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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Session • Cent trente et sixième session
• 136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

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PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONSEIL**

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ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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**TENTH PLENARY SESSION
DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

(19 June 2009)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trent-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15 June 2009
Rome, 15 juin 2009
Roma, 15 de june de 2009**

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

15 June 2009

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:54 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 54
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.54 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**I. INTRODUCTION****I. TEMAS INTRODUCTORIOS**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 136/1; CL 136/INF/1; CL 136/INF/5)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier(CL 136/1; CL 136/INF/1; CL 136/INF/5)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 136/1; CL 136/INF/1; CL 136/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Council to order. I wish to welcome Council Members and Observers to this Session, especially those of you have travelled to be here today with us and I wish you a pleasant stay and an effective and efficient Council Session. I would also like to extend a special welcome to new Council Members, mainly, Afghanistan, Ghana, Norway, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. I also have Mauritania but we do have some unresolved problems. The Secretariat is in contact with them and I hope by the end of today will resolve that problem. I will inform you of the results today.

I should now like to give the floor to the representation of Afghanistan

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)¹

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I wish to thank all member nations of this Organization for their support in electing Afghanistan in the last Conference of FAO to serve as member of the FAO Council from January 2009 until November 2011. The last time Afghanistan served as Council member was 1985-87, almost a quarter century ago.

Chairperson, I wish to assure you and the next Independent Chairperson that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will do its utmost to support the work of the Council and the renewal of FAO. We are committed to do this in full cooperation with all members of this Organization and with the Secretariat of FAO at all levels.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has admiration for the way you have been conducting the affairs of the Council since November 2005 and we wish you success at this Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Before proceeding I would like to ask Ms Williams, Secretary-General to the Council to make a short announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8, and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I have been asked to inform you that the Declaration made by the European Community and its member states is contained in information document CL 136/INF/5 which is available at the documents desk.

I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is my delight and pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you that are participating in the Council and as the Chairperson stated an especially warm welcome to those of you who have travelled from your capitals to be with us.

¹ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.*

It is an active agenda that will be before you over the next few days. The results of your deliberations will help advance many issues in FAO including our Reform. As you debate the agenda this week and take action I only provide a gentle reminder that the number of hungry and malnourished in the world continues to increase and they are awaiting your actions.

My best wishes for a successful Council Meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Our first item is the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable as set out in documents CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/INF/1-Rev.1; CL 136/INF/5 and finally CL 136/LIM/2. These are the documents which are related to the Agenda and Timetable.

Documents CL 136/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 20 April 2009 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this session of the Council.

By a circular letter of 21 May 2009 the membership was informed of a request by France to add an item to the Agenda entitled Proposed Amendments to the Constitution on the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security, as set out in document CL 136/1-Add.1 and CL 136/LIM/2. It is proposed that this matter be considered as Item 18.2 under “Constitutional and Legal Matters”.

Since our November 2008 Session no invitations have been issued to Non Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, and nor have there have been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-Item 19.1 “Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions” and sub-item 19.2 “Applications for Membership in the Organization” can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the Provisional Agenda as set out in the document that have already been mentioned?

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I just have one item for clarification.

As you know, in the Committee on Fisheries, there has been some discussion about retaining the Committee meeting in the fall, rather than moving it forward to March. I am wondering what item that would be discussed under. There is Item 3, which is the Session on the Committee on Fisheries, which is for discussion. There is also Item 20 on the Calendar, which is for information. I would request that if that issue is taken up under Item 20 that that be amended from information to discussion. I am not sure what your plan is and what the appropriate agenda item for discussion of that Calendar item is.

CHAIRPERSON

This has been considered to be discussed under Item 20, as you mentioned on the Calendar. As you say, on the calendar issues, we discuss the issues on the calendar but we do not decide in this Session. It goes to the next session and the final decision would be made on the one date session of the Council immediately after the November Conference, so we have plenty of time to discuss that and take the final decision.

Do we have any other comments or questions? If not, I take it that the Agenda has been adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Now let's move to the timetable.

With respect to the timetable you have before you, document CL 136/INF/1-Rev.1, which is a provisional draft. You will notice that the sub-item the Council has just decided to add to the Agenda, namely Proposed Amendments to the Constitution on the Reform of the Committee on

World Food Security, has been proposed for discussion on the afternoon of Wednesday 17 June 2009.

With this explanation, does this draft-timetable, with the deletion of Item 19 (item 19.1 and 19.2) meet the approval of the Council? I see no questions or comments on that so we approve the timetable.

Before we continue with our agenda and in the interests with the safety of all of us, I request your attention to view a short audio-visual presentation on fire safety.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

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

2. Élection des trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

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

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: His Excellency Li Zhengdong, Permanent Representative of China to FAO, His Excellency Don Enrique Moret Echeverría, Ambassador of Cuba to FAO, and Ms Rita Mannella, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

The three Vice Chairpersons have been elected.

Now let's move on to the designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee.

As the Chair, we have Ms Lamyia Ahmed Al-Saqqaf, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to FAO and, as Members, we have Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Russia, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Of course this list has been agreed on by the Regional Groups. Do I have your endorsement of the Chairlady and Members of the Drafting Committee?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons and the Chairlady and Members of the Drafting Committee on their election and especially draw the attention of the Drafting Committee. You

have to start culture change and a more efficient and effective Drafting Committee, which I will talk about later. I wish you full success.

Before moving on to the next item on our agenda I would like to take a couple of minutes to focus on the working methods of the Council in accordance with indications set out in the IPA.

We are starting a new era, which is post IPA spirit and I draw your attention to that.

As I mentioned in my letter of 21 May 2009 to both Council Members and Observer countries, now we are all in agreement to conduct this meeting in an efficient and business-like manner in line with IPA indications. May I therefore suggest that Council Members keep their interventions as succinct and focused as possible given that we have only five days to complete a demanding Agenda. It would also be appreciated if regional spokespersons could make a statement on behalf of their regions whenever feasible, rather than having single countries repeat comments already made by other delegates.

In the same IPA spirit, I will make an effort to sum up the conclusions of our debate on each item to facilitate the drafting of the Report of the Session, to be adopted here on Friday. Members of the CoC-IEE will recall our discussions on the need for the Council to concentrate on making decisions and recommendations. I believe that the final Report should demonstrate that we have taken on board IPA Action 2.22, which states that the Council Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations.

Indeed, greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Council is a prerequisite of improved governance.

I would therefore call on the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee, which we have just elected once again to concentrate on making the conclusions, decisions and recommendations of Council as clear as possible in the draft report rather than repeating debate already covered in the Verbatim Records.

I would also call on the Secretariat to assist us by drafting concise reports which are simply a record of Council decisions.

On a practical note, I take this opportunity to call upon your cooperation in keeping to the timetable and enabling us to start our meetings on time. Unfortunately, we could not do it this morning.

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

Furthermore, may I also request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting you provide a copy of it to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The Order of the Day gives an e-mail address which you may use for the submission of electronic versions of your statements, thereby facilitating the work of the Verbatim Team and ensuring greater accuracy.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

- 3. Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (2-6 March 2009) (CL 136/2)**
3. Rapport de la vingt-huitième session du Comité des pêches (2-6 mars 2009)
(CL 136/2)
3. Informe del 28.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (2-6 de marzo de 2009)
(CL 136/2)

CHAIRPERSON

With this, and I hope that you take it seriously, we can now move on to Item 3, Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, the first of four Reports from Technical Committees to Council.

As was pointed out at the Informal Briefing on this Session held on 26 May, the five Technical Committees now report to Council on programme and budgetary matters and to Conference on global policy and regulatory matters. A table listing matters for the attention of Council is given at the beginning of each Report.

This new approach to the Reports of the Technical Committees requires Council members and observers to finely focus our interventions on the programme and budgetary aspects contained in the documents we have before us. I call on your cooperation in ensuring that we implement this IPA recommendation successfully.

I would like to give the floor to Mr Nomura, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, to introduce this report.

Jayad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran speaks on behalf of the Near East Group and welcomes the document CL 136/2. Let me express my thanks to the secretariat for its rather comprehensive and informative presentation and I will try to be brief in addressing some remarks in this respect. It is well known that fisheries, including aquaculture, are a fundamental source of food, livelihood, trade and recreation for people around the world. Therefore, a responsible stewardship is required to protect and conserve all living aquatic resources for present and future generations. The challenges for achieving sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture are global and need to be addressed through coordinated action. In this respect, the work done by FAO together with the United Nations System to support global sustainable development initiatives in order to secure responsible fisheries worldwide is appreciated. Considering the importance of fisheries and aquaculture as a means of enhancing food security as a sustainable livelihood, the Near East Group in addition to fully supporting the recommendations, suggestions and policies expressed in this report believes that the following needs to be considered.

First, for your prioritisation among the different activities related to the six Organization's results of the Strategic Objective C. (2) While we welcome the shift of the focus of the Organization's work from output to outcome, the implementation of IPA is strongly recommended. (3) Taking into account, the economic, social and cultural contribution of small-scale fisheries and their great potential to contribute significantly to sustainable development of the UN Millennium Development Goals on one hand, and precarious conditions, lack of inadequate infrastructure facilities, high vulnerability to natural disasters, adverse impact of climate change and also inadequate access to basic social services, as well as weak representation and participation in the regions affecting their lives on the other hand, makes necessary the application of the precautionary approach to increase resilience and adaptability to climate change through

improvement in management of fisheries and aquaculture for these communities, as well as the inclusion of a specific reference in the six Organizational results which have already been approved during the IPA process. (4) Collection and utilization of derivable data or the comparative advantage of FAO through collaboration with other Organizations, so that avoiding the duplication of work is highly recommended.

Finally, as stated in the Report, the IUU fishing remains as one of the principal threats to sustainable fisheries so cooperative efforts in addressing this issue in order to combat effectively IUU fishing is recognized. Regarding the international trading of fisheries, we do believe that more attention should be given to promotion of fair international trade in fisheries and aquaculture.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. Turkey, the candidate country to the European Union, associates itself with this statement. The Community welcomes the results of COFI and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken. However, the outcome of COFI could have been strengthened if documents, such as the Work Plan, had been received timely and could have been discussed in the context of the reform of FAO. The European Community regrets that no prioritisation of activities in the Work Plan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by the FAO, which is essential to the work of COFI. Therefore, the European Community calls for the establishment of such prioritisation of work for COFI in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next COFI Session based on the paper produced by FAO Management.

The Community welcomes the adoption of the amendments to the Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fish Products from marine captured fisheries and the consensus reached on the adoption of the International Guidelines on Deep Sea Fisheries. We recommend, however, a higher focus of FAO on Marine bio-diversity.

The Community would like to highlight the importance of the recommendations adopted by COFI to undertake further work on the development of Flag State Performance criteria on our global record of vessels. More particularly, the Community wishes to stress that the ongoing work on the creation of an effective international instrument for port State control will represent a crucial step in international efforts to develop, to stop illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

I would like also to express our support to other important decisions adopted by COFI, such as the development of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, and the finalization of the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

Finally, regarding the timing of future COFI meetings, the Community would like to recall that many Members expressed that, to the extent possible, the current timing for COFI Sessions should be maintained, namely to take place in February/March in the second year of each biennium. Moving the Sessions to the third quarter of the first year of each biennium would cause conflict with the timing of the meetings of several regional fisheries management organizational arrangements and the annual consultation for the hunger resolutions.

Jarantada KARNASUTA (Thailand)

My delegation commends the progress of work made so far by the Committee of Fisheries. The outcomes of the report reflect a list of work contributing to the global sustainable fishery management and utilization of fishery and aquaculture resources. Since fishery programmes is one of the high common to most of the FAO Members, activities and resources allocation under this programme, it should therefore impact and support the need of different regions taking into account regional specificity. We welcome FAO's restructuring of its organization and programme of work towards result-based approaches. Decentralization of responsibilities to FAO's regional offices would improve the development of strategy and programmes of the regions, to be more

relevant to regional context. We encourage a good proportion of resources to be allocated in consistency with the decentralization tasks. For specific points in fisheries:

We support FAO for its continuing efforts in promoting and strengthening the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The activities on analysis of the implementation and impact of the FAO Code, the study on electronic options for code monitoring and the study on mechanisms for information and knowledge sharing are pertinent and timely appropriate for supporting better Code achievement.

As FAO has the comparative advantage in the field of fisheries, my delegation would call on FAO to continuously provide technical advice to CITES on listing criteria for commercially exploited aquatic species and to WTO on fisheries subsidies negotiations.

We agree to the usefulness of developing guidelines for the assessment of fisheries in data-poor situation. We wish to see these guidelines competent for both marine and inland fishery assessment.

Catch documentation and traceability are becoming the important tools for controlling IUU fishing and for food safety purposes. However, the proliferation of these in different formats and procedures could hinder the effective implementation and create additional burden to users. We can call for the urgent development of guidelines for catch documentation schemes and for traceability.

On the aquaculture matters, the pending Technical Guideline on Aquaculture Certification needs an urgent common agreement to be finalized. We request FAO to facilitate this procedure as soon as possible.

We support the development of an international instrument on small-scale fisheries and request FAO to establish a specific programme for continuity of implementation on small-scale fishery matters.

My delegation congratulates FAO for its significant step taken to reform the Organization. The change will better serve the need of Members in a more efficient and effective way. The new Strategic Framework which apply results-based approach to the programme planning and implementation geared by more concrete core function would lead global fisheries towards the strategic objective of sustainable management and use of fishery and aquaculture resources. We support the six organizational results for this strategic objective. In relation to the priority organizational results, we rank the capacity-building for implementation of the Code and related instruments and the development of sustainable aquaculture to be a high priority. In addition, we concur with the COFI to include a specific reference to small-scale fisheries in the six organizational results.

Finally, we have pleasure to invite you or your delegation to the Fifth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture to be held in June 2010 in Thailand. Your participation will benefit to guide aquaculture towards sustainability.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

Thank you Mr Chairperson . My delegation endorses the concern and conclusions which were reached during the last meeting of COFI, and this endorsement is shared by the Africa region. We note the following issues which need to receive our attention for the programme of work in COFI as they impact on our region. The illegal and unreported fishing remains a threat, as was expressed by the meeting, and is more serious in our developing countries. We call on FAO to work with our countries, in particular to enhance their cooperative efforts for this issue which is affecting many countries. Also, we will need to see that support to special aquaculture in Africa, which is to be initiated, is very, very important and will contribute to poverty reduction, nutrition and increased incomes. On this note, we also see the small fishermen concerns and support to be taken very seriously by FAO. Capacity-building to implement binding measures e.g. IUU and International Guidelines is very important for us in Africa. The FAO study to identify the key

issues on climate change is very much welcome and we fully support the six organizational results which will enhance the work of COFI.

Alexandr OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all the Russian Federation supports all the decisions that were adopted at the Twenty-eighth Session on the Committee on Fisheries of the FAO. We would like to note that it is true that within the framework of this Committee, very dynamic work is being undertaken. All the important issues of international fishing are within the focus of this Committee. Now I would like to support the comments of the European Union with respect to the Plan of Action. It is true that the work of the Committee would be more successful if such important issues would be discussed well in advance. Now for the Russian Federation, the most important, most essential issue, is the issue of combating and ending IUU fishing. We would urge all members of the Committee to take part in work on developing a document on measures applied to port States. We hope that the regular and definitive consultations will be conducted at the end of August this year. Now I would like to also note that an important issue that was raised at the Twentieth Session of the Committee is combating excess fishing and dumping of excessive fishing. We hope that more efforts will be done in this area as well in the period leading up to the next meeting of the Fisheries Committee.

Sunggal SINAGA (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to also convey our appreciation to the result of COFI and also to Mr Nomura for his leadership to prepare and to resume the report on the document CL 136/2. And Indonesia also welcomes the reports of the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-eighth Sessions of the Committee on Fisheries. Regarding this, Indonesia would like to stress on some issues to which we need to give some more attention. First, the progress in the implementation of the CCRF related to the International Plan of Action and Strategy. In July 2008, Indonesia submitted to FAO the filled questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Plans of Action on Capacity, Sharks, Seabird, IUU Fishing, and Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries.

In this regard, our evaluation of the CCRF, adopted into the Indonesian provisions in governing its fisheries resource, is viewed with satisfaction. In almost all cases, our perception of the relevance of the CCRF objectives to the various types of fisheries in Indonesia, including inland capture fisheries and aquaculture development is relevant. CCRF has guided Indonesia in developing its fisheries law that was issued in 2004, and the other law on Coasts, Marine and Small Island Management that was issued later in 2007, also adopted the provisions of CCRF. These two laws are among the basis for the development of Indonesian fisheries. Among the significant achievement in the past two years, *inter alia*, is the full membership of Indonesia to IOTC and CCSBT in June 2007 and April 2008, respectively. Some process development towards full membership of WCPFC and ratification of the UNFSA are also soon to be completed.

With regard to CCRF implementation, as suggested by the Committee, Indonesia continues to make best efforts to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code to promote more responsible and sustainable aquaculture and fisheries. Among the progress attained by Indonesia in the past two years are related to the fisheries management. In order to achieve the sustained and optimal fisheries resource utilization as well as ensuring its fish resources and environment sustainability, Indonesia has issued the new Minister Regulation No. 01/2009 concerning Fisheries Management in the Republic of Indonesia. This regulation revised the previous Decree no. 996/Kpts/IF 210/9/1999 concerning Fisheries Resource Potential and Total Allowable Catch.

As is recommended by CCRF provision, Indonesia is currently developing fisheries management plan in each fisheries management area gradually. The fisheries management plan is developed participatorily involving all relevant stakeholders. The plan will be the basis of fisheries management implementation in each management area. At the current stage, the fisheries management plans of Arafura Sea, Java Sea, South China Sea and Karimata Straits and Tomini Sea are being finalized.

Along with the development of a fisheries management plan in FMA, several national plans of action derived from international agreement are being developed by Indonesia such as the National Plan of Action on Fishing Capacity, NPOA-Shark and NPOA-Sea Turtle. Besides, Indonesia and another ten countries in Asia-Pacific have agreed and are implementing RPOA of responsible fisheries practices including combating IUU fishing.

To strengthen fisheries management implementation, a number of regulations are either being revised or developed.

With regard to resources management, to implement the above-mentioned Fisheries Management Plan and revise it from time to time, in 2008, Indonesia has revitalized the Forum for Coordination of Fisheries Resources Utilization. This is a stakeholder forum, which will evaluate progress of fisheries management plan implementation and improve it according to consensus reached in the Forum. And fishing territory operation, in the past two years the progress in developing fishing techniques and operations has been satisfactorily conducted at national level. Related to the International Plan of Action, several national plans of action derived from the International Plan of Action are being developed by Indonesia such as NPOA on fishing capacity and NPOA-Shark. Beside that, Indonesia, and other countries in Asia Pacific have agreed and are now implementing RPOA for responsible fisheries practices including combating IUU fishing.

Related to the COFI Subcommittee on Fish Trade, in relation to endangered species managed under CITES listings in the appendix, Indonesia, from time to time, follows its progress and has conducted some efforts, such as in relation to shark: Indonesia has NPOA-Shark focusing on improving of its data collection and developing its fishing technique operation to avoid sharks as by-catch.

Sea cucumber: a hatchery of sea cucumber, *Holothuria scabra*, has been successfully conducted by one of our fishing in Lampung.

Sea turtle: cooperation with FAO and SEAFDEC, construction and socialization of the TED applications, studies of DNA, tagging, satellite telemetry and a comparative study of Circle Hook in longline. And also Napoleon Wrasse: the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries issued a regulation to restrict Napoleon Wrasse fishing activity and conducted data collection activities. And also, related to the Subcommittee on Fish Trade, Banggai Cardinal Fish, the management plan of action was put in place in 2008, including data collection, conservation research and culture of BCF.

And also management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas, Indonesia would like to congratulate FAO for the series of efforts that have been taken to address the challenge of managing deep sea fisheries in the high seas and for prevention of significant adverse impact to vulnerable marine eco-systems. Indonesia also extends its thanks for the opportunity to participate in the last two critical sessions for the establishment of International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas and, the other one, combating IUU fishing including through a legally-binding instrument on PSM and the establishment of the global record of fishing vessels. Indonesia has actively participated in relevant meetings on the development of port State measures. In this regard, Indonesian delegation is actively participating in the technical consultation to draft a legally-binding instrument on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in Rome that was done this year in January 2009.

At national level, some preparations have been conducted, among others, preparations for PSM standard procedure, human capacity building (for the PSM operator) and also the PSM information system, readiness for fishing port for the services and also the regional plan of action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating fishing at the regional level has been agreed during the ministerial meeting in Bali in May 2007, stating adopting for state measures, where appropriate, the base of the FAO model scheme on Port State Measure to Combat IUU Fishing. And also allow me this time to present the conclusion of the World Ocean Conference 2009 that was held in May 2009, last month, which is the adoption of the Manado Ocean Declaration that seeks to balance the conservation and the management of world and

marine fisheries, resource conjunction with the global climate change issue. The event was attended by more than 70 countries and 10 world organizations including FAO, World Bank, UNDP and also global environmental farms. The World Ocean Conference 2009 was held back-to-back with the Coral Triangle Summit which resulted in the Coral Triangle Initiative Legal Declaration and Coral Reef Fisheries and Food Security, signed by the President of Indonesia, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, President of the Republic of the Philippines, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, and Prime Minister of Malaysia. The event brought very important attention to the archipelagic countries, concerning the global climate change that can cause specifically the small islands to disappear with the rise of sea level and fatal disaster for the inhabitants. Therefore, all members should propose the action plan to save the lives of the people in order to achieve the least amount of chaos. So allow me to submit the result of the Manado Ocean Conference and the CTI meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. Mr Chairperson the interpreters have a request - could speakers be reminded to provide their text to the interpreters if they have them in advance. Thank you very much.

You have heard that the interpreters are asking for your written statements to help them in interpretation because I have the same difficulty when the issue is very technical it is very difficult to be interpreted. So give to the extent possible. You can ask the messengers and send a copy of the statement before delivering it to the interpreters, it could help in the efficiency and effectiveness of our meeting. Thank you very much, and I invite Brazil to take the floor followed by Australia.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

At the outset let me say how honoured we are to be working under your wise leadership and that of our Secretary General of the Council, ADG Williams. Brazil welcomes the report of Twenty-eighth COFI session which has just been introduced to us by ADG Nomura and we would like to touch upon three issues Mr Chairperson . One, Brazil welcomes with satisfaction the inclusion of combating IUU fishing and the completion of the legally-binding instrument on Port Measures among the high priorities adopted by the COFI. It is our understanding that a legally-binding instrument on port state measures is crucial to prevent, to deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Therefore we urge all Member Nations to do their best in order to reach a consensus over such an instrument in the shortest time possible.

Nevertheless, combating IUU fishing must not induce the adoption of unilateral trade measures by some countries or by a group of countries. Considering the economic crisis that the world is facing and bearing in mind the lessons from other crises in the past, countries should not commit the same mistake by raising any form of barrier to international trade. In this regard, combating IUU fishing must keep a balance with other international trade obligations agreed upon.

The second issue we would like to raise is to reiterate the concern expressed by Brazil that also unilateral trade measures will impact on small scale fisheries in a very very negative way. Due to the potential to contribute to sustainable development and to the attainment of MDGs, we consider small scale fisheries an indispensable component here.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Acknowledging the breadth of FAO's mandate, Australia encourages FAO to work within its budget, to focus on agreed priorities and rationalized is deemed of lower priority or where FAO does not have a clear comparative advantage.

To assist in prioritizing future work Australia suggests there should be a process whereby all Members provide submissions on priorities for issues related to the six Organizational Results under Strategic Objective C. This could be done inter-sessionally, if necessary, to allow for all the issues to be prioritized and incorporated into FAO's workplan.

As conveyed at the Twenty-eighth Session of COFI, Australia would like to reaffirm to FAO a number of issues that we see as priorities for FAO to focus on. These include Priority 19: Finalization of the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification; Priority 22: Assistance for the Implementation of International Guidelines for Deep Sea Fishing, and Priorities 25 and 26: Port State Measures.

While Australia considers that the Port State Agreement should sit outside FAO, we fully support and encourage FAO to continue to play a strong role supporting developing states' engagement and implementation particularly with regards to capacity building across monitoring, control and surveillance issues.

Additionally at the Twenty-eighth Session of COFI Australia suggested there is a need to reconsider the options for improving the fisheries governance arrangements in the Indian Ocean. Although this proposal was not endorsed at COFI Australia is still seeking support for a High-Level Workshop to examine the options for improvements in Indian Ocean governance, and requests the consideration by FAO in assisting in such a workshop.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation endorses this statement that has been issued by Tanzania on behalf of the continent of Africa and many others who have supported the same views, we also wish to associate ourselves with the three points that have been added by the delegate of Brazil.

My delegation endorses the Report of the Committee on Fisheries and wishes to stress the following points.

With reference to paragraph 34 of the Report which refers to Strategic Objective C: Sustainable Management and Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources. My delegation wants to see more resources and effort being deployed for small scale fisheries, both marine and inland. Small scale fisheries have a huge potential in as far as eradicating hunger, improving the diet of the poor and enhancing livelihoods.

In an effort to achieve the MDGs, this item must be accorded very high priority. My delegation therefore welcomes paragraph 35.

With this in context and considering in our part of the world the potential for irrigation is not fully exploited and that climate change is making it more sensible to increase reliance on irrigation, my delegation would like to see more FAO technical and policy support on the issue of establishing synergies between the small-scale irrigation schemes and small-scale fisheries sector. How can the two be exploited simultaneously and in a sustainable manner? We should draw lessons from other regions that have tried to explore this route.

With regard to the issue of timing of COFI as raised in paragraph 37 of the Report, my delegation fully supports the view that you have already indicated. In paragraph 40 and 48 we welcome the recognition of the challenges posed by the outbreak of the disease in the Zambezi Basin and look forward to the establishment of a regional programme for aquatic biosecurity, regional aquaculture network and enhancement of the entire value chain for the small-scale fishermen so that aquaculture contributes both to food security and income generation in that the regional programme fills the technical gap that most small-scale farmers lack on their own.

Ramalingan PARASURAM (India)

Like others before me we also would like to note how happy we are to be at this Council meeting under your Chairpersonship. We also would like to greet the three Vice-chairs and the Chair and the Members of the Drafting Committee.

We endorse the Report and take note of the very brief but important points made by the ADG in his statement. Having said that, there are a few points that I would like to reiterate, only for emphasis.

The first point is on the progress and implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. India fully and strongly supports the implementation of CCRF. We, however, feel that the level of awareness and capacity-building in this regard continues to remain rather inadequate and poor in many cases and therefore emphasize the need for FAO to undertake greater efforts towards capacity building and awareness generation in a manner that results in effective help to developing countries.

The second point is in regard to decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the COFI Sub-Committee held in Bremen, Germany. We would like to emphasize the continued need for transparency on the advisory role in which FAO provides some vital advice from time to time and inputs to the WTO. These inputs should be shared with Member Nations, especially in the context of the fact that FAO instruments enjoin upon Member Nations certain obligations when investing in infrastructure. WTO ends up considering such investments in many cases as to belong to prohibitive categories and therefore there is a need for us to be aware of the kind of advice that FAO provides to the WTO.

The third and the last point that I would like to emphasize here, and to reiterate what Brazil and Zimbabwe have already said, is the emphasis on the importance of small-scale fisheries. We are of the view that the identified priorities should be adapted to specific circumstances and situations in different regions around the world. We would like small-scale fisheries to be seen as a dedicated global programme and a special strategy for small-scale fisheries in the global fisheries management regime be given the due importance that it deserves. Firstly, in order to increase the contribution of small-scale fisheries in the total fish production around the world and secondly for improving the socio-economic conditions of the small scale fishers and especially so, as already stated by Brazil and Zimbabwe, in the wake of issues which relate directly to climate change.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, the Chinese delegation is pleased with the Report of COFI.

I would like to emphasize one point, which is paragraph 65 and is about the ongoing work regarding the negotiation instrument that is port state measures to prevent, deter and to eliminate IUU fishing. We think this work is very important and we hope that related departments of FAO should activate the negotiation process so as to achieve the results as soon as possible for the consensus.

Now I would like to clarify one point in paragraph 105. I would like to ask one question. If we adopt this Report, does it mean that we agree also the timetable for the future?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, the Representative of China and the Vice-chair of this Council.

