote family farming and many of these committees continue existing. We had more than forty during the year. We hope that during the Decade we will have more.

That is another way in which the countries would be able to benefit.

Yet another one is on being able to take the knowledge coming from different kinds of research. Again, during the Year of Family Farming, there was one event in which there was participatory research consulting the farmers' organizations, the research institutions and different stakeholders in order to have a research agenda that would really be able to respond to the needs of family farmers but took place during the year of family farming.

The research that has been carried out since that participatory research agenda is also something that will benefit the future of the policies, the decisions that are made at country level.

In Rome, what we are going to have is this Steering Committee and the Joint Secretariat that will be guiding, but we hope that we would be able to connect with all of the needs of the countries and to be able to help and support the processes that will take place at country level and are going to be effective because they take place at country level.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

I am just trying to understand the drivers for the processes that need to take place within countries. The mechanisms, if you will. Unless you have some learnings that came out of the Year of Family Farming that you could fall back on, I worry about the mechanisms, whether they exist or not, whether you can use

the FAO system. That is what I am looking at, to ensure that there is the enthusiasm to be generated and that kind of thing.

Ms Marcela VILLAREAL (Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division)

Offices do much of the promotion. Then the fact that IFAD is also in in the Joint Secretariat will, we believe, help in terms of also trying to direct investment towards the activities in the end that will be put up in country level. So it would be through the FAO country offices in terms of being physically present in the countries or in the groups of countries like in the case of the Caribbean and then with the support through the global level, there will also be activities that will be regional.

So for example, we also had regional consultations during the Year of Family Farming. We invite all representatives from all of the different countries to come with their knowledge to identify the challenges and see how they can be addressed. So that is also part of the process. So consultations and then through the local FAO offices, but also we hope to attract investment of course not only from IFAD but from many sources that we would be able to have strong and long lasting results.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

To answer the question from Afghanistan, first of all, the Global Compact on Migration takes into consideration internal migrants, so internal economic migrants are covered by the Global Compact on migration.

However, for those migrants that are leaving their homestead as a matter of duress, emergency, war, et cetera, as internally displaced people they are covered by the Global Compact on Refugees, which will also be endorsed about the same time with the Global Compact on Migration.

So there are two Global Compacts. One is the Global Compact on Migration and the other is the Global Compact on Refugees.

Afghanistan's example points to the Global Compact on Refugees that is under the humanitarian point of view. So that is how the internal migrants are handled.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)

I do not know if this could look philosophical but it is to address to Kostas. You are going to negotiate a compact meaning that there will be a legal document that will be approved or accepted by all of the negotiators and so on.

But still, I have been asking myself, what is migration? I do not want to make it a political or a philosophical discussion but I still do not understand what they call, in a globalized world, migration. If it only concerns persons or you go into the computer or you go into the net and so on. What is it really in that context? It could be migration.

I do not want to make it that philosophical but you know, it is – I am still very sceptical about the essence, even the idea itself of the migration. The United Nations is already involved in it but is still not entering into some of our conceptions of migration – we are living in a globalized world. I can access your home without being in your home? Do you see what I mean? Do you really see what I want to say?

So I really want to understand what is all of that? You say you understand however, can you clarify it in my mind so that I can decide where we are going. If we should just take stock of immigration or, as you said earlier, displaced persons and so on. But migration itself, what is it? I want to hear from Kostas so that he can probably give me some ideas about it.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

At the end of the day, it is a matter of definition and there are plenty of definitions of what migration is. In FAO's the State of Food and Agriculture: 2018 Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, we have the various definitions of a migrant.

A migrant is somebody that leaves his or her home in order to seek education or employment or marriage or to look for a better future, et cetera. This is the definition of a migrant. Now in principle, migrants are those that stay in a particular location away from their home for more than a year. So that is one of the definitions of what constitutes a migrant and somebody who goes as a tourist and leaves in two weeks is not considered to be a migrant.

The globalized part of your question has to do with the ease with which one can migrate which is, in some contexts, better than it used to be in the past. I do not know how you can access my home. You are always welcome but without being at my home, I am not sure exactly what you mean by that. But that is my definition of what a migrant could be.

The Compact is not yet bogged down too much in definitions. It starts with the first article if you wish; the first objective is that we need better information on migrants. That is part of what you are asking. That is, we do not have enough data on accuracy, on who actually migrates, by individuals, et cetera.

It has already been negotiated. What will happen in Morocco, in Marrakesh, is going to be the high-level discussions around the compact but the compact will not be negotiated again. It has already been negotiated and a number of countries have actually withdrawn from the consideration of the final draft.

It is a voluntary application of what has been agreed. There is no court to implement the Global Compact. The vision that you need a globally negotiated intergovernmental agreement is because no single country can solve the migration issue, and cannot deal with the migration issue. You need agreements among groups of countries or the global community if you wish.

Sorry I could not better answer your question but you probably have something else in mind, which I would be interested to hear.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

So your definition will be the way you explained it to me, that anybody who is willing to leave the country is a migrant? Anyone who is pushed by some forces, whether political or drought or disaster is not a migrant but a refugee? Correct?

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

There is legal language on what constitutes a refugee. The second point I want to make on what you just said is that it does not have to cross borders. It is not leaving from one country to another. It is leaving from one village to go to the next village in order to get married for instance and stay there. That is migration.

It is economic migration because you are looking for employment somewhere. You are going because you want to study but you do not have to cross borders. That is a part of it. There is internal migration which is actually extremely important. People usually tend to look at images of people that cross borders or the sea, but there is a huge wave of internal migration, which is taking place also as part of the transformation of the development process.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes item 19 of the agenda which was presented to Council for information only. The list of presentations will be included in the draft Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the FAO Members Gateway.

Ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this afternoon's meeting. The Council will resume its work tomorrow morning at 09.30 sharp. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 19:00 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018</p>
<p>THIRD PLENARY SESSION TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>4 December 2018</p>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.41 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee and 173rd Session of the Finance Committee (November 2018)

Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent vingt-cinquième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixante-treizième session) (novembre 2018)

Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 125.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 173.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2018)

(CL 160/5 Rev.1; CL 160/16; CL 160/16 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the third meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We start our work today with item 4, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee and the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee*, which was held on 12 and 15 November 2018. Documents for this item are CL 160/5 Rev.1, CL 160/16; CL 160/16 Add.1.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have agreed to withhold comment on “*Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*” until we reach item 10, which is dedicated solely to this issue.

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

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Distinguished Members of the Council, colleagues, dear friends, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to introduce to you the report of the Joint Meeting of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee and the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee.

Allow me to present briefly these outcomes. On the outset, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certainly all my colleagues in the Programme and Finance Committees for the excellent work done. It was not only excellent work done but it was also done in a very positive and constructive spirit as was already said by the Director-General at the opening of the session. I think it is an example how we can try to improve the results of this Organization on the ground and to work together for the challenges we are facing.

We know how crucial the challenges we are facing are. Certainly, when we look at the staggering numbers of the increase with 44 million people living in hunger, the increase of crises because of conflicts, climate change and also not enough good diets, et cetera. For that, we need to work jointly together to show that we are acting and listening to what is happening on the ground.

I think when we look at the report of the Joint Committee meeting, we can say that we are working closely together. This was also shown with the adoption of the report on Friday morning. It was done in, I would say, record time. I will explain later on. Perhaps we should have taken a little bit more time to look at some of the languages in the report, but I will explain later. I would also like to thank the Director-General for being present, not only the whole morning during the first day of the Joint Committee but also during the adoption of the report of the Joint Committee meeting, a clear show of interest in the work of those two bodies for the Organization.

At the joint meeting, we viewed important matters that are here before us today. I would like to report on the review on the matters of the adjustment and the structure in the Deputy Director-General (Programmes), the progress report on Rome-based collaboration, but I will do that at the end, implications of the implementation of funding of the United Nations Development System reform, and progress of the implementation of strategies for partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations. Of course, it was already explained that we also discussed the crucial and important issue of sexual harassment,

abuse of authority including discrimination. I will not report on that this morning. I hope I will get the floor to report on that when we are addressing that important issue under item 10.

When it comes to the adjustment and the structure under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes), document CL 160/16 and CL 160/16 Add 1, the joint meeting noted that the proposed adjustments were budget and post-neutral. That was a crucial condition for the adoption of the report. The joint meeting recommended to reinforce more comprehensive project reforms management under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes) stream and to increase – and I think it is also very important – key performance indicators in the strategic results framework for better measuring and monitoring results of the Organization. At the Joint Meeting, we recommended that Council endorse the adjustments that are indicated in paragraph 4 c) of the Report of the Joint Meeting. The report is proposing:

- to adjust the reporting line of the Investment Centre Division from the Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation, to Deputy Director-General (Programmes);
- to rename the Technical Cooperation Department as Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department, so we maintained the technical cooperation wording in the name of the department;
- to rename the Resource Mobilization Division as the Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division;
- to rename the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division as Emergency and Resilience Division; and
- to separate the Partnership and South-South Cooperation Division into the Partnership Division and the Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and adjust the reporting lines from Deputy Director-General (Programmes) to Assistant Director-General (Programmes).

On the implications of the implementation and funding of the United Nations Development System, the joint meeting, as also said by the Director-General, appreciated FAO's engagement in the joint planning efforts for the United Nations Development System reform to start in January 2019. It discussed proposals to find means to cover the gap of FAO of USD 255 million for funding contributions in 2019 of the Resident Coordinator System cost-share. In this regard, a legal opinion was sought on the possibility of using funds from the liquidation of FAO's Commissary for financing the Organization's 2019 share, which was presented by the Secretariat under document CL 160/4, Information Note 1 Rev. 1, and was discussed at the informal seminar last Friday.

Also, I think in the introductory remarks of the Director-General, he stated some of the results which were discussed during the informal seminar and where we are standing at this moment.

Based on that, the joint meeting recommended that the Council authorizes FAO to pay the cost-share contribution of USD 4.7 million from funding the Resident Coordinator System for 2019 and requests the Secretariat to explore means to fund the amount of the USD 255 million through: (i) seeking efficiency savings during implementation of the 2018-19 Programme of Work and Budget; (ii) should efficiency savings not be sufficient, then identifying areas that may be deemphasized within the approved 2018-19 Programme of Work and Budget for which resources may be reallocated without detriment to programme delivery; (iii) establishing a dedicated trust fund for 2019 should donors express interest in providing voluntary contributions. I would like to recall the request call of the Director-General for donors to do so; and (iv) reporting on action taken as part of the budgetary performance reporting at the next session of the Finance Committee in March 2019. These were the conclusions on this agenda item of the Joint Committee.

The next item was progress and implementation of the strategy for partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations. I think we had an excellent discussion within the joint meeting about getting better results, better partnerships, but especially more results on the ground both working together with the private sector perhaps in innovative ways as well as with civil society organizations.

The joint meeting welcomed the continued progress in implementation of the strategies and a continued review as an integral part of the Organization's work and provided a number of recommendations. These included for future reports to assess progress against objectives and focus on the impact on the ground, the benefits achieved, challenges faced, exchange of experiences, lessons learned and constraints with the partnerships which we sometimes see in practice. It should include innovative approaches and make a clearer distinction between partnerships and collaboration with partners. The joint meeting also recommended taking a more strategic approach toward partnerships and collaboration with partners. In that respect, it was recommended to strengthen the cooperation with the private sector and seek innovations, for example, via co-designing, co-managing and co-implementing.

Lastly, the report on the Rome-based Agencies collaboration. I think we had an excellent and intensive discussion on this item. There was a clear consensus in the room that we have to support the Rome-based Agencies collaboration in the broadest and strongest sense and, at the same time, that we also have to try to involve the Membership, especially when we have the informal meeting of the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based Agencies. Of course, there was a clear wish to focus in these meetings and also when it comes to the meeting of the senior consultative group to get results from them, to listen to them and to see how we can then strengthen the development of the Membership when it comes to the United Nations Development System. We always speak about reform, but I think one of the Members of the Joint Committee highlighted that it is about the repositioning of the United Nations Development System and not a formal reform. I think we have to be correct in our wording in that sense.

The joint meeting appreciated the report on progress made on the Rome-based Agency collaboration and made a number of recommendations: (i) strengthen partnerships and collaboration, focusing on the synergies and complementarities of the RBAs; (ii) present a more strategic and structured approach in future planning and reporting on RBA collaboration, building on the technical skills and complementary operational modalities of each of the agencies; (iii) strengthen joint programming in countries both at regional level and, of course, at global level, but I think especially at regional and national level it was very much highlighted; (iv) focus future reports on lessons learned, challenges faced, impacts on the ground, realize financial benefits and planned areas of collaboration; (v) facilitate greater engagement of Members in the areas of the joint RBA implementation of the United Nations Development System repositioning, including through briefings following the meetings of the senior consultative group meetings, and continue providing a joint updated report annually and involving the Membership in the preparation of the informal joint meeting of the Governing Bodies every year.

The report was adopted in record time. When you look now to paragraph 5 f) of the report, although all the elements about involving the Membership for the preparation of the joint annual meeting and also getting more information as the results of the meetings of the senior consultative group, the paragraph led to some quite different interpretations. We had a meeting of the Chair with the Director-General and the Chairs of the Regional Groups and I think we spent about 45 minutes discussing the interpretation of this paragraph. It was clear that there could be a misinterpretation that we were creating new layers in the Organization or more bureaucratic systems, which was never the idea behind this paragraph. Also, in the informal seminar, the Director-General raised the issue that after the explanation during the meeting with the Chair and with the regional groups, he understood much better the paragraph and he saw that there was no idea of creating new bureaucracy or new layers within the Organization. As we are sitting here, of course, we know it, but in five years' time, perhaps we are not sitting here anymore, our successors will be sitting here and perhaps it could lead again to misinterpretation.

Therefore, I would like to clarify, to avoid any misunderstanding, we consulted with many Members to see how we can improve the language but maintaining and keeping the substance of the paragraph. There were two elements: greater involvement of the Membership in the preparations of the informal meetings yearly with the Governing Bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies as well as getting information out of the senior consultative group meetings, to affirm us how much they are working. They are doing great work in New York when it comes to the repositioning of the United Nations Development System. With

that information, we can prepare not only ourselves better for the yearly meeting but we can also push our colleagues in New York to really look at the important elements and matters of importance of the Rome-based Agencies in the repositioning of the United Nations Development System reform. For that reason I proposed a new paragraph and that Council would decide to replace paragraph 5 f) with this new paragraph.

I will read it out so that we can hear it in all languages. Paragraph 5 f) would read as follows:

“Recommended greater engagement with Members in the preparatory and follow-up activities of the joint annual informal meetings of the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP via:

(a) briefings (informal seminars) of the Membership after meetings of the senior consultative group on the progress in the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 (Repositioning the United Nations Development System...), and

(b) involving the Membership through the ICC meetings with the Chairs of the Regional Groups of FAO, the Bureau of the Executive Board of WFP and Convenors and Friends of IFAD in preparing the joint annual meeting of the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP”.

When you compare the two paragraphs, there are only very slight changes because we made it clear that it is related to the joint annual meetings and that we want to get a briefing about the outcomes of the senior consultative group in order to prepare better for the joint annual meetings. Slight changes but I would say this cannot lead to any misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the text anymore. I hope that the Members of the Council could adopt this as a decision of the Council.

With that, I would like to conclude my report on the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. I really would like to thank again my co-Chair, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and certainly all the Members of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for the hard work, the focus on substance and for trying to get better results from FAO, and at the same time appreciating the work which is already done by FAO and to see how we can get more impact on the ground.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Lupiño Lazaro, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to provide any additional comments on the Report of the Joint Meeting.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

Since the Programme Committee Chair who presided over the recent Joint Meeting has comprehensively and eloquently reported to the Members what transpired during the Joint Meeting and at the same time the recent suggestions for amendments, I do not think I have much more to add.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for any comments on the Report of the Joint Meeting and on the slight revision to one of the paragraphs.

Mr Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)

The Philippines is pleased to deliver this statement on behalf the Asia Regional Group.

We wish to express appreciation to the Programme Committee Chairperson, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, for his leadership and the efficient conduct of the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and to the FAO Management and Secretariat for the relevant information and support they provided.

The Asia Group would like to highlight the following points:

We welcome the proposed adjustments in the structure under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes), emphasizing that these should be budget and post-neutral. We concur with the recommendation by the Joint Meeting for a more comprehensive project performance management under the DDG-P stream. We strongly support the establishment of a separate “Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation”. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is an important tool to realize the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives, promoting mutual learning and experience sharing, including among smallholders and family farmers, which constitute the backbone of agriculture in many Asian countries and elsewhere. While recognizing the rationale in the renamed “Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department,” we hope that this will lead to a more effective TCP and programme delivery. Procedurally, it would have been preferable if ample and timely consultation with Members had been undertaken in the presentation of the proposed adjustments.

We endorse the Joint Meeting’s recommendation to authorize FAO to pay the cost-share contribution of USD 4.7 million for funding the Resident Coordinator System for 2019. The option to require additional assessed contributions on Members is not feasible, given the time constraint and intricacies of national and intergovernmental budgetary processes, including those of Asian Member Nations. As recommended by the Joint Meeting, we therefore urge the Secretariat to seek efficiency savings during the implementation of the current biennium’s Programme of Work and Budget and, if deemed insufficient, identify areas for de-emphasis, without adversely affecting programme delivery, and to explore other potential sources of funding. Moreover, we would appreciate more information on how FAO will determine areas for de-emphasis, should these be unavoidable, as well as regular updates on this matter. We are open to establishing a dedicated trust fund for 2019, should there be donors willing to provide voluntary contributions in this regard.

We appreciate the progress report and the Joint Meeting’s recommendation for a more strategic and structural approach towards planning and reporting on UN Rome-based Agencies collaboration. We encourage greater engagement with Members in the preparatory and follow-up activities of the joint annual meetings of the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP, as well as in coordinated actions, with RBAs as the lead group of agencies within the UN Development System, to deliver SDG2 in particular and the Agenda 2030 as a whole.

We support FAO’s zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, and its prevention, the institution’s pro-active participation in the UN system-wide efforts to eliminate any forms of harassment and abuse, and look forward to further discussions on this topic under agenda item 10 of this Council meeting.

We concur with the Joint Meeting’s recommendation for a more strategic approach towards partnerships and collaborations with partners to identify opportunities, gaps and possible partners to ensure increased funding and greater impact, and better alignment with objectives and priorities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget. We also concur with the recommendations on how to improve on future progress reports on FAO’s work on partnerships with the private sector and the civil society organizations.

With these remarks, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Joint Meeting report.

Mr Hisham BADR (Egypt)

Egypt has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the G77 and China on the report of the Joint Meeting of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee and the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee that was held on 12 and 16 November 2018.

Firstly, and before commenting on the report, allow me to share with you that the G77 and China is deeply concerned about the growing number of undernourished people in the world reaching a record level of 821 million in 2017. The situation is getting worse in almost all regions of Africa, some Latin America and Caribbean states and parts of Asia, especially Western Asia with Yemen as the hot spot. Against this backdrop, the G77 and China calls upon all relevant stakeholders, especially the Rome-based Agencies, to join forces and take immediate actions to assist vulnerable people wherever they reside if we are to show that we are actually committed to achieve zero-hunger target by 2030.

The G77 and China welcome the recommendations of the Joint Report of the Programme and Finance Committees and would like to thank and commend Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen for his great efforts shown during the deliberations and adoption of the report. We would also like to thank Mr Lazaro, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, for his work.

The G77 and China welcome the proposed adjustments in the structure of FAO under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes), particularly the separation of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division into the Partnerships Division and the Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as adjusting its reporting lines from the DDG-P to Assistant Director-General for Programme Support.

The G77 and China look forward to the positive implications as a result of this separation on the work of FAO. It gives more attention and support to the promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an essential tool to assist the developing countries in their endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in particular SDG 1, eradicating poverty and SDG 2, zero hunger.

The proposed separation of South-South Cooperation (SSC) aligns with the continued efforts of the G77 and China to activate this tool as it is cost efficient and focused on sharing expertise and technical capacity between developing countries. The G77 and China call upon FAO to give high priority to the use of partnerships to enable the Organization to leverage its comparative advantages, and to increase collaboration with other RBAs to develop an action plan to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation ahead of the next UN Conference on SSC that will be held in Buenos Aires next March 2019. In this regard, we look forward to working with FAO to implement the outcomes of Bapa +40 Conference.

The G77 and China welcome the progress report of the collaboration of the RBAs and highly appreciate the commitments of FAO, WFP and IFAD to strengthen their collaboration considering their synergies and complementarity. In this regard, we support the active engagement of Members in the preparation of the annual informal joint meeting of the three agencies and request the RBAs to focus more on implementing joint programmes and projects on the field and to report on that progress at the next RBAs meeting that will be held in September 2019 under the chairmanship of WFP.

Moreover, the G77 and China would also like to support a regular informal engagement between Members and the RBAs Senior Consultative Group on the progress in implementation of the United Nations Development System Reform that has become a standing item on the RBAs agenda.

The G77 and China support the United Nations Development System reform that aims to increase collaboration and coordination between UN organizations in order to support the implementation of Agenda 2030. On this matter, we request FAO to explore feasible ways to fund the additional amount of USD 2.55 million according to the cost-sharing contribution arrangement to fund the Resident Coordinator System through efficiency savings without affecting programme delivery.

The G77 and China welcome FAO's proactive engagement at the UN system-wide level in efforts to prevent all forms of harassment and sexual harassment and abuse within the UN system workplace. We call upon FAO to continue its efforts to achieve zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

With these comments, the G77 and China supports the endorsement of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We would like to endorse the Joint Meeting recommendations on the proposed adjustments in the structure under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes). In particular, we welcome the management commitment to better project performance management and to using an increased number of key performance indicators (KPIs) in the strategic results framework to measure this. We look forward to receiving FAO's project performance targets in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020 and 2021.

Regarding the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration we would like to thank the Secretariats of the RBAs for the preparation of the document.

We fully support the Joint Meeting's recommendations for a more strategic and structural approach towards planning and reporting on RBA collaboration and on an adjusted focus of future joint reports considering changes to the format of the document.

We strongly support the recommendation on strengthened joint programming. Furthermore, we are looking forward to the announced set of joint development indicators for measuring the impact of RBA collaboration.

We thank the Chairperson for the proposed changes in the report, which we fully support and endorse.

Thus, we particularly welcome the recommendation on increased engagement with Members in the preparatory and follow-up activities of the joint meetings of the governing bodies of the RBAs. We also support the two concrete suggestions of the Joint Meeting in this regard. Firstly, informal seminars of the Membership after each meeting of the senior consultative group should be organised, in order to provide feedback and facilitate a comprehensive dialogue on the prospects of RBAs' collaboration. This might turn out to be particularly fruitful with regard to the progress and the perceived challenges of the RBAs in the implementation of the United Nations Development System Reform because these briefings offer the opportunity to avoid a disconnect of the discussion in Rome and New York. Secondly, we support the suggestion to involve the Membership through the ICC meetings with the Chairs of the FAO Regional Groups, the Bureau of the Executive Board of WFP and Convenors of IFAD in preparing the annual informal joint meetings of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP.

This leads me to the item on the implications of the implementation and funding of the UN Development Systems Reform.

First and foremost, we would like to re-emphasize the crucial importance of full compliance of all members of the United Nations Development System with the UN General Assembly resolution 72/279.

We welcome the recommendations of the Joint Meeting on the funding of FAO's cost-sharing contribution.

Given the small additional amount to be funded in 2019, we encourage the secretariat to explore proactively sources of funding that were pointed to in the discussions at the Finance Committee.

In particular, we believe that there is still considerable room for efficiency savings, which could be used to cover the gap of USD 2.55 million. The implementation of the respective recommendations of the External Auditor will certainly yield substantial efficiency savings. Other potential efficiency savings are mentioned in the Finance Committee document on Human Resources Management.

We encourage the Secretariat to fully exploit these possibilities so as to avoid the need for identification of areas that may be de-emphasised within the approved 2018-19 PWB.

We thank Management for the document on progress in implementation of the strategies for partnerships with the private sector, civil society and academia and endorse the joint meeting recommendations on this paper as well. We encourage FAO to further strengthen its partnerships with these stakeholders, following the principles of full transparency and accountability.

Finally, we request the Secretariat to inform the Membership about the informal sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees and to allow for silent observers to attend these meetings.

Sr. Sidhartha MARÍN ARÁUZ (Nicaragua)

Saludamos a todas las delegaciones de este honorable Consejo. Mi delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas. Nuestra intervención se alinea con la declaración realizada por la honorable Delegación de Egipto en representación del Grupo de los 77 y China.

Tomamos nota y felicitamos a FAO por su gran compromiso y diligencia en la implementación del Plan de acción para la prevención del hostigamiento, acoso sexual y abuso de autoridad, siguiendo las iniciativas impulsadas por el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y mediante el fortalecimiento transversal de su política en materia de género. La persistencia de contextos laborales caracterizados por desigualdades profundamente enraizadas y por conductas abusivas de los derechos humanos nos exige la creación de sistemas de prevención y de atención a este tipo de violencia que funcionen adecuadamente.

Por tal razón apoyamos todas las medidas y las acciones concretas encaminadas a prevenir y garantizar el respecto a la dignidad de las y los trabajadores. Igualmente deseamos referirnos a la propuesta de ajuste a la estructura bajo la responsabilidad del Director General Adjunto. Concordamos en la necesidad de estos ajustes, a fin de que FAO pueda adaptarse y reaccionar adecuadamente ante los grandes desafíos mundiales, ofreciendo también un mejor apoyo a los países miembros.

Entendemos que, con esta nueva configuración organizativa, se busca reivindicar el rol estratégico de FAO como agencia que vincula la agricultura, el cambio climático y la seguridad alimentaria. Por tanto, consideramos primordial que el nuevo organigrama entre en función en tiempos reducidos, incluyendo el nombramiento del puesto de Subdirector General responsable del Departamento de Cooperación Técnica o nuevo departamento de apoyo a los programas PS para que puedan hacerse efectivos todos los propósitos de estos ajustes.

Como Países Miembros creemos que la cooperación técnica y el apoyo a los programas nacionales, incluyendo la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular, sean mecanismos cada vez más necesarios, como se ha demostrado en los últimos años. Coincidimos en la importancia de dar mayor énfasis a la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular como prioridad de los Estados Miembros. Estamos convencidos de que la separación de las oficinas de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular y la de asociaciones permitirá darle un mayor impulso a la solidaridad y cooperación entre los estados, involucrando a la vez a actores no estatales en la movilización de recursos adicionales para alcanzar los ODS.

Confiamos en que una vez implementados los ajustes a través de los mecanismos pertinentes, y en los tiempos necesarios, la FAO se dispondrá a monitorear, evaluar y si es necesario, realizar otros ajustes pertinentes de cara a mejorar el funcionamiento de esta estructura.

Con estos comentarios la Delegación de Nicaragua ratifica el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas.

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind Members that they should reserve their comments on the policy on prevention of harassment and sexual harassment as I indicated at the beginning of our session: that item will be discussed under agenda item 10. Please reserve your comments on this item for item 10.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China and by the Asia group, and would like to focus its intervention on the following points.

Thailand echoes the support on the separation of the Partnership and South-South Cooperation Division and on the adjustment of the line of report to the ADG-PS (Assistant Director-General of Programmes). We look forward to the increased effectiveness of the programmes in delivering technical support and in focusing on efficient knowledge sharing by FAO to help developing countries achieve the SDGs.

We note with concern that the financial gap in the amount of USD 2.55 million may result in reallocation and de-emphasizing of the approved programme of work, and we urge that this option be the last resort. We encourage FAO to put more efforts into efficiency savings where there still is some room for improvement, particularly with regard to the travelling policy and the management of either FAO staff or non-staff resources. The utilization of IT as a means of communication should be magnified to induce cost saving in terms of time and budget.

Thailand welcomes the progress report on the Rome-based Agencies collaboration and appreciates all efforts made to draw on the strengths and comparative advantages of each organization to enhance their support to member countries. We look forward to the joint updated report on collective outcomes and corporate modalities in building the synergy and complementarity of the RBAs.

Lastly, we support the amendment made to paragraph 5 f) of the report. With these remarks, Thailand endorses the Joint Meeting report.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial hace esta alocución en nombre de los Países del Grupo Africano, los cuales suscriben la declaración pronunciada por el Representante de Egipto en nombre del Grupo G77 y China.

Los países del Grupo Africano manifestamos nuestras felicitaciones al Excmo. Sr. Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen, Embajador y Representante Permanente de Holanda ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, por su brillante presentación. Al propio tiempo le congratulamos por su paciencia, flexibilidad y sobre todo por su liderazgo y la capacidad de mediación para lograr el mutuo entendimiento y el consenso de los Miembros en el transcurso de las deliberaciones de los puntos inscrito en el Orden del Día de la Reunión Conjunta.

Felicitamos asimismo a los Miembros del Comité de Programa y Comité de Finanzas por el brillante trabajo que han realizado para llegar a estas excelentes y exhaustivas conclusiones; así como las importantes orientaciones que vienen recogidos en el informe tal y como se acaba de presentar al Consejo.

El Grupo Africano acoge con beneplácito el nuevo organigrama funcional bajo la estructura del Director General Adjunto, Encargado de Programas y alienta a la Administración de la FAO en seguir acordando especial atención a los Programas de Cooperación, así como la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular.

Exhortamos a la FAO para que siga reforzando las actividades de colaboración con las demás Agencias de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, sobre todo en los aspectos estratégicos y estructurales relacionados con la planificación para ayudar a los Países en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Apreciamos y respaldamos la nueva propuesta de redacción del inciso f) del párrafo 5 del informe que nos acaba de presentar el presidente del Comité del Programa.

En efecto, con esas apreciaciones, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial en nombre de los Países del Grupo Africano, recomienda al Consejo que haga suya las conclusiones de este Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Programa en su 125.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 173.º período de sesiones.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

The Nordic countries give strong support to the United Nations Development System Reform aiming to achieve a more efficient UN that is fit for purpose and can deliver as one. In this regard, the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System is the key to ensuring that the UN assists host countries in a coherent, integrated and efficient manner in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It is vital that we move towards implementation of the reforms without any delay. The governing bodies of all funds, programmes and specialized agencies must take the necessary decisions to ensure that the respective entities contribute constructively to the reforms decided by Members. We expect that all organizations contribute to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) cost-sharing arrangement for the Resident

Coordinator system and transfer their contributions as early as possible, in line with the Secretary-General's implementation plan.

FAO's contribution for funding of the Resident Coordinator System must be budgeted and paid as normal expenses under the regular budget in the future Programme of Work and Budget.

The Nordic countries strongly support the recommendation that FAO pays the cost share contribution of USD 4.7 million for funding the Resident Coordinator System for 2019. The gap of USD 2.5 million should be covered by seeking efficiency savings and, only if necessary, de-emphasizing certain areas. We expect to get a report on this at the next Finance Committee meeting.

We find ourselves in the middle of a stream of meetings of the governing bodies of the Rome-based Agencies. Last week WFP, now FAO, and the coming week IFAD. In all meetings, we have a presentation with the same document on RBA collaboration. The Nordic countries welcome the increased collaboration between the RBAs that this common document represents.

We welcome the Joint Informal Meetings of the RBA governing bodies and support the request that they be held annually. As Members, we are willing to further increase the productivity of the meetings by being involved in the preparatory and follow-up activities.

That being said, the Nordic countries would like to emphasize that the collaboration has value when it strengthens the results sought for. Both at headquarters and in the field, cooperation should be sought with those entities with whom it brings added value, be they UN organizations, governments, private sector or civil society.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I have a request for clarification, but Egypt's statement on behalf of the G77 and China responded to my question. I support what was said by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China. The issue to separate the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division into the Partnership Division is very important. We support what was said by the Programme and Finance Committees. FAO is called upon today to find other opportunities for cooperation in order to support this section, cooperation between countries in the global south. South-South Cooperation can contribute to reducing the number of people suffering from hunger in the global south. We support the modification to paragraph 5 f) as proposed by the Chair of the Programme Committee.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Thank you as well for the comprehensive and thorough presentation of the joint meeting report, the recommendations of which we support.

Canada acknowledges the importance of ongoing collaboration within the United Nations System, whether through RBA collaboration or with other United Nations agencies, facilitated through the United Nations Development System Reform process. We believe that these efforts will allow FAO to increase its impact and focus on where it has a unique mandate or comparative advantage, including technical expertise and advice based on science and evidence and standard-setting, including Codex and IPPC. FAO's ongoing partnership efforts provide opportunities to not only leverage additional resources but also invaluable knowledge, expertise and networks. We fully support the recommendations on how to monitor progress made in this regard in a more structured and strategic manner.

Canada also remains committed to full implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution as well and in a timely manner on how to reinvigorate the United Nations Resident Coordinator System. We are fully confident that FAO can identify the efficiency gains to cover the unbudgeted cap of USD 2.5 million. We also very much welcome further engagement with Member States, including in paragraph f as clarified by the Chair of the Programme Committee this morning. We believe that this presents an opportunity to see how specialized agencies such as FAO can seize the opportunity of the new

Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to make sure that this instrument supports at country level normative and policy support.

We also would welcome discussions in the future in these briefings in preparation for the informal annual joint meeting or on progress of the implementation of United Nations Development System Reform to understand how FAO is changing the way it works and what changes it envisages in strategic plans to implement reforms. Moreover, what do you see as your comparative advantage and what changes are you making in efficiency gains to support the reforms and effectiveness in UNDAF? How are you advancing some lines of business in this effort, especially mainstreaming gender, as well operational effectiveness and efficiencies regarding shared back offices and common processes at country level to advance coherence and savings in the delivery in support of the SDGs? How are you incentivizing your teams on reform and how are you changing the culture of the Organization to break down silos and work across the United Nations Development System? We very much look forward to future discussions on this.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

Japan fully aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of the Philippines, and would like to add further comments with regard to the UN Development System Reform.

As we have already expressed in New York, Japan welcomes the United Nations General Assembly's recent decisions to endorse concrete reform plan for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations. We hope the reform will be carried out without further financial burden to Member States.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the recommendation by the Joint Meeting, to seek efficiency savings during the current biennium's Programme of Work and Budget, as well as to establish a trust fund for the voluntary contributions to pay the cost share for the Resident Coordinator system for 2019. Japan hopes that FAO will share the costs while maintaining its technical knowledge and comparative advantages.

Japan requests the Secretariat to provide more information on how FAO will benefit from the new Resident Coordinator System at the field level. Japan also expects that the achievement of the efficiency gains on the ground should redeploy for development activities, including coordination.

Last but not least, Japan fully supports the modification of paragraph 5(f) of the Report proposed by the Chair of the Programme Committee. It reflects much more clearly and correctly the discussion at the Joint Meeting and it also aligns with discussions at the WFP Executive Board last week.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La France s'associe pleinement à la déclaration prononcée par l'Autriche au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres. Nous souhaitons par cette intervention mettre l'accent sur un point particulier, à savoir la mise en œuvre et le financement de la réforme du système de développement des Nations Unies.

Nous sommes fermement convaincus que la mise en œuvre des réformes énoncées dans la résolution 72/279 rendra l'ONU plus efficace et efficiente, et donc plus à même de répondre aux défis et aux besoins émergents, conformément aux exigences du Programme 2030. Des coordonnateurs résidents forts, indépendants et impartiaux, davantage axés sur le développement durable et dirigés par des équipes de pays plus intégrées et axées sur les résultats, constituent la pierre angulaire de la réforme.

La France est mobilisée pour s'assurer de la mise en œuvre de la réforme par les organisations spécialisées et encourage à ce titre la FAO à poursuivre son plein engagement dans la dynamique de la réforme, en concertation étroite avec les États Membres et avec les autres organisations ayant leur siège à Rome, le FIDA et le PAM. Le succès de la réforme du système de développement des Nations Unies dépendra en effet très largement de la mobilisation des agences, fonds et programmes, qui sont en première ligne pour la mettre en œuvre.

Il nous paraît crucial en particulier de relever le défi du financement du système des coordonnateurs résidents, à la fois dans le cadre de la formule renforcée de partage des coûts et via le prélèvement de un pour cent des contributions volontaires affectées reçues.

Sur le terrain, nous attendons une participation active et collaborative aux équipes de pays, l'alignement des activités sur le document cadre «UNDAF» (Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement - PNUAD), l'accroissement de la mutualisation des locaux, lorsque cela est pertinent, et des services de soutien, ainsi qu'une adaptation de la présence dans les pays aux besoins et au contexte.

La France soutient pleinement les objectifs fixés par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et attend de la FAO qu'elle fasse rapport au Conseil sur la planification et les résultats de la mise en œuvre de ces actions, ainsi qu'aux coordonnateurs résidents sur l'appui aux résultats communs.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China associates itself to the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China and endorses the statement made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Group.

We also endorse the report with the following comments.

Firstly, China supports the adjustments in the structure and to the Deputy-Director (Programmes), precisely moving the DPS to the Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department. This will reflect its programme support orientation. Moreover, creating a separate office with South-South and Triangular Cooperation is an important step towards the right direction.

Secondly, China hopes that FAO will maintain its core leading position in global agricultural South-South Cooperation. As usual, China will continue to support and advocate for the South-South Cooperation. China believes that South-South Cooperation has been a priority for FAO for some time and it has a long history of successful implementation of this type of technical collaboration. Therefore, China commends the FAO for attaching a great importance and supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation in its structural adjustments. We believe that this will eventually help developing countries to achieve the SDGs, to reduce poverty and hunger and to secure global food security.

Last month the Ministerial Forum on Global South-South Cooperation was held in Changsha, China. The participants adopted the Changsha Declaration and issued a joint statement in supporting South-South Cooperation and rural revitalization. This will undoubtedly contribute to the BAPA+40 meeting to be held in 2019 in Argentina. The South-South Cooperation focused on rural areas, on the revitalization and livelihoods of the farmers.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Muchas gracias a los presidentes del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas por su liderazgo durante la Reunión Conjunta. Permítame abordar tres temas:

En relación al ajuste a la estructura bajo la responsabilidad del Director General Adjunto para Programas, apoyamos estos cambios. Para países en desarrollo, la cooperación técnica sigue siendo uno de los elementos que da valor a la asociación con la FAO y en varios casos la pericia técnica con la que cuenta la Organización no se encuentra tan fácilmente disponible o accesible como la que se encuentra aquí, en la FAO.

Entendemos que los cambios están también orientados a incrementar la capacidad de la Organización para gestionar proyectos de mayor envergadura, incluyendo la cartera de proyectos relacionados con el Fondo Verde Climático. Apoyamos estos cambios, que darán apoyos tangibles a los países para el cumplimiento del Acuerdo de París.

Respecto a la colaboración de los Organismos con sede en Roma, agradecemos la información proporcionada en la Reunión Conjunta. Además de la información de carácter cualitativo, es importante pasar a una colaboración más estratégica y estructural, abordando los retos comunes de las tres Agencias con sede en Roma respecto a la seguridad alimentaria, como malnutrición, acceso a mercados y financiación innovadora,

entre otros temas. En los países, esta colaboración debe responder a las necesidades de los gobiernos nacionales y claramente variará de país en país. Además de la colaboración estratégica, apoyamos el fomento de cooperación de carácter administrativo en los países. Como se mencionó en la Reunión Conjunta, además de la reunión anual con los líderes de las tres Agencias, sería útil tener una interacción un poco más frecuente, como por ejemplo después de las reuniones del Grupo Consultivo Superior. En este sentido, la propuesta presentada hace unos minutos por el Presidente del Comité del Programa en relación al antiguo párrafo 5(f) del informe de la Reunión Conjunta tiene nuestro apoyo.

Respecto a las consecuencias de la aplicación y financiación de la reforma del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, la propuesta emanada de la Reunión Conjunta para cubrir la duplicación de costos del sistema de coordinadores residentes es pragmática. Esperamos que el faltante para cubrir la contribución para 2019 emane de eficiencias en la FAO, sin afectar la ejecución del Programa y Trabajo.

Con estos comentarios, endosamos el informe de la Reunión Conjunta.

Sr. Elías Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana De Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece a los Presidentes del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas la presentación del Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 125.º período de sesiones y del Comité de Finanzas en su 173.º período de sesiones (12 y 15 de noviembre de 2018) y apoya la declaración del G-77 y China.

En particular, deseamos manifestar nuestro respaldo a los siguientes asuntos que se señalan a la atención del Consejo:

La recomendación de separar la División de Asociaciones y de Cooperación Sur-Sur en la División de Asociaciones (PSP) y la Oficina de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular (OSS) y modificar la línea jerárquica del DDG-P al ADG-PS, por cuanto la Cooperación Sur-Sur promueve el desarrollo pleno de nuestros países, y se caracteriza por sus principios básicos de solidaridad, complementariedad, igualdad, no condicionalidad y respeto de la soberanía.

Respecto al párrafo 5, relativo al Informe sobre la marcha de las actividades de colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma, aplaudimos el compromiso firme y constante de la FAO, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) de reforzar las asociaciones y la colaboración centrándose en las sinergias y la complementariedad entre los tres organismos.

Por último, sobre las Consecuencias de la aplicación y financiación de la reforma del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo, alentamos la recomendación a que el Consejo solicite a la Secretaría que estableciera un fondo fiduciario ad hoc para 2019, en el caso de que los donantes expresaran interés en aportar contribuciones voluntarias que comprenden la suma de 2,55 millones de USD.

Con estas observaciones, apoyamos el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta.

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

We would also like to thank the Chair of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, for the detailed presentation of the outcomes of the meeting.

We support the recommendation of the Joint Meeting in relation to the sources from which they expect to cover the FAO deficit and gap of USD 2.55 million. We note the options that came out of the joint meeting in relation to the joint funding and cost-sharing recommended by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 72/279 in relation to the options to cover this shortfall in the budget through efficiency savings. We would like to focus on the fact that such savings must be based on increasing the administrative effectiveness of the Secretariat of FAO and should not be to the detriment of the programmatic work.

We thank the Chair of the Programme Committee for the proposal of the amendment to paragraph 5 f) of the Joint Meeting report. The changes take into account the concerns of, amongst others, our delegation.

We would also like to draw attention to paragraph 5 g) of the report. We believe that in the second part of this paragraph it also talks about exclusively increasing the United Nations repositioning process on efforts to increase the UN Development System reform, “[in English] Exclusively on the efforts to better position the UN Development System”, in accordance with resolution 72/279 of the UN General Assembly and it does not refer to anything else. Only according to this understanding would we be in support of such a proposal.

We have no objections to the changes in the structure of the Secretariat and also in relation to the separation of powers between the Deputy Director-General and the Deputy Director-General (Programmes).

We have also noted information on the development of cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies. We support the recommendation about a more systemic approach to planning of such cooperation and collaboration, including through the realization of new strategies, programmes and joint events. We agree with the Joint Meeting's conclusion that, in future reports on this issue, it is important to focus more on concrete results and financial benefits. This will enable us to overcome difficulties in our work in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

Since I have no other requests for the floor, I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen and Mr Lazaro, and then the Secretariat, to respond to any of the issues or questions which have been raised.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

On behalf of all the Members of the Programme Committee and the Members of the Finance Committee who form the Joint Committee, I would like to thank the Members of the Council for the support they are giving to the recommendations of the Joint Committee meeting.

I would like to underline the words that were said by Egypt on behalf of the G77. When we look to the growing number of undernourished people worldwide, and especially in conflict areas like Yemen and others, we have to unite our efforts and we must take more action on the ground to see how we can support those people where it is needed the most to achieve the zero hunger target. We already know that we are lagging behind if you look at the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I think we only have 11 years to go. So, with the growing numbers, we really have to do more in order to achieve not only the zero hunger target, but especially we should focus on those conflict areas, those areas that have droughts because of climate change to see how we can support them in the field.

Certainly, the assistance is mentioned in all recommendations. I also appreciate the efforts made by the three Rome-based Agencies. In particular, FAO is committed in trying to have a strong voice in reshaping the United Nations Development System. I believe it is important because that matter is where we have to focus on when we speak about the Resident Coordinator. If we want to have better results on the ground, we have to improve the coordination of the United Nations Organizations not only at regional level, but also especially on the national level. For that, we need a joint programming framework. Therefore, we need to reform. Hopefully, we are going to agree on this issue as a Council body at the level of the Deputy Director-General (Programmes).

I would like to make a remark on the observations of the distinguished permanent representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. He knows that all formal and informal meetings of the Joint Meeting, as well as of the Programme and the Finance Committees, are open to observers of the Membership. I really would like to invite him to the Joint Committee meeting, as well as the Programme meeting. Surely in the beginning, there may be a lot of observers from the Membership. I think it is not only interesting to look at the outcomes, the recommendations, but also to examine how we have arrived at those recommendations. I will make sure that the informal meetings – and I will say something about it also on the Programme Committee – that the informal meetings are probably announced on the

Membership platform so that everybody can participate. I hope that we will have a full room that we have to change the venue of both the Programme and Finance Committee to this bigger room so that a full Membership can listen to the discussion of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I would also thank the Members of the Council for the support for the new paragraph 5 f), because it makes it much clearer where we are heading. I also have to commend the delegate of the Russian Federation for making us aware of that point. In paragraph 5 g), we have to insert the correct language when we speak about the United Nations reshaping of the Development System processes and efforts. This is because it is not a formal reform, but we are discussing in New York in relation to the resolution 72/279 about the repositioning of the United Nations Development System. I consider that we have to put it in place, but it can be done with the right wording. Thank you very much for your consideration and approval.

Finally, I really would like to express my appreciation for the tremendous work done by the Secretariat of the Joint Committee. We always take it for granted the work done by the technicians, the messengers and certainly the interpreters. Without these people, we would not manage to issue an excellent report.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

I also wish to express my deep gratitude and great appreciation to the Council Members for extending its support to the recommendations put forth by the joint meeting, as our Programme Committee Chair has mentioned.

I would just like to emphasize perhaps one item in the joint meeting agenda for which the Finance Committee has been assigned to discuss and provide recommendations. It refers to funding the United Nations Development System Reform. At the start of the joint meeting, it was suggested that the Finance Committee discuss more in-depth on the proposals, including those options that were presented by the Secretariat. In the deliberations by the Committee, we were able to come up with those recommendations. I am glad that the joint meeting adopted it, and now it is also being welcomed and generally accepted in the Council. Of course, we would have to discuss this further and there may be some adjustments. We look forward to reviewing the measures and steps that will be taken by Management and the Secretariat in this regard. As also mentioned in the report, we look forward to examining the updates that will be provided to the Finance Committee at its next session in March 2019.

The second point has also been mentioned by the Programme Committee Chair. In the conduct of the informal meetings, perhaps on the next occasions there will be more dissemination of information on when this will be scheduled and how non-Members of the Committee could observe. Usually, you know that during formal meetings Members, especially in the Finance Committee, are seated around one table and they can listen to the discussions of the Committee. Yet, I think what may need to be improved, as suggested by the European Union is the participation in informal meetings. We will try to look at that and provide more information or communicate to Members how this could be done more efficiently.

Finally, I would like to share the Programme Committee Chair's appreciative remarks. First, I thank him because of his outstanding leadership. You can see how his excellent negotiating skills had worked out well for us, as we finished the joint meeting way ahead of time, and facilitated the adoption of the report. As regards, the Finance Committee I will mention something about an introduction in the working methods, which facilitated the completion of work and adoption of our report in record time. That was also made possible through the cooperation and flexibility by both the Programme and Finance Committee Members. I would like to express my great appreciation for that. Moreover, we would like to thank the Management and the Secretariat for the relevant information they provided as led by the Director-General. It is also good that even in the adoption of the report the Director-General was there so that if there was anything that we needed to address and sort out with him, it was immediately discussed. I would like to give credit to the technicians, the interpreters and everyone who was involved in making this joint meeting more efficient, so that we could duly present to you our findings and recommendations.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur général adjoint, Opérations)

Je voudrais juste ajouter quelques mots sur la réforme des Nations Unies. Comme nous avons pu l'exprimer lors de réunions informelles et aussi lors des discussions formelles des Comités du Programme et financier, je voudrais réaffirmer devant le Conseil l'engagement et le dévouement de la FAO, comme je pense de toutes les organisations romaines, au succès de la mise en œuvre de cette réforme et à s'assurer que soient atteints les résultats de la résolution 72/279, telle qu'approuvée par l'Assemblée générale.

Il ne fait pas de doute que la FAO est engagée très activement dans les discussions des groupes de travail qui concernent la préparation de la mise en œuvre des différents piliers de la réforme, soit dans le Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement (PNUAD/UNDAF), ou les services mutualisés, ou encore la transformation du système des coordonnateurs résidents des Nations Unies.

Nous voulons nous assurer que la perspective, la vision des organisations spécialisées, ainsi que notre approche bien spécifique dans la diversité des Nations Unies, soient intégrées dans cette réforme, sinon ce ne sera pas un succès. Et je dois dire à cet effet que le dialogue avec le Secrétariat à New York, avec l'équipe de transition qui a été désignée par le Secrétaire général, est excellent. Nous rencontrons une capacité d'écoute et à intégrer nos commentaires comme organisations spécialisées, de grande qualité.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations soumises à l'attention du Conseil, les recommandations des Comités du Programme et financier concernant le financement de la partie non budgétisée de notre contribution financière pour 2019, nous trouvons que les orientations données par ces Comités sont très claires pour le Secrétariat. Bien sûr, nous espérons réussir à faire les économies nécessaires et qu'elles ne seront pas neutralisées par les éventuelles augmentations de coûts dues à l'inflation ou autre. Comme vous le savez, le Directeur général a été engagé depuis le début de son mandat dans des économies importantes, et nous continuerons à les chercher et à trouver des gains d'efficacité.

Comme dernier point, j'aimerais ajouter que nous sommes très heureux de pouvoir poursuivre ce dialogue tel que vous nous le demandez, en particulier suite aux réunions conjointes des dirigeants des organisations romaines.

CHAIRPERSON

That brings us to the end of the discussions, so I can conclude on item 4 as follows:

1. The Council:

- a) endorsed the Adjustments in the structure under the Deputy Director-General (Programmes), specifically to:
 - i. adjust the reporting line of the Investment Centre Division from ADG-TC to DDG P;
 - ii. rename the Technical Cooperation Department as the Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department (PS);
 - iii. rename the Resource Mobilization Division as the Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR);
 - iv. rename the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division as the Emergency and Resilience Division (PSE);
 - v. separate the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division into the Partnerships Division (PSP) and the Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (OSS), and adjust the reporting lines from DDG-P to ADG-PS.
- b) expressed support to the UN Reform agenda and appreciated FAO's engagement in the joint planning effort for implementation of the UN Development System (UNDS) reform to start in January 2019 and underlined the importance of specificities of UN specialized agencies being taken into consideration;
- c) authorized FAO to pay the cost share contribution of USD 4.7 million for funding the Resident Coordinator System for 2019 and supported the potential funding sources put forward by the Joint Meeting;

- d) supported the establishment of a dedicated Trust Fund for 2019 for voluntary contributions that would offset the unbudgeted amount of USD 2.55 million;
- e) appreciated the continued strong collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies; agreed on more strategic and structural approach towards planning and reporting; and supported continued engagement in coordinated actions as the lead group of agencies within the UNDS to deliver SDG2 and the broader Agenda 2030;
- f) recommended greater engagement with Members in the preparatory and follow-up activities of the joint annual informal meetings of the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP via: (a) briefings (informal seminars) of the membership after meetings of the Senior Consultative Group, especially on the programme in the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 (Repositioning the United Nations development system); and (b) involving the Membership through the ICC informal meetings with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups of FAO, the Bureau of the Executive Board of WFP and Convenors and Friends of IFAD, in preparing the joint annual informal meeting of the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP;
- g) welcomed the continued progress in implementation of the Strategies for partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations and their continued review as an integral part of the Organization's work, highlighting the importance of following a strategic approach in this area aligned with the Strategic Objectives and priorities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget;

I open the floor for comments.

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

Thank you, Independent Chairperson of the Council, for your summary.

We have two small comments. In point b) of your summary, we would ask to change the terminology on repositioning of the United Nations Development System. We would like this to be representative, in line with the terminology that was used in the resolution 72/279 of the United Nations General Assembly.

Also in point f) of your summary, we would like to use the complete name of the referenced resolution.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point a). We are missing somehow the achievement and the positive step forward by using key performance indicators.

So we could make a reference at the end in a separate sub-point: "welcomed Management's commitment to better project performance management and using key performance indicators in the Strategic Results Framework".

And in point b), we have a reference to specificities of United Nations specialized agencies. Actually, I have not heard anything in the Plenary to that end and I could not find anything in the report, so we would go for deleting that.

I would then like to refer to point d). There we would need a reference that "should donors express interest". So at the end, after USD 2.55 million, we could add: "should donors express interest".

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Let me first start with a general comment, noting that we have had language creep into this document that had been discussed at the Joint Meeting and specifically stricken. Let me urge caution to the Secretariat against doing that in the future.

Turning to point a). All of these changes were discussed in the context of budget neutrality. Therefore, we would like to add after "specifically to" under point a), comma, "within existing resources".

For point b), we concur with Austria's observation about deleting "and underlined the importance of specificities of United Nations specialized agencies being taken into consideration". This point was

specifically addressed in the Joint Meeting and I do not know why that language is back in this point after it was specifically rejected during the Joint Meeting.

On point c), all of our conversations about the potential funding sources, and it was reiterated by several colleagues today, focused on efficiency savings. Yet I fail to see any emphasis on efficiency savings in this point. For this, we could add after “Joint Meeting”, comma, “stressing the preference to find efficiency savings”.

In point d), just a commentary to support Austria’s point. And colleagues who were not in the meeting, we had a long discussion on the trust fund and nobody stepped forward to pay for this. The idea that this is a viable way for FAO to make its payments should not be taken seriously by anyone unless there is a country here that is going to declare today that they intend to fund this trust fund. So I ask colleagues to keep that in mind when interpreting point d).

On point e), I would like to bracket the last clause, “and supported continued engagement in coordinated actions as the lead group of agencies within the UNDS to deliver SDG2 and the broader Agenda 2030”. Again, this language was stricken from similar Joint Meeting language. I do not recall hearing colleagues talking about this. I can understand the Secretariat’s motivation in putting this in, but before the Member States can agree to it, we should wait for a fuller discussion of what it really means.

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

Please allow us to move back to point b). In the third line of this point, again we have a problem with the terminology. I would propose trying to correct the paragraph by drafting it in the following way: “*[in English]* Expressed support to the efforts on repositioning the United Nations Development System in line with the UNGA resolution 72/279 and appreciate FAO’s engagement in the joint planning for implementation of that process to start in January 2019”.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russian Federation. In fact, I have sort of pointed out on several occasions that the Chair’s conclusion is supposed to capture the gist of the discussions. As to such editorial changes, it should be left to the Drafting Committee.

I have been saying this since the first time we put the text on the screen, that you should avoid the temptation of becoming a drafting committee. The summary is reflecting the gist of the discussion. If it is inaccurate in that respect, we can amend it. But if it is a question of wording, like the editorial adjustments, I would recommend we leave it to the Drafting Committee. Russian Federation, this suggestion of yours, I think should be taken up in the Drafting Committee.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chair. I was just going to say exactly what you said.

CHAIRPERSON

I have no other requests for the floor, so are the proposed adjustments acceptable to Members?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I think in the last day of the Council the whole report has to be accepted. We cannot accept one item and leave the others. This text goes to the Drafting Committee that is the procedure. You get the draft Report from the Drafting Committee, and then you ask for the approval of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

I think, Afghanistan, you misunderstood. When I asked for consensus, it was on whether this text can go to the Drafting Committee. I did not mean this was the approval of the Council’s report.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Au paragraphe e), en se référant à la proposition des États-Unis d'éliminer la fin de la phrase, je crois quand même que des interventions ont souligné le rôle positif des organisations ayant leur siège à Rome, qui peuvent, ensemble, contribuer à mettre en œuvre la réforme des Nations Unies et atteindre l'objectif de développement durable, ODD 2, et du Programme 2030.

Peut-être que le Comité de rédaction pourrait trouver une formule qui puisse être soutenue par les États-Unis pour garder cette idée, même si cette formulation aurait besoin d'être légèrement amendée.

CHAIRPERSON

Before closing on this item, I should just like to give further information on one of the adjustments proposed by the United States. This is to point e), where you suggested that the words "and supported continued engagement in coordinated actions as the lead group of agencies within the United Nations Development System to deliver SDG2 and the broader Agenda 2030" be bracketed. This is contained in the report of the Joint Meeting in paragraph g) on page 4. It is almost the same wording.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I was hesitant to respond because I was going to take the Chair's injunction seriously that this is not a negotiating session. I thought that the French example of taking this to the Drafting Committee makes sense to us.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I have been emphasizing the role of the Drafting Committee but since you proposed deletion of that, I thought I owed you a clarification. It was in the form of a clarification.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I just wanted to second what France said about the importance of keeping not to the wording but the concept expressed in point e), fully reflecting the consensus in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on this specific point.

CHAIRPERSON

Ok, Italy, I agree, that will be done.

We can close this item and go the next one.

Item 5. Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee (12-16 November 2018)**Point 5. Rapport de la cent vingt-cinquième session du Comité du Programme (12-16 novembre 2018)****Tema 5. Informe del 125.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (12-16 de noviembre de 2018)**

(CL 160/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now continue with Item 5, *Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee*, which is contained in document CL 160/3.

I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report. Ambassador Hoogeveen, you have the floor.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Distinguished Members of the Council, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, again, it is an honour and a pleasure to briefly present to you the outcome of the discussions of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee.

Let me start by extending my sincere thanks to my fellow colleagues in the Programme Committee and congratulate them on their hard and excellent work done, on the careful and thorough advice in the discussions, and most of all on the excellent spirit of collaboration and discussions, the friendly atmosphere, the substantive discussions and foremost the interesting discussions. Moreover, I certainly do invite you to be an observer to both the formal and informal meetings of the Programme Committee and not only to the Members, but I also would like to extend the invite to the Assistant Director-General of the FAO. It is not only about the results, but also about the discussions we have in the Programme Committee.

I must say we have a new young member in the Dutch Mission and it was her first time in the Programme Committee. After the Programme Committee meeting, she was really excited by the discussions of the week because she said: “now I know why I am excited to be here in Rome, working with the Organization of the United Nations, because discussions really matter, as well as the outcomes and focusing on how we can do better to achieve good results on the ground.” I think that kind of a conclusion gives all of us energy - certainly when it comes from young people, it is a source of vitality to do our work in the Programme Committee.

Surely, the Programme Committee had lengthy and very substantive discussions. I think there were excellent exchanges focused on the substance, not about divisions but how to find solutions and work together on the way forward. The Programme Committee reviewed important programmatic and evaluation issues. Today, I am pleased to report to you the several points we discussed and conclusions we have reached.

The report consists of the following: recommendations about the preparations for the reviewed Medium Term Plan 2018-21; the priorities arising from the technical committees, as well as evaluation of strategic objective 2; the follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to the strategic objective 5 on resilience; indicative rolling work plan of evaluation 2019-21; the report on the outcome of the conference on the eradication of “Peste des Petits Ruminants”; the progress report on FAO's plan of action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); and setting the agenda for our next meeting and deciding the agenda for our informal meeting.

When we look at the preparations for the reviewed Medium Term Plan 2018-21, one has to consider the priorities arising from the technical committees. Indeed, we had intensive discussions about setting an order of importance. Setting priorities does not only mean stating what the necessity should be, but given the limited budget FAO has, we also have to consider where we could set the emphasis issues. If we set one more priority, that means that we have to find funding for that exigency somewhere else. I think that was a very strong, but very difficult debate within the Programme Committee.