We will discuss the timing of the COFI under the Calendar and we still have lots of time for consultation and negotiation on the timing.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président je vous remercie, je veux d'entrée de jeux vous dire que nous sommes toujours satisfaits de vous voir présider nos sessions du Conseil et nous voulons ici intervenir sur le point trois qui est relatif à la vingt-huitième session du Comité des pêches.

Nous aimerions déjà vous dire que nous sommes membres de la République du Congo et membres du COFI et le rapport ici présenté a été adopté par nous. Mais, tenant compte des problèmes soulevés, nous voulons tout simplement dire qu'il y a des situations que nous voulons soumettre à l'attention du Conseil pour qu'une décision soit prise à l'avenir. Mais auparavant, Monsieur le Président, nous voulons appuyer les interventions de la Tanzanie et du Zimbabwe qui sont intervenus au nom de la région Africaine. Nous voulons ensuite féliciter Monsieur Nomura, parce qu'il faut avouer que ce rapport a rassemblé l'ensemble des préoccupations des membres du COFI et il y a une indication claire des repères précis, paragraphe par paragraphe, par rapport aux

points soulevés. Cela est une performance, nous tenons à le souligner. Et c'est vous dire aussi que le changement de culture atteint petit à petit l'Organisation.

Pour ne pas être long, j'évoquais tantôt que j'appuyais les interventions de la Tanzanie et du Zimbabwe, il y a également le Brésil et bien d'autres. Nous voulons insister sur quelques points essentiels spécifiques qui doivent retenir l'attention du Conseil. Il s'agit, pour l'essentiel, de la nécessité de renouveler l'appui au Programme social pour le développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique. C'est une priorité pour le continent africain. Il y a également l'établissement d'un programme régional visant à améliorer la biosécurité des milieux aquatiques en Afrique australe, cela aussi est une priorité pour l'Afrique. Nous voulons ajouter qu'il faut aussi penser à la poursuite du travail d'établissement de réseaux régionaux d'aquaculture en Afrique et en Amérique et la promotion de la coopération interrégionale. Nous devons aussi penser à appuyer l'élaboration d'un Programme de travail complet et stratégique pour appuyer les futures activités du sous-comité de l'aquaculture.

Les besoins particuliers des pays en développement et les difficultés spécifiques qu'ils risquent de rencontrer pour appliquer les directives internationales, pour la gestion de la pêche profonde en haute mer, recommandent qu'un appui technique et financier soit fourni à ces pays.

J'aimerais terminer en soulignant le fait qu'il y a une nécessité impérieuse pour la FAO de se doter d'un programme spécifique de portée mondiale consacré aux pêches artisanales. Vous constaterez que tout le long de mon propos, nous avons insisté sur l'aquaculture et sur les pêches artisanales et ce sont là des repères importants pour nos pays en développement. Nous souhaiterions à ce niveau une attention particulière.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

Ghana also endorses the statements made by Tanzania and Zimbabwe which were made on behalf of the African region. In addition to the statements we wish to support the agreement of COFI to maintain the biennial reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, for Responsible Fisheries. We are, however, concerned about the low response to the questionnaires which did not provide adequate input for the report in order to give us a true picture of what is happening on the ground. We wish to propose to the Secretariat not only to encourage Members to respond to the questionnaires, but they should also find out about the causes of the low responses and adopt measures to address them so that we can improve subsequent reports.

Cristián BARROS (Chile)

Primero nos congratulamos por la presidencia del Consejo. Queremos entregar nuestra aprobación al informe excelentemente presentado por el Subdirector General y en esta ocasión, en honor a la verdad del tiempo, mi país quiere hacer dos reiteraciones que les son importantes.

La primera es que esta Organización, para Chile, tendría que seguir desempeñando una función de liderazgo en relación a la asistencia para la aplicación de las directrices internacionales en lo referente a la organización de los recursos pesqueros explotados a través de la pesca en aguas profundas, así como también a la identificación y protección de los eco-sistemas marinos vulnerables, sobre la base de mejores datos científicos disponibles;

En segundo lugar, destacar la importancia que tiene para Chile que el proyecto de acuerdo vinculante sobre las medidas del estado rector del puerto, el cual refleja también una clara voluntad de la comunidad internacional por dar un paso adelante en la lucha contra la pesca ilegal, siga siendo negociado bajo el ámbito de la FAO y, de ser finalmente aceptado y adoptado, lo sea con un acuerdo internacional en el marco de esta Organización.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

There seems to be nothing, except one item, which was not either covered by my presentation or COFI report. One is the new information from the delegate of Indonesia about Manado Ocean Declaration which took place after COFI, so we appreciate the submission of the declaration.

I will have to be very cautious about summarizing the priority issues of what you said because COFI report, to the best of its efforts, crystallized on what they saw as a priority at that time. So, if my summary detached from what is written by COFI, that is not what you should expect from a Secretariat but nonetheless let me tell you how we saw the work of prioritization that COFI tried to make. We are all aware of the criticism of many members about the lack of enough information to enable them to conduct prioritization work, particularly among the prioritization of the six organizational results. We accept that criticism and we have been given very clear homework for the next session of COFI for better documentation so that COFI members can have more structured discussion for prioritization.

Nonetheless when we consider the fact that COFI more or less endorsed the six organizational results and also COFI, in paragraph 100, gave us about 19 lists of thematic prioritization work. It gave us a much clearer picture, at least for the short term, compared to what we had received in the past COFI. You may remember at the past COFIs, they basically said you do many things with these resources. They were a bit short of giving us more concrete lists of prioritization, let alone any list for low prioritization. So even though you may not be completely satisfied with the quality of work of COFI in prioritization, we were not very disappointed because it gives a very good basis for us to be able to give better documentation to the next COFI, as well as continue to living up to the list of prioritization COFI had given us. So that is my generalization of what we saw as COFI prioritization work assuming that we would have to give better documentation at the next COFI.

About the timing of the COFI, the Chairperson is completely right, we have to discuss this, in order for you not to misunderstand any issue that a COFI member said about timing of COFI. Our understanding is that COFI member did not want to lose its vantage position of the timing of COFI. Current procedure is that COFI meets in March or at the end of February. It is just the best timing on many accounts. Firstly, it does not conflict with many important Regional Fishery Management Organizations, that delegation consists of more or less the same people who attend. Secondly, which is more important that COFI would meet after important things of international organizations relating to fisheries met. Therefore, COFI was given a good position to overview what is going on in the international arena on the world fishery and aquaculture and it has had a vantage position to address the international fishery agenda item, and why we do have to lose that vantage point, that is the main argument for maintaining the current timing in our understanding. Of course, the physical constraint is if they have to meet in autumn when other important meetings are taking place, you may have to split your delegation therefore you cannot afford to send a strong delegation as before to COFI. That is another issue.

The point is, of course, COFI is a Council committee maybe a Conference committee in the future. So, COFI will have to abide by the General Rules of the Organization on timing. The Chairperson of COFI requested whether it would be feasible to accommodate both, and still have some time to report to the Programme Committee and Council but nonetheless avoid a duplication of the timing so that is just for clarification.

India requested some clarification about our technical cooperation with WTO. We are not intervening in the rule making authority of WTO. We know we have been given a very cautious message from COFI that our works do not duplicate that. What we had been requested by a WTO member is that when they are negotiating fishery subsidy they may reach a point where some subsidy can be linked to the concept of sustainable management of fisheries that, in philosophy, is if you would like to issue a fishery subsidy and not actionable by WTO you have to prove that you are also doing fishery management effectively. On that particular part is they need our expertise, with that matter we were requested to give some technical advice but we do not know yet what our role would be in the final package. When it becomes clearer we will be able to give you a more clear picture in the first Sub-committee on Fish Trade and later in the Committee of Fisheries.

We have been assured by you that you also support the six organizational results so that gave us some relief; we can go on. In addition to the various priority issues which you have listed in COFI

we noticed that many of you emphasize the importance of small scale fishery, aquaculture development assistance in Africa and fight against IUU fishing including the conclusions of the binding negotiations for port state measures and climate change.

I think I better stop now so that my final comment will not prejudice the well balanced Committee Report, and lastly Chairperson you can safely summarize that Council can endorse the COFI Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, I think that very safely the Council commended the work of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, (COFI) and endorsed its Report and recommendations. But by saying that I think there were some points which were emphasized by the membership and it needs more attention by the Department.

I am not going to make a summary of the things as you said otherwise I would have to read the whole Report again. A few points which most of the delegates refer to that I can say there is potential for small-scale fisheries; artisanal fisheries and the need for capacity building for them; adversities of climate change especially for small islands; partnership; allocation of resources according to the regional needs and their comparative advantages; accepting six organizational results but they ask for their prioritization, lots of emphasis on implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and the negative effects of unilateral trade on smaller-scale fisheries; prioritization of the activities of FAO especially in 2010-2011 programme of action; and then higher focus on marine bio-diversity. The advisory role of FAO to WTO which you answered and which is to be shared by the Membership. And finally, one issue which was referred to by many delegations was on the importance of ongoing work regarding the negotiation of a draft legally-binding instrument on port of state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. So the whole report was endorsed but some of the points were emphasized by the Membership.

Of course, I once again say that I have not summarized everything that you said but these are the main elements and the main idea would be the endorsement of the report and referring to some of the issues you referred to in this meeting.

Can I have your endorsement?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

4. Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (20-22 April 2009)

(CL 136/4)

4. Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité des forêts (Rome, 16-20 mars 2009)

(CL 136/3)

4. Informe del 19.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (16-20 de marzo de 2009)

(CL 136/3)

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

The Nineteenth Session of COFO was billed as the First World Forestry because of the involvement of partner organizations. This new concept was well received by countries and other organizations and we had a very good attendance some five hundred and fifty-six hundred delegates from some one hundred and thirty FAO Member Nations including eighty national heads of Forestry. All fourteen members of the collaborative Partnership on Forests participated

in COFO including the Executive Heads of approximately half of the CPF members and senior representative from all the others. The Executive Heads were all provided prime speaking opportunities from the podium so this was the first time that all CPF organizations participated in a single event.

The keynote speech on forest and climate change delivered by Doctor Gro Harlem Brundtland was very well attended and reached a wide media coverage. Indeed the major theme of the week was or themes were sustainable forest management and climate change and adapting forest policy institutions to change. Both themes were well received and there was an additional seminar on the impact of economic turbulence in the forest sector which included speakers from the private and public sectors stimulating healthy debate.

As to the arrangement during the COFO week, Ms Gail Kimberley, Chief of the US Forest Service chaired the session, the COFO Bureau was composed of the chairs of the six Regional Forestry Commissions. The chair was rotated among the six regions during the week, an innovation which we started in 2007, and which again this was highly appreciated by Member Nations.

The COFO agenda was developed by the COFO Bureau and was the first time this has been done. This again enabled the Regional Forestry Commissions to have direct input into COFO and I think it was also very well received.

Then to the results, and you can see in the document that the main results are repeated in the matters that are to be brought to the attention of the Council about all that the COFO endorsed, the FAO strategy for forest and forestry on top of that COFO supported the recommendation of the IEE to increase the share of the overall FAO budget that is allocated to forestry, then there is the reference to the World Forestry Congress to be held this year in Buenos Aires, and then, the last matter to be brought to your attentions is regarding the next session of the Committee proposed to be held in October 2010.

To conclude on the FAO strategy for forests, which I think is definitely the main outcome, there was a very long process that we undertook, we consulted with the heads of forestry in all countries, twice actually, three times we consulted with the Regional Forestry Commissions and we sought comments from stakeholders inside and outside FAO including of course other FAO departments and the CPF members.

Then we brought it to the COFO Steering Committee in September and they finalized the version to be taken to the COFO session. Each step of the way was, as we developed the strategy we aligned it with the broader FAO COFO corporate strategy. So all key elements of the forestry strategy are also to be found in the new FAO Strategic Framework for the new Medium Term Plan, so we can therefore say that there is good alignment between the strategy and the PWB/MTP that we are elaborating. As to prioritization, the strategy contains twenty-one priorities and we can also say that topics which are not included in those priorities of course are to be looked upon as not being priorities.

The strategy is an annex to the COFO report and the strategy also describes the relationship between the strategy itself and overall FAO Strategic Framework and I just refer to the document once more.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

La delegación cubana se congratula de verle nuevamente dirigiendo los debates de este período de sesiones del Consejo. Deseo agradecer a la Secretaría por el documento que ha puesto a nuestra consideración y reconocemos que los temas tratados durante la sesión del Comité de Forestales revisten una inapreciable importancia.

La actividad de la FAO relativa a cuestiones forestales adquiere cada día mayor importancia si tenemos en cuenta que las cifras y los datos de los que se dispone a nivel mundial nos reafirman que avanzamos a gran velocidad en la destrucción de la fauna y la flora de innumerables ecosistemas alrededor del mundo. Como todos conocemos, los bosques y los árboles llevan a cabo

funciones ambientales tales como la protección de la tierra, el agua, la bio-diversidad y el almacenamiento de carbón.

El informe de la FAO sobre el estado de los bosques en 2009 nos recuerda estas cuestiones y nos señala algunas realidades que debemos abordar con seriedad. Entre éstas, la creciente presión que la actividad económica mundial continúa teniendo sobre los bosques y el lento avance en la aplicación de una ordenación sostenible de los bosques a nivel mundial, lo que provoca que se mantenga el ritmo actual en la pérdida de superficie forestal; los efectos adversos de los elevados precios de los alimentos y los combustibles que favorecen la deforestación continuada a favor de la producción ganadera y de cultivos agrícolas a fin de satisfacer las demandas mundiales de alimento, forrajes y bio-combustibles; el creciente desafío del sector forestal ocasionado por el cambio climático, como el aumento de la frecuencia y gravedad de los incendios forestales y los daños causados por especies de plagas invasoras, entre otros factores; y el crecimiento de la demanda de la madera como fuente de energía, en especial, si se establecieran definitivamente sistemas mundiales para producción de bio-combustible celuloso. Estas son algunas de las cuestiones que la FAO y sus comités forestales en particular deben atender con mayor precisión e interés en el futuro.

Nuestra delegación considera que la estrategia de la FAO para los bosques y las actividades forestales constituye una herramienta acertada para encauzar su trabajo en los próximos años. La estrategia reconoce que una significativa minoría de países está operando sus bosques de manera sostenible y que, por lo tanto, el desafío para la FAO es contribuir con más países a mejorar la ordenación de sus bosques a fin de que esta minoría se convierta en mayoría en el próximo decenio. Sin embargo, según nuestro criterio es también importante destacar que no es suficiente con disponer de la estrategia. Por un lado será necesario que la FAO con su accionar y el activismo de su personal especializado y de sus directivos incremente su contribución con todos los países para crear mayor conciencia sobre la crítica situación actual en materia de bosques. La FAO debe ponerse en el centro del debate mundial aportando información, conocimientos y alertando sobre las consecuencias que a corto plazo nos traerá la continua destrucción de los bosques alentada por intereses económicos ajenos a toda la racionalidad humana. Por otro lado, consideramos que será necesario también que todos los países nos comprometamos a hacer mucho más en el futuro para la conservación de los pulmones del planeta.

Para finalizar, quiero agregar que nuestra delegación respalda el llamamiento a la promoción y participación activa de los miembros en el XIII Congreso Forestal mundial que se celebrará en Buenos Aires, Argentina, en octubre de 2009 y la propuesta de realizar el siguiente período de sesiones del Comité Forestal en Roma en octubre de 2010.

Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking of behalf of the countries of the Near East and we would like to thank the Secretariat for this document and we would like to really commend the quality of this report.

Forests are an important source of subsistence and also, forests make it possible for us to adapt to climate change. This is why we need to put a stop to the disappearance of forests and the expansion of agricultural lands. I think we need to take into account all of the activities contained in this report which will help us to preserve the forests.

The Committee on Forestry focused its attention on two important topics. First of all, the role of forests that allow us to adapt to climate change and secondly, the role of forests as a means of subsistence. Hence, this refers to the role they play in achieving food security, especially in the Middle East Region. I think it is important to focus attention on these issues which are extremely important.

We support the report in paragraphs that have to do with establishing priorities. We also support the strategy put forward for the management of forests. I think we need to include most of this strategy in the PWB 2010-11. We agree with the priorities established for forests.

The report also speaks of encouraging sustainable forestry management. Sustainability is a very important topic, with respect to the timetable. I think we need to keep in mind change in the timetable of the Conference. We are aware that the next Session will not be held in March as is usually the case.

I would like to conclude by saying that we agree with all of the recommendations contained in the report.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Firstly, I want to express our appreciation for the presentation by Mr Heino and his past dedicated work in this field.

Japan is glad to endorse the report.

I draw the attention of the Council to the Eighth Meeting of United Nations Forum on Forests held in April in New York. In this meeting, the importance of sustainable forest management was emphasized. Japan considers the Collaboration Partnership on Forests (CPF) is essential to proceed in sustainable forest management.

Japan expresses their expectation that FAO play the leading role to realize the CPF.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

We would like to reiterate our appreciation to Mr Heino for the good arrangements during the past Nineteenth COFO meeting.

We support concern that has been raised by the Near East and others.

My delegation, and on behalf of the African Group, endorses the FAO strategy for forestry, which is now described in the Organizational Results of FAO, to be achieved by FAO in the Medium-Term Plan.

Nevertheless, resources will be very important and needed and this is expressed in the call made by COFO for increasing their share of the overall FAO budget allocation to forestry. It is expected that the Impact Focus Areas, which we are working on, will also play a big part and role in the attraction of resources. I think this area, being new, needs to be pursued very vigorously by the Department.

Sustainable forest management is our concern and is a big challenge in Africa and other developing countries, as we see the progressive depletion of their forests and its effects on the environment and revenues. We therefore strongly endorse FAO in increasing its capacities in the Decentralized Offices, which was referred by COFO to be weak. FAO should be able to provide timely support to member countries to strengthen country capacities to implement sustainable forest management and to enable or support countries to build forest institutions to work on policies, research and programmes.

We strongly endorse that FAO prepares a report on the state of forestry genetic resources for 2013 to serve as a reference for action. In the national, regional and global communities, forestry genetic resources are very important to us in Africa.

In the Nineteenth COFO meeting, we were informed that about 20 percent of the world's population depends on forest resources. We were also informed that forest products attract a huge volume of trade, which by 2004 was estimated to be US\$327 billion. That is nearly four percent of the global trade value of all products. We ask ourselves a question: who benefits? I think Africa are losers on their benefits.

With all the steps and initiatives taken to increase their benefits from forestry, there is a need to promote public private partnership in the tree growing and management.

Africa looks forward to participate fully in the Thirteenth World Forestry Congress to be held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 23 October 2009 and we will wish the organizers a good preparation.

Victor C.D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you would give the floor to the Czech Republic to speak as the presidency of the European Community.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States and Turkey, the candidate country to the European Union, associates itself with this statement.

The European Community generally welcomes the results of the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. We are satisfied with the quality of the new edition of the State of the World's Forests and consider it as a reliable and comprehensive source of information on forests and forestry worldwide. However, the European Community reiterates its wish that the report be distributed at least two weeks before the session to allow more informed discussions.

The European Community appreciates the proposal of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for the Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change, as a clear overview of what should be done in the field of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The European Community fully supports the Committee in its call upon the member states to cooperate more closely in this area and to adopt appropriate forestry practices and policies to this end.

The European Community supports the recommendations of the Committee to reinforce this FAO technical Department, as all others, in order to improve its capacities and to intensify, in collaboration with other international organizations, its efforts to provide timely support to member states in implementing their policies and reforming their forestry institutions. This approach is necessary due to the current economic, political, social, environmental and technological challenges that the forestry sector faces at the national, regional and global levels.

As the most important outcome, the Committee endorsed the new FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry. The European Community is, in general, satisfied with the contents of the Strategy, including the core functions of FAO in forestry, the Strategic Objective for forestry and the Organizational Results.

The European Community is aware that we are in the process of introducing a new budget cycle. However, we regret that it was not possible to discuss the important prioritization of the activities of the Committee. The Committee was just informed that the process of priority setting in FAO was work in progress. The European Community notes that prioritization is essential to the work of COFO and this should be an objective for the next COFO session, based on a paper produced by FAO management. We call for the establishment of prioritization for COFO in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-13.

The European Community particularly welcomes, with appreciation, the start of work on the State of World's Genetic Resources report with planned release in 2013.

And finally, the European Community appreciates the work of the Secretariat and the FAO Forestry Department in the run-up to and during the session, but we can also see a space for improvements. The World Forest Week was a great opportunity for knowledge sharing and raising awareness of the forestry sector. On one hand, the idea should be further developed and outcomes of the next World Forest Week more reflected in a final report. On the other hand, it is necessary to find a more suitable balance with the formal session of the Committee.

Ms Nefretari SARI (Indonesia)

The Indonesian delegation supports the report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry held in Rome from 16 to 20 March 2009. We commend the initiative to organise the COFO session in conjunction with the First World Forestry Week. We see the benefits of the different efforts that allow more meaningful interaction in communication among different stakeholders including governments, international agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. That is also the organization of the first Asia and Pacific

Forestry Week in April 2008. We therefore support the suggestion to continue such set up in the future session of the COFO and the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

Indonesia supports the submission by the Committee on Forestry to this Council for the four issues for consideration, that is endorsement of the FAO strategy for forests and forestry, the need for an increased share of the FAO budget for forestry, participation in the coming World Forestry Congress and the organization of the next session of the Committee.

Indonesia is pleased to see that the FAO strategy for forests and for forestry is set and agrees that its implementation will need more resources. It is in this context that we support the request for an increased share of the FAO budget to forestry. This is fair as we see the growing recognition of the role of forests in the present changing environment. Most obvious is the role of forests in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This is recognised by the ongoing devolvement of the mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. In this context among FAO's comparative is this advantage in its long work-related inventory of forest data and information which is the key to the concept of performance based trend. This comparative advantage needs exploring. This is just one of the reasons for our support for a strengthened Forestry Department in FAO. This goes along with the COFO stand to be brought to the FAO Conference, that the forest sector needs sufficient financing in order to respond to climate change. FAO Forestry Department is far to the global forest sector and also needs financial strengthening.

My delegates would like to stress the importance of a more visible forestry programme for the FAO Member Nations as currently we should admit that FAO's support to Indonesia forestry sector is quite limited, There are some National Forestry Programmes supported activities and elements of a multi-sector project to address the Tsunami impacts but again they are quite small in size.

With regard to the World Forestry Congress, Indonesia would like to commend FAO for the role and contribution it has played in the organization of the WFC from time to time. We understand that FAO is quite instrumental, especially in the scientific work of the Congress and we call on the ample expertise that FAO has and look forward to successful WFC in October later this year.

We also support COFO submission of matters to be brought to the Conference. Besides the issue of climate change, strengthening of forest genetic resource are two issues that FAO should address in the future.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Nous voulons, Monsieur le Président, remercier M. Heino pour sa présentation qui, à notre entendement, a été une présentation complète de la dix-neuvième session du Comité des forêts. Mais, Monsieur le Président, nous voulons intervenir sur deux points: nous voulons parler brièvement de la gestion durable des forêts et du treizième Congrès forestier mondial.

Concernant la gestion durable des forêts, Monsieur le Président, nous tenons à rappeler, aux Membres et aux Observateurs du Conseil, les efforts que la République du Congo, comme d'autres pays d'Afrique centrale assurent, de manière exemplaire, pour la gestion quotidienne des forêts du bassin du Congo. Nous sommes conscients de ce rôle car nous estimons qu'après l'Amazonie, il revient au bassin du Congo, le rang de deuxième poumon mondial. A ce titre, Monsieur le Président, pour votre information, nous voulons rappeler aussi, que la plupart des pluies qui arrosent le continent prennent naissance dans le bassin du Congo. C'est à dire que la disparition de ces forêts, pourrait, à n'en point douter, mettre en péril l'existence de l'espèce humaine sur la terre. Cela veut dire que la conservation de ce massif forestier n'est pas un choix pour l'humanité mais une voie à sens unique qu'elle est tenue de suivre pour prolonger son existence sur cette planète. Mais que constatons-nous? Monsieur le Président, nous, qui sommes de bons élèves pour la gestion quotidienne des forêts du bassin du Congo, nous, République du Congo et nos amis collègues, Etats Membres de l'Afrique centrale, constatons une disparité, disons mieux des inégalités, dans la rétribution des ressources. De façon claire, nous voulons dire qu'on encourage certains mais on encourage au même titre ceux qui assurent la gestion durable

des forêts du bassin du Congo. Et comme l'a souligné, Monsieur le Président, le délégué de la Tanzanie, qui a été très éloquent sur cette question de ressources, il faut mettre un accent tout particulier sur ces pays-là qui protègent au jour le jour nos forêts. Ils ont besoin de ces ressources pour protéger et pour faire en sorte que l'humanité puisse être épargnée des conséquences néfastes, par exemple, les changements climatiques.

C'est un appel pressant sur cette question précise pour que, de par le monde, on vienne en aide, de façon exemplaire, pratique et concrète, aux pays d'Afrique centrale qui assurent la gestion de ces forêts.

Maintenant pour terminer, je voulais tout simplement dire que, le treizième Congrès forestier mondial est l'occasion unique pour nous Etats Membres, tous les six ans, de faire le point concernant les questions relevant de la foresterie et, c'est à ce titre, que nous voulons tout simplement lancer un appel à tous les Etats Membres à se préparer et à participer de façon efficiente à la tenue de ce Congrès qui, comme nous l'avions souligné, est une occasion unique tous les six ans pour nous.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I would like to thank Mr Heino, for the presentation and the remarkable job he has been undertaking at the helm of the Forestry Department. I would like to raise just a few points. My delegation will be actively participating in the budget discussions regarding the Forestry Department. Brazil will also be participating in the Thirteenth World Forestry Congress to be held this coming October in Buenos Aires, in the sister Republic of Argentina for the specific reasons that my good friend from Congo has just outlined. Regarding the report, on the issue of assumptions and risks, my authorities in Brasilia have missed the fact that when we talk about conversion of forestry into agricultural land, there was no mention of the fragility of the mechanisms of international cooperation that could contribute to a sustainable use of forestry resources, and still on that item, in our report, my authorities have also missed the fact that there is no reference in that in those assumptions, no reference to the commitments on the implementation of global objectives on forests that are recognized in the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests mentioned also to the UNFF.

My delegation would like to raise a note of caution. Sustainable forest management cannot be treated as if it were the only response to the forestry sector to climate change. An adequate response should primarily include also forestation, reforestation and reduction of the emissions from deforestation and land degradation.

With these comments and caveats my delegation is in a position to endorse the Report of the Nineteenth Session of COFU.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Chairperson! Afghanistan appreciates the brief report of COFO which sets the standard for the future reporting of the technical committees of the Council. Our comments will be limited to matters which COFO wished to bring to the attention of the Council. In this respect, we wish to make brief observations on the following four points.

One, we fully support the FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry which spells out with greater clarity the role of FAO in the forestry sector in line with its comparative advantage. This strategy easily fits within the Strategic Framework of FAO which the Council will be discussing under agenda 13. We are particularly pleased that one of the six outcomes envisaged in the FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry is the sustainable management of forests and trees in countries with low cover forests and particularly in support of fragile mountain eco-systems, watershed management and the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands. Many developing countries, especially those in the arid zones, are in need of FAO's assistance in these critical areas.

Two, as we shall discuss under agenda item 13, Strategic Objective E (Sustainable Management of Forests and Trees) is one of the best presented among the 11 Strategic Objectives and we

support the recommendation of COFO for an increase in the share of forestry in the overall FAO budget which is to be reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees in late July.

Three, we also feel that there is a good case for more support to Regional Forestry Commissions and a robust field programme of FAO national forestry programmes with the support of other partners.

Finally, we support the month of October 2010 for the next session of COFO.

Alexandre OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation endorses the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry in which it adopted the FAO strategy on forestry that was developed at its Seventeenth Session. We also support FAO's policy in genetic resources for food production and agriculture so that the Organization prepares a report on the state of genetic forestry resources around the world which would contribute to sustainable management of forests which is an essential element of the way forests react to climate change.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

The statement on behalf of Africa has already been tabled by the United Republic of Tanzania and my delegation associates itself with that and other statements have been made that support similar views. Allow me to recognize also the delegations of Sudan, Cuba, Afghanistan, Brazil and Democratic Republic of Congo who have made similar comments. I have the advantage of sitting beside Professor Ayazi who covered most of the areas I had wanted to refer to in my statements. I will limit myself to the following:

The concerns raised by the Democratic Republic of Congo, I think are shared by many, particularly those of us in the Savannah area where the coverage is even thinner. We face them more so because the people are looking to the little forest cover we have for energy. So the new strategy that has been tabled for the FAO does offer hope for most of us because we see merit in reforestation programmes that may help us address the challenges that we face.

The FAO and other organizations should assist countries to implement sustainable forestry management programmes in accordance with Member Nations' specific contexts. For a region, assistance in developing responses to climate change is as critical as implementing mitigation and adaptation responses.

With regard to paragraph 21, my delegation wishes to emphasize the need to increase the share of resources allocated to forestry as highlighted in that paragraph.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Je serais très bref. Ma délégation a souscrit une déclaration faite par le Soudan et la Tanzanie et notamment, la nouvelle stratégie de la FAO pour les forêts et la foresterie et profite de cette opportunité pour rappeler à la FAO l'importance de renforcer sa coopération dans le domaine de la foresterie avec les pays à faible couvert forestier.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any observers who would like to take the floor on this issue? I don't think there is anyone who wants to take the floor so I come back to Mr Heino for your response to the questions and comments that have been raised.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Thank you, Members of the Council, for these very rich and helpful remarks and also support for the forestry programme and especially for the strategy, I think this is something we can build upon. Indeed prioritization was not taken to the point it will be taken to in the future. For obvious reasons, with the present sequence of planning for the next biennium, prioritization discussion that would have included financial allocation was not possible. I am very happy to have listened to your remarks on the multiple roles of forestry, environmental roles increasingly in the overall pattern, also the subsistence livelihoods matters touched upon by Cuba, by Sudan and several

other countries. I also note that, for example, Japan, you pay attention to our role within the CPF, Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Let me assure you that we are going to make full use of that body in the future, also starting with the strategic meeting, actually within two weeks. Indeed as to our work, I think we very much emphasize on the country capacity and try to do exactly what we are requested to do by Tanzania, by Zimbabwe, to have the capacities improved.

Regarding forest genetic resources, the world report on the global level will be finalized in 2013, it is already underway, to respond to a couple of you that asked about that. Coming back to some specific issues regarding the financing under UNFF, unfortunately there was not a conclusion, a solution in the UNFF in New York in April just after the COFO meeting. That was the main topic but the UN Forum on Forests could not agree on a funding mechanism so we have to wait for the next meeting of the UNFF to see whether we can progress in that respect in order to have more support for sustainable forest management, including especially the protection and conservation of forests. As to the UNFF, the broad international goals within forestry, for example, that Brazil pointed out, let me mention that in the annex to the strategy, we make reference to the UNFF global objectives on forests and the millennium development goals. With this I briefly touched upon some of the main issues that, I think were raised by the countries and with that I would like to conclude, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Ok, thank you very much, with this I think that I can very safely say that Council has commended the work that has been done by the Forestry Department and endorsed the report in front of us. Of course, a number of recommendations were made, for example: conservation of forestry; allocation of forestry resources according to comparative advantage of need out there of regions; the role of forest on food security and livelihood and the dependency of a large number of people on forests; sustainable forest management and capacity building in developing countries and Decentralized Offices; public and private partnership; role of forest in mitigation and adaptation to climate change; prioritization of the call for resources in planning our work and budget for 12/12 and 13 for the next biennium; and some concerns on assumptions and risks that Brazil raised and I am sure they will be taken into account; and finally sustainable management of low cover forest that was emphasized by some of the delegations. With these, which is not a full list of what has been discussed but the main points, I think I do have your endorsement of decision. Thank you very much. So decided.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the end of the time that we have for this morning and the first draft of the agenda. The next item was not for the morning, but I emphasized to put it in the morning and I said in the spirit of post IPA, we might be able to cover it. Although I must say we were efficient, really a very good session, not too much repetition, very little repetition and everybody down to the point. I appreciated it very much and in order to finalize our work for this afternoon, because we have an extra item, which will be deferred from this morning, please be present at 2.30 hours sharp. So we start at 2.30 hours this afternoon. Have a nice time. Excuse me. Management has a statement for you.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Chair of GRULAC has announced that GRULAC will meet tomorrow, 16th of June, in the Mexico Room at 9.00 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session Cent trent-sixième session 136° período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 15 June 2009 Rome, 15 juin 2009 Roma, 15 de june de 2009</p>
<p>SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>15 June 2009</p>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:36 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 36
sous la présidence de Monsieur Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14:36 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (Cont'd)
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (Continuación)

- 5. Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (20-22 April 2009) (CL 136/4)**
5. Rapport de la soixante-septième session du Comité des produits (20-22 avril 2009) (CL 136/4)
5. Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (22-25 de abril de 2009) (CL 136/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The second meeting of the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of FAO Council is now open.

The first item on our agenda is Item 5: Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which we were unable to consider this morning.

The document before Council is CL 136/4.

I should like to ask Mr David Hallam, Secretary of the Committee on Commodity Problems, to introduce the item. Mr Hallam you have the floor.

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I can be very brief in just highlighting one or two points arising from the last session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. As has been the case in the previous two sessions, the last session focused very tightly on the core mandate and terms of reference of the Committee on Commodity Problems, namely to review market developments over the period since the last session and to look at related policy issues. Obviously in the case of the session that we held in April this year, the review of market developments was very much dominated by the experience of the high food prices and reactions to it.

Now the review of markets and the related policy issues allows an opportunity for members of CCP to contribute to the debate in terms of their own experiences, but it also allows them to express their views on the priorities of the work programme in the areas of commodities, markets and trade and a number of priorities were identified in that debate for further work – some arising from the items which were already discussed, others which were new areas of interest. These are listed in the document that you have before you but they include, for example, some more analysis on relationships between agricultural markets and energy markets and an analysis of how the financial crisis is impacting upon agricultural markets and policy impact analysis, especially impacts on small producers.

Now, all of the above have fed into the current discussions on the work programme relating to markets and trade and, in fact, a number of them will reappear on the agenda of the next CCP which is next year.

Besides this possibility of expressing views on priorities for the work programme, a couple of topics also emerged in the context of reform, both internal and external. In terms of the external environment of commodity markets, a debate was started in the last CCP on the international commodity bodies and their roles in the rather different market circumstances of today compared to when they were established and again that debate was started and will continue with an agenda item for the next CCP. Then internally the Committee also recommended that there should be a review of its own roles and working arrangements and again a document will be brought forward as a basis for further discussion of those at the next CCP.

So those are some of high highlights that I would like to draw your attention to and I would hand the floor back to the Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

The document is in front of you, you have listened to the introduction by Mr Hallam and in the first page of the document you see matters related to the Council. The floor is open and the time is limited. EU, you have the floor.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate to the European Union, Turkey, associates itself with this statement.

First, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the report CL 136/4 on the Committee on Commodity Problems, which provides a well summarized reflection of what transpired at the Committee.

The European Community is aware that FAO is in the process of introducing a new budget cycle. However, we regret that it was not possible to discuss the important prioritization of the activities of the Committee. The European Community notes however, that prioritization is essential in the work of CCP and this should be done regardless of the level of resources available. We call for prioritization of the work of the CCP sector in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next session of the CCP, based on a paper produced by FAO management.

We note that the report requests analysis of the implications of bio-fuel sector development on poverty and food security, amongst others and also that the potential linkage between petroleum prices and commodity prices is not yet definitive and needs further assessment. As laid down in the European Renewable Energy Directive, the Commission shall report on the impact of bio-fuel development on the availability of foodstuffs at affordable prices, in particular for people living in developing countries, and wider development issues.

On WTO, the European Community regrets that the conditions were not in place to reach an agreement on modalities in July 2008 and then to hold a Ministerial meeting in December 2008 to complete the Doha Round. The conclusions of the Doha Round are urgently needed and remain a top priority for the European Community. Multilateral trade negotiations can usefully be complemented by bilateral agreements. However, they certainly cannot replace them. On this occasion we would like to endorse the outcome of the G8 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Treviso in April 2009 and state our commitment to reach a balanced, comprehensive and ambitious conclusion of the Doha Round.

Concerning the recent renewed commitment, in particular by the G8 Agriculture Ministers, the European Community supports the renewed interest in the agricultural sector as a robust and viable agrifood sector is a key component for achieving global food security. Therefore, it considers that food security must be pursued through a coordinated strategy on the global scale. Maintaining on the political agenda issues related to food security and poverty alleviation, such as sustainable agriculture and nutrition, through an inclusive approach involving all relevant stakeholders, in particular partners from the developing countries, and is imperative.

The report also mentions that in the long run distorting farms subsidies are damaging to developing country agriculture. The European Community considers that the Common Agriculture Policy has been reformed significantly in the past years and more than ninety per cent of direct payments are now decoupled.

The European Community agrees in working towards developing transparent international sustainability guidelines and applicable sustainability standards, including best practices for biofuel production, consumption and trade. Sustainability criteria are part of the European Community legislation on Renewable Energy Directive and Fuel quality Directive. We would like

to share our experience and we hope that the European example will encourage others to do down the same path.

We reiterate the importance of analysing the effectiveness of policies in managing food price movements, as was also requested. However, the analysis should also include the causes of price volatility. Depending on either structural or temporary factors, the appropriate measure should be implemented, while not distorting trade and in line with WTO regulations and ensuring food security.

The European Community would like to react to the tenth point of the matters requiring the attention of the Council, that is, the agreement that the working group be established to review the present and future role of the International Commodity Bodies (ICBs). FAO has a mandate on the Intergovernmental Groups (IGGS) ON Grains and Rice, Meat and Dairy Products, Oilseeds Oils and Fats, Citrus Fruits, Bananas and Tropical Fruits and the IGG on Tea and the mandate of the working groups should focus on these IGGs. Nevertheless, the work may benefit from reflections on possibilities to cooperate with these ICBs. I would like to inform you that the European Commission has instigated an extensive study on the role and functioning of the FAO IGGs, including options for their future which would be an important input for the work of the working group.

Furthermore, the European community suggests that in the reflections on the ICBs especially the IGGs, FAO liaises closely with UNCTAD and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) as two of the international organizations that have regular contacts with the ICBs and are in a complementary position to FAO with respect to involvement in commodities and ICBs.

CHAIRPERSON

I have on my list, Kuwait, Thailand, The United States of America, Canada, Zimbabwe and Cuba.

I now invited Kuwait to take the floor, followed by Thailand.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

Firstly the CCP is one of the most important committees for our country and therefore it should remain within FAO.

Secondly the importance of the CCP lies in the dissemination of commodity situations and fluctuations in food prices. This is also of primary importance to our countries.

Thirdly we support the need for analysis of the reasons for price volatility and agricultural policies and development and the impact on small producers and the food situation such as countries such as our own.

Fourth, we would like to support the CCP in its efforts to build capacity for international trade negotiations particularly with regard to the Doha Round and other negotiations.

Fifth, we would also like to support the Committee in its recommendations and in particular the recommendations relating to agricultural investment to improve the capacity of developing countries and also the establishment of a working group to recognize the role of international commodity bodies.

Sixth, we support the Committee in its recommendation that best practices be drawn up for the role of biofuel, its production and consumption. That must not affect the food situation in developing countries, the development of biofuel policies should be in line with the need not to prejudice the consumption of food in poor countries.

Seventh, we support the Commodities Group when it speaks of cooperation in food security. We would like the Secretariat to take all these points into account and recommendations prepared.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thailand welcomes the Report of the Sixty-seventh Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We would like to briefly underscore some issues as follows.

First, we recognize the degree of importance and data on agriculture as well as its trend. We would therefore encourage FAO to facilitate the exchange of this related information for an effective planning and early response to any uncertainties or emerging incidents.

Second, FAO's assistance in building capacity of developing countries to cope with WTO negotiation should remain one of the top priority requirements and is very much appreciated.

Third, FAO's role in studying and analyzing the causes and impact of agricultural commodity price fluctuation and providing guidance on a context based mitigation solution would be very much encouraged.

Fourth, we support the establishment of the working group to review the role of the intergovernmental commodity bodies.

I look forward to a discussion of the reviewed CCP role in the next session.

With this, Mr Chairperson, Thailand endorses the Report of the Sixty-seventh Session of the CCP.

Robert A. RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

We want to thank the Secretariat for the 2009 State of World Commodity Markets Report. We find that it provides a useful perspective on the global commodity situation and outlook.

We would like to highlight there is still a need for continuing analysis and monitoring of the reasons causing price fluctuations and food insecurity in many countries.

We are pleased that there is a renewed commitment among WTO members to reach a comprehensive and balanced agreement as soon as possible.

We also agree with the view of the Committee that some policies introduced by governments in response to ad hoc food prices have not been effective and in the case of export restrictions have exasperated the situation.

We would like to encourage FAO to facilitate investments from public and private sectors to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in developing countries.

In closing I would like to add that in order to continue to address concerns about bio-fuels' impact on food prices the United States is strongly working towards commercially viable second generation biofuels based on cellulosic feed stocks from non food sources.

The US Energy and Independent Security Act of 2007 mandate that by the year 2020 fifty eight percent of US bio-fuel will be second generation or advanced bio-fuel. Our research and development efforts are intended to make non food based next generation technology cost effective by the year 2012 and will minimize food security and environmental concerns.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada wishes to welcome the CCP Report and accepts the conclusion of the report. As other members have indicated, Canada fully supports the need for a balanced, comprehensive and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round.

With regards to the development of international sustainability guidelines for biofuels, Canada remains very committed to the approach outlined in the June 2008 FAO High-Level Conference which highlights the need to address the challenges and opportunities posed by bio-fuels in view of the world's food security, energy and sustainability development needs.

This includes the need for in-depth studies to secure the needs of bio-fuels as sustainable according to three pillars of sustainable development, be it social, be it environment, be it economic. An international dialogue on bio-fuels within the context of food security and

sustainable development needs fostered within the mandates of the relevant intergovernmental organizations.

The Government of Canada is supportive of sustainability as a goal for bio-fuels production and is working with stakeholders to better understand the issues of sustainability in the sector.

In general the Government of Canada has been supportive of voluntary industry-led third party verified standards and certification schemes that are based on sound science and that avoid technical trade barriers.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation fully supports the report of the CCP as a true introduction of the discussion that took place then. I present my statement as part of Africa's contribution to this debate, with the following comments.

Recognizing the impact of fluctuations in food prices that led to the social unrest in food deficit countries, we ask FAO to continue working with governments in order to find the appropriate long-term solutions to the problems.

On the capacity to provide information on global commodities, we feel that the Sub-regional Offices, as the new technical hubs, should be strengthened so that they put into place a programme to generate this capacity at country level. Where the Ministry of Agriculture is well equipped to produce their own data, the job for FAO to compile and analyze the data and establish trends becomes simplified.

In the bio-fuel debate, we ask for ongoing research which would lead to a better understanding of the linkage between petroleum and food prices on the one hand, and opportunities that may arise from the second generation fuels, on the other. The latter would naturally represent less competition between fuel and food security, especially the non-food stock. This cannot be achieved without transfer of technology to the developing countries and to improve their capacity to balance the act without jeopardizing their food security situation.

We believe that bio-fuel programmes should not develop without involving small farmers because of their capacity to generate the income for the farmer. They should be interwoven with the country's agriculture and poverty reduction strategies in the overall role of the development agenda. To ensure relevant research supporting policies, investment in transfer of technologies and the infrastructural development should be provided for in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

On the multilateral front, we see the Doha Round as a development agenda which is critical and should be concluded, mindful of the diverse partners and their varying levels of development, hence the importance of catering for specific trade and development needs of the developing countries. FAO has an advantage over other bodies and it has this important role to provide independent and analytical information and support to Member Nations, often accompanied with technical support to raising negotiating skills.

This assistance is urgently required for the current Doha Round negotiations.

The response programme to the food crisis depends on the country's ability to avail recovery resources in a timely fashion. The recent initiatives by the richer nations in response to the food and financial crisis are self evident. The poor will suffer longer as they lack resources to serve their farmers.

FAO cannot address this challenge alone. Together with partners it will need to nurture a proper technical assistance and related support to assist all Member Nations, appreciate the impact of the food security crisis on agriculture and food security and to avail timely information in order to ensure that the positive outcome of the Doha Round would ameliorate some of its effects.

The trend in food insecurity has led to varied responses by governments. Now the time is ripe for FAO and its partners to study how to achieve food security at the household level. We need

targeted responses that give confidence to everyone in the household, but to do so, we should draw lessons from the recent crisis.

We believe that the starting point should be at the country level, where countries need support for in-depth country analysis, monitoring, research and evaluation in order to avoid *ad-hoc* responses when balancing the cost-effectiveness of lowering domestic food prices to protect the low-income groups against the need to encourage local food production and marketing of the surplus, particularly to the local food markets in deficit areas.

Such assistance is urgent as most governments are trying to grapple with the effects of the recent crisis whose effects are unprecedented. Like others, Zimbabwe urgently looks to FAO for a solution in this area.

In Africa, more targeted support is required at Regional, and Sub-regional and Country Offices to attract the investment into agriculture, improve rural development and provide rural infrastructure that can sustain value-chains.

FAO needs to make provision for country case studies in the coming biennium so as to establish appropriate base lines for the countries in question. We share the opinion in paragraph 37 on the need to adjust and improve the effectiveness in conducting the Common Fund for Commodities projects and therefore support the idea of the working group, but would like that the members be kept informed as the project progresses.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Deseo ante todo agradecer a la Secretaría por el documento que nos ha presentado ya que consideramos que estos temas son de gran importancia. Nuestra delegación reconoce la importancia de mantener los trabajos y debates que realice este Comité dentro del sistema de gobernabilidad de la FAO. En general, apoyamos todas las recomendaciones y conclusiones presentadas en el documento.

Consideramos que a través del programa de trabajo de Doha debieran obtenerse resultados substanciales y favorables al desarrollo. La realidad es que la negociación en la ronda ha quedado en la saga esperando el respaldo de sus Miembros, en especial de las grandes potencias comerciales, pero esperamos que este estancamiento pueda ser superado.

En cuanto a la FAO, deseamos realizar algunos comentarios concretos y breves. Con respecto al examen y seguimiento que el Comité realiza sobre la situación de los mercados mundiales de productos básicos, alimenticios y de las políticas alimentarias, consideramos que de ahora en adelante se deberá continuar realizando aún con mayor profundidad, concentrando muy especialmente sus análisis en las repercusiones sobre el objetivo de alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria en los países en desarrollo y en los efectos sobre los agricultores sin dejar de tener en cuenta el análisis de las consecuencias de las políticas comerciales que impiden acceder a los mercados de los países desarrollados.

Estimamos también la pertinencia de que, en expresa coordinación con los comités de agricultura y seguridad alimentaria, se continúe analizando las repercusiones de la producción de los bio-combustibles sobre la pobreza, la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente, así como las vinculaciones entre la energía y los mercados agrícolas, y en particular, los bio-combustibles de segunda generación. Los debates y análisis sobre estos temas también deben ser fortalecidos.

En lo relativo a la propuesta de establecer un grupo de trabajo que examine la función presente y futura de los órganos internacionales de productos básicos, y su petición de que se elabore el mandato de dicho grupo para su aprobación por la mesa, la delegación cubana concuerda con el criterio emitido por dicho Comité junto con varias delegaciones acerca de que es necesario evitar toda actuación apresurada en esta materia, especialmente teniendo en cuenta que no se ha concluido el proceso de reforma de la FAO y que continúa vigente el mandato del Comité. En este sentido, apoya la propuesta de que se prepare un documento a ser presentado al Comité en su próximo período de sesiones como base para el examen de sus funciones y métodos de trabajo.

Los temas que aborda el Comité de Productos Básicos de la FAO son también de extraordinario valor y tienen una gran influencia sobre la seguridad alimentaria. El papel de la FAO, en general, y de este Comité, en particular, alcanza un valor inapreciable. Con prioridad debe proseguir su labor destinada al análisis y al fomento de la capacidad para apoyar la activa participación de los países en desarrollo en las negociaciones comerciales internacionales. De igual forma, pensamos que la FAO deba hacer todo lo que esté a su alcance para ser un actor de mayor peso en el debate internacional sobre el comercio de productos básicos alimenticios, creando conciencia en la comunidad internacional sobre la necesidad de potenciar y fortalecer la cooperación con los países en desarrollo para apoyarlos en la diversificación de sus producciones y el aumento del valor añadido, como vías para reducir su alta dependencia de estos bienes y aumentar su participación en el comercio mundial.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

My delegation also welcomes the report but we would also like to raise four basic issues.

One, Brazil appreciates the efforts by the Committee on Commodity Problems in monitoring and providing analysis, as well as information on the commodity markets and the movement of prices in this sector. We strongly support the permanence of the Committee within FAO. Its function, mandate and name should be examined by the membership in due time, without haste, and respecting the overall ongoing reform process that FAO has been now undergoing.

Two, during the Sixty-seventh Session, the CCP and its Members discussed the development of biofuel production and its possible relations with food security and the rise of prices of agricultural goods. As we underlined on that occasion, generalizations about bio-fuels market should be avoided at all costs. Many experiences, such as bio-fuel from sugarcane, highlight the fact that bio-energy production programmes do not necessarily compete with the food market. Rather than threatening the food security of poor people, especially poor farmers, biofuels can render their living standards better as long as they involve them in the production and market chains, as we have been experiencing now in Brazil with the Bio-diesel National Programme. We maintain that developing countries will not be able to reap the benefits of bio-fuel production if tariffs and subsidies in developed countries are maintained.

Third, we stress that further consideration of the impact of agricultural subsidy policies is urgently needed, taking into account the already known distortional effects of such initiatives on the agricultural world market, threatening the conditions of millions of poor farmers and consumers in developing nations. We remain committed, with a rapid conclusion of the Doha Development Round, with ambitious and balanced results.

Fourth, and finally, we took note of the reference of the Report of the Session regarding the fact that the economic phenomenon known as "Dutch Disease" may stem from economic mismanagement rather than from countries' natural endowment.

With these comments, my delegation is in a position to endorse the Report.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Un contretemps indépendant de ma volonté m'a empêché d'être présent assez tôt à notre séance de ce matin, c'est pourquoi je voudrais, au nom du Groupe africain, que je remercie pour la confiance qu'il me témoigne, vous féliciter pour la sagesse et la manière exemplaire avec laquelle vous dirigez les travaux du Conseil qui vous a renouvelé sa confiance. Je voudrais associer à ces félicitations les autres membres du Bureau et permettez, également, que je salue le travail du Secrétariat qui a mis à notre disposition les documents nécessaires à nos travaux, c'est-à-dire l'ensemble des rapports des différents comités de la FAO. Je n'oublie pas dans mes remerciements les interprètes à qui je rends un hommage particulier pour leur pertinente disponibilité. Monsieur le Président, le Rapport que nous avons examiné ce matin, comme celui du Comité des pêches et celui des forêts, ainsi que les débats de qualité qui ont suivi leur examen, me conforte dans mon espoir de voir les préoccupations des pays africains prises en comptes et qu'une autre culture prévaudra au sein de notre institution comme l'a dit ce matin le Représentant du Congo. La pêche

artisanale, l'aquaculture et une exploitation rationnelle et durable de nos ressources sont la clé de survie pour nos petits pêcheurs et pour une alimentation équilibrée des enfants africains et des enfants des pays en voie de développement ou des pays pauvres, en général.

En ce qui concerne les forêts, évidemment il y a lieu de s'inquiéter du rythme accéléré par lequel elles disparaissent chaque jour. Il convient donc de se coaliser contre cette tendance néfaste en pensant aux générations futures en faisant une gestion rationnelle pour un développement durable de nos forêts. Le massif forestier du bassin du Congo en Afrique étant, comme l'a si bien indiqué le Délégué du Congo, le deuxième poumon écologique de l'humanité, après l'Amazonie, l'Afrique doit travailler à sa conservation et exiger une distribution équilibrée et équitable des ressources relatives à la protection des forêts et à la lutte contre la désertification et l'exploitation éhontée de nos ressources forestières.

C'est pourquoi une gestion intégrée des ressources est tout à fait recommandée. Nous avons comme exemple, au niveau du Sahel, la Grande muraille verte qui est un exemple de projet extrêmement important pour la préservation de nos sols contre l'érosion. Nous avons aussi l'exemple des bassins de rétention qui ont été initiés dans un certain nombre de pays et qui tendent, autour d'un espace où l'eau de pluie est retenue, à créer toute une économie autour et effectivement de créer des zones de conservation des forêts. Pour ce qui est du Comité des produits dont nous examinons le Rapport aujourd'hui, je voudrais d'abord les féliciter pour l'excellent travail qu'ils ont fait et partager avec ceux qui sont intervenus tout à l'heure, les inquiétudes qui ont été posées par rapport à la gestion des biocarburants et des distorsions que cela peut amener au niveau des prix et au niveau du développement des produits agricoles dans les pays en voie de développement. Je voudrais aussi suggérer, pour ce qui est des négociations avec l'EMC, qu'on puisse aboutir, comme le rapport l'a insinué, à un rapport assez global, ambitieux, car prenant en compte les préoccupations des pays sous-développés, notamment en matière de compétitivité des produits agricoles qui sont faits dans ces pays-là. Nous sommes d'avis aussi qu'il faut fouetter la compétitivité des produits des pays en voie de développement, en mettant en place des financements qui soient appropriés à leur gestion.

Voilà donc en quelque sorte, les quelques mots que je voulais dire, en vous remerciant de me donner la parole et en félicitant tous les comités qui sont déjà intervenus pour leur travail remarquable et les suggestions pertinentes. Je suis sûr qu'au fond nous reviendrons sur beaucoup de problèmes sur les débats que nous aurons ultérieurement car les enjeux aujourd'hui de la FAO sont de faire en sorte que notre Organisation soit de plus en plus performante, donc prenne en charge de manière concrète les préoccupations des populations et se trace des objectifs qui soient en conformité avec les objectifs qui ont été tracés par les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation supports what has been said by Zimbabwe and Senegal, as they are issues which concern the African Region.

We do endorse the deliberations of CCP and we note that many of the issues are a policy and global nature which need the attention of the Conference. Nevertheless, we may touch on some few areas, which impact on the work of FAO.

Let me start with the review of the commodity situation, which was presented by CCP at that time. It is noted that the commodity market stabilized with rising prices in the year 2008 and, in particular, what was more disturbing for us was the significant increase in food prices, which had an adverse impact on many of the developing countries.

Despite the reported decline of international food market prices, domestic food prices in this year have remained stuck on the highest levels in most of our developing countries, in particular in Africa. I know that this is a major issue also being handled by the Committee on Food Security and will be reported to the Conference in regard to its forest implications and to the Council, as it is being reported today, on how it impacts on the FAO programme. Programmes for food security in the developing countries and, in particular, in Africa where 40-60 percent of the total consumer

expenses is on food. Thus the role of CCP remaining an important forum for monitoring food market prices and policies, remains vital. CCP should continue to be maintained and FAO is one of the Technical Committees.

The issues of ICBs of CCP, as they relate to the work of UNCTAD, WTO and the CFC need to be carefully studied, otherwise they remain to be important to the work of CCP as well as to the work of FAO.

My delegation supports the efforts of the Committee to review the market and food security implications on the development of biofuel production. We further request FAO to analyse its implications on trade as one of the risks involving one of the least developed countries, there is a fear of not benefiting from biofuel revolution and we would like FAO to explore more the effect of biofuel trade to compete with developed countries based on levels of tariff applications and subsidies provided for biofuel. This issue has also been raised by Brazil. We support Brazil for raising this issue.

Tanzania support for continuation of FAO's analysis in capacity building work in relation to the international trade negotiations, we request FAO to extend its analysis and technical assistance to Member Nations which have not benefited much under this programme.

Tanzania, being one of the SP countries who are engaged in the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU and a different regional negotiation group, we feel that it is high time that FAO strengthens the negotiating capacities at regional and country level. This will make a base for future capacities in the multilateral negotiations.

Oleg KOBLAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to support the work done by the Committee in its review of the World Market in agricultural products. There is no doubt that such work can help countries in the WTO in achieving a comprehensive and bonus agreement in such products. We are in favour of FAO further pursuing its analysis of capacity-building particularly, within the context of international commodity fora. We also support the analysis of the impact of bio-fuels in the field of poverty alleviation, World Food Security and environmental sustainability. We support also the request of the Committee that it carry out further research on the macro-economic effects of changes in prices of food products and the establishment of relevant working groups. We also think that the CCP should cooperate with parallel committees, particularly with the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security.