It remains difficult because we do not only have the needs coming out of the Technical Committees but, of course, we already had the cases of need coming out of the Regional Conferences, which were discussed in our last Council. These requests have to be taken into account also when we are going to determine a reviewed Medium Term Plan 2018-21. We did not finish our consultation. It was a preliminary discussion getting guidance to set the priorities. However, in our next meeting, we have to go much more into in-depth discussions setting the real priorities based on what we talked about and decided on the regional conferences as well as what we are now going to decide on the emphasis coming out of the Technical Committees.

At the Programme Committee, we recalled the importance of the priorities highlighted by the Technical Committees in 2018. There were many that we examined yesterday. The Programme Committee noted

that in accordance with the planning and programming cycle of FAO, the priorities emanating from the Technical Committees, as well as the conclusions and regional priorities expressed by the five regional conferences, and the informal regional conference for North America, would serve as an input for the Medium Term Plan 2018—2021 for consideration by the Council in April 2019.

The Programme Committee recognized the difficulty at this stage in addressing all the priorities identified in the context of the current flat nominal regular programme budget for FAO. We look forward to receiving further information on the cost implications as part of the Programme of Work and Budget. Only if we know what priorities are costing, then we can get a more informed discussion and bring the recommendations to your attention.

The Programme Committee stressed the importance of all sustainable and innovative approaches and highlighted in particular FAO's work on assisting countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This shall include: policy support, capacity building, scientific advice, standard setting, partnership and work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. Furthermore, this morning it was also already said by Egypt on behalf of the G77, we really have to focus on an overall priority on how to find solutions for the increase of the number of people living in hunger, especially in areas of conflict and drought because of climate change.

The Programme Committee encouraged the further development of multi-stakeholder partnerships at national, regional and global levels. Likewise, the Programme Committee advocated a continued close cooperation and strategic synergies with other United Nations Organizations, especially the Rome-based Agencies. We noted the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) requested to prepare a resolution on the further integration of sustainable agriculture approaches, including agroecology as one of those approaches. Yesterday, it was suggested that language be amended, and COAG recommended the text should be presented to the next session of the COAG Bureau for the attention of the Programme Committee at its next session. This point should be discussed prior to submission to the Council, especially to see whether there are financial consequences or not.

The Programme Committee noted the ongoing work of the COAG Bureau on the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers and recommended that any programmatic and budget implications be submitted to the next session of the Programme Committee.

The next agenda item is related to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to the integrated national resource management for sustainable agriculture. Again, we have seen how important evaluations of FAO's work are. I think we had a balanced approach, looking at goals that are achieved, and there are many activities that are carried out by FAO that deserve praise. Yet, FAO's evaluation also shows areas where we need improvements of FAO's work and to see how we can support that amelioration. The Programme Committee welcomed the evaluation report, recognizing the particular importance and relevance of FAO's work on Strategic Objective 2 and encouraged FAO to promote further integration with other Strategic Objectives at the country level to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs in a cross-cutting manner.

The Programme Committee underscored the importance of appropriate context analysis in project designs and coherence with the country programming frameworks, the national ownership of programmes and a continuity and scaling up of project results. It was recognized that many projects did not go further than the pilot phase. It was because of the lack of ownership by the countries. I think that is one of the items we have to look into and see how we can solve this problem.

The Programme Committee recommended reinforcing more comprehensive project performance management and increasing the number of key performance indicators within the Results Framework in the Mid-Term Review and programme implementation report. I think the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are important as an element not only to evaluate the work, but also to get broader support from national governments and involve the stakeholders for the implementation of projects.

The Programme Committee encouraged the management of Strategic Programme 2 to enhance guidance provided to programme managers and share the full range of approaches in sustainable food and agriculture along with mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth and nutrition. We highlighted the need to build upon FAO's comparative advantages and technical expertise. I think that is an important element in our priority setting.

We encouraged FAO to strengthen and broaden partnerships with different partners with a view to leveraging programme results and in particular with the private sector at the national and local level, as well as to review partnerships and multi-stakeholder platforms and other fundamental mechanisms, including South-South Cooperation. We have observed the absolute value of the South-South Cooperation. Last but not least, we recommended reinforcing corporate communication and outreach and promoting other innovative communication tools to raise awareness and promote sustainable food and agriculture systems.

I think we should not underestimate the importance of communication. Communication is key not only to the Members, but especially communication to the outside world. Showing results, showing what we are doing, it can attract much more attention and funding from all involved stakeholders.

Our next agenda item refers to the follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's evaluation function. The Programme Committee reiterated the importance of national evaluation capacity development, appreciated the launch of the new Community of Practice, the EVAL-Forward, and encouraged expanding the participation from all regions. We highlighted the importance of the independence of the Office of Evaluation within the context of the Charter of the OED, including with respect to institutional arrangements.

The Programme Committee looked forward to reviewing the assessment of progress made in the implementation of the action plan at the next Committee session and the post-adjustment proposals within the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21. We recommended that evaluation reports be strengthened with a rating system that assesses key evaluation questions. For example a traffic light system. I think many of us know the red, the yellow or orange and the green system. We recommended that the OED prioritize the recommendations it makes in future reports within time and with funding constraints. Last but not least, we recommended the further review of the governance and overview mechanisms for country-level evaluation and of the availability of financial resources, before considering a proposal for decentralized evaluations. Only if we know what it will cost and what it will do, can we really have an informed discussion about decentralization of the evaluation function.

Our next agenda item is about the follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contributions to Strategic Objective 5 regarding: increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis. I already said how crucial FAO's work on this objective is. I believe all Members of the Programme Committee complimented FAO on the work done on increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. Despite the very difficult circumstances in which the FAO teams have to work, they realise a tremendous performance and get remarkable results in conflict areas as well as areas of drought because of climate change. In light of that positive background, the Programme Committee recommended that resilience building in the face of increasing protracted crises, climate change and disruption of livelihoods continue to be a priority of FAO.

We acknowledge the capacity commitment of Strategic Programme 5 to foster and maintain strategic partnerships with the Organization and externally with various actors, notably, the Rome-based Agencies, but certainly also with other United Nations agencies. We recommended gender should be mainstreamed in future work and details on the Strategic Programme 5 as part of the general reporting and programme implementation report. We certainly did not forget youth as well. The Programme Committee recommended further work to be done by FAO in close cooperation with World Food Programme (WFP) and other United Nations Organizations in the development of an overarching information and early warning system strategy. We have seen results of WFP's report that early warning systems can help to

identify protracted crises, but also to have earlier support, which in the end will be much cheaper than waiting for the crisis to happen.

The Programme Committee recommended strengthening and broadening partnerships with a wide range of partners, especially the private sector and civil society organizations, with a view to leveraging programme results and to increasing multi-stakeholder funding. We recommended the continuation of this work in order to support and inform good resilience programming and cross-fertilization of successful approaches and practices across countries and regions. I hope that the Council will recognize this crucial and important work of FAO together, with WFP and IFAD.

We discussed the indicative rolling work plan of evaluations for the years 2019-21. The Programme Committee requested a synthesis of lessons learned from the evaluations of strategic objectives at the next session. We requested an evaluation of FAO's work on statistics at our next session together with the analysis of FAO's private partner strategy. The Programme Committee requested an appraisal of FAO's contribution to Zero Hunger at the 128th Session together with the assessment of FAO's Civil Society Partnership Strategy. We requested a regional synthesis of lessons learned and to identify in-country programming evaluations to regional conferences in 2020.

In addition to these requests, we recommended the SDG evaluation, in partnership with relevant United Nations agencies and development partners. We suggested the evaluation of Lake Chad crisis at an informal session in late 2019 or early 2020. The Programme Committee advised to include in its work plan an analysis of FAO's Strategic Results Framework. This is to help supporting results-based management of FAO programmes of work as an accountability tool. We also requested to identify lessons learned that can inform the formulation of FAO's next Strategic Results Framework in 2020.

Moreover, we focused on the report about the outcome of the conference on the eradication of "Peste des Petits Ruminants" (PPR), which took place in September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The Programme Committee was pleased with the report and outcomes of the PPR Global Conference. Based on this report, we underlined the importance of the PPR Global Eradication Programme, which addresses one of the root causes of hunger and poverty for more than 300 million families' farmers across the globe. We encouraged FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health to pursue their strategic partnership with a view to the complete eradication of this devastating disease by 2030.

The Programme Committee recommended that cost and benefits be reviewed and evaluated to fully eradicate PPR and also look at the cost of the first and second phase of the eradication. The first phase is about controlling it. The second phase is focused on eradicating it. Certainly, the aim will remain to fully eradicate PPR worldwide. The Programme Committee encouraged FAO to organize a dedicated meeting on PPR for all Permanent Representatives in collaboration with the Group of FAO Permanent Representatives Friends of Peste de Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for securing the funding needed to finance priority actions of the PPR. Moreover, it is not only about the Programme of Work and Budget, but also to see how we can get extra budgetary resources from all stakeholders to fight this devastating disease.

Furthermore, we encouraged FAO to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration as well as South-South and Triangular Cooperation across regions, which is very important to strengthen communication and outreach. Therefore, smart communication and community outreach should be promoted, showing relevant data not only to the experts because they know it, but showing the world the devastating consequences of this disease. It may help us find the extra budgetary resources to eradicate this disease.

The progress report on FAO's Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) concerns our next agenda item. The Programme Committee welcomed the progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. We supported FAO's continued efforts on this issue, especially with a One Health approach and in close collaboration with the tripartite partners like the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health. However, we have to consider the good cooperation not

only these Organizations, but also with other United Nations partners such as United Nations Environment and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By all means, it cannot be done without a concrete collaboration with the private sector and continued support of the Interagency Coordination Group. We fostered a more concrete assessment of progress made on the objectives of FAO's Plan of Action in line with the Global Action Plan. We stressed the importance of an efficient and effective public awareness and we highlighted the importance of the continued work with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

We also decided on our agenda items not only for our next formal meetings, but we also decided on items for our next informal meeting of the Programme Committee. You will see that in the report. We will make sure that both the formal meeting of the Programme Committee, as well as the informal meeting of the Programme Committee, will be properly announced and communicated in advance on the FAO Members Gateway platform, so that we have a full room witnessing the discussions of the Programme Committee. As I said, the Programme Committee had a very productive session and discussion on a number of important issues not only on the current and future work of the Organization, but especially for the people who need our support the most.

At the end of our meeting, we also discussed the points of our work and agreed to have a standing item on the agenda when it comes to a review of the agenda for following sessions. This consultation refers especially to review the progress made on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations, which have to be adopted by the Council. The activity relates to the following: when it is adopted by the Council, how they are implemented and how we can review the implementation of these recommendations. In addition, when I spoke about disease, I meant a pest, not a disease, but a pest related to the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).

As regards the full week of the Programme Committee, I really would like to thank again the Members of the Programme Committee. They were full and long days with intense discussions, but with a positive spirit. We could make it and issued a very important and positive report. I would say we could not have done it without the tremendous work of the Secretariat and the strong assistance of the technicians, the messengers and certainly the strong support even in difficult times of the interpreters.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for interventions by Members.

Mr Petr ILYICHEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We thank the Chair of the Programme Committee for the report on the main outcomes of the session of this body. We agree with most of the conclusions. We note the importance of the actual start of the harmonization of the revised FAO Medium Term Plan for 2018-21 and also the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-21.

Strict economy savings regime dictates the need to focus on specific issues directly linked to the Organization's mandate in line with its comparative advantages and expert capacity. A basis for this should be the decisions of the FAO's Technical Committees and Regional Conferences, which set out the sectoral and geographic priorities for the coming biennium. In principle, we support the Secretariat's proposal of a list of FAO workstreams going forward.

We also note that the list of priorities is not in line with several required workstreams mentioned by the sectoral and regional bodies of FAO; for example, antimicrobial resistance and cooperation on boreal forests. We ask the Secretariat to duly reflect them in the upcoming versions of the documents. We also expect the timely publication of proposals to fund the next biennial planning cycle of the Programme of Work and Budget ahead of the Council Session in April 2019.

We welcome FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance, including the partnership with WHO and OIE on promoting the 'One Health' approach. Russia is actively assisting in these efforts. In 2017, with our

financial support, a three-year FAO project on antimicrobial resistance started for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In September of this year, Moscow hosted a conference on this issue during which project participants discussed legal regulation issues and issues relating to the strengthening of laboratory capacity.

We underscore the importance of FAO's standard-setting role, in particular in the activities of Codex Alimentarius. We call for due attention to be given to this theme in the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium.

We are working closely with FAO on food safety. In May 2017, jointly with FAO, we hosted in Sochi an International Conference on Food Safety and Risk Analysis with the participation of delegates from 30 countries. We plan on holding this event on a regular basis.

In the context of the evaluation of FAO's work on the sustainable management of natural resources, we believe that this is one of the key workstreams for the Organization.

We welcome the dynamic development within the FAO platform of the Global Soil Partnership as an example of technical intergovernmental work with the involvement of interested stakeholders, including representatives of science and business sectors. We expect that to support the functioning of this mechanism, funds will be allocated from FAO's regular budget. For our part, we have decided to contribute to the Organization's fund USD 2 million for the implementation of the second stage of the project on sustainable soil use with a special focus on the Eurasian region.

On FAO's collaboration with non-governmental partners, we note the importance of contacts with leading scientific and educational entities. In this connection, we welcome the cooperation between FAO and Moscow State University, which hosts the Secretariat of the Eurasian Soil Partnership.

Business is also making its contribution. We are planning tomorrow to sign an agreement on a joint project of FAO and of the Russian producer of fertilizers, Rusagro, in relation to the area of sustainable natural resources management.

In the context of achieving FAO's Strategic Objective 5, we welcome FAO's work on ensuring livelihoods for rural populations in the context of emergency situations. A reflection of this is Russia's decision to allocate USD 3 million to FAO's project on the sustainable development of the agriculture sector in the Syrian Arab Republic. Such efforts will assist in ensuring food security of the population in this country and also the return of Syrian refugees.

However, we are once again forced to note the restricted competency of FAO in relation to maintaining peace. We recommend using the formulation of paragraph 6 c) of the report of the Programme Committee on humanitarian-development-peace nexus and making sure it is in line with the amended text of the Programme of Work and Budget for FAO for 2018-19. We also note that such proposals are not present in key documents of the United Nations agreed upon by states, for example in Resolution 2417 of year 2018 of the Security Council.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group appreciates the work of the Programme Committee and commends the leadership of Ambassador Hoogeveen as the dynamic Chairperson of the Programme Committee. The report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee is brief and focused. In endorsing the report, the Near East Group wishes to underline the following four points:

We must reiterate the importance of interface between the priorities arising from the Technical Committees of the Council, and those emerging from the Regional Conferences, regional commissions and other expert consultations, and the subsequent matching of these priorities from many sources with the availability of resources under the regular budget for the biennium 2020-21, while recognizing that in the past three

biennia the regular budget has been flat. This matching would necessitate observing five basic factors carefully, namely:

- fully observing the comparative advantage of FAO based on its established mandate and its long experience;
- enhanced partnership with other stakeholders in the implementation of the programmes;
- observing synergy among programmes and processes;
- taking maximum advantage of cross-cutting issues in all programmes;
- focusing on producing strategic results.

Secondly, while supporting the 14 points mentioned in the evaluation report of SO2, the Near East Group wishes to draw attention that the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) require qualitative upgrading more so than increasing their number and that points g), h), i), k) and n) of paragraph 4 may be influenced by the UN reform process which is underway.

Thirdly, with respect to the evaluation of the evaluation function, the Near East Group wishes to emphasize that for the sake of efficiency and effectiveness, capacity building for evaluation at the country and regional levels could best be managed by pooling the resources of the evaluation offices of the RBAs for a joint effort of training on evaluation.

The Near East Group would be very cautious in making any hasty decisions on the decentralization of the evaluation function.

Fourthly, the Near East Group supports the reflections of the Programme Committee on PPR and AMR. The Near East Group is also in favour of holding informal meetings of the Programme Committee prior to its formal sessions, with a view to exchanging ideas on topics already covered by the agenda but also new ones. We urge that non-Members be invited to attend these meetings. I do not think the Members will regret it.

With these comments, the Near East Group approves the report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

The EU and its Member States welcome the report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee. We endorse the recommendations made in the report. We would like to highlight the following points.

Firstly, while noting the priorities identified by FAO's Technical Committees and Regional Conferences, we recognise the challenge of addressing new areas of work in the context of a flat nominal Regular Programme budget. We endorse the importance given by the Programme Committee to sustainable and innovative approaches, to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in the areas of policy support, capacity building and standard setting.

In this spirit, we would like to recall the importance of:

- FAO's work on sustainable agriculture and food system approaches; this includes biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, water scarcity, soils, GIAHS and work to support FAO members in implementing the Paris Agreement;
- sustainable funding for FAO's standard-setting work and in particular that of the Codex Alimentarius and IPPC; work related to statistics and knowledge and helping members to monitor the SDGs of which FAO is custodian is also vital;
- FAO's work on nutrition and 'One Health', in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the World Organisation on Animal Health, to address transboundary pest and disease management; Fall

Armyworm and diseases such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) threaten the food security of millions, whilst antimicrobial resistance continues to threaten all of us.

We would like to thank the Office of Evaluation for the evaluation of Strategic Objective 2. Its publication is timely and we look forward to an updated draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, as requested by COAG.

We welcome the management's commitment to better project performance management and to developing key performance indicators to measure this in 2020 and 2021 and beyond. We would like to highlight this in our Council report.

We welcome the follow-up report to the evaluation of Strategic Objective 5. We would like to thank and compliment the Strategic Programming team and FAO staff working in difficult circumstances for their work to support some of the most vulnerable people in the world. We would like to highlight in the Council report the importance of the Global Report on Food Crises and the Global Network against Food Crises, which were initiated jointly by the EU, FAO and WFP at the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016 in Istanbul. The joint assessments of the magnitude and severity of food crises, the support to strategic programming and coordination are major steps forward that were taken since 2016.

In addition, we would like to underline the importance of the Programme Committee's request for FAO to report on how its gender mainstreaming work has been implemented for each Strategic Objective in the next Programme Implementation Report.

Finally, on the evaluation of FAO's evaluation function, we would like to underline the importance of two Programme Committee recommendations: firstly the recommendation of a rating system, and secondly the recommendation of a review of governance and overview mechanisms for country-level evaluations.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Nuestra Delegación agradece al Embajador Hoogeveen la presentación del Informe e igualmente a los Miembros del Comité.

Tomamos nota y reconocemos los desafíos financieros de FAO, consecuencia de un presupuesto sin variación nominal, que dificultan la inclusión en su planificación de todas las esferas de trabajo formuladas por los comités técnicos y principalmente las conferencias regionales.

No obstante estas limitaciones, confiamos en que FAO mantendrá su fuerte compromiso en la erradicación del hambre y la desnutrición, alineándose a las prioridades e iniciativas derivadas de las Conferencias regionales las cuales pueden enmarcar la aplicación del Programa de Trabajo en los temas prioritarios de cada País.

De igual manera hacemos especial hincapié en la necesidad concebir, ejecutar y fortalecer programas nacionales y globales de uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y recursos naturales. Tomando en consideración, que las estrategias de mitigación y adaptación a desastres deben dar preferencia a las áreas estratégicas de FAO, en las cuales se concentran los grandes desafíos climáticos, reforzando los mecanismos de cooperación.

Apoyamos la recomendación de una revisión estratégica de los mecanismos de financiamiento, señalada en el numeral 4 k, y alentamos el aumento de la Cooperación Sur-sur y Triangular, la cual nos permite asentar y reforzar los progresos hacia modelos de desarrollo ambientalmente sostenibles, social y económicamente inclusivos.

Nicaragua concede una particular importancia a la labor de la FAO, especialmente en el acompañamiento y asesoría a los Países para el acceso a los mecanismos de financiamiento a la lucha contra el cambio climático, del cual en nuestra región, en nuestro país somos testigos de primer plano

La cartera del Fondo Verde para el Clima representa una oportunidad catalizadora de inversión en proyectos de mitigación y de adaptación, dirigidos en particular al mundo en desarrollo.

Confiamos en que FAO continuará ampliando su plataforma de múltiples partes interesadas, para que acompañen el esfuerzo y compromiso de nuestros países en alcanzar los propósitos de la Agenda 2030.

Con estos comentarios, endosamos el Informe del Comité del Programa.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

La délégation de la République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Nous remercions l'Ambassadeur Hans Hoogeveen des Pays-Bas, Président du Comité du Programme, pour sa brillante présentation du rapport de la 125^{ème} session du Comité du Programme. Nous remercions les membres du Comité pour les conclusions et les recommandations pertinentes formulées à l'intention du Conseil.

Le Groupe Afrique exprime sa satisfaction de savoir que les priorités émanant des comités techniques et des conférences régionales seront dûment prises en compte lors de l'élaboration du Plan à moyen terme, conformément au cycle de planification et de programmation de la FAO pour les années 2018-2021.

Le rapport sur *L'État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde* (SOFI) 2018 souligne que depuis trois années consécutives le nombre des personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition ne fait qu'augmenter, surtout en Afrique et en Asie à cause des conflits et des effets du changement climatique. Nous sommes très préoccupés par la triste réalité et le fait que le budget du Programme ordinaire de la FAO soit resté inchangé en valeur nominale depuis plusieurs exercices biennaux.

Les moyens limités pour l'exécution des politiques de résilience sont une entrave à la prise en compte dans le Programme de travail et budget de plusieurs priorités émanant des comités techniques et des conférences régionales. C'est pourquoi dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget 2020-2021, le Groupe Afrique demande que les priorités émanant des comités techniques et des conférences régionales soient dûment prises en compte lors de son élaboration et nous attendons avec intérêt des informations à ce sujet.

Dans le cadre de la réalisation du Programme de développement durable 2030 et des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), la FAO dispose d'avantages comparatifs dans la mise en œuvre des approches innovantes de durabilité qui prennent en compte les aspects sociaux, économiques et environnementaux. Le Groupe Afrique demande à l'Organisation de continuer d'apporter aux pays un appui en matière de politiques, de renforcement des capacités, de prestation d'avis scientifiques, d'établissement de normes, de partenariats, de statistiques et d'activités relatives aux indicateurs des ODD.

Nous accueillons favorablement la recommandation du Comité du Programme sur le *Code de conduite international sur l'utilisation et la gestion des engrais*. Toutefois, nous soulignons l'importance de continuer les discussions dans le cadre des consultations des groupes régionaux, sous l'égide du Bureau du Comité de l'agriculture, en vue de trouver un consensus à ce sujet.

Nous reconnaissons la pertinence de l'objectif stratégique deux (OS2) dans la mise en œuvre des politiques de gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles au service de l'agriculture durable. Cependant, nous sommes très préoccupés du fait que la majorité des interventions techniques de l'OS2 n'aient pu se poursuivre au-delà de la phase pilote.

Le Groupe Afrique appuie la recommandation du Comité portant sur la bonne analyse du contexte lors de la conception des projets, sa cohérence avec les cadres de programmation par pays et de veiller à l'appropriation des programmes par le pays en vue de permettre la continuité des résultats des projets et leur déploiement à plus grande échelle. Pour ce faire, le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à établir des synergies stratégiques avec les autres organisations des Nations Unies, en particulier le FIDA et le PAM, ainsi que les banques de développement, afin de mobiliser des ressources financières.

La peste des petits ruminants (PPR) est l'une des causes premières de la faim et de la pauvreté de 300 millions de familles dans le monde. Le Groupe reconnaît que la première phase du Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants serait axée sur le contrôle de la PPR, avec la seconde phase axée sur l'éradication, et il encourage le renforcement du partenariat établi par le Secrétariat avec le soutien des pays membres, afin de poursuivre ses efforts en vue de l'éradication mondiale de la PPR d'ici 2030. Nous exhortons la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) à continuer de développer leur partenariat stratégique afin d'éradiquer cette maladie dévastatrice d'ici à 2030.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie les activités menées dans le cadre du Plan d'action de la FAO contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens, mis en œuvre après l'adoption de la résolution 4/2015. Nous encourageons la FAO à continuer à collaborer avec l'OIE, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) dans le cadre de l'alliance tripartite élargie, et de poursuivre les activités menées sous l'égide de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius afin de lutter efficacement contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport de la 125^{ème} session du Comité du Programme.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We endorse the Report of the Programme Committee, and we would like to highlight some issues.

We welcome the OED evaluation report of SO2 as a very important assessment of the core work of FAO. We recognize that FAO plays a critical role in promoting cross-sectoral and integrated approaches. It is, however, important to note that the concept of sustainability goes beyond that. We must also be careful not to juxtapose sustainability and productivity. FAO's role should be to support members in assessing the trade-offs, in order to make the most sustainable choices for ensuring food security in a changing climate.

One of the alarming findings of the SO2 evaluation was that nutrition is not integrated in most of the projects. Taking into account the negative trend of nutrition stated in the SOFI report, the Nordic countries would like to stress that nutrition - just like gender mainstreaming - should be a central cross cutting theme in SO2 as well as in all FAO work.

The Nordic countries encourage FAO to constantly enhance the OED evaluation work, where independence and evidence-based conclusions are two key elements. After the evaluations of each of the five SOs, we would find it very valuable to get information about the whole Strategic Objectives structure: what have been the challenges and the best achievements of the Strategic Programmes organization structure and which efficiency gains of management have been obtained. We would also like such a report to provide an assessment of how the establishment of the SOs and the SPs have impacted the organization's core functions and results.

Another theme we would like to highlight is FAO's role as part of the global One Health agenda. FAO's expertise is of crucial importance in the Tripartite work and also in the cooperation with other relevant organisations against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). FAO should ensure that AMR will be a priority also in the future, in order to fight the very complex and challenging global problem of antimicrobial resistance.

CHAIRPERSON

I have nine more speakers but we have reached the end of our morning session time. So we will need to break and take up this item again at 14:30 when we reconvene.

Before I adjourn the meeting, I will give the floor to Mr Gagnon for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are reminded of the need to register for Council if they wish to be included in the list of participants of this session. The Provisional List of Participants will be available as from tomorrow morning at the Documents Desk and delegates are invited to check that their names and titles are accurate. Any corrections or amendments should be submitted to the Documents Desk for inclusion in the final list.

I also wish to remind delegates of a side event on “Key Findings of the MOPAN Assessment of FAO”, which will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre during lunch time from 13:00 to 14:30 hours.

CHAIRPERSON

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12:30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
4 December 2018

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.39 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 5. Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee (12-16 November 2018) (continued)

Point 5. Rapport de la cent vingt-cinquième session du Comité du Programme (12-16 novembre 2018) (suite)

Tema 5. Informe del 125.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (12-16 de noviembre de 2018) (continuación)

(CL 160/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the fourth meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We now continue with item 5, *Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee* and with the list of speakers.

Mr K.D.S RUWANCHANDRA (Sri Lanka)

With your permission I would like to pass the floor to Bangladesh to deliver a statement on behalf of Asia Group.

Mr Maansh MITRA (Observer for Bangladesh)

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

Comparative Advantage. Partnerships. These are the key principles identified in the extensive and fruitful discussion of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee. In various aspects of evaluations and follow-ups on current programmes, the Committee reminded FAO to focus on its comparative advantage while strengthening partnerships with RBAs, Government, and non-state actors.

These principles also applied to the discussion on the ‘Preparation for the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 – priorities arising from the Technical Committees’. The Asia Group endorsed for all the priorities identified by the Technical Committees, including the priorities of the Regional Conferences, to serve as important input for the Medium Term Plan for consideration by the next Council. However, noting the potential difficulty to address all priorities in the context of the current flat nominal Regular Programme budget, we echo the Committee’s call for FAO to focus on its comparative advantage and strengthening partnerships, as advised by the Conference in 2017.

The Evaluation of FAO’s contribution to Integrated Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture (SO2) is something that has been awaited for. This is an important area of work of the Organization and we are pleased that the evaluation highlighted the relevance of FAO work in promoting sustainable food and agriculture. We particularly emphasized the recommendation to improve project design and performance monitoring, and ensure greater ownerships by governments and stronger engagement with multi-stakeholders in order to sustain SO2 technical interventions beyond pilot phases.

On the Follow-up Report to the Evaluation of FAO’s Evaluation Function, we support the idea of decentralized evaluations in particular to conduct Country Programme Evaluations. However, FAO must first ensure that strong government and overview mechanisms are in place, before considering this proposal.

On the Indicative Rolling Work Plan of Evaluation 2019-21, we congratulated the Secretariat for the launch of the community of practice, Eval-FORWARD and hope that this can be further promoted to attract experts from all region. We also welcomed the proposal to submit to the Regional Conference in 2020, regional synthesis of lessons learned from, and trends identified in the country programme evaluations. This would assist the discussions at the Regional Conferences, and allow their members to learn within and across regions.

Finally, we welcomed the progress of FAO’s work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In Asia and the Pacific, AMR has been identified as one of the issues in our regional initiative of ‘One Health’. As such, we

supported FAO's continued efforts on this issue using a 'One Health' approach in close collaboration with Tripartite partners and other UN partners. We hope that the progress of this work can be assessed using indicators for outcomes and output, for more concrete result and to identify challenges and sufficiency of resources.

With these comments, we endorsed the report and congratulated the Chair and members of Programme Committee for their guidance and recommendations.

Mr Toru HISAZOME (Japan)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the extensive and detailed presentation this morning.

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group's statement delivered by Bangladesh.

Japan shares the idea with other members of FAO that sustainable agriculture is the prerequisite for achieving many SDGs, in particular Zero Hunger.

Japan commends the work of the COAG Bureau and the Secretariat for preparing a draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, to present it to the future sessions of the COAG Bureau and the Programme Committee.

Meanwhile, the concept of agroecology is still not fully and correctly understood by all stakeholders, including farmers working in the field. Japan believes that making its concept and definition clearer will help in generating common understanding, and will lead to greater support for the resolution and related FAO activities. In this regard, Japan encourages FAO to compile and provide a concise and easy to understand definition of agroecology.

Mr Sid Ahmed M. ALAMAIN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan agrees with the statement made by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group and we agree with the main four points. Therein, we also express our thanks for all of the efforts made by the Programme Committee. We thank the Committee for this full, comprehensive Report.

We do agree with the recommendations regarding the integrated natural resources management for sustainable agriculture and we agree with all of the interventions made by the technical committees in order to achieve SO2.

Sudan also agrees with the Report in regard of the need to support resilience and enhance it, as well as enhancing and supporting livelihoods in crises and conflicts due to the large impact on food security and nutrition.

We agree with the initiatives of FAO regarding the early warning systems and working in collaboration with other organizations.

We welcome the work of the Programme Committee regarding the PPR being one of the main drivers for poverty and hunger.

We highly commend FAO's work in terms of AMR and the International Action Plan and we support its work with Codex Alimentarius in that respect.

We call on FAO to take into consideration, in the preparation of the plan for the evaluation function 2019-21, that more room for evaluations should be made in terms of all of the activities in the different areas, including interventions in terms of resilience.

We believe that FAO should have a good understanding regarding its comparative advantage and its shortcomings.

With these comments, Sudan approves the Report of the Programme Committee.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China aligns itself with the joint statement by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Group, but we have the following additional comments.

Firstly, we paid attention to FAO's programmes in the field work in developing countries as this is a strategic direction for our work. Only when our Management and experts go to the front line, in the field, in the rural areas, to the production lines can they know the actual development difficulties and can they communicate it directly with the farmers and develop policy proposals that would deliver real impact.

Secondly, China hopes that when reviewing the direction of the FAO Strategic Plan, the Programme Committee will fully consider the needs of developing countries and propose specific action plans to support South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We therefore suggest the Programme Committee consider to second experts and technical groups to the fields of developing countries and include this in future action plans and budgetary arrangements.

With these comments, we support the approval of the report of the Programme Committee.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the joint statement of the Asia Group delivered by Bangladesh. We wish to express our thanks for the comprehensive report and hard work of the Programme Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to echo some comments on the report of the Programme Committee.

First, Thailand supports the joint collaboration of FAO-OIE-WHO on 'One Health', antimicrobial resistance, and Food Safety for improving the quality of life of millions of people. We also support the efforts of FAO and other relevant partners, including OIE, in the Global eradication programme of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in small ruminants, which have the socio-economic, animal health and farmer livelihood consequences to smallholder farmers in several countries.

Second, Thailand acknowledges the achievement of the Global Soil Partnership and will continue supporting GSP in strengthening sustainable soil use and management. Tomorrow morning, 5 December, we will also celebrate the World Soil Day at FAO headquarters in Rome together with other Members around the world in raising awareness of sustainable soil resource management for sustainable agriculture. Without healthy soil, there is no food security. Tomorrow again, the World Soil Day Award will be presented for the first time ever to the award winner, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The celebration of World Soil Day will also be held in Rome tomorrow at 13.00 hours.

Third, as we all here have the same ultimate goal to bring better the Organization's works and to achieve the key performance indicators (KPIs) in the strategic results framework in order to improve better measure and monitor results on ground.

As you know, KPIs exist in most organizations and companies. You will have used KPIs for years in your own team or organizations. However, often, when the teams and organizations are growing bigger and bigger, KPI-based tracking stops being satisfactory.

KPIs help us track work but they do not inspire our team and do not help us keep focus. That is why, now today, a lot of smart leaders and organizations are following the new approach and have started looking at Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) methodology.

Thailand would like to propose this Objective and Key Results methodology to the Programme Committee and FAO to be taken into consideration as to how we can improve the Organization's management for better measuring and monitoring results of the Organization.

With these comments, Thailand endorses the report of the Programme Committee.

M. Koame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire prend la parole pour féliciter le Président du Comité du Programme pour sa brillante et très exhaustive présentation de la 125^{ème} Session du Comité.

La Côte d'Ivoire appuie et souscrit à la déclaration faite par la République du Congo au nom du Groupe Afrique et voudrait faire quelques commentaires.

Concernant le point relatif aux conclusions du rapport de la Conférence mondiale sur la peste des petits ruminants (PPR), tenue à Bruxelles le 7 septembre 2018, la déclaration ministérielle qui en est issue a rappelé, dans ses paragraphes 1 et 2, la pertinence du programme d'éradication de cette maladie au terme de la phase de lutte, telle qu'énoncée dans la stratégie adoptée à Abidjan en avril 2015.

Au stade actuel, une épidémie de cette maladie serait une urgence sanitaire, voire humanitaire, car éradiquer cette maladie signifie non seulement assurer la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, mais aussi renforcer la résilience des pasteurs pauvres et celle de leurs communautés, tout en leur permettant de mieux faire face aux chocs et aux menaces. C'est pourquoi la Côte d'Ivoire demande au Conseil de reconnaître que la première phase du Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants est axée sur le contrôle de la PPR et que la seconde phase sera consacrée à l'éradication complète de cette maladie, et d'encourager le renforcement du partenariat établi à cet effet entre la FAO et l'OIE, avec le soutien de leurs pays membres, afin d'atteindre l'éradication mondiale de la PPR à l'horizon 2030; elle sera alors possible.

Par ailleurs, le rapport sur l'*État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde* (SOFI) de 2018 souligne que le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition ne fait qu'augmenter, surtout en Afrique et en Asie, à cause des conflits et du changement climatique. Les moyens sont limités pour l'exécution des programmes de résilience, alors que la FAO possède des avantages comparatifs dans le domaine de l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition. Face à ces deux constats, alors qu'il y en a bien d'autres, la Côte d'Ivoire est très préoccupée par le fait que le budget ordinaire de la FAO soit resté inchangé en valeur nominale depuis plusieurs exercices biennaux et par son incidence sur le choix des priorités dans l'élaboration à venir du Programme de travail et budget 2020-2021.

Avec ces quelques commentaires, la Côte d'Ivoire approuve le rapport du Comité du Programme.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia considers that priorities for future work should focus on areas where FAO has a comparative advantage and is in line with its role as a global knowledge and technical organization.

We also consider that FAO's regular budget should be used to fund these areas. FAO's comparative advantage will be important for all of us as Members to remember so that we can help FAO identify efficiencies and possible areas of de-emphasis as we look to reallocate funding between areas during next year's budget negotiations.

Against this background, our region's priorities are on FAO supporting Pacific Island Countries to respond to climate change, its work on nutrition in the region, including accelerating the Global Action Plan on Food Security and Nutrition, and on empowering rural women and girls.

FAO's work on international standards, and ensuring the work is sustainably funded, is also a key priority. This work is without question one of FAO's clear comparative advantages and one of its core competencies.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La France s'aligne, bien sûr, sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

Je voudrais remercier l'Ambassadeur Hoogeveen, Président du Comité du Programme, pour la présentation des débats et le rapport du Comité qui a traité de très nombreux points extrêmement importants pour l'élimination de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Je voudrais juste insister sur un point, qui est également souligné par le Congo, au nom du Groupe Afrique, et la Côte d'Ivoire. Je note en effet que le Comité du Programme a souligné l'importance de l'éradication totale de la peste des petits ruminants (PPR) et que l'OIE et la FAO doivent éradiquer cette maladie d'ici 2030.

En effet, il existe un consensus international fort en faveur de l'éradication complète de la PPR à l'horizon 2030, et ce consensus ressort notamment de recommandations de plusieurs organes directeurs de la FAO, incluant le Comité du Programme, le Comité de l'agriculture et le Conseil.

J'exprime donc simplement le souhait que ce point soit bien spécifié dans le rapport du Conseil.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation is privileged to intervene on this agenda item on behalf of the 15 member states of the CARICOM Sub-Region of Latin America and the Caribbean. I also take the opportunity to reflect the interests of the SIDS.

We are pleased to endorse the conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee.

We recognize the daunting challenge faced by the Programme Committee and the Secretariat in fashioning a Programme of Work and Budget that can accommodate all the interests and all the priorities of all the Members States of the Organization, in the context of a continuing flat budget.

In the final analysis, we could hardly find fault with a programme of interventions based on the principle of targeting those who are most vulnerable, most exposed and whose livelihoods are most threatened. Where the need is greatest, where the demand for support is most critically needed and could make a defining difference.

Accordingly, we take the opportunity to remind of the special and differential circumstances of the SIDS in their struggle to cope with the twin scourges of food and nutrition insecurity and climate change.

We have no doubt that the new MTP and PBW will be a reaffirmation of our commitment to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Thank you, Ambassador Hoogeveen, for having effectively chaired the discussions of the Programme Committee which were very substantive and important and also for the comprehensive Report today.

We would like to add a few points of consideration from our delegation. First, to say that in the preparation of the reviewed MTP and priorities from the technical committees, I think that as we saw yesterday, there was a constant message about the comparative advantage of FAO and standard setting and the need to ensure sustainable funding from the regular budget.

In this regard, we would like to distinguish what is FAO's comparative advantage as opposed to thematic areas. We feel that while there may be a number of policy areas and thematic areas that are high on the global policy agenda, I think what is important for FAO is to define within those areas how it wants to engage based on its comparative advantage as a knowledge organization and building partnerships.

It is not necessarily saying you should not engage in a particular thematic area but more how. It leads to our point on the very important discussions about SO2 and it was a very useful and interesting item which highlighted the ongoing work needed at FAO to better integrate and assess tradeoffs among the three elements of sustainability, economic, social and environment in its work in programming as stated in paragraph 4 e) and n).

As well in this area, we would like to highlight the relevance of ongoing efforts to further mainstream gender.

On the issue of FAO's evaluation, we would like to stress the importance of this function, evaluation, as well as the need for the independence of the Office of Evaluation. We would also like to support FAO's work on resilience along the humanitarian development peace nexus which, we find, is very important and again, it is one of FAO's comparative advantages in particular regarding its technical contributions in that field.

And lastly, to express appreciation for the update on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the fact that FAO has an important role to play in the tripartite process and we support its continued engagement.

Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)

Brevemente queremos intervenir para agradecer al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la presentación del Informe del 125° período de sesiones del comité, así como también por su eficiente conducción de dicha reunión.

Como miembro del Comité, quisiéramos destacar tres elementos que a nuestro entender fueron un común denominador a lo largo de la reunión. El primero es la importancia de que la FAO proporcione una plataforma de conocimiento neutral y equilibrada para difundir las mejores prácticas, enseñanzas extraídas y resultados obtenidos respecto a todos los enfoques disponibles para la producción alimentaria y agrícola sostenible en sus tres dimensiones: económica, social y medio ambiental.

Ello es primordial para que los países, en sus esfuerzos para la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), puedan elegir de un abanico amplio de opciones cuál es la mejor alternativa para su propio contexto y realidad.

Segundo, la necesidad de que en el contexto de reposicionamiento del Marco de Asistencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (MANUD), que implica la búsqueda de mayor eficacia y eficiencia en las acciones de las agencias de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, la FAO se concentre en su Programa de trabajo en sus ventajas comparativas y puntos fuertes.

Y tercero, en relación con el punto anterior, la necesidad de que la FAO profundice sus asociaciones entre múltiples partes interesadas, lo que incluye una mayor colaboración con los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) y otros organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas y la facilitación y expansión de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular como elemento esencial para construir una verdadera alianza para el desarrollo, donde todos participan y se aprovechan las sinergias y complementariedades sin dejar a nadie atrás.

Con estos comentarios, refrendamos el Informe del 125° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Ambassador Hoogeveen and the Secretariat to respond to the issues that have emerged during the debate.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I would like to thank on behalf of all of the Members of the Programme Committee, the support that was given to many of the recommendations of the Programme Committee in its report and the support given by the Members of the Council.

I have to say and to quote Trinidad and Tobago; it is a daunting task and challenge to meet all of the priorities set by the Regional Conferences, by the Technical Committees as well as extra priorities given by several regions.

I think it is almost the same daunting task as saying that we will have achieved all the SDGs in 2030. This certainly depends not only on the regular budget of FAO because we are aware that, and we have to be honest with each other, if we want to meet the priorities set as mentioned by the regions, the conferences and by the committees, we cannot do that with a flat budget.

Of course, as Programme Committee in the Council, we cannot at this moment increase the budget of FAO. But it does not say that we cannot do more because I think many of you reflected and stated that we have to have sustainable funding for our priorities and I think there is an extra daunting task to see how we can secure sustainable funding from extra budgetary resources.

We know from the presentations within the Programme Committee, but also at informal seminars, that quite a large budget for FAO is available via extra budgetary resources. I know that we need more and I think we have heard about the success stories also reflected by several delegations about South-South and Triangular Cooperation. That is one source but I would say that we discuss as well within the Programme Committee also the partnerships and innovations in the way we form partnerships can secure more sustainable and structural funding for the priorities of FAO and we have to work hard and join forces because only then we can try to meet as many priorities as possible.

At the same time, in our next Programme Committee, we need to work also on areas where there could be a de-emphasis. And that is even harder. When I look back to my work in my capital, it is even harder to say what you are not going to do than what you are going to do, but let us see how far we can get.

I think many of you said, and I very much appreciate what was said by many, that we have to take as a guiding principle, the comparative advantage of FAO when it comes to priorities. I would like to thank the Representative of Afghanistan for giving us even more guiding principles for setting priorities for our next Programme Committee meeting because first we have the budget, then we have the priorities and then we have to match.

It is clear when it comes to finding resilience and supporting resilience on the ground, SO5, that we have to work within – and was said by the Russian Federation delegation - that we have to work within the agreement and resolutions of the United Nations. I thank him for also reminding us about the important resolution about hunger and conflict because that is setting a framework for the implementation of our work.

But again, we have to focus not only on what FAO can do but also what other United Nations Organizations and partners can do in that respect.

When it comes to the evaluation, I think many of you reflected on the evaluation, and it gives a lot of emphasis to how important evaluations are, and I think having those discussions at the Programme Committee and the outcomes of these evaluations can strengthen our work.

A personal note is that the evaluators can never say anything about what the Membership should do better to progress in the work of FAO because they have to evaluate the work of FAO but FAO is a Membership organization. So what has been said in the evaluation report is also saying something not only about them, Dan Gustafson or the Director-General, but it is also saying something about us, how we should take up the message and how we can do better certainly when it comes to ownership and certainly when it comes to resilience.

I think when it comes to PPR and to AMR, it is clear, and I think we have to recognize that and take that into our next step forward, setting the priorities, what has been said and decided by Heads of State on eradicating of PPR. But again, I think only with the resources of FAO and only with the priorities of FAO, we have to be honest; it cannot be done. At the same time, it can be done if we as Members also at the other organizations like WHO, like OIE, set the same priorities as one approach.

If we work closely together with private sector and civil society organizations to find that extra funding, to eradicate PPR and at the same time also to take the measures which are necessary for Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) because AMR is not only something for FAO. It is a crucial element of the One Health approach and has everything to do with all of the aspects of the three pillars of sustainable development, not only about the economic but certainly about social and of course also about environment.

Some of the Members already started to put extra financial resources on some of the issues like the Russian Federation and China for work on soil management. I think those are important issues, which also reflect priorities, which have been set in the past and hopefully will find its way in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

That is the work which has to be done by the next Programme Committee because then we have to focus on how to set the priorities given the tremendous and daunting task when it comes to the unnourished people worldwide, and how we can divide the available funding among the priorities and, certainly based on the evaluations, how to get things done on the ground for which of course we need the KPIs. We need evaluations with, I would say, the headlights or stoplights, green, yellow and red to see what we have to do.

I really would like to thank again you for all of your support given to the Programme Committee, the support given to the Members of the Programme Committee for their hard work and their daunting task ahead.

Following some of the remarks made by you, I know now that we will need to book a double room as many of you will be present as observers in our next informal and formal Programme Committee.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

Just to echo the appreciation expressed by the Chair and by all of you for this, the work of the Committee and the discussions in this last session as you have seen was a particularly rich discussion. The evaluation of Strategic Objective 2 on sustainable production, the last of the five that were evaluated, as well as the update on the resilience strategic objective, that reflected how we have implemented the recommendations that came out in that first evaluation and certainly the evolving work in that strategic objective and how the overall Strategic Framework functions.

So in that sense, it was very rich, in addition to the discussions on newer priorities of PPR and AMR and the priority setting discussion around the technical committee. There was a lot of ground covered in the Committee. And also with your comments, we appreciate very much the richness of the discussion and some of these new ideas, I am sure we will take those fully on board as we go forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen, I can now draw my conclusions for item 5:

1. The Council:

- a) took note of the priorities by the Technical Committees and recent developments in trends and emerging issues influencing the work of the Organization in the medium term and acknowledged their continued relevance in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework, and looked forward to further review within the context of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 at its next session;
- b) welcomed the evaluation of FAO's contribution to integrated natural resource management for sustainable agriculture (SO2) and encouraged FAO to promote further integration with other SOs at the country level to facilitate the implementation of SDGs in a cross-cutting manner, as well as continue promoting cross-sectoral and integrated approaches as key elements of solutions to sustainability, while continuing to develop key performance indicators to better manage project performance;
- c) noted progress in follow-up of the Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function, and recommended reviewing the governance and overview mechanisms for country-level evaluations and of the availability of financial resources before considering a proposal for decentralized evaluations, within the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021;

- d) appreciated the progress highlighted in the Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 5, stressing the need for resilience building in the face of increasingly protracted crises, climate change and disruption of livelihoods to continue to be a priority for FAO;
- e) endorsed the indicative rolling work plan of evaluations for 2019-2021;
- f) reiterated the importance of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (GEP) which addresses one of the root causes of hunger and poverty for 300 million families across the globe; and supported the measures proposed to pursue the eradication of this devastating disease by 2030, including action in collaboration with the Group of FAO Permanent Representatives "Friends of PPR-GEP" for securing the funding needed to finance priority actions of the PPR-GEP;
- g) welcomed the progress report on the FAO Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance using a 'One-Health' approach, stressing the importance of continued impacting public awareness raising by the Tripartite Plus partners (FAO, OIE, WHO and UN Environment), governments and all other actors; as well as the importance of continued work with the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- h) stressed the value of technical symposia, seminars and work, took note of arrangements for the March 2019 session of the Programme Committee.

The floor is open for your suggestions and comments.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

There were two strong themes that emerged from many of the interventions today. One was around focusing on FAO's comparative advantage and the other one was encouraging FAO to leverage partnerships to expand its impact. So I will not attempt to wordsmith those, noting your advice about that is a job for us on the Drafting Committee, but if I could suggest that under point a) we put those concepts in square brackets and the Drafting Committee can finish the wording.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Australia. We can do that.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je prenais la parole pour évoquer deux points également, mais je pense que le premier l'a été par l'Australie. La question des partenariats stratégiques a été soulignée, notamment en ce qui concerne la recherche de financements. Le Groupe Afrique en est très préoccupé parce qu'au moment de l'évaluation du Bureau d'appui aux bureaux décentralisés (OSD), nous avons remarqué que beaucoup de projets réussis à la phase pilote, n'arrivaient malheureusement pas à la phase échelle par manque de financement. Nous aimerions donc que les partenariats stratégiques figurent dans la note.

Le deuxième point que j'aimerais évoquer est le suivant: nous avons exprimé une inquiétude concernant l'augmentation du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim. Dans la publication sur *L'État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde* (SOFI) 2018, deux problématiques apparaissent liées à cette augmentation, à savoir les conflits et les changements climatiques. C'est donc du domaine de la résilience, aussi nous voudrions que les questions de la résilience et du budget resté inchangé soient vraiment examinées avec une attention particulière dans le Programme de travail et budget et que cela figure également dans le résumé du Président indépendant du Conseil.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

First of all, I would like to support the proposal made by Australia. Then I would like to suggest that at the start of point a) we say: "took note of the review of the priorities expressed".

Then in point c), we are missing what we mentioned in our intervention and also have heard from other colleagues, and that was one of the two specific items we have raised. We would add at the end: "Encouraged the Office of Evaluation to strengthen evaluation reports with a rating system".

And on point d), we would like to see a reference on the Global Report on food crisis and the Global Network against food crisis. So it could read: “highlighted the importance of the Global Report of food crisis and the Global Network against food crisis”.

CHAIRPERSON

Congo, we are trying to see how to phrase what you suggested. I will give the floor to the United States in the meantime.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

That was precisely my question. I am all for not turning this into a Drafting Committee but we need to strike a balance and it is unclear to me at what point we would like to see that reflected.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

We would like to see a specific reference to FAO’s leading role in sustainable agriculture and food systems. I do not know where it can fit more precisely but it is sort of an overarching concept for other FAO priorities. There is no reference in that text to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

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

We would like to suggest the deletion in point a) of the wording linked to conflict and climate change for two reasons. First of all, today we have not set ourselves the task of discussing this point. And the second reason, even if we were to look at FAO publications on this subject, we would see that the increase in the number of hungry people is linked not only to conflict and climate change. There are a number of other reasons, which lead to these negative trends.

Therefore, in this connection, we think that it is inappropriate to use this wording here in the summary of today’s discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

We are actually doing the Drafting Committee’s work and like I said once before, if you bump into someone in the corridor and he has got a happy look on his face, he is going to be a Member of the Drafting Committee because he knows his work is being done in the plenary. This way, we will never get by.

I believe the suggestion by Congo is covered by point d): “Stressing the need for resilience building in the face of increasingly protracted crises, climate change and disruption of livelihoods to continue to be a priority for FAO”.

In view of this, we can delete that reference to “due to conflict and climate change” because it is almost duplicating the thought which has gone before that. No?

I think we have to move on so I am going to put it in brackets and let the Drafting Committee decide. We have to have a thought that needs to go in the Chair’s Summary, not whether a particular word is used or a comma or a semi colon are missing.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think you know, it is a reality. You cannot shade before reality. If it is not everywhere, it is in Africa. So come to Africa and see that. It was said in the African statement so I do not see why we cannot accept if it was said by an entire Region. This is something that I personally do not understand.

So if we want to put the caveat there that as it is the case in Africa, probably that may be okay. But I tend to believe that it is a statement that came from a regional group.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cameroon. Let us reflect on it.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Thank you, Mr Chair, for this very transparent way of working and we highly appreciate it, having here this dialogue. We see it as a dialogue also in the Council.

We would like to see in point a) a reference to sustainable funding from the regular budget. So my proposal would be on the FAO comparative advantage, where it is currently in brackets, we could insert the line “highlighted the importance of sustainable funding from the regular budget”. And then we could continue “in FAO’s comparative advantage”.

“Budget, for example standard setting”. After budget, “for areas for FAO’s comparative advantage”. And then of course we could delete “FAO’s comparative advantage” at the beginning of the bracket.

CHAIRPERSON

Austria, we will take your suggestion on board but stop it at “FAO’s comparative advantage” and delete “for example standard setting” because I do not want another debate here on standard setting. We have a Drafting Committee and they have the verbatim records. The Drafting Committee represents all regions and this time the number of members is even higher than ever before in the Drafting Committee.

So why are we doing their work here?

We will stop at “advantage” and leave it to the Drafting Committee for whatever else need to be added.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

I have two points. I would like to see also in point a) reference to the outcomes of the FAO Regional Conferences.

I propose to put it after “took note of the review of the priorities expressed by the Technical Committees and, comma, the FAO Regional Conferences”.

My second point, I also want to support my colleagues from Congo and Cameroon and in a way forward and seeking for consensus, I have a proposal. I do not know if it will meet their demands. After “in particular, the increase of the number of people suffering from hunger” we can make reference to the last two reports of SOFI in 2016 and 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

We will take that on board and we put what Congo suggested in brackets so the Drafting Committee can discuss that.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, je voulais vous féliciter pour votre engagement à trouver rapidement un consensus sur des points parfois difficiles; en fait parfois nous nous complétons.

Nous n'allons pas accepter que soit repoussée une proposition qui figure dans la déclaration de bien 54 États et qui s'appuie sur les données du rapport 2018 sur l'*État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde* (SOFI). S'il en va ainsi, je commencerai aussi à soulever d'autres questions sur des points qui sont à l'écran devant nous, parce que nous croyons que le rapport «SOFI» souligne bien que l'augmentation du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim est due aux conflits et aux changements climatiques également.

Si vous lisez la Déclaration du Congo, c'est bien inscrit, le point 8 recouvre bien cette question. Nous ne pensons pas que la proposition de l'Égypte puisse suffire, les références sont là, j'avais bien dit dans la déclaration du Groupe Afrique, «en Afrique et en Asie», ainsi qu'il est écrit dans le rapport «SOFI».

Il ne s'agit pas d'une invention du Groupe régional Afrique, mais de toutes les organisations des Nations Unies. Nous vous demandons d'enlever les guillemets et votre résumé sera parfaitement accepté par le Groupe Afrique.

Même si je comprends les inquiétudes des autres, il faut savoir se dire la vérité en face et nous n'accepterons pas dans ce résumé que notre proposition parte avec des guillemets, sinon il faudra en ouvrir ailleurs.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Congo. Nobody is rejecting. I am just saying there is a mechanism in place and the mechanism was put in place by you all and that is the Drafting Committee. What is the role of the Drafting Committee if the Drafting Committee has to receive not an indicative aspect of the discussions but part of the report? Why have you set up the Drafting Committee?

So nobody is rejecting that. I was saying that these details should be worked out in the Drafting Committee. But here it seems we want to agree on a report which then the Drafting Committee can just stamp. Then why have one? May as well do it here like we are doing it on every item. But the Council did not operate this way when the screen was not there because now there is a temptation for every word to be looked at.

So Congo, nobody is rejecting what you are saying. I am just saying that we should send it to the Drafting Committee because all regions are represented there.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, veuillez bien me comprendre, pourquoi seulement ce que l'Afrique revendique serait entre parenthèses et pas ce que revendiquent les autres pays? C'est là que réside notre inquiétude.

Si nous voulons que la discussion évolue, mettons entre parenthèses tout le texte de votre résumé sur ce point pour que le Comité de rédaction l'étudie en entier. Dans ce cas, nous acceptons.

Nous souhaiterions que les autres pays comprennent que c'était dans la Déclaration africaine qui avait pris comme base l'édition 2018 du rapport «SOFI». C'est une vérité irréfutable.

Nous pourrions demander à la seule délégation qui s'oppose à notre proposition la raison de son opposition, mais peut-être même est-elle déjà d'accord.

CHAIRPERSON

Congo, I think you have taken the discussion in a direction, which was not intended. For example, we put Australia's intervention in brackets at their request. Putting it in brackets is highlighting it for the Drafting Committee so that it is not overlooked.

So it is there but I want to move forward and so we will remove the brackets because I cannot get stuck on something which is one aspect that seems to be covered as well in the paragraph and also by giving the example of SOFI there.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I was just going to propose that because I think it was not in disagreement that the notions about the increase of people living in hunger with reference to the SOFI and the notion about the importance of sustainable funding, the notion of the comparative advantage of FAO and the other thing. They were not opposed. It is how we find the right wording and I think that can be done by the Drafting Committee. But as we have seen with another paragraph, the moment you put brackets in the text, we all know in the United Nations what it means.

So if we have the understanding in the room that the notions are captured and agreed upon here, then we can let the Drafting Committee sort out the exact wording of the notions and then remove the brackets, making full use of agreed language either within SOFI or somewhere else in the United Nations.

I think it is not only for the fourth or fifth line but also the end of the paragraph, remove the brackets. Many Members of the Council made reference to the comparative advantage about food systems and partnerships, so the notions are there and it can be sorted out in the Drafting Committee when it comes to the exact language.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. So we will remove the brackets, Congo.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

One more point to be considered by the Drafting Committee and also stemming from the SOFI report. In our intervention, we paid attention to the insufficient presence of nutritional aspects in the works. That was one of the findings of the evaluation.

My suggestion would be that in the point a) we added: “number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition”, that would cover this lacuna in a way. It may not be the best place now when the bracketed text is added there, but I trust the Drafting Committee will find an appropriate place for this issue, which merits to have its place somewhere in the conclusions.

CHAIRPERSON

And in fact there it says reference to SOFI 2016 and 2017. The brackets should be removed from there as well since we have removed the brackets.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The process of observation of a substantive point, Chair, with respect and affection, it is up to the Member States to decide whether we use a screen or whether we negotiate here or direct this to a Drafting Committee.

We have representatives of 49 sovereign states here that you are asking us to abide to an agreed-to-language. It is up to the sovereign states to decide when it goes to a Drafting Committee and whether language is up on a screen or not. It is not the judgment of the Member of a Secretariat or Representative of the Secretariat.

If colleagues here want to spend all night negotiating text that they can then live with and support, that is the right of these sovereign states.

So again with respect and affection, I understand this is making your job more difficult but these are countries you are dealing with and if you expect us to abide by the findings of this Council, we need to be involved in a more specific way than the way you have proposed.

A substantive point, I would note that our Egyptian colleague’s suggestion with regard to point a) seems to be a simple and elegant solution to the discussions we have because all of the issues we have been talking about were covered in SOFI, that we could simply make a reference to that SOFI report as the Egyptians have noted and avoid this process.

We are sovereign states. We are the ones who decide when something goes to a Drafting Committee and we are the ones who decide whether or not something is on a screen.

CHAIRPERSON

The Egyptian suggestion is already there.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

My point is that if you had taken the Egyptian solution in its entirety, which I understood would replace all of this problematic language, it was a simple and elegant solution and we could have walked out of this with that.

Now we just have this gibberish of every single insertion of language so not only have we made the Drafting Committee's life more difficult; I do not see how any country can support this. We are just going to reopen up these negotiations on Friday.

Therefore I think we should continue with how this works and come up with a normal UN process in which we agree to a text that all of our countries can accept. I invite our Egyptian colleague to restate it if he wishes to do it but I understand that to be a substitution language that would have solved all of the problems I heard.

CHAIRPERSON

The suggestion was to make reference to SOFI and it is there. But Egypt, can you repeat your suggestion?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I am sorry but it just seems to us that just by making a simple reference to the SOFI, it actually captures the points that the African Group has talked about and also addresses the concerns I think of our Russian colleague. In other words, I understood that SOFI reference to be a substitution for the gibberish that is up there right now.

So it does not all coexist. It replaces.

CHAIRPERSON

Egypt, what is your suggestion?

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Again, it was a suggestion to try to please my colleagues from Africa and also address an issue raised by my colleagues from Russia. So we are not inventing something. It is a reality and it was indicated in the SOFI 2016 that the main reason for the increasing number of hungry was conflicts and in 2017 the reason was climate change.

But it was just a proposal. I think if both my colleagues from Congo and Russia would accept it.

CHAIRPERSON

Egypt, what is shown there in red, you agree with it?

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

I think we can add after "due to conflict and to climate change" or climate change and conflict, to be consistent, "as indicated in the last two SOFI reports". This is my suggestion.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Mr Chairman, this is the most difficult part of your job. We know you are the Chairperson. You have to guide our work. You have made a suggestion. We abide by those suggestions and I think— true we are Member States but we seek guidance from the Chair and once the guidance is given, we follow that guidance and I think so far we are trying to do our best to following your guidance.

If you feel that some of the work should be done by the Drafting Committee, which is appropriate, that is where the drafting should take place, not in the plenary.... Our role here is to see global themes.

I really want to receive your guidance so that we make the life of the Drafting Committee simple.

Having said that, does anybody understand point h) because I find it very confusing. What do we want to say? What is the message?

CHAIRPERSON

Cameroon, just to comment on yours and my friend from the United States, I think these interventions have a bearing on the methods of work on the Council which you all, the Member governments, have put in place. Nobody disputes that it is the Member governments who decide.

This is a process that Member governments had decided that there be a Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee gets the gist of a summary, which is the thoughts or, like my friend the Chair of the Programme Committee called it, the notions in the text. And the Drafting Committee puts words around it.

This process was not put in place by me or my predecessors. It was put in place by you all. I am not trying to burden the Drafting Committee with tasks that are not in their mandate or depriving Member governments. This is your process. You put it in place.

All I am saying is that the Drafting Committee should get the thoughts and notions which you all expressed in your discussions, and the words have to be put around by the Drafting Committee where, as I said, all regions are represented.

When there is doubt, the Drafting Committee consults the verbatim records. Is it worth spending time in the plenary on words or should we concentrate on what the thoughts of the Members were in their interventions?

Nobody is questioning the sovereign right of Members to decide. That is clear.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I thank the delegate of Cameroon for raising his concern on point h) because I think there is a misunderstanding there. I think two notions are expressed in this paragraph and they came from the Report of the Programme Committee. If you look at page 8, paragraph 13 b), we had a discussion in the Programme Committee about how the work of symposia, seminars and other meetings fit into the priority setting and the work of the FAO.

Therefore, the Programme Committee stressed that informational meetings, symposia, seminars and other events convened are disseminated through the corporate channels of the Programme Work and Budget and the PIR. That is the notion we tried to capture when we had the discussion on how to do seminars, like the innovation symposium we had last week or the one on the decade of family farming, how do they fit in in the regular work of the Programme of Work and Budget?

Of course, that is different from how we recommended our arrangements for the following sessions of the Committee when it comes to the agenda and implementation of decisions taken by the Council based on recommendations of the Programme Committee.

If you want to have both notions in this paragraph, I think we have to split it into two paragraphs and then you have to introduce the language of paragraph 13 b) of the report of the Programme Committee: "stressed that information on meetings, symposia, seminars and other events convened is disseminated through the corporate channels of the PWB and PIR".

CHAIRPERSON

Since, as I mentioned, this regards the working methods of the Council, I would like to suggest that at our next informal meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Group we discuss this because I would not like this debate to take place at every Council.

So it is better we discuss it in that informal meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs as the working methods of the Council is a standing item in our informal meeting.

Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)

Quisiéramos incorporar un nuevo concepto y pido disculpas por ello, pero creemos que es importante. Es un concepto que fue pronunciado en nuestra intervención acerca de la importancia de que la FAO proporcione una plataforma de conocimiento neutral y equilibrada de todos los enfoques de desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

Esto está refrendado en el Informe del Comité del Programa en el punto 4e, y creemos que es adecuado al rol que tiene que tener la FAO como líder en la implementación y la consecución del objetivo ODS 2. No me atrevería a hacer una redacción – dejo la tarea a los queridos colegas del Comité de Redacción – pero creo que este concepto podría seguir al concepto introducido por la Delegación de Italia en el párrafo A, cuando dijo “el *leading role* de la FAO en el desarrollo sostenible agrícola”. Creo que podría ser un concepto que siga a esa idea introducida previamente, ya que es una de las maneras en las que la FAO puede tener ese rol de liderazgo, ofreciendo una plataforma neutral balanceada de todos los enfoques agrícolas sostenibles, para que puedan ser ofrecidos en todos los países a través de los *programme managers*, y los países puedan elegir el que mejor le convenga en función de su contexto y sus realidades.

CHAIRPERSON

Argentina, do you have a proposal or wording?

Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)

No, solamente quisiéramos que el Comité de Redacción tenga en cuenta este concepto a la hora de redactar el informe final. Es un concepto que entendemos debería ir a continuación de la noción introducida por la Delegación de Italia.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

We appreciate your comments on the importance of innovation in working methods of the Council. We think that having the text on the screen is a major achievement for FAO and a key improvement in the working methods of the Council.

Having said that, I recognize what you said about drafting. But when we discuss politically sensitive issues, as I said yesterday, it is not a matter for the Drafting Committee to decide and I have the impression that the screen here is providing us with a very precious tool to discuss on substance.

I have not seen up until now, frankly speaking, any controversy on wording, on comma or semi colon, not at all. So let us draw a clear cut distinction, Mr Chair, between substance and wording or drafting. Otherwise, we run the risk not of turning the Council into a Drafting Committee but the other way around, of having the Drafting Committee playing the role of the Council, and this is not what we want of course.

In this sense, I share the sense of confusion that was expressed before by my colleague of Cameroon when it comes to the final part of point a). At this stage I am a little bit confused. I do not know what the Drafting Committee is supposed to do on those two final points thrown there, about the leading role of FAO and partnerships.

I do not think that we are on the right track here because point a) starts with “takes note” and I do not think that the Council is taking note of the leading role or taking note of partnerships. I think that some more substantive wording is needed there like, for instance, the Council “recalls the importance of FAO’s leading role on sustainable agriculture and food system approaches” as an overarching concept as compared to more technical – key, crucial, strategic – but more technical priorities of FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, there has to be the differentiation between substance and wording and that is why I was saying that the Chair's summary should give the gist of the discussions and there has to be a difference between wording and substantive issues.

I do not have a problem at all. In fact, I would support what you have said, Italy. But we do get into wording sometimes here as well.

You made a suggestion regarding the leading role of FAO and I think we can take that on board if that makes the concept clearer.

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

I would like to note the fact that the current language of point a) does not appear to be correct in our view from the point of view of agreed text on these items and at the intergovernmental level.

I am speaking about a large number of resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and also of decisions, of FAO governing bodies as well as Committees such as the Committee on World Food Security.

Now as regards expert publications of FAO, from our point of view the situation is similar. Let us start with the point that SOFI 2016 does not exist in nature as far as we are concerned. And if we look at the conclusions of the SOFI report, then it is clear that not only climate change is not an increase in hunger but it is extreme weather events that are mentioned, along with natural disasters and climate shocks, but not climate change.

As regards conflicts, Russia does not doubt the catastrophic consequences of armed conflict and the impact it will have on hunger and the growth of the scale of hunger in the world, but the point is different. We do not think that it is appropriate to mention conflict and not mention other reasons, which also have an impact on the growth in the scale of hunger and hungry in general.

This may be due to low levels of economic growth, it may be due to natural disasters and it may be due to a large number of other factors that would be included in the expert publications of FAO on these various issues.

In conclusion, I would like to support the first statement of Egypt on this point, which we also understood as the Representative of the United States did. We think that Egypt's proposal, the first statement of Egypt would be an excellent compromise in the situation.

CHAIRPERSON

Egypt, since you seem to be the centre of attention for this one, what is your proposal? I thought you agreed with this?

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Again my proposal was to indicate or to reference the SOFI reports 2016-17 and delete "conflict and climate change". But as my colleagues from Congo insisted on his position, I withdraw my proposal if it creates problems.

But to my understanding, it can be a way forward to just indicate it because the main theme for SOFI 2016 was conflicts and for SOFI 2017 was climate change.

CHAIRPERSON

Russian Federation, you keep emphasizing that it is not just conflict and climate change although they do have an effect, but there are other factors. Would Members agree to putting: "due to *inter alia* conflict and climate change", using the words "*inter alia*"? So, that is not acceptable.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con la idea de eliminar “due to conflict and climate change” y reemplazarlo con la referencia a SOFI 2016 y SOFI 2018, me parece que es el número correcto. En particular, si bien entendemos que estas son causas principales y quizás las más importantes, en especial respecto al aumento del hambre, no son las únicas, y especialmente si hacemos referencia a la malnutrición. Hay múltiples causas para el aumento del hambre y la malnutrición.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

First off let me start by expressing my strong concurrence with the points raised by Italy. These are matters of politics and substance. These are not suitable for the Drafting Committee. Again, I restate if you expect countries to be bound by this, you have to give us a voice in the language we are asked to agree to.

I concur that this is a question about the methods of work. I will restate a question I posed in this area before. I questioned the utility of these reports; look at the time we have spent on this. It completely distracts us from the important work of the Organization, so as part of the methods of work I would like to call into question the utility of these reports in the first place.

A second theme to consider would be to have Member States draft these reports. That, my friends, would be an actual Drafting Committee. I think that will reflect more of a view of points. That would really review the regional points and have language we could all agree to rather than us having to negotiate a draft from the Secretariat.

I am going to take up the Egyptian suggestion one more time. I know he has withdrawn it but it strikes me, colleagues, that it is actually the SOFI 2018 report that encompasses everything, it talks about climate shocks, about conflict. It builds on the previous SOFI reports. So language to the effect of challenges identified in the SOFI 2018 report would cover everything we have talked about here.

Finally, I had a question on new point h), if we could get a definition of what the corporate channels of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) are.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je voudrais dire que depuis que la FAO fonctionne, les choses ont beaucoup évolué. Le Comité de rédaction est passé de trois à quatre, puis à cinq membres, et aujourd'hui de deux à trois membres par région. C'est nous qui orientons nos travaux.

Vous nous avez proposé une méthode de travail que nous avons acceptée, mais le Comité de rédaction doit pouvoir faire son travail et je voudrais vraiment attirer l'attention des Membres du Conseil sur ce problème important. Vous avez dit que nous allions examiner ce sujet au cours de réunions du Président indépendant du Conseil avec les Présidents des régions, qui est le lieu pour discuter des méthodes de travail du Conseil. En effet, nous ne pouvons changer ainsi de façon subite les règles du jeu au Conseil. La preuve en est que nous sommes bloqués maintenant.

Ceci dit, j'ai suivi l'argumentation sur les résolutions du Conseil de sécurité et les termes déjà acceptés internationalement. Mais n'oublions pas que nous sommes ici dans une Organisation, il est vrai cela peut être politisé, mais une Organisation d'abord à caractère technique et que pour cette question, nous avons des documents de référence. Ce ne sont pas des résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et ce sont ces documents de référence que le Congo a mis sur la table. Nous n'avons pas besoin ni le temps d'aller chercher les résolutions sur Internet pour voir ce qu'elles disent, car ce n'est pas non plus l'objet de notre travail.

Notre travail consiste à utiliser les écrits de la publication phare (le «flagship») comme le rapport «SOFI» sur *l'État de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde*, sans chercher à créer un nouveau

langage. C'est pour cela que j'ai dit: «tel que c'est rédigé» et ceci reflète exactement la pensée du Groupe Afrique.

Nous sommes en train de dénaturer en quelque sorte notre discussion, car nous avons le devoir de rapporter ce qui a été dit pendant les débats alors qu'à présent nous apportons des éléments qui n'ont pas été discutés. Il faut en ce moment résumer ce qui a été dit sans ouvrir à nouveau les débats. Quant à la revendication du Congo, où il est question de conflits, là est le débat! C'était dit dans sa Déclaration et c'est l'essence du résumé, résumer ce que les gens ont dit et pas ce qu'ils diront à posteriori.

Voilà ce que nous souhaitons et laissons le reste au Comité de rédaction, car nous ne sommes pas en train de négocier, ce qui serait très dangereux. Ceux qui assistent aux réunions, comme les sessions du Codex et de comités techniques, le savent bien: la rédaction, qui se fait en plénière parce qu'il n'y a pas de Comité de rédaction, est parfois très laborieuse et peut prendre jusqu'à 18 heures pour finir un rapport. Si c'est ce que l'on veut faire ici, il faut annuler le Comité de rédaction, bien que ce serait compliqué puisqu'on ne peut changer maintenant les règles en place.

Nous tenons à ce que le contenu des débats soit maintenu. Il ne peut y avoir d'arguments contre, à moins que l'on ne prouve que cela n'a pas été dit.

CHAIRPERSON

I agree with you, Cameroon, and I agree with what the Ambassador from Italy said. If there is a point of substance, that we deal with here. But if it regards wording, the Drafting Committee is supposed to work on that.

I thought the Chair's summary was trying to identify the substance and moving forward with that. When we discuss it in the working methods, we will consider what the Ambassador from Italy said as a basis for the discussion.

Also, what exactly is the purpose of the Drafting Committee as in old days it used to meet for longer periods. Now their work is over in a couple of hours. Is the Drafting Committee still necessary if most of the work is done in plenary? This can be fleshed out in that informal session where Members are represented by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups.

So we take this up now based on the discussions which we are having now, I have asked the Secretary General to see if point a) could be drafted to take on board some of the interventions made and we will read that because it seems to be the one which is giving the most problems.

Mr Hans GOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

I am not going to discuss whether or not we should do the drafting here or in the Drafting Committee. If it is drafting, it has to be in the Drafting Committee. But if there are differences of view regarding a notion, I think that it cannot be decided by a Drafting Committee.

Since we are now discussing the Report of the Programme Committee, not all of the work of FAO, I can try to help as Chair of the Programme Committee.

We discussed several items, among which the increase of people living in hunger and it was brought forward by all the Members of the Programme Committee that we have to do something about resilience building. We have to see how we can increase the resilience of the livelihoods to threats and crisis. I think that is the wording in our Strategic Objective 5 and that is causing lengthy discussions.

If you replace the word conflict and climate change because all of the report, the threats and crises are more than conflict and drought because of climate change. In the report, further on we speak about 300 billion people living in hunger because of the Peste des Petits Ruminants. That also represents a threat.

So I think if we say “people suffering from hunger and malnutrition due to threats and crises,” that incorporates not only conflict in hunger but also pests, diseases and other things and it is already agreed language within FAO, not even within the United Nations but certainly within FAO because I think otherwise you will have a long discussion whether or not to have those two words and we end up perhaps with five other words.

But if we stick to our Strategic Objective 5, it says due to threats and crises, which encompasses all these concepts even more than conflict and hunger, I think we can solve the issue because that is about how we can get support to those people more than only conflict and hunger. I think if we make the reference to the SOFI reports, and they are about all of those issues, not only about conflict and hunger but also about other crises. I think we use agreed language to avoid the issue about hunger and conflict, either here or in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador, for your constructive suggestion. I now want to open the floor for a discussion on that.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Le Congo ne cherche pas à vous mettre en difficulté, mais seulement vous mettre sur le droit chemin.

Comme il ressort des propos de mon cher grand frère du Cameroun, votre résumé doit refléter les débats qui ont eu lieu ici autour de ce point. Nous connaissons tous les facteurs qui occasionnent la faim, mais n'avions parlé que de deux facteurs que nous qualifions de majeurs. À présent, d'autres introduisent des éléments qui n'étaient pas dans le débat alors que celui-ci est déjà clos sur ce point.

Il s'agit de savoir maintenant si les mots «crise», climat» et «changement climatique» ont été utilisés pendant la discussion. En fait, le problème se pose, car certains ne veulent pas que figure dans le rapport les termes «conflit» et «changement climatique». Pourtant pendant le débat, cela n'a pas été contesté quand cela a été dit. Les procès-verbaux sont là et peuvent être vérifiés: cela a été dit.

Je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme pour ses efforts quand on parle de menaces et de crises, mais regardons les choses en face, nous savons bien ce qu'il se passe: ce sont les conflits ET les changements climatiques, comme c'est souligné dans nos rapports.

Maintenant, nous pourrions écrire: «...SOFI 2018, notamment les conflits et les changements climatiques», comme consigné dans les procès-verbaux, car le résumé doit être conforme aux débats que nous avons eus dans cette salle.

CHAIRPERSON

Actually, I never expected such a long discussion on the Chair's summary. In fact, we were more optimistic. We thought we will go through today's work and complete it. Since we will not make progress by Members intervening and giving their point of view, would you agree that we stop for five minutes to redraft entirely point a)?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I just wanted to propose that when we are in a situation like this, specifically for the language about the increase in the number of people suffering from hunger, that we may look at previously agreed language? I think it is good to have a consistency. So looking at the last Council report, the Council did specifically, on the item of Programme of Work and Budget, “note with concern the rise of global hunger as a result of climate change and increasing number of conflicts”.

The SOFI report just reinforced that negative trend and I hope that delegations could agree to draw from past agreed language.

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

Regarding the five minute interval, we would totally agree with that but I would like to make a small proposal beforehand and draw again your attention to the fact that the SOFI report 2016 does not exist.

Let me also note that we could agree with the Representative for Cameroon when he says that the summary of the discussion should reflect everything that is said in the plenary session of the Council, but with one correction. If a Member of the Council should agree with the conclusions that are drawn by the Chairperson and this is the procedure that is followed in the work of the Council.

So we are impatiently looking forward to this break, Mr Chairman.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

There are two ways to handle this. One would be to go back to your original text, which was supposed to be the summary of the debate on this item.

Members who want to change some parts can bring those changes in the Drafting Committee. That is one way.

If you do not like that alternative, in this case five minutes' break will not solve the problem. It will take a lot of time to rework point a). In this case, you could bracket point a) as it is and send it to the Drafting Committee.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je ne pense pas que la pause soit nécessaire, car la proposition du Canada nous agréée. Nous pouvons l'accepter puisqu'elle va dans le droit fil de ce que nous avons dit et qui a même déjà été cautionné lors du précédent Conseil. Je ne savais pas qu'une telle décision avait été prise, mais nous nous alignons sur la proposition du Canada, qui reflète bien l'idée que le Groupe Afrique a exprimée.

Nous pouvons aller de l'avant avec l'idée du Canada.

CHAIRPERSON

Congo, it was not only for that aspect, on conflict and climate change. There are some other things in point a) which we thought we could correct. So it is not just related to that. I think Canada's intervention was good in that it gave us what the Council has agreed in the past.

We break for five minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 16.40 to 17.06 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 40 à 17 h 06

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.40 a las 17.06

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have re-drafted point a) braking it into three points, as follows:

1. The Council:

a) took note of the review of the priorities expressed by the Technical Committees, recalling the decision of the 159th Session of the Council on the outcome of the 2018 FAO Regional Conferences, and recent developments in trends and emerging issues influencing the work of the Organization in the medium term, in particular the rise of global hunger as a result of *inter alia* the adverse impact of climate change and the increasing number of conflicts, acknowledged their continued relevance in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework and looked forward to further review within the context of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 at its next session;

- b) highlighted FAO's comparative advantage and technical expertise, and the need to harmonize existing knowledge platforms, and underlined the importance of sustainable funding from the regular budget in this regard;
- c) acknowledged the leading role of FAO for sustainable agriculture and food systems and the importance of partnerships, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je pense que l'idée a été reprise, mais le mot "entre autres" me gêne. En français, "entre autres" signifie: «même si on ne les mentionne pas». Dans un esprit de consensus, je pourrais accepter, mais j'aurais préféré ceci: «principalement les conflits et les changements climatiques, et autres».

Il serait important de mentionner «principalement», comme dans la déclaration du Groupe Afrique. «Autres» n'a pas été mentionné, mais si vous pouviez écrire «principalement les conflits et les changements climatiques, et autres», cela serait plus direct.

Les autres paragraphes, tels qu'ils ont été travaillés, vont bien.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

I absolutely do not want to prolong this debate and as a Member of the Drafting Committee, I am happy to continue the conversation there but I think the redrafting has unintentionally lost two key points that were raised. One is we highlighted FAO's comparative advantage and technical expertise but delegates said more than that. They said that FAO needed to focus its resources and efforts on its comparative advantage.

And the second element was actually raised by the delegation from Argentina which was not about harmonizing existing knowledge platforms but about being a neutral and balanced platform for all approaches to sustainable agriculture and food.

I am confident we can handle this in the Drafting Committee but I did want to put it on record so we have a lever in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

I just wanted to mention that the aspect of the regular budget is highlighted in point b).

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

But the point is slightly different, so I am happy to handle it in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comment, especially reaction to what Congo said?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Thank you, Chair, for your efforts. We have whole new language introduced here that was not even in the statement we were negotiating before. I think we have confused the verbatim record and the report from the Council.

If this language is to be viewed to be binding on Member States, which I believe it is, this whole thing is going to have to go back *ad referendum* to my capital, that between the changes and the concerning language and the new language that has been popped up which was not even part of the negotiation. We have concerns about the whole process.

I recall what our colleagues said to just bracket the whole text and I am comfortable with doing that. But almost regardless of what the Drafting Committee comes back with, I am now going to have to go back to my capital on this entire report language.

CHAIRPERSON

The United States, would you be able to point out the areas you are concerned with?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Certainly. You have rewritten point a) in a way that I do not think addresses the concerns we talked about. You have new language in point c) that was not part of the points we were negotiating before.

The whole process. Again, if we can all agree that none of this language is binding on any state, then we are fine. But if my country is expected to act in accordance with anything we talk about here, these new additions made in this sort of odd process, this means we should go with the Africa Group's original recommendation to just bracket the whole text and move on to the next item, meaning that we do not make a decision on this; it is still open.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je suppose que l'adoption du rapport se fera vendredi; nous sommes actuellement encore en train de débattre de certaines questions. Vous avez proposé un résumé de nos débats sur le rapport de la session du Comité du Programme et c'est ce résumé que les gens peuvent utiliser comme ils l'entendent puisque nous avons jusqu'à vendredi.

De notre côté, nous ne redoutons pas les discussions au Comité de rédaction, mais que ceux qui veulent consulter leur capitale prennent le temps de le faire d'ici vendredi. Il ne faut pas qu'il y ait blocage à ce niveau, car ainsi que j'en discutais avec mon collègue du Congo, nous verrons comment finaliser cette question ensemble.

CHAIRPERSON

I see there are no other requests from the floor, so may I suggest that we proceed to the next item.

We keep these paragraphs pending and we come back to them at the end of tomorrow's session. So we move ahead with the other points leaving these ones outstanding. Obviously, it gives us an opportunity. This was sometime done in the Finance and Programme Committees. If there is a problem with a specific text, carrying on the debate does not help. So we adopt – I use the word adopt – but the wording is “agree for transmission to the Drafting Committee” but this paragraph, we will leave pending and we will come back to it at the end of the session on Wednesday.

Is that acceptable? I see it is, so we will proceed that way.

This means that points a), b) and c) of the revised text are kept pending and we will come back to them. With that, I think the rest of the text is fine with Members so we will move on to the next item.

The next item, although it is the Finance Committee's Report on our agenda, I had requested the Director-General to be present here for some items. He had asked me to suggest items where the council would like him to be present and I suggested the Sexual Harassment item so if you agree, we could take this one because the Director-General is on call to join us for that item.

I see there is no objection so we shall proceed in this fashion. We shall take item 10 and deal with the Finance Committee tomorrow – perhaps tonight.

The meeting was suspended from 17.16 to 17.28 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 16 à 17 h 28

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.16 a las 17.28s

Item 10. Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse

Point 10. Politiques, procédures et mesures mises en place par l'Organisation en matière de prévention du harcèlement, du harcèlement sexuel et de l'abus de pouvoir

Tema 10. Política, procesos y medidas institucionales relativos a la prevención del hostigamiento, el acoso sexual y el abuso de autoridad

(CL 160/9, CL 160/9 Add.1; CL 160/5 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is Item 10, *Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse*.

I wish to welcome the Director-General who has joined us for this item.

The documents before Council are CL 160/9, CL 160/9 Add.1 and CL 160/5 Rev.1.

I would like to remind Members that, as agreed at the outset, the comments on this subject contained in the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee and the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee, will be taken into consideration under this item.

I will now give the floor to the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Allow me to briefly report on the deliberations of the Joint Meeting on item 10 of the Council on Corporate policy, processes and measures on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse and of course this also includes discrimination.

The Joint Meeting requested the Secretariat to finalize and circulate a strengthened action plan to the Council, which was provided in document CL 160/9 Add.1. In addition, the Joint Meeting discussed intensively and jointly this crucial, important issue to see how we can avoid and prevent sexual harassment, harassment, authority abuse and any form of discrimination.

The Joint Meeting welcomed and strongly supported FAO's zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, abuse of power, including all forms of discrimination, and its prevention.

The Joint Meeting recommended a culture change within the Organization and emphasised the importance of "tone from the top" in this respect. I think the management has to set the example for the Organization and the Membership.

The Meeting recommended that management encourage staff to report concerns in line with the policies. Also this is a crucial element of preventing this terrible harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power, including discrimination.

The Joint Meeting welcomed FAO's proactive engagement at the UN system-wide level in efforts to eliminate any form of harassment and abuse from within the UN system workplace, including its participation in the ongoing UN-wide staff perception survey.

Noting that the ongoing UN-wide survey included aspects on more general staff satisfaction, recommended FAO conduct separately a full staff satisfaction survey.

The Joint Meeting looked forward to receiving information, including the outcome of the staff survey, on the outcome of the analysis of the survey data, including at a disaggregated level for FAO, and this being reflected in updated policies and actions.

The Joint Meeting looked forward to receiving an updated report annually in line with the UN Secretary-General's commitment to zero- tolerance, for submission to the Council.

With this I conclude my report.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant director-General, Corporate Services Department)

I was appointed to represent FAO at the Chief Executive Board Task Force on addressing sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations System.

I am pleased to report that the task force worked very intensely over the summer and came up with major system-wide deliverables in tackling sexual harassment in a coherent and effective manner across the United Nations system.

It came up with six points, which we in FAO are turning into an action plan. They included system-wide model policy on sexual harassment, system-wide screening database called Clear Check to prevent the rehire of perpetrators of sexual harassment, a harmonized mechanism for system wide collection and analysis of data to enable reporting and further work, guidelines for managers and help lines for staff as well as hotlines for reporting to staff and others.

A draft code of conduct for United Nations organized events and a commitment to strengthen the harmonizing investigative capacity and improve the quality of the investigations in the next phase of the CB task force.

These deliverables were approved by the High Level Committee on Management on behalf of the Chief Executive Board and is now being turned into implementation.

The Secretary-General has expressed his appreciation of the work that has been done so far and the two things that we are noting with a huge degree of seriousness is that it is zero tolerance for sexual harassment. Whilst all of this would require culture change and culture change takes time, we at FAO are committing to turn these into an action plan and implement it in a rather expeditious way.

I am now going to turn to Mr Serván for the Action Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Serván, Director of the Office of Human Resources, to introduce this item. Mr Serván, you have the floor.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Complementando la información que acaba de ser proporcionada, quiero agregar que muchas de las actividades acordadas al nivel del Sistema de Naciones Unidas son ahora parte de nuestro Plan de acción, y como pueden ver en el documento que será presentado como *Add.1* tenemos fechas claras para cada una de las acciones, e internamente, responsables internos para llevarlos a cabo.

Quiero mencionar en este sentido que nuestro Plan de Acción se basa, como hemos podido ver en el documento, en tres ejes. La parte de notificación, seguida por investigación y toma de decisiones y difusión y apoyo. Y en cada una de ellas, tenemos una serie de actividades que se enlazan con las aprobadas por el CEB y el Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Es importante notar que el Plan de Acción prevea entre sus mayores actividades la encuesta del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, que terminó el 27 de noviembre, y estamos a la espera de los resultados globales del Sistema y para la Organización, que será en la última semana de diciembre. Estos resultados, que serán presentados a los Miembros como parte de nuestra documentación en la próxima reunión del Comité de Finanzas, provocarán acciones y ajustes en nuestro Plan de Acción.

Quiero también agregar que como medidas futuras, como se incluye, en parte es lo queda fuera de la encuesta y nos ayuda a ajustar nuestro Plan. Al mismo tiempo hemos ya preparado la versión actualizada de la Política de Prevención de Acoso Sexual, que en este momento está para recoger observaciones por parte de los representantes del personal. Está con ellos para comentarios. Esperamos poderla publicar al final de esta semana o la próxima.

Al mismo tiempo mantenemos reuniones cotidianas - bueno, no cotidianas, pero regulares - con todas unidades que son parte del Plan de Acción, pero notamos al mismo tiempo que es importante trabajar en cambio de cultura. En este sentido, muchas de las acciones van a la parte de difusión y apoyo dentro de la Organización para tratar de pasar el mensaje y a todos niveles, de la tolerancia cero que mencionó la Organización, y al mismo tiempo dar los mecanismos necesarios para que el personal pueda actuar cuando es necesario.

En ese sentido, y para concluir, quiero mencionar que en la nueva Política para la Prevención del Acoso Sexual, el Director General ha decidido nombrar a la Señora Dilek Macit, Director General Adjunto, como custodio de la política. Esto nos permitirá tener el mayor nivel de relevancia y tener la mayor llegada hacia todas las oficinas, tanto de la sede como descentralizadas.

Concluyo diciendo que el Plan de acción es un plan dinámico, tiene fechas y esta versión que se presentó a ustedes está en constante actualización, probablemente por tanto para la próxima reunión esperamos podamos dar mayores resultados.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

During the Council meeting in June of this year a joint statement condemning all forms of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse was issued and Members called for FAO to take firm action against it.

We thank FAO Management for document CL 160/9, which provides an update on progress made and outlines the actions taken by FAO to address harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse regarding both FAO's participation in UN initiatives and FAO's action plan and areas of work. We note that the updated Action Plan requested by the 159th Council was provided just a few days before the start of this Council session. This was too late for us to make substantive comments on the updated Action Plan today.

We reiterate the need for FAO to participate actively in UN system-wide efforts to tackle Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) issues. We can see an opportunity for the Rome-based Agencies to continue working in close collaboration in this regard and to lead by example.

We would like to underline the importance of the Joint Meeting recommendation that Senior Management lead the culture change that is needed to implement FAO's corporate policies to prevent harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse, and any forms of discrimination, and to create a safe working environment for reporting any misconduct and for whistleblowing. We endorse the Joint Meeting recommendations on this and we would like to see this point reflected in the Council report. We will look for an increase in the currently very low reporting of concerns to the Office of the Inspector General as a key indicator of culture change at FAO.

The EU and its Member States strongly support the perception survey launched on 29 October by the Chief Executive Board Task Force, which we believe will provide important data on experiences and perceptions regarding sexual harassment. It will provide a welcome opportunity to benchmark and compare data. We look forward to the results later this year and we urge Management to respond to these swiftly

We also welcome measures such as increasing the investigative capacity, improving information and providing learning and training tools and the Staff Counsellor, and the work on enhancing hotline reporting capabilities. A safe environment for reporting and whistleblowing, as well as timely investigations and appropriate judicial proceedings, must be a priority.

We also want to highlight our strong support for the work on establishing a mechanism to monitor the accountability of implementing partners. As important as it is to tackle all forms of harassment and

authority abuse within the Organization, a zero tolerance policy must be firmly implemented in all of FAO's partnerships.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States strongly urge FAO Management to conduct the staff satisfaction survey next year and on a regular basis thereafter.

In this regard, we request further updates to the FAO action plan so that it includes:

- i) the provision of regular information to the Membership on the number of cases and how they are dealt with;
- ii) prompt and effective mechanisms to notify donors, to pre-empt reports through the media, including social media; and
- iii) measures in response to the outcome of both the current perception survey and future staff satisfaction surveys.

Finally, we confirm our commitment to jointly combatting all forms of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse, and discrimination. We look forward to a further update of the Action Plan for consideration by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in March 2019.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

La Guinée équatoriale, l'Algérie et le Cameroun prennent la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur ce point qui traite de politiques, procédures et mesures mises en place par l'Organisation en matière de prévention du harcèlement, du harcèlement sexuel et de l'abus de pouvoir.

Nous acclamons la présentation de ce document ainsi que l'addendum qui lui est adjoint. Ces deux documents fournissent des informations actualisées sur les politiques, procédures et mesures mises en place par la FAO en matière de prévention du harcèlement, du harcèlement sexuel et de l'abus de pouvoir. Nous apprécions les délibérations de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sur cette question.

Le principe de tolérance zéro en matière de harcèlement, de harcèlement sexuel et d'abus de pouvoir est pour le Groupe Afrique un objectif louable. Cependant, nous pensons que l'idéal serait une Organisation avec harcèlement zéro, harcèlement sexuel zéro, abus de pouvoir zéro. En effet, nous considérons que le principe de tolérance zéro se fonde sur l'idée de sanction, alors que celui de manifestation zéro se fonde sur l'idée de la prévention à travers la formation, l'éducation, la communication, la sensibilisation, et j'en passe. Il s'agit donc ici d'une sorte de révision, de reformatage des processus.

Nous notons que la FAO est partie prenante à la réflexion et aux initiatives en cours dans l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, au sein de l'Équipe spéciale du Conseil des chefs de secrétariats sur la lutte contre le harcèlement sexuel dans les organismes du système des Nations Unies.

Nous encourageons donc la FAO à continuer à faire partie de cette entité inter-organisations dont l'objectif est d'éliminer l'exploitation, les atteintes et le harcèlement sexuels au sein du système des Nations Unies. Nous prenons note des processus internes au sein de la FAO, processus construits à partir de son plan d'action tel que décrit dans les documents de référence, et, nous venons d'en être informés, qui sera régulièrement révisé. Nous encourageons particulièrement les actions envisagées au niveau des bureaux de pays, notamment l'inclusion obligatoire dans les rapports annuels de ces Bureaux d'une section se rapportant au harcèlement sexuel et à toute forme de harcèlement et d'exploitation.

Nous restons néanmoins dubitatifs quant à la qualité du fonctionnaire chargé de l'éthique au Siège, quant à sa capacité à couvrir l'ensemble des bureaux dans les pays où les points de contact ont plus besoin de coaching et de formation. Nous pensons par ailleurs que la protection des dénonciateurs— victimes ou non d'actes de harcèlement sexuel ou de toute forme de harcèlement ou d'abus de pouvoir— doit être fortement renforcée. Par rapport au fonctionnement du bureau de l'Inspecteur général, nous nous interrogeons sur le niveau du poste P3 pour le fonctionnaire chargé de conduire des enquêtes qui

concernent très souvent, des personnes de rang très élevé et de haut niveau. Nous prenons aussi acte des actions prévues pour les prochaines étapes. Elles nous semblent réalistes puisqu'elles sont envisagées seulement après le rapport de l'évaluation des initiatives en cours.

Maintenant, nous aimerions attirer l'attention du Conseil sur l'importance de la question du harcèlement sous toutes ses formes et de l'abus d'autorité parce que nous voudrions faire une proposition un peu marginale. En effet, nous pensons que la déclaration sur la protection des employés en matière de harcèlement sexuel, de toute forme de harcèlement et d'abus de pouvoir, devrait faire partie des exigences pour faire acte de candidature au poste de Directeur général de la FAO.

Ceci dit, nous approuvons ce rapport, qui est bien écrit.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

We are glad that FAO is joining other UN entities in pursuing this matter and we appreciate the document that was tabled for the Joint Meeting.

For us real, firm and honest action to prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse is essential.

In several parts of human resources management, FAO has developed policies and documents that create a good framework. For such policies to lead to a real change, they need to have credibility in the eyes of the staff throughout the Organization. For this, Senior Management has a key role to play. Writing and officially communicating a zero-tolerance policy is not sufficient; a zero-tolerance policy must be part of daily business and Senior Management must lead by example.

Conditions such as short-term contracts that are extended last minute, opaque decision-making procedures and unsubstantiated extensions of probation periods create a working environment in which employees inevitably serve at the pleasure of their managers. This risks leading to a fear of complaining or unwillingness to report.

In addition, a feeling of not being able to file complaints securely can also be a factor for under-reporting. We invite FAO to establish means of reporting that is verified as being completely secure.

Membership must hold Management accountable for the implementation of policies. And to do so the Membership must have access to useful and substantive information. We therefore urge Management to develop and communicate both qualitative and quantitative indicators on the successful implementation of the action plan, to be followed up in future meetings of governing bodies.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

La France s'associe à la déclaration prononcée au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

Elle remercie le Secrétariat pour le document présenté aux États Membres fournissant des informations actualisées sur les politiques, procédures et mesures mises en place par l'Organisation en matière de prévention et de traitement du harcèlement, du harcèlement sexuel et de l'abus de pouvoir, lesquelles vont dans le bon sens.

La France est fermement engagée pour l'application de la politique de tolérance zéro et soutient l'engagement du Secrétaire général pour que les Nations Unies soient exemplaires pour lutter contre le harcèlement, notamment le harcèlement sexuel.

Elle est prête à travailler à des mesures structurelles, juridiques et opérationnelles tant pour éradiquer les cas de harcèlement sexuel que pour que les affaires de harcèlement ou d'abus de pouvoir qui toucheraient des personnels de l'Organisation fassent l'objet d'un traitement efficace.

La France continue à soutenir la parité et l'accèsion de femmes à des postes de responsabilité. En effet, il est avéré qu'une organisation plus égalitaire produit moins de cas de harcèlement sexuel, mais aussi d'exploitation et d'atteintes sexuelles.

La France souhaite souligner la nécessité aussi que l'ensemble du personnel de l'Organisation soit parfaitement impliqué dans les mesures mises en œuvre. En effet, la prévention de ces conduites inacceptables ne dépend pas seulement de politiques et de procédures, mais avant tout de la sensibilité des personnels eux-mêmes à ces problématiques, et la formation est essentielle à cet égard.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would like to thank FAO's Senior Management for their update today as well as for circulating the revised action plan. We welcome FAO's organizational commitment to the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and we welcome the participation of FAO's Director-General in our discussions on this issue in a consistent manner.

We encourage FAO to continue to do its utmost to actively contribute to system-wide efforts and support the inter-agency standing committee champion on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

Business as usual is clearly not an option and we must do better to prevent and respond to instances of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as focusing on strong leadership and accountability with a view to incentivizing culture change.

As President of the G7 this year, Canada was proud to lead the Whistler Declaration on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance.

We are also keen to see further action to protect individuals from gender-based violence in emergencies.

When Canada assumes the lead of the call to action on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies in January, we will build on the tremendous work of the European Union, particularly their efforts to advance implementation at the field level.

As important as it is to tackle all forms of harassment and abuse of authority within the Organization, a zero tolerance policy must also be firmly implemented in all of FAO's partnerships.

We encourage FAO to not only lead by example in this regard but also integrate mechanisms for monitoring partners' accountability and we would like that to be reflected as well in the action plan in terms of implementing partners.

We would also appreciate regular reporting on progress made in the implementation of the action plan in addition to the annual reporting on the number of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Finally, underpinning the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence is gender inequality where there remains much work to be done. System-level change is needed and it is incumbent upon partners like FAO to show leadership, to champion gender at the global and country level and ensure resources, financial and human, are made available to make gender responsive action a reality on the ground.

It is essential that all partners integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in their programming, including by pursuing gender analysis, collecting disaggregated data, and consulting and including affected women and adolescent girls' voices to shape the responses.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Let me express our appreciation for the presence of the Director-General for this discussion. Let me start by saying we share the EU's concern about lateness of documents.

Overall, the United States welcomes the FAO's efforts to prevent and manage incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. We expect all UN Agencies to actively engage on these

issues and encourage senior leadership to show support for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) prevention initiatives.

The United States reiterates its position that sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in all forms are unacceptable as they undermine the ability of international actors to work effectively, threatens organizations' scope to carry out their missions, and compromises the well-being of staff members.

We support FAO's participation in the SH and SEA CEB task force and look forward to FAO implementing the recommendations from the first phase of the group's work. We encourage the Secretariat to participate actively in the next phases of the group's work.

The United States recognizes the training initiatives FAO is implementing to prevent sexual harassment and SEA. We urge FAO to continue to expand training in this area, as well as over all ethics training, which we note is a recommendation from the audit committee. Training and awareness raising on ethics-related issues, including SEA and harassment, are critical to prevention efforts and to fostering an ethical and accountable culture.

We also support the creation of a working environment at FAO in which staff and beneficiaries feel safe and protected. Stronger whistle-blower protections would help combat the number of SEA and harassment incidents that go unreported as well as improve staff confidence in the Organization's ability to hold offenders accountable. Ensuring that support is available for survivors can also improve reporting and drive meaningful and sustainable change.

By making employees feel comfortable reporting misconduct without fear of retaliation, an organization can address wrongdoings, including harassment, abuse of power, and SEA, before they become organizational problems. To this end, we strongly support the recommendations and findings of the UN Joint Inspection Unit report on "Review of Whistle-blower Policies and Practices in the UN System Organizations".

We support the observations of the Africa Regional Group in this regard regarding whistle-blowing. Regarding the action plan, we note the whistle-blower protection policy was mentioned as one of three pillars underpinning FAO's approach to prevention of SEA and sexual harassment. However, it does not appear that there is any mention of whistle-blower protections in FAO's action plan or area of work.

We again encourage FAO to undertake a review of the whistle-blower policy to ensure that it meets current UN system-wide best practice, and incorporates recommendations from the JIU report. That is one of the three pillars underpinning FAO's approach. Efforts to strengthen whistle-blower protections should be more clearly defined in the action plan in areas of work.

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the Statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

On behalf of the Netherlands Government, I would in addition like to compliment FAO with its zero tolerance policy towards harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse.

The Netherlands Government appreciates FAO's consistency with the principles and values of the UN system on the prevention of harassment and sexual misconduct as unacceptable behaviour and thus of fostering a safe working environment and establishing a mechanism to reinforce prevention and response efforts.

The Netherlands also appreciates that FAO has put in place corporate policies and procedures to prevent harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority, to identify sexual misconduct and to enable complaints to be made and to be investigated fully and promptly, as well as fast-track procedures to receive, process and address complaints. Moreover, efforts enhancing protection against retaliation for

FAO personnel who report unsatisfactory conduct and cooperate with duly authorized audits and investigations are among core responsibilities of FAO as a UN organization.

Combatting all forms of sexual harassment is central to Dutch development policy.

A strong commitment to this goal is expected from all partner organizations, such as FAO.

We are looking for a change in organizational culture to create a safe environment for reporting any misconduct.

A change in organizational culture is needed, which is highlighted in the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee.

But this culture change takes time.

Our focus will therefore be on whether these are met with a swift and diligent investigation procedure and special attention to the protection of the rights of victims, alleged perpetrators, perpetrators and whistleblowers.

The Netherlands Government underlines the regular reporting on the implementation of the policies. The Netherlands Government would like to ask you to include in the FAO Action Plan on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse the updating of the Member States on the number of cases and how they are being dealt with on a regular basis.

In addition, we feel a need for a prompt and effective notification mechanism to donors to prevent surprise reports through the media and ensure consistent follow-up.

We count on your commitment to include this proposed notification mechanism in the FAO Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Serván to respond to the issues and questions, which have emerged during the debate.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Comienzo por agradecer los comentarios positivos de los Miembros. Creo que para la Organización este es un empeño muy importante; la presencia aquí del Director General lo manifiesta. Nuestro Plan de acción es, obviamente, un trabajo en curso. Como ya he mencionado hay muchas cosas que derivarán de la encuesta del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que nos darán ulterior guía.

Sin embargo, a través de la interacción con los Miembros, notamos ya algunas áreas que podemos reforzar e incluir adicionalmente. Por ejemplo, los comentarios presentados por Austria en nombre de la Unión Europea, notamos en otros comentarios también mayor énfasis en cómo mejorar la *accountability* de los *partners* de la Organización, y en eso vamos a incluir acciones específicas. Hemos ya comenzado el trabajo, no estaba dejado en el Plan, pero estamos ya trabajando internamente y podemos presentarlo en el Plan, de manera que la Organización tenga la capacidad de no solo actuar e implementar una política de tolerancia cero, sino también en los *partners* con los que trabajamos.

De la misma manera, es importante también mantener el enlace con las Naciones Unidas, creo que tanto en los diferentes comentarios que se ha hablado sobre el modo en que podemos hacer nuestros informes a los miembros, trataremos en lo posible de manejar al nivel del Sistema de Naciones Unidas algunos indicadores, de manera que nos permita la comparabilidad y desde el punto de vista de las Naciones Unidas a atacar mejor los problemas comunes.

Notamos también con preocupación los comentarios de Finlandia, y los tomaremos en cuenta, sobre cómo las condiciones de trabajo pueden afectar y crear un ambiente negativo en que estos eventos pueden suceder, en particular cuando hay retrasos en la extensión de contratos o en la extensión de períodos de prueba. Vamos a controlar con la oficina de Budapest cuales son los casos en que esto se requiere.

Recuerdo a los Miembros que para cada acción de personal tenemos un *Service Level Agreement*, un número de días mínimos para llevarlo a cabo - o máximos, en algunos casos - por los cuales controlaremos si hay problemas en este sentido y trataremos de prestar mayor atención a ello para evitar que esto suceda.

Reiteramos, como ha sido mencionado por varios países, que consideramos la capacitación un elemento importante para cambiar la cultura, y es un área que creemos que no hay esfuerzos que no valgan, vamos a seguir continuando con la capacitación a diferentes niveles, como mencionó también la Señora Dilek Macit, en los cursos que son dirigidos a supervisores y cursos que son dirigidos al personal en general. Entonces seguiremos en esa línea, tratando de lograr que el personal pueda saber todos los mecanismos a disposición para poder denunciar situaciones que la Organización no quiere tolerar.

En lo que tiene que ver con la política de *whistle blower* y las recomendaciones del JIU, creo que el Inspector General podría darnos algunas indicaciones de cuál es el camino que estamos llevando. Lo que puedo decir es de que ya tomando en cuenta el Informe que está en nuestros manos, aún sin la respuesta oficial por parte de las agencias de Naciones Unidas, hemos comenzado ya a modificar nuestra política y estamos en el proceso, luego de consultar con los organismos de personal, para la actualización. Estamos en el proceso, pero si es necesario mayor detalle, el Inspector General puede proveerlo.

Espero haber cubierto los temas de las preguntas otra vez y agradezco por el interés a los Miembros y por las sugerencias que están llegándome para mejorar nuestro Plan de Acción, y quedo disponible para mayores preguntas.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions for Item 10 are as follows:

The Council:

- a) took note of the policies, procedures and mechanisms in place in the Organization to prevent harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority;
- b) strongly supported FAO's zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, and its prevention and welcomed the updated Action Plan for Implementation of the policy;
- c) encouraged Senior Management to promote culture change to implement FAO's corporate policy to prevent harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse and any forms of discrimination;
- d) looked forward to receiving an updated report annually; as well as to receiving a report on the outcomes of the UN-wide and FAO's surveys;
- e) in line with UN system-wide mechanisms, looked forward to FAO's reporting at future Council sessions on qualitative and quantitative indicators, integrating *inter alia* FAO's interactions with partners and whistleblower protection;
- f) supported FAO's participation in the sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse CEB task force and looked forward to FAO implementing the recommendations from the first phase of the group's work;
- g) welcomed the training initiatives implemented by FAO to prevent harassment and sexual harassment and abuse and urged FAO to continue to expand training in this area.

That is the end of my summary. The floor is open for any comments.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think your summary is excellent. I understand that from point b) I think we should add an issue "of all other forms of exploitation" because we think it should not only be limited to sexual exploitation and abuse. It should go beyond that.

And now, I do not know how the Council would like to consider the marginal proposal that we made. I think it is up to the Council to say something about it because for us it is important as we have the rules of procedure for hearing the candidates for Director-General positions as well, I think it could be one of the elements that could be requested in the hearing exercise. That is why we made this marginal suggestion that, for us, it should be part of the summary. There should be a declaration of the candidate on this issue, a position on this issue. I do not know what the Council thinks about it but it came from us and it should be included in a way.

May I suggest something? Probably after the last point. I will make a suggestion but it is up to the Council to see. I do not know whether it is point h)? “Consider the possibility of requesting a declaration from the candidate for the position of Director-General on this issue” or something like that. So wherever you can put it. English is my fourth language so if you can help me there. “In the hearing process” or something like that.

CHAIRPERSON

It is for the Council to react to this suggestion but I thought Members could ask any question from the candidate? But anyway, it is there for the Council to react.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We can support in principle the suggestion by Cameroon, but we would also note that would not exclude us from asking other questions or further addressing the issue in other ways.

Thank you for some mention of the whistle-blower but I would like to strengthen the point. So we would recommend at the end of point b) where it says “welcomed the updated action plan for implementation of the policy”, add “and looked forward to its inclusion of a strengthened whistle-blower policy.”

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point b) where it is written “welcomed the updated Action Plan”. Actually we “noted” the action plan because we did not have enough time to go in-depth.

Then referring to point c), where it is written “to promote culture change”, it could read that “FAO Senior Management lead the culture of change that this needed”.

Then I would like to refer to point d) where we see a reference to the annual report and I think we should be more precise and mention the action plan instead of the report. The “annual updated action plan” or “updated action plan” or “updated report and action plan presented the Programme and Finance Committees for consideration.”

And then, I was referring in my intervention to the request for the FAO Management to conduct the staff satisfaction survey next year on a regular basis thereafter and we would like to see that somehow mentioned in the report.

Of course, we consider this as a good step forward. So maybe we can add that as a new point: “request FAO’s Management to conduct the staff satisfaction survey next year and on a regular basis thereafter.”

And on new point h) where there is a request for a declaration, unfortunately I do not have any information on that so it is very difficult for us to go along with this point.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Mr Chairman, we appreciate this very much. We have no additional input here in the summary. Instead, a request. The Inspector General is not here but we asked a question on the functioning of the Inspector General’s office with the P3 position for those who were supposed to carry out the investigations and so on. We want confirmation that it is the best position for somebody who has to investigate, sometimes even the Director-General or ADG or so on.

So is that okay for that P3 position? We asked that question but we did not get an answer. Can we hear that from the Inspector General himself?

M. Thierry RAJAOBELINA (Inspecteur général)

La question de la déclaration qui pourrait être demandée aux candidats au poste de Directeur général est en discussion dans les groupes de travail du système des Nations Unies. Il est prévu que dans le futur, et le Directeur des ressources humaines en est informé, parmi les questions auxquelles devront répondre les candidats à n'importe quel poste dans l'Organisation, pas seulement au poste de Directeur général, devront indiquer s'ils ont été reconnus coupables de harcèlement, de harcèlement sexuel ou d'exploitation sexuelle et d'abus.

Ce type de déclaration permettra de nourrir la base de données inter-organisations, qui est prévue par les autres groupes de travail, et d'éviter que les gens ayant été poursuivis pour des cas d'exploitation sexuelle, harcèlement sexuel ou harcèlement puissent être réembauchés d'une organisation à l'autre. Ainsi une déclaration similaire pourrait être exigée du futur Directeur général ou de la future Directrice générale. Il s'agit d'une déclaration sur l'honneur, et non pas d'une déclaration que mon Bureau vérifie.

Le Groupe Afrique a indiqué qu'il était heureux que mon Bureau ait été renforcé par l'ajout d'un poste de P3 pour les enquêtes, mais je voudrais clarifier que ce poste supplémentaire n'est pas un poste dédié uniquement aux cas de harcèlement, harcèlement sexuel, exploitation sexuelle et abus.

Le fonctionnaire de ce poste participe à d'autres activités du Bureau et l'ensemble du Bureau est chargé d'enquêter sur les cas de plaintes pour harcèlement, harcèlement sexuel et abus d'autorité. Ainsi, dans les cas d'allégations, d'accusations contre des personnes de la haute direction, directeurs ou autres, ou des représentants de bureaux, c'est évidemment l'ensemble du Bureau qui y travaille, et notamment le chef des enquêtes, de niveau P5, qui, avec moi en tant qu'Inspecteur général, regardons ces cas de beaucoup plus près; c'est ce que nous avons fait au cours de l'année.

J'aimerais apporter une dernière clarification. Si l'on considère, et je crois qu'une des délégations l'a indiqué, que l'accroissement du nombre de plaintes envoyées au Bureau de l'Inspecteur général est un indicateur du changement de culture, vous serez intéressés de savoir que le nombre de plaintes pour harcèlement sexuel en 2018 a augmenté de façon significative. En 2017, il n'y en avait aucune alors que nous en avons quatre maintenant. Ce peut être dû à davantage de publicité faite en cours d'année sur les mécanismes d'enquête et de protection, mais j'espère que la tendance se confirmera, ce qui améliorera le niveau de compte-rendu de ces cas.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Thank you for the clarification of the information. Within this information, of course we can go along and support this point h).

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

About the P3 post, that will be inspector. He will be inspecting on behalf of the Inspector General so it is okay. I am not so sure but please clarify, maybe the Director-General or Inspector General, when the Director-General is elected, when he takes office, I think he signs a contract with the Organization. Am I correct?

Okay. If that is so, this element could be reported in the contract.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

I want to go back to point d). It is confusing for me, Mr Chair. If we look here at the language proposed by Austria, "looked forward to receiving an annual update report and action plan presented." To my understanding, there are two sessions of the Programme and Finance Committee, one in March and one in November.

So “annually” here is confusing. I propose to redraft it to be “looked forward to receiving an updated report of the action plan to be presented.”

To my understanding, this is a clarification for you, Mr Chair. Annually, this means it will only be one session, either in March or November? But I do not know if the intention is to receive it at every session of the Joint Meeting of Finance and Programme Committees.

CHAIRPERSON

I was interpreting it as once a year. Am I correct, Mr Serván?

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Sí, es lo que anteriormente se había mencionado durante el anterior Consejo.

Ms Ni NGUYEN (Canada)

Again in terms of clarification. I thought there was an annual report that was the Report of the Inspector General that comes out every year in terms of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse that have come forward but that we can have more regular progress reports on measures that are being taken by FAO on this issue to prevent and address and that is what we have been having since last year. So I would not necessarily say that the Council in the past have just asked for annual reports. It is just that we will have one that will be upcoming from the Inspector General, in particular the Ethics Officer on this issue.

My other question for point h), we also can support in principle, especially since we think that there must be a lot of focus on strong leadership in terms of incentivizing culture change. So for future leadership, it would also be good to hear from them on their vision but that is what we understand to be the declaration as part of the hearing session, not necessarily a declaration as to whether or not you have had any record in the past. Moreover, it does not preclude any other issues being examined here in the session.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Como mencioné anteriormente, como una herramienta de trabajo, nosotros vamos a mantener al día el Plan de Acción. En particular, después de que tengamos los resultados de la encuesta de Naciones Unidas en diciembre, vamos a comenzar a tomar acciones que van a ser parte de nuestro Plan de Acción ya en febrero, digamos.

En cuanto puede ser ilustrativo para los Miembros tener un Informe en marzo depende de los Miembros, pero seguramente es lo que los Miembros decían. Puede ser dos veces al año en las sesiones del Comité de Finanzas o un Informe anual. Para nosotros es una herramienta de trabajo y va a estar siempre al día. Es un poco lo que los Miembros decían.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point d) and to the support of my colleagues who already gave an indication as to how it could look like. My proposal would be “receiving an annual report and updated action plan to be presented to the next meeting of...”

CHAIRPERSON

I see no other request for the floor so we can conclude this item and move to the next one. I thank the Director-General for joining us for this item.

- Item 6. Reports of the 172nd (5-6 November 2018) and 173rd (12-16 November 2018) Sessions of the Finance Committee**
- Point 6. Rapports des cent soixante-douzième et cent soixante-treizième sessions du Comité financier (5-6 et 12-16 novembre 2018, respectivement)**
- Tema 6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 172.º (5 y 6 de noviembre de 2018) y 173.º (12-16 de noviembre de 2018) del Comité de Finanzas**
(CL 160/4; CL 160/4 Add.1; CL 160/4 Information Note 1 Rev.1; CL 160/12)

Item 6.1 Audited Accounts - FAO 2017

Point 6.1 Comptes vérifiés – FAO 2017

Tema 6.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2017

(C 2019/6 A; C 2019/6 B)

Item 6.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears

Point 6.2 État des contributions et des arriérés

Tema 6.2 Estado de las contribuciones y los atrasos

(CL 160/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item is item 6, which is *Reports of the 172nd (5-6 November 2018) and 173rd (12-16 November 2018) Sessions of the Finance Committee*.

The documents before Council are CL 160/4, CL 160/4 Add.1; CL 160/4 Information Note 1 Rev.1; CL 160/12; C 2019/6 A and B; and CL 160/LIM/2.

I would like to draw your attention to document CL 160/LIM/2, regarding the Status of Current Assessments and Arrears as at 26 November 2018.

Member Nations currently owe to FAO USD 120.19 million and EUR 73.79 million for 2018 and prior years. This represents 41.74 percent of current assessments and complicates FAO's liquidity management.

As of 26 November 2018, 33.33 percent of the 2018 assessed contributions were still to be settled. Fifty-five Member Nations still had arrears outstanding from 2017 and previous years and 22 owed arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their right to vote at the next Session of the Conference, in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution.

I now invite Mr Lupiño Lazaro, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce the Reports of the Finance Committee.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present the Reports of the 172nd and 173rd Sessions of the Finance Committee.

Given the late hour, I wish to be brief in my presentation. Unfortunately, I cannot, considering the wide range of topics addressed by the Finance Committee in its November sessions. Please bear with me, this will take some time.

In addition to the documents announced by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, following the feedback received during the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee, document CL 160/4 Add.1 presents an *Updated Action Plan for the Achievement of Equitable Geographic Distribution and Gender Parity of FAO Staff*; and document CL 160/4 Information Note 1 Rev.1 presents the *Legal opinion on the use of equity from the liquidation of the FAO Commissary for financing the Organization's 2019 share of the United Nations Resident Coordinator network*.

The 172nd Session was convened to deal with WFP matters and has been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration. As agreed with the Independent Chairperson, I shall now present to you salient highlights of the report of the 173rd Meeting of the Finance Committee covering four areas of work. Namely, the financial position of the Organization, budgetary matters, human resources, and oversight.

Financial Position

In reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee noted that while delays in the payment of current assessed contributions and arrears had contributed to pressure on the Organization's liquidity position during 2018, following the recent receipt of a number of assessed contributions, the Organization's liquidity was expected to be sufficient to cover operational needs through the end of 2018. The Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that the Organization was able to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work.

The Committee welcomed the continued improvement in the rate of expenditure of the Technical Cooperation programme (TCP) and encouraged the Secretariat to maintain this trend.

The Committee examined the FAO Audited Accounts for 2017 and expressed satisfaction that the External Auditor had issued an unmodified opinion. The Committee welcomed the issuance for the first time of a Statement of Internal Control attached to the FAO Audited Accounts which provides additional assurance on the effectiveness of the system of internal control and endorsed the recommendations of the External Auditor to enhance the SIC production process.