Farid Hasan BAKTIR (Indonesia)

The Indonesian Delegation would like to thank you and the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing the Report of the sixty-seventh Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems for our further deliberation. We would like to underline the importance of FAO especially on the issue of analytical work on biofuel and its implication to poverty, food security, and environment and carbon balance. In addition with regard to the development of Doha Round negotiations, it is recognized that in general there has been progress in the negotiation and the draft negotiating modalities particularly at the ministerial meeting in Geneva in July 2008.

It has provided an excellent base for our further negotiations. In this regard, it is important for the CCP to continue to play a greater role in putting forward the aspirations of the developing nations to the WTO at the negotiation forum. In the multilateral trade with the global economic crisis, it is very important to deeply analyse the impact of food price productivity that has affected many developing countries experiencing food deficit and, alternatively, a stumbling world food reserve.

I would like also to take this opportunity to inform Member Nations of the outcome of the Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Indonesia last week in Bali. As reflected in the Bali communities the Cairns Group agreed to the urgent need to have an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Round negotiation. It is our high expectation that the Doha Round negotiation will be put forward and concluded as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Indonesia. Any of the observers would like to take the floor on this subject. I don't see any so I would come back to Mr Hallam and ask him if he has any comments or answers to the questions.

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

Thank you Mr Chairperson and thank you distinguished Council Members for your comments and especially for your support for the CCP and its work and the work of the Secretariat which lies behind it.

I note many members referred to the work on biofuels and its impact on food security and its linkages of energy markets and food markets; that work is continuing as I mentioned. I also noted the support offered by a number of members in relation to our capacity-building work on WTO issues and the negotiations. This is an area that obviously, we regard as highly important, unfortunately, in recent years it's been squeezed a little by resource constraints but it is an area where we do as much as we can.

A number of Members also referred to the proposed review of the International Commodity Bodies. Obviously, we know the FAO intergovernmental groups better than the groups outside the FAO, although in some cases we know we collaborate very closely with them. That work is already beginning and the idea was all along that there should have been collaboration with the ICBS outside the FAO and the CFC. In fact, there already was a discussion with the CFC in their last general meeting earlier this year in China on this very topic. I think that many delegates referred to the work on price variability and our analysis of the underlying factors and also the policy responses to them and supported the continuation of that. That work is continuing and you may recall that we will be coming back to the CCP next year with a review of the impact of the financial crisis on markets and prices. The last thing again I noted the support of the Members here for the internal review of the functioning and roles of the CCP. Obviously, we think this is extremely important to maintain the topicality and the effectiveness of the CCP. These are my reactions.

CHAIRPERSON

With this I think I can conclude that the Council has endorsed the Report of the CCP. Its emphasis on different aspects. I can refer to a few of them. One is that the CCP should have stayed in FAO as a Technical Committee and any change should not be done in haste and should be in line with the IPA

About the bio-fuel, different aspects of bio-fuel were raised and is evident that there is more work to be done by FAO in all aspects of biofuel which I don't go today into details. Balance conclusion to Doha round negotiations should be followed by FAO and there is a need for capacity building and training especially for developing countries. In this regard, information and data dissemination especially in emergencies was emphasized, analysis and monitoring of food security and price volatility was identified as an important aspect of this Committee and should be continued. Finally, prioritisation of the work of the CCP, especially in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012/2013. With this can I have the endorsement of the Report?

6. Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture (22-25 April 2009) (CL 136/5)

6. Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité de l'agriculture (22-25 avril 2009)

(CL 136/5)

6. Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (22-25 de abril de 2009)

(CL 136/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 6, Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture. Please ensure that you have the right documentation, which is CL 136/5. I should like to ask Mr Farzil Düsüceli, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, to introduce the item.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture - COAG)

Now for the culture change, it is my pleasure as the chairperson of the COAG to introduce to the Council, the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture. The session had a full agenda in Plenary and was supplemented by three Side Events well received by the participants. The session also benefited from the representation of the chairperson of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 17th session with a view to involve active engagement of UN Organizations implementing the sustainable development agenda. The Committee reviewed and provided guidance on the elements of Strategic Framework and medium term plan 2010/2013 of relevance to COAG, in particular, strategic objectives, A, B, D, F and G and on selected international development issues of interdisciplinary nature. You will note that this Report will also be presented to the Conference suggested recommendation 2.56 of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal. I would like to draw your attention to the main observations and recommendations of the Committee which are summarized in the front section of the Report.

The Committee welcome the presentation of the draft elements of the new results-based Strategic Framework and noted .COAG's role to provide recommendations on the Programme priorities. In this context the Committee requested that more visibility be given to the role of partnerships with other United Nations Agencies and international Organizations, national institutions and the private sector.

COAG also underlined FAO's important role in the development of policies and instruments for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change relating to agriculture. Specific issues discussed in the context of strategic objectives, A,B,D,F and G are summarised in paragraphs 10-14 of the report. The Committee recommended that the Conference Committee revisit strategic objective G enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods in order to address adequately the issues related to smallholder farming and rural development. In this point recommendation, a revised formulation of strategic objective G was submitted on June the 3rd to COC Working Group 1 which found that with some further amendments the issues raised by COAG were addressed. The amendments can be found in document CL 136/16 Add. 1, provided separately. The Committee recognized as well as the importance of sustainable intensification of co-production food quality and security, the role that livestock can play in poverty alleviation, provided that it is facilitated by enabling policies and institutions. It urged the FAO to allocate a greater share of total available resources to support Member Nations in the formulation of livestock sector policies, plans and programmes and in leveraging resources for their implementation. Club members strongly suggested that FAO increase its regular budget devoted to the Organization's livestock programme. The Committee recommended lesson learning and capacity building at all levels from policy formulation to technology and knowledge extension should be priority elements for FAO's work in the livestock sector. The Committee concurred with FAO's key role in presenting agriculture in the environmental policy discussion for a due to the importance of water, land biodiversity and climate for food production and rural livelihoods. It also recommended that FAO strengthen its interdisciplinary capacity in climate change adaptation and mitigation to exploit the synergies between forest cropland pasture policy and management strategies, as well as in monitoring the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security.

In this context, the Committees stressed that an ecosystem approach be adopted in agricultural management in order to achieve sustainable agriculture, including pasture management, organic agriculture and other traditional and indigenous cropping strategies that promote agro-system diversification and soil carbon sequestration. COAG also requested that work on bio-diversity for food and agriculture be strengthened and coordinated among the different subsectors and that multi year programme of work for the Commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture be implemented. Furthermore, the Committee requested that potential and benefits of bio-fuels be carefully monitored in light of national circumstances and that more analyses be undertaken. Finally, COAG recognized that there are important actions that the public sector can take to engage the private sector in agricultural development and emphasized the importance of creating and enabling environments for the private sector and importance of public/private partnership.

Chairperson, distinguished delegates, these are the main highlights of our recent meeting. I commend to you the Report of the 21st Session of COAG and look forward to the debate on its conclusions and your recommendations.

Mme Martine VAN DOOREN (Belgique)

Je serais brève, puis-je vous demander de bien vouloir passer la parole à ma collègue tchèque qui va s'exprimer au nom de l'Union européenne?

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVA (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you, Mr Chair, and let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, Turkey, the candidate country of the EU, associates itself with the statement.

The European Community welcomes the report on the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We support the list of matters identified as a requiring attention of the Council. We endorse the position of the Committee toward the strategic framework and medium term plan 2010-2013, particularly the incorporation of the multidisciplinary nature of work and further cross-organizational collaboration.

The European Community is aware that we are in the process of introducing a new budget cycle. However, the European Community regrets that it was not possible to discuss the important prioritization of the activities based on financial allocations during the Committee session. The European Community requests the FAO to ensure that discussions on budget allocation be included in future sessions. We commend the effort towards prioritization and encourage the Committee to continue its work on further prioritization, the results of which we will see in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

We concur with the COAG report regarding the request that more visibility should be given to the role of partnership with other UN Agencies, international organizations, national institutions and the private sector. We agree with the Committee about the role of livestock in poverty alleviation and how to speed up the livestock sector development, not only by technology transfer but also by adequate institutional changes within a broader supportive policy framework.

We support the necessity to put into practice sustainable modes of production as a basis for income generation, poverty reduction and worldwide food security. This results from higher demand for food and energy of the growing world population compared with limited natural resources and expected impacts of climate change which might be read as challenges but also as opportunities. FAO has an important role in developing mitigation and adaptation measures related to climate change and to monitor its effect on agriculture and food security.

The European Community agrees with the recommendations that FAO should strengthen its interdisciplinary capacity in this area. The European Community welcomed the initiative of the Committee to engage more the private sector in agricultural development by creating a more secure environment for its investments. We support the request of the Committee to FAO to provide more recent information on the cooperation with the private sector.

And finally, we agree with the proposals regarding the future agenda of the Committee as expressed in the document COAG 2009/5. Thank you Mr Chairperson .

Robert A. RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

We would like to also express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Committee for the excellent report. We are pleased and agree with the Committee that more visibility and efforts should be given to the role of partnerships with other UN Agencies, international organizations, national institutions and the private sector. We believe that FAO and the Committee should emphasize the importance of creating an enabling environment for the private sector and the importance of public private partnerships. We also believe that FAO has an important role to play in assisting member countries in the development of policies and instruments for the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change relating to agriculture. One of these issues can be an early warning system on the quality and quantity of water in agriculture. We are pleased that the Committee has fully supported Strategic Objective D, food quality and safety, with respect to the Codex standards, including the establishment of EMPRES food safety. In closing, we would like to emphasize that we agree that FAO could allocate a greater share of total available resources to supporting member countries in the formulation of livestock sector policies, plans and programmes. These programmes could include, but are not limited to, programmes to help member countries address animal identification and traceability as well as harmonized regional approaches to disease surveillance in relation to disease control and food safety.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Taking this statement on behalf of the Near East Region, but given the wide mandate of COAG, other members of my region may wish to intervene in the debate if they want to.

We welcome the report of the Twenty-first session of COAG which is crisp and focused and we support the main conclusion reached in the report with respect to: the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan, the policy and institutional changes necessary in the livestock sector in poverty eradication, the strategic approach by FAO regarding the challenges of climate change on agriculture, exploring venues for engaging the private sector in the development of agriculture and the way forward for making COAG more relevant and effective for the needs of all Member Nations – developed and developing.

According to your wish, we shall limit our comments to some of the issues raised on page 3 which COAG is addressing to the Council for its consideration. Among the 12 items listed by bullet points, we wish to give priorities to the following three areas of work. One: the development of a Global Early Warning System on the quality and quantity of water in agriculture, that is bullet point 5. More and more countries in the developing world are facing water scarcity and degrading water quality. The recent FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific has highlighted this issue. The need for a warning system is particularly urgent in the countries of the Near East and North Africa which suffer badly from water shortages. The development of an Early Warning System by FAO would be a major help especially if it is complemented with capacity-building and institutional-building. Two: we feel that FAO should pay more attention to smallholder farming so that small producers of crop and livestock can become more efficient and competitive. In this connection, we strongly recommend additional resources for Strategic Objective A, sustainable intensification of crop production, and Strategic Objective B, increased livestock production and Strategic Objective G, particularly organizational result G1 which deals with rural infrastructure, and organizational result G3 which covers agro-industry. We also want to provide strong support for the follow-up of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. These areas of work relate to bullet points 4, 6, 7 and 8. Three: we support FAO's great involvement in mitigation and adaptation in response to climate change but this work has to be conducted in full cooperation with other partners, especially UNEP, the CGIAR centres, the two other Rome-based agencies and the IFIs. Work in this area relates to bullet numbers 1, 2 and 11. Within FAO, interdisciplinary coordination between the technical divisions is also essential in coping with challenges of climate change on agriculture. Given the differences in eco-systems, pilot projects for adaptation to climate change in different parts of the

world are highly desirable, and this would necessitate a robust support from extra-budgetary funds for the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

We also want to strongly support the conclusions contained in the COAG report but we would like to touch upon four specific issues. One: it was an important issue on the agenda of this session of Committee was the consideration of the strategic framework. After a productive but very inclusive discussion, the COAG came to the conclusion that the capacity of FAO to support countries' efforts to promote rural development and smallholder farming and livestock production should be strengthened. One of the aspects of the debate was a recommendation to revisit Strategic Objective G, an issue that I wish to come back when we discuss the Strategic Framework. Another issue that we would like to raise was the one raised by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East, is the follow-up of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Three: another important COAG recommendation for which we would like to specifically express our support is about reinforcing livestock policy programmes in the budget of the Organization, especially those devoted to institutional change and capacity-building for small livestock producers. We welcome the wide recognition of the role of livestock in poverty alleviation and urge this Organization to follow suit. Four: looking forward we also support COAG's recommendation with respect to the way it conducts its work such as the appointment of the Chairperson and the Vice-chairpersons at the end of the session instead of the start, as we have it now, maintaining the drafting committee and the proposal to work with the Secretariat in the intersessional period. Corresponding amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the Committee should be proposed for our consideration in due time. Last, we believe that the last session of COAG provided us with a good example of how we should work in the renewed FAO. The report that we have before us contains several clear recommendations to this Council of the Organization, such as those that I have just mentioned that should be given special attention to.

Mrs Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thailand welcomes the Report of the Twenty-first Session of COAG. We have only one small point to make with regard to the preparation of the Code of Conduct on Livestock Sector. We have learnt from the report that there has not yet been a discussion on the issue in the last COAG meeting due to insufficient information on the issue. So in the next session of the COAG, we hope that we will be able to have the opportunity to discuss this issue again with sufficient updated information. Another point that we would like to underline is that any livestock issues of the global concern of trade should remain a standing issue on the meeting agenda of COAG as there is no technical committee on livestock as other sectors on agriculture.

Oleg KOBLAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We approve the report of Twenty-first Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the priorities which they have addressed such as food standards, plant genetic resources, land usage and the impact of biofuels as well as the need for an eco-system approach in this sector. The successful work of this Committee is a key to the success of this Organization's work and food security and we share the view of the Committee that livestock rearing should be on the agenda of all future sessions of this Committee. We also support the Committee's recommendation to the Conference that it revisit Strategic Objective G, enabling environments in order to enhance priority discussion of smallholder production and rural development.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I would be very brief because the African group very much endorses the conclusions reached by this very important Committee. And more important is what has been said by other groups and the delegations with regard to giving due attention to the smallholder producers and the pastoralist.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Ma délégation félicite le Président du Comité de l'agriculture pour son résumé concis de l'ensemble des préoccupations des membres du Comité exprimé dans le rapport de la vingt-et-unième session tenue en avril dernier.

Ma délégation félicite également le Comité pour la considération, à juste titre, du secteur de l'élevage, lors de ces travaux et appuie la recommandation qui demande à ce qu'un financement adéquat soit assuré à ce secteur pour son développement. Lors des travaux de la vingt-et-unième session, la question des subventions à l'agriculture a fait aussi l'objet d'un grand débat. Cette subvention, comme nous le savons bien, pénalise les petits agriculteurs des pays en développement, fragilise le développement de nos états et doit faire l'objet d'une grande attention de ce Conseil à la demande du Comité. Ils ont exigé de manière ferme que cette pratique honteuse puisse prendre fin. Mais j'aimerais, avant de terminer, me pencher sur une question essentielle aussi qui a été abordée, c'est celle d'être d'avis à la création d'un environnement porteur pour le secteur privé. Cela est important, parce qu'il faudrait bien que ce secteur participe au développement de l'agriculture dans son intégrité. Mais, pour les pays en développement, la plupart de nos états souffrent du manque d'infrastructures et le secteur privé qui est souvent lié à la rentabilité a du mal, dans une certaine mesure, à aller dans les recoins les plus reculés de nos états. Voilà pourquoi, nous appuyons ici, de manière ferme la démarche du recours au partenariat entre le secteur public et le secteur privé. Ce partenariat qui permettrait, lors de certaines insuffisances du secteur privé, que le secteur public assure le relais.

Voilà, en tenant compte du fait que le délégué de la Tanzanie a parlé au nom de la région Afrique, nous avons voulu compléter son intervention par ces quelques mots.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación aprueba las recomendaciones relativas al informe que se someten al Comité de Agricultura. Creemos, además, que los trabajos de este Comité deben fortalecerse para contribuir en que la FAO alcance su papel como organismo especializado y así abordar los temas relacionados con la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo.

Voy a referirme brevemente a algunos comentarios y quiero comenzar por el primero que es de reconocer la importancia y apoyar la propuesta para que se otorgue la mayor prioridad y severidad al programa de la FAO, en el seguimiento de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural celebrada en Brasil en el 2006, que es un tema de importancia trascendental para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo.

No es posible reducir de forma sostenida el hambre y la pobreza sin hacer especial hincapié en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. Consideramos que para este desarrollo agrícola y rural pueda hacerse realidad; son necesarias reformas agrarias que transformen radicalmente las formas de producción que las políticas de mercado han hecho predominantes en el campo de los países en desarrollo; que se logre una mayor distribución de los ingresos y hacer un acceso más equitativo a los factores de producción y a los insumos para producir. En estas lecciones la FAO puede desempeñar un importante papel con la generación de capacidades, la creación de conciencia, la realización de estudios, la diseminación de información, la asistencia y el fomento de la Cooperación Sur Sur.

La delegación Cubana considera que es muy importante y pertinente la propuesta relativa de que la FAO destine una mayor proporción de los recursos totales disponibles en apoyo a los estados miembros para la formulación de políticas, planes y programas en el sector agropecuario, en la movilización de mayores recursos para su ejecución y al incremento de los recursos de su presupuesto ordinario para programas sobre ganadería.

El Comité de agricultura también abordó la incidencia del cambio climático sobre la agricultura y la alimentación y su afectación a la disponibilidad futura de alimentos para una población mundial en constante crecimiento.

La FAO puede y debe hacer una construcción importante para ayudar a los países en desarrollo al alcance de este fenómeno, fomentando el fortalecimiento de las capacidades, aportando asistencia técnica especializada, promoviendo y facilitando el traspaso de tecnologías adecuadas entre los productores agrícolas y potenciando la Cooperación Sur Sur.

Según la FAO, son cuantiosos los recursos que se necesitarían para realizar las inversiones que permitan aumentar la capacidad de resistencia de la agricultura al cambio climático y, al mismo tiempo mejorar la productividad agrícola y la sostenibilidad construyendo con esto una mejor seguridad alimentaria y la reducción de la pobreza.

Mi delegación considera que la FAO, su personal técnico y sus directivos en su acción sobre el tema, deben hacer hincapié en la importancia para que se tomen en cuenta los compromisos internacionales adoptados en este sentido y deseo llamar especialmente la atención sobre el principio de responsabilidades comunes, pero diferenciadas en la convención marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático que reconoce que, si bien el cambio climático es un reto concreto global que concierne a todos en el planeta, los países industrializados o principales emisores de gases de efecto invernadero deben dar los primeros pasos para enfrentar este problema y tienen además la responsabilidad de asistir al mundo en desarrollo a minimizar los impactos de este fenómeno.

Hiromori KUROKI (Japan)

We agree that livestock plays an important role in poverty alleviation and that there are many environmental issues to be addressed, but from an effectiveness and efficiency point of view, it would be expected that FAO would concentrate its resources on the area of comparative advantage in a strategic manner. In particular we recognize that FAO can make great contributions in the field of transboundary and vector borne animal diseases; collection of scientific knowledge about impact of climate change on agriculture and food security as well as possible function of land and agriculture, and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; collection of scientific knowledge about impact of biofuel production on food security and provision of data and information such as Agrostat.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I will be very short. I just wanted to highlight Australia's strong support for the first three bullet points on page iii of the Council paper, namely the role of partnerships with other organizations, FAO's work on climate change in the lead up to Copenhagen and Strategic Objective D to do with food quality and safety including the Codex Standards.

One issue I would also like to raise is our continuing concern with the under-resourcing of the IPPC and its Secretariat, both financially and in filling staff vacancies and we urge the Director-General to make a decision on the appointment of the IPPC Secretary as soon as possible.

Mohamed Eltayeb Elfaki EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of COAG as well as his Secretariat for this excellent report that we now have before us. It is a report that we endorse in full and we also take the liberty of praising its tone.

We would also like to add our voice to Afghanistan who spoke on behalf of the Near East and also supported by Thailand, Tanzania, Congo and Japan, all of whom tackled an essential issue that I too would like to raise myself and that is animal resources.

Now animal resources for Sudan is essential, as you can well understand, an essential source of income and the same applies for the vast majority of developing countries. In effect, Sudan as well as the Organization takes this issue quite seriously and has granted the importance it demands and this considering its contribution to alleviating poverty, hence it will be necessary to draw up the necessary policies and necessary to prepare the vaccinations of animals or livestock and also fight against transboundary and vector borne animal diseases and also to capacity building through technology transfer, that is a transfer of the modern technology that livestock

raisers need. It is likewise necessary to include the role of the development of animal resources in all the COAG meetings in the future.

Romano Mungiira KIOME (Kenya)

The Kenyan delegation supports the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and associates itself with the comments that are made especially by our African colleagues. In particular, my delegation supports results based framework as a means of planning; development of a knowledge-based standards such as IPPC and *Codex Alimentarius* as a key responsibility of FAO and more visibility of the private sector that has been mentioned in the Report; the mitigation to climate change and part has been given also greater emphasis and the highlighting of livestock issues as some of the contemporary issues of the Committee for now.

We, however, suggest that in future the Committee could look at crops in a little bit more detail. We see that the attention it has been given looks a little bit meagre. In particular, we would suggest that the crops section could be looked at in two or three groups in view of the diversity and the spread of crops and the importance it plays in agriculture and especially food security. We suggest, for example, that one could look at a group that is categorized as crops. One could look at industrial crops separately - they are relatively different in terms of production systems; horticultural crops separately - they are also quite different in the way they are produced especially by large scale farmers. So I believe that more attention could have been given to this section. It seems to be relatively not so well elaborated in this document. Perhaps it is more elaborated in the main document but when one reads this document as it is now, it doesn't seem that much has been done on that.

We would also have expected issues, especially contemporary issues on inputs and for inputs I am talking about seeds, fertilizers. Those issues should have actually formed some form of framework, of what the Committee would suggest on the role of those issues right now in agriculture credit – a major issue in agriculture - and markets.

Furthermore, the bullet on developing global early warning on quality and quantity of water in agriculture, we would propose that if that work has to be done, probably further work or an addition of the terms of reference could be put into looking at the potential for and costs of increasing irrigated food production. In view, especially as what is happening in Africa, with respect to the increasing frequency of drought and the unpredictability of rainfed agriculture. We would suggest that that issue be given attention, as also a means of coping with the climate change.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I wish to acknowledge the statements that were made by the delegates from Africa who have already taken the floor before me, naemely the United Republic of Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.

I would like to say that Kenya has listed quite a lot of issues that would have been of interest to me and to that I would only want to add one item which is the attention required to be given to the post harvest element to complete the value chain, if we take from the production to the end of the value chain. I think that this should have been given particular attention in the COAG Report.

I also wish to recognize the statement that has been made by Cuba in respect to rural development and with that indeed, I would like FAO to pursue the outcome of ICARRD, because this will ensure the sustainability of family farm agriculture.

As regards partnership at the country level, I too share the view that, with the strengthening of country offices, Member Nations and the country teams will be better equipped to deal with other UN country partners on the ground.

As regard the issues for Strategic Objective G, I will not say much but I do agree with what the report said because I know the item is coming up for discussion later.

My question is on paragraph 1.7; I do appreciate the importance of this sector but if you take into consideration what the delegate from Kenya has just said that agriculture is a broad issue, I would like to accept that, true, we need to increase financing for the livestock area, but it is the way the wording has been put that “it should get the greater share of the total available resources”, I do not know what percentage we are talking about, so I find the wording a bit broad and I wouldn't really sanction that without some qualification. I would want to know what the writer meant by the “greater share of the of the total available resources in this budget”. This could mean over fifty percent and if that is the case, no, that is not what my delegation is saying. I would rather we keep things in perspective.

In my region droughts in long spells and erratic rains have become the order of the day and usually it is the spells, the long spells in between the seasons that destroy the crops. My delegation feels that emphasis should shift to small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting and other such cropping strategies that are relevant to the reality of the climate change challenges that we face, particularly at the small family farm level, and if only to tamper the effects of the long spells to ensure that the farmers harvest enough for their own requirements.

With regard to involving the private sector in agricultural development, we believe FAO could do a lot more by assisting Member Nations in areas such as contract farming, and guaranteeing assurances that are required in micro-financing agreements. So with that Mr Chairperson, I think that sums up my contribution.

Farid Hasan BAKTIR (Indonesia)

Under this agenda, my delegates welcome the report by the FAO Secretariat regarding the Twenty-first Session of the COAG.

My delegation would like to draw member attention on the importance of the inclusion of the issue of forestry, smallholding farming and rural development as well as the regulation of water availability for agriculture in the FAO strategic objectives.

Furthermore, my delegation observed that limited issues of livestock are used as indicators in the international policies even though it is recognized that it has an important role in reducing hunger and poverty.

It is therefore in the context of poverty alleviation that livestock development for minor groups in marginal areas should be given high priority by FAO. The technical and management support on livestock development by relative international institutions should consider the replication of best practices and success stories on the capacity building of livestock development.

In addition, in solving the problem of transboundary animal diseases, the capacity building of the developing countries should be improved through technical, management and financial support from developed countries and other international institutions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, distinguished representative from Indonesia.

Any other requests from the floor? Any observers would like to take the floor?

No I do not see any, so I can come back to the podium and I would like Mr Traoré and Mr Muëller and Ms Krause to respond to their concerns and questions. Mr Traoré you have the chair.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'agriculture et de la protection des consommateurs)

Je pense plutôt, Monsieur le Président, qu'il n'y a pas eu beaucoup de questions et je voudrais commencer par remercier les membres du Conseil pour les contributions importantes qui ont été faites et remercier le Président du Comité de rédaction, parce que je pense que la clarté qui a été saluée par les différents intervenants, provient surtout de la qualité du travail de rédaction qui a été effectué lors du COAG.

Bien que les débats du Comité du COAG n'ont pas permis l'établissement formel d'un ordre de priorité précis, nous avons quand même noté un intérêt particulier de la part des pays membres pour un certain nombre de sujets, parmi lesquels je voudrais citer le ciblage des petits producteurs dans l'élaboration des programmes, la prise en compte du potentiel d'atténuation et d'adaptation au changement climatique de l'agriculture et l'accroissement des ressources alliées au sous-secteur de l'élevage. Je pense que cela est très important parce que, effectivement, par moment, nous avons l'impression qu'il s'agit de prendre des ressources d'un côté pour les allouer à l'autre, en ce qui concerne la production végétale. Je crois que ce n'est pas de cela dont il s'agit et les participants au COAG ont tenu à préciser qu'il ne s'agit pas, dans leur esprit, de déshabiller Jean pour habiller Paul. Il s'agit d'accroître les ressources totales allouées au secteur.

Je crois que cela est important et cela, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, dépend de vous car, en réalité, la production végétale et la production animale se trouvent au niveau du même budget, du même Département et il est important de clarifier qu'il ne s'agit pas de prendre d'un côté pour donner à l'autre ou bien de diminuer l'importance accordée parce qu'aujourd'hui la priorité est clairement affichée pour l'ensemble des activités menées au niveau de ces deux sous-secteurs. Je crois que cela est extrêmement important.

Des questions relatives à la nutrition et à l'EMPRES, de la sécurité sanitaire, je pense que cette question aussi est très importante, elle a été soulevée plusieurs fois. Donc, nous prenons bonne note de ces indications et je pense que nous en tiendrons compte dans la préparation des programmes qui seront présentés pour le budget. Je voudrais également, avant de terminer, rassurer les participants sur deux choses: le code de conduite pour un élevage responsable, comme promis, sera présenté à la prochaine session du COAG. Il s'agit de plus amples informations pour permettre une réelle discussion sur ce sujet très important. Ensuite, le deuxième point concerne la place de l'élevage au niveau des travaux du COAG. Je crois qu'il a été acquis, que pour chaque session du COAG, il y a aura un sujet spécialement dédié aux questions d'élevage. Cela ne doit pas forcément être perçu au détriment des productions végétales, mais dans le passé, nous nous sommes rendus compte que les questions relatives à l'élevage avaient été souvent occultées et c'est pour cela que les membres du Conseil ont demandé qu'il y ait une place particulière pour les questions d'élevage au niveau de nos débats. Monsieur le Président, je pense donc, qu'ensemble, nous allons travailler pour essayer d'améliorer le fonctionnement du COAG et faire en sorte que les recommandations qui ont été formulées ici aujourd'hui, puissent effectivement nous aider à avancer et à cibler les priorités des pays membres.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Traoré, so what you are saying is that you are asking for a bigger cake because its costing does not make any difference. Mr Muëller, you have the floor.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

I would like to join my colleague Mr Traoré in thanking all delegations for their inputs, comments and for the guidance given.