Noting the comments and clarifications provided by the External Auditor and the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that the Council submit to the Conference for adoption, the Audited Accounts for 2017 and accordingly agreed to submit to the draft Conference Resolution presented in paragraph 8 of CL 160/4.

The Committee welcomed the External Auditor's unqualified opinion on the FAO Commissary Audited Accounts for 2017, and noted the information provided by the Secretariat on the ongoing review of a future business model and looked forward to updates at its next session.

Budgetary Matters

The Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Support Costs Expenditure and Recoveries and took note of the application of the legacy policy for setting project servicing cost rates, as well as on the new Cost Recovery Policy for the period June 2017 to May 2018. The Committee recalled that the report covered the final period in which projects would be approved under the legacy policy and noted that future reporting on this matter would be integrated into the reporting on budgetary performance.

The Committee noted updates made to the 2018-21 results framework for the four Functional Objectives and three Special Chapters reflecting previous guidance provided by the Finance Committee and the Council and requested the deletion of Key Performance Indicator 11.1.d on the vacancy rate of professional positions.

Human Resources

The Committee noted the update provided on Human Resources Management and welcomed the additional information and statistical data provided in response to earlier requests of the Finance Committee and the Council. The Committee encouraged the continued improvement of information presented in future reports and the pursuit of efforts to address some challenges identified in the document. The Committee noted that while the Regular Programme budget had remained generally flat over the reporting period covered by the HR data, the total budget had in fact increased, reflecting the confidence of donors in FAO leadership and programme delivery.

The Committee noted the measures put in place in response to Council guidance on geographical balance in the recruitment of consultants and welcomed the improved geographical diversity of organizational rosters of consultants and, in particular, the greater possibilities offered to Decentralized Offices to access expertise locally available, or with knowledge of the region and/or countries. The Committee requested that future progress reports fully conform with the Council guidance and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to improve the geographical balance of consultants funded by the Regular Programme budget while, at the same time, maintaining merit as the primordial criterion for recruitment.

The Committee examined the Action Plan for the achievement of equitable geographic distribution, and gender parity of FAO staff recalling that the document was provided in response to the request of the 159th Session of the Council. The Committee welcomed the significant reduction in the number of non-, under- and over-represented countries and the increased number of equitably represented countries, and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue its outreach efforts towards the remaining non- and under-represented countries. The Committee welcomed the improvements in gender parity in the Organization workforce and encouraged further efforts in this regard, in particular as regards senior level and managerial positions.

The Committee considered the request by the 159th Session of the Council to discuss the Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies and Management views. The Committee recalled that the mandate of the Committee as set out in the General Rules did not contemplate any involvement in internal staff management relations and that the responsibility for staff management rests with the Director-General and recommended that the statement of the Staff Bodies continue to be handled in accordance with the established staff regulations.

Oversight

The Committee reviewed the status of implementation of recommendations of the FAO Audit Committee, welcoming progress made in closing recommendations and encouraged the Secretariat to continue efforts to close the remaining outstanding recommendations.

The Committee also reviewed the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor, welcoming the significant progress made in closing recommendations. The Committee urged the Secretariat to continue efforts to close the remaining outstanding recommendations, emphasizing in particular the importance of addressing recommendations related to the efficiency and oversight of corporate travel management.

The Committee noted the progress achieved by the Organization in meeting its commitment to implement the two outstanding JIU recommendations under report JIU/REP/2016/4 entitled “*Fraud prevention, detection and response in the United Nations System Organization*”. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to implement actions identified in the Anti-fraud Strategy and its related Action Plan in a timely manner and looked forward to receiving further information on the implementation of the fraud prevention strategy as part of the 2018 Statement of Internal Control process.

The Committee noted that the JIU Report Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in UN Systems Organizations was recently issued and that the complete document including the consolidated comments of the CEB and FAO comments would be available for the Committee’s 174th Session in March 2019. The Committee agreed to consider the document and proposed follow-up actions on the recommendations at that time. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to undertake a review of the independence of the Ethics Office, Office of the Inspector General, and ombudsperson functions as soon as possible.

In conclusion, overall, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization, many thanks to the contributions, cooperation and flexibility of the Committee members, represented by the following

countries: Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Mexico, Russian Federation, Sudan, and the United States of America.

On behalf of these members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Observers, who intently listened, to Management and the Secretariat for their participation and the interpreters, technicians, messengers for their assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Members of FAO for the support and in providing us this opportunity to further the important work of this Organization.

Under the constructive environment and with some adjustments introduced in the working methods of the Committee, we were able to finish and adopt the report in record time.

I invite the Council members to endorse our reports by acclamation and would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may require.

CHAIRPERSON

So what is the reaction to the Chair's appeal?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

That is a record. So that is the end of item 6. As I said at the outset, we would take up the next items tomorrow or can we continue?

In fact, the Secretary-General has just drawn one aspect to my attention, that do you want the conclusions on the screen or it is adopted?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The Chair of the Finance Committee who introduced an innovative way of rapidly introducing and getting agreement on language on the part of all Finance Committee Members and that is something we all really appreciate.

We obviously support the adoption of the report. I am leery about agreeing to language that we have not actually seen or heard so I am just hoping – I would ask that it would be on the screen. I am hoping it is in accordance with what the Finance Chair already talked about.

CHAIRPERSON

1. The Council approved the reports of the 172nd and 173rd Sessions of the Finance Committee and in particular:

On the Financial Position

- a) noted delays in the payment of current assessed contributions, and the continued high level of assessments that remain unpaid from prior years, and urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that the Organization is able to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work;
- b) welcomed the issuance for the first time of a Statement of Internal Control with the FAO Audited Accounts for 2017;
- c) recommended the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2017 as presented in paragraph 13 of document CL 160/4;

On Human Resources Matters

- d) welcomed the additional information and statistical data on Human Resources provided in response to earlier requests of the Finance Committee and the Council;
- e) endorsed the Financial Committee's guidance to the Secretariat on continuing to improve the information presented in future reports on Human Resources and Geographic Balance of Consultants;
- f) welcomed and encouraged the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the geographic balance of consultants funded by the regular programme;
- g) welcomed the significant reduction in the number of non-, under- and over-represented countries, the increased number of equitably represented countries, and the improvement in gender parity;
- h) endorsed the Committee's guidance to the Secretariat on its implementation of the detailed action plan towards improving equitable geographic distribution and gender parity;

On Other matters

- i) noted the Committee's guidance on the responsibility for internal staff management resting with the Director-General;
- j) supported the Committee's finding that increase in voluntary contributions since 2012 reflects confidence in FAO leadership and its programme delivery;
- k) endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate, as well as initiatives to improve its own methods of work.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Thank you, Mr Chair. I actually I feel like I have received the check before I have ordered. It is a little bit difficult because on the agenda, it is written for discussion. So I think also other colleagues have prepared and were studying the documents and it would be very interesting to listen to other colleagues from other regions on their position on the Finance Committee.

So as the summary, I see. It is a little bit difficult because I have a lot of points which I think could be of interest also to other colleagues. I do not know if I should stress it now. I do not know how we are going to proceed because we are in your hands, Mr Chair. I can put my points forward or we start a drafting here of the text.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I am in a difficult position as well because there was tremendous applause when the Chair of the Finance Committee suggested that perhaps Members could adopt the report by acclamation and I saw each and every Member clapping. There was no one just sitting. So it is the Members' decision. You want to discuss it or your decision to adopt it by acclamation stands?

If there are any amendments to the conclusions, we can take those on board.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I am sorry. I thought you were kidding. Humor is not really a good place here for FAO. I mean, I interpreted the Finance Chair's move for CL 160/4 and the other one for WFP but the idea that Member States would simply agree to language they had not seen before and do not have any chance to amend it would seem to go against most of the conversations we have been having today.

So my understanding is that we agreed to the reports which the Finance Committee had submitted, but that does not preclude Member States from having a say about the language they are supposed to sign up to.

CHAIRPERSON

United States, I have no problem. I would like a discussion. So my ruling is whether you accept it or not because you tell me you are sovereign states, let us have a discussion because that is what the items are for.

So we discuss the Finance Committee's reports.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We commend the work of the Finance Committee at its 173rd session and welcome the advice to the Council as contained in the report on that session.

We are satisfied that FAO's liquidity position has improved and is expected to be sufficient to cover operational needs through to the end of 2018. At the same time, we call on members to pay their outstanding contributions from prior years.

We fully endorse the Committee's recommendations on the Audited Accounts - FAO 2017, and in particular welcome the issuance for the first time of a Statement of Internal Control. This is indeed significant progress in providing assurance on the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

On Human Resource Management, we commend the FAO Management for having finally re-established the provision of information on fundamental Human Resource data and on geographic representation.

However, the information included in the document on Human Resource Management as submitted to the Finance Committee remains too general and contains too little evidence for the alleged achievements. This applies, in particular, to the mobility programme, where ample anecdotal evidence such as the survey recently undertaken by the Association of Professionals is pointing to severe problems. We therefore consider that the mobility programme should be reviewed as soon as possible by one of FAO's auditing bodies. Moreover, we remain concerned about the high vacancy rate of 15%.

With regard to the geographical balance of consultants, we note with regret that the information provided so far does not allow the membership to take informed decisions on the matter. After a series of unclear documents provided in recent months, there is now a high level of uncertainty on the measures in place. In addition, the document provided to the Finance Committee does not address cost implications - contrary to the Council's request - and distorts the Council's guidance on the need for permanent flexibility in the application of the measures. So, in line with the Council's requests, we invite FAO to provide for a permanent substantively flexible approach, maintaining merit as the primary criterion for recruitment and with due consideration for cost implications. We seek assurances from FAO Management that measures apply only to regular programme-funded consultants and that no rigid numerical ranges are envisaged.

As regards equitable geographic representation and gender parity of FAO staff, we acknowledge the efforts undertaken. However, we note that gender parity in the D and above category is still far from being achieved. Furthermore, we would like to underline that equitable geographic representation shall not become an end in itself, all the more considering that FAO has outperformed the respective key performance indicator.

And as a last comment on HR management, we would like to acknowledge the usefulness of the statements delivered by the FAO Staff Bodies to the Council and encourage the Director-General to maintain current practice in this regard.

As to the Progress Reports on the Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations, we are particularly concerned about the findings related to the corporate travel policy and therefore urge the FAO Management to expeditiously address the relevant recommendations.

Finally, we would like to support the Committee's request, addressed to the FAO Management in relation to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on the Review of whistle-blower policies, for a review to be undertaken of the independence of the Ethics Office, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and ombudsman functions as soon as possible.

Mr Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)

Rather than extolling the virtues of the Chair of the Finance Committee, may I please request that Indonesia be recognised to deliver the Asia Group's statement?

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Observer for Indonesia)

Indonesia has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Group Member Countries.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Mr. Lupiño Lazaro for his outstanding leadership, and we would like to underline his humour, as the Chair of the Finance Committee and also underline and appreciate his presentation to on the report on the 172nd and 173rd Session of the Finance Committee to the Council.

We note the views and recommendations reflected in the report of 172nd Session regarding WFP matters and would like to deliver few comments regarding the report of 173rd Session.

With regard to the Organization's financial position, we note that the sufficiency of liquidity to cover the operational needs is based on the timely payment of assessed contributions. Also, we note the decrease in the General Fund deficit from USD 899.3 million on 31 December 2017 to a forecasted USD 870 million on 31 December 2018 but would like to stress our concern on the underfunding of the Staff related liabilities. We request the Secretariat to continue participation in the UN working group in order to find unified solution on this issue.

We appreciate the External Auditor's long form report and their recommendations regarding Audited Accounts 2017 and welcome the issuance for the first time of a Statement of Internal Control (SIC) which provides additional assurance on the effectiveness of the system.

We note with appreciation that there are improvements which increased efficiency in HR processes and procedures; geographic and gender balance in Human Resources management. The Asia group welcomes the new policy in recruitment of the consultants while encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to achieve equitable geographic representation and gender balance in the organization, including through flexible approaches, considering the different practical needs from headquarters and decentralized offices.

The Asia group acknowledges the significant reduction in the number of non-, under- and over represented countries and the increased number of equitably represented countries, and encourages the Secretariat to pursue its outreach efforts towards the remaining non and under- represented countries.

We request the Secretariat to pay high attention to the conclusions as well as to take timely actions on the Implementation of the Audit Committee Recommendations. At the same time, we emphasize the External Auditor's Recommendations related to the efficiency and oversight of corporate travel management.

With these comments, the Asia Group endorses the reports of the Finance Committee.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We would particularly like to address two issues relating to human resources management.

Firstly, we are concerned with the evolvement of the application of certain new criteria for selection of consultants. As important voluntary contributors to the Organization, we want professional quality and

competence to be the foremost selection criteria for consultants. We receive ambiguous information with respect to FAO's practice in this regard, and request a confirmation at this Council on merit and competence being the foremost criterion used when hiring consultants on extra-budgetary resources.

Secondly, we were quite concerned to hear the statement from the Staff Representative at the previous Council meeting. It seems clear that there is room for confidence-building between staff and Management, and we could see it also this morning when entering the building. We hope that Management takes the situation seriously and is working to address the issues through inclusive and open processes. We look forward to hearing the views of the Staff Representatives also at this and at future Council meetings.

In closing we would like to reiterate our view that we see need for improvement in terms of transparency and to modernize human resources management when it comes to recruitment procedures and providing Members with relevant and sufficient information.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States would like to ceaselessly praise the performance of the Finance Committee Chairman.

The United States applauds FAO for managing within its means and taking a prudent and responsible approach to ensuring proper financial and governance oversight. We look forward to continued cooperation with the FAO management team.

We support calls for annual reporting of the ethics officer as called for in paragraph 39 c) of document CL 160/4.

We commend the organization's efforts to reduce geographical underrepresentation. We note the increasing number of equitably-represented countries and we hope that prioritizing the selection of candidates based on merit and competence remains the primary focus, echoing calls made by our colleagues tonight. We also encourage FAO to continue improving the number of women in senior level and managerial positions.

As noted during our Finance Committee deliberations and in our last session, we encourage the Secretariat to include consolidated comments of JIU Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in the UN System during the March 2019 Finance Committee session.

We are certain that the Secretariat understands the need to ensure improvements on key oversight issues as our contributions to international organizations, assessed or voluntary, are under constant scrutiny. The financial support of the United States, and indeed all Member States, depends on the accountable, transparent, efficient and responsible use of monies provided to international organizations.

We thank the Secretariat for its commitment to the value of accountability to ensure the effectiveness of FAO and applaud the Organization's efforts in implementing reforms.

We note, and this is a direct quote from paragraph 21 e) of CL 160/4 we note that "while the regular programme budget had remained generally flat over the reporting period covered by the HR data, the total budget had in fact increased, reflecting the confidence of donors in FAO leadership and programme delivery." Again, we stress that money has been going up but any mentions of this, and we restate our confidence in FAO leadership and programme delivery, but we would ask that any commentary on that also notes the fact that the total budget has gone up.

As regards to the report for this, colleagues we note that the ICC has clearly already drafted this report. We already saw a copy of this text, which was prepared before any Member State spoke. Members of the Council, it is clear that these documents are prepared and available in advance and I recommend that we ask FAO share these documents prior to the start of the Council meeting. They clearly exist. We already saw a copy of this and I think this would result in more effective negotiations and greater buy-in from Members of the proposals of the Secretariat. Again, noting that the decision for the report clearly already

exists, we, at the working methods of the Council, will propose that we simply take advantage of the Secretariat's foresight in preparing these documents ahead of time and ask that they also be shared with the Council Members before we start the Council meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Maybe I can provide a clarification on the process. It is true. We prepare the draft before. But as the discussion takes place, we are amending that draft. That is why, very often, most of the time the comments made from the floor are there. We could not have foreseen what they were. We prepare a draft and amend it as Members are speaking; obviously taking into account how much support there is for a particular aspect. That is the process. I will read out the report. You have before you a draft, which contains your interventions. They may not contain all. That is why Members feel some of the points may not be reflected. But it is true. The draft, which is the initial draft, is not that which is then put on the screen. It is amended as you all intervene. That is what happens in all three RBAs. It has been happening all the time. I attended Board meetings of IFAD and WFP for years. I never saw interventions like those you made here in WFP or IFAD, at least when I was attending the Board. This is the process we follow. It is not a secret that the draft is there, but it is amended as the interventions take place.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I understand this is your preferred process. But as you well know, the sequence of negotiating in IFAD and WFP is so radically different that we do, in fact, see language, particularly in WFP, before we ever agree to it on anything that commits us. This is a standard practice. Indeed, in other United Nations fora in which I have worked, it is the Member States that draft text that Member States have to approve. FAO, sir, is the outlier on this. I ask that you share these documents ahead of time so that we can work with you; we can all come to an agreed text that we can much more strongly support. You have the basis since you have a draft text. I know that you amend it as you go along, but your Member States could also amend it as they go along. This is a more democratic, more transparent process. Sir, I think it will result in more buy-in by your Member States for the decisions we make at Council.

CHAIRPERSON

This is another issue for the working methods of the Council. We have a standing item on our meetings, Chairs and Vice-Chairs. These issues, which include, according to the Members, the working methods, that is where we will discuss it.

M. Abdennour GOUGAM (Algérie)

L'Algérie et l'Angola ont le plaisir et l'honneur de prononcer cette déclaration au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 6 de l'ordre du jour.

Le Groupe régional Afrique voudrait remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents, ainsi que pour les informations pertinentes fournies. Nous félicitons le Président du Comité financier, M. Lupiño Lazaro pour la bonne conduite, la souplesse et la clairvoyance avec lesquelles il a su diriger les travaux du Comité, ce qui a permis de parvenir à un consensus sur tous les sujets, même ceux qui semblaient être plus complexes.

Nous le remercions également pour sa brillante présentation exhaustive du rapport.

Dans le cadre de l'examen du rapport du Comité financier, objet de notre intérêt aujourd'hui, nous aimerions mettre en exergue les commentaires suivants :

Premièrement, nous sommes satisfaits du versement de leur contribution par certains des plus importants contributeurs, ce qui a permis d'atténuer les problèmes de liquidité de l'Organisation. Dans ce cadre, il est important, voire même nécessaire que les États Membres s'acquittent ponctuellement et intégralement de leurs contributions pour que l'Organisation puisse disposer des liquidités nécessaires à l'exécution de son

programme de travail. Ceci d'une part. D'autre part, cela permettra à l'Organisation d'éviter des difficultés financières, notamment le paiement de taux d'intérêt élevés pour avoir dû recourir au crédit bancaire.

Deuxièmement, concernant la préoccupation relative à l'examen de la question du déficit du financement des obligations contractées au titre de l'assurance maladie après cessation de service, la collaboration avec les autres organisations est plus que jamais nécessaire en vue d'adopter une approche commune pour trouver une solution commune à ce problème au sein du régime commun des Nations Unies.

Troisièmement, pour ce qui est des comptes vérifiés pour 2017, nous sommes heureux et notons avec satisfaction que pour la première fois une déclaration relative au contrôle interne a été jointe aux comptes vérifiés de la FAO. En outre, il est important de continuer à renforcer le contrôle interne et appliquer les recommandations formulées par le Commissaire aux comptes.

Quatrièmement, en ce qui concerne les comptes vérifiés du Groupement d'achats du personnel de la FAO pour 2017, nous remercions le Conseiller juridique, M. Antonio Tavares pour son avis concernant l'utilisation des fonds disponibles suite à la liquidation du Groupement d'achats. Nous souscrivons à la proposition qui consiste à utiliser ces fonds pour l'aide sociale destinée au personnel du Siège ou à des fins qui concernent le Groupement d'achats, notamment le lancement d'un futur modèle d'activité pour le Groupement d'achats.

Cinquièmement, en ce qui concerne la gestion des ressources humaines, nous estimons que cette question revêt une importance capitale dans le cadre de l'action de la FAO. Par ailleurs, nous souhaitons que le dialogue soit maintenu et approfondi entre la Direction et le personnel dans ce domaine. Nous considérons en outre que la gestion interne des ressources humaines relève de la responsabilité de la Direction de la FAO.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite que les consultants soient recrutés par le biais de concours publics, ce qui garantit une plus grande transparence et une plus grande efficacité de travail. Toutefois, le Groupe Afrique sollicite que lors du recrutement de consultants pour les besoins des bureaux décentralisés, les exigences linguistiques doivent reposer sur la connaissance de la langue du pays et de l'une des langues officielles des Nations Unies afin de permettre à ces bureaux décentralisés d'avoir la possibilité d'accéder à des compétences locales.

Sixièmement, en ce qui concerne l'équilibre géographique et de genre, nous saluons les efforts déployés par la FAO en la matière, ainsi que le travail louable consenti par la Direction. Dans ce cadre, nous encourageons la FAO à continuer à veiller à ce que tous les pays soient représentés de manière équitable et adéquate.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe régional Afrique appuie et approuve ces rapports.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China endorses the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Group.

We also endorse the report of the Finance Committee with the following comments.

Firstly, regarding the human resource issues, China fully acknowledges the proactive efforts made by the Secretariat in human resource management and appreciates the concrete advancements achieved by FAO for the geographic representation and gender balance of professional staff and consultants. The documents provided this time present a lot of improvements which will help us to report to our capital. China also supports the recommendations of the Finance Committee requesting the Secretariat to ensure that all measures are taken in order to address the concerns of underrepresented and non-represented countries, including China.

Secondly, regarding the assessed contributions, China also supports the recommendation of the Finance Committee urging the Member States to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions. The Secretariat should take into account the need of development countries in terms of agriculture and rural

revitalization to align strategies and plans in order to better motivate developing countries. We also apply a call to the countries whose contributions are reduced to make voluntary contributions to the Organization.

Mr Sid Ahmed M. ALAMAIN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan would like to take the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Lupiño Lazaro. He has indeed exerted every effort in order for all of us to reach this report and proof of the excellency of his work is the applause we all gave him after his proposal.

With regard to the financial situation of the Organization, we would like to note that there is a problem when it comes to liquidity. One of the reasons behind the liquidity problem is the delays and arrears in assessed contributions for 2018. We notice that there are delays and there are arrears remaining from previous years. We realize that the Organization might sometimes ask for amounts from outside which could be very negative for FAO. If the Organization results in debt, it could be a major problem. This is a measure we would not approve for FAO, especially if we take into consideration the loan policies. We would like also to note the improvement in Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) and we would insist on having the same trend in the future as this is a specialized United Nations agency and TCPs are of paramount importance.

With regard to the audited accounts in the Organization, we are relieved to see that there is an unqualified opinion emitted by the External Auditor. We also notice that there is something to be done with decreasing costs having to do with travel. According to the Auditor, it is possible to have efficiencies reaching as much as 40 percent of current travel costs if tickets are booked in advance. We also would like to acknowledge a quick response by Management in this regard within a couple of years. After the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee, Management had already a plan with ten points presented to us having to do with decreasing the cost of travel. These points were presented during an informal briefing to Members last Friday, and this is the second time we see this kind of initiative over the course of the year. We would like to urge the Organization to continue these informal briefings because they help understand the work of the Finance Committee and they also help conducting our work in Council. We look forward for a new project for the Commissary inside the Organization.

With regard to human resources, we would like to salute the efforts exerted recently. The result of these efforts is that a number of documents and data has appeared having to do with human resources. We also would like to acknowledge the efforts of FAO because it has worked on geographic representation. We would like to encourage the Secretariat to continue with its efforts as these efforts will allow for equitable representation for everyone while guaranteeing efficiency and selecting the right person depending on their capabilities. This is extremely important if we are to hire the right people. We also would like to ask the Organization to look into filling the empty language-related posts so that language services are provided in full. We would like to request the Secretariat for further clarifications when it comes to human resources, especially when it comes to the working force for the period of December 2018-December 2019. We would like to have additional information on that and perhaps a report can be submitted to that during the next Session of the Finance Committee.

With regard to hiring consultants, we would like to welcome the measures taken concerning geographic balance of consultants and its financing especially when it comes from the regular budget. It would be interesting to give further opportunities in field offices and decentralized offices. Those consultants can be sent to decentralized offices and they therefore must be aware of the local environment. We have already raised this during the previous Session of the Council. However, we would also like to remind everyone that competencies and skills are first and foremost of paramount importance. We would like to welcome the gender and geographic distribution. Staff can be employed based upon geographic distribution. This is something already appearing in the Basic Texts. We know as well that within the Council and within the Finance Committee there have been requests in this regard and we hope that

further improvement continue so as to reach higher offices and higher posts. It would be important to continue improving the plan in this regard and it would be interesting to have a timeline as well.

This being said, the Near East Group would like to support the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee for its 173rd Session.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Agradezco al Presidente del comité de finanzas su excelente trabajo durante las sesiones de ese comité.

En materia de recursos humanos, agradecemos la información presentada durante las sesiones del comité, incluyendo los datos estadísticos adicionales. Esta información se podría mejorar presentando una comparación con las estadísticas de recursos humanos de años anteriores para ver cómo ha evolucionado la cuestión de recursos humanos, países representados, género y niveles de personal a lo largo de varios años.

Apoyamos la puesta en marcha de la nueva plataforma de contratación, mayor divulgación de las plazas y una mejor planificación de la fuerza del trabajo. La fortaleza de la FAO reside en la diversidad de su personal.

Creemos que, en el personal de la FAO, tanto profesional como consultores, debe prevalecer los méritos como criterio primordial además de la diversidad lingüística y diversidad geográfica. Agradecemos los esfuerzos de la administración en este sentido, así como las acciones en curso respecto al equilibrio geográfico entre consultores y el plan de acción para lograr la paridad de género, que debe incluir niveles directivos, así como la distribución geográfica equitativa del personal.

En materia de política de viajes, y en línea con las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo, nuestro mensaje para la administración es sencillo: sigan buscando todas las eficiencias posibles, tengan mayor planeación, pero tampoco queremos que el personal de la FAO deje de viajar al terreno.

Con estos comentarios, mi Delegación endosa el informe del comité de finanzas.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Let me first thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for presenting the long report of the Committee and also for his leadership shown during the deliberation of the Committee. I also would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing all the detailed documents of the Finance Committee.

Egypt aligns itself with the statement delivered by Sudan on behalf of the Near East Group. Egypt supports the outcomes of the Finance Committee and would like to limit our comments on the following items.

With regard to the financial situation of the Organization, we welcome the additional information provided on the approval of payment of assessed contributions. In this regard, we urge Members to make timely payments of assessed contributions to provide the Organization with the sufficient liquidity needed to continue the implementation of its Programme of Work.

With reference to the audited accounts of the FAO Commissary, we welcome the legal opinion provided by the Legal Advisor on the use of these reserves to fund the United Nations Development System reform. We encourage the Secretariat to provide to the next Session of the Finance Committee proposals for the future business model to be considered by the Committee and we believe that reopening the Commissary in the future will be an important tool to help FAO staff.

Regarding human resources, we welcome the efforts made by Management to improve the quality and the quantity of human resource data and also welcome the additional information and the statistical data provided and we encourage the Secretariat to timely provide this detailed information upon request. We welcome the action plan for the achievement of equitable geographical distribution and gender parity of FAO staff and we encourage the Organization to continue its efforts to improve the equitable geographic

distribution and gender parity in its workforce and to ensure the highest standards of efficiency and competency in the recruitment process. We request the Secretariat to report regularly to the Finance Committee on the progress in implementing the action plan.

With regard to the geographical balance of consultants, we welcome the improved geographical diversity of organizational rosters of consultants and we encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the geographical balance of consultants, in particular in the decentralized offices and maintaining merit as a primary criterion in the recruitment process.

Ms Ayumi HARA (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group comments delivered by Indonesia, and would like to add a comment on human resources management. Japan welcomes the Secretariat's efforts in its recruitment process to balance the equitable geographical representation as well as providing human resources data.

Japan encourages the FAO Secretariat to continuously update comprehensive human resources data. We also hope that FAO, being a specialized agency, continues to place high value on ensuring technical competency of staff in its recruitment process while also taking account of equitable geographical representation.

Mr Lupiño LAZARO (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am very grateful for the applause. At the same time, I apologize for the confusion that I put the Chair in, also the Members, on how to proceed in discussing or addressing the Finance Committee Report. I just put this aside since it is late at night to wake up the Members. Sudan mentioned the confidence that the Members had both in the Chair and Committee Members' work. Nonetheless, I am very grateful for that 15-second fame that you have extended, also for all the commendation and very kind words. It is much appreciated.

I think most of the queries and comments by Members and requests are addressed to the Management and the Secretariat. This is why I think I will leave it to Management and Secretariat to respond to it. I do notice that there are recurring issues such as the financial position, the timely and full payment of contributions, the TCP, the audited accounts, the statement of internal control and the Commissary. On human resources, the human resources management in general, and in particular the recruitment process and the language requirements, geographic balance, equitable geographic distribution and gender parity, the additional statistical data and, of course, on how we address the staff representative body statement. On oversight, it was also mentioned about the JIU report, including that of the Whistle-blower Policy, and also prominent was the Travel Policy. I am also looking forward to Management's responses and the Secretariat's responses to these issues.

Just to also take note of the methods of work, as I mentioned, internally the Committee just made some adjustments, particularly in making the conclusions so that every Member is on the same page. With this aside, as myself and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee mentioned what also helped is the informal meeting. It was also reiterated in the report that the conduct of informal meetings of the Finance Committee, is that we would strive to improve the participation of Members, even observers; as well as the informal briefings that were made prior to the Committee meeting and also prior to the Council. I believe that this also helps address the issue. There are a number of ways really. I am also glad and optimistic that with all of this innovation, if not really new ideas, these new means of facilitating our discussions are most welcome.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Quiero comenzar agradeciendo a los Miembros por los comentarios. Creo que un tema recurrente ha sido que, en la sesión anterior del Comité de Finanzas, hemos presentado mayor información estadística, y continuaremos con esa política. Además, como ha mencionado el Delegado de México, algunos de los datos que hemos presentado serían más informativos para los miembros si se presentaran en series

temporales, y vamos a tomar esa consideración, pudiendo comparar datos con períodos anteriores y presentando tendencias, de manera que los miembros vean las alternativas que toma la Secretaría en función de los datos con los cuales estamos trabajando.

Respecto al Plan de acción de representación geográfica del personal y de balance de género, no ha sido específicamente nombrado por los Miembros, sino indirectamente. Creo que ustedes pueden notar que algunas de las consideraciones y preocupaciones que han manifestado están incluidas como puntos de acción para nosotros. En particular, tratar de aumentar el número de países equitativamente representados, y en lo que concierne al género, aumentar el porcentaje de personal femenino, sobre todo a niveles altos. Estos dos los dos grandes retos de lo que nos presentamos. Nuestro Plan de acción los incluye en detalle y esperamos trabajar en ello y poder presentar resultados a la próxima reunión del Comité de Finanzas.

Una cosa que también ha mencionado el Delegado de México y que recojo porque es de particular importancia es que en la conclusión de nuestro documento de recursos humanos ante el Comité de Finanzas, mencionamos que vamos a trabajar más en la planificación de la fuerza de trabajo. Eso yo creo que es una clave importante para todos los demás temas que se ha mencionado, tanto de personal como de consultores. Es sabido que la Organización necesita de consultores para cubrir en particular áreas nuevas y emergentes o prioridades que requieren una mayor concentración de trabajo en un momento en que la Organización no cuenta necesariamente con el personal, por lo cual es necesario, y eso es lo que estamos proponiendo, que haya una visión integrada, tanto del reclutamiento de personal como de consultores.

Eso lo estamos incluyendo dentro de lo que es el proceso de planificación del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2020-21. Al momento es simplemente, de una manera, tomando en cuenta con consultación con las oficinas descentralizadas y en la sede sobre sus necesidades y prioridades. Eso nos va a llevar seguramente a recoger muchas de vuestras inquietudes, en particular el tipo de fuerza de trabajo necesario en las oficinas descentralizadas. El tipo, como se ha mencionado, de consultores que tengan la capacidad lingüística de algunas de nuestras regiones donde el conocimiento de la lengua local sea valorado por la Organización como una ventaja.

Respecto a eso, quiero reiterar que en todos los procesos de selección la competencia técnica y el mérito son criterios primordiales que se toman siempre en consideración. Y más, es el requisito de cada anuncio, un cierto número de años de experiencia en el determinado tema y logrados académicos relevantes y los idiomas relevantes son el punto de partida para conciliar en un candidato.

Respecto a consultores en particular, donde ha habido muchas preguntas, reitero que como se menciona, creo, en el Informe del Comité de Finanzas, las medidas adoptadas sobre el balance geográfico de consultores aplican a la concentración de consultores con cargo al Programa Ordinario.

La Secretaría, y sobre todo la Oficina de Recursos Humanos, coordina periódicamente con los departamentos que son los que están delegados para contratar a consultores, avisándoles de su balance geográfico corriente y las oportunidades que se presentan en las listas o *rosters* de candidatos. Pero la intervención y la selección de consultores es por parte de los departamentos técnicos y las Oficinas Regionales.

La tarea de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos es trabajar para que los *rosters* sean más amplios y vamos a introducir medidas que sean sugeridos de que sean clasificados en función no solo de capacidad técnica, sino también de conocimientos lingüísticos, con alguna función de esta búsqueda, de manera que las oficinas de la FAO, en particular las descentralizadas, puedan usar estos *rosters* para identificar candidatos en las regiones.

Como hemos dicho, los *rosters* y las listas son bastante amplios porque sirven tanto a consultorías financiadas por recursos extra presupuestales como por el Programa Regular, no hay y no puede haber ninguna limitación geográfica para los consultores. En todo caso, hay una cuestión de balance que se propone a las unidades en el momento de tomar decisiones de reclutamiento.

Para concluir, agregó que al igual que para otros planes de acción de la Organización, el que se ha presentado a ustedes es una herramienta de trabajo que va a seguir siendo modificada. Recogeremos vuestras inquietudes y trataremos de ajustar el Plan de trabajo en función de los resultados o las dificultades que encontremos, y como han sugerido los Miembros, se presentará a una próxima reunión.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services Department)

I would like to thank the distinguished representatives for your comments and for your encouragement. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for leading us in a good way for a constructive meeting. With the exceptions of the human resources matters that you have just heard from Mr Serván what I would like to say is that we have heard your comments regarding the financial position with the liquidity situation, and also with respect to the restart of the Commissary as a project. We have put forward a plan of action on how we are going to reform the travel oversight as well as management in order to get more efficiencies. I would like to conclude by saying we are encouraged by your comments and we will work to implement these reforms and look forward to your support in the interests of being accountable and being transparent as part of the management of this Organization.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Pour conclure l'intervention du Secrétariat et au vu de l'heure tardive, je pense qu'aucune autre question demandant l'intervention du Secrétariat n'a été soulevée.

Je voudrais juste faire un point sur les travaux du Comité financier. Nous estimons que le rapport du Comité financier nous aidera, dans le management de l'Organisation, à progresser sur les questions fondamentales pour la bonne gestion des ressources qui lui sont allouées, que ce soit en termes d'amélioration de la transparence, du renforcement de la redevabilité, de la gestion des risques que des contrôles internes, y compris en ce qui concerne la fraude et la prévention de la corruption.

Comme nous avons pu vous le dire lors de la réunion informelle qui s'est tenue la semaine dernière, nous avons commencé à travailler intensivement sur les recommandations du Comité financier, par exemple sur les voyages et, bien sûr, nous ferons rapport sur l'état d'avancement de ces travaux dans le cadre de la prochaine réunion du Comité financier.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor?

So I can read out the conclusions as amended by your discussions but before that I would like to say that I agree with the comments of the Chair of the Finance Committee that unanimous applause did cause some confusion and it was Austria's intervention which put us back on track. So thank you, Austria, for leading us back to where we should have been in the first place.

Now I shall read out the conclusions:

1. The Council approved the reports of the 172nd and 173rd Sessions of the Finance Committee and in particular:

On the Financial Position

a) noted delays in the payment of current assessed contributions, and the continued high level of assessments that remain unpaid from prior years, and urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that the Organization is able to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work;

b) welcomed the issuance for the first time of a Statement of Internal Control with the FAO Audited Accounts for 2017;

c) recommended the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2017 as presented in paragraph 13 of document CL 160/4;

On Human Resources Matters

- d) welcomed the additional information and statistical data on Human Resources provided in response to earlier requests of the Finance Committee and the Council;
- e) endorsed the Finance Committee's guidance to the Secretariat on continuing to improve the information presented in future reports on Human Resources and Geographic Balance of Consultants;
- f) encouraged the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the geographic balance of consultants funded by the regular programme, maintaining merit as the primary criterion for recruitment;
- g) welcomed the reduction in the number of non-, under- and over-represented countries, the increased number of equitably represented countries, and the improved gender parity;
- h) endorsed the Committee's guidance to the Secretariat on its implementation of the detailed action plan towards improving equitable geographic distribution and gender parity;
- i) encouraged FAO to continue improving the numbers of women in senior level and managerial positions;

On Other matters

- j) noted the Committee's guidance on the responsibility for internal staff management resting with the Director-General;
- k) supported the Committee's finding that increase in voluntary contributions since 2012 reflects confidence in FAO leadership and its programme delivery;
- l) supported the request to the Secretariat to undertake a review of the independence of the Ethics Office, Office of the Inspector General and ombudsperson functions as soon as possible;
- m) recalled its previous request made at the 154th Session of the Council for annual reporting of the Ethics Office to the Finance Committee;
- n) supported the Committee's conclusion on the importance of addressing the External Auditor's recommendation related to efficiency and oversight of corporate travel management; and
- o) endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate, as well as initiatives to improve its own methods of work.

The floor is open for comments.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point f) and continue "geographic balance of consultants apply in a permanent substantively flexible approach and with due consideration for cost implications, and only to regular programme-funded consultants and no rigid numerical ranges are envisaged". "Assured a very substantively flexible approach".

And then I would like to move to point e). We would like to have a new point. The Council "noted that the staff mobility programme should be reviewed as soon as possible by one of FAO's auditing bodies."

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

A question and some suggested language. On point h), we start with the verb "endorsed", and I am curious because I thought we endorsed the entire report or we approved the entire report. I am wondering why we have used this verb. It is just a question on that.

In new point k), I think, there was just some discussion back and forth with the Finance Committee. Colleagues, it speaks to the flyers that many of us were given as we came into FAO today. We in the Finance Committee came to the conclusion that we do not get involved in internal staff management but

that means we are neutral, that we neither back the staff nor do we back the Management. The way point k) is written strikes me as a one-sided point in favour of the Director-General, which I do not think is the message we want to send. I would recommend that we strike new point k) in its entirety.

In point l), in my intervention, I noted that the increase in voluntary contributions occurred in a certain context, so I would ask that point l) be replaced entirely by paragraph 21(e) of document CL 160/4. Again, it is the one I read out. “Noted that while the regular programme budget had remained generally flat over the reporting period, the total budget had, in fact, increased, reflecting the confidence of donors in FAO leadership and programme delivery.” I think this context and nuance is important because otherwise it just seems like an unvarnished compliment for the Management. Again, we appreciate what they are doing. The message that we have in the approved language in 21(e) is actually much more nuanced, so we would ask that that language be replaced in its entirety.

Then the last paragraph in the text, I wonder if somebody could explain to me what new point o) means. “Endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat in all other matters within its mandate.” It seems it would be implicit in all the guidance we give anyway. If a colleague could explain to me what that first clause means.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

Mine is rather a question than a comment. It seems like we did not hear in the context of this item – discussion on human resources – we did not hear the statement of the staff representative. I would like to ask when this statement will be during this Council meeting if at all.

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the Secretariat. But I believe it is usually under any other matters.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Sí, confirmo en que por lo general es bajo “Otros Asuntos”.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Can we go back a little? Just scroll up. Yes, here. Thank you, United States, for this addition, but I wish if you do not mind we change the word “donors” to reflect the status of FAO. We are all contributors to this Organization, so I am not sure that the word donor is proper here. For the confidence of Members. Donors is not very appropriate.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Can we go back to point f)? I have a problem with “permanent.” Can we please put it between brackets? I also think the last sentence in the point is repeating the same language in the second line. Mr Chair, I think this issue is very delicate and very sensitive. I urge Members to use agreed language. I propose to use the same language as the last FAO Council. If you need, to help you, we can say after recruitment, “taking into account the need for a flexible approach in the selection process, including cost implications.” Also “and will not apply rigid numerical ranges” in order to be consistent with the same language.

CHAIRPERSON

There are quite a few amendments proposed. Members, any reaction? I could just comment on one of the comments of the United States where I would agree that the sentence is too general. I am referring to the sentence, which says “endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate as well as initiatives to improve its own methods of work.” I would agree and recommend this be deleted because it does not address anything specific.

But on the other additions and deletions or amendments, do Members as a whole agree that we can agree this text to go to the Drafting Committee?

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point f) and the proposal made by my distinguished colleague, taking into account for a flexible approach, taking into account for permanent flexible approach. This has been discussed in several regional groups and there should be a flexibility to be able to adapt to new situations and to choose. This is very important for us.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Austria. But do you think the word “permanent” improves the text? If the Council approves a flexible approach, then the Secretariat has to follow that.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I have a comment based on the suggestion to use already agreed language. We are using already agreed language dating back to June 2018. Actually, the document that was presented by the Human Resources Department to the Finance Committee on the geographic balance of consultants did not comply with the June 2018 language of the Council as it was stated by Austria on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. That document did not contain any explanation, any clarifications, or any elements on important subsidiary or complementary criteria when it comes to consultants' recruitment. I am referring to the criterion of flexibility, I am referring to cost implications, as well as to merit. We recall also at the informal briefing to Permanent Representatives the Director-General asking the Human Resources Department to provide concrete elements on merit, attitudes, and competencies of the consultants recruited under the new system. This was a request by the Director-General, and, we have to acknowledge, by the Council. If we now use, as it is correct to do so, the agreed language, then we have some difficulties in putting these under point f), which starts with “encouraged the efforts” because here I would refer to what the Austrian intervention said about the criteria that have not been followed on the geographic balance of consultants due to lack of elements in the document that was presented to the Finance Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Would you have a suggested wording?

Mr Sid Ahmed M. ALAMAIN (Sudan)

I am recalling the session of the Council last June. We do remember that this text came from us in the session. I do remember that a flexible approach was a consensus language. So we came up with the language of the flexible approach after a long discussion. Any amendment on that reference, it might prolong our discussion. I am asking the Council and the Members to keep the previous language which we came up with, a sort of consensus covering all of our concerns. I think we can keep the same language. I second my colleague from Egypt to save the same language of our last session. This is on the point f). Also to ask the Secretariat on the action plan. I do remember in the Finance Committee we requested that the action plan should be linked to the timeframe. I did not see any reflection on that.

CHAIRPERSON

Sudan, do you still want to speak?

Mr Sid Ahmed M. ALAMAIN (Sudan)

No, if you could respond to the action plan with the timeframe. I think it was not reflected here in the report.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I was not suggesting to change the language. I was suggesting that it cannot go under the point f) saying “encouraged the efforts of the Secretariat”. There are two different concepts here. We all encourage to improve the geographic balance of consultants funded by the regular programme. But at the same time, we should recall the decisions already taken by the Council, saying that the Council reiterates its request

to apply a flexible approach without rigid numerical ranges and so on and so forth. The same language of June 2018 Council but separated from the encouragement. This is a reiteration of that request because there was no follow-up in the document provided by the Human Resources Department to the Finance Committee on flexibility, merit and cost implications. Same language but with a different type of approach by the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we understand what your request is. We have got the June 2018 language here. Egypt and some other colleagues also referred to it. We could say “recalled its guidance to the Secretariat that the efforts to improve equitable geographical distribution will take into account the need for a flexible approach in the selection process, including cost implication, retaining merit as the primary criterion for recruitment and will not apply rigid numerical ranges”. Where would this go? It will be a point on its own. The amendment is a combination of the June 2018 decision of the Council and some new wording in point f). Is that acceptable?

With these amendments, could we agree that this document can go to the Drafting Committee? I see there is agreement.

This item is closed. We take up the next item tomorrow because we do not have interpretation.

The meeting rose at 20:34 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.34

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018</p>
<p>FIFTH PLENARY SESSION CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>5 December 2018</p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.03 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.03
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**Item 5. Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee (12-16 November 2018)
(continued)**

**Point 5. Rapport de la cent vingt-cinquième session du Comité du Programme
(12-16 novembre 2018) (suite)**

**Tema 5. Informe del 125.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa
(12-16 de noviembre de 2018) (continuación)**

(CL 160/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We continue this morning with Item 5, *Report of the 125th Session of the Programme Committee*.

Members will recall that when we suspended item 5 yesterday, the United States had reserved its position regarding paragraphs a), b) and c) of my conclusion. I understand that consultations have been held in the meantime and that there is agreement on a text to be proposed by the Chair of the Programme Committee, which will now be projected on the screen. I trust that we can agree on the outstanding text quickly and adopt my conclusions for this item as amended.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

After we adjourned our discussion on the decision of the Council on the Report of the Programme Committee, I conducted informal consultations to see whether or not we could resolve the outstanding issues on the points a), b) and c). I not only worked with those who showed interest and had requests for extra language in the text, but I also did some homework looking to, as we usually do, see where we have found solutions in other United Nations resolutions on some of the issues. Based on that, I put it forward to you and I hope that it can meet the consensus because we know what is at stake. I put forward to you points a), b) and c) based on the informal consultations. I hope it can meet your consensus.

And when it comes, for example, to point a) in the fifth line, we know, of course, when we look to the reports of SOFI that there is an increasing number of people living in hunger because we see the dramatic effects of climate change, the rising number of conflicts and other issues. This discussion is not only taking place here in Rome but has been taking place also in New York. And, of course, we know that the main causes are referred to as climate change and rising number of conflicts, but we have also other causes. Therefore, in resolution A 72/238, United Nations resolution of 2017, it also discussed agriculture issues, the concerns raised here. They found language, which they used, acknowledging, of course, where the problems are, acknowledging the broad range of causes, but some causes are more severe than others, and they found the language which is now in the text “inter alia”, which means amongst others, but certainly includes the most important causes. It is mentioned here: the adverse impact of climate change and increasing number of conflicts.

I would like to call upon your good spirit, excellent spirits, which we have seen in both the Joint Committee, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee and call upon your flexibility to go along with the text now in points a), b) and c).

CHAIRPERSON

I will read the text again for the benefit of Members:

1. The Council:

a) took note of the review of the priorities expressed by the Technical Committees, recalling the decision of the 159th Session of the Council on the outcome of the 2018 FAO Regional Conferences, and recent developments in trends and emerging issues influencing the work of the Organization in the medium term, in particular the rise of global hunger as a result of inter alia the adverse impact of climate

change and the increasing number of conflicts, acknowledged their continued relevance in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework and recommended further review within the context of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 at its next session;

- b) highlighted FAO's comparative advantage and technical expertise, underlined the importance of sustainable funding from the regular budget in this regard and encouraged FAO to further develop multi-stakeholder partnerships at national, regional and global levels to ensure increased funding;
- c) acknowledged the leading role of FAO in sustainable agriculture and food systems and providing a neutral and balanced platform in this respect;

We can adopt this for going to the Drafting Committee and move to the next item.

The next item is WFP so we will wait for some changes on the podium and take up the next item.

Item 9. World Food Programme

Point 9. Programme alimentaire mondial

Tema 9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

Item 9.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

Point 9.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM

Tema 9.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

(CL 160/7 Rev.1; CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now start with item 9, which concerns World Food Programme matters.

Under sub-item 9.1 the Council is requested to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are CL 160/7 Rev.1 and CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary of the Executive Board, Ms Elise Benoit, Officer-in-Charge, Performance Management and Monitoring Division and Ms Inka Himanen, Performance Management Officer, Performance Management and Accountability.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For List A there is one candidate for one seat: Nigeria.

For List B, there are two candidates for two seats: Afghanistan and Kuwait.

For List C, there is one candidate for one seat: Mexico.

For List D there are two candidates for two seats: Netherlands and United States of America.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Could you please read for List B, two candidates or three?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Afghanistan, for List B we have two candidates for two seats.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

There must be some mistake because, as far as I am concerned, there are three candidates.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

Je voudrais passer la parole à mon collègue du Nigeria.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I am sorry our colleague who is the Chair of the Africa Group is not available. For List A, there should be a footnote which I kindly request Mr Gagnon to read because there is an agreement on that.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Members, Cameroon, you are quite right. As is normal practice, there have been a number of agreements, and maybe this is what Afghanistan was referring to earlier. There have been a good number of arrangements executed between Members to divide the mandates. It is not only for Africa but also for all the Lists. If you look at document CL 160/7/Rev 1, on page 2 there is a footnote giving the score of all the arrangements that have been made thus far.

For the particular one that Cameroon has just referred to, if you want me to read the footnote, I will just refer you to a note verbale, which appears in document CL 160/LIM/4/Rev.1 on page 2. There you have a note verbale sent by the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to my attention. Let me give you the substance of this arrangement:

I am writing in my capacity as Acting Chair of the Africa Regional Group, List A, to advise about the agreement reached within the List regarding the rotation of seats for one of the upcoming seat vacancies from List A for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021. The Federal Republic of Nigeria will occupy the seat on the WFP Executive Board for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, one year. After which, it will stand down. The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire will occupy the seat on the WFP Executive Board for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, two years.

As per normal practice, in the document that I have previously quoted, we have given the name of the first country that will occupy the seat. And then, pursuant to internal agreements regarding the List, one country will step down. However, as of today, the Council elects Nigeria for three years, knowing that after one year Nigeria will step down and then Cote d'Ivoire will replace Nigeria. I trust that addresses your point.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for Lists A, B, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Suresh Kumar MALHOTRA (India)

In fact, there are two seats and three countries. India has also filed a nomination but we have not been mentioned.

CHAIRPERSON

I am going to explain as we go along because as the Secretary-General explained, the election is of the country that is proposed for the first term and then there are changes and India will be one of those. I will come to that in my next intervention.

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the List Coordinators for List A, List B and List C regarding agreements that have been reached in those lists on the sharing of terms of office.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix A of document CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note that Nigeria had agreed to step down from the List A seat which would be occupied by Côte d'Ivoire as of 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. Nigeria is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix B of document CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note that Afghanistan had agreed to step down from the List B seat, which would be occupied by India as of 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021, and that Kuwait had agreed to step down from the List B seat, which would be occupied by Afghanistan from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. For the aforementioned seats Afghanistan is elected as of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 and Kuwait is elected as of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix C of document CL 160/LIM/4 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note that Mexico had agreed to step down from the List C seat which would be occupied by Peru as of 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. Mexico is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

I wish to congratulate all the newly-elected WFP Executive Board Members and wish them well for the work that lays ahead of them.

- Item 9.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2017**
Point 9.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2017
Tema 9.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2017
(CL 160/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move onto sub-item 9.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2017*. Please ensure that you have document CL 160/8 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Ms Elise Benoit, Officer in Charge, Performance Management and Monitoring Division at WFP, to introduce this item.

Ms Elise BENOIT (Officer-in-charge, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

I am pleased to present the main elements of the WFP Annual Performance Report for 2018. This presentation reflects the findings of the report discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during its Annual session in June.

2017 was a transitional year for WFP. It was the first year of the new Strategic Plan. It also introduced new Corporate Results and the new financial frameworks basically reflecting the roll out of the change process and trajectory, which WFP refers to as the Integrated Road Map.

Along with the Integrated Road Map, new features are included the report. One new section 'resources and prioritization' underlines WFP's funding gap, illustrating actions taken by managers to minimize impact, and outlines the consequences for the people and communities we serve.

In the section programme and performance, we captured the consolidated WFP-wide performance narrative as contributions to Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.

Let me highlight a few important contextual facts about last year. We had sadly a record number of hungry people in the world, estimated at 815 million. 91 million of which were reached by WFP assistance in 2017.

As often and regularly underscored by the WFP Executive Director, the link between hunger and conflict remains a dramatic backdrop to many WFP operations. In 2017, some 60 percent of hungry people were living in countries in conflict.

In fact, WFP responded to a record number of emergency responses last year, many of them protracted crises: eight Level 3 and seven Level 2 operations. This compares to one Level 3 in 2013.

As mentioned, the new section Resources and Prioritisation is one of the main new features of the report. It presents the total resources WFP appealed for and compares this to the resources actually received.

The funding gap, as illustrated, for 2017 stood at USD 3.8 billion. WFP addressed this gap using multiple mitigation and prioritization strategies and this and various combinations and sequence depending on context. So as illustrated on the far right hand side of the slide, it can be by focusing on saving lives activities, or worst affected areas, most vulnerable households and/or reducing some of the duration or frequency of entitlements.

In the report you will find several concrete examples of how this was done, and I will cite only one of them, from the Kenya country office. In Kakuma, Kenya, refugees rely mainly on WFP assistance for their livelihoods and that is about 70–80 percent of their food intake. So induced by funding constraints, large ration cuts over recent years have incrementally led to worsening food security situations for these populations.

One of the largest ration cuts occurred at the end of 2016 and again at the end of 2017. Correspondingly, the proportion of families with poor food consumption increased to 20 percent.

More people resorted to negative coping strategies and monitoring reported a significant jump in the number of refugee households that turned to begging, selling of assets such as bicycles, or reducing the amount they spent on education or health. When additional funds eventually came in and full rations were reinstated, the proportion of households with insufficient food consumption dropped back down by half in the immediate aftermath.

As WFP continues its trajectory along the integrated roadmap, systematically institutionalising the countries' strategic plans and supporting systems across offices, this section of the report will become more and more substantive in terms of linking resources to results, allowing us to tell the WFP story better.

The Annual Performance Report provides an overview of two dimensions of our performance, programme and management performance.

Turning to the programme performance highlights, not only do we see a record level of need, a record level of contributions but as well a record number of beneficiaries reached.

To comment on only two points that you see on the slide. Last year, a record number of 18.3 million schoolchildren benefitted from school meals in 65 countries. In 46 of those countries, WFP linked the school meals to local agricultural production programmes with a view to sustainability.

As comes to partnerships, from field to headquarters, WFP is fully aware that these partnerships are crucial to delivering our operations and achieving the SDGs. With its new Strategic Plan, WFP has embraced a 'whole of society' approach to zero hunger. This entails that the wide spectrum of our partners are beyond the response, involved in the consultations for the countries' strategic plans including analysis, planning and preparation for the response.

I would also like to mention our progress towards some of our cross-cutting commitments. Such as gender where 83 percent of operations met the targets for corporate cross-cutting gender indicators. Accountability to affected population, as well as the environment for which a new environmental policy was approved in 2017 and sets out the commitment of WFP to systematically identify, avoid and manage risks to the environment that may be linked to WFP initiatives.

On the management performance side of things, WFP has identified six high-level corporate indicators to measure management performance. It is intended to measure our progress towards achieving the programme results. Clear progress was reported on five of them, while the sixth indicator, which is the RBA collaboration, both agencies are currently developing it and working on it so we hope to have an update next year.

Lastly, the report concludes with lessons from 2017, in particular on the first year of the integrated roadmap implementation and a synopsis on the way forward. Knowing that 2018 will be another transition year during which country operations shift over to country strategic plans, WFP continues to collect such lessons to make further improvements in 2019.

The WFP Executive Board welcomed this report in June giving valuable feedback, as usual, to further improve our corporate reporting efforts and better address monitoring challenges in the field. I am happy to answer questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor to Members for their interventions. I see no request for the floor from any Member. This is one item where the Chairman's Summary would not cause any discussion.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je voulais d'abord remercier Madame Benoît et le Secrétariat du Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour l'excellente présentation du rapport du Conseil d'administration sur les activités menées par le PAM en 2017.

La délégation du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Le rapport SOFI 2017 souligne que le nombre des personnes sous-alimentées dans le monde s'est accru pour la première fois depuis le début du siècle pour atteindre 815 millions, comme l'a souligné Mme Benoît tout à l'heure, ainsi que le nombre record des situations d'urgence enregistrées en 2016. Le PAM était mis à rude épreuve pour faire face au fléau de la faim de notre temps. C'est une situation inacceptable au XXI^{ème} siècle, dans un monde qui dispose de ressources naturelles suffisantes.

Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le rapport du PAM, qui dresse un bilan exhaustif de son travail mené dans le cadre de son mandat.

Au titre des interventions du PAM, le Groupe Afrique apprécie l'action qu'il a menée conformément à son Plan stratégique pour 2017-2021 et à ses Objectifs stratégiques liés aux objectifs de développement durable (ODD) 2 et 17. Nous saluons la mise en œuvre des plans stratégiques de pays (PSP) en 2017 en tant qu'approche principale du PAM pour se conformer aux priorités nationales afin de contribuer au Programme 2030.

Nous notons que les interventions d'urgence étaient la priorité du PAM. Les situations d'urgence de niveau 3 et de niveau 2 représentaient 68 pour cent du Programme de travail total. Dans le cadre de la résilience, nous apprécions les interventions du PAM auprès des petits exploitants afin de contribuer à la production agricole et de stimuler l'économie rurale.

Nous apprécions le rôle important joué par les partenariats dans le travail du PAM, notamment le fait que le Plan stratégique pour 2017-2021 intègre systématiquement le principe de partenariat dans les Objectifs stratégiques du PAM liés à l'ODD 17.

Le Groupe Afrique encourage le PAM à continuer de conduire et de coordonner les travaux d'optimisation et de réorganisation de certains mécanismes mondiaux pour améliorer l'efficacité et la qualité de tous les services opérationnels communs.

Concernant la performance des programmes, le Groupe Afrique apprécie les progrès accomplis par le PAM. Nous notons qu'en 2017, pour 74 pour cent des indicateurs de performance des programmes les cibles fixées étaient atteintes, contre seulement 68 pour cent en 2016.

Nous félicitons le PAM pour sa bonne performance générale au regard des objectifs stratégiques 1, 2 et 3 liés à l'ODD 2. En revanche, le Groupe Afrique regrette le manque de données afin de tirer des conclusions sur la performance relative aux objectifs stratégiques 4 et 5 liés à l'ODD 17. Nous demandons au PAM que le manque de données soit intégré dans le rapport qui nous sera soumis pour l'année 2018.

S'agissant de la performance en matière de gestion, le Groupe Afrique note que 72 pour cent des cibles fixées ont été atteintes, ainsi que 80 pour cent des cibles fixées dans le cadre de l'examen quadriennal 2017-2020. Nous encourageons le PAM à continuer de mener ses activités conformément à ses avantages comparatifs pour sauver les vies et le bien-être des populations.

Avec ces observations, le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2017.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Quiero agradecer a la Señora Elise Benoit por la presentación y también agradecer lo que hace el PMA, y simplemente decir que los pocos comentarios que hay en la sala no es porque no nos guste lo que hace el PMA, sino el contrario. Nos gusta lo que hace el PMA y apenas hace una semana lo discutimos con mucho más detalle en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y muchos de los que estuvimos en la Junta Ejecutiva ahora estamos aquí.

Yo veo como un mensaje positivo el que no haya mayores cuestionamientos, así que simplemente reitero mi agradecimiento a lo que hace el PMA.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

Congratulations to WFP for a very insightful report. I think it validates the arguments that have been continually made for closer collaboration with the RBAs because there are things happening that are worthy of emulation in terms of what I have observed in the WFP report.

In an earlier contribution, I had alluded to the fact that one of the scourges of the SIDS is food and nutrition insecurity. A very important and critical underpinning of this insecurity lies in the types of foods that we consume. In fact, if we import 80 or 75 percent of our food, then the contribution to food and nutrition insecurity and obesity and the non-communicable diseases rests to a great extent with the food that we import. Therefore, this particular initiative that WFP is pursuing, linking the school nutrition programme to the development of an insightful agricultural small-scale farming sector, is worthy of commendation. In fact, it is the lynchpin, in my view, of dealing with the food and nutrition insecurity problem in Small Island States. In particular, many countries and developing countries expend considerable sums in school nutrition programmes, the greatest proportion of which is spent on imported food. This is an opportunity for linking what you do in domestic agricultural development policy and execution to food and nutrition security enhancement. I want to commend the WFP for that particular initiative and it is worthy of emulation.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

While I subscribe to the statement made by Mexico, we were present at the WFP Executive Board last week and we would like to thank WFP for all of its efforts, particularly in areas of conflict and particularly in the Near East region. We would like to thank WFP for using the latest technology in order to distribute food assistance at local level to the refugee services. We would like to thank WFP for the work it is conducting in our region, particularly with school feeding. We would call on WFP to continue in its efforts to support our region and to address these many conflicts.

Ms Elise BENOIT (Officer-in-charge, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

I would like to thank all the delegates for thanking us and recognizing our achievements, especially Mexico, Trinidad, Tobago and Jordan, which I visited last year.

And as for the question from the distinguished delegate from Congo, indeed the data gaps are exact. It was highlighted in the Annual Performance Report for 2017. As said, it is a transition year. As such, only a minority of Country Offices have moved to the Country Strategic Plans within the year, so we do not have the full year's data yet to report from and only on a small subset of Country Offices. That will be better in 2018 and even better again in 2019. Please bear with us whilst we have this transition. We do not have data covering the full year in 2017, only for a subset, and we are also working in establishing some of the baselines for these indicators.

The Corporate Results Framework (CRF), as you know, was also under construction. There was a new CRF that was launched in 2017, but the tweaking of that has only been recently approved at last week's session. Hopefully we are going in the right direction.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor?

I see none. I can read out my summary:

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2017.
2. In particular, the Council:
 - a) acknowledged WFP's programme performance results in meeting its Strategic Objectives, supported by achievements by Management Results Dimensions;

- b) recognized the commitment of WFP's staff in the field working in challenging circumstances both in addressing an unprecedented number of Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies including protracted crises;
- c) welcomed the on-going implementation of the Integrated Road Map, including the Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, the country strategic planning, as well as the Financial Framework Review and the revised Corporate Results Framework, which fully align WFP's strategy to the Agenda 2030 and its principles; and
- d) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, its engagement with partners towards zero hunger and the SDGs.

The floor is open for any reaction.

I see no reaction so we can conclude this item and move to the next one.

I would like to thank the Members of the WFP Secretariat who have joined us this morning.

**Item 8. Report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security
(15-19 October 2018)**

**Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-cinquième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale
(15-19 octobre 2018)**

**Tema 8. Informe del 45.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(15-19 de octubre de 2018)**

(C 2019/20)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to item 8 of the agenda, *Report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*, which was held in Rome from 15 to 19 October 2018. Please ensure you have document C 2019/20 before you.

I invite His Excellency Ambassador Mario Arvelo, Chairperson of the CFS, to introduce this item.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)

Me complace presentarles el informe del 45.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA).

El CSA volvió a mostrar su poder de convocatoria: el Secretariado expidió 1233 acreditaciones a delegados de 124 países —incluyendo 15 dignatarios de alto nivel— y cientos de instituciones, incluyendo 106 de la sociedad civil, 79 del sector privado y 13 órganos de Naciones Unidas, además de instituciones financieras, filantrópicas y de investigación, así como a 65 entidades observadoras.

En la sesión inaugural escuchamos a los líderes de la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA hacer llamados urgentes para que todos los actores —comenzando por los Estados Miembros— tomemos acciones decididas en el marco del CSA para frenar y revertir los alarmantes indicadores que ponen en peligro el cumplimiento del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible sobre hambre cero.

En esa semana debatimos cuestiones de fondo durante las plenarias y en un número récord de 58 actividades paralelas, donde intercambiamos conocimientos y experiencias sobre una amplia variedad de temas relacionados con el mandato del comité y la agenda del período de sesiones.

Continues in English

The ranks of the hungry and malnourished have seen substantial expansions every year since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched.

Throughout CFS 45, several of you and many others took the floor to lament the findings of the 2018 report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.

Indeed, the SOFI report was devastating; it found that the number of people who cannot reliably produce or buy food has escalated to over 800 million, but its distribution is asymmetrical, as the vast majority of people suffering from chronic hunger can be found among women and children across the so-called Global South.

SOFI does not only estimate how many persons are unable to exercise their fundamental human right to adequate food; it also identifies the culprits: man-made conflict, natural disasters and climate change are the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition.

The Committee also completed the evaluation process, approving a plan of action aiming to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of its work.

The Committee considered the critical and emerging issues in food security and nutrition with a view to informing the Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2020-23 —while requesting the High Level Panel of Experts to undertake a study titled “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030.”

To be sure, SDG-2 is about ending hunger and eliminating all forms of malnutrition. The concept of malnutrition has evolved from considering only deficiencies in calories and nutrients. To being understood also as an excessive intake of calories, including empty ones found in ultra-processed “food” loaded with sugars and fats, which is causing an explosion of obesity in countries of all socio-economic profiles, and is pushing preventable vascular, cardiac and endocrine diseases – such as diabetes – to epidemic levels.

CFS decided to take concrete action to address this tendency, by approving terms of reference towards establishing a set of voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, for consideration at CFS 47 in October 2020; this will be a major contribution to the Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda.

In his opening remarks to the Council, Director-General Graziano congratulated CFS on this task, underscoring the importance of approving “sound and concrete policies on nutrition, [and] establishing clear roles and responsibilities for governments, civil society and the private sector.”

Continúa en español

Presidente y Miembros del Consejo: en la sesión de octubre, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) reafirmó su vínculo con el Foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible, decidiendo aportar una contribución para la edición de 2019.

En cuanto a la promoción de la rendición de cuentas e intercambio de mejores prácticas, el Comité decidió realizar un acto en la próxima plenaria abarcando tres productos: la inversión en la agricultura a pequeña escala, la vinculación de los pequeños productores con los mercados, y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible, incluida la ganadería; esta actividad será una contribución del CSA a la Década Internacional de Agricultura Familiar.

La pasada plenaria celebró un acto temático mundial acerca de las directrices sobre el derecho a la alimentación, donde los panelistas examinaron los retos y las buenas prácticas, con especial énfasis en las bondades de las plataformas de múltiples partes interesadas.

Precisamente sobre las asociaciones entre múltiples partes interesadas y su potencial para financiar y mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, el comité identificó el décimo tercer informe del Grupo de alto nivel de expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición (GANESAN) como punto de partida para el intercambio de conocimientos y lecciones aprendidas.

Me complace actualizar al Consejo sobre este tema con tres novedades posteriores al CSA 45: [1] ya contamos con los fondos para traducir el informe del GANESAN a todas las lenguas oficiales, [2] la Mesa del CSA aprobó una hoja de ruta para el seguimiento, y [3] el proceso de consultas informales ya está en marcha.

El Comité también celebró dos sesiones sobre buenas prácticas e intercambio de enseñanzas: una sobre sistemas alimentarios y nutrición, y otra sobre la Agenda 2030.

Continues in English

Chairman, as you and Council members that have presided governing bodies or facilitated multilateral endeavours are well aware, fulfilling a leadership responsibility situates the officeholder in a vantage point that provides a constant flow of information and a wide outlook.

Mindful of the nature of multilateralism and the objectives of duty if I would like to share with the Council the following closing observations:

One, we need to step up our commitments to address the current trends in food insecurity and malnutrition, which are morally unacceptable and politically unsustainable.

Two, we need to, in fact, we must acknowledge that conflict and climate change constitute the main drivers of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, which in turn contribute to migration. We cannot take the necessary actions on hunger and malnutrition if we turn a blind eye to the root causes.

Third, we need to step away from the business-as-usual model, we need to think more outside the box and take transformative decisions.

And fourth, we need to recommit to the principles and goals of CFS, which was the central plank of the Civil Society forum held on 14 October 2018 next door in the Green Room.

We have become used to the proclamation that the hungry cannot wait; in the context of CFS, there is another risk and that is that for all the good that we do, non-State actors will drift away, concentrating efforts and resources in other fora.

We can still eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030, and the Committee on World Food Security can and will play a major role; for this to happen CFS requires more involvement from all stakeholders, especially from Member States, and more inclusiveness all around; let us all get to it!

Ms Anna-Marie MOULTON (South Africa)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Like most other regions of the world, Africa is deeply concerned about the increase in the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world, as highlighted in the 2018 SOFI Report, as well as the negative trends in hunger and malnutrition that we are seeing. It is up to all of us, both in developed and developing countries, to do what is required, and more, to reverse this negative trend. We cannot sit back and turn a blind eye to what is happening around us.

The Africa Regional Group also takes note of the 2018 SOFA Report, which focuses on the issue of rural migration. The phenomenon of migration is not unique to Africa, but is something that is experienced in both developed and developing countries. Unfortunately, a significant proportion of the migrants trying to reach Europe are from our continent. It is, therefore, up to Africa, firstly, to create the necessary conditions in our respective countries that will encourage Africans, especially the youth, to remain in Africa and contribute to the economic development of the continent. You all know that Africa is often referred to as a potential breadbasket of the world. Let us do what is possible to make this a reality.

The Africa Regional Group also welcomes the conclusion of the CFS Evaluation process and hopes that the achievement of this milestone, following months of deliberations, will have a significant impact on the way in which CFS operates, thereby increasing its impact where it is most needed.

Although CFS does not consider itself to be an implementing body, but relies on its membership to promote the Committee on its behalf, we would encourage CFS to try and do more to raise its profile and influence in Member States. The main focus of CFS is to ensure food security and ending hunger. We

therefore believe that the Committee should, in future, focus more on concrete achievable actions and projects, in order to achieve these noble goals.

The Committee cannot expect of its Membership to promote it world-wide, without better equipping it with the necessary tools to assist them in the formidable task of promoting the committee as the first and foremost UN body solely focussing on the issue of food security.

CFS sets itself ambitious goals, which can sometimes not be realized due to budgetary constraints. We are all aware that quite often, important background documents cannot be translated into all the UN languages due to financial constraints. Perhaps, when we start planning the next MYPOW, the CFS membership should agree to take on fewer projects, but aim to do them better and more effectively.

Ending hunger and achieving food security is vital for ensuring sustainable development. So I encourage all of us to take hands and get working.

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

I would like to thank Ambassador Arvelo for his presentation of the outcomes of the 45th Session of the CFS.

The Committee on World Food Security is an important discussion platform for issues of food security and nutrition and also the development of recommendations, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders. We welcome the outcomes of the past session of the CFS, and in particular the decision on the development of the guidelines for food systems and nutrition. We note the need for very careful preparation and consideration of these on the basis of an open dialogue. On our side, we are ready to participate actively in the process for the agreement of these principles.

We also would like to note the importance of the recommendations of the CFS to enhance the effectiveness of its work. For us, priority recommendations are the following: sustainable approach, rational approach to the choice of the areas of work and meeting the mandate of CFS and its comparative advantages. There is a need for careful planning of the workload of the CFS in the intersessional period and a wise and well-considered use of its financial resources. We think that it is necessary to maintain the intergovernmental nature of the CFS and the prerogative of the Member States to take decisions in the work of the CFS. Finally, we must understand that this should provide the possibility for the practical work of this structure.

Allow us to note, nonetheless, that the enhancement of the effectiveness and the quality of the work of the CFS in the intersessional period continues to be a relevant issue. We would ask the Secretariat of the CFS to give appropriate attention to the development of the events in the intersessional period. From our point of view, this was not done in the organization of the open-ended meeting of the CFS on urbanization, which was held on 19 November 2018. The invitations and the agenda were distributed exclusively to Members of the CFS Bureau and this status has a negative impact on the level of participation of Member States and it undermines the inclusive character of the work of the Committee. We believe that in the future this issue will be addressed.

We stress the importance of the current intersessional work and the forthcoming intersessional work for the development of the CFS Programme of Work in 2020-2023 period. We believe that in its preparation the Committee must set itself realistic tasks with appropriate understanding of its resources, its staff and financial resources available, the time of the Secretariat that is available, and this applies both to the resources of the Member States and the Secretariat. We invite CFS members to reasonably limit themselves to the work of the Committee and to the number of areas of work of the Committee and try to involve the largest possible number of stakeholders and players enhancing the quality of the work done.

In this context, allow us to note that the summary of the Chairperson of the CFS on the outcome of the meeting, the 45th Session of the Committee on the Programme of Work for the 2020-2023 period, which was distributed on 5 November 2018 does not fully reflect the contents of the discussion that took place.

In this connection, we are forced to note that considering the summary of the Chairperson we do not see it as the foundation for the formation of the future Programme of Work of the Committee. Our proposal for specific reflection of the outcome report to the Council will be now submitted in written form to the Secretariat.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We welcome the report of the 45th CFS Plenary session. The CFS provides a unique, inclusive and multi-stakeholder platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues and identify possible solutions and synergies, developing guidelines and policy recommendations. We support the renewed commitment to the CFS vision and values.

We welcome the endorsement by the Plenary of the Plan of Action, following the CFS evaluation. We call on all CFS Members and stakeholders to fully engage with the implementation of the decisions taken and, in particular, with the improved process for drawing up the 4-year MYPOW, prioritising effectively to focus on delivering concrete results in helping countries to achieve the SDGs, building on the new strategic objectives. In this regard, we stress the need for the next plenary session to agree on the themes of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) reports for the period 2021-23.

We welcome the Plenary's endorsement of the Terms of Reference of the future Voluntary Guidelines for Policy Guidance on Food Systems and Nutrition that set out an inclusive, consultative process and a clear timeframe for the development of the guidelines. We encourage all food system stakeholders to engage in this work stream.

We welcome the wide-ranging discussion held in the context of the Global Thematic Event on the right to food guidelines and regret that no summary has been provided. Implementation of CFS policy recommendations is key, and we encourage CFS members and stakeholders to use CFS products. We also call on the RBAs for their continued support on the ground. The voluntary monitoring of the implementation of CFS products is equally important and we welcome the decision taken by Plenary to assess the relevance and potential of a set of policy recommendations focused on smallholders in relation to the achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the UN Decade of Family Farming.

We welcome the quality of the CFS's contribution to this year's edition of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and we encourage members to make better use of key CFS messages in their interventions in New York.

The budgets of the CFS and HLPE remain a matter of concern. We encourage Members to support the Committee financially and recall the need for a more balanced distribution of the financial burden among all regional groups. On 23 November 2018, the European Union signed a EUR 3 million contract to continue its support to the CFS on global food security governance for achieving the SDGs, for the period until the end of 2021. This contract includes targeted support to the work of the HLPE.

We appreciated that World Food Day was held back-to-back with the 45th CFS Plenary session. We suggest keeping this model for future Plenary sessions. We also encourage the Secretariat to continue working on further improvements, including innovative discussion formats to make the plenary sessions more vibrant and interactive.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan considers CFS 45 as a success because, first, it was well-planned by the CFS Bureau and the Advisory Group with the assistance from the capable CFS Secretariat. Second, thanks to the dedication and energy of the Chairperson of CFS, His Excellency Ambassador Mario Arvelo. Third, the hard work performed by the open-ended working groups created several important topics of high relevance to CFS.

Afghanistan wishes to highlight three points. But before that, it wants to underscore the concern raised by the Chair of CFS and the Chairperson of the G77 and China on the rise in the number of undernourished people growing to 821 million in 2017 and the alarming food situation developing in countries like Yemen. If this challenge is not addressed immediately, the world will not be able to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

Our three points on CFS are as follows:

Point one: the Committee successfully completed the Plan of Action to implement the recommendation of the CFS evaluation. Afghanistan wishes to express its appreciation to the co-facilitators of this process, Ms Tian Jiani of China and Mr Oliver Mellenthin of Germany, for leading this complicated exercise of the response to the evaluation so successfully. Thank you, Co-Chairpersons. The fulfilment of this should point the CFS on the right path as envisaged in the 2009 reform document. We call on the CFS Bureau to be vigilant in implementing the recommendations and request stakeholders to help the Bureau in this effort. In this respect, we look forward for the energizing MYPOW, which is now in the process of preparation.

Point two: Afghanistan welcomes the updates and the decision of the CFS workstreams, namely the preparation of the CFS voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition contribution to the high level political forum and promoting accountability and best practices.

Point three: Afghanistan is a strong supporter of CFS and wishes it to remain a successful multi-stakeholder partnership. However, to fulfil its mandate, CFS needs to operate within its comparative advantage, strengthen the interaction between the CFS members and the Advisory Group, reduce its workstream to fit staff capacity and the financial resources available to the CFS Secretariat, strengthen its partnership with other potential stakeholders, build up its financial base, and enhance the use of CFS products and recommendations and available reports to the Rome-based Agencies as well as the work of FAO and UNICEF at country level.

The implementation of the recommendations of the CFS evaluation has provided the space to further energize CFS and to make it a stronger and a proactive contributor to SDG targets of Zero Hunger and poverty eradication. With these comments, Afghanistan supports the report of CFS45.

Sr. Sidhartha MARÍN ARÁUZ (Nicaragua)

Mi Delegación desea transmitir sus congratulaciones al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en especial modo a su Presidente, su Excelencia Mario Arvelo, Embajador de la República Dominicana, por el éxito del 45 período de sesiones del pasado mes de octubre, dedicado a la promoción de la nutrición.

Consideramos que la participación de una representación de mujeres rurales en ocasión del Día Internacional de la Mujer Rural ha sido uno de los resultados más sobresalientes de esta última plenaria, resaltando el invaluable valor y rol y la gran contribución de las mujeres en la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, así como en el desarrollo de nuestras sociedades, particularmente en las zonas rurales.

Acogemos positivamente la disposición de las Directrices Voluntarias sobre los sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición, en apoyo del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición.

Igualmente valoramos el acto temático mundial relativo a las directrices sobre el derecho a la alimentación, como un espacio participativo e inclusivo que facilitó un rico intercambio sobre el uso eficaz de las líneas de acción trazadas por el CSA, de cara a contribuir de manera activa en el ámbito nacional. Reconocemos la importancia global del Comité como plataforma abierta e inclusiva, especialmente en el contexto del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible número 2, a la vez que compartimos su profunda preocupación por el alarmante incremento del número de personas afectadas por la inseguridad alimentaria al nivel mundial.

En tal sentido, apoyamos sus esfuerzos en mantener y reforzar la participación y el diálogo entre múltiples sectores, a fin de garantizar medidas conjuntas encaminadas a la erradicación del hambre.

Consideramos de gran utilidad para todos los países las orientaciones del CSA de fomentar la inclusión de sus recomendaciones sobre políticas encaminadas a la creación de acciones concretas en favor de la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y el desarrollo sostenible.

Como todos sabemos, el CSA representa una plataforma de gran valor y relevancia en el contexto actual, y en proyección de futuro, particularmente. Sin embargo, entendemos que, para cumplir plenamente su mandato, aún existen obstáculos que necesariamente no podemos eludir.

Por ello, en su calidad de Presidente de CSA, nos gustaría conocer más detalles e información sobre los límites que enfrenta el CSA y, por lo tanto, requieren de un mayor compromiso y atención por parte de los Estados Miembros.

Mr Yubo XU (China)

China has the honour to deliver this Joint Statement on behalf of the Asia Group. We would like to thank the Secretary and the Ambassador Mario Arvelo, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security for his presentation on the Report of CFS 45.

As an intergovernmental Committee in FAO, CFS serves as a central component of the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. It is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

The Asia Group expresses its deep concern on the situation of rising hunger and malnutrition and the fact of unbalance in different countries that some are facing famine while others are suffering from obesity. We noted that among other causes, the increase in conflict and violence in several parts of the world, and climate variability and exposure to more complex, frequent and intense climate extremes, eroded our gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition. The uncertainty of development and environment is one of the obstacles for our efforts to achieve food security and improved nutrition. We have to realize it is critical for us to make joint efforts to minimize this uncertainty. A path of peaceful development through cooperation is the foundation to achieve food security and nutrition. CFS, with its inclusiveness, should focus on its coordination role to bring the attention to the worrying situation and its solution from the policy perspective.

At the 45th Session of CFS, all stakeholders approved the Implementation Report, which aims to make CFS more efficient and effective. We heard so many renewed commitments at CFS Plenary. We believe it is time that CFS focus on its mandate and make use of its comparative advantage to focus on the substantial issues. CFS should listen and find the needs and take actions. There are less than 12 years to achieve the SDGs, the worsened food security and nutrition situation need us to work efficiently and effectively.

We believe developing a strategic MYPOW will help CFS contribute to this great cause. Given the two flagship reports SOFI and SOFA, we encourage CFS to consider its work priorities in a position encompassing RBA's future prioritized actions tackling food insecurity and malnutrition, especially on sustainable food systems, urbanization and rural transformation.

With this note, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report.

Continues in Chinese

I would like, on behalf of China, to ask a question and propose a comment. How can the work of CFS be closely connected to the work on the ground? Because we know that the CFS focuses on policy convergence and policy coordination work, how can we have a positive impact on the ground through this policy work? China suggests that the CFS conduct some studies on the issue of sending experts to developing countries to have them develop agriculture production. I think this is a useful way to connect policy and the work on the ground.

Sra. Marina ÁLVAREZ FERNÁNDEZ (España)

En primer lugar, quiero agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial la presentación de su informe.

Mi Delegación suscribe plenamente la intervención de la UE y agradece al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial su detallado informe.

Compartimos la preocupación por el aumento a escala mundial de la subalimentación crónica y la malnutrición, que amenaza con revertir décadas de avances.

España está firmemente comprometida con la implantación del derecho a la alimentación. Da muestra de ello la organización de la Primera Cumbre Parlamentaria Mundial contra el Hambre y la Malnutrición, celebrada en Madrid los pasados días 29 y 30 de octubre.

Casi 200 legisladores de 80 países participaron en este encuentro organizado por la Agencia Española de Cooperación al Desarrollo (AECID) junto con el Parlamento, la FAO y el Frente Parlamentario contra el hambre de América Latina y Caribe, con el fin de avanzar en el compromiso político para el logro del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2 (ODS 2): poner fin al hambre, lograr la seguridad alimentaria y la mejora de la nutrición, y promover la agricultura sostenible.

El principal resultado de este encuentro fue la adopción de una declaración final, la Declaración de Madrid, de la que los delegados pueden encontrar copias a la entrada de esta sala. En dicha Declaración se subrayó el compromiso del mundo parlamentario con la erradicación del hambre en el año 2030 y se identificó una serie de cuestiones prioritarias como:

La necesidad de situar la seguridad alimentaria en el nivel más alto de la agenda política;

La conveniencia de generar leyes, políticas y programas que, entre otros, promuevan la agricultura familiar y sostenible; o aborden el cambio climático, desde la mitigación hasta la resiliencia, especialmente considerado el impacto de sus consecuencias en nuestros sistemas alimentarios y en la realización del derecho a una alimentación adecuada de todos nosotros, especialmente de los más vulnerables.

Y finalmente, la importancia de abrir el diálogo e involucrar a todos los socios clave a través de procesos participativos.

Como acciones complementarias a la celebración de la Cumbre, se ha producido el lanzamiento en España de la Alianza Parlamentaria Española por el Derecho a la alimentación y del Observatorio del Derecho a la Alimentación.

Esperamos que el impulso creado por la Cumbre sea aprovechado y que se celebren nuevas cumbres de aquí a 2030. Todos los esfuerzos son pocos. Poner fin al hambre y erradicar todas las formas de malnutrición en el mundo exige el compromiso de todos los actores. En este esfuerzo los Parlamentos tienen un papel de primer orden, pues guían la labor del Gobierno y adoptan la legislación necesaria. Con ellos también lograremos revertir la tendencia actual de aumento del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by China on behalf of the Asia Group.

We endorse the Report of the 45th Session of the CFS. I would like to highlight the following points:

First, we reiterate our deep concern on the rising number of hunger and malnutrition in people, especially children. We emphasize the need to put more effort on cost-effective proactive policies such as nutritional education, resilience building, and early warning systems to prevent hunger and malnutrition of people at the onset.

Second, migration driven by market mechanism generally increases efficiency and contributes positively to economic growth. In contrast, forced migration due to conflict, climate change, and environmental degradation are worrisome. We need holistic approaches to solve the problem, and there is no one size that fits all.

Lastly, we support that the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition be open to all interested stakeholders. And that the process will be facilitated by CFS Secretariat. We expect that the consultation process at country level will also need to be inclusive to ensure the adoption of the Guidelines in 2020, and the successful implementation thereafter.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Delegación argentina agradece la presentación del informe del 45 período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria mundial.

Destacamos la aprobación del mandato para la preparación de las directrices voluntarias del CSA sobre los sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición, en apoyo del decenio de las naciones unidas de acción sobre la nutrición (2016-2025), con vistas a que las directrices voluntarias se sometan a la aprobación del CSA en su 47.º período de sesiones, en 2020. Consideramos que este será un tema central en el próximo bienio y esperamos que todos los estados miembros y los participantes del CSA participen activamente en el proceso de elaboración y negociación de las directrices.

En relación con el documento presentado como fundamento para la contribución del CSA al examen del foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible de 2019, que fuera aprobado por el comité, la delegación argentina expresa su interés en continuar brindando aportes y negociando dicho documento en las próximas reuniones del grupo de trabajo de composición abierta.

Valoramos en especial la adopción por parte del CSA de los documentos “evaluación del CSA: plan de acción y proyecto de decisión” así como “evaluación del CSA: implementación de la respuesta a la evaluación y proyecto de decisión”, que han sido el resultado de un largo proceso de negociación. Al respecto, queremos agradecer especialmente a los co-facilitadores de China e de Alemania por su liderazgo en este tema.

Adicionalmente, destacamos la importancia del acto temático mundial acerca de las directrices sobre el derecho a una alimentación adecuada, el cual representó una excelente oportunidad para el intercambio de experiencias y lecciones aprendidas. Consideramos que el plenario del CSA debería tener más espacios como este.

Para finalizar, queremos compartir una reflexión sobre los eventos paralelos del CSA, que constituyen una parte central de la semana del comité.

Hemos verificado un interés creciente en dichos eventos. De hecho, varias delegaciones de observadores se inscriben en el comité para poder asistir a sus eventos paralelos.

Teniendo en cuenta lo señalado, creemos que existe una importante oportunidad para dar mayor visibilidad a los eventos paralelos del CSA en ámbitos más allá de las Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en roma, de modo tal de propiciar la participación de todas las personas interesadas.

Con estos comentarios, aprobamos el informe del 45.º Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria mundial.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana De Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea felicitar al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y a su Presidente, el Embajador de República Dominicana, Mario Arvelo por el exitoso período de sesiones plenarias de octubre; asimismo agradecemos la presentación del Informe del CSA.

Compartimos la profunda preocupación existente por el creciente número de personas aquejadas de inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo y las tendencias negativas en relación con el hambre y la

malnutrición, como se señala en la edición de 2018 de El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo (SOFI), impulsada por el cambio climático, los conflictos y seguramente también por el irrespeto a la soberanía.

Coincidimos en que es necesario promover la rendición de cuentas y difundir las mejores prácticas respecto del uso y la aplicación de las recomendaciones del CSA sobre políticas acerca de: la inversión en la agricultura a pequeña escala, la vinculación de los pequeños productores con los mercados y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible, incluida la ganadería, durante el 46.º período de sesiones del CSA, en octubre de 2019;

Acogemos con agrado las dos sesiones sobre buenas prácticas e intercambio de enseñanzas, en relación con los sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición y la Agenda 2030 en cuanto oportunidades para intercambiar experiencias acerca de políticas y programas multisectoriales, que integraban las preocupaciones relativas a la nutrición en intervenciones pertinentes, así como instrumentos concretos para lograr coherencia entre las políticas sectoriales e intersectoriales con miras al logro del Hambre Cero y el desarrollo sostenible;

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela es un país pionero en la lucha, defensa y reivindicación de los derechos de género y de la inclusión social, y en este sentido, quisiéramos felicitar los logros alcanzados por el Comité en esta materia, en particular, sobre la participación de una mujer rural en la sesión inaugural para destacar el Día Internacional de la Mujer Rural, lo que demuestra el compromiso de la FAO con los derechos de la mujer.

Además, apoyamos al CSA en sus esfuerzos por mantener y reforzar la participación y el dialogo de múltiples sectores, para garantizar medidas conjuntas en miras de la erradicación del hambre en el mundo.

De igual forma, damos la bienvenida a la aprobación de los términos de referencia para las Directrices Voluntarias sobre los sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición en apoyo al Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre Nutrición.

Aplaudimos estos logros e invitamos al Consejo a tomar nota de la enorme importancia que reviste para una organización como la FAO la labor que realiza el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y sumamos nuestra voz a la necesidad de que los Estados Miembros continuemos apoyando y fortaleciendo el trabajo del CSA, de tanta relevancia actual y su proyección de futuro.

Por último, quisiéramos expresar que actualmente la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha sido víctima medidas coercitivas unilaterales y de un bloqueo económico y financiero que han impedido consecutivamente la adquisición de los insumos para el desarrollo agrícola e importación de alimentos, afectando fuertemente el ejercicio del Derecho a la Alimentación del pueblo venezolano, cuyo impacto se evidencia principalmente en las comunidades más vulnerables de la población y en los sectores rurales y el pequeño campesino, que se agrava con la incidencia de los efectos adversos del cambio climático.

Ante estas adversidades el Gobierno Constitucional del Presidente Nicolás Maduro, viene implementando medidas para superar el bloqueo y, parte de ello, es el fortalecimiento de las misiones y programas sociales.

Con esos comentarios aprobamos el Informe.

Mme Delphine BORIONE (France)

Je tiens tout d'abord à soutenir la déclaration faite au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

La France souhaite souligner les résultats importants de cette session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), en particulier l'adoption de termes de références pour l'élaboration de lignes directrices politiques sur la nutrition et les systèmes alimentaires. C'est un thème important, qui fait l'objet de fortes attentes, au moment où la faim et la malnutrition progressent en même temps que l'obésité et les maladies non transmissibles. Mener ces travaux au sein de l'enceinte inclusive qu'est le CSA permettra de

bénéficier de l'expertise de l'ensemble des parties prenantes et d'une appropriation des lignes directrices par tous, sur ce thème essentiel.

Je souhaite également souligner l'importance d'assurer un suivi régulier de l'impact des décisions prises par le CSA, action qui fait d'ailleurs partie de la mise en œuvre de son évaluation. À cet égard, je salue la qualité et la richesse des discussions qui ont eu lieu lors de la manifestation thématique mondiale sur les Directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à l'alimentation, qui s'est tenue en octobre dernier. L'ensemble des parties prenantes devrait bénéficier de ces enseignements, et il conviendrait que ces échanges soient traduits dans le rapport, conformément à la décision prise en assemblée plénière au CSA43. La France souhaite donc vivement que les prochains rapports des plénières du CSA contiennent systématiquement un résumé des événements de suivi des produits du CSA en préparation.

Je souhaite par ailleurs réaffirmer l'attachement de la France au CSA et au Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE), et rappeler, comme l'a fait l'Autriche au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, la nécessité de définir, lors de la prochaine séance plénière, les thèmes des prochains rapports annuels du HLPE.

La France, pour finir, a une question concernant la nomination du Secrétaire du CSA. Cela fait maintenant presque un an que M. Mark McGuire assure l'intérim à ce poste et nous le remercions à ce titre pour le travail effectué, mais pouvez-vous nous apporter des informations concrètes sur l'aboutissement du processus?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the convening power of CFS plenary sessions and the wide range of voices heard in Rome during plenary week and its associated side events. The convening power of CFS is CFS' comparative advantage. At the same time, we note ongoing concerns with the lack of Member State involvement and engagement with CFS with the plenary not reaching quorum in one evening session during a critical meeting during plenary week as well as low attendance at intersessional events.

Colleagues, we agree that food insecurity is a major issue and that Member States and organizations must step forward. However, we observe that Member States are increasingly not attending proliferating CFS intersessional meetings and other events. Frankly, the large number of CFS intersessional gatherings imposes opportunity costs on time, competing with the time and resources that we use to support the organizations that are actually making a difference on food security. Given these time costs, CFS is actually decreasing world food security, which is clearly not the goal of anyone here today. The United States cannot agree to a recommitment to CFS as it currently works.

Accordingly, we would like to reiterate the importance of prioritizing workstreams against the available budget and human resources. Specifically with regard to the upcoming four-year multi-year programme of work, we encourage the CFS Secretariat and its stakeholders to take a strategic approach toward planning, ensuring that CFS remains focused on activities within its means. The United States believes that we must decrease the intersessional meetings, which far exceed the sessions of every other FAO committee combined. This is not one of those situations where more is better. Decreasing intersessional meetings will focus CFS on key issues and activities and allow for broader and more engaged stakeholder participation.

We believe the CFS Secretariat and leadership should listen to these requests from Member States concerning the need for better planning and a more effective workload. Those points have been very clear today for many delegations.

Ms Jacinta NGWIRI (Kenya)

Kenya wishes to align itself with the statement that was made by South Africa on behalf of the Africa Regional Group but we also have a few comments that we would like to make.

Like other countries, Africa is deeply concerned about the increase in the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world, as highlighted in the 2018 SOFI Report, as well as the negative trends in hunger and malnutrition that we are seeing. It is up to all of us, both in developed and developing countries, to do what is required, and even more, to reverse this negative trend that has begun to appear.

We also take note of the 2018 SOFA Report, which focuses on the issue of rural migration. The phenomenon of migration is not unique to Africa, but is something that is experienced in both developed and developing countries. We, however, note that a significant proportion of the migrants are from our continent and we in Africa are creating all the necessary social, political and economic conditions in our respective countries that will encourage Africans, especially the youth, to remain in Africa and contribute to the development of the continent, bearing in mind the enormous potential that the continent still has.

Kenya also welcomes the conclusion of the CFS Evaluation process and hopes that the achievement of this milestone, following months of deliberations, will have a significant impact on the way the CFS operates, thereby increasing its impact where it is most needed.

We also encourage CFS to set itself realistic goals, which can be realized within budgetary constraints. Perhaps, when we start planning the next MYPOW, the CFS membership should agree to take on board fewer projects and aim to do them better and more effectively.

With these few notes, we endorse the CFS Report.

Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Observer for Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomes the outcomes of the past CFS plenary session and would like to thank the CFS Chair, Ambassador Mario Arvelo, for the presentation of the report.

We would just like to underline one point that is important to us. To have regular feedback on the use and application of all CFS policy recommendations is an issue that is of the highest importance for Switzerland. We therefore strongly welcome the organization of the global thematic event during CFS 45 for the second time.

Switzerland would therefore like to join Austria on behalf of the European Union and its Member States in expressing our regret that no summary of the global thematic event on the right to food has been provided. Making available to CFS stakeholders the lessons learned would improve the impact of these global thematic events and, therefore, also the use of CFS products in the future. We would therefore like to support the proposition of France that the outcomes of these sessions are systematically integrated in the future CFS reports. With these comments, we can endorse the report of the 45th Session of the CFS.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Le Sénégal prend la parole pour féliciter le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Arvelo, pour sa brillante présentation du rapport de la 45^{ème} session du CSA.

Le Sénégal exprime sa satisfaction de ce que le Président du CSA ait à nouveau mis en lumière les causes de l'augmentation de la faim dans le monde; son intervention permet en effet de voir plus nettement que les conflits et les changements climatiques sont les facteurs principaux de son retour en force.

Les délibérations du Conseil devraient se fonder sur les travaux scientifiques et statistiques de ses comités techniques et des instances internationales compétentes, et ainsi viser à mobiliser les différents acteurs autour de l'objectif stratégique 2 pour s'attaquer aux causes profondes, objectivement identifiées, de l'augmentation de la faim dans le monde, en l'occurrence les changements climatiques et les conflits.

Les pays en développement ont particulièrement besoin d'un consensus définitif sur le lien direct entre conflits et changements climatiques, d'une part, et instabilité et insécurité alimentaire d'autre part.

Le Sahel fait face aux défis de la faim, de l'insécurité et de l'instabilité des États et le Sénégal n'est pas en reste.

Au nombre des causes de ces défis figurent en première place la sécheresse, le rétrécissement des grands cours d'eau qui faisaient vivre les populations, l'avancée du désert ainsi que les conflits de diverses natures.

Aussi le Sénégal renouvelle-t-il son appel pour que le Conseil de la FAO encourage cette institution à poursuivre sa contribution qui consiste à aider les pays de la région à mieux faire face à ces défis.

Nous espérons vivement que votre résumé fera apparaître cette fois-ci nos préoccupations sur cette question.

Avec ces commentaires, le Sénégal soutient l'adoption de ce rapport.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Observer for Eritrea)

At the outset, Eritrea appreciates and thanks FAO, CFS and the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement presented by South Africa on behalf of the African Regional Group and has the pleasure to deliver a statement on the report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Eritrea expresses its deepest concern about the rising number of food insecure people and the negative trends in hunger and malnutrition, and calls on all stakeholders to take the necessary actions to reverse the trends.

It is to be remembered that the world leaders met in 1996 and 2001 to reduce the number of hungry people by half by 2015, but this happened not to be successful. A 2017 FAO report shows that more than 820 million people, (almost the same as that of 1996), people worldwide still suffer from chronic hunger and under nourishment. And the 2018 SOFI report has also expressed about the rising number of food insecure people. Therefore, considering this background, different actors including governments, UN Agencies, development partners and the private sector must play their respective roles in a coordinated fashion in order to create a Zero Hunger World where no one is left behind come 2030.

Eritrea welcomes the Global Thematic Event as an opportunity to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

To that extent Eritrea has been giving to agriculture and food and nutrition security the highest priority and earmarking proportional resources to increase production and productivity. Eritrea is well on track to meet the SDG 2 with a clear focus on intensification, integration and value addition to achieve food and nutrition security. We have a very clear strategy for the bulk of our farming public, which is the small holder farmers.

Hence, to progress a step forward in support of FAO, UN Organizations and the Global Trust Fund is required. We therefore appreciate you very much for your future support.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

Je voudrais m'excuser d'être intervenu après les observateurs.

Ceci étant, c'était pour d'abord remercier et féliciter le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, soutenir la déclaration faite par l'Afrique du Sud et le Kenya, au nom du groupe Afrique, et souscrire entièrement à la déclaration faite par le Sénégal, qui n'est pas membre du Conseil.

Nous pensons que ce que le Sénégal vient d'ajouter en tant qu'observateur est très pertinent. Aussi, en tant que délégués de la Côte d'Ivoire, nous reprenons à notre compte la déclaration du Sénégal et nous la soutenons.

CHAIRPERSON

There are no other requests for the floor so I will pass the floor Ambassador Arvelo, and then to the Secretariat for responses.

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

We heard a number of comments and questions and I will address them very briefly.

South Africa, speaking for Africa spoke about how there should be more involvement from regions and countries or how CFS should build bridges between regional and country levels. I believe that this is part of what we call phase II of the CFS reform in 2009, we have been slow on our feet on tackling what needs to be done with regards to phase II. I invite everyone to check it out. I take advantage of the opportunity to congratulate Ms Moulton who spoke about her leadership of the workstream on monitoring. I will come back to phase II. Probably the thematic events that we had on food systems and nutrition, on the Agenda 2030 and especially on the implementation of the right to food could lead the way.

Russia spoke about the activity of 19 November 2018 which, in truth, Sir, deserved more attendance. I would also like to call the attention of the Council on the leadership of Ambassador Hoogeveen from the Netherlands on this workstream. I will be asking and I have asked, actually, the Secretary to review the process for the distribution of this kind of information, such as the invitations that are sent out, so that they can be sent, not just to Bureau members, but to everyone involved so that we can have a more holistic, integrated approach to the distribution list for future events.

Regarding the Chair's Summary for the MYPOW, I recall that we had a very lengthy discussion on that during Plenary. I will follow up with the Secretary, but as far as I recall, there was no agreement about having a Chair's Summary and this was very awkward. I had notes in my preliminary remarks on this and I heeded advice not to include it, but now I am forced to do it. We had that discussion. We needed to be reminded by Mr Mellenthin from Germany who was the co-facilitator for the working group on the response to the evaluation that we had already approved the day or two before that we should, in fact, have a Chair's Summary. We went back and forth on this. As there was no agreement from plenary what we did was to present a letter, which was circulated on 5 November 2018, as you stated, on the issue and providing a verbatim of the whole discussion. Everything was covered then. Again, I will check with the Secretary to make sure that what was done was according to what we had promised and that everyone had the appropriate information on the process. In any event, we are preparing for the MYPOW process to be kick-started or to gather steam, so to speak. In the last week of January, we have a meeting already scheduled to do that.

Regarding what Austria said on behalf of the European Union, again, they were calling for a summary for the Global Thematic Event on the Right to Food. I consulted with the Secretary again because we had spoken about this. What happened there was that there was no great appetite for having a summary when we were having that discussion in the open meeting. We prepared a narrative of what transpired. There were not any conclusions that needed to be summarized. We will go back to that. Again, the Chair proposed to have it during plenary but there was no agreement to it like with the MYPOW issue.

On having a more vibrant plenary, my note here is how. How should we do it? We have been discussing this ever since the reform. We discussed it during the process for the evaluation and the response to it. The thing is that the logic of multilateralism has many constraints that are built-in. These are systemic, structural constraints to make it even more vibrant than what we had. We implemented the traffic light system. We still had some interventions that took truly a long time and the Chair was very reluctant to cut off the microphone to anyone, especially Member States and also the other stakeholders because CFS is

supposed to be about inclusiveness, about participation, and openness, transparency and everyone participating. I am open and everyone is open, of course, to receiving more indications and more suggestions on how to make the plenary more vibrant. But again, there are built-in obstacles to do that.

I have also taken advantage of what Afghanistan and also Argentina said, to praise Ms Tian from China and Mr Mellenthin from Germany on their good work co-facilitating the evaluation workstream. Regarding the Advisory Group that was mentioned by Afghanistan, we keep investing too much time and political capital in restricting access to this crucial entry point to CFS. This is something that is very frustrating for me personally. It is, I believe, a responsibility for the Chair to keep everyone abreast on the efforts being made to opening up the Advisory Group because we need advice from more stakeholders. Instead of tearing down these walls, what we keep discussing is what size the padlock to the door should be. We need more substantial contributions from other stakeholders to CFS, to its principles and objectives. I welcome Afghanistan's comments on this.

Continúa en español

Nicaragua habló de la presencia entre nosotros de una persona que habló a nombre de las mujeres rurales. Esa fue la Señora Sala Faresin, quien es una líder campesina del Estado de Gujarat en India y quien vino hasta Roma, por cortesía del FIDA, para participar en esta jornada.

Nicaragua pregunta cómo puede mejorar el CSA, a partir de los comentarios que hice al final de mi intervención presentando el Informe del CSA. Por cierto, yo podría pasarme aquí horas hablando, pero sé que el Presidente no me va a permitir que me exceda en el tiempo. Por lo tanto, me concentraría solo en un punto: la participación. Esto va a lo que habló el Representante de Estados Unidos; o sea, que necesitamos más participación por parte, sobre todo, de los Estados Miembros.

El multilateralismo se basa en la sabiduría del conjunto, en que todos podemos colaborar y todos podemos participar. Pero cuando convocamos la mesa, la mesa tiene doce Miembros de número y doce Miembros Alternos. Son veinticuatro posibles participantes en cada una de las reuniones. Se ha dicho que los Miembros Alternos no tendrían que participar. Si la República Dominicana fuera Miembro Alterno de la mesa, estaría presente siempre. República Dominicana no pertenece a este Consejo; República Dominicana es observador del Consejo, y siempre estamos aquí en todas las reuniones - matutinas, vespertinas y nocturnas - porque es importante participar. Es importante estar aquí.

Entonces la mesa del CSA se convoca y tenemos que esperar media hora, 45 minutos, para tener un quorum de siete miembros de los veinticuatro posibles que podrían estar. Y luego desarrollamos estas reuniones, que se extienden a veces por tres y cuatro horas - ¿no es así, Señor Secretario? - y tenemos allí apenas el número de personas que necesitamos para mantener el quorum. Y cuando veo que algunos están empezando a recoger papeles y a poner los bultos, tengo yo que enviarlos un mensajito y decirles "No te muevas de ahí, porque si te vas, no quedamos en quorum y no podemos alcanzar decisiones". Y lo que dijo Estados Unidos es muy cierto. Se convocó una sesión nocturna del Comité en un momento clave de nuestro trabajo, y no pudimos tener un quorum. Y no faltó uno o dos miembros; estábamos a 30 miembros del quorum.

Entonces por eso es que tenemos que hacer un nuevo compromiso con el Comité. No es al revés. No es que porque hay poca participación no podemos rehacer el compromiso; es que tenemos que rehacer el compromiso para que ello abra las puertas a una mayor participación, y por allí comenzar a tender puentes con todos los problemas que tenemos, porque cuando presentamos aquí un Informe final, el Informe final es antiséptico. Es una narrativa de lo que ha pasado. Pero todo lo que hubo detrás, un año completo de reuniones a todos los niveles, no está realmente mostrado allí, y lamentablemente no tengo el tiempo ahora para ir punto por punto, pero concluiría con Nicaragua, diciéndole que tenemos que participar, que tenemos que atender las reuniones, que tenemos que hacer nuestros aportes en todas y cada una.

Continues in English

China spoke for Asia and spoke about connecting CFS work to the ground.

Continúa en español

Sobre esto le puedo decir a Usted, de nuevo, lo que dije sobre la intervención de África: debemos acelerar el paso a la fase dos de la reforma del CSA. Nos hemos quedado en la fase uno, tenemos que ir hacia la fase dos, y le digo rápidamente que el caso de República Dominicana, mi país, podría de alguna manera ilustrar el camino, y así lo presentamos en el acto temático que se presentó aquí en esta sala.

Y es formar una plataforma nacional que sea un espejo de lo que hace el CSA, donde participen los estamentos gubernamentales, la Sociedad Civil, el Sector Privado y todos aquellos otros actores que pueden y deben participar en este proceso, y establecer entonces puentes con el CSA. Eso lo hemos hecho en la República Dominicana, eso lo han hecho otros países y lo ideal sería que todos los Estados Miembros puedan hacerlo.

España mencionó la Cumbre de los Parlamentarios. En efecto, son estos parlamentarios, actores que deben ser integrados al grupo asesor, que deben ser integrados al CSA, porque lo que hacemos en el CSA - en último grado - es presentar propuestas de políticas, y las políticas ¿por quién van a ser implementadas? Por los parlamentarios de nuestros países, que son los que tienen las llaves de los códigos legales. Entonces, voy a coordinar acciones con Usted, con su delegación y con la ayuda, por supuesto del Secretariado, para dar seguimiento a los esfuerzos desplegados en la Cumbre de Madrid.

Continues in English

Thailand signalled that one size does not fit all, and this is very true, especially again in the context of phase II of CFS reform. I just returned from Bangkok attending an IFPRI-FAO joint event on accelerating the end of hunger,

Continúa en español

Argentina planteó que se debe dar más visibilidad a las actividades paralelas. Muy cierto. La mesa discutió este tema el 23 de noviembre. El Presidente, quien habla, está muy interesado en que puede haber un *webcasting* de todas las actividades paralelas. Aparentemente hay algún tipo de problema técnico para hacerlo, pero vamos a continuar explorando este tema. La mesa también instruyó al Secretariado, y la Presidencia está dando seguimiento, a que pueda transparentarse aún más el proceso de asignación de espacios para las actividades paralelas y mejorar los procesos relativos a las mismas.

Contamos con los *supports* de que puede hacernos la Delegación de Argentina, las Delegaciones de la mesa y todos los Estados Miembros y todos los actores para poder continuar mejorando las actividades paralelas durante las sesiones próximas del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

A Venezuela, gracias por su apoyo.

A Francia le diré que, en efecto, los temas del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutricional son de la mayor importancia, y agradezco en nombre de todo el CSA, de nuevo, a Francia por el apoyo político y financiero que aporta para el Grupo de alto nivel de expertos. Ciertamente que debemos tener mayor y mejor contenido en cada sesión del Comité, y a esto me refería en su momento. Es un trabajo que debemos realizar a lo largo del año para concluir en el Comité con cada vez más sustancia.

En cuanto a la posición del Secretario, es cierto que el Señor McGuire ha estado como Secretario Interino durante varios meses ya. Yo, como Presidente, me acerqué a quienes están decidiendo esto. Es decir, los puntos focales de FAO, FIDA y PMA para el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Me explicaron algo que ya yo sabía, y es que el Presidente del CSA no tiene un papel en la designación del Secretario. No tiene un papel en ningún aspecto del proceso, y esto realmente no cuenta con mi acuerdo total. Y no debería contar cualquier delegado de país que desempeña la Presidencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, debería tener algún tipo de papel, al menos consultivo, en la designación del Secretario.

El Presidente trabaja con el Secretario a título diario, varias veces cada día, los siete días de la semana. Yo he tenido la suerte de que los dos Secretarios con los cuales me ha tocado trabajar he tenido una excelente relación personal y profesional.

Ahora, por la preocupación de que esto no fuera así, de resultar designado una persona para ocupar la posición de Secretario que no tuviese una buena - ¿cómo decirlo? - una buena relación personal y profesional con el Presidente, me acerqué a los puntos focales y de manera informal se me brindó la siguiente información: que hubo cientos de aplicaciones para ocupar el cargo. Que después de un primer proceso, una primera fase de filtración, este número fue reducido a 19. Que la inmensa mayoría de estos 19 son personas que provienen – y que ya están trabajando – en las agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma. Y que una decisión final va a ser tomada a la brevedad. Esa decisión va a ser tomada por las autoridades que están envueltas en este proceso; es decir, los Departamentos de recursos humanos de las tres Agencias con sede en Roma.

Así que yo puedo decirle a Usted que en esa consulta informal pude ver los nombres de esas 19 personas y me alegré mucho encontrar y dame cuenta que conocía a la mitad. No conozco o no he trabajado con la otra mitad, pero el ciento por ciento son personas con las que podría trabajar, y eso me basta para estar tranquilo con el proceso. No sé si le basta a Usted y remito a quienes están interesados a que puedan contactar directamente a los puntos focales de FAO, FIDA y PMA para el Comité.

Continues in English

The United States spoke of a situation that I totally agree with. We are not participating enough. We give these grand, pompous, bombastic speeches on how CFS needs to be supported and how we all need to come together at CFS to help, to contribute to the ending of hunger and malnutrition, but when it comes the time to actually attend the meetings and read the papers and participate actively, not everyone is there. There is a paradox. Let me ask you, should we limit our work within CFS to available resources or should we set in the context of the MYPOW and at plenary what CFS can do – because CFS is not doing all it can. Or should we then see what CFS should do, what could this platform do to end hunger and malnutrition and then say this is the amount of money that is needed and then let us put our pocketbooks where our mouths are. I believe that we should follow this second approach, not the first. So we have a paradox here. Your points are valid and we need to talk more on these issues.

Kenya spoke right after the United States and also referred to this conundrum that we have. We keep asking CFS to do more because CFS can do a lot, does a lot and can do even more. We keep saying CFS should do this, CFS should do that, but each and every thing that we actually agree on is that CFS should do, because these are decisions emanating from the workstreams and the plenary and the previous MYPOWs, every single thing needs a process. Case in point. The Multi-stakeholder Partnership workstream, which was approved by plenary, then delegated to the Bureau and launched on the 23 November 2018, we have a minimalistic approach that Mr Mellenthin came up with and the Bureau agreed. It is an extremely minimalistic approach that only envisions one meeting, but even adding one meeting to the calendar is a difficult task, it also makes us wary about how are we going to devote time and human resources to accomplishing it. Again, we are facing a dilemma and a paradox. We want the CFS to do more, and when CFS says, yes, we will be doing more, then we complain about CFS doing more. I do not know how to square that circle.

Switzerland also requested a Chair's Summary. To tell you the truth, again, we saw no appetite for these Chair's Summaries, but we will – I have already started consulting with the Secretary and we will provide some sort of a narrative even if for information.

We also received comments from Eritrea, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire that I thank you all for. I believe that the Secretary might be in a position to augment what I said and provide other details.

Mr Mark MCGUIRE (Secretary a.i., Committee on World Food Security)

I would just like to complement a couple of things that the Chair said and combine a few of the interactions from the floor.

I think the first one is regarding the urban—rural transformation event on 19 November 2018. We made every effort to reach out to people in the Members Gateway, CFS calendar, et cetera, but we have actually met with Ambassador Hoogeveen and the task team to prepare for the second event which will be on 29 January 2019, so I encourage you all to mark your calendars now for that one. We are looking back at the first event to see what lessons we have learned in terms of creating more participation in that second event, different channels of communication, bilaterals, encouraging the regional groups to take this up. I know the calendar is busy but the 29 January 2019 is booked already for the second event on urban—rural transformation.

The second point regards making plenary vibrant. I would just like to complement what the Chair contributed. We are actually going into that process now within the Bureau and the Advisory Group. The Bureau will make the ultimate decision, but we had a lessons learned from the last session at the previous Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and this issue came up in a big way. We are all looking at any kind of innovations, suggestions to make plenary more vibrant. I would just like to point out that one of the lessons we learned is that the CFS week is actually at least three different kinds of sessions. There is the state of food insecurity and statements by Member States. That is one kind of session that needs a certain kind of format. There are the decisions and I will say the business of CFS where decisions need to be made on certain items and that is another kind of format. There is the lesson sharing which several interventions today pointed out the usefulness of those, whether it be the lesson sharing on nutrition and food systems, SDGs or the global thematic events. That is a different kind, which is probably a more flexible format, if you will. Then the whole side events, how to use the energy of the side events and bring that into the plenary in such a way but we will be working with the Bureau and the Advisory Group very soon to develop the next plenary agenda keeping these things in mind. Hopefully we can continue to improve that process.

My last point will be regarding the funds and ensuring that we have work plans within our available means. I guess from the Secretariat's point of view, we fully agree with that sentiment as we are in this transition period now. We are still implementing the 2018-19 Programme of Work. In that process, we also looked at the evaluation, which has now proposed a new way of creating the Programme of Work. We will be starting this process next year but we are still implementing the original 2018-19 work plan. It is not an excuse. It is just that we are in this transition now. We know we need to minimize the intersessional events and less meetings and we have an opportunity going into the new MYPOW structure to actually make sure we have a more rational work plan that not only meets the financial situation but also the timing situation.

I would just like to add that for 2019 we are actually in good shape financially between the regular programme contributions from the three RBAs. In addition, we have received generous contributions from the European Commission, Germany and Switzerland. We thank you for that. The funding does match the workload in 2019, so that is a good situation. We hope to carry it forward in the new MYPOW structure and we will be working on a resource mobilization strategy hand-in-hand with the new MYPOW development. As the MYPOW decides what CFS should be looking at doing in the next four years we can prepare a funding strategy which then matches the funds that will be in the pipeline or in the bank before the work actually starts.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to Mr Kostas Stamoulis who can provide some further information on the question of the appointment of the Secretary.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Just a very brief report on where we stand regarding the selection of the Secretary of the CFS. I think Mario gave some of the figures. We received about 120 applications, 74 males and 46 females, of which about 17 were internal candidates. The first screening was performed by the FAO Office of Human Resources strictly on the basis of the essential qualifications, and then we were given all the applications. All the CVs were circulated to all the organizations to make sure that we have an agreement on who is going to be interviewed. We selected 19, of which 17 were interviewed, two were withdrawn before the interview stage.

On the basis of the CVs and the interview performance, we ranked them accordingly. We narrowed the list after the interviews to eight and then to five. So what we now have is a list of five candidates and a report on all the ones that were interviewed which the RBAs are looking at as we speak. Hopefully, before the end of the week we will have a list, an agreement on the final report and that will go to the Director-General of FAO who, as I understand, intends to share with the other RBA heads and come up with an agreement on the winning candidate.

I have to say, that I was the Chair of the group of the panel, which interviewed the candidates. I want to thank my colleagues from WFP and IFAD, Ashwani Muthoo and Stephanie Hochstetter who were on the panel. It was extremely easy to have a panel with them because we agreed on most things, so it was a very good evidence of collaboration among our agencies. Of course, trying to find common times that fit 17 candidates and three interview panel members was difficult, so it took some time before that happened. And then there was a delay during the process of putting together the report, the first draft of which was put by the Office of Human Resources of FAO. I take full responsibility for the delays. That is where we are regarding the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)

I would not like to come back to everything that was said, but I would like to stress something that comes out from the discussion with regard to the absence of the quorum from time to time where we were holding the CFS plenary meeting. Mr Chairperson, when you come to CFS, you tend to think that it is huge machinery and you have a huge crowd that could be there to take decisions. But, unfortunately, the huge numbers of side events are becoming much more popular than the plenary. This is an issue. Because it is an issue, the Council should say something about it. Should we cap the number of side events that we may have in a session of the CFS? I do not know whether that is the best decision but I think it is something that we should look into because you see many people are there in the hall but they are coming for the side events, not for the plenary. It is a serious matter. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the Members, whether we should take a decision to cap the number of side events or not.

CHAIRPERSON

Before going any further, I would like the Secretary-General to make an important announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just in terms of scheduling the work of the Council. Immediately after we have concluded item 8 on the CFS we will take item 7, which is the Report of the 107th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

For that purpose, we will rely on interpretation until 13:30 hours. There was a side event planned at 13:00 hours on World Soil Day 2018 and it will be postponed until 13:30 hours.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now attempt to summarise the discussions:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and, in particular:

- a) noted the recent rise in the number of food insecure people in the world and the related trends in hunger and malnutrition, as highlighted in the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) 2018 report, and encouraged all stakeholders to take the necessary actions to reverse the trends;
- b) welcomed endorsement of the documents: “CFS Evaluation: Plan of Action” and the “CFS Evaluation – Implementation of the Response to the Evaluation”, acknowledging that the 2009 Reform Document remained the cornerstone of CFS work, recognizing the importance of this work for CFS to improve its core function as a multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition;
- c) noted the request to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to undertake a study on “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030” to be presented during the first semester of 2020;
- d) welcomed the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in support to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 2025 and looked forward to them being submitted to the 47th Session of CFS in 2020;
- e) recognized the progress made in developing CFS contribution to the 2019 HLPF review and the decision to continue sending inputs to future reviews of the HLPF beyond 2019;
- f) noted the suggestion to use the HLPE report on “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda” as the starting point of a follow-up process focusing on knowledge and lesson sharing on effective multi-stakeholder partnerships; and
- g) reiterated its request that the CFS present a feasible and realistic MYPOW, taking into account available resources, notably for translation and interpretations services, and the need to prioritize its workload in the intersessional period and stressed the importance of reasonably limiting the number of CFS work-streams to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of the process as per the Committee’s mandate and comparative advantage;
- h) encouraged the CFS to operate within its comparative advantage, strengthen the interaction between the Bureau Members and the Advisory Group, strengthen its partnership with other potential stakeholders and promote existing CFS products.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We risk really having our work cut out for us given the strong views we have heard expressed today. I want to commend the Secretariat for the first draft of this. I would note that as we take a look at this, points a) through e) very closely track the language that came out of CFS that is already agreed in C 2019/20. In the interest of avoiding a long and laborious negotiation, I would propose that we simply use that language.