I would like to come back to five items raised during the debate.

First of all climate change; in six months' time the meeting of the convention of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Copenhagen. FAO over the last month is engaged in supporting the negotiations, in providing information to the negotiations, and we have been quite successful in putting agriculture posed in the terms of adaptation and mitigation on the agenda. Together with colleagues from different Departments and in partnership with other UN agencies we provided relevant information to the negotiations so that FAO was, together with IPCC, invited as two technical Agencies to inform about the technical mitigation potential of agriculture which will be considered over the next month during the negotiation process. So climate change in both adaptation and mitigation will be high on the agenda over the next years and there will be an increased demand from member countries to support countries, for example in developing national adaptation plans.

Item number two; land tenure, access to land, follow-up of the ICARRD Conference. I would like to inform you that we have started, and this was also mentioned in COAG, an initiative to develop Voluntary Guidelines for good governance in land tenure and I would like to invite all delegations to discuss with us the ICARRD follow-up document which will be provided at next year's CFS so that we can continue this debate.

Item number three; water. FAO builds on its long-term expertise in global water monitoring through Aquastat. This was mentioned by several delegations. This programme already includes issues of quantity of water and to a certain extent also water quality. We are currently debating together with our partners in UN Water, how to better inform, monitor and report in a task force on the available water resources, especially if we link this question of water scarcity and water quality with climate change, this will be one of the major issues in the years to come.

Some delegates mentioned genetic resources in biodiversity as the basis of functioning ecosystems in sustainable food production. As mentioned in the report, we will implement the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also to support, this was also mentioned by other delegations, the eco-system approach which was highlighted in COAG and which is also mentioned in the paper in front of you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all in all we are continuously increasing our work in partnerships with other organizations. As a result, we could be quite proud, is that FAO receives increased demands for participating in partnerships for providing information and also supporting partnerships as a technical agency. So collaboration in partnerships means FAO could complement its expertise, but there is also increasing demand for FAO to really broaden the scope of agriculture related especially to climate change.

Ms Jutta KRAUSE (FAO Staff Member)

I would also like to thank particularly the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and the Drafting Committee all together, because that has made the work of the Secretariat in preparing the work of this report very easy.

I would also like to thank you for the encouragement of continuing to give high importance to COAG and to see the success of COAG also as a key for FAO's work in agriculture and, as Cuba was mentioning, the utmost importance of COAG for FAO's role in the world agriculture and that is a heavy burden on our shoulders.

I would like to say in this context that we certainly see space for improvement on how COAG is functioning. We have started already in the last COAG session, to discuss with Member Nations, how to improve or to revitalise COAG in order to have more focused discussions.

We will, together with the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, seek ways of further improving our work in strengthening COAG's role in FAO's work and also those of you who have participated in COAG we have discussed that there might be other Vice-Chairs who together with the Chair might form a Bureau between the sessions of COAG which will, amongst other issues, discuss the agenda for the next COAG session so that, as Kenya has proposed, more attention should be paid to crops, or as Zimbabwe proposed to look into post harvest elements. All these issues will also be discussed in the context of the group, of the Bureau of the Vice-Chairs and Chair of the COAG so that we look forward to having a further improved work of COAG in June next year.

CHAIRPERSON

Any follow-up questions.

I do not see any. So can I conclude that the Council has endorsed the report of the Committee on Agriculture and we had many contributions and I mention only a few which are; prioritization of FAO's work which needs to be based on budgetary allocations; FAO's role in climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture; the importance of partnership among Rome-based Agencies and other UN Agencies and especially public and private sector partnership; need for Global Early Warning Systems on water and especially irrigated agriculture, particularly in

Africa; a strengthening of work on livestock in all aspects of planning and implementation, code of conduct on that, and its role on poverty alleviation; follow-up to the ICARRD which is mainly the issue of rural development, and finally, capacity-building and dissemination of knowledge in most of these areas, especially in developing countries.

With these few observations, do I have your approval of the report and the session.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

13. Elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (CL 136/16)

13. Éléments pour le projet de Cadre stratégique, le Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 et le Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 (CL 136/16)

13. Elementos para el Marco estratégico, el Plan a plazo medio para 2010-13 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2010-11 (CL 136/16)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Item 13, Elements of the Draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11, as set out in document CL 136/16-Add. 1. You have to consider two documents: 16 and 16-Add 1.

Earlier today the Council considered the reports of the Technical Committees, focusing on the programme and budgetary matters which also relate to this item.

I should like to invite Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation to introduce this item, followed by the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

If you look at the timetable, we do have Item 13 followed by – tomorrow morning – Items 10, 11 and 12. So what we are doing right now is considering Item 12, which is the document I referred, to, and all of the elements which relate to the Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Plan in other documents – in documents 10, 11 and 12 – in order to have the whole discussion together and not go part by part. This is why Mr Haight and then the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees report on all elements which are in Items number 10, 11, 12 and 13 and we discuss it holistically and then tomorrow we will go back to the separate items.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

During 2009, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Technical Committees of the Council, as well as Working Group 1 of the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up have been considering in a step-wise fashion the elements of the Draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11, as they have been progressively formulated by the Secretariat.

The elements presented in document CL 136/16 are work in progress as of late April 2009. They cover the trends affecting food and agriculture, the vision for FAO and the global goals of Members – as approved by Conference in the Immediate Plan of Action – and the draft results frameworks for the Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives without resources.

The document also sets out the application of the new Results-based Programming Framework, as approved by the Conference, which is intended to prioritize and focus what FAO does in line with

members needs and also to clarify how FAO will contribute more effectively to the agreed impacts in Member Nations.

Concerning what FAO does, the new Results-based Framework has three closely linked hierarchical components. First, the Vision and Global Goals define the fundamental developmental impact in the areas of FAO's mandate that Members aim to achieve. Second, 11 Strategic Objectives set out the sectoral and cross-sectoral impacts Members strive for with the contribution from FAO. Third, 49 Organizational Results contribute to the Strategic Objectives. These results represent the outcome from the uptake and use of FAO's products and services. The Organizational Results are what FAO will be held accountable for achieving.

The new Framework also provides the means for clarifying and improving how FAO operates, to effectively and efficiently achieve its results. It does so through two functional objectives, which apply the Results-based approach to the essential administrative and other enabling services for FAO's work, including 8 Core Functions, which are FAO's primary means of action, drawing on its mandate and comparative advantage.

The Secretariat continued with the formulation of the elements of the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan – starting from December last year – based on the version that was annexed to the Immediate Plan of Action. A road map of preparation was agreed, as provided in Annex 1 of the document before you. Multidisciplinary strategy teams were formed in the Secretariat for each Strategic and Functional Objective, including Regional and Sub-regional staff to validate and formulate the Organizational Results with their indicators, targets and primary tools.

Earlier versions of the results frameworks were reviewed by the Committees on Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture as has been reported to Council earlier today. The draft elements, as presented in the document CL 136/16, were reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees last month and these will be covered by the respective Chairs.

Further elaborations of selected elements were considered by the Conference Committee Working Group 1 on 3 June 2009. The resulting updates to Strategic Objective G and Functional Objective X are provided in the Addendum that was issued last week.

During April to July the Secretariat is preparing the Draft of the Strategic Framework and the MTP and PWB documents, including the resource dimension. These documents will be considered by the Conference Committee Working Groups and the Programme and Finance Committees in late July. The final Draft versions of the Strategic Framework, MTP and PWB will be dispatched to members by 31 August for consideration at the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of Council in September and the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference in November 2009.

In line with the Immediate Plan of Action and in order to avoid repetition and to provide a complete picture, the Secretariat has proposed that the Strategic Framework, on the one hand, and the MTP-PWB proposals on the other, be presented in two physically separate documents and this has been supported by the Programme and Finance Committees.

The Secretariat looks forward to the Council's guidance on the format of the final versions of the documents and the substance of the draft elements before you.

CHAIRPERSON

It was a very concise introduction of a very intensive document.

As document CL 136/16 was considered at the May 2009 Sessions of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, I would like to give the floor to the Chairpersons of these Committees to introduce the sections of their respective Reports on this item. The Reports of these Committees are contained in documents CL 136/8 and CL 136/9, while the Report of the May Session of the Joint Meeting of these Committees can be found in document CL 136/10. These are the three other documents which relate to this.

I would like to invite Mr Victor Heard, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to take the floor and introduce those Items which relate to the Programme Committee.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I will seek an endorsement of the Programme Committee Report tomorrow, or whenever I get around to doing the rest of the Programme Committee work. On the issues related to the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. First of all, the Programme Committee thought that the document produced in the format which we got in the Committee was excellent. Workers obviously progressed very well on this and it is now developing into a very comprehensive and useful Medium-Term Plan, Strategic Framework and Programme of Work and Budget. We also, as Boyd has said just now, supported the proposal for a separate format for the Strategic Framework – perhaps on a smaller format, as I understand, as this will probably have a different and rather wider audience to the more restricted group that is interested in the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

We spent most of our time talking about prioritization and we found this to be a most absorbing subject and we eventually decided that we would have to take two days, rather than the one that was allocated in the agenda for us. The result was quite interesting. Let me say at the outset that we regard prioritization as work in progress. It will remain so for some time as it could not possibly be finalized in this biennium as further advice from the technical committees is required, in addition to that already provided, and the views and the inputs of the regional conferences have to be built in as well. In the longer term we think that the effect of a results-based approach itself will generate prioritization.

We also felt that we needed to see some financial details before we could really go very deeply into prioritization. I find this interesting because I understand that my colleagues in the Finance Committee was considering that perhaps they needed to know what our priorities were before they allocated the finance, so we have a sort of balance here which we must resolve.

However, the advice from the Technical Committees was extremely useful and we felt that we needed to be more specific as the members of the Programme Committee in requesting information from them and we felt we also needed to be more specific as members of the Technical Committees – we are both – in providing information that we require. So, there is more to be done there.

We also felt that there needs to be a clearer realization within the combined membership of where FAO's activities should lie – what FAO can do without partnerships and what therefore is the partnership approach that FAO should follow.

When we concluded that we were not going to finish the discussion of prioritization in a single day, we asked the Assistant Director-General responsible for the priorities and Strategic Objectives to provide to us – more-or-less instantly – without any preparation, what were their principal concerns for the next two years, the things at the forefront of their minds, the hot potatoes and priority issues that would feature in press releases in the next couple of years. The result was a new style of discussion – which I do not think we had before in the Programme Committee – over an engagement between the members of the Programme Committee and Management over the things that are actually going to change in FAO over the next few years. We were probably talking about 10 percent of the overall budget of FAO. This may not seem significant but this is the 10 percent that will change, the 10 percent that will respond to changes in the external environment, the 10 percent that will respond to the changing priorities of the world, which FAO then has to relate to. We felt that this is the area that perhaps the members of the Programme Committee could best engage with, as this is where the programming changes are taking place.

What we got out of this should not be seen as anything resembling a rival list of priorities. The priorities of FAO are the ones that appear in the Programme of Work and Budget and in the Medium-Term Plan. We would not dream of suggesting that what we heard is all there is. There are broad, on-going priorities like statistical work which must continue, have continued for the

last 10 years and will continue for the next 10 years. We would not wish to interrupt those, they are a priority but they are not changing.

We also felt that the things that we were talking about were not actually visible in the documentation that we had until they were pointed out to us by senior management. We asked that these are made visible in the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget when they appear to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee in July.

I do not want to go into the whole range of things that were presented to us by management, in this wholly oral discussion with no documentation at all, but to give you a flavour of it, particularly a flavour that I hope will entice you in joining us in the Programme Committee meetings in July, so you can hear the next phase of this discussion. Let me just run through a few of the issues, the main news items that were presented to us. We heard from the Agricultural Consumer Protection Department that they are working on new production intensification strategies, which enhance eco-system services, integrated pest management, conservation agriculture and a whole range of things. There is a programme being put together on food security through commercialization, involving more than 20 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. This is where market linkages are being strengthened and value added for producers is being increased.

The Economic and Social Department had a whole range of things that they are working on as priorities – a programme on the world agriculture towards 2030-2050 and studies on non-distorting agricultural support. They are also working on a conceptual framework for the analysis of small-scale agriculture, coupled with a programme on its commercialization, so linked up with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection work.

Fisheries and Agriculture spoke of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries but also on emerging issues in world fisheries with which they will have to try and deal for the membership over the next couple of years.

Forestry talked about a high profile for work on forest sector contribution to mitigation and adapting for climate change. Natural Resources management is going to put agriculture firmly on the climate change agenda and this is just repeated about 20 minutes ago by Mr Müller, addressing land and water scarcity – and here they were talking not as I expected about water for agriculture – they were talking about the amount of water that is wasted in agriculture that could better be used for industry and for other purposes. The term "land grab" came up as well when they talked about land tenure so there is a whole range of very topical issues there.

Technical Cooperation had a list that would go on all day if I tried to recite them to you but it includes upstream work to give agriculture adequate priority in national investment plans and mobilising less earmarked resources to address member's priority needs. I was really pleased to hear the FAO elements of the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the UN High-level Task Force.

That is what we talked about and this is how we approached prioritization and again, I hope that more people will be able to observe the next meeting we have, when we hope again to have this sort of conversation. It did break new ground, we were talking about the things that would change, we did feel as the Programme Committee – and sometimes we have not felt that we were making a huge contribution to prioritization of this Organization – for once that we had touched on this and that we were in the area where membership and Management should work together on the programming prioritization of FAO. I think there was a slight nervousness on the part of Management and this is understandable. We asked them what their top three or four priorities were, what about all of the others, what if they only set out three priorities and then we ambushed them and said, "Oh well, you did not mention the others did you so we are not going to finance those". So, I think there is an understandable nervousness here that we must try and bridge but I honestly think that we are getting there.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, especially for putting technical issues into a simple language.

Now I will go to Mr Yasser Sorour who is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee but he has also Chaired the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee last May so now he reports to us on both Finance Committee Reports and the Joint Meeting of the two Committees on the issues related to the topic under consideration.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I must say at the outset that I am very pleased to be up here with you once again and I am sure that under your leadership and guidance this Council Meeting will be crowned with success and will provide FAO with the information and input it needs.

Regarding the elements of the Strategic Framework, MTP and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-11, the Finance Committee discussed this issue at length and I can summarize our discussions in the following terms.

This document is a suitable basis, good grounds for future discussion – for example at the end of July. The Committee supported the proposal to prepare two distinct documents – as the Programme Committee did as well – one document for the Strategic Framework and one document for the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

Let me come back to what my colleagues and friends said to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee regarding the resources and the viewpoint of the Finance Committee as regards to the allocation of resources in the future. This morning, the Chairperson said that we are in an atmosphere of mind frame change, cultural change. Therefore, to integrate the Programme of Work and Budget with the Medium-Term Plan will very much help out in this cultural mind and frame change.

I took part in two meetings where the budget was discussed and increased percentages were discussed – that was the sole focus regarding the discussions on budget – but, we feel integrating both elements will very much help out in not wasting time and help us to avoid getting into a isolated cycle or circle which is of no usefulness whatsoever in the reform process underway in FAO. Therefore, to link the Objectives with the budget would help us to avoid getting into those difficulties and problems that we have all experienced in the past during discussions at past General Conferences.

Thirdly, we also completely supported the elements which are contained in paragraph 53 of the English text regarding the Programme of Work and Budget will contain the financial requirements relative to the Assessed Contributions. There is a new point which will also be discussed at the meetings in July – this new prototype will contain both main elements – one is the assessed contributions and second, the extra-budgetary resources with the linkage between these resources and the criteria relative to each one of the Organizational Outputs or Results.

The fourth point I would like to touch upon is the Programme of Work will contain the objectives and the savings that will stem directly from the IPA and the administrative budget and also on the basis of the discussion that took place in the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE. The Member Nations requested that there be a decoupling of the administrative budget of the Organization from the Programme of Work and Budget. We in the Finance Committee considered that the Strategic Objective Y is the benchmark for the preparation of this Organization's budget.

We also did refer to financial commitments, the increase of costs, effective savings that have taken place during this biennium, the long-term commitments and also those commitments that have not been completely financed or under-funded obligations – as people call them – and also the reserve accounts.

I would like to make an important reference to two issues that were discussed by the Finance Committee. First, there is a wish and desire to re-establish to re-constitute the Special Reserve Account. This will be discussed at the meeting in July when we have our discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget. Second, the after-service medical coverage for former employees, we pointed out that there is an increase in those obligations and this something that does call for a re-visiting for the methodology for the financing of these after-service medical benefits. The Finance Committee recommended, in principal, that this number be increased US\$14.1 million, a percentage that is expected to be proposed in July.

The last point, that is the resolution on the budget according to the new prototype budget preparation. This resolution will be very, very different compared with the budget resolution adopted at earlier general Conferences. Therefore we shall discuss this subject as well at the meeting our Committee will have in July.

These were the main elements that I would like to report from the Finance Committee meeting.

I would like to make one comment regarding the Joint Meeting but before getting into that comment as such I would like to point out that the outcome of the Joint Meeting was nothing far beyond what both Committees actually said so I will not delve into that in depth, to save time. However, I have two basic observations. One, has to do with the Programme of Work and Budget. There is a wish and desire to increase the quantity of Technical Cooperation Programmes from 10 to 11 and second of all, this would also have implications on discussion and this is the Reform with Growth. How will this be understood, how will this be grasped? We will have repercussions on guidelines and on the future preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget with the allocation of the requirement of the resources requested and put into practice.

CHAIRPERSON

You did a very good job in summarizing the work of the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting. It was very concise and to the point.

As proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees, the Council is requested to agree to the submission to the governing bodies of two physically separate documents, that is a concise Strategic Framework and a more substantial document containing the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 proposals, which will include a draft Budgetary Appropriations Resolution.

The Council is also asked to provide further guidance to the Secretariat on the preparation of the draft Strategic Framework and MTP-PWB documents.

And as you have heard, they want all of your comments both on the format and substance. Consider that this is a work in progress and we have been doing work all year and we still have some way to go.

With this, I will open the floor for your comments, questions and recommendation.

Pakistan, USA, Norway, France, Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Thailand, Afghanistan. I ask Pakistan to take the floor please.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

Before Pakistan can take the floor, may I request you to hand over the floor to the Dominican Republic.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observador de República Dominicana)

El Grupo de los 77 ha tomado debido conocimiento de los debates celebrados durante el 126º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas incluidos en el documento CL 136/8. Deseo referirme muy brevemente a los párrafos 9, 12 y 29.

En el párrafo 9 se nos recuerda que es de la mayor importancia para esta organización ejecutar y completar, como prioridad absoluta, el Plan Inmediato de Acción. En el párrafo 12 hay otras consideraciones que trataré con similar brevedad.

Los países en desarrollo comprenden que una FAO renovada motivará la negociación de presupuestos con Crecimiento Real robusto y sostenido. Los países en desarrollo recuerdan que la 35ª Conferencia de la FAO decidió que la implementación del Plan Inmediato de Acción sea pagada con recursos extra presupuestarios, como el Comité de Finanzas indica en el párrafo 12. El G 77 reconoce que el Comité de Finanzas ha expresado su disposición a apoyar una prudente flexibilidad presupuestaria para la financiación del Plan Inmediato de Acción y, en ese sentido, el G 77 desea subrayar, junto al Comité de Finanzas, su deseo de que no se menoscabe la ejecución del Plan de Trabajo para 2009.

Por último, el Grupo de los 77, que reúne a 130 países en desarrollo, ha acordado a través de los años y ha reiterado en su Plenaria de este mes oponerse, como principio general, a que economías por eficiencia o cualquier otro ahorro adicional del programa de trabajo y presupuesto, en este caso 2008-2009, sean destinados a la implementación del Plan Inmediato de Acción. Los miembros del G 77 indicaron que esto sigue la línea de anteriores resoluciones del Grupo en el sentido de que ahorros y economías deben servir para fortalecer el Programa de Cooperación Técnica o, en su defecto, para apuntalar las reservas de la Organización, sobre las cuales el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas nos acaba de informar, al igual que informó al G 77 el 19 de mayo, dichas reservas se encuentran en un estado alarmante.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

We would like to support the statement made by the Chair of G77 and China just now.

Pakistan is taking the floor on behalf of G77 Asia Region to specifically comment on document CL 136/8 Report of the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee. We would like to thank both Chairs of the Programme as well as the Finance Committee for making comprehensive reports on the deliberations and these two Committees.

On the substance of the Finance Committee report, we would like to refer to – like the Chair of the G77 and China – to paragraphs 12 and 29 of the report, which *inter alia* pertain to possible use of the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09 resources for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. Our region cannot support this recommendation by the Finance Committee and we would like to refer to the Conference Resolution 01/2008 clause 3, which states the following: "decides that implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action in 2009 requires funding by extra-budgetary contributions and that its funding for 2010-11 will be treated under the Programme of Work and Budget. In this connection, urges all countries to contribute extra-budgetary resources of a provisional amount of US\$21.8 million for 2009 through a special Trust Fund established for this purpose."

Whereas we are concerned about the level of extra-budgetary funding for the purpose being less than desirable, we believe that the recommendation of the Finance Committee to possibly use any resources, whatsoever from the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09 is in contravention to the Conference Resolution 01/2008, which clearly lays down guidance for funding for implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

Recognizing that the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09 had no provision for any IPA implementation, the Special Conference decided to seek extra-budgetary contributions for the purpose, instead of revising the Programme of Work and Budget upwards.

FAO management has not yet been able to fully identify the target of additional savings and efficiency gains of US\$22.1 million. It is unlikely that there would be any savings over and above this target giving by the Thirty-fourth Conference. If such savings do accrue, however, somehow we would argue that these be earmarked to increase the reserves of the Organization for which a fundamental recommendation by the External Auditor is outstanding since 2006. The cumulative reserves of FAO are less than one month of FAO's expenditures and these need to be increased in order to give a greater liquidity to FAO and to minimize FAO borrowing from commercial banks.

We consider that any approval, in principal, to reappportion any non-specific savings in the future would be unfortunate on the part of FAO Governing Bodies and could very well lead to a cut in

the Programme of Work in case there was any unforeseen expenditure or cost increases at the end of the present biennium.

We are therefore opposed to any such *carte blanche* approval.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

The United States appreciates the papers prepared for this session of Council on these key topics and we look forward to deliberations in coming sessions of the CoC-IEE Working Groups and in the Programme and Finance Committees to ensure the reforms envisioned in the IEE and the IPA are fully realized through the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan for 2010-2014 and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010 and 2011. It would be crucial for FAO with the help of its Members and Governing Bodies to clearly identify and communicate its core comparative advantages and then ensure its management framework is capable and flexible enough to deliver measurable and meaningful results. In this light we look forward to working with Management as it prepares its new strategic results-based approach, that among other innovations target a stronger integration of assessed and Voluntary Contributions.

We recognize the complexity of this process. The multiple and often competing demand on both Management, staff and budget as well as the strain of having to conduct this reform process under the spotlight of an increasingly hungry and impatient world.

For this reason, we strongly encourage the staff of FAO, Professional and General Service, in Rome and in Decentralized Offices, to remember that we Member Nation Representatives know that you form the background of this Organization. That you contain a wealth of an experience and knowledge and that only with your strong and active participation with this process succeed. In the world of tightening budgets and great demands on natural resources, we note that institutional reform is not a luxury but an imperative. Those Agencies which adjust to the demands of this century will be the quickest to attract new resources necessary to accomplish their missions and to grow. I can assure you that food security and agricultural development will receive the highest priority under President Obama. There has been very active discussion at the highest level of my Government on how to move from the realm of aspiration to the realm of operations to deliver result at country and regional levels. The US Government wishes to utilize to the maximum possible more multilateral channels of engagement, and to deliver by a partnership with those UN entities that demonstrate results and vision including a reformed FAO.

The US Administration has asked Congress for significant new resources to be put towards investment in agriculture and food security and we are currently examining a variety of mechanisms, including multilateral mechanisms, through which to address food security and agricultural development in a comprehensive and global manner.

In addition, we are formulating the details of our programmes and policies. The overall framework from our thinking of this subject has emerged from our many discussions with prospective partners and we will seek to incorporate the following 5 thematic principles in a variety of forum. I would like to briefly outline these principles which again are emerging principles because I think they will illuminate our future discussions as strategic priorities and assist in our budget-setting.

Principle 1 – Strategic coordination. We want to work with a wide range of development partners in jointly committing new resources for agricultural development and in realigning existing resources through an inclusive and collaborative process according to an agreed upon timeline.

Principle 2 – Investing in country owned plans. Our success will be made manifest at the country and regional levels. We believe that the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is one model for an effective partnership and we look forward to directing significant new resources to countries and organizations that have successfully developed credible plans, reform programmes, and demonstrated strong political will.

Principle 3 – a comprehensive approach that focuses on the following key areas: Increasing agricultural investment and productivity; stimulating post-harvest private sector growth;

supporting women and families in agriculture, maintaining a natural resource base: expanding knowledge and training; increasing trade flows; and supporting good governance and policy reform.

Principle 4: Maximum use of multilateral mechanism to deliver resources effectively. We propose that development partners agree to seek multilateral development partnerships, whenever possible, and improve the effectiveness of existing multilateral institutions and financing mechanisms rather than creating new ones.

Principle 5: Sustained commitment to achieve our goals. Together, we must substantially increase investments in agricultural development, provide our resources in a timely and reliable fashion and promote a sound policy framework. President Obama has pledged to double our commitment to agricultural development this year and to provide a minimum of US\$ 1 billion in 2010. This is additional money. We will seek to increase our investment annually in coming years. So in sum, we look forward to not only working with the FAO and other Rome-based UN Agencies, but also with other key members of the UN High-Level Task Force for Food Security and with the entire global community.

Arne B. HONNINGSTAD (Norway)

Norway is one of the many countries that had consistently called for a reform of FAO and now we have taken some kind strides in that direction. This is a three-year programme, but we have got really gotten off on a good start during the first year, or should we say the half year that we have behind us. I certainly want to thank everybody in the Conference Committee and the working group for this solid work being done. I also thank the chairs of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their very useful reports and inputs to the process.

So, in the document before us, basically we are presented with our common work and results and these are very important elements that we need for our work on the budget and Medium Term Plan. So, even though we worked hard and solid that efforts have been made to improve prioritization and focus on the area where FAO's contribution can have the largest impact. We still consider this work-in-progress, further efforts must be done on the crucial issue of prioritization. Our Governing Bodies must be able and willing to improve prioritization. Norway, being in the FAO Council for the next two years, has high ambitions to transfer this forum into a more efficient decision-making body. Successful reform of FAO will enable the Organization to take its appropriate role in global governance structure for food and agriculture. An important part of this is to be part and parcel of delivering as one at country level and to deliver in the High-Level Task Force and in the Comprehensive Plan of Action. Good partnerships are paramount for this to be a success.

FAO must also be a more active partner in the policy dialogue at the country level and assist countries in the developing policies for food security and agriculture. FAO needs to move away from a project orientation to a programmatic approach in this respect. It is important that FAO strikes the right balance between its important global normative role and its operative work. FAO could contribute more efficiently to the application of global norms at country level. Norway welcomes the general agreement on the principle of Reform with Growth, and the need to agree on a budget that also includes all costs for the reform process during the next two years, and here we fully support the intervention made by G77 and my very good friend, to my right, distinguished Representative of Pakistan.

The question was raised by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee: How should we understand the term "change with growth". I think there is a very simple answer to that. We can prove what we mean with that during the budget, and I hope that it will not be hard and difficult negotiations as we had two years ago. Because we have a much better basis today to agree on a budget with growth. We have the IPA agreement that we have in the document before us which is the basically the basis. So, I would think and I sincerely hope that we will not have a very difficult budget negotiations during the summer, because we have many other priorities too and we really should not be stuck in an area where we have an agreement.

Let me say just a few words on the overarching focus on this strategic plan. During the last item on the agenda, the COAG Report, we heard a lot of interventions about climate change and importance that it should take for the Organization. I think that it should be a horizontal issue, probably the most important horizontal issue in the Medium Term Plan and in the next budget and in fact in everything we are doing. Because for this sector, forest, fisheries agriculture, everything that is so important for climate change, for adaptation and mitigation we have really not made the necessary impact for the coming Conference on the pocket for the climate convention on the fringes in Copenhagen. There are some discussions that they are still under. This Organization can do a lot in that respect to get that on the agenda in the climate change convention. So, just to mention that.