In other words, simply use paragraphs a) through e) in your current draft because of how closely they resemble previously agreed language and delete the following paragraphs because of my concern that we are going to have difficulty reaching consensus on that.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think we are okay with the summary. With regard to what I have already said towards the end and I think you did not have time to capture that, may I suggest something with your approval?

This could be put in a much more diplomatic or proper language. I was concerned by the increasing number of side events and requested the Secretariat of the Bureau and the Advisory Group to ensure a better planning of the side events at any session. If we can add something like that.

CHAIRPERSON

I would also like Members to comment on the suggestion made by the United States.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I would like to follow your suggestion to comment on the suggestion by the United States. We do not object to that suggestion with a minor correction. We would still prefer point g) to remain.

And in order to capture something that is now in point h), probably we would suggest an amendment of the current point g), meaning the end of the sentence in the last second line it could read as follows: “quality and inclusiveness of the process”, comma “and encouraged the CFS to operate within its mandate and comparative advantages” and make the full stop there. In this case, we could live without point h). If the current point g) is added to the suggestion made by the United States, we could live with it.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

We see that the text as it stands looks quite balanced. Actually, we cannot see a reason why putting the text in brackets. Just a short amendment on the last line of point g): “acknowledge the need to support the Committee financially and recall the need for a more balanced distribution of financial burden among all regional groups”. Thank you. If we continue to put this text in brackets, we would propose another language because we have to substitute that in a way.

Maybe we can add under point h) a new para which could read “encouraged CFS members and stakeholders to use CFS products and call on the RBAs for their continued support in this regard on the ground”.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

Queríamos agradecer la sugerencia de la Delegación de Camerún respecto de los *side events*, pero también quisiéramos reiterar las declaraciones ya efectuadas respecto del aporte extremadamente positivo que tienen los *side events* en la difusión de todas las temáticas que aborda el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, con lo cual desafortunadamente no podemos acompañar la propuesta realizada por la Delegación de Camerún.

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

After listening to Cameroon and Argentina and maybe others, I would like to speak on this. Let me reassure Cameroon and the Council that the side events are well-planned. What goes into that process is extremely complex. It is absolutely transparent. In any event, the Bureau is as we speak tackling this subject. I would ask that the Council should probably consider not tackling the issue of the side events of the CFS as of now and wait for the conclusion of the discussions we are having within the Bureau on them which will be, of course, submitted to everyone in due course.

Mr Pierfrancesco Sacco (Italy)

Italy would like to second the intervention made by Austria. We do not see reasons to put all those important paragraphs in brackets. At this point, we would suggest to add current point i), former point h). At the end of current point i), which should be again point h), “promote existing CFS products, comma, with special regard to the country level”, full stop.

We would also like to second what has been said by Argentina on the wrong message that would be conveyed by the text in current point j). The discussion made rather clear that there is enthusiasm towards side events. The point is, as has been said by the Chair, now to channel that enthusiasm and the rich amount of content that is provided by the side events better and maybe more orderly into the plenary, not to express concern.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Let me also thank everybody for the comments on this new point j). Probably the idea of its pressing concern might not be well received, but this is not the first time that it has been said, even during the

plenary of the CFS. I recall that it should be in the report of CFS 42. I could not open it right away but it should be there.

People expressed concern about the huge number of side events. Probably we can change the idea of expressed concern. Probably “noted” that there is an increasing number of side events that are taking place during the decisions and requested probably the Secretariat, Bureau and Advisory Group to ensure better planning of the side events at CFS sessions.

The issue here is not – and I said it before – it is not the importance *per se* and value added of the side events to the discussion in the plenary. The side events are trying to take now – many more people come, especially the civil society and the private sector. There are much more attending the CFS meetings just for the side events. I was happy to hear from the United States delegation that we had one where we did not have a quorum to take important decisions, meanwhile the plenary or the hall was full. It is something that we should take note of and probably discuss it. I do not know if this can satisfy Argentina and the Chair because he needs something to take into the discussion during the Bureau meeting. If he has got nothing from our report, he has not got enough arguments for that.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to inform Members that we have got interpretation until 13:30 hours and I am told that the Chair of the CCLM will not be available in the afternoon.

May I suggest that we suspend the discussion on this until the afternoon and take up the CCLM item now. If you agree, we will come back to this in the afternoon and now go to item 7, which is the report of the CCLM.

Item 7. Report of the 107th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (22-24 October 2018)

Point 7. Rapport de la cent-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (22-24 octobre 2018)

Tema 7. Informe del 107.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (22-24 de octubre de 2018)

(CL 160/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now take up item 7 of the agenda, Report of the 107th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which took place on 22 and 23 October 2018. Please ensure you have document CL 160/2 Rev.1 before you.

I now invite Her Excellency Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, Vice-Chairperson of the CCLM, to present the report, in the absence of the Chairperson of the Committee.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Vice-Chairperson of the CCLM)

It is my pleasure to present, as Vice-Chair and in the absence of Ambassador Magwenzi, Chairperson of the CCLM, the Report of the 106th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which was held from 22 to 24 October 2017. The CCLM Agenda included three items:

The CCLM examined a document entitled “Transition process between outgoing and incoming administrations – transitional arrangements”. The Committee recalled the relevant provisions of the General Rules of the Organization, with particular reference to Rule XXXVII, paragraph 6, which states as follows:

“The Director-General shall take such measures as required to ensure that, as far as possible prior to taking office, a Director-General Elect is duly informed of policies, programmes, staffing and activities of

the Organization. The Director-General shall make arrangements to ensure that the Director-General Elect shall have the benefit of technical and administrative support during that period”.

The Committee took note that the transitional measures and facilities proposed by the Director-General, within existing resources and authority, in the discharge of the above obligations to the benefit of the Director-General Elect, including a hand-over ceremony, as described in the CCLM report.

The CCLM also acknowledged that the previous past election phase of six months had been very difficult and that due consideration was needed to be given to the newly elected Director-General all this with existing budgetary allotment.

The second item on the Agenda of the CCLM related to the procedures for the appointment of Secretaries of bodies under Article XIV of the Constitution.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Independent Chair of the Council, who was mandated in 2016 to find a long-term solution for the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV bodies. The CCLM acknowledged that consultations were still ongoing within the bodies themselves and with the ICC. Therefore it requested the ICC to continue his efforts to find a lasting and equitable solution acceptable both to the concerned Article XIV bodies and to FAO Management, and which would be compatible with the FAO Basic Texts, as well as the provisions of the constituent instruments of the concerned Article XIV bodies.

Therefore, the CCLM recommended that the interim arrangements for the appointment of Secretaries that the Council agreed on at its 155th Session be followed until a lasting solution acceptable to the concerned Article XIV Bodies and FAO Management could be found.

The third item considered by the CCLM was document CCLM 107/4 “Address to the Council by candidates for the office of Director-General”, submitted to the CCLM upon request of the CCLM Member representing the European Region.

The CCLM considered that each candidate should be granted sufficient time to address the Council. The CCLM noted in this respect that, under the current procedure, 15 minutes were available for questions by Members and only an additional maximum 15 minutes to respond to questions asked by Council Members.

The CCLM agreed that, taking into consideration the number of candidates for the office of Director-General, up to 90 minutes should be granted to each candidate to address the Council and respond to the questions Members may put forward to him/her.

The CCLM noted that the current procedures set out in Appendix A and B to document CCLM 107/4 should be adjusted by the Council, as required, following consultations through the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

At this point, I would like to give a progress report on the discussions, which have been taking place on the question of Article XIV Bodies, the appointment of the Secretary. As Members would recall, this has been going on for quite some time. Even my predecessor was engaged with this issue. My progress report is perhaps a little lengthy but it will give you an idea of what stage we are at.

I now wish to follow up on the report given by the Chairperson of the CCLM regarding the status of my consultations in respect of the procedure for the appointment of Secretaries of Bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

As Members are aware, the Council decided at its 155th Session in December 2016 that the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the FAO Secretariat would consult with concerned Article XIV Bodies in order to develop procedures for the appointment of Secretaries of these Bodies.

This matter holds significance to both FAO, its Members and the Article XIV Bodies concerned, and has brought about considerable discussion in the last few years. Understandably, it necessitates time and consideration by the parties concerned.

Significant progress has been achieved in the last two years and the process is still ongoing. My goal this morning is to provide the Members of Council with a status report on these consultations. For the sake of completeness, I shall recall the various exchanges that took place since December 2016 between the ICC and the two Article XIV Bodies mainly concerned with this issue, the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The procedures for the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV bodies were discussed by the CCLM in October 2016, and at the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee in November 2016. In December of that year, the Council reviewed the reports of these committees and noted that under the decisions of the Conference and provisions of the treaties establishing Article XIV Bodies, the secretaries were appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the bodies concerned. At the same time, the Council acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV bodies with the responsibilities borne by the Organization for such bodies.

The Council mandated the ICC to hold consultations with the FAO Secretariat and the concerned Article XIV Bodies, with a view to developing procedures for the appointment of Secretaries, acceptable to the said Bodies, to be submitted to the FAO Council by the end of 2018.

The Council also decided, as a provisional measure and on an exceptional basis, that the posts of Secretaries of the IOTC and the Treaty would be filled by following the standard procedures for the appointment of FAO Staff, with the participation of two representatives of these Bodies in the interview panels. The Director-General would subsequently refer one candidate to the Bodies for their approval.

Since December 2016, my predecessor and I have engaged with the relevant Article XIV Bodies in accordance with the Council's decisions, as I will now describe. Our constant objective was to follow the guidance of the Council, taking into account the need to balance the autonomous nature of Article XIV Bodies and the fiduciary duty of the Director-General of FAO.

On IOTC.

In February 2018, I wrote to the Chairperson of the IOTC regarding the 21st Session of the Commission held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2017, which was attended by my predecessor, at which Session it was proposed that the long-term procedure for the appointment of the Secretary be based on the ad hoc procedure in place. During the same Session, the Commission established a "small drafting group" mandated to develop a proposal amending the IOTC procedure on the selection and appointment of the IOTC Secretary.

On 7 March 2018, I received a letter from the Vice-Chairperson of the IOTC forwarding the proposal of this "small drafting group" regarding the selection and appointment of the Secretary. The FAO Secretariat observations on this proposal were circulated to the IOTC Members on 6 April 2018.

I wrote again on 26 April 2018 to the Acting Chairperson of the IOTC, recalling that the matter would be discussed during the 22nd Session of the Commission in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2018, and proposing that the Acting Chairperson and I meet afterwards to take stock of the situation and agree on the best way forward.

In July 2018, I had discussions with representatives of the IOTC, together with the FAO Secretariat. In a letter sent to the Chairperson of the "small drafting group" after her meeting, I noted our common understanding that the ultimate responsibility for nominations of Article XIV Secretaries lies with the FAO Director-General, given that he is accountable under the FAO Basic Texts for the accuracy and validity of FAO's financial operations and related financial statements and for all administrative activities

of the bodies. I also referred to our agreement that the current interim procedure be considered as a starting point for future discussion.

Coming to the Treaty, I wrote to the Chairperson on 19 February 2018, referring to the proposal made by my predecessor that the long-term procedure for the appointment of the Secretary be based on the ad hoc procedure discussed during a meeting of the Bureau of the Treaty held in Oslo, Norway, in March 2017. This question was subsequently discussed during the 7th Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty in Kigali, Rwanda, in October 2017.

On 5 April 2018, I participated in a meeting of the Bureau of the Treaty, which allowed me to understand better the position of the Contracting Parties and the Bureau. Subsequently, I met with the Chairperson of the Treaty in July 2018. During this meeting, the representative of the Treaty emphasized the expectation of an enhanced role of the Contracting Parties in the screening and recruitment process.

We discussed, as an option for consideration, the process followed by other UN agencies having similar relationships with treaty bodies. One particular model implemented at UNEP has retained our attention, and I have since been liaising with officers in the FAO Secretariat to see if this example could be followed at FAO.

Late last week I received from the FAO Secretariat a written proposal adapted from the UNEP model, which I will soon relay to the Chairperson of the Treaty. Should this proposal be acceptable to the Treaty, I would then submit the same proposal to the IOTC for their consideration.

In conclusion, I can say that significant progress was achieved on this question since the 155th Session of Council in December 2016. This has been possible thanks to the frank and open discussions we had with the representatives of the IOTC and the Treaty, and I want to thank them for their cooperation. Yet, our joint endeavour is not completed and I would therefore request the Council to allow me to carry on with the mandate given to the ICC in December 2016. Until a final proposal acceptable to the Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Secretariat is agreed upon, I believe that the best arrangement is to keep in place the interim procedure for the Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, agreed by the Council at its 155th Session, as proposed by the CCLM in the report of its 107th Session held in October 2018.

That is the report on the progress achieved so far on Article XIV Bodies.

I may also comment on one other issue, and that is with regards to the procedures for the address by candidates for the post of Director-General attached to Council document CL 160/6, arrangements for the 161st session of the Council and 41st session of the Conference. The CCLM noted that these would be adjusted by the Council as required following consultations through the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

As mentioned by Ambassador Rotondaro, the CCLM agreed that ideally 90 minutes should be granted to each candidate in their address to the Council. At the same time the CCLM noted that the final arrangements would depend upon the number of candidates for the office of Director-General.

Following the 107th Session of the CCLM held in October 2018, this question was discussed during an Informal Meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups that I convened on 2 November 2018. At that meeting, a general consensus emerged whereby it would be advisable that the procedures be finalized after the close of the nomination period of 1 December 2018 to 28 February 2019. This matter would be subsequently discussed during a special meeting that I would convene with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the seven Regional Groups established for Council election purposes. I shall now appreciate receiving the Council's views on this proposed way forward.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Given the complexity and nuance involved in the report, we would ask for a written report as it is difficult to follow orally.

The United States serves on the CCLM and offers the following additional observations:

We would like to stress that the CCLM requested that the ICC continue his efforts to find a lasting and equitable solution but we wish to stress that that solution has to be acceptable both to the FAO management and the concerned Article XIV Bodies and we believe that last point deserves emphasis. We urge the ICC and FAO to take a proactive role in reaching out to the Article XIV bodies and we are interested to hear, for the first time today, some of these possible alternative solutions on which we are interested on getting more details.

We ask the ICC to again report to this body on the matter of finding an equitable and lasting solution and would like to have that report and solution accomplished no later than December 2019.

We note that the draft language for Council only takes note of the interim solution. We reiterate that this is an interim procedure only, and that we must see continued work towards a solution that takes into account of the concerns of the treaty bodies as well.

With these comments, the United States endorses the Report of the 107th Session of the CCLM.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States. We will distribute the report as you requested.

Mr Won-Chul JOO (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to give the floor to Malaysia for it to deliver a joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO (Observer for Malaysia)

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

The Asia Regional Group commends the excellent presentation by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, on the report of the 107th Session of CCLM.

We also take this opportunity to again convey our highest appreciation to all the members of the CCLM on the important works concluded, with the good offices of the Secretariat supporting the preparation of important working documents.

During the 107th Session of CCLM that was held on 22-23 October 2018, various legal and constitutional matters were presented to the members of the CCLM for further guidance.

Having carefully scrutinized the Report of the 107th Session of the CCLM, we wish to provide our views as follows:

On the transition process between outgoing and incoming administrations – transitional arrangements, the Asia Regional Group acknowledged the concern raised by the Secretariat on its observations on the need for a smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming administrations, taking into consideration the 2011 transition period that the Director-General elect did not have access to, and could not benefit from information on the policies, programmes, staffing and activities of the Organization. He also wasn't provided with technical and administrative support during that period and efforts had to be made to secure external funding to provide for some limited support.

The Asia Regional Group shares the same view with the CCLM and underlined the need for a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming administrations while recalled the relevant provisions of the General Rule of the Organizations, with particular reference to Rule XXXVII, paragraph 6.

On the procedure for the appointment of Secretaries of Bodies under Article XIV of the Constitution, the Asia Regional Group is of the same opinion as the members of CCLM. While acknowledging the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV Bodies with the responsibilities borne by the

Organization for such Bodies, it stressed the urgency of filling vacant positions of Secretaries of two Article XIV Bodies, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The Asia Regional Group also values the continued efforts of the Independent Chair of the Council to find a long-term solution for the appointment of Secretaries of bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and requested the ICC to continue his efforts to find a lasting and equitable solution that is acceptable both to the concerned Article 14 bodies and to FAO Management, and which would be compatible with the Basic Texts of FAO, as well as the provisions of the constituent instruments of the concerned Article XIV bodies.

On the address to the Council by Candidates for the office of Director-General, the Asia Regional Group acknowledged the information provided by the Secretariat to the members of the CCLM of the letter from the European region addressed to the Director-General on 8 October 2018, requesting Address to the Council by Candidates for the office of Director-General be placed on the Provisional Agenda of the 107th Session of the Committee.

The Asia Regional Group is also of the same view that taking into consideration the number of candidates for the office of the Director-General, up to 90 minutes will be granted to each candidate to address the Council and respond to the questions Members may put to him/her.

With this note, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report of the 107th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We would like to thank the CCLM members for their work on the matters discussed at the 107th session of the Committee and would also like to thank the Secretariat for the information documents prepared to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

As regards the procedure for the appointment of secretaries of Article XIV bodies, we appreciate the efforts undertaken by the ICC to explore possible adjustments to balance the functional autonomy of the Article XIV bodies with the legal and administrative responsibilities of the Organization. We note that this process is ongoing and encourage all those involved to find an equitable long-term solution.

As regards the arrangements for candidates for the office of Director-General to address the Council, we underline the importance of each candidate having sufficient time to make a statement and to respond to questions. We therefore fully concur with the CCLM's conclusion that the current arrangements should be reviewed to ensure that each candidate can be granted up to 90 minutes to address the Council and respond to the questions members may put to the candidate. Likewise, we support that the procedures set out in document CCLM 107/4 will be adjusted by the Council, as required, following consultations through the ICC. These adjustments would be in line with best practice that has emerged over the past years in other UN Agencies. We look forward to the outcome of the ICC's consultations to that effect.

With these comments, we endorse the CCLM report.

Mr Jyri OLLILA (Finland)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The European Union countries Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with this statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We welcome the recommendation to extend the hearing of the Director-General candidates in the Council next April up to 90 minutes. In addition, to allow for a more thorough exchange between candidates and Membership, we see this as an important signal of the willingness of the Organization to adapt to present day practices and increase transparency. At the next Council, we will engage with the candidates. Over

the coming few months, we look forward to participating in discussions and decisions on the best modalities for these hearings in close collaboration with the ICC.

Thank you for your progress report on the Article XIV Bodies issue. It is rather a long time ago that the Council requested the ICC to lead negotiations regarding the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies in order to find a solution that was compatible both with the constituent instruments of the concerned bodies and with the Basic Texts of FAO. We are grateful for the efforts made by the ICC, even if we had hoped for a solution to be endorsed at this point. As no negotiated solution agreed by all the involved parties can be presented, we welcome the request of the CCLM for the ICC to continue the consultations and negotiations until such a solution is found.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour ce qui concerne toutes les questions qu'il étudiées lors de sa dernière session.

Nous voudrions revenir sur la question relative à la nomination des secrétaires des organes relevant de l'article XIV. Le Cameroun était à la réunion de Kigali, au Rwanda, où j'étais présent en tant que Vice-président représentant le Groupe Afrique au traité, et je voudrais rendre compte ici de la difficulté de cette discussion sur l'élection du Secrétaire.

À cette réunion, nous avons encore été obligés de prendre une mesure transitoire pour le Secrétaire actuel. Je ne suis pas sûr que cette mesure transitoire soit satisfaisante et le problème demeure difficile à résoudre. Comme vous êtes, Monsieur le Président, engagé dans le processus de négociation, nous en attendons l'aboutissement, et de savoir ce que les organes directeurs penseront de la proposition, qui est sur la table et qui a été copiée sur le modèle du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.

Nous attendons donc avec intérêt de connaître le résultat parce qu'il est temps de résoudre cette question.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. It is a complex issue but with this proposal of UNEP on the table, there is some hope.

I now give the floor back to Ambassador Rotondaro and, if required, the Secretariat to reply to the points raised.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I understand that concerning the first point on the agenda on the transition arrangements, that there is consensus. There should be a transition arrangement between the outgoing and the incoming Director-General Elect, everything within the budgetary allotment that the Organization has.

Concerning the procedures on the appointment of the Secretary and the Article XIV Bodies, I understand that this is a very complicated issue. But with the progress report, the ICC is doing well and the proposal on the table will hopefully reach a consensus within the bodies themselves and Management. I understand the proposal by the United States to try to find an agreement by December 2019. It is in the hands of the Independent Chair and the bodies themselves to find this solution.

The other point is that we need to find a balance and autonomy within the bodies themselves, but at the same time we have to find a long-lasting solution.

Concerning the last point, which is the presentation of the candidates to the position of the Director-General, we have to look into the number of candidates when they will be officially presented. The ICC, as he just told us, will, in consultation with the seven groups, find procedures according to the number of candidates in order to find a speaking time up to 90 minutes.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now read out the summary conclusions:

1. The Council approved the Report of the 107th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) held from 22 to 23 October 2018 and in particular:
 - a) took note of the transitional measures and facilities proposed by the Director General, within existing resources and authority, in the discharge of the obligation set out in Rule XXXVII, paragraph 6 of the General Rules to the benefit of the Director General Elect, including a hand over ceremony, as reflected in the Report of the CCLM;
 - b) requested the ICC to continue his consultations with the concerned Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Secretariat towards agreement on a proposal on procedures for the appointment of Secretaries to these Bodies by December 2019;
 - c) agreed that the interim arrangements for the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, agreed on at its 155th Session and set out in document CCLM 107/3, be followed, until a lasting solution acceptable to the concerned Article XIV bodies and the FAO Secretariat is found;
 - d) agreed with the CCLM views that, taking into consideration the number of candidates for the office of the Director-General, up to 90 minutes should be granted to each candidate to address the Council and respond to the questions Members may put to him/her;
 - e) noted that the procedures followed at its 141st Session in April 2011, and at its 151st Session in April 2015, set out in document CCLM 107/4, might need to be adjusted depending on the number of candidates;
 - f) mandated the ICC to convene a special informal meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the seven Regional Groups established for Council election purposes following the closure of the nomination period for the Office of Director-General, with a view to agreeing on procedures for the address by candidates to the Council; and
 - g) requested the ICC to circulate the agreed upon procedures to all Members as soon as possible thereafter.

The floor is open for any reaction.

I see there is no reaction so I can assume that this item is concluded.

We can adjourn now. By concluding this item, we will resume our plenary meeting at 15:00 hours and will continue with the adoption of my conclusions for item 8, the Report of the CFS. Before I close I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind Members of the side event on “World Soil Day 2018”, which will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre during the lunch break from 13:30 to 15:00 hours.

The meeting rose at 13:33 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.33

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018
SIXTH PLENARY SESSION SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 December 2018

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.13 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 13
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.13
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- Item 8. Report of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (15-19 October 2018) (continued)**
- Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-cinquième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (15-19 octobre 2018) (suite)**
- Tema 8. Informe del 45.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (15-19 de octubre de 2018) (continuación)**
(C 2019/20)

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Sixth Meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before we start, I would like to inform Members that a request has been received from the FAO Staff Bodies to address the Council. If there is no objection from the Council, I suggest that the statement be delivered under item 20, *Any Other Matters*, as sub-item 20.2.

Thank you.

We now take up again item 8 of the agenda, *Report of the 45th Session of the CFS*. The floor is open to delegates for the finalization of conclusions of this item.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Regarding two points, g) and h). I have a problem with this new amendment. – I want to put it between brackets. “Acknowledges the need to support the Committee financially” because to my understanding, the CFS outcomes, it is a voluntary policy guideline. So I really cannot feel strong with this new language. If you need a proposal, I can provide you with a proposal.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

To begin with, again, we restate that our original compromise approach of the language that most closely tracks to the agreed language is still on the table. In the interest of compromise, the Russian proposal that has just been seconded by the Egyptians makes sense to us, exactly as articulated by the Egyptians. So it would be the point g) as edited by the Russian Delegation, but without that last language there. As an initial bid, we would then delete the rest of the language.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

I support also the proposal by United States.

CHAIRPERSON

Other Members to comment on the suggestion by the United States of deleting the last three paragraphs?

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Referring to the text in brackets and also listening to my distinguished colleague from Egypt, I think we could find a compromise here maybe not mentioning the financial burden among all regional groups but maybe a reference to burden sharing, so, “recalled need for burden sharing”.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

We could go along either deleting the whole last part or supporting the proposal presented by Austria because when we mention distribution of financial burden among all Regional Groups, it is not a balance because we understand there are different economic and financial situations among the Regional Groups who are going to compare. So it is a balanced distribution that would not be balanced.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

I would like also to delete it but if my distinguished colleague from Austria wants to draft, so I also can provide you with a proposed language instead of this one. So I can use the same agreed language at the last FAO Council. It will be the following: “Encouraged all stakeholders to contribute to closing the existing financial gap in CFS”.

CHAIRPERSON

United States, may I request, in view of all of these amendments and changes, which were the paragraphs you preferred to be deleted?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Again to review from the first intervention, we found that points a) through e) very closely map the agreed language that was in the original document under consideration. As the conversation progressed, we agree with Egypt and with Russia that point g) would also be helpful. Every other paragraph, so everything that is f) and everything below g) we would ask to be deleted.

Also we can go along with the modified language for point g) as mentioned in the last comment by the Egyptian colleague.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States. So Members, can we go along with that?

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Thank you for giving me the floor and I thank my distinguished colleague from Egypt. We can go along with the point g). We have just difficulties with deleting f) and h).

Actually when we referred to the multistakeholder partnership, the follow-up process was limited to only knowledge and lessons shared. So that was what we agreed instead of policy recommendations and I thought that was in the interest of all Members.

And referring to point h) – currently point i) – the interaction between Bureau Members and Advisory Group. Actually this was because it should strengthen the intergovernmental part and it was also I think in the interest of a large group, of a majority of Members. So anyway, deleting this text which was very valuable I guess also for other Members is a little bit surprising.

CHAIRPERSON

The USA, in view of Austria’s intervention, would you stick to your position or is there some flexibility?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

On further consideration, our concern about point f), was actually the sourcing because we had not heard that extensively discussed in our presentation earlier today. But that sourcing question has been answered and we find the Austrian points persuasive so we can agree to a point f).

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, US. That leaves us with new point i).

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

In point h), “encouraged CFS Members and stakeholders to use CFS products”. I want to propose here after products, “according to its voluntary basis”.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The reason we had asked for the deletion of other points and specifically new point h) is that my delegation has extensive concerns about the CFS products to begin with, – which I am not sure it is going to be productive to go into in the session but we can. It is a point we talk about quite a bit at CFS. Having that problem with the products themselves, we then also have a significant problem in encouraging RBAs or indeed anybody else to push their usage. So we have a substantive difficulty with the entire concept of point h) so we appreciate the efforts of Egypt to make it more palatable but we have fundamental concerns on the CFS reports.

Again, it is a point we have raised in CFS and we could go through it in gory detail but in the interest of time, I will just stop there.

Mr Piefrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I think that here in this room today we are hearing philosophical, fundamental doubts on the very meaningfulness and existence of CFS because if we call into question CFS products, we call into question the very reason of being of CFS. So I think that some conceptual effort is needed here, some spirit of compromise and I really call on you to steer this conversation, paying attention to the fact that CFS exists. It is in existence. Even in a positive shape, in a good physical and mental shape.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Again, the original compromised proposal is still on the floor.

Colleagues, as my Secretary of State challenged us all in a speech delivered earlier this week in Europe, let us work together. And he went on to clarify that we should do so in a way that creates international organizations that are agile, that deliver on their stated missions and that create value.

Thinking about Pierfrancesco's intervention here, let us recall the vision statement for CFS. Quote, "The vision on the Committee on World Food Security is to be the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all."

But colleagues, it is not working together. The seemingly unending sessions held with little regard to United Nations procedure and endlessly deferring and reopening decisions deter many Member States from attending. We simply have better and more important things to do with all of that time.

Those who are present for all of the intersessional meetings fall into two groups. One, those unlucky enough to hold CFS leadership positions and two, the only other people with a motivation to attend every other single meeting, those from special interest groups. We see evidence of this, of those misusing CFS and indeed the entire United Nations in attempts to insert what can be interpreted as trade language into the Chair's Summary on the session we are talking about today.

On the reports themselves, we have fundamental questions about these reports. They have no clear outside peer review process. Their funding sources raise questions of countries or regional group, thinking to place the United Nations logo on papers, which may be advocacy pieces rather than scientific documents.

I can understand why some countries would push this but I do not understand why all countries would accept it. So again, we agree with the vision statement of CFS to repeat the points made earlier today and in particular we find plenary week quite helpful, side events and non-side events. When we think about our quorum call, we note that that meeting was specifically scheduled after the side events. We find the plenary discussions helpful. We find the side events helpful. And we specifically scheduled that budgetary meeting after there was no side events.

The reason that we did not have a quorum for that budget discussion during plenary week was not a conflict with side events. It was a lack of interest and engagement by Member States and these questionable reports are one of the things that feed into that.

I would recommend that we go minimally with this language and rededicate ourselves to working to try to accomplish CFS's vision but the reports and the report language cause us real problems.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Listening to the comments of my distinguished colleagues actually I thought that CFS is now in a new role in a very positive shape and that is why we have met 14 times. That is why we have done evaluations. That is why we have defined clear roles. But in the spirit of a compromise and really to support your efforts in the conclusion, we could go along by deleting point h) and keeping point i).

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

A concern we have been raising in CFS earlier today, and this point is again that involving the Member States and so with new point h), we want to, if we are going to keep this paragraph, strengthen the intergovernmental aspect of it because this is one of the big weak points we would see of CFS at this point.

And we would suggest that in the beginning of line two before interaction, we would insert the word "intergovernmental nature".

So retain intergovernmental nature. Delete "interaction between the Bureau Members and the Advisory Group" and replace that with "the intergovernmental nature of CFS".

CHAIRPERSON

And so there is a desire to reach consensus.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)

What do we want to say in new point h)? Do we want to discuss the issue of CFS products? Firstly, I am a bit concerned about the proposal of the USA on strengthening the intergovernmental nature. You know, CFS is not only today intergovernmental. It is a broader platform. It could be intergovernmental in decision-making but through the discussions it is a global platform, inclusive of private sector, the civil society and so on.

All of these are part of the CFS. So I do not know whether we cannot nuance it a little bit, "strengthen the intergovernmental nature associating other stakeholders of CFS", probably that would really say what CFS is.

Now the discussions on the CFS products at country level do not take place very often. We do not even see that. So who is going to do that? I am still confused. I am sorry to be bringing some discussion. At this point we are writing, trying to come to a consensus on the text so I should not have been explaining. But it is proposing a text.

So if I may propose something, probably the last part in red of that could be deleted. That is what I mean.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I just would like to refer to point h), second line, where the new wording is proposed for "other stakeholders". Maybe we could change that to "all stakeholders".

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

We strongly support the suggestion made by the United States on point h) as it stood. We could agree with Cameroon on deleting the last part of the sentence, starting with "special regard to the country level". We could delete this.

And also by and by, we would like to observe that unfortunately we cannot agree with the statement that CFS is in a very good shape in all the ways and I think very illustrative proof of it was the lack of quorum during the discussion of the MYPOW of the CFS for four years. It is really very illustrative, as is the presence on the average, ten, I mean one score of the representatives of the Member States during the intersessional meetings of the CFS. It does not, in our humble point of view, speak of the very good shape of the CFS and we keep on stating this for years now.

Mme. Delphine BORIONE (France)

J'ai bien entendu tous les commentaires. Désolée d'entrer dans le domaine de la rédaction peut-être, mais sur le point h), voici une suggestion, car je crois que la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale était précisément de souligner sa nature inclusive, bien sûr, chacun dans son rôle.

Je crois en effet que la formulation qui est présentée ne reflète pas, justement, l'esprit de la réforme et qu'une présentation alternative pourrait être de reprendre, je le dis en anglais:

Continues in English

“To strengthen the interaction between the Bureau” and then we could add “as the expression of its intergovernmental nature, and the Advisory Group”. Because I think the Bureau indeed, it is the intergovernmental dimension of it. But CFS as such has all partners involved.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, France. Ambassador, could you repeat your suggestion because it was not taken down?

Ms Delphine BORIONE (France)

I will repeat from the beginning. “Encouraged CFS to operate within its comparative advantage”, and then we would delete “the intergovernmental nature associating stakeholders”, so that is deleted. Then we go to “strengthen the interaction between the Bureau, as the expression of its intergovernmental nature, and the Advisory Group”.

And at the end, we would keep “with special regard to the country level” because we think it is important to also go to that level which is also part of the evaluation and its results.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Thank you, Chair, and thank you colleagues for your patience on this. My delegation has introduced some confusion and I regret that. Again, our concerns were two-fold. One, we think there is insufficient intergovernmental interaction with CFS. It speaks to the lack of quorum and not just in the budget meeting but in all of the intersessional meetings. So our concerns about governments go beyond the Bureau and indeed go beyond the Advisory Group.

But bringing on a point that the Chair has talked about, this is something that everybody is supposed to be in support of. So our goal is to be broader than simply the Bureau. And similarly, it is inconsistent for me to take out product language in one paragraph and not in this paragraph.

So what we meant to say for point h) was the following: “Encouraged CFS to operate within its comparative advantage, strengthen the intergovernmental nature,” and then the language would be “as well as strengthening its partnership with all stakeholders”. We would end the paragraph at that.

We would do this for two reasons. One, we have already explained our concerns about the reports. But we think that this larger language captures all of the stakeholders and indeed as colleagues have noted, there is a CSM component. There is a private sector mechanism. We think the “all stakeholder” language would take care of that. So again, we appreciate colleagues' patience as we work through this.

Sr. Piefrancesco SACCO (Italy)

Yo creo que lo que hemos entendido y he escuchado allí ha sido una vibrante - como nos gustaría más que fuera la plenaria – una vibrante manifestación de compromiso del Presidente del CSA hacia las nuevas perspectivas que estamos abriendo, ¿no? Y me parece que el párrafo H es muy importante y lo dice casi todo. Sostenemos con mucha convicción la propuesta hecha por Francia. "Comparative advantage" quiere decir que hay que "keep focused".

En la *intergovernmental nature* no es que queremos realmente reforzar; yo tengo dudas que incluso a mi distinguido compañero de Estados Unidos le interese reforzar la naturaleza intergubernamental.

Lo que nos interesa es reforzar la capacidad del CSA de tener valor añadido, de hacer un lugar donde la gente participe activamente y donde los ministros pueden intervenir y participar, porque pueda haber algo *at stake*.

Por lo tanto, no hay que alterar ese tema de la interacción entre *bureau* que es, como lo ha dicho Francia, es la expresión de la naturaleza intergubernamental que nadie niega – y el *advisory group*, que incluso queremos reforzar con una extensión del mecanismo de los mecanismos, de las *constituencies*. Y no hay que perderlo. No es un matiz; es algo muy importante. La especificidad del CSA no es una naturaleza intergubernamental; es que es el lugar donde los gobiernos y los *stakeholders* tienen la plataforma compartida.

El nivel país, también, es muy importante. Como lo ha dicho Asia; no es que solo estemos aquí nosotros. Lo ha dicho Asia en su intervención y también lo ha dicho la evaluación. Sí, el CSA es poco conocido, incluso desconocido por que es allí que se tiene que conseguir los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y, por lo tanto, hay un problema. Para concluir, nosotros estamos en línea con lo que ha dicho Austria y lo que ha dicho Francia, por lo tanto, nos gustaría que pusiera mucha atención en la formulación final del párrafo h).

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

We respect the proposals coming from the delegations, which are trying to come to an agreement on the text but we must say that we do not consider the Bureau to be the highest expression of the intergovernmental nature of the CFS. In our understanding, the intergovernmental nature of the CFS is the Plenary Assembly and it is linked to the procedures that are adopted by the Committee.

And also I must point out that a number of delegations are casting some doubt and have been for a long time on the procedures that are followed in the Committee and whether they fully are in line with the intergovernmental nature.

Looking at the document here that I have which is the Basic Text of FAO and on page 224 in the Russian version in paragraph II.A.4, we read: "The CFS is and remains an intergovernmental Committee in FAO." So that is simply what we would like to say on this paragraph. We support the proposal that was made by the United States regarding the fact that we would prefer to delete the paragraph.

There was a slight inaccuracy in the translation. We would not be against the full deletion of the paragraph but if we retain the paragraph, then we would prefer to see the draft that was proposed by the United States.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Let me speak a bit as a veteran of CFS. I think what I heard here was that there was a concern about the engagement of Members because CFS has Members and the Members are the countries. So there was a problem with the engagement of Members. What is being asked is that the CFS finds a way, the Bureau, the Advisory Group, the Plenary to increase the engagement of the Members in the CFS functions, especially as the United States said, the intersessional events.

So the word “engagement” is appropriate here. So “strengthen the engagement of Members and participants and the interaction between Members and participants.” It seems to me that “strengthening the intergovernmental nature of the Committee” by the very nature of the Committee does not stick if you wish.

That is, the Committee is intergovernmental not because it has an intergovernmental bureau but because the decisions at the end of the day are taken by Member Countries. So in the plenaries, the participants and the observers can talk and they make suggestions, et cetera but at the end of the day who makes the decisions are the governments. So it is intergovernmental. I do not know what else we can do to strengthen its intergovernmental nature.

But we can do something to strengthen the engagement of Members and others in the CFS activities. I think that the key here is the engagement.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Kostas, for your helpful clarification. In view of the intervention by the ADG of the Economic and Social Department, may I have some reaction from Members especially to his explanation of the intergovernmental nature of CFS? Does that make a difference to the wordings that Members have proposed?

Mme. Delphine BORIONE (France)

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, et merci à M. Stamoulis pour sa présentation.

Effectivement, plusieurs délégués des États-Unis ont souligné le besoin de renforcer la participation des États Membres et nous aussi partageons cet appel à tous. Peut-être pourrions-nous donc revenir sur la formulation, je le dis en anglais:

Continues in English

“Strengthen the governmental participation and commitment as well as” and then we would have the formula which was there before – not intergovernmental but “governmental participation” because it is participation by governments, I think, “the participation of Member States” may be better.

“As well as the interaction between the Bureau and the Advisory Group”. I do not know if that can help finding a compromise.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I think we have fundamental differences here. Again, they are on display when we are in CFS and they are on display here. So Italy was pointing out a vibrant discussion here.

You know, we go back to the observation by the Russians. In the English version, it is in page 211, paragraph 7: “The CFS is and remains an intergovernmental committee.” Full stop. This was the source of our language on this. After listening to the Assistant Director-General, we could clarify the nature by actually making it explicit and say “intergovernmental decision making”, using that to replace “nature” as well as “strengthening its partnerships”. But this comes to a key point for us which is again, CFS brings us voices we do not normally hear because we normally just operate as Member States.

It enriches the conversation and I think it results in better discussions here. But at the end of the day, it is the Member States who have to vote and take responsibility for this so there is an essential intergovernmental aspect to this.

It also speaks to my Italian colleague’s idea of getting Ministers here. The more we can focus on its intergovernmental nature – the thing I think we need to do to actually to make this more of a credible institution at least for our senior officials.

So again, it could be “encouraged the CFS to operate within its comparative advantage to strengthen” for us, “intergovernmental decision making” if people do not like “nature”. And the substitution of decision making for us strikes with what Kostas talked about as well as strengthening its partnership with all stakeholders.

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

Indeed, our discussion is showing the approach to this issue from the different points of view of delegations. When some delegations say that we have a problem in that the Member States are not participating actively enough to the working and are not committed enough to this work, we have a completely different point of view on this point and the Member States will participate actively and be committed when they see more results and when they are more satisfied with the way in which the work is organized, including from the point of view of the procedures.

So what I hear about the CFS over the last few years, what I have heard is a growing sense of dissatisfaction regarding the way the work is being carried out.

I hear that Member States are not always satisfied with the quality of the CFS products and this is happening more and more often. Therefore from our point of view, the problem is not so much that we are not committed to the work as such, but commitment and active participation of the Member States is obtained when they understand that the efforts that they are contributing to the Committee lead to results.

So very briefly, this is our point of view on the issue. Therefore, I respect the attempts of our distinguished colleagues to improve this text but this does not really address our issues.

As regards the proposal from the United States on the terminology and the changing “intergovernmental nature” into “decision making”, that is something that we could agree with.

All in all we would propose with your approval that we shift this discussion to the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, in view of the diverse views and since we have already spent quite some time on one paragraph, one option would be what the Russian Federation has proposed, that Drafting Committee discuss it.

Another suggestion for your consideration is that we break for 15 minutes and countries who have specific views on this paragraph have an informal discussion and see whether that would help. Perhaps the United States, Russia, France, Italy, Egypt, and any other country who wishes to join in could discuss. I understand that Egypt is not so keen so that leaves France, Italy, Russia, the United States and any other country interested could join in and see whether informally you could convince each other.

Thank you. We will meet again in 15 minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 16.00 to 16.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 00 à 16 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.00 a las 16.25

CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to inform you that the suspension of 15 minutes bore some fruit. There is an agreement on some amended text, which we will put on the screen and I will read out.

Point g): reiterated its request that the CFS present a feasible and realistic MYPOW, taking into account available resources, notably for translation and interpretation services, and the need to prioritize its workload in the intersessional period and stressed the importance of reasonably limiting the number of CFS workstreams to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of the process, and encouraged the CFS to operate within its mandate and comparative advantages while acknowledging the existing CFS products;

acknowledged the need to support the Committee financially and encouraged all stakeholders to contribute to closing the existent financial gap in CFS.

Point h) has been deleted.

So this is the new text which I believe has been agreed by the Members who had different views.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I am sorry, Chair. If we could go up? The language we negotiated in point g) did not have that last clause. It stopped at “while acknowledging the existing CFS products.” We have problems with “acknowledging the need to support the Committee financially and encouraging stakeholders to closing the existent financial gaps”, which should not be of any surprise considering the steady criticism we have had of CFS this whole point.

It would be inconsistent for us to be criticizing CFS the way we have and then turn around and ask for more money to be sent to it.

So the point g) that we agreed to ends at “acknowledging the existing CFS products.”

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

About this last intervention by the United States, if I were a Member of the Bureau, I would agree with it but for different reasons and that is that according to the latest financial report that the Secretary of the Committee presented to the Bureau. In fact, there is no financial gap for either 2018 or 2019.

So there is no urgent or pressing need to close a gap that does not really exist. We might be encountering gaps in the future but that is part of the MYPOW process. The workstreams and the financial support that they would need is something for the future so I would suggest to the Council to strike that last part for the reasons stated and if I may, Chair, I respectfully disagree with the reasons put forth by the United States but that is another discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

So we delete the last part and stop at “products”.

So that is agreed. That is the end of this item. We go to the next item.

Item 13. Arrangements for the 161st Session of the Council (April 2019) and 41st Session of the Conference (June 2019)

Point 13. Organisation de la cent soixante et unième session du Conseil (avril 2019) et de la quarante et unième session de la Conférence (juin 2019)

Tema 13. Disposiciones para el 161.º período de sesiones del Consejo (abril de 2019) y el 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (junio de 2019)

(CL 160/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall proceed with item 13, *Arrangements for the 161st Session of the Council (April 2019) and 41st Session of the Conference (June 2019)*. The document before Council is CL 160/6.

This document gives an overview of arrangements for the 41st Session of the Conference, to be held from 22 to 29 June 2019.

I wish to remind Council that the matter of the procedure for the address to Council by candidates for the post of Director-General has already been discussed under item 7, *Report of the 107th Session of the CCLM*.

I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, who will inform us of the decisions Council is requested to take under this item.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The Council is invited to take decisions on:

- a) the Provisional Agenda of the 41st Session of the Conference which can be found in Appendix A of the document;
- b) the topic for the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture;
- c) limiting statements by Heads of Delegation during the General Debate to no more than five minutes;
- d) deadlines for the receipt of nominations for: the Independent Chairperson of Council for the period July 2019 to the 42nd Session of Conference in 2021; and Council Membership for the period July 2019 to June 2021 and July 2020 to June 2022;
- e) the establishment of two commissions: Commission I on Substantive and Policy Matters; Commission II on Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- f) inviting Palestine to participate in the Session as an observer.

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest we begin by considering the draft Provisional Agenda proposed for the Conference.

Does the Council wish to approve the Provisional Agenda for the 41st Session of Conference contained in Appendix A of document CL 160/6?

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Just a question for guidance. We have comments on the proposed theme. We are in your hands as to what point you want to discuss the proposed theme.

CHAIRPERSON

The Provisional Agenda for the 41st Session of Conference is approved and will be despatched with the invitation to the session by end of March 2019. I take it the Provisional Agenda is approved by Members.

With regard to the topic for the General Debate of the Conference under Item 10 “Review of the State of Food and Agriculture”, it is proposed that Council consider the topic chosen of the 2018 State of Food of Agriculture publication: “Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development”.

Before giving the floor to delegates, I invite Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, to provide some further clarification on this proposal.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director- General, Economic and Social Development Department)

The Council proposes a topic for the General Debate at the 41st Session of the Conference under item 10 Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. The Secretariat had suggested that the Council consider the focus of the 2018 edition of SOFA, The State of Food and Agriculture, “Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development”. The following provides some background information on the contents of what is proposed.

The purpose of the report is to better position FAO in the migration debate and to further the understanding of the linkages between migration on the one hand and agriculture and rural development on the other.

The basic premises are:

1. Migration, despite the challenges it may present, is part and parcel of economic, social and human development and a means of reducing inequality both within and between countries.

2. At different points in their development, all countries will be areas of origin, transit or destination – sometimes a combination of the three – for international migration.
3. Priorities will be different for countries in different contexts and at different stages of development.

The report focuses on rural migration, the many forms it takes and the important role it plays in both developing and developed countries. Rural migration is understood as meaning all movements of people to, from and between rural areas. It covers both international and internal migration. It investigates the drivers and impacts of rural migration and highlights how related policy priorities depend on country contexts that are in continuous evolution.

The large flows of internal migration described in the SOFA 2018 suggest that reallocation of labour resources in many developing countries is contributing to economic transformation and development. Interesting numbers that are based on SOFA results and have implications are:

- More than 1 billion people living in developing countries have moved internally in developing countries and on average 80 percent of moves involve a rural area of which less than 30 percent is rural-urban migration, the rest is rural-rural and urban-rural.
- In low-income countries, internal migrants are five times more likely to migrate internationally than individuals who have not moved. This suggests that territorial development strategies may have a role to play in shaping international migration flows.
- Internal return migration flows can be substantial – for example, in some countries 30 percent or more of rural-urban migrants return to rural areas, with the number decreasing as countries develop. This may have important implications for rural development.
- Finally, internal migration patterns by gender differ by country, but as countries move further along their development path gender differences in migration are reduced.

In many developed countries, immigrants can help fill labour shortages in high-value agriculture activities that are difficult to mechanize, but integration can pose challenges both for immigrants and for host countries.

Rural development has an important role to play in responding to protracted crises: in Sub-Saharan Africa, 84 percent of refugees are found in rural areas. Countries in protracted crisis face enormous challenges while others have to cope with sometimes massive inflows of refugees and displaced populations. All these countries face different challenges associated with migration and will have different policy priorities when addressing them.

Beyond the case of forced migration linked to crisis situations, it is important not to consider migration per se as a problem that requires a solution. As such, policies should not aim to either stem or promote migration. Rather the objective must be to make migration a choice, not a necessity, and to maximize the positive impacts while minimizing the negative ones.

The report acknowledges the challenges and costs associated with migration. However, it strives to provide information to encourage and facilitate a more realistic and dispassionate debate on the issue, highlighting the role that rural areas play in the process. Only through such an enhanced understanding will we be able to put in place the best policy responses to the challenges it poses and the opportunities migration presents.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I now open the floor to delegates for any comments they may have.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States believes that the appropriate focus of the proposed theme for the 41st FAO Conference in June 2019, “Migration, Agriculture, and Rural Development” should be on the impacts of migration on agriculture and development in rural areas.

Along these lines, we want to emphasize that any discussion of this theme should focus mainly on rural to urban migration and its impact on agriculture and rural development. We do not believe the theme should delve into policy recommendations on international migration, nor should it comment on an individual country's migration policy.

With those observations in mind, the United States can support the proposed theme.

Ms Anna-Marie MOULTON (South Africa)

South Africa would like to pass the floor to South Sudan to deliver a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (South Sudan)

The Republic of South Sudan and the Federal Republic of Nigeria have the pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of Africa Regional Group and would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of document CL 160/6,

The Africa Regional Group welcome the recommendations and suggestions outlined in the Arrangement for the 161st Session of the council (April 2019) and the 41st Session of the Conference (June 2019).

The Group support the proposal of the establishment of the two commissions that will examine the Substantive and policy matters, programmes and budgetary matters. And agreed on the time management arrangement to limit to 5 minutes for each heads of delegation to deliver their Statement to make the maximum use of the allocated time of sessions.

The Africa Regional Group also support the Council in considering SOFA the State of Food and Agriculture 2018 focus on Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development in proposing the topic for General Debate at the up-coming 41st Session of Conference under agenda item10 "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture"

We believe this General Debate topic will contribute in enhancing the core principle objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals in particular the SDG 2, Zero hunger and poverty reduction.

Therefore, a robust innovative global food and agriculture system is needed if we are to nourish the 821 million people who are hungry today, ameliorate obesity and hidden hunger as well as to care the additional 2 billion people expected to be undernourished by 2050.

With these remarks, the Africa Regional Group endorse the report CL 160/6 on the arrangement for the 161st Session of the council (8-12 April 2019) and the 41st Session of the Conference (22-29 June 2019).

CHAIRPERSON

Just a clarification from the United States. You agree that the title can remain the same? Thank you.

We deal with all of the issues before summing up. So my next comment is furthermore statements by heads of delegations will be limited to five minutes as proposed in the document and as has been the case over many sessions of Conference.

We now move on to the proposed deadlines for submission of nominations for an Independent Chairperson of the Council and Council Membership.

The deadlines proposed are as follows: Friday 5 April 2019 at 12 noon time for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council; and Monday 24 June 2019 at 12 noon time for Council Membership.

Does Council agree with these proposed deadlines?

Thank you, it is so decided.

Regarding the formation of the two Commissions of the Conference, it is proposed to appoint a representative of a country which does not belong to the Group of 77 and China to Chair Commission I,

which deals with substantive issues and policy, and a representative of countries from the Group of 77 and China to Chair Commission II, which deals with matters relating to the programme and budget.

Can I take it that Council is in agreement with this proposal?

Thank you.

Finally, does Council agree to follow past practice and to invite Palestine to participate in the Session in an observer capacity?

Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, my conclusions for item 13 are as follows.

1. The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the Provisional Agenda and the Arrangements outlined in document CL 160/6 for approval, and in particular recommended that:

- i) two Commissions be established to examine, respectively: (i) Substantive and Policy Matters in Food and Agriculture; and (ii) Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- ii) the deadline for receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 12:00 hours on Monday 24 June 2019, and the election be held on Friday 28 June 2019.

2. The Council further agreed to recommend to the Conference that the theme of the General Debate at the 41st Session be "Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development" and that statements by Heads of Delegation be limited to a maximum of five minutes each.

Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council

3. The Council decided to establish a deadline for the receipt of nominations for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12:00 hours on Friday, 5 April 2019.

4. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that Palestine be invited to the Conference in an observer capacity.

5. The Council agreed to defer the finalization of procedures for the address to Council by candidates for the post of Director-General until after the close of the nomination period of 1 December 2018 to 28 February 2019, at a special informal meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the seven Regional Groups for Council election purposes to be convened by the ICC.

That is the end of the summary so I await your reactions.

I see no requests for the floor so we can conclude this item.

Item 11. International Days and Years**Point 11. Journées et années internationales****Tema 11. Días y años internacionales****Item 11.1 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables****Point 11.1 Année internationale des fruits et légumes****Tema 11.1 Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras***(CL 160/10)***Item 11.3 International Year of Millets****Point 11.3 Année internationale du mil****Tema 11.3 Año Internacional del Mijo***(CL 160/13)***Item 11.4 International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste****Point 11.4 Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux pertes et gaspillages de nourriture****Tema 11.4 Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el desperdicio de Alimentos***(CL 160/14)***CHAIRPERSON**

The next item on the agenda is item 11, *International Days and Years*.

As agreed, the recommendations arising from the reports of the relevant technical committees will now be taken into consideration.

We will now consider sub-items 11.1, 11.3 and 11.4 concerning proposals for the establishment of, respectively, an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, an International Year of Millets, and an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

The documents before you are CL 160/10, CL 160/13 Rev.1 and CL 160/14, as well as the relevant paragraphs from document C 2019/21 Rev.1, namely paragraphs 67, 68 and 69, which provide COAG's conclusions on these sub-items.

I would like now to give the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, to present these sub-items.

Mr Mohammad HOSSEIN EMADI (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

As it was mentioned, there are three events that we as COAG are going to present. First of all, the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. The information on the proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables that we can say is about of course the reasoning, why an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables raises awareness on nutrition and on the health benefits coming from fruit and vegetable consumption. This is one of the main reasons that we are working on that and it was discussed to advocate for healthy diet through the increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and to promote international efforts to boost the sustainable production of fruits and vegetables and to reduce the loss and waste in the fruit and vegetable supply chain from the production to consumption.

That was the main reason that it was discussed through the COAG and was accepted by the COAG.

The action taken by the 26th Session of COAG reviewed and endorsed on an exceptional basis the proposal to established in 2021, the observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

The Council is invited to consider the proposal and recommendation of COAG and submit the proposal of the consideration to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference on 22 to 29 June 2019.

I will go with the next new proposal on the International Year of Millets. There are a wide range of millets and the important role of the millet in most of the Asian and African countries and the importance, and the diversity of the sort of millet is known by Member Countries.

In terms of reasoning for an International Year of Millets, first of all, millet is highly climate resilient in terms of resilience to temperature, resilience to water scarcity and of course salinity and that is one of the major points that was considered by the COAG.

The other issue and the other major reason that it was considered is that it is high in nutrients, particularly with iron, FE and is gluten free. That is another privilege of millet as a cereal. It is a viable option for the marginalized farmers because it was accepted according to the role of equity, and also to help family farmers. In the case of family farming, it is one of the major products – cereals – that is working mainly with the family farmers and in particular, marginalized small farmers all over the world.

Additionally, millets are a critical component of sustainable crop production intensification and therefore their importance in achieving the SDGs, in particular global food and nutrition security cannot be undermined.

The objective of the International Year of Millets, as mentioned, is first of all awareness raising or elevate awareness of the contribution of cereals and in particular millet for food security and nutrition and inspire all stakeholders, including national governments, to work towards improving production, productivity and quality of millet.

The third objective is to draw focus for enhanced investment in research and development and extension services to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, which is above mentioned. The Council is invited to consider the proposal and recommendation of COAG and to submit the proposal for consideration to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference from 22 to 29 June 2019.

The second proposal is the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. Of course, it is mainly based on SDG indicator 12.3.1. The SDG target calls for halving the global food waste at retail and consumer level and reducing food loss along production and supply chain, including the post-harvest loss by 2030.

The reason why it is considered to be important is first of all to build momentum and focus attention on the issue and actions required to meet the SDG target 12.3 and promote collaboration and collective action toward achieving SDG target 12.3.

The action taken by the 26th Session of the COAG was the review and endorsement of the proposal to establish the observance of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on 29 September each year. It requested submission for the proposal for consideration by the 160th Session of the Council from 2 to 7 December 2018 and 41st Session of the FAO Conference from 22 to 29 June 2019.

The action which is requested by the Council is to consider the proposal and recommendation of COAG and submit the proposal for consideration by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in 2019.

That was a very short abstract of the proposal, which was proposed by the Member Countries and accepted and endorsed by the COAG and submitted to the Council.

Item 11.2 International Year of Rye
Point 11.2 Année internationale du seigle
Tema 11.2 Año Internacional del Centeno
(CL 160/11)

CHAIRPERSON

We can take up the item on the International Year of Rye. The document before Council is CL 160/11 Rev.2.

I now call on Mr Hans Dreyer, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, to present this sub-item.

Mr Hans DREYER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division)

Distinguished delegates, the observance of the International Year on Rye was proposed by the government of Estonia at the 31st Session of the Regional Conference of Europe earlier this year. The last session of the Council requested further information on this, which is now presented here during this session and also related to the document that the Chair has referred to before.

I have the honour and the pleasure to briefly present the proposal to you.

Some words on rye. Some of you may know that 90 percent of global rye is produced in Europe in the rye belt. More than 6 percent is in Asia and about 3 percent in the Americas. The top ten producers of rye in the world are Russia, Poland, Germany, Belarus, Ukraine, China, Denmark, Canada, Turkey and Spain.

Rye is a cereal and like other cereals is grass. So rye can produce yields under extreme climatic conditions, including low rainfall and low temperatures in marginal land, so in acidic soils, but also where other cereals cannot be grown.

Rye is a typical low input crop. It does not need much fertilizer nor pesticide and that is why rye is a critical component of sustainable crop production intensification and is therefore important to achieve the SDGs and in particular global food and nutrition security.

The uses of rye, rye is a very versatile crop and is used to produce a variety of products with robust market values. It is important to mention that rye grain is extremely nutritious. It is very high in protein content around 15 percent, with a higher content than most other cereals.

Rye contains many minerals like others and important vitamins among the vitamin B group and also vitamin E. Rye contains iron, zinc, magnesium, phosphorous and selenium so it is very rich in minerals and it is an excellent source of dietary fibre, more than wheat.

Marketing opportunities, you see it on the slides, not just limited to alcohol but also among that, marketing opportunities are related to low gluten content, which is important like with millets.

The observance of an International Year on Rye by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of this crop and its benefits of rye production and consumption as indicated.

The resilience of rye in adverse environments, the versatility of rye as it can be adapted to different environments and the diversity of cereal based food systems can be enhanced by rye crops.

The potential of rye for developing new markets for producers and opportunities for new products of diversified products cannot be underestimated.

And finally, rye can serve to establish mechanisms to enhance collaboration and partnerships worldwide.

So to conclude this session, the Council is invited to endorse the proposal by the government of Estonia to establish observance of an International Year on Rye and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

Second, it is invited to make recommendations on the Draft Conference Resolution to the 41st Session of the Conference in June 2019 as presented in Appendix A in the document in front of you.

Item 11.5 International Tea Day
Point 11.5 Journée internationale du thé
Tema 11.5 Día Internacional del Té
(CL 160/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on sub-item 11.5, *International Tea Day*. The documents are CL 160/15 and C 2019/22, in particular paragraph 33.

I now call on Mr Jean-Luc Mastaki, Senior Economist in the Trade and Markets Division, to present this sub-item.

Mr Jean-Luc Mastaki (Senior Economist, Trade and Markets Division)

My task is very simple. It will be just to give you a background on this International Tea Day and also emphasize the rationale for this request we are submitting to the Council.

Indeed, tea is the most popular beverage after water. In heritage and also livelihood dating back five thousand years and with a valuable contribution to social and economic development. The industry is booming. World production has been growing by 4.4 percent at the last decade, reaching a volume of 5.73 million tons in 2016.

This booming production is led mainly by unprecedented growth in the demand coming from emerging economies, namely China and India but also from some developing countries. Export earnings from tea have been also increasing. They have increased by 75 percent within the ten past years.

We are talking about USD 5.5 billion in 2016. Tea has grown in more than thirty-five countries and it provides a vital source of export, earning and livelihood in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Millions of people, including smallholding farmers and their families, depending on tea for their livelihood and food security.

Tea production and exports are helping covering food import business for some of the importing countries such as Kenya, Sri Lanka and others.

Despite such a booming industry, there are challenges that are well-known, one of them being the increasing role of the smallholders within the tea industry. The smallholders are contributing more and more to the volume of tea produced globally and certain issues related to their accessing the profitable global value chains.

As most of the agricultural commodities, tea is also affected by climate change. This is an industry, which is very vulnerable to climate change but also offers opportunities both in terms of adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

Tea per capita consumption levels have been increasing in emerging economies but we still have some room for improvement because the per capita in those countries is still below the consumption in traditional European markets.

Consumption is also declining in the traditional market within the European region and the UK for example. This commodity is also affected by the structural transformation within the producing countries where we can see rural depopulation and rapid urbanization, meaning that rural workers are moving out of the sector traditionally characterized by low wages and looking for better opportunities within cities.

There is a new enthusiasm supported by health and increased consumer consumption within the tea industry. Tea consumption is spurred by a growing interest in health and wellness for the new consumers. The market is growing due to changing consumer preference toward healthier beverages in general, not only for tea but even for water compared to sodas and other sugary beverages.

This new trend in the demand is leading new flavour and convenient packs, which have helped maintaining the constant demand for tea across the world. A vibrant retail market is visible in most of the countries.

Emerging consumers are also showing enthusiasm and knowledge about the product. They want to know more about the product, how it is produced and sustainability issues related to the product.

Most of the emerging consumers are coming from the segment of people between twenty-five to forty years of age. The middle class and educated people are consuming tea more and more, supporting the ongoing diversification and the innovation.

New consumers are aware of the issues related to mainstreaming sustainability within the value chain. They want to know the story behind their tea, how it is produced and how it is affecting environment and social development where it is coming from.

Production is expanding in consumption but production is expanding faster than consumption, asking for support in terms of generic promotion.

Why do we need an International Tea Day?

Such a day would be part of a generic promotion for the sector. It will catalyze global effort toward celebrating tea as a commodity, a heritage and a livelihood. Such a day would provide the opportunity for multiple stakeholders at national, regional and global level to build and raise awareness about benefit of tea to both producers and consumers alike and promote further development in the sector.

The International Tea Day would be an opportunity to celebrate tea culture and promote sustainability within the sector while promoting the beverage.

Such an event would link people and tea worldwide and support tea trade and expand consumption. It will be an opportunity to foster public/private partnership around tea and increase visibility on all of the issues I have raised about the tea sector here. It will enhance inclusiveness and strengthen issues related to smallholder farmers within the sector and allow to share great stories about tea and tea culture toward harnessing benefit for all from field to cup.

What has been the process we have gone through up until this submission of the day on this International Tea Day?

Following the 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea, which was held in China from 17 to 20 May 2018, the People's Republic of China proposed the establishment of this International Tea Day. The request was then considered by the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems held in September here in Rome. And the Committee endorsed the proposal to establish the day on 25 May of each year.

The Committee requested the Secretariat of the IGG, the intergovernmental group on tea, to work with the CCP Bureau to take this request forward for consideration at this session of the Council.

We invite the Council therefore to endorse this proposal, to observe an International Tea Day on 25 May of each year and endorse the Draft Resolution in International Tea Day as set out in the Appendix of the document in your possession.

Your support would be a good contribution to the sustainable development of the tea industry and will allow different stakeholders within the sector to continue producing this commodity, which is of great interest for most of the smallholders producing in different countries and also for social development.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor on all five of the proposals presented under this item.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Chile quisiera traspasar el uso de la palabra a Bolivia, Presidencia pro t mpore del Grupo de Pa ses de Am rica Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC), quien har  una declaraci n en nombre de nuestro grupo regional.

Sr. Carlos APARICIO VEDIA (Observador del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Realizamos esta declaraci n en nombre del Grupo de Pa ses de Am rica Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Como se ha destacado en diversas instancias, el SOFI 2018 nos comunic  cifras alarmantes sobre la situaci n de la nutrici n a nivel mundial. 1900 millones de personas tienen sobrepeso y 600 millones de ellas son obesas. El acceso deficiente a los alimentos, y el particular a los alimentos saludables, contribuye a la desnutrici n, as  como al sobrepeso y a la obesidad. Los  ndices de obesidad en la poblaci n adulta han aumentado a mayor velocidad de lo esperado y con ello el riesgo de padecer enfermedades cr nicas no transmisibles, como c ncer, diabetes y enfermedades card acas.

Los efectos de carencias de micronutrientes afectar n a generaciones. Aquellos en condiciones de retraso en el crecimiento dif cilmente recuperar n la senda normal de desarrollo. Todos los pa ses, sin distinci n de nivel de desarrollo, nos vemos enfrentados a los efectos de la malnutrici n en sus diversas formas, y contar con herramientas de apoyo para las pol ticas p blicas que las combaten es de crucial relevancia, en particular para los pa ses en desarrollo.

El consumo per c pita de frutas y verduras es actualmente entre un 20 y 50 por ciento de la ingesta recomendada de 400 gramos por d a. Las frutas y verduras son fuente de vitaminas, minerales y fibra, ricas en antioxidantes y bajas en grasa. Consumir una dieta rica en frutas y verduras diariamente reduce los riesgos de sufrir muchas enfermedades no transmisibles, que hoy en d a estresan nuestros sistemas de salud y deterioran la calidad de vida de nuestra poblaci n. Seg n cifras de la OMS, 5.2 millones de muertes en el mundo son atribuibles a dietas no saludables. Por estos motivos, debemos actuar urgentemente en este tema de inter s prioritario para todos. Esta iniciativa tiene como primer objetivo sensibilizar a la poblaci n sobre la importancia de un consumo m nimo y variado de frutas y verduras, con especial atenci n a los cultivos aut ctonos, incluyendo los tropicales, para lograr una alimentaci n equilibrada, diversa, nutritiva, al alcance de toda la poblaci n, y con ello una vida sana, as  como fomentar sistemas alimentarios y pr cticas agr colas sostenibles.

Este A o Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras se vincula a la D cada de Acci n para la Nutrici n 2016-2025 y la D cada de Agricultura Familiar 2019-2028, y formar  parte de las actividades que se est n desarrollando. Estas iniciativas, as  como este A o Internacional, sit an a la nutrici n en el centro del desarrollo sostenible y reconocen que la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrici n es esencial para cumplir con los ODS fijados para la Agenda del 2030.

Consideramos que estas iniciativas deben invitar a todos los actores de la sociedad, incluido el actor privado y juntos, sociedad civil, sector privado e instituciones de gobierno, investigadores, a avanzar en la concienciaci n de los beneficios de un mayor y equilibrado consumo de frutas y verduras, favoreciendo tambi n su disponibilidad y acceso de toda la poblaci n. Es por esto que solicitamos que se incorpore en el pen ltimo p rrafo del proyecto de resoluci n que los costos acarreados por la celebraci n del A o Internacional se sufragar n con recursos extrapresupuestarios, incluidas contribuciones del sector privado.

Con estos comentarios, el GRULAC agradece el documento elaborado por la Secretar a y expresa su conformidad con el proyecto de resoluci n para la Conferencia del 2019 sobre la propuesta de celebraci n del A o Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras en el a o 2021. Finalmente, hacemos un llamado a las honorables delegaciones, miembros del Consejo, para aprobar esta iniciativa, que estamos seguros es de inter s y en beneficio de todos.

Mr Yubo XU (China)

China has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Group on the International Year of Millets.

Millets are important staple food of millions of people, not only in Africa but also in Asia. Out of the total millets production of 28.36 million tonnes in the world, Asia alone contributes a share of 47 percent. Apart from millets, sorghum, another great millet, is also grown in Asia. More than 45 million people in Asia depend on millets. Livelihoods of millions of rural farm families and small family farmers in the arid and semi-arid ecosystem depend on millets.

Recognizing the contributions of millets as food, feed and fodder under adverse climatic conditions, FAO in its 26th Committee on Agriculture (COAG) endorsed the proposal of India to establish the observance by the United Nations system of an International Year of Millets in 2023.

We are confident that the celebration of International Year of Millets will elevate awareness about climate resilience and nutritional benefits of millets and will promote for healthy diets through increased sustainable production and consumption of millets.

The Asia Group takes this opportunity to strongly support and advocate the proposal of India for an International Year of Millets in 2023.

Continues in Chinese

I would like to make a statement on behalf of China. We would like to support the International Year of Vegetables and Fruit and International Year of Rye and International Year of Millets and International Day of Awareness of Loss and Waste.

We think this can help us to be more aware of the value of these foods because the crops are cultivated by millions of farmers with their hard work, so we should cherish them and we should support awareness-raising at an international level, at a United Nations level. We fully support this initiative.

China highly appreciates the report by the Committee on the observance of the International Tea Day. Tea is an important cash crop and also very important for livelihoods and rural development and is a healthy gift in today's world. So China supports this initiative and we invite all countries to come to the exhibition in our country and to participate in activities and we will facilitate your visit.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Côte d'Ivoire s'exprime au nom du Groupe Afrique sur la proposition relative à la célébration d'une Journée internationale de sensibilisation au problème des pertes et gaspillages de nourriture.

Je voudrais d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document soumis à notre analyse et remercier vivement le Gouvernement argentin pour avoir pris cette initiative.

Des niveaux élevés de pertes et de gaspillages de nourriture ont des incidences sur la disponibilité des aliments et sur leur accès, en particulier pour les groupes sociaux les plus pauvres des pays à revenu intermédiaire et faible, et ont pour effet de diminuer les revenus des petits agriculteurs et des agriculteurs familiaux.

Il est donc crucial d'intensifier les mesures et les innovations qui permettent de réduire les pertes après récolte, afin de faire reculer l'insécurité alimentaire et de contribuer, en même temps, à l'amélioration de la nutrition et à la création de revenus.

L'éducation et la sensibilisation sont cruciales pour susciter un changement de comportement chez les acteurs de la chaîne des valeurs et chez les consommateurs afin de diminuer durablement les pertes et les gaspillages.

La question des pertes et gaspillages de nourriture est complexe et les efforts déployés actuellement pour trouver des solutions sont très parcellaires.

Il est particulièrement important que la FAO appuie cette initiative, car elle est l'organisme spécialisé du système des Nations Unies qui conduit les efforts visant à mettre un terme à la faim, à l'insécurité alimentaire et à la malnutrition.

Le Groupe Afrique approuve la proposition visant à instaurer une Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux pertes et gaspillages de nourriture, qui aura lieu le 29 septembre de chaque année.

Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde)

Cabo Verde is making this statement on behalf of the African Regional Group. We welcome the proposal from the Government of India to promote the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

As we all know, the challenges of climate change, the increase in both under and malnourishment and the growing demography imposes an urgent need to several of our countries in Africa, especially in the Sahelian region, to overcome the pressing lack of water, thus the promotion of production and consumption of millets could be one of the solutions.

Therefore, an International Year of Millets, in 2023, on an exceptional basis, could well be the opening door to promote much needed research that can enhance its production and boost its consumption, therefore contributing to achieving the SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 13.

This proposal is aligned with the 26th COAG recommendations whereby it is requested, under the Implementing FAO Climate Change Strategy, that FAO continues to promote the conservation and use of underutilized crop species.

Increasing and diversifying our sources of food is needed to guarantee food security and nutrition, reduce poverty and meet the Zero Hunger goal.

Allow me, coming from the only island state in the Sahel, to say that promoting an International Year for the Millets is also to bet on innovation in agriculture and allow creative forces whether it be research, public sector, political, civil society or private sector to come in and give their due contribution in moving forward and setting the stage to improve all dimensions of millets production, processing, marketing and consumption.

Hence, the Africa Regional Group would like to reiterate its support to the initiative of proposing an International Year for Millets and therefore endorses the proposal by the Government of India to establish the observance of an International Year of Millets in 2023 and the Draft Conference Resolution presented.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan supports the declaration of an International Year on Fruits and Vegetables since we are one of the leading producers. Almost four million tons, despite the limited financial resources and exports amount to millions of tons right now. And we have seen certain drops which has created problems for us. So in this context, we are calling for diversification of activities in producing regions and in consumption as well; we should have a document go to Member States to see those who actually want to work together with FAO on this so that we can achieve our aims in holding this international day.

We also support the declaration of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste because we believe that it would help increase the amount of food available for poor and malnourished people around the world.

We have to focus there on post-harvest techniques and really stress the need for new agricultural technologies as well in the post-harvest period.

We also support the proposal from China to hold the International Tea Day. We have a tea culture in our country and this is of importance to Jordan and many of the Arab countries.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We would like to comment on all items under agenda item 11, *International Years and Days*.

Before commenting on the proposals before us, we would like to recall that the UN ECOSOC has adopted criteria for the proclamation of International Years and that, in 2013, the FAO Conference adopted its own policies on the proclamation and implementation of International Years. We would like to see future proposals being carefully assessed against this existing framework.

The European Union and its Member States would draw attention to the importance of avoiding excessive use of such International Dates. It is of the utmost importance to carefully consider the benefits of such dates in order to avoid an overload of events, as that runs counter to the idea of awareness raising. Additionally, we would like to see the UN ECOSOC criteria mentioned in the report of this Council session.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the important contribution that the increased production and consumption of fruit and vegetables could make to Agenda 2030 and, in particular, the UN Global Nutrition Agenda and the prevention of malnutrition. We are aware of the important role rye and millet play for global food security, not just in developing countries but also in developed countries and countries with economies in transition. The topic of food waste and food losses along the whole production and consumption chain is of particular importance for the European Union and its Member States. We are also aware of the importance of tea for many countries as well as the tradition behind it.

Therefore, the European Union and its Member States support the endorsement of the proposals for the International Days and Years in question.

Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, and thanks to His Excellency Dr Emadi for introducing the items on the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables and also the International Year of Millets.

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group on agenda items 11.1 and 11.3.

Production of the world's horticulture, which includes fruits, vegetables, ornamental and medicinal plants, is estimated to be close to 2 billion tonnes. Asia is the major producer, especially China and India. So is the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2015, the value of the world's agricultural output was estimated at USD 2.4 trillion. Horticulture was no less than one-third of this value. It is also important to mention that developing countries maintain the largest share of the world's horticultural exports. Horticulture also has the quality of being labour intensive, fit for smallholders and its average economic water productivity is far higher than cereal crops, three or four times more.

The consumption of fruits and vegetables is highly desirable for good nutrition and WHO and FAO recommend 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per person per day to prevent heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity.

The Near East region as a whole is very suitable for horticulture and many of its countries derive no less than one-third of their agricultural output from fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants. In Afghanistan, medicinal plants are drought-resistant compared with other rainfed crops.

With these observations, the Near East Group endorses the proposal by GRULAC to establish observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 and supports the Draft Conference Resolution as presented in Appendix A.

The world's production of millets, which grows in semi-arid tropics of Asia and Africa, is estimated to be close to 30 million metric tons a year. The share of developing countries is 97 percent of this level of production.

Although India and Nigeria are the two major producers of millets, the crop is grown in many countries of Asia, China, Myanmar and Pakistan and West Africa, Burkina Faso and Niger and East Africa, Eritrea and Ethiopia and in Sudan.

Millet is consumed both in cereals such as roti in India as well as for fodder in some countries of Asia and Africa. It is rich in nutrients and superior to other cereals. It has a high fibre content, is easily digested and is good food for babies.

Given the important contribution that millets make to food for human consumption and fodder for animals, Afghanistan supports the request of the government of India to establish the observance of an International Year of Millets for 2023 and supports the Draft Conference Resolution as shown in appendix A of the document.

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

First of all, we would like to thank the delegation of Estonia for their efforts over many years to attract the attention of FAO Members to the importance of rye as a unique agricultural crop and we note with great satisfaction that the proposal to establish an International Year of Rye was made during the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe which was held in Russia.

Rye can play a very important role in agriculture. Rye does not have great demands in terms of soil. It gives good harvests in low fertility soil. It is resilient. It is frost resistant and in many countries including in Russia, this cereal grass is used by the food industry to produce baked goods. It is used also for the production of non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and also starch.

Rye is a raw material for dietetic foods and is useful in the case of serious diseases such as diabetes. Rye-based products can facilitate digestion and improve dissemination of substances and they have a beneficial impact to the cardiovascular system.

As was said today, it is rich in protein and fibre and sugars and amino acids, vitamins and minerals. From the point of view of rye crop production, rye is widespread and valued source of green manure. Thanks to its fast growth, it is useful in weed control and also the control of many pests and plant diseases and it can help also through its loosening effect on soil.

In livestock breeding, rye is used for feed stuff and the younger stems can replace green fodder. Growth of rye is traditional for Russian agriculture and from a historical point of view, rye for many, many years was the main grain culture in our country.

Today according to expert assessments, this crop currently accounts for 3 to 4 percent of our total grain harvest.

Russia is the second largest producer of this crop in the world year to year. We are in the top three producers of this crop.

Rye based products are an indelible part of our population's diet and for instance, black bread in Russia, in the Russian market accounts for about 10 percent.

According to FAO data, currently the average yearly rye harvest in the world is about 13 million tons. This is less than the production in USSR alone in the 80s to 90s period. The situation is evidence of the need to increase the popularity of this very useful crop and the benefits also of rye-based products in healthy diet for the population.

We believe that the establishment of the International Year of Rye could give real impulse to the sustainable development of this sector of agriculture.

This step would be a contribution to the international efforts in the area of climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation in agricultural sector, improved nutrition and also would support the agricultural traditions.

In this connection, we support the initiative of Estonia, calling for the observance of an International Year of Rye and we are looking forward to the definition of a specific period for holding this initiative.

We also support the GRULAC initiative on the establishment of 2021 for the Year of Fruit and Vegetables and the Indian initiative for the proclamation 2023 of the International Year of Millets and the Argentinian initiative for the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste in September.

And of course we are not against the Chinese initiative calling for the establishment of the International Tea Day.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

First some general comments. Despite past discussions regarding resource implications and over proliferation of international observances supported by FAO, proposals and approvals of international observances appear to be increasing without regard to the criteria laid out in the 2013 FAO Policy on International Observances.

We therefore concur with the EU observations in this regard and echo their calls for a mention in the Council report regarding the ECOSOC language regarding days and years and also suggest consideration of reference to the 2013 FAO policy.

In order to avoid duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources, we ask the sponsors and leads on all of these international observances to collaborate to ensure that events can take place under if possible, one international observance to address all of the proposed angles.

We also ask our colleagues to consider in this body in the future, whether an issue rises to the level of being one of the top few issues that FAO should highlight in a year or in a decade for its mandate.

A specific comment on the Resolution on the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. We support GRULAC's recommendation on the language change in paragraph 10 of the Resolution so that the new language would also include the private sector. Our proposed language would be stressing that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present Resolution should be met from voluntary contributions and the insertion, including from the private sector.

We understand that was a GRULAC proposal. We support that and we would suggest its application to other resolutions where applicable.

Mr Joseph KATEMA (Zambia)

Zambia is making this intervention on behalf of the Africa Group and we give thanks to the efforts by the Government of Estonia to raise awareness of the benefits of rye.

The plant is produced primarily for its grain that is rich in fibre, carbohydrates and also contains proteins and several key minerals and other nutrients.

We also believe that rye could contribute in addressing hunger, food security, malnutrition, environmental changes and human health.

The promotion of an International Year of Rye therefore complements both the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 and the recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) for the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy and diverse diets that include a variety of foods.

And I think, Chairperson, this also fits well with the global intention to reverse the trend of the dwindling of our biodiversity. Therefore, the Africa Group invariably supports the proposal by the government of Estonia.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

En representación de la República de Nicaragua, mi Delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento, el cual recoge la propuesta del grupo regional del GRULAC.

Consciente del alarmante estado de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en el mundo, con la presentación el pasado mes de octubre del Informe SOFI 2018, que evidencia el incremento en los últimos tres años, del número de personas subalimentadas y paradójicamente el aumento de personas con sobrepeso y obesidad al nivel mundial, resulta de vital importancia para revertir esta situación reconocer la necesidad de reducir las ingestas de grasas, azúcares y calorías e incrementar la promoción de estilos de vida y dietas saludables, que privilegian los productos locales y de estación.

Siendo el consumo diario de frutas y hortalizas indispensable para la salud, la nutrición y especialmente para la reducción de la mortalidad, la designación del Año Internacional de Frutas y Verduras se encausa con el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 2, 3 y 12, así como con la proclamación del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición y la recomendación número 10 de la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

Todos estos esfuerzos, encaminados en lograr la seguridad alimentaria, mejorar la nutrición, promover la producción y consumo sostenible, contrarrestando a su vez las tendencias de crecimiento del sobrepeso y la obesidad.

Con el referido Año Internacional, los Gobiernos podrán delinear políticas públicas que promuevan la elaboración de sistemas alimentarios saludables y sostenibles, que contribuyan a fortalecer la producción de los pequeños agricultores, reduciendo las pérdidas y preservando los recursos naturales.

Por lo anterior, acogemos con beneplácito la propuesta del GRULAC de declarar el Año Internacional de Frutas y Verduras, mismas que deben enmarcarse en un contexto más amplio, que incluya el impulso de acciones como la promoción de la educación alimentaria, de la agricultura familiar sostenible, la conservación de la biodiversidad, la innovación en la cadena de producción para evitar pérdidas y desperdicios de alimentos.

En fin, todas aquellas estrategias concretas que nos permitan alcanzar los compromisos adquiridos; en particular, repito, el número 2, 3 y 12 de los ODS.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial hace esta intervención en nombre de los Países del Grupo Africano, los cuales acogen con beneplácito la importante propuesta planteada por el Grupo de los Países de América Latina y Caribe (GRULAC); sobre el establecimiento en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas del año 2021, como el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Hortalizas. Con el propósito de concienciar a la Comunidad Internacional sobre los beneficios del consumo de frutas y hortalizas para la salud humana.

Los Países del Grupo Africano somos conscientes de que las frutas y hortalizas son alimentos esenciales en la dieta humana, ya que aportan la cantidad de nutrientes fundamentales para el correcto funcionamiento de nuestro organismo, la ingesta diaria de esos alimentos ayuda al organismo a conservarse hidratado y saludable, ya que aportan vitaminas, minerales y fibras.

Si hacemos una mirada retrospectiva sobre la historia de la humanidad, veremos que la especie humana ha pasado el resto de su existencia alimentándose de frutas hasta el descubrimiento del fuego, cuando comenzó a cocinar los alimentos, en este sentido, podemos concluir sin miedo a equivocarnos que nuestra verdadera alimentación son las frutas.

Felicitamos al grupo GRULAC por esa brillante iniciativa, si se tiene en cuenta que las estadísticas de consumo de frutas y hortalizas son muy bajas en comparación con las recomendaciones de la OMS, lo que nos hace pensar que muchas de las enfermedades que padecemos hoy en día son como consecuencia de la baja ingesta diaria de frutas y hortalizas.

Recomendamos a la FAO a seguir explorando mecanismos para concienciar a la población mundial sobre el consumo de las frutas y hortalizas; al propio tiempo que le exhortamos a que, en el marco de los proyectos de sostenibilidad del Fondo Verde, se pueda formular iniciativas orientadas a la domesticación

de muchas especies frutales silvestres, las cuales siguen conservando un gran potencial nutricional y medicinal, sobre todo en los bosques tropicales.

Manifestamos nuestra preocupación sobre los elevados datos de la pérdidas y desperdicios de las frutas y hortalizas, ya que son productos altamente perecederos; en este sentido, solicitamos a la FAO en estudiar mecanismo para mitigar dichas pérdidas, ya que, esos cultivos en la mayoría de los casos suelen ser estacionarios, es decir que, solo se pueden producir en cierta época del año, por tanto, convendría explorar métodos de conservación que no destruyan los nutrientes que contienen dichos alimentos.

Con estos comentarios, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial en nombre de los Países del Grupo Africano respalda la propuesta de GRULAC, para establecer el 2021, como Año Internacional de las Frutas y las Verduras. Y manifestamos nuestro apoyo al proyecto de resolución figurado en el anexo.

Ms Jacinta NGWIRI (Kenya)

First and foremost, I want to give Kenya's support to the statements by the various Africa Regional Group countries: Cabo Verde, with respect to the observance of the International Year on Millets, with respect to the observance of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, the statement made by Guinea and the statement made by Cabo Verde with respect to the observance of the International Year on Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. However, I want to make some more observations as Kenya with respect to millets.

Millets are widely perceived as crops in terminal decline. They are grown in drought-prone areas and largely among poor communities. This makes millets important for food security among these communities. At global level, millet production has shown either weak or negative growth. In Africa however, the production of millets crop is fairly positive signalling the importance of the crop to many countries, particularly in Africa.

In Kenya, the area and production of millet has stagnated over time with occasional declines during periods of drought and erratic weather. A vast region of Kenya is very suitable for millets production, though farmers prefer to plant maize because of food preferences.

The nutrition value of millets has been well articulated and elaborated in the document but wish to add millet richness in fibre, iron and calcium with as much as 40 times more calcium than maize and rice, and 10 times more than wheat. Millets are also gluten free making them a good substitute for wheat flour for those unable to digest food made from wheat.

Kenya is implementing the presidential Big Four agenda with focus on Universal Health, Affordable Housing, Manufacturing and achievement of 100 percent Food and Nutrition Security. The 100 percent Food and Nutrition Security pillar aims to increase the quantity and quality of food available and accessible in order to ensure that all Kenyans have adequate, diverse and healthy diets.

Under the Big Four programme, we have initiated the process of blending maize flour which is the Kenya key staple food that we use to make 'Ugali' which is our staple dish', and also porridge, so that we make these foods that are consumed by a majority of Kenyans to be highly nutritious. In the flour blending initiative, we are aiming to use a lot of millet and other nutritious maize substitutes that currently we are importing and considering that we are able to produce in our country we would appreciate the forecast on millets and these crops so that we can boost their production.

We note that the need to elevate awareness of the contribution of nutritious cereals for food security and nutrition is key. Therefore the need to inspire and mobilize stakeholders, including national governments to work towards improving production, productivity and quality of millets.

Kenya endorses the proposal to establish observance of an International Year of Millets in 2023 and approves the Draft Conference Resolution.

With respect to the observance of the International Tea Day, I have also a few comments.

Tea is an important crop to over 35 countries globally and provides vital source of employment and income, as a cash crop particularly in Africa. FAO estimated that more than 13 million people, which include tea farmers and their households, depend on the tea sector for their livelihoods. It is also important to note that most tea growers are small holder farmers who need a lot of support in diverse ways along the value chain.

My own country Kenya is a leading tea exporter and benefits from obtaining needed foreign exchange to finance other developmental needs. Tea is the second leading foreign exchange earner after remittances, where in 2017, it earned Ksh.130 billion.

The Africa Group notes that the observance of an International Tea Day will also raise awareness on tea by highlighting its health benefits as well as its nutritive value to the populations. At the same time, we will also be celebrating all the tea value chain players who make significant contributions towards ensuring the whole world receives their favourite beverage in form of a good cup of tea, besides needed incomes.

We note that, the observance of an International Tea Day each year is a good forum to raise awareness of the many benefits of tea for producers, consumers and industry players in order to enhance further development of the tea sector and its contribution to the national, regional and global developmental goals.

The above facts demonstrates the importance of tea and it is the basis of our support to setting a day dedicated to tea matters.

With these observations, we endorse the proposal to observe an International Tea Day each year on 21 May and the Draft Conference Resolution.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the joint statement made by China and also will be made by India on behalf of the Asia Group in supporting the proposal of the International Year of Millet and the International Tea Day.

In addition, as we are aware of promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables and also reducing food loss and food waste, therefore Thailand would also like to support the proposal of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables and also the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

And we are expecting to celebrate those international years and days which will enhance smallholder farmers, sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

Estonia fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Austria on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Estonia is following the increasing pressure to nature and global natural resources for food production with concerns. One of the first global priorities is the SDG 2 to feed the world population. Nevertheless, it should be done in a sustainable manner. One important aspect here is the loss of biological diversity. In grain production, the concentration and thereby the pressure to nature is vast. The three major grains constitute more than 90% of the world's human consumption. One valuable alternative is rye, which had been grown on much larger areas until only a few decades ago. Rye has many advantages that have rightly been stressed in the document presented by the Secretariat.

First, the nutritional values should be mentioned, which are of growing importance because of the rising consumer awareness. This has increasingly brought rye to flour mixes in regions where rye is not traditional, such as Southern European countries. Two other advantages of rye are no less important. Rye is very sustainable and can grow in harsh climate conditions and on soils with lower quality. This is very

important with regard to climate change and the shortage of agricultural land. Rye is also known to improve the quality of soil.

Rye as a crop is important in different parts of the world; rye is grown in substantial amounts on all continents. The International Year of Rye would adequately respond to the calls of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and to the Decade of Soils (2015-2024).

Estonia is putting high emphasis on many of the aspects mentioned above. Estonia already had the national year of rye in 2015. On an international level, Estonia started the campaign “More attention to rye” in 2010 after suggesting the international year at the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Yerevan. The success of Estonian rye already dates back to 1896, with a gold medal awarded at the World EXPO to the Sangaste rye variety.

Estonia is also among the friends of agroecology. We would like to give our contribution to the concept by organising a traditional sub-regional conference focusing on agroecology in April next year. The FAO and OECD will be represented as keynote speakers.

Estonia supports the idea of an international year of rye and sees it as an instrument to help to turn more attention to a healthy diet, protection of biodiversity and soils and sustainability of food production and agriculture.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Thank you for the thorough presentations that were made about each of the proposals for international days and international years. We would like to support the comments that were made in this regard by the EU and the United States on the importance of the 2013 FAO policy and on our rigour and discipline in the proclamation of new international days and years.

This said, Canada would like to support the proposal from Estonia for the establishment of an International Year of Rye as it would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the unique nutritional and health benefits of rye consumption and its suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions, while directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies.

Mr Suresh Kumar MALHOTRA (India)

India is honoured to deliver the support statement for the International Tea Day on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Tea remains the most popular drink in the world and the diversified tea consumption in all countries shows the common affection for this beverage. Tea plays multiple roles in contributing to the realization of sustainable development goals and other important global agendas such as UN Decade of Family Farming.

Tea provides a vital source of employment, export, earnings and livelihood, often in some of the world’s poorest countries. Millions of tea farmers, including smallholders and family farmers, depend on the tea industry for their livelihoods.

Tea contains nutrients and is good for health. Scientific and empirical studies have confirmed that tea helps in preventing osteoporosis, combatting obesity and diabetes. We believe the International Tea Day has the potential to mobilize and crystalize global efforts towards celebrating tea as the agriculture community heritage and livelihood. It will offer an opportunity for stakeholders and national, regional and global levels to share information on the product and strengthen awareness on tea’s contribution to inclusive trade and sustainable development.

It will offer a platform for public/private partnership and dialogue on tea and communicate on the industry’s issues, challenges, opportunities and achievements at local and global levels.

With these comments, we, the Asia Regional Group, supports to approve the International Tea Day.

I also avail this opportunity to offer brief comments from India about the International Tea Day. India is the second largest producer of tea and contributes 25 percent in the share of global tea production and tea sector generates livelihoods to many and also empowers women who are largely involved in picking and processing.

Considering the importance of tea, India is happy to support China's proposal. Observance of International Tea Day will definitely raise awareness for rural development and sustainable livelihood.

India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. India produces 92 million tonnes of fruits and 178 million tons of vegetables. Considering the importance of fruits and vegetables in food, nutrition and livelihood security, India supports the proposal of celebration of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

Fourth, considering the one important statement on food loss and waste, food saved is food produced. India supports the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

So my final comments on the International Year of Millets. India appreciates the Asia Regional Group, the Africa Regional Group, the European Union, the Russian Federation and many of the other member countries for good remarks on the benefits of millets such as high climate resilience, high nutrition value, capacity of millets to take less and give more and the observance of the International Year of Millets will definitely augment production not only for the major millets: bottled millets, sorghum and finger millets, but also the minor millets: little millets, barnyard millets and foxtail millets which are in a real sense crops of adverse climate conditions.

Observance for International Year of Millets will prove as a viable option for marginal farmers who contribute more for food and nutritional security.

India is ready to champion and promote nutritional as well as ecological benefits of the millets.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina hace suya la declaración realizada por Bolivia como Presidencia pro t mpore del Grupo de Pa ses de Am rica Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC), respecto de la propuesta del A o Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras.

En ese sentido quisi ramos subrayar que dicha propuesta ser  una herramienta que contribuir  a la sensibilizaci n de los pa ses en la determinaci n de pol ticas orientadas a promover dietas saludables mediante un mayor consumo de frutas y hortalizas, as  como impulsar  la producci n sostenible de frutas y hortalizas y la reducci n de las p rdidas y desperdicios en las cadenas de suministro de sus alimentos.

Esta iniciativa se encuentra en sinton a con la campa a "M s frutas y verduras", que llev  adelante la Argentina en el a o 2016 en conjunto con m s de 60 instituciones pertenecientes a diferentes sectores, comprendiendo organismos oficiales, c maras de productores agr colas, mercados concentradores de productores, asociaciones de profesionales de la salud, asociaciones de consumidores y la academia.

Por  ltimo, reconocemos que el enfoque integral de esta propuesta contribuir  a sistemas alimentarios m s eficientes, inclusivos y solidarios en pos de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrici n, as  como al cuidado del medio ambiente y los recursos naturales.

Por otro lado, aprovecho esta oportunidad para solicitarle transferir el uso de la palabra a Bolivia, en ejercicio de la presidencia pro t mpore del GRULAC para referirse al punto 11.4 de la Agenda de hoy.

Sr. Carlos APARICIO VEDIA (Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Bolivia realiza esta declaraci n en nombre del Grupo de Am rica Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) bajo el tema 11.4 relativo a la "Propuesta para un D a Internacional de Concienciaci n sobre la P rdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos"

Abordar el desafío de la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos es una prioridad para América Latina y el Caribe, tal como se acordó en la 35ª Conferencia Regional de la región, que tuvo lugar en Jamaica en el marzo pasado, dado su rol clave en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular de los ODS 2 y 12.

Estamos muy preocupados por el hecho de que un tercio de todos los alimentos producidos anualmente para el consumo humano, que equivale a 1.300 millones de toneladas, se pierde o se desperdicia, con un costo de más de 940 000 millones de dólares para la economía mundial.

Los altos niveles de pérdidas y desperdicios en cada nivel de la cadena alimentaria constituyen un importante desafío para muchos países y socaban los esfuerzos en favor del logro de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles. Por lo tanto, es necesario implementar medidas concretas y urgentes para abordar estos desafíos.

Al respecto, alentamos a la FAO a continuar jugando un papel de liderazgo en el apoyo y asesoramiento a los países para hacer frente al reto de la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos a lo largo de toda la cadena, desde el productor al consumidor, a través de sistemas alimentarios más eficientes y sostenibles, que permitan alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. Por ejemplo, la elaboración de Códigos de conducta para prevenir las pérdidas y desperdicios de alimentos, iniciativa del GRULAC aprobada en el pasado período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, constituye un paso en la dirección correcta.

Con estos comentarios, el GRULAC apoya fuertemente la propuesta del establecimiento de un Día Internacional para la Concientización sobre la Pérdida y Desperdicio de Alimentos, que se celebrará el día 29 de septiembre de cada año, tal como se establece en el documento CL 160/14.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan approves the statement of Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group regarding the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables and we agree with the importance of this proposal as well as the International Year of Millets. We would like to say that millets are an important source of food and livelihood in many parts of Sudan, especially the rain fed areas.

We rely on rain for the production of millets. However, in recent years the productivity has been low in view of the climate change.

Different institutions in Sudan are working on devising new varieties of high quality and high production drought resistant crops. Therefore, Sudan supports the proposal of India for an International Year of Millets and we agree with the aims and objectives of this proposal, namely the investments and better research in that area.

Sra. María de los Ángeles GOMEZ (México)

La Delegación de México agradece el apoyo que la Presidencia pro t mpore del GRULAC dio a la celebraci n del A o Internacional de Frutas y Verduras a nombre de nuestro grupo regional.

M xico desea agregar que, como uno de los pa ses con mayores  ndices de sobrepeso en el mundo, el regreso a las dietas tradicionales propias de la cocina mexicana, ricas en frutas y verduras, sin duda abonar a en los esfuerzos encaminados para combatir la malnutrici n, y con ello reducir todos los efectos negativos en la salud con todo lo que implica ello.

De igual forma, M xico respalda la propuesta del D a Internacional de Concientiaci n sobre la P rdida y Desperdicio de Alimentos, ya que sobre este problema a n existe poca difusi n en la reducci n de la p rdida y un mayor aprovechamiento en el desperdicio de los alimentos, teniendo en cuenta que esto ayudar a a colmar las brechas para alimentar a la poblaci n que no tiene acceso a los alimentos y a optimizar la producci n en todos los labores de la cadena alimenticia, desde la pre cosecha hasta la distribuci n, por no mencionar las implicaciones medio ambientales y de conservaci n de la biodiversidad.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt)

Egypt supports the various proposals of observation of International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, International Year of Millets, International Year of Rye, International Tea day and International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. We would like to limit our comments on this important matter.

Tackling food loss and waste is a challenge on the top priorities of all the developing countries represented by the Group of 77 and China, given its key role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are deeply concerned by the fact that an estimated one third of all foods produced annually for human consumption is lost or wasted and lead to a loss of more than USD 940 billion to the global economy.

High levels of food losses and waste at each stage of the food value chain will certainly undermine the achievement of food security and nutrition and eradicate poverty and ending hunger by 2030.

Therefore, more efforts are needed to put in place effective measures to address this challenge. In this regard, we believe that FAO in collaboration with other RBAs should play a leading role in supporting countries especially the developing countries to tackle food loss and waste and to increase the efficiency and sustainability of food systems.

With these comments, Egypt fully endorses the proposal of Argentina for the establishment of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste to be celebrated on 29 September each year.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Apoyamos las iniciativas de los Años Internacionales presentados, en el entendido que todas ellas presentan una oportunidad de sensibilizar a la población sobre la importancia del consumo de productos con importantes beneficios nutricionales, su producción y para los medios de vida de miles de personas.

Chile agradece el apoyo expresado por varias delegaciones y Grupos Regionales al Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras 2021. Reiteramos el compromiso con esta iniciativa expresado por nuestro Ministro de Agricultura en el pasado COAG y acompañaremos el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras 2021, durante la fase preparatoria, así como durante el año de implementación y seguimiento posterior, porque entendemos que estas políticas son a largo plazo y los resultados se cosechan con el tiempo.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Le Sénégal soutient les déclarations faites, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, par les distingués représentants de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Kenya et du Cabo Verde au sujet, respectivement, de la proposition de célébration d'une Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux pertes et gaspillages de nourriture, le 29 septembre chaque année, d'une Année internationale des fruits et légumes en 2021 et d'une Année internationale du mil en 2023.

Le Sénégal souhaite appuyer particulièrement la proposition formulée par le Gouvernement indien pour la célébration, en 2023, d'une Année internationale du mil.

Les qualités du mil ne font certainement pas de doute. C'est une plante céréalière très importante, qui présente plusieurs avantages, notamment celui d'être déjà très largement cultivée dans le monde et celui d'être très riche sur le plan nutritif.

Des centaines de millions de personnes consomment le mil en Afrique, surtout en Afrique de l'Ouest. Au Sénégal plus particulièrement, plus de 80 pourcent de cultivateurs utilisent le mil comme aliment de base des ménages.

Ensuite, au plan nutritionnel, outre ses qualités intrinsèques, le mil est une céréale à fort potentiel pour la diversité alimentaire, en raison des multiples recettes culinaires qu'il permet de faire.

Nous connaissons également la haute valeur écologique de cette plante très résiliente, qui se conserve facilement et s'utilise intégralement, depuis ses grains consommables jusqu'à ses racines. Par exemple, dans beaucoup de villages des pays en développement, au Sénégal en tous cas, la paille de mil sert à construire des maisons. Ceci démontre bien que cette plante est intégralement utilisable.

Le développement du mil pourrait donc être une solution formidable dans un monde qui cherche à éliminer la faim. Le Sénégal soutient l'idée d'inscrire le mil parmi les domaines d'action prioritaires au niveau mondial pour parvenir à une sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable.

Cependant, on note effectivement une baisse de la production du mil, d'année en année, avec les conséquences immédiates de l'insécurité alimentaire et les déficits en nutriments des populations qui utilisent cette céréale comme aliment de base, l'accentuation de la pauvreté des ménages, etc.

Aussi, j'aimerais souligner, au sujet de l'identification des raisons pour lesquelles on note un recul inquiétant de la culture du mil, l'importance de la menace que représentent la sécheresse, le criquet pèlerin, l'augmentation des températures et la pénurie d'eau; ce sont en tout cas les défis que nous connaissons en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Les trois objectifs principaux définis par l'Inde, dans le cadre de sa proposition, sont donc absolument pertinents et peuvent servir de base pour la préparation et la mise en œuvre des activités de l'Année internationale du mil.

C'est ainsi que le Sénégal approuve la proposition du Gouvernement indien relative à la célébration d'une Année internationale du mil en 2023, et attend avec intérêt les indications éventuelles que le Conseil ferait à ce sujet.

Mme Halimatou KONE TRAORE (Observateur du Mali)

Le Mali félicite le Secrétariat pour le document présenté et surtout le Président pour son sens du compromis, qui je l'espère se poursuivra tout au long de la session.

Le Mali souscrit à la déclaration du Groupe Afrique faite par le Cabo Verde, soutenue par les autres pays. Le Mali accueille favorablement la déclaration d'une Année internationale du mil en 2023.

Outre tous les bienfaits du mil, détaillés par le Président du Comité de l'agriculture et les autres intervenants, j'ajouterais simplement qu'en Afrique sub-saharienne, particulièrement au Mali, le mil est une culture vivrière de base à cause de sa haute valeur nutritive et énergétique.

Dans les pays du Sahel, le mil est une importante culture vivrière pour la sécurité alimentaire, qui représente souvent plus de 30 pour cent de la production céréalière totale. Le mil est exclusivement cultivé dans les exploitations familiales. En le célébrant en 2023, cela rentre très logiquement dans la Décennie de l'agriculture familiale.

De surcroît, cette céréale a fait l'objet d'une attention particulière auprès des pays africains, suite au financement par la Banque africaine de développement d'un certain nombre d'initiatives, comme l'adaptation de l'agriculture africaine et le Programme technologies pour la transformation de l'agriculture en Afrique.

Le mil, sous sa forme fourragère, permet de subvenir à l'alimentation du bétail. Dans le système d'élevage extensif au Sahel, le séjour des animaux dans les champs de mil après les récoltes permet d'enrichir les sols en fumier organique.

La célébration d'une Année internationale du mil visera à sensibiliser l'opinion publique aux avantages nutritionnels du mil dans le cadre d'une production vivrière durable, en appui à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Cette célébration sera une excellente occasion de favoriser les rapprochements dans toute la chaîne de production de manière à mieux exploiter les protéines et les sels minéraux issus du mil, à renforcer la production du mil à l'échelle mondiale et à en tirer un meilleur parti.

Mon pays soutient la célébration d'une Année internationale du mil. Cette proclamation contribuera à l'aboutissement de plusieurs objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Mr Mohammad HOSSEIN EMADI (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

For endorsement, for complementary comments and information which was actually mentioned here. That was the reason that I made my statement as short as possible, because I knew that information would have been gathered and offered by the respective Members. In the meantime, I will take into account the consideration of the three Members, particularly European Union, United States and Canada about the overloading of the days and also following the regulations for the year in the 2013 FAO policy. I will just mention that we followed the directions and followed the regulations but the only sort of exception that we mentioned was the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables because it was supposed to be in 2026, which was too far and too late, particularly because of the emphasis of GRULAC and also other Members to have it as soon as possible. Therefore, that was the only exception that we made. But the rest of them, actually 2023, 2021 are exactly based on the mandate and based on the regulation. That is some sort of consideration and information that I can offer you.

Mr Fredrik ALFER (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I note the general endorsement of all the proposals. When listening to the comments, I see a lot of potential for cooperation between our two Committees. I feel it has a lot of the agricultural production aspects, but trade comes in, in several of the themes as well. I am sure that we will have good opportunities to collaborate among the Committees when we start working on these observations.

Ms Marcela VILLAREAL (Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division)

I would like to reassure the Members that we do follow very closely the aspect of the FAO policy that says that all funding for international days and years has to come from extra budgetary sources. I would just like to refer to the comments by the United States that look at the funding coming from private sector. I would like to reassure you that we are fully considering private funding from private sector and we have already done it in the past. The main funder for the International Year of Pulses was the private sector.

Mr Bukar TIJANI (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you for the observation. There are two things I want to say to briefly conclude my own assessment.

In fact, the food loss and waste is a major issue in most regions, and this is something that family farmers and others have produced a lot that goes into waste. It is so important for us to see what we can do.

Secondly, FAO is working not just on productivity increases but also on building resilience, especially in dry lands, marginal lands, and that is why it has become important for us to be looking at days of observances of the millet, the rye. And we want to see that we also build resilience of populations who are not exposed to technologies and are living in marginalized lands.

With regards to millet, we have observed that the productivity yields are going down and we are working very hard with the intergovernmental group and others and will continue to make sure that these yields come back again. There are a number of countries working on improvement of millet yields, not just in Africa but also in China, and in Asia in general. India itself is looking at those. I want to assure that we will definitely be focusing on what our Members have indicated we be looking at.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now conclude on our discussions on this item.

1. The Council, recalling the criteria outlined in the FAO Policy on the Proclamation and Implementation of International Years, as adopted by the 144th Session of Council (June 2012), and the ECOSOC Resolution 1980/67 regarding International Years and Anniversaries, endorsed the following:
 - a) the draft Conference resolution submitted by the 26th Session of COAG on the observance by the UN System of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021;
 - b) the proposal by the Government of Estonia, as endorsed by the 31st Regional Conference for Europe, to establish the observance by the UN System of an “International Year of Rye” in 2025;
 - c) the proposal by the Government of India, as endorsed by the 26th Session of COAG, to establish the observance by the UN System of an “International Year of Millets”, to be held on an exceptional basis in 2023;
 - d) the draft Resolution submitted by the 26th Session of COAG on the observance by the UN System of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on 29 September every year; and
 - e) the proposal by the Government of the People’s Republic of China, as endorsed by the 72nd Session of CCP, to establish an “International Tea Day” on 21 May of each year.
2. The Council requested that the relevant draft resolutions provide that financing of the International Years and Days be based on voluntary contributions, and that they be submitted to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

The floor is open for any reaction.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Solamente quisiera recordar que hemos pedido un cambio en la Resolución sobre el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras, con respecto a incluir contribuciones del sector privado.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

I just wanted to speak in support of Chile's suggested change, but also note it could be applied to everything in paragraph two. I know that Marcela has already indicated that the United Nations are already looking at voluntary contributions, but we could add the language that Chile has proposed for point a) and actually just bring it into paragraph two on extra-budgetary contributions and especially including the private sector.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Personally, I have no problem with including the private sector, but I think we need legal advice here because it is absolutely important that the legal adviser tells us if we can make such a statement in the report of the FAO Council because we know how our involvement with the private sector goes. We need at least the Legal Counsel to tell us if it is acceptable to have that statement the way it is.

CHAIRPERSON

Marcela, would you be able to throw some light on that?

Ms Marcela VILLAREAL (Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division)

Well, I will try. I am not the Legal Counsel. But I can reassure Cameroon that we do have policies within the FAO that look at the acceptance of resources from the private sector and from any other non-state actors. There are strategies that have been approved by the Members and on which we base all of our relationships with the private sector and also with the civil society organizations and academia and that also includes receiving funds from them. Also, there is a legal precedent in that the funding for the International Year of Pulses was based on a trust fund where the contributions were mostly from the private sector. I believe that we are legally fine, even if I am not the Legal Counsel.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Owing to what Marcela just said, I think we need a caveat here. Probably including the private sector. I do not know how to put it. I want to bring the idea of the existing regulations within the Organization. That is what I want to say. There should be something like that which at least gives some comfort to the Members to make sure that it is not just in the vacuum.

CHAIRPERSON

I have asked for the Legal Counsel to come so that you have a legal opinion as well.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Could I have a look at paragraph 1, please? Actually, the text looks fine for us. It was just what we also tried to mention is that we would also like to see future proposals being carefully assessed against this existing framework because that should be a kind of assessment and clear. Okay, perfect.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

We support the European Union suggestion of new paragraph 3. We agree in principle with Cameroon's alteration of paragraph 2. One thing: in taking a look at the actual resolutions, on the second line of paragraph 2 where it says "be based on extra-budgetary contributions", the resolutions actually use different language. They say "will be covered by". I think we would be more comfortable with that. We would delete "be based on" and we would replace that with the language of the actual resolutions we have just endorsed, which, again, would be "will be covered by".

LEGAL COUNSEL

Thank you, Mr Mehboob. And I thank you very much for having called me.

I was listening to the debate, in fact. I have taken note of the observations and the response made by Marcela, with which I am entirely in agreement. We have procedures in the Organization in place. We submit contributions from the private sector to a very tight system of review. I have colleagues who are rather busy with this matter. It is a new trend throughout the system. This is also the case in FAO and what we are doing reflects also what is being done in other organizations of the system. We are conducting a rigorous process of review. We may be reassessing these in the future, but so far we have no reason to believe that our rigorous process of review is not operating and will not prevent situations of undue influence by the industry over the activities of the Organization.

Now it may well be that, in future, this approach – and I am being very frank – may need to be improved, corrected. There could be some adjustments to what we have been doing. So far, and I have colleagues who are very deeply involved in this, there is no reason to think that our procedures are not operating correctly. We are also very actively involved with colleagues of WHO in the implementation of a blind trust fund for the provision of scientific advice. At my level, and I agree entirely with what Marcela has said, we are satisfied that we can continue with this process. Maybe in the future some adjustments may be required and I am being very open with you. But so far we are satisfied that this is working.

I trust that our friend from Cameroon will find this explanation satisfactory.

CHAIRPERSON

Is it ok with you?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Thank you, Chair. I knew that you would try to convince us. I think the way the text is now, we can go along with it. These are some words of caution. We have to be very careful when we are dealing with this because it could fire back. That is just a word of caution with this.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no other comments, we can consider this item 11 concluded and we go to item 12.

Item 12. Margarita Lizárraga Medal**Point 12. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga****Tema 12. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga**

(CL 160/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 12, *Margarita Lizárraga Medal*. The document before Council is CL 160/LIM/5.

The medal is awarded in honour of the late Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and is awarded biennially upon recommendation of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code.

It is proposed to bestow the 2018-19 Award on the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen in Norway.

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the proposed candidate, which will be awarded the Medal during a special ceremony to be held in 2019.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I take it that Council endorses the nomination of the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen and recommends that the Medal be presented by the Director-General at an award ceremony to be held before 31 December 2019?

Thank you, it is so decided. Item 12 is now concluded.

Item 15. Council Multi year Programme of Work 2019-2022**Point 15. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2019-2022****Tema 15. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2019-2022**

(CL 160/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We move to the next item on the agenda is item 15, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2019-22*. The document before you is CL 160/LIM/6.

As Members are aware, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's agenda. Due to the rolling nature of the MYPOW, it should be considered a "living document" and, as such, is subject to constant improvement and fine-tuning, also as a result of consultations on the MYPOW that take place at the regular informal meetings I hold with the Regional Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

The floor is now open for delegates who may wish to propose improvements to the text you have before you.

Ms Ursula SCHWARTZ (Austria)

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

We welcome the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2019-2022. It reflects well the Council's objectives as well as the expected results and has proven to be a good planning tool for the complex work of the Council.

We would, however, like to mention two points.

First, we note that the MYPOW incorrectly reflects the decision of the 156th Council Session in April 2017, where the Council agreed to amend paragraphs 3(c) and 5(b) so as to stress the importance of

linking the Council's guidance on world food and agriculture issues to the Sustainable Development Goals. We would like this decision to be reflected in a revised version of the document.

Secondly we note that - compared with the MYPOW 2017-2020 as endorsed by the Council at its 156th session in April 2017 - under Heading B (Monitoring implementation of governance decisions), paragraph 12 (Activities), the activity 'review the MYPOWs of the Governing Bodies and the assessment of the related progress reports' has been deleted. We would ask the Secretariat for an explanation of this change.

With these comments, we endorse the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2019-2022.

M. Herman Constant DAZAN (Bénin)

Le Bénin a le plaisir de s'exprimer ici au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite le Président et le Secrétariat du Conseil pour la qualité du document en cours d'examen.

Le Groupe régional Afrique souligne l'importance capitale que revêt ce document, car non seulement il constitue une boussole pour les activités du Conseil au cours des quatre prochaines années, mais aussi il représente à la fois un cadre et un point d'appui essentiel qui permet au Conseil de planifier ses priorités de manière stratégique.

Le Groupe note avec satisfaction que le Programme est bien structuré, car comme on peut le lire, il précise déjà certains points qui seront inscrits à l'ordre du jour des sessions du Conseil jusqu'en 2022. Ceci permet de donner une image suffisante des actions que le Conseil est censé mettre en œuvre au cours des quatre prochaines années.

Comme actions à court terme, le Conseil aura à déterminer les problématiques et orientations de la 41^{ème} session de la Conférence de juillet 2019, sans oublier l'élection du nouveau Directeur général de la FAO ainsi que le renouvellement des présidents et des membres des Comités du Programme, financier, et des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

C'est dire que les défis qui attendent le Conseil sont nombreux et le travail immense.

Dans le cadre d'une transformation de ces défis en enjeux, le Groupe régional Afrique appelle à une collaboration efficace et une confiance réciproque entre le Conseil et le Secrétariat de la FAO, et invite par ailleurs toutes les parties prenantes à s'impliquer activement dans la mise en œuvre de ce programme pluriannuel. Ceci optimiserait les synergies entraînant des gains de productivité plus importants pour l'Organisation.

Toutefois, le Groupe régional Afrique voudrait faire quelques suggestions pour l'amélioration du document.

D'abord, il aurait souhaité, dans ce document, avoir un aperçu des progrès réalisés depuis la mise en œuvre du programme 2017-2020 pour l'exercice biennal 2017-2018. L'intérêt de cette approche est de permettre au Conseil d'évaluer dans quelle mesure les objectifs et résultats de l'exercice biennal 2017-2018 sont encore pertinents et objectivement réalisables pour déterminer le potentiel de réalisation des résultats et objectifs prévus pour l'exercice pluriannuel 2019-2022, et d'aborder avec assurance les questions nouvelles et les enjeux qui se dessinent.

Ensuite, étant donné que ce programme de travail a pour rôle essentiel de planifier les activités visant à atteindre les objectifs stratégiques à un niveau plus détaillé, le Groupe régional Afrique aurait été plus heureux de voir détailler les activités clés telles qu'exposées dans le Plan stratégique révisé de la FAO et de fournir une liste détaillée des résultats à atteindre.

À cet égard, le Groupe régional Afrique aurait souhaité que soient énumérés dans le programme la liste des objectifs stratégiques pertinents qui ont été identifiés dans le Plan stratégique révisé de la FAO et qui

sont liés à la réalisation d'une priorité spécifique, les résultats escomptés, les activités prévues à réaliser pour l'obtention du résultat escompté, le calendrier pour entreprendre les activités prévues, les contributions à fournir pour chaque activité et le budget y afférent.

Par ailleurs, le Groupe régional Afrique souhaiterait l'institution, comme il est coutume au Programme alimentaire mondial, des rencontres périodiques avec les régions entre le Directeur général de la FAO, ou tout au moins l'un des Directeurs généraux adjoints, et les Représentations permanentes, en prélude aux sessions du Conseil. L'occasion serait alors donnée au Directeur général de faire le point de ses activités au sein des différentes régions entre les périodes intersessions et de recueillir leur avis sur toute question les intéressant.

Le Groupe régional Afrique voudrait saluer dans ce sens la tenue permanente et régulière de rencontres périodiques entre le management de la FAO et toutes les Représentations permanentes.

Tout en prenant note du caractère évolutif du programme pluriannuel, le Groupe régional Afrique espère une amélioration du document à l'occasion de sa révision au cours de la session de décembre 2019.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe régional Afrique approuve le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2019-2022.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States thanks the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the MYPOW for the Council for 2019-2022. We note that in paragraph 2 of CL 160/LIM/6 the document notes that Conference decisions on strategies, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization are aligned with and follow Council guidance. We agree with this approach. In this regard, the United States encourages Members to consider adding an indicator and target thus empowering the Council to review decisions forwarded to Conference to ensure they are prioritized with respect to FAO's mandate, which we think would be more closely in track with the mandate of the MYPOW as a means for priority setting and oversight.

CHAIRPERSON

I give the floor to Mr Gagnon to respond to the points raised by Austria.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There were three interventions. If you agree, I will start with the last one.

Thank you, United States, for your comments. We will work on the document and make the changes you have suggested. I would only point out, though, this fundamental division of labour, if you want, that we have in the FAO Constitution between matters going straight to the Conference and those going to the Council. But your point is well taken and we will reflect this comment.

Suite en français

De façon plus générale, je tiens à remercier le Bénin pour son intervention au nom du Groupe Afrique. En effet, si vous vous rappelez, il y a un certain temps que la question de la structure et du contenu de ce document a été discutée au sein des réunions avec les Présidents et Vice-présidents des Groupes régionaux.

J'ai donc bien noté les suggestions que vous avez faites. Vous avez suggéré que l'accent soit mis un peu plus sur les objectifs et les résultats et, en fin de compte, vous proposez même un réaménagement important du document, ce qui est très encourageant. Nous allons nous mettre à l'oeuvre, car, ainsi que j'avais eu l'occasion de le signaler au cours de ces réunions périodiques menées par le Président indépendant du Conseil, ce document datait tout de même de 2009. Il avait été rédigé après la réforme de la gouvernance de la FAO, au moment où tous les organes directeurs s'étaient dotés d'un Programme de travail pluriannuel (*Multi-year Programme of Work - MYPOW*).

Je pense donc qu'il est maintenant tout à fait à propos d'évaluer l'expérience faite jusqu'à présent et je retiens de vos propos qu'il faut non seulement prescrire des objectifs pour le futur, mais prendre en compte, sur des périodes définies, les résultats de ce qui a été mis en œuvre.

C'est une suggestion importante et nous allons y travailler.

Continues in English

It seems that these two provisions were the subject of an oversight, so we will make sure that they are reflected in the next version.

And the same for heading B, monitoring implementation of governance decision, paragraph 12, on activities. Here my only comment is this: it is probably an oversight. But I will say this. Originally the idea was that all the Governing Bodies would have MYPOWs and that the Council would be responsible for reviewing the MYPOWs of all the other Governing Bodies reporting to it. We are talking about all the Regional Conferences and all the Technical Committees and also the Council committees. Since then, experience has shown that some committees are relying heavily on MYPOWs. I can think of the CFS, for example. Others not so much. Some committees have simply stopped using it for all kinds of very valid reasons. I can think of the CCLM. It is very difficult for the Committee to plan in advance what the Committee will be dealing with. CCLM is there to advise on legal issues. It depends what the circumstances are. To summarize, we will make sure that the original objective of this revision is reflected in the next version, taking into account this reality that has surfaced over the last few years.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now proceed to conclude. It is a very short conclusion.