Let me just go straight to the document CL 136/16 and make a few points. In article 3 it is very rightly pointed out that sequencing will be of the highest importance for the Programme of Work, the budget, Medium Term Plan and for the next two years. And we really have some challenges there because even though this a very good document we have not covered every base in the problems that we face and that we need to have a decision on in the budget before we are through in November. As it is pointed out in paragraph 5 this is still a dearth of elements in work in progress and we have to look very closely at them in phase 3 that is mentioned in the annex. And there are many challenges there and agreement that needs to be found.

As for the Headquarters structure, I think you all remember that Norway is not pleased with the way it looks today, in having the Office for Communication and External Relations at the top as support function for the Director General. It should really be in the line, it is a very important operation function. I know we will not make a decision in November because the decision was to discuss it through the year and then come to a conclusion but I keep that one open. Of course it is related to the Headquarters structure and the resources and the positions that we are going to fill that structure and there are some still questions there. We have touched on this in the Working Group and in the common meeting with the other Working Group but we have never had a the full discussion.

Delaying yes, but when you look at the delaying proposals you will find that the delaying for the administrative and support functions of the Organization is not a big contribution to the delaying. One position, if you look at the technical departments you will find that delaying has 23 posts and we ask ourselves is this a sensible balance? I would say that just to take two departments, the Forest and Fishery, who actually got the best characters and, in the IEE Report, as the best functioning departments of the house are the departments that are really taking the heavy delaying prize if we could call it that. This is something that we have to really look at in the budget process.

Another thing of high importance is the Decentralization question. We have to strike the right balance between FAO as a normative knowledge organization and as a programmatic development organization. And we have to ask ourselves, where do we need the resources? Yes, we need them in the regional offices, subregional offices and in the Country Offices, but we should not and could not weaken the organization's knowledge base and normative function at the headquarters in that respect. So again this is a very fine balance, and I think we need a full discussion on how does FAO operate decentralized in the regional offices, Sub-regional and Country Offices and I am saying again, this organization needs to get away from the project approach to a problematic approach. Are we long winded, Mr Chair? It has been a pleasure to give it all to you straight.

CHAIRPERSON

Ambassador you are welcome to the FAO Council. With your presence it will definitely be more effective. With this I would invite distinguished Ambassador of France to take the floor followed by Malaysia.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

J'ai l'honneur de vous demander de bien vouloir passer la parole à la présidence de l'Union européenne, la représentante de la Tchéquie.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

I speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate country of the European Union, Turkey, associates itself with the statement. First of all, we would like to thank the FAO for the elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-2013 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. The European Community appreciates the important work done by the Management and the staff through the interdepartmental strategy teams formed in order to develop an appropriate prioritization and focus of actions. This is crucial to the aim of multidisciplinary working in FAO to which all members have subscribed and which will make FAO a far more effective organization. The European Community agrees with the Programme and Finance Committees on the new approach for the presentation of two separate documents consisting of a version of the Strategic Framework designed for a wider audience as a useful communication tool, and a combined Medium-Term Plan/Programme of Work and Budget document. We look forward to the presentation of important elements in the new PWB which is particularly welcomed by the Finance Committee including the following three main elements.

One, the resource requirements from assessed and voluntary contribution; two, the cost and savings resulting from the Immediate Plan of Action and its implementation and the Root and Branch Review; and the third element, the provision of long-term liabilities.

We also recognize that the prioritization process is likely to make more than one budget cycle to become effective. However, we believe a useful start has been made, helped by the Technical Committees, and this can be the basis for further work when they next meet. We find the report of the discussion with senior managers on the immediate and high profile issues of great concern to them even more interesting as a means by which the membership could engage directly with priority setting. This appears to have been a more open dialogue than has usually been possible in the past. We note that the Programme Committee has a similar view and we hope that some means can be found for capturing the content of future such discussions for the wider membership.

There may be more relevance in the Members engaging with management on immediate and high profile issues than on the equally important but more routine matters as the latter are ongoing and less likely to change. The European Community supports a further elaboration of the functional objective X, covering effective collaboration with Member States and stakeholders; and the objective Y, efficient and effective administration suggested during the discussions of the Finance Committee and taking into account the results of the Root and Branch Review.

It appears to us that the two committees had a difficulty with priority setting as one appears to have wanted to see financial allocations before deciding priorities while the other hoped for guidance on priorities so that it can consider where to allocate resources. Nevertheless progress is being made and we look forward to a full discussion by the committees in July, providing clear unequivocal guidance to the subsequent Council on the content of the PWB and Medium-Term Plan. Regarding the important issue on indicators, the European Community would like to reiterate its well known position that we consider this as work-in-progress. We would expect to see a progressively closer linkage between organizational results, indicators and the impact of FAO activities at national, regional and global level. Concerning the organizational result the European Community would like to underline the need to include in the document the corresponding baseline as starting point of reference in order to be able to evaluate the progress made after four years. The partnerships between FAO and other organizations should be described with the description of the repartition of competencies between partners.

Finally, let me state the outcome of the discussion in the Joint Committee on the issue of Reform with Growth. It was constructive, it appears to move away from arbitrary percentage increases

and in the direction of relating growth to real needs. Notwithstanding that the eventual decision over the budget level is partly at least political, the discussion in the Committees breaks new grounds. We welcome the fact that this was discussed by the committee together and agree with suggestions that there should be more joint discussion. For example, we see no advantage in financial aspects of the technical cooperation programme being discussed in the Finance Committee separately from the Programme Committee's discussion of its Decentralization. There would have been advantages in covering both at a single joint session.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Czech Republic speaking on behalf of the European Community, European Union.

Although we have gone beyond our time there is no room for happiness because we are going to stay here until we finalize this item. I do still have nine speakers on my list which is Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Thailand, Afghanistan, Italy, Zimbabwe, Japan, Mexico, Tanzania and Cuba - Italy is not asking for the floor – Russian Federation. Okay the longer the list the more we will stay here.

Now I invite Malaysia to take the floor to be followed by Brazil.

Dato Mohd Mokhtar ISMAIL (Malaysia)

I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Group. Whilst acknowledging that the preparation of the document of elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 and PWB for 2010-2011 is very complex and still an ongoing process, Malaysia is, however, very pleased with the overall progress and the document itself provides a very good basis for the more comprehensive documentation in the future.

As regards to the Twenty-ninth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Bangkok in late March 2009, Malaysia wishes to inform Members of the Council that the Conference adopted the report to call on FAO to strengthen the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to provide the necessary resources to serve the needs of the region in a more timely and effective manner.

The Conference underlined that the Regional Office in Bangkok should be strengthened in such a manner as to ensure that the financial and human resources provided for the office would be comparable to those committed for the newly-established Sub-regional Offices. It is our hope that the PWB, while discussing the future programme, will take into account this matter.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

We are going through a crucial moment in the history of this Organization. After it was submitted to a comprehensive evaluation and follow-up process, we are not looking at the past anymore. We are looking forward and we have high expectations for the future.

All of us, Members and staff of this Organization, have been involved in debates and consideration of the Report of the Independent External Evaluation and in the preparation of the Immediate Plan of Action to reform FAO. This has been a long but certainly successful exercise of governance by the Membership under your very wise leadership.

I would like at this point to endorse what has been said by the representative, the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the G77 related to the financing of the IPA in 2009. The decision reached by the Conference last year must be adhered to. This Council, and no Council, can revert a decision by the Conference; let us be clear about that and what we read in the report of the Finance Committee was an overstretched interpretation of the decision made by the Conference.

Secondly, I would like to be very straightforward on the Reform with Growth. Growth is growth, period. Now we have now before us the preliminary result of the work in progress on the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan. This is more focused on results-based structure and the

work of FAO will certainly benefit from these clear and, when we agree, the agreed-upon upon priorities.

Allow me to make some very brief observations on the paper that my delegation vividly welcomes.

We would like to express our appreciation for the work done until now by all of us in the preparation of the FAO Strategic Framework. We hope that, once completed, the document will provide a clearer focus for the work of this Organization and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the engagement of all the membership and all the staff, the Administration and decentralized offices and everyone involved for the work on the revision of the Strategic Framework, specifically on Strategic Objective G, a process started with COAG followed by preliminary discussions during the CoC-IEE Working Group 1 recently.

The intention of the revision of Strategic Objective G was to address the specific needs and issues of rural development and small producers. COAG, as we have discussed just a few items before, in fact, in its report, called our attention to the big lacuna in the draft Framework, which, if not filled, would leave FAO without a clear mandate to employ what is now recognized as one of the most powerful instruments against poverty and hunger, which is the promotion of smallholder agriculture and of rural development.

We are advancing on this work but we still haven't finished; it is work in progress and we, in our 3 June meeting, made some further revisions, mainly to integrate access to land into agriculture and rural development policies, programmes and partnerships and second, to improve consistency in the text of the Organizational results and indicators.

We are very much encouraged with the progress made and my delegation will be working with other delegations at the working groups of this CoC-IEE to finalize the drafting of Strategic Objective G.

In our view, the progress made since the last revision could offer FAO a chance to stay in the foreground of the fight against hunger and poverty as long as rhetoric is followed by action. After decades of neglect and prejudice, the world is slowly coming to realize that smallholder agriculture is a key economic activity with enormous potential for the creation and the distribution of wealth and food. It only needs sound institutions and appropriate incentives; governments, civil society and other stakeholders are waking up and meeting this challenge and FAO must be ready to support them. We expect the Organization to make the necessary adjustments to its means so that we can indeed face this challenge.

Allow me to touch on two more issues; one, on Headquarters structure. In this regard, we would like to re-emphasize our deep concern to the proposed structure presented to us. My delegation in the CoC-IEE has already presented its opinion and we are not going to repeat them here. Anyhow, it is important to stress that the referred issue clearly requires further discussion to come to a Headquarters structure that we are sure about implications to FAO's work in general. As some delegations mentioned during the last working group meeting, the draft presented does not as a whole correspond to the priorities we have agreed, we are agreeing and working upon, such as the strengthening of knowledge, technical and human resources areas. Brazil expects that this work in progress will receive additional inputs from all delegations before our final consideration in November during the upcoming Conference.

As regards the right to food, Brazil remains yet to be convinced of the adequate treatment of the Right to Food in the Organizational Result H2. It is unclear to us how the three track approach in the mainstreaming of the right to food in normative and operational areas of FAO is indeed going to work. We notice that the primary tools of ORH2 have been included in the integration of right to food and human rights principles, but we would favour a more explicit reference and visibility to the task of building an internal culture of right to food, as FAO has been successfully doing in gender issues.

Brazil is very committed to present in the upcoming meetings of the CoC-IEE some ideas that will contribute to improve the present draft under consideration.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada would like to acknowledge the very good work undertaken by FAO management in changing its culture and behaviours with respect to assessing objectives and outcomes versus just looking at outputs within the context of the Strategic Framework we are talking about today.

While this document is quite detailed, Canada believes that further prioritization of work is needed. Within the context of reallocation, realigning resources within these priority areas will be key, as was highlighted by the Chair of the Programme Committee earlier today.

Canada has identified several general principles that are important to ensure continued success in achieving FAO outcomes.

Number 1, with regards to priority rating, it seems that all Organizational results within the Strategic outcome have the same relative weighting. Should this be the case? Links to financial resources and management of these financial and human resources should be consistent with relative priorities within each strategic objective.

Number 2, shifting emphasis over time, it will be important to highlight the current outcomes and results that will actually impact activities over time. This is the basis for reallocation within the results based management process.

Number 3, accountability, it will be important to ensure that a clear line of accountability for results is accomplished within each strategic objective.

Number 4, budgeting by results, while budget levels should not drive the process it would certainly stimulate a healthy debate on priorities as related to the relative weighting of these results within each strategic objective.

The final general point we want to make with regards to the Strategic Framework is with regards to FAO's regional architecture; headquarters versus region versus sub-region versus country level impacts. We believe there could be more prioritization and strategic focus within FAO's regional architecture. How priorities will need to be aligned at these various levels, in addition to results at headquarters.

With regards to the question on Strategic Objective G, rural development, it is important to ensure, as described in the results based approach, that FAO is focused on its comparative advantage. What does this mean? Well, FAO is best at ensuring appropriate policy instruments and frameworks are developed within a rural lens in various aspects of FAO work, be it in crop production, be it in livestock, fisheries, in other words mainstreaming across a multitude of strategic objectives as is currently envisaged within the strategic framework.

Improving another aspect that we should look into with regards to comparative advantage is improving the enabling environments at the country level to foster rural development. In addition we should look at sharing of best practices to ensure increases in productivity gains with smallholder farms and rural areas. These activities and outcomes will lead to increased gains and livelihoods of the rural population.

Just a quick note of caution that certain rural development activities tend to be country led responses and therefore we should resist calls to have very prescriptive language in order to allow for increased flexibility in addressing country rural needs.

We have just one additional point with regards to the Strategic Framework and it is in regard to Strategic Objective L, Private Sector Investment. We want to make sure that FAO management engages on outcomes at the enabling policy environment level and not just be seen as working on individual projects and project investment-driven work products.

Finally, Canada agrees to the proposed structure with regards to the PWB and MTP and outline for the Strategic Framework. Canada will make additional interventions on Items 10, 11 and 12 tomorrow.

Sergio INSUNZA (Chile)

Mi delegación desea reafirmar su pleno apoyo al proceso de Reforma con Crecimiento de la FAO. Para lograr una organización más fuerte, más eficiente y más cercana a las necesidades de sus miembros. Aun cuándo se trata de un proceso en curso, desea a si mismo expresar su satisfacción por los progresos alcanzados por el Comité de la Conferencia sobre la evaluación externa independiente y sus grupos de trabajo.

En la definición del nuevo marco estratégico, en particular la nueva formulación del objetivo estratégico G, y en la elaboración de las propuestas de Plan de Medio Plazo y del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el 2010-2011. También deseamos expresar nuestro acuerdo con lo manifestado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y por otras delegaciones, en cuanto a la imposibilidad a nuestro juicio de destinar eventuales ahorros del Programa Regular de la FAO al financiamiento del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Hace bien el informe que nos ha sido presentado en subrayar la preocupación por el desigual cumplimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio y sobretodo la preocupante situación respecto al primero de estos objetivos; ya que no sólo, no se logrará reducir a la mitad el hambre y la pobreza para el 2015, si no que estamos en presencia de un aumento de la población que padece este flagelo. Esto coloca la Comunidad Internacional ante un reto crucial, que exige el respeto por los compromisos asumidos en materia de cooperación internacional y de ayuda al desarrollo.

Parte de esto, es el fortalecimiento de la FAO y de dotarla de los recursos necesarios para el cumplimiento de su misión. En este contexto mi delegación desea subrayar la importancia del rol que puede jugar la cooperación horizontal a la cual la FAO podría recurrir mayormente ya que permite compartir experiencias exitosas entre países con niveles de desarrollo similar o casi similar.

En relación con los temas de la descentralización y la nueva estructura de la Sede, mi delegación toma nota que son temas respecto a los cuales la discusión está en curso, y en esta ocasión desea hacer propia la afirmación contenida en el informe en cuanto a la necesidad de una presencia sólida de la FAO en los países. Ello requiere continuar la búsqueda de una solución tomando en consideración diversas modalidades que hagan compartir este objetivo fundamental con las razones de mayor eficiencia y mejor utilización de los recursos.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation takes note with appreciation of the progress made in the preparation of the Draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

With regard to the issue of the use of savings my delegation would like to align themselves with the statement made by the Dominican Republic on behalf of G 77, and with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of G77 Asia Group.

As the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 is in process and will be finalized in a few months, we also wish to echo the intervention made by the distinguished delegate of Malaysia, who spoke on behalf of the Asia Group, on the strengthening of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as agreed in the Regional Conference last March.

We were informed that each Regional Office was in the process of reviewing its respective technical skills mix. We do hope that the revised list to be submitted by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok will reflect the missing priority needs of the region and will serve as an input for the PWB preparation.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We all know that the Secretariat has done a lot of work in this area, for months. It is not only the work of the Secretariat but also the work of Members. This is a joint work. If there are mistakes in it, it is a joint mistake. If there are weaknesses they are joint weaknesses. What is done is work in progress.

I am going to speak on behalf of the Near East Region. I will touch on CL 136/16, Add. 1 and then a few words on Reform and Growth. What I was trying to say is that this is the joint work of the Secretariat and Membership and the Secretariat has done a considerable amount of work in a short period so we are grateful for what they have done.

Morally speaking, we do not have any disagreement with the Strategic Framework or the elements of the Medium-Term Plan or Programme of Work and Budget elements, we agree with the 11 strategic objectives except G which has still to be improved. We agree with the 49 organizational results, the impact focus areas, primary tools and the indicators that are still to be shared.

So my comment on CL 136/16 is in relation to what was discussed on the 16 April, so I am comparing this draft with the 16 April draft. On this issue I would like to suggest the following: first, the section on issues and challenges for each strategic objective is better presented in the draft submitted on 16 April. The improvement is most notable in respect of Strategic Objectives A, B, C, E, H, I and K.

Second, there has been a considerable degree of streamlining in the presentation of assumptions and risks for all the 11 Strategic Objectives. However, this is not the case for functional objective X and Functional Objective Y.

Third, we notice minor improvements in the presentation of selected organizationals, in the definition of selected organizationals, especially E1, E2, E3 and F1.

Four, with a few exceptions, the treatment of indicators has by and large remained unchanged. We recognize that the choice of indicators is a difficult task and it takes time to get it right so we understand the problem that the Secretariat is facing in the handling of meaningful indicators for the 49 organizational results.

Fifth, there has been no noticeable change in the treatment of primary tools. There are a few areas where more work is needed and I do not want to list them all, I will only list two areas. More work is needed on prioritization for the Medium-Term Plan, we all recognize that and many speakers have spoken on this.

The second issue is the matching of the organizational structure, with the requirement of the strategic framework and the Medium-Term Plan. The chart submitted, I think is only for information, and is not yet for discussion so the organizational structure is still to be reviewed in July and later on.

Now, I will try to say a few words on the addendum. As my friend from Brazil said, COAG clearly identified a lacuna in Strategic Objective G. While the revised version is an improvement, we still think that the central issue of small producers as suggested by the COAG session is not sufficiently addressed. In our opinion three important issues are still missing from Strategic Objective G, that is, the role of transfer of proper technology to small producers, incentives to small producers and the empowerment of small producer organizations for market access. These three issues will contribute to raising the production and productivity of small producers. To make allowance for these three issues we recommend the revision of the definition of Organizational Result G1 to read as follows: "appropriate analysis, policies, technologies and services enable small producers and their organizations to improve the production and productivity, enhance competitiveness, diversify into new enterprises, increase value addition to meet market requirements".

With respect to Functional Objective X, we appreciate the improvements made in this Strategic Objective. We notice that for this Functional Objective X, the section on issues is included and the challenges are taken away. The challenges are now each faced for each organizational result and this is somehow quite different with respect to the treatment of the strategic objectives.

There are still 27 indicators but my question is, if you look at the nature of the indicators, it all leads towards accountability. They are all accountability indicators. If this is the case, then accountability is an obligation of the Organization towards the Membership. If this is an obligation then the word objective is not fit. This is an issue on which I would like clarification.

I would like to have a few words on Reform with Growth. As Brazil said, we are looking forward we are not looking backwards and also said growth is growth. He is quite right growth means Real Growth otherwise there is no meaning. So for us as everyone in the G77 agrees, for us growth is real growth, but what is "the benefit of real growth". I think this has to be elaborated. In our opinion Reform with Real Growth will enable FAO to function in the following way:

First, it could enhance confidence between FAO and the Member Nations; Second, it could increase collaboration with partners and joint programming in selected areas; Third; it makes FAO have stronger core competencies, it energizes FAO's comparative advantage, it improves the quality of FAO's products and services; it improves the capacity of FAO in interventions in new areas, it is a firm and participatory for priority for preparatory setting, it enhances the integration of assets and extra-budgetary resources for greater impact. It allows a strong cadre of versatile staff eager and suitable for interdisciplinary work. It allows a decentralization structure that is more efficient and effective to the needs of Member Nations and partners. It makes more effective delivery, leading to greater resource mobilization. Finally, it improves the capacity to trace the effects and impacts of FAO's intervention.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I wish to say for the record that I share the views that were expressed by the G77, Pakistan and Brazil in relation to paragraphs 9, 12 and 29 of document CL 136/8 and also the sentiments that were made in respect to the Finance Committee Report by Pakistan.

As regards the other aspects, I share the views that have just been articulated by Professor Ayazi, particularly on the importance of the addendum and the definition of reform with growth. I think both Professor Ayazi and Brazil have really articulated some the sentiments I would have liked to say so I will spare you that aspect.

The US delegate emphasized country-owned plans and commitments to increasing agriculture investment. That too resonates with my delegation's approach. This is also on behalf of Africa, although there will other African contributors but I am saying part of this on behalf of Africa.

We appreciate the need to have two distinct documents – that is the PWB and the MTP – and the rational as to the road that we have traveled, I think that Professor Ayazi has articulated it so I will spare you all that. I will limit myself just to one item. The one item I thought I would contribute on is Decentralization. The reason why I thought I would contribute on this item is because this is work in progress, but very much work in progress because the other aspects of work is advanced but on this particular element even the negotiating groups are still in the beginning of their assignment. I am a bit worried. We are talking about prioritization, the budget and all other aspects that will affect this particular aspect of the programme when the homework has not yet been completed. That is why I would like to share my views with the meeting.

The Organizational Results of FAO impact, I feel, will be felt after implementation at the field level. Based on that analogy, it is imperative that, that part of the results framework is equipped to play its part effectively. It means that the impact of FAO knowledge transfer and knowledge utilization by members has to be felt at this level. Therefore, Decentralization holds a key to the reforms that we are discussing. If we handle it correctly, we will have the results in communicating information to them and to their agriculture stakeholders – in this particular case, member states and the farmers.

It is no use in creating a wonderful database that will be here at FAO and not be utilized in the field. It will be like a library with books that are gathering dust. For me, this is not what the reform is all about. For this goal to be achieved, it is important that there be clarity of roles between the Headquarters, on the one hand and the Regional, Sub-regional and Country Offices in Member Nations on the other. I think that the sentiments raised by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Bureau are also worth noting, because unless these offices are strengthened to play their part to compliment Headquarters, there will always remain this lack of clarity as to who is performing what and performing what with what resources. The assignment in the field should be matched with appropriate resources.

It will be a mismatch if for the responsibility we will follow religiously what the IEE has said, yet we cancel the resources. I think the IEE was looking at the recommendation of the Decentralization report that had been undertaken a year before, which clearly articulated the gaps which were in the FAO delivery machinery in the Country, Regional and Sub-regional levels. How it was failing to match with its partners, how it was failing to even participate in the deliveries at country level. I thought I should bring this to the attention of the meeting. We need to conclude this aspect quickly, if only to assist the PWB and the MTP to address the budgetary requirements that will help us to fulfill our mandate.

Priority, therefore, rests in us clarifying this definition or re-definition of roles – which ever you choose to call it. Unfortunately, the document on Decentralization is, as I have said, is very much in the beginning. I do not know when we are going to complete it but I would like to urge that we do discuss it in order to give direction to the management in drafting the relevant budget allocation. This makes it difficult to determine prioritization at this stage, though we have ideas that are maybe shared by the Impact Focus Areas but looking at their work in the field itself, it will have to be matched with what we are saying in the decentralization process.

Notwithstanding, we stand encouraged that the Strategic Objectives have gone a long way to try and address and provide guidelines in determining the areas under which the budget allocations should be met. The vision and the goals of this Organization have been clearly articulated to try and give the respective Organizational Results some focus. This is why I would like to plead that we just complete the last part of the process in order to ensure that the picture is complete.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

My delegation wants to support the point raised by my colleagues from Malaysia, Thailand and Zimbabwe to strengthen the Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific without having a new Subregional office. I know other regions have new Subregional offices but the Asian region is in a different circumstance. Asia needs the flexibility in organizational structure in our region. This is the first point.

We then want to ask for flexibility on the issue of the shortage of resources for IPA implementation in 2009. World food insecurity is in front of us so FAO has to become a more efficient and effective Organization through the reform as early as possible to tackle all the challenges we face.

Japan wants to emphasize the importance of the planned IPA in 2009 to be implemented without any delay. For that purpose, I expect that the Finance Committee, to be held in July, further discuss ways to find the necessary funds to implement the IPA in 2009 in the Regular budget. Of course, considering to avoid the delay of any programme to be funded in the Regular budget.

I want to emphasize that the flexibility and the innovative approach are requested now.

José Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (Mexico)

Mi delegación quisiera hacer una serie de comentarios de este amplio número de temas que estamos tratando ahora en conjunto.

En primer lugar, estamos de acuerdo en que debe haber una lógica en los documentos. Debe haber un marco estratégico que lleve a un Plan de Mediano Plazo y un Programa de Trabajo y del

Presupuesto que permitan cumplir ese Plan de Mediano Plazo. No obstante, queremos subrayar nuestra preocupación por la mención continua a que el Marco Estratégico es un documento de difusión al gran público. El hecho de que se mencione que es un documento de difusión al gran público, para mi delegación, no significa que debe ser un documento general, un documento simple o un documento que facilite el entendimiento por un gran público, porque así pierde su utilidad como instrumento guía fundamental de los trabajos de esta Organización, ya que creemos que esta Organización no tiene una tarea sencilla en el porvenir.

En segundo lugar, compartimos la opinión compartida con varias delegaciones de que estamos en un momento crucial e la reforma de la organización a la que usted ha contribuido tan positivamente.

Creemos que próximamente habrá un Programa de Trabajo y un Presupuesto como no los ha habido antes y que, por lo tanto, es difícil evaluar en este momento cuáles serán los resultados. El solo hecho de que se incluyan la parte presupuestaria y extra presupuestaria tal y como se han venido utilizando hasta este momento, crea una serie de interrogantes sobre cuál va a ser el desarrollo en los próximos años. También el hecho de empezar a fundar nuestras decisiones en un programa basado en resultados tiene todavía muchos interrogantes que no hemos resuelto y que no podremos resolver hasta que no las veamos aplicadas en la práctica.

Esto nos lleva a la definición de otro de los términos fundamentales que se han manejado aquí: una reforma con crecimiento. Una reforma con crecimiento puede ir desde las definiciones más sencillas y simples, un crecimiento del cinco o del diez por ciento o un crecimiento cualificado sobre lo que la Organización debe cumplir. Creemos que es acercándose a este segundo concepto por donde deberíamos trabajar y por donde mi delegación está dispuesta a seguir las negociaciones en el futuro.

Asimismo, mucho se ha discutido sobre la priorización y creo que poco se ha avanzado. Si todo es prioritario y nada es prioritario creemos que de alguna forma hay acciones no prioritarias que requieren la atención de la Organización de forma más urgente que otras. Si no podemos definir priorizaciones, quizás podamos definir urgencias.

Teniendo en cuenta estos elementos que he mencionado, tendríamos que ver durante la próxima Conferencia cuál sería el nivel de presupuesto que vamos a enfrentar pero siempre teniendo en cuenta el hecho de que estamos en una crisis económica por lo que algunos países atraviesan más fuerte que otros.

Apoyamos también la regionalización, la sub-regionalización y las oficinas nacionales. Creo que la mayor parte de los estados ve las ventajas de esta regionalización y nacionalización de las oficinas de la FAO. Muchos se han comprometido que esto se lleve a cabo, si bien no siempre se cumple lo que se ofrece.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation appreciates the work that has been done so far by the management on the IPA. We also extend our appreciation to the Working Groups and the advice which has been given by the different technical committees to this process.

We also thank you for your leadership as the Chair of the Conference Committee for IPA implementation.

Joining Zimbabwe for the African Group stand, we support what has been said by the G77 Chairperson , including supporting explanation by Pakistan and Brazil in regard to the use of savings, if any. Our concern is that such resources should boost the depleting special reserve of FAO or, if desired, to be used for FAO on-going programmes.

We endorse the proposal which has been made by the Finance and Programme Committee on the presentation of the documents to the governing bodies that it should be in two separate sets. That is the Strategic Framework as a set and another set comprising of the Medium-Term Plan and the

Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to emphasize that these documents should be in clear languages and simple to be understood, as has been said by Mexico.