1. The Council reviewed and approved its Multi-Year Programme of Work, MYPOW 2019-2020;
2. The Council requested the Secretariat to include the proposed amendments to the MYPOW and that the revised version be circulated by the ICC to all Members;
3. The Council noted the living nature of the document and agreed to continue using the informal meetings convened by the ICC with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups as a forum for further discussion and refinement of the document.

I see there is no request for the floor, so we can move to the next item.

Item 16. Working Methods of the Council

Point 16. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

Tema 16. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

(CL 160/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We will proceed with item 16, *Working Methods of the Council*. The relevant document submitted to Council for information is CL 160/INF/5.

I open the floor for any comments on the Working Methods of the Council.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

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

We welcome the Note on the Methods of Work of the Council. We consider this Note to be a living document aimed at optimising work methods on an ongoing basis in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Council Sessions.

We welcome the changes made since the revised Methods of Work were presented at the 153rd Session of the Council in November/December 2015.

First, we note with appreciation the insertion of the suggestion to schedule the standing item 'Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO' on the first day of the Council session – and not on the last.

And secondly, we also note with appreciation that in paragraph 24 the projection onscreen of the draft conclusions made by the ICC after each item will become a standard practice with a view to facilitating a better understanding of the proposed text.

With these comments we endorse the Working Methods of the Council.

M. Bonaventure KOUAKANNOU (Bénin)

Merci de donner la parole au Bénin pour s'exprimer de concert avec la Côte d'Ivoire et au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil de la FAO.

Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite le Président et le Secrétariat du Conseil pour ce document qui témoigne d'un souci constant d'inscrire les méthodes de travail du Conseil dans un processus d'amélioration continue, afin de lui permettre de fonctionner avec l'efficacité et l'efficacités requises.

Le Groupe régional Afrique note avec satisfaction que la note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil, qui est de nouveau soumise à notre attention à l'occasion de la présente session, prend en compte les évolutions et l'essence du contexte mondial qui ont des implications sur les interventions de la FAO, ainsi que les nouvelles initiatives prises pour donner plus de lisibilité dans les délibérations du Conseil.

S'agissant des activités courantes, et selon le projet de l'Organisation, y compris son Cadre stratégique, son Plan à moyen terme et son Programme de travail et budget, le Groupe régional Afrique se réjouit du fait que le rôle du Conseil en matière de supervision, quant à la prise en compte de nouveaux défis mondiaux et régionaux, ait été inscrit.

Il souhaite que les questions liées au changement climatique et au genre continuent de bénéficier d'une attention particulière.

Le Groupe régional Afrique soutient que le Conseil doit effectivement veiller à ce que le Programme de travail et budget s'appuie sur les recommandations d'évaluation stratégique.

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

We welcome the new introduction into the working methods of the Council, showing on the screen of the conclusions of the ICC on the specific items on the agenda. We believe that such approach could be used by other FAO bodies, in particular during the CFS sessions. Based on the experience of the previous sessions of the Council, at the moment it is not clear the participation of the observers to the Council, in particular the procedure on receiving the opportunity to make a statement on certain items on the agenda. In future, perhaps, we could define the rules on this matter more clearly.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

To begin with, we want to commend the Secretariat on a much smoother agenda setting mechanism for both the Committees and the Council as compared to the last time. We think this has contributed to a more effective and smoother Council.

Second, we support the points made by Russia and the European Union regarding putting the points for consideration on the screen as laid out in paragraph 24 of the report and we agree that these should be made permanent.

We offer a couple additional areas for improvement. First off, we think that we have seen significant improvement in shortening the language on some of the reports, but we think that language could even be shorter. Our recommendation would be to simply have decisional language for Council documents rather than phrases and paragraphs which are mainly commentaries. For example, if you were to take a look at the decision document for item 8 today where we approved the WFP plan, it is almost completely

hortatory language. This is an example of a document which could be simple, the Council endorsed the report. My first potential area of improvement is looking for that and trying to shrink as a starting point language to decisional language. We can add commentary if we need to but it should be the exception and not the rule.

Second, we would recommend considering adopting the practice of the Finance Committee in which before we came to a decision, we were provided with paper copies of what was being put on the screen. On the one hand, I recognize that this could be seen as a recipe for lots of negotiations, but, colleagues, we have spent hours over the last two days negotiating. I am sure we have much to lose on that account. In practice during the last Session of the Finance Committee, we found that, going a step beyond the screen and actually negotiating off the paper, which, by the way, is how we normally do it in the United Nations – allowed for more efficient negotiations. They were simply quicker. The Committee ended sooner, but also there was more buy-in because people saw the paper in front of them and they were able to work. I know this creates some language challenges but we were able to overcome those in the Finance Committee and I would urge consideration on that.

My final idea is make the Drafting Committee actually a Drafting Committee. Right now, it is simply an editing committee. We identify Drafting Committees in advance. Those committees could work with the Secretariat in putting together the pre-decisional language, and, therefore, you already have a certain amount of Member State buy-in before the session even starts. I think this would contribute to a more efficient process, probably shorter resolutions as well. I understand we normally cover these types of topics with the ICC in our regularly scheduled meetings and I look forward to following up further conversations in those meetings.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States. In fact, in the discussions on some of the items, we had suggested and Members, I think, agreed that all this should be taken up at the informal meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The European Union countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union.

The Nordic countries have highlighted the need to improve the Council working methods and we would like to thank you, Mr Chairperson, for following up this issue in consultation with the Chairs and co-Chairs of the Regional Groups. The Nordic countries welcome the important practical steps already taken towards that direction like presenting the conclusions on the screen and identifying the speaker on the screen. We appreciate as well the informal seminar and encourage continuing this practice. In addition to the topical discussion, we would like to encourage holding informal meetings on substantive issues of general relevance to the Members like updates on the development of FAO's strategic programmes. We look forward to continuing cooperation with you, Mr Chairperson, in order to improve the Council working methods.

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Observateur du Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord m'associer à la déclaration prononcée par le représentant du Bénin.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you just hold on? I would like to remind that the practice of Council is that observers do not contribute to the conclusions and summaries of the Chairperson. It is the role of Members but do I take it that you want to respond to one of the comments made by one of the delegations, maybe the Russian Federation?

M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Sénégal)

Je voulais effectivement juste intervenir sur ce point puisque le Sénégal souhaite marquer son intérêt pour cette question qu'a soulevée mon cher collègue de la Russie et qui touche aux modalités de participation des Membres observateurs au Conseil.

C'est une question très importante pour nous puisque nous connaissons les méthodes de travail, pour lesquelles nous félicitons le Secrétariat et vous-même, Monsieur le Président, qui évitent les dissensions au sein du Conseil. On ne procède pas ici dans la pratique par vote, et en tout état de cause, s'il devait y avoir vote, les Membres observateurs ne seraient pas concernés. Je pense, cependant, que dans le cadre du débat, permettre aux observateurs d'y participer ne peut qu'enrichir le résultat.

Je voudrais même aller plus loin en demandant qu'ils puissent contribuer aux commentaires sur les résumés du Président. Peut-être que lorsque ce débat sera ouvert, cette voie-là pourrait être envisagée plutôt que de réduire les parties prenantes.

CHAIRPERSON

We will include another item on our working methods when we discuss it at our informal meetings with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Regional Groups.

Perhaps I can conclude on this short item. The Council welcomed the implementation of initiatives to improve the methods of work of the Council and encouraged further improvements. The ICC indicated that proposed improvements would be discussed during future informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

I see no reaction.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think one innovation this time was the shifting of the item on *Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO* to be discussed on the first day. We can probably single it out in paragraph one. The Council will work on implementation of its initiatives.

If this is acceptable, then I would like to make just a general comment.

Owing to experience, I was really very disappointed by the discussion of Council on this matter and I do not know whether it was due to timing but there was no excitement at all, despite the fact that the topics that were presented were very good and, very important to some of us. I wonder whether, at the informal meeting with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Regional Groups, you could bring this as an element of assessment of this first trial, of what it yielded as I must confess I was really disappointed by the discussion. There was actually not much discussion on that item.

This is the comment I wanted to make and I think if Council Members could accept this, then we could go along.

CHAIRPERSON

Any reaction from Members? We can discuss this at our informal meeting as well. We can conclude on this item and move to the next one.

Item 14. Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 159th Session of the Council (4-8 June 2018)

Point 14. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent cinquante-neuvième session (4-8 juin 2018)

Tema 14. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 159.º período de sesiones (4-8 de junio de 2018)

(CL 160/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

The next is item 14, *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 159th Session of the Council (4-8 June 2018)*. The relevant document is CL 160/LIM/3.

The Council is invited to note information on the implementation of decisions taken at its 159th Session in June 2018 and includes updates on decisions taken at the 158th Session of Council (December 2017) and the 155th Session (December 2016).

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this status report.

Mr Guetner WALKNER (Austria)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We welcome the report on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 159th Session of the Council.

We note that the report says that FAO management has not started work on the Council recommendation to pilot joint Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) with IFAD and WFP and neither with our request for a progress update on this at the last informal joint meeting of the Members of the FAO Council, WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board. This is one of the key actions we expect to see in the Action Plan to implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between FAO, IFAD and WFP.

We ask for management to assure us that work on this will start soon and we reiterate the request for a progress update at the next informal joint meeting of the Members of the FAO Council, WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board. We also request an update on this work at the next Council session in April 2019.

Ms Manthamane Dellop SELLO (Lesotho)

It is an honour for me to deliver this statement on behalf of Africa Regional Group on agenda item 14.

Africa Regional Group fully supports the progress made on the implementation of the decision taken at 159th Session of the Council and wish to applaud the Council Secretariat for their tireless efforts on carrying out the mandates given to them. Be it as it may, the Africa Regional Group wishes to call for the Council to take note of the request for an evaluation of FAO's work on gender for consideration by the Conference in 2019 as currently it has not yet started.

With these few comments, the Africa Regional Group endorses the document on the status of implementation of the decision taken at the 159th Session of the Council.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Con respecto al número 11, respecto a las consultas sobre los procedimientos para selección el nombramiento de los Secretarios, vemos que este asunto ya fue visto en el CCLM y que se considera como en curso. Nosotros quisiéramos que se apresuraran un poco las conversaciones con los Miembros de la mesa del TIRFAA, para que, ojalá, en el próximo Consejo, tengamos una resolución al respecto.

Ms Ni NGUYEN (Canada)

With regard to decision 12, it states the Council requested the Organization to conduct among its staff and personnel an independent and anonymous staff satisfaction survey, and it says completed. I believe that what has been undertaken was the United Nations system-wide survey, after which a request was made that FAO also conduct surveys. I would request that the status of this decision be changed to either not yet started or ongoing.

CHAIRPERSON

That will be done. Any other request?

We can conclude:

1. The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 159th, 158th and 155th Sessions and requested the Secretariat to implement the outstanding decisions.
2. The Council requested that a joint country programming framework to be piloted with IFAD and WFP be initiated without delay and a progress up to date be provided as soon as possible.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I would be reluctant to put two there because the developments are changing. First of all, this joint programming at the country level is extremely difficult. All three agencies have their own system at present. Then you have the United Nations Reform. Under the United Nations Reform, there is only one national United Nations Development Assistance Framework and we still do not know what will go there. It is too early to put this paragraph today. Maybe a year later, yes. Not now.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to point 2, last line, where it is written “as soon as possible.” Maybe we could be more precise by mentioning “at the next Council session in April 2019.”

CHAIRPERSON

Could you comment on what Afghanistan said?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Shall I repeat? I said joint programming by the RBAs at the country level is a very difficult job. At present, they are each working on their own system. FAO has its own country strategic framework. IFAD has a huge operational programme country strategic plan. And IFAD works on COSOPs. I do not think they have had serious discussions of how they can integrate these three at the country level.

Then there is the United Nations Reform. The Secretary-General says there will be one strategic framework for the whole United Nations System. If that is implemented, FAO's country strategic framework, WFP country strategic plan and IFAD's Country strategic opportunity programme will have to be integrated there. It is still early to discuss this issue. I say leave it until next year. Let us look at what will be done. These three agencies have not started yet. No agency so far has prepared this new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that the Secretary-General is talking about. I am not saying that I agree with this statement. It is too early to put it in the report.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Actually, IFAD and WFP have already agreed on the countries where they will develop a joint strategy. I think if we request a clear date for the next session of the Council that should be a clear signal.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I share fully the views of Afghanistan on this issue. Cameroon is still the first country with joint evaluation of the three organizations. Joint evaluation took place and we have one workshop for the presentation of those evaluations. It was a very difficult exercise.

Now to talk of joint programming for the three organizations to be presented by the next Council, which is in April, Mr Chairperson, I am not sure that we can. If we do not remove this sentence, we can modify it a little bit: “The Council requested that FAO pursues the possibility of joint programming” – or “swiftly pursues” – “FAO swiftly pursues the possibility of joint country programming with IFAD and WFP”. Something like that. Setting a date here is impossible.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

Italy would like to support the language proposed in the summary as amended by Austria. Due to the fact that here we do not have any mandatory language in terms of urgency and this is not meant to ask for a full-fledged country programming framework to be presented to the Council in April. The language is already pragmatic asking that a request by the Council be given follow-up. The update would be on how this piloting exercise is being initiated. I would refrain from stepping back from what the Council has already requested.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, Austria and Italy, it is in the previous Council's report. But setting in possible deadlines will not achieve anything. Should we say the Council's decision was for “the next informal meeting of the RBAs,” which should be September next year.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Listening to my distinguished colleague from Cameroon, I hope there is not a misunderstanding. It is not about the programme. It is about the update of the programme. It is about the progress that has been made. This is a commitment from the Council. To put it on the informal side is not what we have requested. It should be with a fixed date on the next session of the Council in April. I hope with this clarification that there is an update of the programme. It was a commitment of the Council. I hope this clarifies this misunderstanding.

CHAIRPERSON

I took the suggestion for the informal meeting because that is what was in your statement as it spoke of an update at the next informal joint meeting.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

Thank you for being so precise. You are always right. But we also mentioned in the last sentence that we also request an update on this work at the next Council session in April. Maybe we can take this language and find a compromise. Stick to the progress update at the next informal joint meeting of Members of the FAO Council, WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board. However, we also request an additional update. Maybe this would help.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I hope it was a misunderstanding of what the European Union was saying and they do not want the framework to be presented to the next session of the Council in April. I was very confused thinking they wanted the framework to be available at the next session. They have not yet even started discussing it. If that is the case, then I will propose my suggestion because I was afraid they wanted the framework to be available at the Council. I can agree with the language. We put a full stop after Governing Bodies and the rest we can delete.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

When I look at the decision of June 2018, it requested the progress update at the next informal annual meeting, which meant September. We did not get that update because it had not yet started. It is written here to be discussed at future meetings of the senior consultative group. We have asked, as part of the Programme Committee, that we receive briefings after senior consultative group meetings with Member States.

I think that I would support the European Union's comment that we would need a status report about this decision that was dated June 2018, whatever is the earliest, whether it is Council session or a briefing after the senior consultative group. It does not mean that this has to be concluded but at least even if it is an update on the challenges that they are facing in having this pilot. When we had the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assessment session this week, they did talk about a case study of the three RBAs at country level on what was being done. FAO Management mentioned the fact that this was also influencing their planning. I think it would be good to have this discussed with a progress update, some kind of information about the progress being made on this issue.

Mr Günter WALKNER (Austria)

I would like to refer to the last line where it is in brackets "provided to the Council". Maybe in the spirit of compromise, we could insert the wording "and keep the FAO Council updated" so then we can delete the brackets.

CHAIRPERSON

Cameroon, Canada, is this acceptable? I think there is agreement on that wording. Thank you, Austria. We can conclude this item and move to the next one.

Item 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2018-20**Point 17. Calendrier 2018-2020 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales****Tema 17. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2018-2020**

(CL 160/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 17, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2018-20*. The document before Council is CL 160/LIM/1.

To avoid meetings overlapping, FAO draws up this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP and through the web-based RBA Common Calendar, which may be consulted by Members at any time through the FAO Members Gateway on the FAO Home Page, and on the relevant platforms of the other two agencies.

The schedule of meetings for 2019 is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for information, are indicated with an asterisk. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2019.

The floor is open for any comments or queries on the proposed calendar. No comments, so we can consider this item concluded and move to the next one

Item 18. Provisional Agenda for the 161st Session of the Council (April 2019)**Point 18. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante et unième session du Conseil (avril 2019)****Tema 18. Programa provisional del 161.º período de sesiones del Consejo (abril de 2019)***(CL 160/INF/2)***CHAIRPERSON**

We will now take up to Item 18, *Provisional Agenda for the 161st Session of the Council (April 2019)*. The relevant document is CL 160/INF/2.

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je vous demanderais de bien vouloir donner la parole au Soudan du Sud.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (Observer for South Sudan)

The Republic of South Sudan is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group to deliver this statement under the discussion.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the provisional agenda for the 161st session of the Council April 2019 and would like to emphasize or highlight the issue of the family farming agenda that will serve as the framework for countries to help public policies and investment to support the family farmers and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the 6th Global Conference on Family Farming that will take place in Spain in March 2019 hosted by the World Rural Farmer Forum. We believe that the Conference as a platform will bring countries together to discuss and engage in policies to improve and develop public policies and create a legal environment that will support family farmers and mitigate the flow of migration.

With these comments, the African Regional Group endorses the information document.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor? I see no requests for the floor, so the Council endorses the provisional agenda of its 161st Session April 2019 as contained in document CL 160/INF/2.

Thank you. Item 18 is now concluded.

Item 20. Any Other Matters**Point 20. Questions diverses****Tema 20. Asuntos varios**

Item 20.1 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

Point 20.1 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel

Tema 20.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(CL 160/LIM/7 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to the last item on the Agenda, Any Other Matters.

Members are reminded that sub-item 20.1, *Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee* was included under this item when the timetable was adopted on Monday morning. The document before Council is CL 160/LIM/7 Rev.1.

Given that Ms Daleya Uddin and Mr Antonio Ricarte have resigned from the Staff Pension Committee, the Council is invited to consider the candidatures of: Ms Kelli Ketover as Alternate member of the FAO Conference to the Committee, to replace and complete the term of office of Ms Uddin, which ends on 31 December 2019; and Her Excellency Maria Cristina Boldorini as Member of the FAO Conference to the Committee, to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Antonio Ricarte, which ends on 31 December 2020 .

Can I take it that the Council has no objection to this proposed nominations?

It seems not so this item is concluded.

Item 20.2 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Point 20.2 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Tema 20.2 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Now we can move to our last item.

Ladies and gentlemen, as mentioned at the start of the meeting, a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies will now be made. The statement will be made by Ms Susan Murray, Secretary General of the Union of General Service Staff.

Ms Susan Muray (Secretary General, Union of General Service Staff)

The Staff Representative Bodies are grateful to be again allowed to speak before the Council. It is always an honour for us to be able to share with you the opinions and concerns of the staff we represent. In doing so, we always try not to think only of our own interests but to make a constructive contribution to the benefit of the Organization. We are convinced that a motivated workforce that is treated with dignity, coupled with strong and effective staff-Management relations characterized by mutual respect and collaboration, are in the interest not just of staff, but also of the Organization and the Member Countries.

When we last addressed you, during the 159th session of the Council, we explained that in our opinion these conditions, unfortunately, are not currently met at FAO. We do not wish to repeat what we said on that occasion. Following our statement, at the request of a number of delegates, the Council decided that the statement of the Staff Representative Bodies should be submitted in full to the Finance Committee for discussion. At its 173rd session, the Finance Committee decided that the issue was not within its remit. We take note of that decision.

However, we regret that the information provided by Management to the Finance Committee under the relevant agenda item did not represent a correct and complete picture of the nature of staff-Management relations at FAO and contained an arguable legal opinion, with which we do not agree, on the obligation of Management to consult and negotiate with the Staff Representative Bodies. We pointed this out in a message to the Director of OHR on 7 November 2018.

Prior to the Finance Committee meeting, the Staff-Representative Bodies also prepared a comprehensive paper documenting what is, in our view, the true nature of staff-Management relations at FAO and the attitude of Management towards the staff of the Organization. Unfortunately this paper was not submitted to the Finance Committee because “as a matter of principle and in line with established practice, documents for the Finance Committee are prepared by the Secretariat”. We have taken note also of this fact. We have in any case transmitted the document to Management and made it available to our own members on our respective intranet sites, hoping this will aid to ensure informed decision-making.

We wish to make it very clear that we did not request to engage in consultations or negotiations with the Governing Bodies of FAO, and we acknowledge that our proper interlocutor is FAO’s Management through the appropriate consultation mechanisms. In this regard, we can only reiterate that the request to

put our previous statement to the Council on the agenda of the Finance Committee was made by Member Countries, and the decision to do so was taken by the Council. Nonetheless, we do believe it is important that the Governing Bodies are fully aware of the nature of Staff-Management relations, not least because these have an impact on the effectiveness with which the Organization can carry out its mandate and respond to the needs of the Member Countries. We believe this is perfectly in line with Member Countries' responsibility for governance oversight.

The paper we had prepared also contained a comprehensive discussion of a number of priority HR-related areas that we believe need to be addressed. These are: recruitment, promotion and career development; geographic mobility; internal justice and conciliation mechanisms; plus the excessive use of short-term staff and non-staff human resources. For each, we made proposals for a way forward. We also called for regular global staff surveys in order to gauge the views of staff, which, contrary to other organizations, have never been carried out under the current Management of FAO. We believe that addressing these issues would help ensure a more motivated work force at FAO and would have a positive impact on the capacity of the Organization to carry out its mandate to the benefit of the Member Countries.

In line with what we already stated in our address to Council last June, we do not expect to see any progress on these areas under the current leadership of FAO. However, we continue to look forward with optimism to engaging constructively with a new Management in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We can consider item 20 closed.

Ladies and Gentleman, we have now concluded the substantive work of the Council.

The first meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene tomorrow morning at 9.30 hours in the Iraq Room.

Due to the unavailability of the Chair of the Drafting Committee, Romania, France has accepted to act as Chairperson for the morning session.

May I take it that this is acceptable to the Council?

Thank you. And thank you to France for your ability to Chair the Drafting Committee tomorrow morning.

We will reconvene in plenary on Friday morning. There will be a Presentation on FAO's emergency response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, followed by a Debriefing on the Field Visit to Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations, which took place from 23 to 30 June 2018.

The Adoption of the Report is also foreseen for Friday and the exact time will be communicated through the FAO Members Gateway.

Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind the Members that the draft Council report will be transmitted through the FAO Members Gateway and will be available on the password-protected area on the portal. As the Chair mentioned, the opening of the session on Friday morning will be announced with the exact time announced tomorrow.

As you know, there is a side event on the African Solidarity Trust Fund scheduled in the Sheikh Zayed Centre at lunchtime from 12:30 to 14:00, subject, of course, to our deliberation in this Council.

As in the past, depending on the way we progress in the adoption of the report, this time may slip. But we will keep you informed. The first thing to look for is the time at which the Council will convene in plenary on Friday morning. This will be announced through the website tomorrow.

CHAIRPERSON

With this, we can adjourn our meeting.

The meeting rose at 20:14 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 14

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.14

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Sixtieth Session Cent soixantième session 160.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 3-7 December 2018 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2018 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2018</p>
<p>SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>7 December 2018</p>

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the seventh and final meeting of the 160th Session of the FAO Council.

Before we start our proceedings, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for a brief announcement.

Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wanted to confirm that the Draft Report is available on the password protected area of the FAO Members Gateway in all languages.

*Presentation by FAO and WFP on the emergency response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen
Présentation faite par la FAO et le PAM sur l'intervention d'urgence dans la crise humanitaire
au Yémen*

Exposición de la FAO y el PMA sobre la respuesta de emergencia a la crisis humanitaria en el Yemen

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we start this morning with a presentation by FAO and WFP on the emergency response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

I am pleased to invite Mr Daniele Donati, Deputy Director of the FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Ms Sheila Grudem, Deputy Director of the Emergency Preparedness Support Response Division at the World Food Programme to deliver the presentation.

Mr Donati you have the floor.

Mr Daniele DONATI (Deputy-Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, FAO)

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to brief you on the current situation in Yemen and on the FAO and WFP response.

As you are no doubt aware, Yemen is in the midst of the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) shows that 20 million people would be severely hungry if not reached by continued humanitarian assistance. One third of these in IPC Phase 4.

Four years of fighting have left the country's economy in ruins. Livelihoods are destroyed and food prices have spiraled beyond the reach of most families.

Unpredictable exchange rate fluctuations and credit restrictions have impacted imports, which make up the vast majority of the country's food supply.

Public service provision and social safety nets have been shattered, salaries are largely unpaid and millions of Yemenis have exhausted all means to cope.

It is clear that the country is quickly nearing a tipping point.

These latest IPC results are the outcome of a rigorous data collection and analysis process, and reflect only the situation today.

For now, discussions continue around the projection up to March 2019, as those involved examine the potential impact of other factors. For example, the possible closure of the Al Hudaydah port, which would cut off almost 80 percent of imports as well as humanitarian food assistance, thus dramatically impacting food access and availability.

With enormous pressure on the IPC Technical Working Group in Yemen, they have done extraordinary work in an extremely difficult environment.

The IPC process has clear requirements for data collection that were challenging for the teams on the ground. At the same time, they expanded the analysis from governorate level to district level, covering 333 districts of the country.

Such has been the level of scrutiny that the Famine Review Committee was activated here in Rome to ensure the highest quality of the analysis.

Thus, the latest analysis shows us that while the scale of hunger is truly staggering in Yemen, it does not as yet meet the technical definition of a famine.

From the IPC perspective, famine exists in areas where, even with humanitarian assistance, at least one in five households has an extreme privation of food, extreme hunger and evident destitution. There is also significant mortality, directly attributable to outright starvation, or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

Famine is declared when there is evidence of the following three conditions in a single location: at least 20 percent of households face extreme food shortages; at least 30 percent of children younger than five suffer from acute malnutrition; and at least two adults or four children out of every 10,000 people are dying every day.

Today, the most affected districts have not yet reached famine levels. And this is largely thanks to the efforts of the humanitarian community in Yemen.

However, there are households experiencing famine-like, or catastrophic, conditions – IPC phase 5.

Across the country, normal food production activity has almost ground to a halt. People are growing what food they can in backyard gardens. Animals relied on for dairy protein are underfed and weak. The absence of veterinary services, coupled with scarcity and the high cost of drugs and animal feed, is a major problem all over the country.

FAO has significantly scaled up its programme in 2018 and is reaching over 5 million people with crop and vegetable seeds, fishing gear, poultry production kits and cash support. Our animal vaccination and treatment campaigns have reached over 1.2 million livestock despite significant access constraints.

While most of Yemen's food needs are met through imports, national food production accounts for about one-quarter of the food consumed in the country. Post-harvest assessments have shown that this production has fallen by as much as 30 percent. Agriculture remains the primary livelihood for three-quarters of the population, 75 percent of the Yemenis. It is their only source of income and is critical to enable them to access food on the markets.

Clearly, there is a critical role here for livelihoods support within the humanitarian response to safeguard and rapidly scale up food production and therefore increase food availability among the most vulnerable groups.

Under our three-year Plan of Action 2018-20, FAO is seeking USD 176.5 million to safeguard lives and livelihoods and build a much more resilient agriculture sector in Yemen. It is clear that much remains to be done. A major priority for FAO is therefore to significantly expand cash assistance, including unconditional cash, and cash-for-work programmes. Through these, we provide people with a means to access food, produce food and restore agricultural infrastructure, laying the foundations for recovery. In addition, FAO plans to continue expanding its support to livestock owners and crop producers to maintain and rapidly increase food production.

I am sure my colleague from WFP, Sheila Grudem, will also speak on the critical role of humanitarian assistance and how WFP have been working to reach those in need in Yemen.

But, before I hand over, let me emphasize that while ramping up humanitarian assistance is obviously crucial, we can only do so much without peace.

Ultimately, until humanitarian actors gain continuous and unconstrained access to people in need, until the fighting stops and peace agreements are made and abided by, our hands are tied.

The fighting must stop. Food, health supplies, and agricultural inputs, must be allowed unimpeded into Yemen, and must be allowed to circulate in all areas.

Ms Sheila GRUDEM (Deputy Director, Emergency Preparedness Support Response Division, WFP)

I would like to emphasize something that Daniele said. The IPC results indicate that we are not yet at a famine phase, but the important thing to remember is that famine is an outcome of what I would consider a failure to assist people or a failure for people to access sufficient food. We do not want to get there. This is not a pat ourselves on the back we are not there yet. This is we need to act now because they are at a critical stage. We estimate that WFP will have to increase our assistance to the people of Yemen from the 8 million that we are already assisting to 12 million by January. That is a 2 million increase. And to put it into perspective, for some of our other large operations we are assisting 1 and 2 million people. That is a huge increase. It is a huge percentage of the population.

That assistance will be provided through food assistance, direct food assistance, and cash. As Daniele pointed out, the cash assistance is also quite important. If we can get cash into the economy, those that do have access and are able to trade will help generate that economic viability and stabilize the situation somewhat on the economic side.

The other important aspect is keeping the Hodeidah port open. If that port closes, then it is going to be difficult for the population to access food. For those who have cash to buy food, it will be difficult for them to access it, and also difficult for us to get goods into the country. It is extremely important that that stay open. Right now, it is a challenge with the fighting around the port. We have lost access to some of our milling capacity in that area. It constrains our ability to get trucks in and out of the port. Aden port is not sufficient, is not large enough nor does it have sufficient capacity to cover if Hodeidah is lost. These are important aspects.

As I said, for next year WFP is scaling up our assistance. Right now, the plan is for December, this month, we scale up to 10 million, and by January 12 million, but that means an immediate injection of about USD 412 million to cover those immediate shortfalls for December and January. And then, for next year that increases our needs from USD 1.5 to USD 2 billion. That is to maintain the situation as it is now and with the current IPC results. If the situation continues to deteriorate, that will increase. Again, as Daniele pointed out, the solution to this situation is peace in Yemen. Barring that, it is continued access to the port and to the people in need.

Mr Haitham EL HADY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Daniele Donati from FAO and Ms Sheila Grudem from WFP. You have given us an insight on the disastrous humanitarian situation in Yemen. I have a question for our two speakers. My question is the following: Is there any joint programme between WFP and FAO to reach those most vulnerable in Yemen? About development projects: are there joint development projects to create new opportunities, particularly in rural areas for farmers?

And then I also have a general comment I would like to state. The situation in Yemen is extremely difficult. It cannot continue anymore. Egypt always reasserts the need for a political solution to the Yemeni crisis. We insist on supporting the political process under the umbrella of the United Nations according to the measures established by the Security Council. We want for Yemen to be stable, at peace, and under a legitimate government. According to the presentations made, the humanitarian situation in Yemen cannot be solved unless peace is established inside the country and unless security prevails.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (Observer for the United Kingdom)

Good morning. And thank you very much to Daniele and to Sheila for the very sobering presentation of the latest IPC findings.

The United Kingdom, like everyone in this room, is very concerned about the situation in Yemen. I would, first of all, please pass on our thanks to all of the staff of FAO and WFP and other humanitarian agencies working their hardest to support people in Yemen.

I had a very brief question. I would ask Daniele just to confirm again the numbers who are suffering an IPC phase IV. I did not quite catch that at the beginning of his presentation. It would be very helpful if you could clarify that again.

Mr Daniele DONATI (Deputy-Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, FAO)

The two questions relate to the IPC analysis to some extent. Being both partners of the IPC group, FAO and WFP share above all the analysis and the priorities to respond to the crisis. We do have more than joint projects. We are trying to join programmes, actually. This is happening not only in Yemen but in many other countries, in particular in those protracted crises where the nexus between emergency response and rehabilitation of the capacities are key.

Concerning the people in phase IV, the number is 9.6 million according to the latest analysis. But I believe the full report will be released very soon.

Ms Sheila GRUDEM (Deputy Director, Emergency Preparedness Support Response Division, WFP)

I just want to complement that. As I pointed out, WFP is looking at scaling up to 12 million. That is not all the people in need. We are addressing access and availability, and it is due to the joint projects with FAO that others are able to be covered. There are people that need immediate direct food assistance and others that need livelihood support. So it is working on those livelihood supports and maintaining that our joint work comes into play. Also, there have been joint visits by FAO and WFP to Yemen. Again, the IPC, we work quite closely together on that.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We can now move on to the next item.

Debriefing on Field Visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon (23-30 June 2018) by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations

Compte rendu sur les visites de terrain effectuées en Côte d'Ivoire et au Cameroun (23-30 juin 2018) par des hauts fonctionnaires de représentations permanentes sises à Rome

Informe oral acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas a Côte d'Ivoire y el Camerún (23-30 de junio de 2018) por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Council will now be debriefed on the Field Visit to Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon, which took place earlier this year from 23 to 30 June, and I invite His Excellency Jan Tombinski, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the European Union to FAO, and Mr Marc Mankoussou, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to FAO, who participated in the field visit, to deliver a presentation on the field visit.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (Permanent Representative of the European Union to FAO)

I am honoured to present our report from the field visit this year to Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon. We are pleased, together with Marc Mankoussou, to present the result of these visits.

As you know, in accordance with the terms of reference of FAO, the objective and the purpose of the visit is to get firsthand impressions of challenges faced by FAO's decentralized offices but also to have contacts with beneficiaries, with partner organizations, and with state and local authorities in order to see how the projects are perceived and how the projects are implemented in the country.

We were this year 8 persons participating in the visit, Her Excellency Martha Elena Barcena Coqui from Mexico for the Latin American-Caribbean group, His Excellency Ambassador John Pelpola for the Asia Group, then myself for European Union as addition to different regional groups, then Marc Mankoussou for Africa, Fredrik Alfer and Oliver Mellenthin for Europe and Mohammad Shamar for the Near East.

I will pass the floor to Marc Mankoussou for the presentation of our visits in both countries.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

J'ai l'insigne charge de vous présenter les projets que nous avons visités en Côte d'Ivoire et au Cameroun.

Ainsi, en Côte d'Ivoire, nous avons visité deux localités, une dans la ville d'Abidjan et l'autre dans la région de Gagnoa.

Sur la photo présentée, nous sommes au marché de Kumasi pour la visite d'un projet qui traite de biosécurité des produits d'origine avicole.

Nous voyons-là un centre de plumage, qui se faisait auparavant de façon traditionnelle, mais la FAO a fourni du matériel d'acier avec lequel ils sont en train maintenant de travailler, pour la biosécurité des aliments.

Sur cette vue, il s'agit de la visite au centre de LANADA, un laboratoire national qui s'occupe d'appui au développement agricole, et en particulier de lutte contre la grippe aviaire, car la Côte d'Ivoire s'était équipée dès que cette maladie s'était déclenchée.

À Gagnoa, nous avons visité plusieurs projets de pisciculture, riziculture, tubage du riz, maraîchage des femmes, culture du cacao, fabrication de briquettes de charbon et fumage de poisson.

Ainsi, vous pouvez voir des jeunes travaillant dans un étang piscicole et qui nous font une démonstration sur la technique de récolte du poisson qui sera amené au marché de Gagnoa.

Ici, c'est un projet de riziculture financé par la FAO, qui comprend un centre de formation des femmes pour leur apprendre les techniques de production rizicole, d'irrigation, en vue d'augmenter leurs revenus et capacités.

Sur la photo suivante il s'agit de décorticage, avec le matériel distribué par la FAO afin de réduire la pénibilité du travail des femmes.

Nous voyons là des femmes en train de pratiquer le tubage du riz, qui consiste à enlever un peu d'amidon; ce riz pourra, entre autres, être consommé par les diabétiques. Mais c'est bien sûr et surtout pour augmenter les revenus des femmes et également aider à la création d'emplois et à l'autonomisation.

Sur cette photo, ce sont des mères maraîchères dans leur centre de culture en train de démontrer comment on fait le paillage, qui sert, notamment, à augmenter l'humidité autour du plan et à la fertilisation des plantes. Voilà donc une maman en train de nous démontrer cette technique du paillage. Nous vous laissons suivre cette vidéo.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

On parle ici d'un schéma directeur de développement. C'est tout simplement le compostage et notamment la fertilisation avec des fertilisants organiques afin d'augmenter la rentabilité technique des exploitations.

Sur cette vue, il s'agit de culture du cacao. Ce centre a une particularité, car se trouvant à côté d'un étang, on n'utilise pas de pesticides, ni d'engrais parce que, comme vous savez, avec les mouvements d'eau, les engrais risqueraient de se retrouver mêlés aux eaux de l'étang avec le risque d'empoisonner les poissons.

Sur cette photo, nous sommes en train de déguster le cacao frais.

Sur celle-ci, nous nous trouvons dans un centre où la jeune fille, qui était esthéticienne, s'est transformée en entrepreneuse agricole en fabriquant du charbon à base de déchets de riz. Au lieu d'encombrer son

exploitation, elle a opté pour la fabrication de briquettes de riz pour la cuisson afin d'augmenter la valeur ajoutée et les emplois dans son entreprise.

Voici une prise de vue de la délégation, que vous connaissez bien. Je vous laisse suivre la vidéo.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

Ainsi vous avez pu voir qu'on a transformé les déchets en une matière qui peut servir à la cuisson des aliments.

Nous sommes, sur cette photo, au centre de fumage du poisson, un projet de coopération entre les Gouvernements ivoirien et marocain. Ce sont les femmes, habituées aux techniques de fumage traditionnel, qui, grâce à ce centre, peuvent augmenter leurs revenus et leur autonomisation.

Voici différentes prises de vue, une séance de travail avec le Ministre ivoirien de l'agriculture, puis avec le Ministre ivoirien de l'élevage et des ressources halieutiques et enfin, avec le Secrétaire général des affaires étrangères, qui a reçu la délégation dans son bureau.

Également, une séance de travail avec la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), pour échanger notamment sur les questions de mobilisation des ressources.

Nous arrivons à présent au Cameroun. Au Cameroun, nous avons visité quatre projets: un projet de fabrication de semences certifiées de riz et formation des riziculteurs; un projet de production fruitière comme champ-école; un projet de conservation et transformation des fruits et légumes; et un projet de production aquacole-cages flottantes et formation des jeunes.

Nous voyons sur la photo le centre d'aide aux paysans camerounais en matière de semences certifiées de riz et de formation aux techniques rizicoles irriguées.

Sur cette prise de vue, un des bénéficiaires est en train de nous expliquer comment ils reçoivent la formation et quelle est la valeur ajoutée de cette formation.

Nous vous laissons suivre la vidéo.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

Il est dit: «Le projet est bien pour nous, c'est pour avoir un peu d'argent, envoyer les enfants à l'école.» Voilà la valeur ajoutée.

À présent, nous sommes dans un centre de production fruitière comme champ-école. Une mère est en train de faire l'éloge de la FAO sur ce projet. Nous vous laissons suivre cette vidéo.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

C'est lier, donc, la production à la transformation. On peut voir des femmes travaillant à la transformation et à la conservation des fruits et légumes. Ce sont les produits qu'elles vendent sur les marchés du Cameroun. Nous vous laissons suivre la vidéo.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

En effet, il relève du mandat de la FAO et de celui du Ministère de l'agriculture de les appuyer.

Nous voyons sur cette prise de vue un centre de formation des jeunes en techniques aquacoles, notamment techniques d'élevage en cages flottantes.

Voici des vues de la réception avec les deux Ministres camerounais de l'agriculture et de l'élevage; puis avec le Ministre délégué aux affaires étrangères, qui a reçu la délégation; ensuite le Ministre camerounais de la planification économique et de développement régional; et enfin, la rencontre avec le responsable des organisations du système des Nations Unies au Cameroun. Nous vous laissons suivre.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Congo auprès de la FAO)

Je vais laisser la parole à l'Ambassadeur qui va rendre compte des recommandations découlant de notre mission.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (Permanent Representative of the European Union to FAO)

On the basis of what we have seen, we propose some observations and recommendations.

The first concern is the sustainability of projects. Investment of international money makes sense if the projects may be continued and thus entailing more participatory work, more entrepreneur approaches, and a possibility to reinvest gains, as well as monitoring as needed. This could all lead to scaling up projects. What we have seen were rather small projects, rather freshly started. And so it will be of use to include in every project a business plan and a perspective: what could follow after the pilot project by FAO on international finance partners with the creation of a farmers' association cooperative society.

For sustainability and scaling up, partnering with other organizations and partners in the country is very much needed. We have seen from different meetings with partners that it is clear that everyone follows their own action plan on programmes, on projects. So we need to work on synergies, to look for ways how to find funding for projects and on the complementarity between these different partners. It will also allow us to engage the private sector and to pass this work of pilot projects to private investors and to create this entrepreneur approach among people.

What was also missing in our observations was an evaluation after the projects had been implemented. What are the lessons learned at local, regional and even central level so as to pass messages to the authorities that can help upscale projects and look for long-term results and for collective leverage of those communities involved in different projects.

Different obstacles were observed for the development. One overarching problem is land tenure and certainty about land. Land attribution is very often done through customary law. You see here in the slide,

a warning sign “Attention, danger de mort pour les voleurs”. It shows just how much this problem could be visible in these countries. And land is also collateral for investments for credit. The question of land tenure should be addressed. The problem of infrastructure; very often the infrastructure is missing, and not only the hard infrastructure of roads, electricity or drinkable water, but also sanitary and veterinary services. All these elements are needed for those who participate in the project to bring projects on the market to be business actors in countries. Partnering between FAO, local and state administrations and other structures is very, very important in this regard.

We have seen several positive examples of South-South and Triangular Cooperation with Morocco, the Republic of Korea being involved in helping in different projects, but it is also about sharing knowledge and also about passing one’s own experience of making the transformation. It says more to people if they talk to those who have done the same work, then one can bring some university people or experts that can speak with different levels of knowledge for those people.

Education and investment in people, especially women and the younger generation. In some cases, we have seen that projects were also combined with training centres but not everywhere. We need to look at people who participate in the projects and who could be trainers for others, who can multiply this effect. Using different media or social networks to disseminate the experience would be of use, and women are one of the big actors in all these local communities on all levels, from managerial down to the working force, but also through involvement of children.

For younger generations, those who are so often keen to migrate, we have seen that there is a cultural barrier. At different projects, the youngsters were not willing to take the floor, to speak up in front of the elderly people. To work with younger leaders, to make them actors of the future, to empower them would also be one of the elements to be taken into consideration for further work of FAO.

This leads me to the final observation. We have seen projects that were very distant from central places from cities. It could be of use to combine different areas to use it as training centres with different actions of breeding fish, rice, fruits or other techniques and to attract people from distant regions to come to this project and then to go back to their communities and to disseminate this knowledge. It would also help to find synergies for financial issues.

Here, in the slide, you can see our group wearing traditional Cameroon dresses, but it was not only for fun but also by necessity on one of the projects on Dibamba River. We were surprised by heavy torrential rain and we had to run to the first shop from the airport to buy dry clothes because our clothes were all completely wet.

A special thanks to Nadine Kayal for assisting us during the visit.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador Tombinski and Mr Mankoussou for this informative presentation. I now open the floor for any comments by Members.

Mr Salah AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to thank our very dear colleagues for this extremely interesting and detailed report of the field visits. These field visits organized by FAO in the different regions always provide very positive results, I have to say. I think that this is one of the main functions of FAO. Last October, we participated in a visit to Indonesia and the Philippines and I had the great honour of being part of that. It was a very successful visit because it did provide us with a very close look at the projects funded by FAO and it also strengthens links with local authorities and national authorities who are in charge of agriculture

development and also the various representatives. Information regarding those field visits will be presented at the next session of the Council. It is very important to have this kind of close link with local societies.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

I would admit that I may have lost something following the presentation and perhaps those who made the trip could correct me, please. It is the observation of the context in which these projects that had been looked at were inserted. By that I mean the issue of internal institutional coherence and capacity that allows for countries to be in control of the projects so that the issue of sustainability is assured, particularly where lessons learned could be replicated elsewhere, because the project has a finite life, FAO goes in or the donor goes in, comes back out, the country remains responsible for development. I wondered whether there were any insights that would have been derived from the visit that speaks to that particular issue because my own personal experience suggests that projects have a life, they end, a box is ticked and not necessarily as much of the value of the project in terms of possibilities for replication are taken advantage of. I wondered whether the visitors could comment on that. Perhaps they did and I missed it.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (Permanent Representative of the European Union to FAO)

You will find more explanation in the full report. This was a point of concern for all of us. We did not see clear criteria for the selection of projects and for the localization of projects where they were implemented. Very often, it was in partnership with local authorities where the land was available. But we have seen also tensions around the projects since people had to protect projects because there were some other local people who were claiming that this land or this building does belong by customary law to someone else and they were contesting the implementation of the project. For this issue of finding good locations that allow for sustainability of work and training trainers and then to pass the knowledge further is one of crucial issues from what we have seen. We are completely right in addressing these issues at the project cycle start and close, but then you always should look what happens with the invested money, with the invested knowledge, what are the lessons learned and what is the follow-up of the project. This was also partially missing in what we have learned during the two visits.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je pense que ce serait un crime de lèse-majesté si nous ne prenions pas la parole pour remercier parce que la visite s'est déroulée au Cameroun.

Je voudrais dire ici que le Gouvernement du Cameroun se félicite du choix de notre pays comme destination de cette visite en 2018. Je tiens à remercier particulièrement Son Excellence Monsieur Jan Tombinski et M. Marc Mankoussou pour le rapport qui vient de nous être présenté.

Ayant accompagné les membres de cette délégation en visite au Cameroun, même si vous ne m'avez pas vu à l'écran, car j'étais caché et voulais, comme on dit en anglais "play low-key" (rester au second plan). Ainsi j'ai bien été témoin des discussions de haut niveau que la mission a eues avec les autorités camerounaises.

Le Gouvernement reste convaincu que l'expérience vécue au Cameroun par l'équipe de la mission a pu donner un avant-goût de la coopération fructueuse et hautement bénéfique qui existe entre le Cameroun et la FAO, notamment avec la mise en place effective du Bureau de partenariat et de liaison suite à la signature de l'accord en 2015. Ils ont découvert l'intérieur des nouveaux bureaux le même jour que moi, car même si je connaissais le bâtiment auparavant, nous avons découvert ensemble le nouveau décor. Nous entendons faire en sorte que cette coopération continue à être fructueuse et bénéfique pour les deux parties.

Le Gouvernement, par ma voix, tient à remercier tous les membres de la mission, et confirme que toutes les recommandations ont été prises en considération et seront indubitablement suivies d'effets, notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la révolution agricole, que le chef de l'État, lors de son discours d'investiture, après son élection, a voulu annoncer comme route à suivre pour ce septennat.

Je voudrais ajouter un mot, par rapport à la dernière image, si on peut la revoir, elle est très parlante. Nous étions sur le pont de la Dibamba et nous avons partagé quelques sandwiches avant d'aller visiter l'intérieur en pirogue. À ce moment-là il ne pleuvait pas, mais subitement les gens se sont installés dans les pirogues pour aller visiter et ce fut alors le déluge.

Pour vous dire qu'en zone tropicale il faut s'attendre à la pluie à tout moment. J'ai moi-même eu de la chance parce que, connaissant très bien la région, j'ai hésité un peu et me suis abrité sous le pont, évitant ainsi d'être mouillé. Mais d'autres au retour étaient méconnaissables.

Bien heureusement ils ont trouvé des habits. Si on peut montrer la dernière image du rapport. N'étaient-ils pas beaux? On peut voir qu'ils font partie du décor. Notez bien les couleurs arborées par les uns et les autres. Ces couleurs sont des éléments d'attraction et d'attractivité, elles sont vivantes. Je crois qu'il serait une bonne chose de demander aux touristes d'arborer ces mêmes couleurs.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

Je voudrais, moi aussi, me féliciter de la visite de terrain des Représentants permanents, qui a eu lieu en Côte d'Ivoire.

En ce qui concerne la coopération entre la Côte d'Ivoire et la FAO, je crois que la présence des Représentants permanents a clarifié un certain nombre de points avec les différents ministres qui ont été rencontrés, y compris au ministère des affaires étrangères. Comme disait mon collègue du Cameroun, cette coopération est ancienne et nous entendons la renforcer et à cet effet plusieurs projets sont déjà en cours. Je crois que la FAO est déjà informée par rapport à la question sur l'accord de partenariat des bureaux de liaison, car de nouveaux locaux ont été déjà mis à la disposition de la FAO, et d'autres projets sont en train d'être mis en place.

En tant que Représentant permanent de la Côte d'Ivoire, j'ai bien entendu pris part aux rencontres institutionnelles de cette visite de terrain. Quant à la visite des différents projets, je me suis abstenu pour laisser le champ libre aux Représentants eux-mêmes de constater ce que la FAO faisait sur le terrain.

Je viens de voir des images illustrant, effectivement, l'engagement de la FAO à aider mon pays dans divers domaines agricoles et piscicoles, etc. Je pense que cette visite de terrain a été utile puisque j'ai eu un retour de mon Gouvernement par rapport à un certains nombres de points qui ont été touchés. Naturellement, ces points seront approfondis avec la Direction de la FAO pour tirer les leçons des différentes recommandations faites.

Sur ce, je voudrais très sincèrement remercier la FAO et toute la délégation, qui a effectué le déplacement en Côte d'Ivoire, et leur dire que le Gouvernement ivoirien est très attentif aux recommandations et questions qui ont été posées.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next item but will be pause for a short while so that the podium can be changed.

I welcome the Director-General who has just joined us. We will proceed with the adoption of the Report. The relevant document is CL 160/Draft Report, which was made available through the password-protected area of the FAO Members Gateway.

I now invite the two Chairpersons of the Drafting Committee, Her Excellency Delphine Borione and Mr Vlad Mustaciosu to the podium.

Ambassador Borione chaired the morning meeting in the absence of Mr Vlad Mustaciosu, who then chaired the afternoon meeting. I now invite Mr Vlad Mustaciosu to present the report.

Mr Vlad MUSTACIOSU (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

I will briefly present the works of the Drafting Committee for the 160th Session of the Council.

The Drafting Committee met yesterday 6 December for two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Due to the fact that unfortunately I could not be present during the morning session, the Ambassador of France, Madame Delphine Borione, kindly accepted to co-chair the morning session of the Drafting Committee. For that, I am sincerely grateful to Ambassador Borione of France for showing great spirit of collegiality and for the excellent job in co-chairing the Drafting Committee.

The work of the Drafting Committee went on for the duration of about 6 hours.

We tried to stay as closely as possible to the conclusions drawn by the ICC in plenary, conclusions that were achieved by consensus of all members of the Council.

We were especially careful not to unnecessarily re-open paragraphs for which it was difficult to find consensus in plenary.

The work of the Drafting Committee went generally very smoothly, in great part thanks to the excellent conclusions of the ICC, for which I am absolutely thankful.

I also want to thank all the members of the Drafting Committee for their effort in achieving consensus and the tireless work done in delivering this report.

My thanks go to Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Russian Federation, Sudan, and Zambia.

I also want to thank the secretariat for the excellent support as well as the interpreters.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Mustaciosu. Ambassador Borione, would you like to make any further comments?

Mme Delphine BORIONE (Présidente du Comité de rédaction)

Simplement quelques mots pour vous dire combien j'ai été honorée de pouvoir co-présider la première séance du matin du Comité de rédaction, qui s'est vraiment très bien passée grâce à la coopération et l'esprit très constructif avec lequel tous les Membres ont participé. Je voudrais vraiment tous les remercier.

Je crois aussi que ce travail a été facilité par les excellentes conclusions, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, que vous aviez réussi à tirer de notre travail collectif pendant ces jours de Conseil. Je crois que la nouvelle méthode de travail que nous avons adoptée a peut-être pris un peu plus de temps en plénière, mais elle a permis d'avoir vraiment une discussion sur le fond et le Comité de rédaction a pu se concentrer sur les seuls aspects de rédaction. Je crois que c'était donc une excellente nouveauté pour notre Conseil.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention et de cette opportunité qui m'a été donnée.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to extend my appreciation to both of you and to the members of the Drafting Committee for the good work, which has been done.

It appears that the Report of this Session may be approved in block.

Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Final Report.

I would like to ask the Council, does the Council wish to adopt the Report in block?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Report of the 160th Session of the FAO Council is adopted.

I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

In my opening remarks to this Council Session, I mentioned the importance of keeping the positive atmosphere of the last governing bodies meetings.

I think it was achieved. Members discussed all topics in a very respectful and constructive way.

Even more important, this time, the discussions were more focused on substantive issues rather than on micro-management. And once more we took all decisions by consensus. I most welcome that consensus and I would like to congratulate all of you for this achievement.

I am happy to highlight that Council endorsed all conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Technical Committees (COAG, COFO, COFI and CCP). These reports highlighted that countries will not achieve the SDGs on the basis of traditional agricultural approaches.

We need innovation. We need to explore all approaches, practices and techniques that can contribute to making food systems more efficient and sustainable.

The international community is facing huge challenges that call for coordinated and joint responses. The Agenda 2030 is a fundamental tool for that. We need to work together. No country alone will be able to overcome these challenges that we are facing nowadays.

We must act globally. No one can be left behind.

Let me also thank the Council for endorsing the adjustments in the structure under the Deputy Director General for Programmes. As I said, these adjustments will allow DDP to strengthen FAO's capacity in relation to programme delivery and monitoring.

I would also like to express my concern of the fact that countries continue to ask FAO to do more and more with less and less resources coming from our assessed contributions.

Let me give you some examples of this.

We will present you a list of new activities that have been requested during this Council and which we estimated at a preliminary base could have an impact on our budget of over USD 20 million.

This is not a good start to our discussions that will come after this Council about the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21. Members will also have to agree on a list of activities to be discontinued or to decide to fund most of those proposals from voluntary contributions.

I have a preliminary copy of a list that was just given to me and I will not go through everything – there are 32 items listed here with a total amount of USD 23 million. USD 10 million impacting our technical capacity, USD 2.2 million on studies and reviews and USD 7.3 million on operations. I will just give you those above USD 2 million that we estimate.

Of course, the UN Resident Coordinator System that will have an impact of more than USD 5.1 million biennium. Second, the sustainable funding for IPCC that are estimated to be something like USD 3 million biennium and the sustainable funding for scientific advice including Codex, COAG and others that is above USD 2 million.

We will revise the list with some comments and upload it to your website for you to consider funding them or at least some of them through voluntary contributions. We cannot absorb all of these demands through our assessed contributions.

Allow me to refer to a specific concern coming in the last minutes from New York. It's about the new report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) which contains decisions and implications on HR matters that will most likely have additional financial implications for our Organization.

This report is to be approved by the Fifth Committee under the Presidency of Australia. I had the opportunity to meet with all country members that are part of the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Fifth Committee and I expressed in details our concerns. I also asked for their support for action to stop any approval of the report to allow us time to have a better analysis.

I would like to at least inform you of the three main points of our concerns contained in the report. The first one is the introduction of a new entitlement called "End of Service Grant", which is to be paid as a lump sum to staff members who separate from the Organization and the expiration of their appointment after five or more years.

Second, the review of the early children and secondary dependent allowance.

Third, a review of the benefits to staff serving in the field with hardship conditions.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, known as the ACABQ, reviewed those proposals and noted that the change will represent a significant increase in costs for the whole UN System. Aside from that, the ACABQ noted that the increased costs estimated by the ICSC is higher than the calculation made by the UN Secretariat in New York. This is due to the fact that the calculation of the UN Secretariat does not consider programmes and funds outside New York nor the specialized agencies. In view of that, the ACABQ requested further explanation at the time of the consideration of the report.

The point for FAO and for the specialized agencies in general and also for programmes and funds outside New York, in particular, is that ACABQ has recorded has provided a discrepancy for the costs only for the UN Secretary and not for the whole system. FAO will send a letter to the Chair of the Fifth Commission asking to postpone final deliberations on this report until we could have time to estimate the costs impacts on our budget.

I have to say that our preliminary estimate is that this will have a significant impact on our costs and would like to remind that we have already committed 75 percent of our assessed contributions to staff costs. I would like to ask all of you to pay attention to this matter and also raise awareness of this issue with your capitals. As you are in a privileged position to have representatives in New York.

As Members are aware, management is committed to identifying areas for further efficiency savings. However, our staff costs are putting additional pressure every biennial on our assessed contribution and we have little capacity to intervene on those costs.

To conclude, I am very satisfied that we have managed to keep the search for consensus as the basis for our decision-making process.

The consensus among Members, and between Members and Management, has been one of the hallmarks of my tenure as FAO Director-General.

Let's preserve the trust we have built together over the last seven years, and keep the focus on the substantive aspects of our common agenda to fight poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition and promote sustainable food systems and development.

I wish you all happy holidays. For those that came from abroad, I wish you safe travels back home.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General.

Before I bring the 160th Session of Council to a close, please allow me to make some final remarks.

We have held six busy plenary meetings during this session of Council, marked by dynamic discussions held in a frank and collegial manner, with points of departure seemingly distant yet distinguished by the common goal of reaching consensus. The very spirit of consensus, which has become the trade mark of the Council and which unfailingly leads us forward and contributes to the strengthening of the Organization.

Consensus-building continues to serve as the basis for Council deliberations, and I am grateful for this, as it greatly facilitates my task as Independent Chairperson, and ensures that Council continues to strengthen its role in guiding FAO on governance matters, and ensures that, as a team, we work towards finding solutions to achieving our core objectives; eliminating hunger and reducing poverty.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Director-General for his support and his active participation, not only during this Session of the Council, but also in the preparatory phase. The Informal Seminars held in the lead up to the Council Committees and this Council Session, as per the previous Council Session, have become an important part of our inter-sessional work and I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole Membership when I say that we look forward to more informal seminars in the future on some of the key priorities in the programme of work of our Organization.

Director-General, your personal interaction and availability to participate in key items is appreciated by all and continues to strengthen the relationship between the Membership and FAO Management.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our good discussions in Plenary continued yesterday during the deliberations of the Drafting Committee, resulting in a Report we can all endorse. I, therefore, congratulate the members of the Drafting Committee on a job well done.

I was also pleased to see a significant number of regional statements delivered on behalf of the Regional Groups, which points to an increased collaboration between countries, a reflection of our common understanding that working together we can achieve more.

This Council Session has also highlighted the improvements in our methods of work which contribute to a more efficient and effective Council. I will endeavour, together with the Secretariat, and with

suggestions from Members, to continue to improve our working methods, which is also a standing item on the agenda of our monthly informal meetings with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups.

There have been a number of side events during this Session of Council that have been of great interest to Members and which was reflected by the large number of participants at each event. These side events are important occasions for Members to share experiences, get an understanding of key areas of work of FAO and a fora for in-depth discussions thereon. I wish to convey appreciation to all the organizers.

I wish to also extend my gratitude and recognition to the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees and the Council Committees. I wish to thank you not only for participating in this session of Council, but for the important and interactive inter-sessional work carried out in the various bureaux, as well as in numerous formal and informal events during the course of the biennium.

May I also express my appreciation for the work of those who enabled this session to take place. In particular, I wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General and their team, conference services staff, interpreters, translators, messengers, security staff and all those who have worked behind the scene.

Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, with this we have concluded the 160th Session of the FAO Council. For those staying in Rome, I wish you a restful weekend; for those travelling, I wish you a safe journey home; and a peaceful holiday season to all.

I declare the 160th Session of the FAO Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will now pass the floor to the Secretary-General for a brief announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to remind Members of the Side Event taking place immediately following the close of this plenary meeting.

The Side Event on the “African Solidarity Trust Fund” will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre and I am informed that refreshments are available for delegates prior to the start of the event.

The meeting rose at 11:00 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00