On the conclusion of achievements on what has been undertaken so far, we see that the elements of the Strategic Framework have been substantially elaborated. We can say that at most, conclusions have been reached on visions, global goals, Strategic Objectives – though there are still some elements to be completed on Strategic Objective G – and work also has been done on Core Functions and Impact Focus Areas. We can say a lot of work has really been done and we have concluded that we still have some areas to undertake. What is more important is to continue discussions and deliberation on prioritization but for which my delegation wants to underscore that this is an ongoing process which will continue for every biennia.

It is a work in progress, which we expect will be on a continuing agenda. The areas we see that need to be quickly concluded, for elaboration, in particular for the work pending on the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan, include finalization of the few issues which have been raised on the Headquarters structure. So far we have agreed on the main framework on the Headquarters structure. We need a few elaborations. I will not drill on decentralization but I want to support what has been said by Zimbabwe. This is a very important area which we really need to conclude on. We still have work, of course, on the indicators.

The FAO model of Results-Based Framework has been developed with the greatest consensus of the Members up to now. This is a very positive direction for FAO renewal or reform. The Framework marks a major shift in the FAO focus in priority-setting, programming and budgeting. If properly implemented and backed up by adequate resources, that is, financial, human resources, performance management, and strengthened Decentralization then it will meet the desired Reform with Growth - the Real Growth as explained by Afghanistan and Brazil.

We also recognize the work undertaken by the Culture Change Team. This work that they are doing is very important to enhance the interdisciplinary working relationship, transparency in the accountability in FAO and the interaction with the Member Nations.

The integration of resources – the regular and extra-budgetary resources – to support the Organizational Results we have to be respected by members. We have to be committed to this in order to see the Real Growth.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Esta lectura será muy breve, en primer lugar porque varias delegaciones han planteado nuestro punto de vista. Apoyo firmemente lo expresado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77, al igual que lo dicho también por las delegaciones de Pakistán, Zimbabwe y otras, sobre las negativas a asignar programas de ahorro del Programa de Trabajo de la FAO según lo indicado en los párrafos 12 y 29 del Programa Inmediato de Acción.

Deseo también suscribir plenamente lo dicho por el Embajador de Brasil sobre el concepto de reforma con crecimiento de la FAO, lo expresado por esto, lo del objetivo estratégico G y también la necesidad de claridad sobre el concepto del derecho a la alimentación en todo su alcance, que al fin y al cabo deberá regir el trabajo de cualquier reforma de nuestra Organización.

Por último, muy brevemente, y quiero referirme en cuanto a la estructura de la sede, es un tema que requiere mayores debates. Reconocemos la importancia de dotar a la FAO de una estructura mucho más sencilla y con menos carga burocrática de forma tal que los procesos de interacción y consulta con los Países Miembros se tengan más ágiles y expeditos. En especial, solicitamos que la propuesta de descentralización contenga mayores y adecuados niveles de responsabilidad para oficinas en el terreno.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of very comprehensive document and a very substantive work on the reform of our Organization. What is very important is that in this work the cooperation between Member Nations, the representatives and the Secretariat of FAO

and its leadership has considerably improved. Now, that said, we would like to note that unfortunately the recommendations of Russia on establishing a single programme budget committee were not broadly supported. That is why we have certain inconsistencies with respective programme and needs and their budgetary allocations. So there is a certain imbalance there between the aims that we seek to achieve and the budgetary resources made available for them. Now from our point of view overall the Strategic Framework of FAO has been very appropriately defined. It makes it possible to plan work in the main areas of activity of the Organization. This is a process that has only begun and it will certainly evolve as it is implemented we will have to adapt to new circumstances, new resource levels and new opportunities.

Now what we think is very important is based on the moral experience of using planning in the economic development of our country we know very well that what is extremely important for the achievement of established goals in addition to allocating resources is a strict and constant supervision over the implementation of the results.

Now these sections of the plan are not sufficiently clear or convincing to us for the time being but, as I said, this process has only just begun and we have a great deal of work ahead of us. We think that FAO, just as the other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations System, has to play a role of guide for national governments of all member states in order to be able to choose the most optimal way of development for their national agriculture on the basis of the global potential for information analysis of this Organization as well as the medium-term and long-term forecast in the development of different sectors, including fisheries, forestry and other sectors related to agriculture and food production and ensuring food security.

Now we agree with the view expressed by Norway that the standard-setting activity of this Organization plays a key role in the development of standards and guidelines and we would like to also note, and this was also mentioned by Zimbabwe, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and others, the importance of the educational role of FAO. I think in order for countries to be able to use the best practices and best methodologies, use innovations and technologies, develop state programmes of sustainable development of their agriculture industry this can be done only by qualified people that have to be trained in the regions and this is where FAO and its regional centres are playing an extremely important role in this educational function.

Now, of course, we understand that this is one area where the capacity of FAO has to be further developed and this kind of informational experience should be provided and shared with the developing countries, especially in order to help them enhance productivity of their agriculture and to develop a fairly sustainable system of agriculture production. FAO should provide assistance here in building capacity in these countries and disseminating knowledge and in developing programmes for countries that will request such assistance. Overall the general focus that has been chosen in the reform process is the right one. I think that the Organization needs the kind of changes that it is striving to implement. We see it in front of our very eyes, the scope, and the capacity of the Organization is being expanded. Of course the process is not yet finished and there are certain flaws in the documents but I think that the work that has been done is already quite considerable and I think that now we need to complete implementing this process.

Hans-Jörg LEHMANN (Suisse)

Nous nous félicitons du document soumis par le Secrétariat. Tout en étant un travail en progression, élaboré dans un processus de réforme complexe, il constitue, selon nous, une bonne base pour la documentation plus complète à établir, cette documentation devra notamment contenir l'importante dimension financière. Mon pays est favorable à l'élaboration de deux documents distincts, l'un contenant la version finale du Cadre stratégique et l'autre, les propositions de Plan à moyen terme et de Programme de travail 2010-2011. Deux éléments importants pour la Suisse ont été également de nouveau approfondis. Il s'agit premièrement de la définition des priorités qui va certainement prendre du temps avant de devenir effective. Le deuxième élément important, à notre sens, est la question de concrétisation du concept de partenariat. A cet égard nous souhaiterions, comme l'Union européenne, obtenir davantage

d'informations, notamment sur les partenariats existants ou envisagés et la répartition des compétences entre les partenaires.

Sra Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Efectivamente cómo lo han hecho los oradores que me han antecedido, quería felicitar a la Secretaria, a los Comités de trabajo, a los Comités técnicos y a los Grupos de trabajo que han venido avanzando en el proceso, para el estudio y el análisis de los distintos temas del proceso de Reforma.

Igualmente acogemos lo que se ha avanzado en términos de llevar adelante el Programa Inmediato de Acción (P.I.A) y la propuesta del Marco Estratégico, el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto (P.T.P) y el Plan a plazo medio durante las diversas intervenciones.

Específicamente quiero decir que de manera entusiasta saludamos y apoyamos las intervenciones del Representante de Brasil, de la Representación del Grupo 77, del colega de Pakistán, al igual que la intervención de la Representación de Zimbabwe, que han tocado un tema en el cual hemos sido también bastante insistentes y que por ahora no tiene una formulación definida, como otras que han tenido mejor suerte, como lo es la del tema de la Descentralización.

El énfasis que ha puesto la Representación de Zimbabwe en términos de trabajar con mayor profundidad este tópico para que en las futuras reuniones del Consejo tengamos una presentación mejor acabada y más exacta, porque creemos que este tema es el que va a permitir que toda esta reforma tenga una aplicabilidad en el terreno y en términos de las aspiraciones que todos los países en desarrollo hemos venido presentando en sucesivos debates.

Farid Hasan BAKTIR (Indonesia)

My delegation fully supports the statement made by the delegation of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the G77 plus China, the statement by Pakistan representing the Asian countries and also the statement made by Malaysia on the specific issue of the urgent need to strengthen the role and capacity of the Asian Regional Office through the so called Decentralization scheme.

With regard to the substance of the documents before us on the draft Strategy Framework of Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 and also the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, my delegation wishes to highlight some points as follows. In its implementation of the Plan of Action, we are of the view that FAO should put priority in its work especially on specific areas that are related to the improvement of food security programme and also on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

FAO should strengthen its efforts to work closely with other international organizations, especially international organizations dealing with the issues of climate change.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I can be brief because not many of the comments were actually addressed to the Programme Committee but I would just like to pick up on one thing that was said by the Mexican Ambassador about the discussion we could have on prioritization, in terms of urgent action. That is precisely the discussion we had with Senior Management, which is why the Programme Committee was so pleased with themselves at the end of this discussion that having focused on some real urgent change areas where prioritization could be effected by Management, by the Membership.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, let me express my appreciation to all the observations and comments made on the Finance Committee Report. This is the kind of interaction we look forward to because it gives us an indication as to how to be directed in our work in the future.

Some major points I would like to comment on:

Firstly, regarding the Programme of Work and Budget and its implementation for the year 2008-2009, if we take into consideration all the reports of the Finance Committee beginning from the

One Hundred and Twenty-third to the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Sessions, there were assurances from all the Committee Members that the programme must be fully implemented and we have received these assurances during the joint meeting with the Director-General of the Organization, that the PWB will be fully implemented. This is a major point and an essential point that we emphasize and we will emphasize it more in our upcoming session in July.

Secondly, the use of savings, This is listed in the paragraphs you have mentioned and in the discussions raised at this point. This must be seen in an integrated manner and in the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Committee, we have indicated that we will consider and examine the ways and means of implementing the IPA. We have not made any indication though, but in the Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, we said that the revenues, what is meant by revenues in the implementation of the PWB 2008-2009, we meant the unforeseen income. We have not gone against the Resolution of the Conference. We had a PWB, we insisted on its implementation and as a way of providing assistance to you as a Council to find other sources to finance and fund the IPA, We believed that if any savings take place they could be used for the implementation of the IPA and these unforeseen savings or this unforeseen income will not be as big as expected to reinforce the reserves of FAO.

Regarding the reserves of the Organization, it was not overlooked by the Committee in all its discussions. On the contrary, we believe that this should be raised up and discussed again in July when we discuss the allocation of financial resources on the different chapters of the budget.

We have not overlooked the savings issue at all. We insisted frequently and repeatedly on its importance and the importance of the reserves to maintain the functioning of the Organization. Again I emphasize that the savings mentioned by the Finance Committee in its report are not really revenues or income but is unforeseen income and it is not cut from the PWB. The Committee never recommended in any of its session, Hundred and Twenty-third, Hundred and Twenty-fifth and Hundred and Twenty-sixth, we never recommended to use the resources of the PWB in the implementation of the IPA at all. This never happened and the Committee, from my point of view, will never take a decision against the Resolution of the Conference or in any other interpretation of the scope of the Resolution. The Committee has its mandate and I believe that we have undertaken it very properly and this is clear and evident from all the decisions made by the Committee. None of the members of the Committee ever complained or objected on the recommendations of the Finance Committee and this is obvious in our report.

These are the two points related to the PWB and the savings.

Regarding the points made on the shared points of discussions between the Programme and Finance Committee, we, together with the Chairperson of the Programme Committee have one point of view, that we have to take advantage and make good use of the Joint Meetings and fully agree that these meetings should not be business as usual as we say.

When we submit our reports tomorrow, you will see this clear and you will see this cooperation very visible and very clear in the joint work of the two Committees from good use of resources and in good use of time and this was also added to the agenda of the two Committees in their joint meeting in coordination with the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

Regarding TCP, in our Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session, we decided that this should be discussed in the joint meeting. We kept following the rate of disbursement of TCP and through our discussions we believe that, in order to have a full picture and in order to benefit from the mutual experiences, we believe that this should be submitted on the agenda of the joint meeting. We will keep following on this in coordination with the Chairperson of the Programme Committee as well.

Regarding the Reform with Growth concept, we presented 5 elements or 5 recommendations that will be discussed tomorrow in our report that we will submit to the Council tomorrow.

The task and the mandate of the Finance Committee is to submit recommendations to the Council and the Council is sovereign to either accept or reject those recommendations as in the

constitution of FAO. However, we keep looking for ways to help in these circumstances and these situations and we never go against any recommendations or resolutions given and in the light of the limited resources implementation of the IPA.

This is clear when we see the full picture because if the Committee had any intention to use the resources available from the PWB to fund the IPA, it wouldn't have mentioned this at all in paragraph 11 of the Report. We said it clearly that if no adequate funding is secured, the prioritization and implementation of the IPA should follow certain sequencing in the implementation and had we had any intention against this, this would not have been mentioned in the Report.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I appreciate the comments just made by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee but the importance of words, I think we need to be very careful with that. The reading that one can make of the relevant paragraphs that have been mentioned this afternoon just give the opposite idea of that. I mean if he did not deny straightforward that possibility, I think we would not have the kind of comments we just heard, but when we see paragraph 29 of that Report saying that the Committee, the Finance Committee, had agreed to approve in principle, to reappropriate any futurist games or overall budgetary surpluses to reform related projects. Chairperson, my reading is I beg to disagree with my good friend, Yasser, but when I read that I get just the opposite impression of what he just related to us. Maybe if we could have that clarified then that would help us to better understand and rejecting totally the idea that others have interpreted that: yes, we should go ahead with funding - not from extra-budgetary resources - because even if we talk about overall budgetary surpluses, what are we talking about? Can we understand that maybe some incomes that the Organization might obtain that those are not extra-budgetary resources. Extra-budgetary resources are very clearly defined. So, in redefining and overstretching that interpretation, I think that is what has caused some interventions that we heard this afternoon and these are reasons and causes of alarm.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I was the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee and I just wanted to say that Yasser is absolutely correct in his presentation. As we all know, Yasser is a highly-conscientious Chairperson and he has done everything he possibly can do to protect the budget of the Organization. I think it would be helpful to put this into a context going back a number of years. One issue that the Finance Committee has grappled with for more than two years now is the issue of unfunded mandates, that is cases where the Governing Bodies have passed or adopted reform programmes, Decentralization and other programmes which are not contained in the Programme of Work and Budget and in the past, unfortunately, that has led to situations where elements in the Programme of Work budget have been delayed or unimplemented, and I am thinking most pointedly of the TCP. As we all know, last year there was a large under spent TCP caused partly by the equity caused partly by unfunded mandates and so one of the tasks of the Finance Committee has been to protect the integrity of the Programme of Work and Budget and make sure that it is fully and faithfully implemented. That having been said, we do have cases where there are priorities, unfunded mandates, unexpected cause which cause the Finance Committee to have to look at the financing of these issues.

Under the Financial Regulations 14.1, the Finance Committee does have the authority to recommend and approve chapter transfers and to provide guidance on re-prioritization if that is necessary. The Conference Committee has specifically tasked the Finance Committee with playing an advisory role on the financing of the reform process, and we are in a transition period. Now the purpose of the language which was put into the Finance Committee report, and I think if you had to narrow it down to one clear objective, it is to empower management. The management of course looking at the overall budget, I am sure Mr Juneja will have something more to say to this, is faced with this difficult decision. There are certain cases where investment in things like the IPA has a very very high rate of return, the Root and Branch in many cases has identified short-term and medium-term paybacks on investment, and so again it boils down to a question, is

it more prudent to put money into reserves or to invest money in reforms which will generate even greater savings and greater returns in a year or two which will then be used to augment both the programme as to as to boost the reserves. This is purely a pragmatic business decision and I think the message of the Finance Committee, the way I interpret it and I think the way Yasser has put it forward, is to empower Management, not to micro-manage in the Programme of Work and Budget, to protect it and to make sure that, at the margin, if there are unexpected amounts in terms of windfall gains or other monies that could be used discretionary the Finance Committee was asked specifically to give guidance on how that might most prudently be used, under the caveat that the Programme of Work and Budget be fully and faithfully implemented.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I will be very brief, on paragraph 29 which was mentioned by our brother from Brazil, while according to me I understand that this refers to Capital Expenditure. So there is a difference of US\$10 million. US\$10 million will not be sufficient to fund a programme, so it is better to use it elsewhere, so this will not adversely affect, in principle, the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. So, the Committee has always reasserted the need to implement in a complete manner the Programme of Work and Budget. There is no doubt in this respect. I understand paragraph 29 in that way; that is my interpretation.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Je voulais, pour ma part, attendre demain pour présenter cette situation mais étant entendu que le Président du Comité financier vient de m'interpeller, je dois, aujourd'hui faire cette déclaration. Le Président a souligné que le Comité financier n'a jamais déclaré que pour financer le Plan d'action immédiate (PAI), il fallait faire allusion à d'autres sources de financement notamment, concernant le Programme ordinaire. Je prends le document de la cent vingt-sixième session du Comité financier, le document 136/8 et au paragraphe 12, le Comité lance un appel pressant pour la proposition d'une solution innovatrice et s'est déclaré disposé à appuyer des propositions de flexibilités budgétaires prudentes afin de financer le PAI. Nous savons tous que pour financer le PAI, on doit se référer aux forces judiciaires, c'est ça l'orientation de la Conférence. Mais, cette notion de flexibilité budgétaire prudente amène des confusions, notamment lorsque dans la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe 12, on souligne que: "notamment lorsque des ressources extrabudgétaires permettent de libérer des ressources du budget ordinaire". Toute la confusion est là, ça c'est le rapport du Comité financier. Je voulais intervenir demain, puisque l'occasion m'est donnée, voilà pourquoi j'ai pris cette décision de parler aujourd'hui.

Je voulais terminer, en soulignant aussi le paragraphe 29 du même document, qui dit ceci: "Le Comité déclare attendre dans le prochain rapport sur l'exécution du budget un relevé détaillé des gains d'efficacité et d'économies réalisées et une mise à jour sur leur répartition entre chapitres", chapitres au pluriel. Les économies réalisées ont eu une orientation claire, à savoir financer les projets du Programme de coopération technique. Donc, s'il y a à faire une répartition des économies réalisées, c'est entre les sous-chapitres du chapitre: "Programme de coopération technique".

Voilà, la précision que je voulais apporter. Je voulais le faire demain, comme l'occasion m'en est donnée, j'ai pris quelques minutes pour le faire.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

It is difficult to do justice to the numerous rich interventions from Members. That said, I recognize that many Members have themselves acknowledged that the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and PWB formulation is at this stage work in progress and your comments are aimed at enhancing dialogue amongst yourselves and with management and not seeking specific responses from management.

I would like to thank the representative of the United States for recognizing the importance of staff in the renewal process. Members who have participated in the Conference Committee, the

working groups, and participated also in informal meetings will have witnessed the pro-active involvement of staff at all levels. We have every intention to maintain that momentum as we move forward.

Institutional reform is indeed an imperative for the management of FAO and we see the Immediate Plan of Action as the agreed roadmap and therefore the basis for continued action.

The representative of Norway observed that sequencing is a challenge and, in fact, resources for the implementation of the IPA are a potential constraint. We will have an opportunity to touch upon that tomorrow, but we can nevertheless demonstrate good results even with the resources already made available, bearing in mind that we can make a lot of progress without recourse to external extra-budgetary funding.

I wanted to also express our feeling of great encouragement at the high priority being accorded to food security under the current US administration, as outlined by the representative of the United States. Of course that view is so inextricably linked to the FAO mandate and resonates well with the advocacy work that FAO has been undertaking in the past years.

I wanted to turn also to the discussion that you have had regarding paragraphs 12 and 29 of the One hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee Report. Let me underline that from a management perspective we recognize that we are bound by the Conference Resolutions. There are two relevant Resolutions – the Budgetary Appropriation Resolution for 2008-2009 that was endorsed by the November 2007 Conference and the Resolution endorsed by the Special Conference in November 2008 on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. The Budgetary Appropriation Resolution called for the implementation of the programme of work and also called for US\$22.1 million of efficiency savings.

The Finance Committee Report in paragraphs 29 and also in paragraphs 12 stressed the full implementation of the planned programme of work on every occasion when budgetary flexibility for the implementation of the programme of work was recommended. So, taking paragraph 29 first, the second sentence notes that "the Committee stressed however that the Programme of Work and Budget would be fully implemented". In fact, it also refers to the progress made so far in the identification of efficiency savings amounting to US\$18.1 million versus a requirement of US\$22.1 million.

Similarly, paragraph 12 of the Finance Committee Report indicates the need for budget flexibility and I am quoting, "in ways that would not undermine the implementation of the 2009 Programme of Work". So on both occasions the Finance Committee in its guidance to management has been very clear on the requirement to fully implement the Programme of Work.

So we see the following pecking order with regard to 2008-2009 implementation. The first is that the planned Programme of Work needs to be fully implemented and the second is that we need to make every effort, in order to have the full implementation of the planned Programme of Work, to ensure that the efficiency savings of \$22.1 million for 2008-2009 are also achieved. We are still short on that target as noted in paragraph 29. So with this pecking order, the point I am trying to make is that the first calls for any available funding will be to seek to achieve our efficiency savings targets and implement the planned programme of work. So, let me assure Members that any flexibility sought by the Finance Committee must be, and will be, applied within the directives of the Conference Resolution.

I should also mention that the Capital Expenditure Facility that is outlined in paragraph 29 includes a number of projects - capital expenditure projects - that are closely linked to the reforms and renewal of FAO. Let me give one example. The largest single project relates to the implementation of IPSAS, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. That is budgeted in the Regular Programme in the planned Programme of Work. Similarly, under the capital expenditure facility there is a human resources management systems project. Therefore it is quite difficult to draw a very clear line between on the one hand the implementation of the planned Programme of Work which includes the Capital Expenditure Facility, alluded to in paragraph 29 and the Immediate Plan of Action on the other.

Turning to the comments made by the Chair of the Programme Committee and in the EU statement, I really appreciate the comments that the process of prioritization, the articulation of our comparative advantage and the formulation of indicators is work in progress. Further progress on our part will be iterative and let me say that it will take time. We are making great strides and we need your patience and joint work between management and Members in the coming years to continue on this path. The journey has been a long one for other organizations and other public sector entities that have implemented results based management and therefore FAO will be no exception. We need to really plead for your patience in this regard.

We have also taken note of the comments made by Members of the Asia Pacific region regarding the skills mix, the flexibility in the structure of the regional and other decentralized offices in the region as well as the comments about resources for that region. More generally, comments have been made about Decentralization, for example Zimbabwe speaking on behalf of the African region, including the coherence between Headquarters and Decentralized offices.

Let me say first of all, that the changes that we are implementing at the present moment have to be done within the constraints of paragraph 45 of the Immediate Plan of Action. It indicates that decentralization must proceed in a framework that is essentially on a zero sum basis without impairing Headquarters' capacity. But despite that constraint, we are looking forward to reverting to the working groups of the Conference Committee on the progress, on Decentralization both what we have done, as well as our plans. That will be at the next session of the working groups, between the 22-24 July. We too, from a management perspective, give this matter very high priority.

At that session we will be able to provide further details on the relationship between Headquarters and Decentralized Offices, building on the discussion of the working groups that was held in early June. But we will also to outline the progress made and to be made throughout the Immediate Plan of Action because really it is in all areas of the Immediate Plan of Action that we will be making concrete progress that will improve the effectiveness of our decentralized structures.

I feel it is important to give a few examples. Under results based management and resource mobilization there has been tremendous progress made in the formulation of the results' indicators and targets in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. The involvement of the decentralized offices has been unprecedented. In the past years we have made progress on the formulation of National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks. We are doing a much better job in our partnership at country level through participation in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. We have delegated responsibility for resource mobilization to the country offices, much along the lines of bilateral donors. Turning to the area of governance, the Immediate Plan of Action calls for a much stronger Regional Conference and we are making progress in that regard. The IPA also called for aligning structures and reporting lines and we are planning to implement from the 1 January 2010 a completely revamped reporting structure for the Decentralized Offices, with the FAORs reporting to the regional structures and no longer reporting to headquarters. There are going to be many improvements in the area of administration and management systems, including further streamlining along the lines of what we have already done for procurement and enhanced management information systems such as a planned upgrade to our field accounting system, and upgrade in our communications infrastructure for more effective collaboration between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. Finally, we cannot forget improved human resources policies such as, for example, a new competency framework for the country offices and a new policy on rotation.

So, much has been done, and much is planned to be done. We look forward to engaging with the membership in demonstrating our progress made towards a more effective decentralized structure more effectively functioning as one Organization, and to outline the plans for further tangible progress in the area of decentralization.

Finally, I would like to turn to a specific comment that was made by the representative of Norway on delayering. He whether the manner in which we undertook delayering really creates a sensible balance. I think it is important here to draw a distinction between - or de-link - the delayering

process on the one hand, with the issue of departmental performance and programme priority on the other hand. If I could take a step back, the IEE suggested that we do away with divisions in the Fisheries and Forestry departments. The reason for that, their rationale, was to improve reporting lines, to consolidate our structures and to streamline our administration. But at the same time the IEE gave priority to the fishery and forestry sectors. Now we don't see an inconsistency in this regard because what we intend to do is to propose in the Programme of Work and Budget, the reinvestment of savings arising from delayering to the high priority technical programmes, including therefore the programmes of fisheries and forestry.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I would echo Manoj Juneja's appreciation for the extent of the inputs that we have heard today and I must say that I also very much appreciate the ongoing collaboration, the very fruitful collaboration, that we have had with Members in the working groups as well as in the Programme and Finance Committees.

I wanted to just touch on a few aspects of the results frameworks and some of the issues that were raised by the Members.

These frameworks are very important for both the Secretariat and the Members in terms of being able to provide the basis for embarking on prioritization. We have made a first effort and we all recognize that it is going to evolve over the coming years. By forming the Strategy Teams the Secretariat has already started to engage the staff in all locations in identifying how we can respond to the key issues that are identified in the Strategic Framework. The results frameworks also provide the basis for measuring our progress.

In response to the EU, the results frameworks will include baselines to measure progress on the two and four year time frame and we are continuously improving on the indicators. In fact, we have just sent out to the Strategy Teams for another round of formulation of the indicators against a more robust set of guidelines before we provide the next version of the frameworks for the July meetings. These frameworks also provide the means for assigning accountability for achieving the results and for monitoring and reporting, which is the next big step that we have to take in implementing results based management starting in 2010-2011. They also provide a means to be able to measure a change over time in terms of results achieved, but eventually in terms of resources that are allocated.

If I could turn just briefly to many of the comments that have been made here today, that referred to how we carry out our work. The functional objectives, as I mentioned in my introduction, provide the basis for measuring improvements and delivery of services. Afghanistan asked what exactly are the indicators within these objectives. Are they more having to do with accountability? The functional objectives are to deliver services in an effective and an efficient manner. Functional Objective X in particular has many important elements that have been underlined by Members, for example, as mentioned by Mr Juneja, in being able to operate more effectively at the country level. So, we have indicators relating to the number and the development of the National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks, the involvement in UNDAFs, the funding trend of the work of the Organization, and the effectiveness of the decentralized offices. These provide the ways and means to ensure that the Organization delivers on the services that you are looking for.

Also, on the core functions, capacity-building is emphasized across the strategic objectives, as well as policy advice, knowledge, information and statistics.

Also on partnerships, not only a strategy but guidelines will be applied to ensure that we enter into meaningful partnerships and that those partnerships contribute to the work of the Organization and do not lead to duplication in our work.

So here in fact you will see in the Programme of Work and Budget, the importance of this functional objective in carrying out and ensuring that we can actually achieve the results under the strategic objectives.

Finally, there have been many comments today, not only under this item but under the previous items, on substantive issues. We appreciate the evolution and the views expressed on Strategic Objective G. We took on board what we had heard on the Working Groups and, no doubt, this will continue to evolve as we prepare the frameworks as well as the other strategic objectives that will be seen by the Conference Committee Working Groups in July, as well as the Programme and Finance Committees.

CHAIRPERSON

Any follow up questions? Not at this hour!

Okay, thank you very much, I think I can separate two issues, one is the discussion that we had on paragraphs 12 and 29 which is a misunderstanding or misinterpretation because, as I listened to questions and answers, both sides mean the same thing but the language doesn't lend itself to both interpretations, so I would like to ask the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, as we do also of the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee and Council, to have a discussion with the G77, with those who have concerns about these paragraphs. If possible, to have a consultation and tomorrow, when we are discussing all these items, come to a mutual understanding and agreement, in this I suspect.

On the other issues that we discussed which was the main part, and we had a very very rich debate today, I have here some bullet points to summarize our discussion in order to facilitate your work in the Drafting Committee, and you said today in the Agriculture Committee they praised several times the role of the Drafting Committee as a means of efficiency and I am hoping that we have also gained that efficiency.

In considering the documentation under this item, Item 13, the council was able to benefit from the extensive advice from the Programme and Finance Committee and their Joint Meetings. The Council also drew, as appropriate, on the comments made at the sessions of of the technical committees COFI, COFO and COAG on pertinent aspects as was discussed under the previous agenda items.

In effect, the request from COAG had led to a revised Strategic Objective G as presented in the addendum of the report. On format, there was broad agreement that the strategic framework on the one hand and MTP and PWB proposals on the other, be presented as two physically separate documents as recommended by the Programme and Finance Committee.

This argument of two separate documents will therefore apply from July 2009 onwards since both the COIC working groups and the Programme and Finance Committee are due to consider for the first time the full draft version of the Strategic Framework and of the combined MTP and Plan of Work and Budget.

Then it will be the turn of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of Council in September and the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference in November 2009 based on eventually revised versions, to be dispatched to Members by 31 August 2009.

Bearing in mind this calendar, the Council underlined that the elements before it document CL 136/16 and its addendum, constituted work in progress. However, these elements provided a good basis to move forward with more definitive drafts. Note is taken that the Secretariat is in fact busy at the present time preparing for the full draft version of the Strategic Framework and combined MTP 2010-2013 and PWB 2010-2011, including the critical resources dimension.

A number of comments were made during interventions by Council Members which the Secretariat will of course seek to take into account. It is impossible to list them all.

Many Members touched on the concept of Reform with Growth.

Building on the preliminary discussion at the joint meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees, this is the major bullet points that I could gather from your discussion and will constitute the report for this session of our meeting for this afternoon.

Do I have your agreement and endorsement on that?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Now on a final note, as was discussed today, it was my understanding also that in our discussion on the Headquarters structure and on Decentralization, we are not in line with other issues.

We started on these issues and we are now behind. I have discussed with Management and they have agreed to have some informal meetings with the Permanent Representatives to somehow compensate for these not having formal discussions. One possibility is on Friday morning. While we have interpretation here while the report of the Council is being translated so we can have a two hour meeting with participation of Management to discuss this issue of Headquarters structure, but I do not think we are still ready to discuss the Decentralized aspects. This will be postponed to another meeting. So that is for your information, we might have on Friday 19 June in the morning, a short discussion among ourselves about the Headquarters structure, to be more prepared for our next discussion in July where we are considering that aspect.

The meeting rose at 19.47 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 47

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.47 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trent-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
Rome, 15-19 juin 2009
Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009**

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

16 June 2009

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:48 hours
Ms Rita Giuliana Mannella,
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 48
sous la présidence de Mme Rita Giuliana Mannella,
Vice-président du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9:48 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sra Rita Giuliana Mannella
Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (Cont'd)

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (Continuación)

10. Reports of the Joint Meeting (28 May 2008, 8 October 2008 and 13 May 2009) of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

10. Rapports de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (28 mai 2008, 8 octobre 2008 et 13 mai 2009) (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

10. Informes de las reuniones conjuntas (28 de mayo de 2008, 8 de octubre de 2008 y 13 de mayo de 2009) de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the third meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before beginning our work this morning I wish to point out that Mauritania is considered to have resigned from the Council under the terms of Rule XXII.7 of the General Rules of the Organization regarding arrears in payment of financial contributions. Mauritania will thus be seated with the Observers.

We have a very full morning before us and we clearly need to make the best use of the time available. As you can see on the Order of the Day, we will be examining the Reports of the Programme Committee (Item 11) and Finance Committee (Item 12), as well as the Joint Meeting Report to Council (Item 10), which we will consider first.

Please ensure you have documents CL 135/2 and CL 135/3, which are the Reports of the May and October 2008 Joint Meetings we did not consider at the last session of Council in November 2008, and document CL 136/10, the Report of the May 2009 Joint Meeting.

In the interest of good time management I suggest both Mr Heard, Chair of the Programme Committee, and Mr Sorour, Chair of the Finance Committee, present the Reports of the Joint Meetings they chaired and that the list of speakers be opened for comments on all three Reports.

I would like to remind the Council that the section of the Report of the Joint Meeting of May 2009 concerning *Elements for the Draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11* (CL 136/10), was presented to the Council yesterday afternoon under item 13, so Members should refrain from referring to this section of the Report.

I would also suggest that Mr Heard save the comments on the PIR 2006-07 contained in the Report of the October 2008 Joint Meeting until item 16 is taken tomorrow afternoon.

Allow me now to hand the floor over to Mr Sorour and then to Mr Heard to present the Reports of the Joint Meetings they, respectively, chaired.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I have the honour and pleasure of introducing the work of the two Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee. The first meeting took place in May 2008 and addressed a fundamental question that is collaboration on administrative and processing work between FAO, WFP and IFAD.

This is an extremely important topic and we have always underlined the need for close collaboration between UN Agencies and in particular those based in Rome. Since there are many savings to be made, we feel through such collaboration, the Joint Meeting welcomes the consideration of this item and underscores the need for increasing collaboration between the three Rome-based Agencies. The May 2008 Meeting expressed its wish to have an Interim Report on the state of players regarding cooperation between these three Organizations.

That is the main message emerging from the main Meeting.

The second Meeting which I had the honour of chairing took place in May 2009 and that addressed two essential items. First of all, the Reform with Growth issue and, as I said yesterday, when we looked at the Strategic Framework and the PWB for 2010-2012. I said that would have an impact on discussions both in the Finance and Programme Committees when we meet next July. We decided to make recommendations to the ICOC on this.

The other points we considered were as follows: we believe that Reform does not just mean increasing the funding of the Organization, Reform also should be targeted towards the improvement of the Organization's performance and enhance everything which is done in the service as Member Nations.

When we look at the Programme of Work and Budget, it is necessary to look at it in the context of the need to keep up the pace of the Reform. We need to maintain a level of funding which allows us to make progress with Reform and to achieve Reform in an efficient way.

A point which was emphasized by many Members in both committees is that the concept of Reform with Growth should involve mobilization of the great human skills and competences which the Organization has at its disposal in the service of all Member Nations.

Another point relates to culture change which we have been striving for since the inception of the implementation of the IPA. We've always underlined the fact that it is necessary to devote a percentage of increase to this but, if we are to envisage increases, it must be consistent and coherent and as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee has said and as I, myself, say the Joint Committee decided to prepare two documents. The first, relating to the Joint Plan and the second document relating to the Strategic Plan. Then, we must consider Reform with Growth in the context of the budget to be adopted in line with the IPA. We must ensure that we collect the necessary extra-budgetary funds and the funds from the budget of the Organization itself.

Those two issues were something which were highlighted and which we submit for consideration for the Conference Committee to consider further.

Another point relating to the May 2009 Meeting, pertains to the support provided by the Technical Corporation Programme in order to help countries to tackle the Programme of Soaring Food Prices which began in 2007. Given the sensitivity of this matter, the Finance Committee decided to send a clear signal to the Management of the administration concerning the way in which the available resources should be used, that is the resources available within the framework of the Technical Corporation Programme. The Finance Committee, in this connection, sent out, as I said, a clear signal to Management which recommends using part of the TCP Programme funds to support the initiatives previously adopted by the Council. The Joint Meeting welcomed the progress achieved in the fight against the soaring commodity prices as well. So, those are the outcomes of our two Joint Meetings that I wish to bring to your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will give the floor to the delegates who wish to address any issues arising from the Reports.

We changed and now I will give the floor to Mr Heard who will illustrate the Report of the Programme Committee.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I had the honour to Chair the Joint Meeting of the two Committees on 8 October. We had a very interesting discussion but it is now a long time ago and in my view there are only two items worth bringing to the attention of this meeting orally.

One was the preliminary discussion on the progress on the TCP support to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, where we had some very positive reporting of the early stages from management. Second, is the Programme Implementation Report which you have asked me to speak about under that item.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

The fact that there were no delegations asking for the floor this morning is, I think, not because of the issues just introduced by Yasser and Victor were unimportant. The fact is that most of the delegations that spoke yesterday already touched upon the issues that they talked about this morning. Whatever decision is taken by the Council, related to the meetings they talked about, has to take into consideration the statements made yesterday during the afternoon Plenary.

These were the issues I wanted to raise because I wanted to talk again on Reform with Growth but we made detailed comments yesterday as did many delegations. If anything happens to these Reports, they have to take into account the statements made yesterday.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Je vous demande de bien vouloir donner la parole à la présidence de l'Union européenne, la Tchèque, qui s'exprimera au nom de l'Union.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me speak on behalf the European Community and its 27 Member States. Turkey, the candidate country of the EU, associates itself with this statement.

The European Community endorses the Report of the Joint Committee of the Programme and Finance Committees. We note that the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting has concentrated his oral report on the discussion of Reform with Growth and we share his view that this was the most significant issue discussed.

After the Joint Meeting there was a meeting of Working Group I of the Conference Committee, for which a discussion paper based on the Joint Meetings outcome had been prepared. We feel that as a result there is now a shared understanding of the concept of the Reform with Growth and that this can be used to inform future discussion on the overall budget level in the two Committees and in the Council.

The outcome of the discussion in the Joint Meeting on the issue of Reform with Growth was constructive. It appears to move away from arbitrary percentage increases and in the direction of relating growth to real needs, notwithstanding that the eventual decision over the budget level is partly, at least, political. The discussion in the Committees breaks new ground.

We welcome the fact that this was discussed by the Committees together and agreed with suggestions that the Technical Cooperation Programme being discussed in the Finance Committee separately from the Programme Committee discussion of its Decentralization. There would have been advantages in covering both in a single Joint Session.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

We endorse the presented report and short presentations made by the respective Chairs.

We agree with Brazil's intervention and would like to make a note on the good work that has been undertaken for the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices. We would like to underscore the way we have been briefed on the progress and we would like this to continue in the future.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

If I have to say anything, I would say simply that this Council should give crystal clear instructions as far as the concept of Reform with Growth. By doing this, we shall give the Management a clear message concerning the budget to be submitted to us in July of this year.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

We have, of course, followed with great interest the conceptual discussions that have taken place in the Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Working Groups thereafter.

We are in the final stages of preparing the first draft Programme of Work and Budget, which will be submitted to the Working Groups and to the Programme and Finance Committees in July. We appreciate that there is still some way to go, as Members will themselves wish to see the quantification of the budget proposals in the Draft Programme of Work and Budget next month. Pending any further guidance from the Council we will proceed with the finalization of that document based on your further counsel in July.

CHAIRPERSON

I think at this point, if there is no other intervention, we can sum up – in this case it is quite easy, fortunately. It would seem that the Council can take note of the Joint Reports of the Programme and Finance Committee, bearing in mind the earlier interventions on the concept of Reform with Growth which we also examined yesterday.

This will be reflected, as appropriate, in the Council Report.

If there is no objection on this summing up, we can assume that the Reports are adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

11. Reports of the 99th (28-30 May 2008), 100th (6-10 October 2008) and 101st (11-15 May 2009) Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 135/4; CL 135/5; CL 135/5-Add.1; CL 135/5-Add.2; CL 136/9)

11. Rapports des quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième (28-30 mai 2008), centième (6-10 octobre 2008) et cent unième (11-15 mai 2009) sessions du Comité du Programme (CL 135/4; CL 135/5; CL 135/5-Add.1; CL 135/5-Add.2; CL 136/9)

11. Informes del 99.º (28-30 de mayo de 2008), 100.º (6-10 de octubre de 2008) y 101.º (11-15 de mayo de 2009) períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa (CL 135/4; CL 135/5; CL 135/5-Add.1; CL 135/5-Add.2; CL 136/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we can move to the next Item on the Order of the Day – Item 11 on our Agenda, which are the Reports of the Ninety-ninth, Hundredth and Hundred and First Sessions of the Programme Committee. The reference documents are CL 135/4; CL 135/5; CL 135/5-Add.1; CL 135/5-Add.2; CL 136/9; CL 36/9-Add.1.

I am pleased to invite Mr Vic Heard, Chair of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Committee's Reports. You will recall that the section of the Report of the May 2009 session on Elements for the Draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 has already been presented to the Council under Item 13, which we concluded yesterday afternoon, so please focus your interventions on the other sections of the Reports.

Mr Heard, the floor is yours.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I had attended here, as the Report of the Ninety-ninth Committee took place more than a year ago and the Hundredth Committee in October last year, to concentrate on what we did in the Hundred and First Meeting, which took place in May. In each of the preceding meetings we did a lot but much of it has been subsumed in what was subsequently done in other meetings. A lot of it was to do with the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget and on these we reported yesterday.

The only thing that is flowing forward from the Ninety-ninth Meeting – this is the one that took place in May last year – was the procedure for the recruitment of the Head of Evaluation where, you are probably aware, it was decided that, as the new Head of Evaluation, following the IPA, will report jointly to the Director-General and to the Membership through the Programme Committee, it was agreed that two members of the Programme Committee would be involved with the panel that took forward the recruitment. I have the honour to be one of those and my distinguished colleague from Egypt, Dr Hosnei has the honour to be the other one. That is what we can take from the Ninety-ninth Meeting.

At the Hundredth Meeting, to which Zimbabwe has already referred, I was, from that, only having to refer to what was talked about yesterday, which was the Medium-Term Plan and the Strategic Framework. I will wait to see what exactly Mary's question is before I try to answer it as I will probably answer the wrong question if I go ahead.

At the Hundred and First Meeting – which was the one that took place in May – we also covered a lot of ground, much of which I reported on yesterday. We also, in the course of that Meeting, elected Mr Parasuram, our Indian colleague, as the Vice-Chairperson. We had a useful discussion on the Decentralization of the Technical Cooperation Programme where we were looking at the procedures, methods, criteria and various issues of that sort. We felt that there was a parallel discussion, we discovered, going on in the Finance Committee at the time on financial aspects and we did wonder, when we realised this, why we were not doing these together in the Joint Meeting. I think this is the sort of thing that perhaps ought to be done together, as we regarded the procedures that were being put in place as very useful and exactly what we had expected to be put in place. We had a discussion on criteria, which is not concluded, and this must go ahead. I think this would have been a useful partner to the discussion that took place on the financial aspects.

We also looked at an evaluation of FAO's work on International Instruments and rather than go into detail about what the evaluation said, I commend it to you as something which you should at least read the Executive Summary. It is very interesting. The work that FAO does through International Instruments is not just CODEX and IPPC. There is a whole raft of instruments – some of them only regional and some of them involving groups of countries – which are extremely important to the work of FAO. With a greater understanding of these, I think one understands perhaps how FAO actually operates and how its fingers reach out to the world.

Also, it included a discussion of the difference between hard legislation and soft legislation, which again I commend to your attention. I suppose the simple view would be that hard legislation is where you have something you agree to like the measure that was discussed yesterday under the report on COFI of the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries, port State measures, which I believe will be hard legislation, binding legislation. It is not necessarily a lot more effective than some of the soft legislation that FAO has. I had not realized that CODEX Alimentarius at the international treaty level was actually soft legislation. It is embodied into the laws of my country as hard legislation. So this is soft turning hard. Also the prime one, I think, is the Right to Food. This document on which some countries who were not entirely sure that they wanted the Right to Food, including my own, introduced a very strange wording on the "gradual implementation of the voluntary guidelines of the Right to Food" because we were not sure we wanted it. This is the sort of thing that actually creeps up on countries and I am pleased to inform you, although I know that countries like Brazil immediately took this into your Constitution, I believe, that this will now appear as a major pillar in the next white paper produced by the

Department of International Development in the United Kingdom as part of their strategy. We have been convinced by the soft legislation that we were not sure about. This is quite an important discussion and certainly the evaluation – a very subtle one – was an eye opener for me.

The other main issue, also on evaluation, was the further consideration of the Charter of the Office of Evaluation, which again was set out in the IPA. I looked around earlier and I could not see the author of it, Bob Moore, but it has gone through a number of stages and we very nearly adopted it at the Meeting of the Programme Committee but we decided to hold fire on its adoption until the new Head of Evaluation was in post so s/he could be part of the process and could contribute his/her thoughts to the final completion of the Charter of the Office of Evaluation.

Hugo VERBIST (Belgique)

J'aimerais passer la parole à la Tchèque, Présidente de la Communauté européenne, merci.

Mme Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me speak on behalf of the European Community, and its 27 Members, including the candidate country, Turkey, that associates itself with the Statement. The European Community welcomes the progress made on the preparation of an Evaluation Charter. We agree that it is important not to finalize this until the new Director of Evaluation is in post and can add his or her views to its preparation. We look forward to hearing from the FAO Secretariat how recruitment is progressing.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed ABDEL AZIZ HOSNI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The delegation of Egypt would like to take the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. We welcome the Reports of the Programme Committee during its three last sessions and we pay tribute to the efforts made in preparing these Reports and as it is set out in the documents at hand today. As for the issues related to the evaluation, the IEE and the work of FAO in the field of statistics, we believe that statistics is a very important activity. We believe that gathering the data and statistics is very important in order to promote the management which is based on results and, therefore, we believe that we need to increase the resources related to this gathering of statistics and data from the budget or from extra-budgetary sources or through the reallocation of resources within the Division of Statistics, and this within the framework of the new strategy. We would like to ask the management to pay special attention to the developing countries in order to promote and build their capacity.

As for the evaluation and assessment for the period 2009-2010, as for 2009 we would like to endorse the proposal which would encourage the Organization to pay further attention to the issue of water resources. This is of particular relevance to the Near East Region and other parts of the world. In 2010 we would like to endorse the support to be given to the field bureaus and offices in the Near East Region because these offices did not have the necessary support during the present evaluation, and we would like to urge the Organization to undertake further efforts in order to secure gender equality.

As for the evaluation of the work of the Organization as far as the international instruments are concerned, we would like to voice our concern as far as the limited representation of the limited number of countries which took part in this process. Indeed the countries do not represent many regions, including the Near East Region and, therefore, we believe that we have to pay more attention to the principle of equal and fair geographical representation in addition to the need to take into account the social and economic representation. We believe that we have to choose a pattern which takes into consideration the national choices and also we have to pay heed to this principle when we select experts to be recruited to undertake the assessment and evaluation activities.

As for the Decentralization in the field of TCP, which is being looked into, we believe that TCP should be promoted bearing in mind the Decentralization principle. We have to follow the activities of this TCP; we believe we have to follow up this project cycle and the principle of rotation. Furthermore, we would like to endorse the increase of the facility established for the

TCP, which is known under the name of TCP Facility. We would like to increase the resources from US\$200 000 to US\$300 000 for each biennium.

As for the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium Term Plan for the year 2010-2013, we shall give our comments at a later stage.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Sorry, as I had anticipated earlier on, but I read with interest the Reports of the Programme Committee CL 135/5 and CL 135/4. What I have are just questions where I am seeking clarification from the Chair.

Item 3, paragraph 17, makes reference to the Committee supporting an evaluation recommendation that was suggesting a shift that would give a priority focus towards greater support at country level through capacity-building and improved communication. This was in the statistical section in developing statistics and information databases. I just wanted to find out from the Chair whether he is satisfied that the Core Functions (B) on Information and Statistics and (E) on Technical Assistance address this aspect? Have they been taken into consideration and, if so, can the Membership be assured that they will be reflected in the respective Organizational Results as outcomes.

The second question I have is on paragraph 19; it refers to evaluation of capacity-building in Africa – 19a – how is this aspect being reflected in the Organizational Results? Again, has it already been catered for in the relevant Organizational Results or is this something that the Membership can still expect to contribute to ensure its incorporation?

Then we go to paragraph 22, the last sentence in paragraph 22 reads "The Committee also requested to be informed periodically about the evaluations that it had requested but were not implemented, along with reasons for not undertaking them". What is the status of these evaluations today? This was in 2008. Has this observation by the Committee been given attention?

Then next, paragraph 23 refers to country level evaluation exercises. Are they already underway and when might the Membership expect some initial reporting?

The last question is related to your Report in CL 135/4, the first sentence of paragraph 9, "The Committee shares the importance of the FAO Representative, noting that too many posts were vacant, realizing the impact it may have on the technical competence of the Organization at country level". May we find out whether this situation has been addressed and, if not, when might we expect some improvement in this area?

James MELANSON (Canada)

Like the European Union, I would just briefly focus on that part of the Programme Committee Report that dealt with the evaluation function. It was certainly, and I think we all agreed, one of the major wins of the reform process and the IPA that here at FAO we pioneered a dual reporting evaluation function which we hope will be able to serve both the learning and accountability needs of the Secretariat, and the Governing Bodies. The particular characteristic of this arrangement is that its collegial cooperative, it is a partnership between governing bodies and the Secretariat and I think the IPA wording that was adopted in this regard was quite careful, quite carefully considered and worked out over a period of time. In reviewing what I think now are three Programme Committees that have reviewed the evaluation charter, as well as the Report of the CCLM, there appears to be some revisiting or reconsideration of some of that careful wording in the IPA. So I think that the point of this intervention is just to encourage those Committees and particularly the Programme Committee that I think is charged with eventually adopting the evaluation charter to carry on with alacrity in adopting the charter and adopting it as it was conceived in the IPA process.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I would like to support the intervention made by Canada, but I also want to go another step further. Paragraph 40 of document CL 136/9 talks about the recruitment process for the Director of Evaluation and I just wanted to make the point that the process for the Director of Evaluation, unless I am mistaken, is set out in the IPA that we all endorsed last November. So I am very concerned that I see language like this where it talks about wanting to change the process that has already been agreed. Maybe someone who has the IPA in front of them can check for me, but I am fairly sure that it is already set out in the IPA, and as far as I am concerned the Management should just get on with it.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I would like to thank the Members of the Council for their questions and interest in these issues. So far as I can answer these questions, in some ways I support the questions rather than provide answers, particularly Egypt's comments on the importance of the evaluation of water resources. One of the things that the Programme Committee does is to review suggestions from Management or makes its own suggestions on what future evaluations should cover. One of the proposals we had put to us was water resources. There is always competition for resources to do evaluation, but I think we rated this one quite highly and my understanding is that it will be done on the sort of schedule that Egypt proposed.

On the issue concerning the statistical work evaluation, which was another good one that's worth a read, we were supportive of the recommendations for increasing the capacity of FAO in carrying out its statistical work. One of the more hard hitting parts of this evaluation did say that it was on the point of disappearing down the drain basically because there just were not the bodies available to carry out the necessary work. We had a very interesting discussion – this was some time ago – but it was a very interesting discussion about how the additional posts that were recommended should be deployed and I think there were eight or nine additional statistical officers posts that were being recommended. We said 'yes, they certainly should be put in place' and then we, as a sort of a knee jerk, said they should be put in place in the field in Decentralized Offices and we were advised by management that the way that FAO operates requires these to be strengthened in the Headquarters function of statistics, as its collection, analysis, dissemination of statistics. The actual work of a Decentralized Office to strength the capacity of a Member Nation in statistical work is quite a minor part of the work of the statistical division and the strengthening immediately was required at Headquarters. We were also told that that capacity at Headquarters could also be deployed to the field as required for short assignments. But it was an interesting contrast, our immediate view being that obviously this should be a field operation and then being told that it wasn't.

Field offices are not always involved in evaluation as they should be, I agree, and this is something which has come up in other contexts and they are there, we are increasingly one organization and they should be involved.

We did have some criticism about the way the evaluation of the international instruments had been carried out and it did involve the selection of countries. It was not obvious why the ones that had been selected had been selected and I agree. The evaluator we thought was an extremely competent and professional person and had put her name to the evaluation document believing it to be a useful, valuable and professionally complete text. She also had some reservations about the fact that some countries had not been covered and I think this is referred to in our Report and it is one of these things where, I suppose, money is limited and this is the reason we were given why more countries were not covered, time is limited; with more money we can do better evaluations. So it is really up to us.

I think the comments from Egypt about the section of experts are relevant. We do need to widen the selection of experts. It is not impossible, it might be difficult in some cases, but they do exist outside the usual countries from which experts are selected for these sorts of evaluations.

Now then, Zimbabwe's question as to whether the requirement for more capacity-building has been reflected in the core functions. I think we have to keep our eye on this because I think management would earnestly say that it has been, but I think it is one of those things where we need to continue to watch to make sure that it is reflected in what we expect to see in terms of capacity-building. I do not think that we can be reassured at this stage that it will automatically take place, it is one of those things where management has to keep us informed and I am sure they will.

Again, the issue of capacity-building in Africa in paragraph 19a, we need to continue to keep our eye on this and I am sure we will.

The question about evaluations that have not been carried out has, at the moment, got me completely stumped because I do not recall this being raised since then and I do not think there are any evaluations that we have commissioned since then which have not been carried out or not been scheduled to be carried out. So I believe this process has now been put in place and I would be grateful for confirmation from management that my understanding is correct - that if there were any that were not going to be carried out for any particular reason then they would bring these to our attention.

What have I missed? Yes, the reference to FAO Representatives. This was quite interesting; this came up at the first meeting when we had Equatorial Guinea as a Member of the Programme Committee and we had an impassioned plea for an FAO Representative to be posted rapidly to Equatorial Guinea as they had been without one for, I think, it was a period of more than a year. I was also able to comment on the fact that I understood that Cambodia had been without a Permanent FAO Representative for about that sort of period. We had a number of reasons given to us by Management for why this was the case – operational reasons – and very belligerently we refused to accept any of them because we feel that the FAO Representative is at the sharp end of the FAO ship. You know, it is the point, the area of impact; it is an absolutely crucial thing. This is the view of the Programme Committee at the time, and must be filled as a matter of priority, wherever there is a vacancy. Obviously we are looking for the right person, but there are plenty of right people, but I would be grateful for Management's comments on that issue as I have heard that the situation is improving. We have heard elsewhere that other criticisms that the Programme Committee has made about the inappropriateness of some of the competency profiles of some of the Representatives to the job of being someone who has to understand FAO sufficiently thoroughly to deploy its resources to the best advantage of Member Nations that this was not always being followed through. We have heard reports that this is changing and that a higher proportion of FAO Representatives are now being drawn from within the Organization and will obviously have a very strong understanding of how the Organization works.

On the progress of recruitment, as I have said, Dr Hosni and I are members of the Panel but, this is nevertheless an FAO recruitment for someone who will be salaried by FAO and I would leave management to answer that point and give us a situation report on how things are going.

It would be, I suppose, unnecessary to say that I think Dr Hosni and I are reasonably satisfied that things are being done in a professional manner. I can see Dr Hosni nodding.

Australia and Canada raised some points concerning the importance of making sure we get what we have asked for and I think the Programme Committee has taken this on board and even if we had not, I think both Australia and Canada are members of the Programme Committee so I do not think this issue will be lost sight of.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I would like to speak on four points that have been raised in the discussion. The first, to follow on what Mr Heard has just said on the recruitment process for the Director of Evaluation, it is indeed ongoing under the Chairpersonship of the Deputy Director-General. We are still in the interview process and will hope to be able to bring the matter to conclusion as soon as possible.

Concerning the evaluation of statistics, the Management was very supportive of most of the recommendations as was contained in the Management response and indeed this will be reflected in the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. Under Strategic Objective H, there is a specific Organizational Result relating to statistics as well as what was mentioned by Zimbabwe, the core functions relating to capacity-building and information statistics, and in a further area of support for statistics is the impact focus area that was discussed at the last meeting of the Working Group I on support to capacity-building for statistics which is aimed at drawing in additional resources for this high priority area of work of the Organization. So indeed, not only is statistics covered by the Regular Programme, but also in an effort to mobilize more resources, extra-budgetary resources for, in particular, national capacity-building for statistics as was called for by the evaluation.

Concerning the status of country-level evaluations, these have been completed for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Honduras and India and they are being done for Tajikistan and Sudan. A synthesis report will be presented to the Programme Committee at its September session in 2010.

Concerning the status of ongoing evaluations, the evaluations that were approved in the work programme and were contained in the report before you are all either being undertaken or scheduled to be undertaken. Of course based on operational issues there are some delays, for example, the evaluation on operational tasks for emergencies which we had hoped to present in July will only be presented at the following Programme Committee Meeting. If there are any changes to the work programme, of course the Programme Committee will be informed.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Perhaps I could address the specific question that was raised by Zimbabwe concerning report CL 135/4 paragraph 9 which concerned the FAO Representatives.

There are three aspects to that paragraph. The first is that the Programme Committee at that session noted that too many posts in the FAO Representations were vacant. Now the cause for these vacancies is a structural deficit in the country coverage, a deficit that has been estimated and reported as amounting to US\$2.7 million per annum.

The Immediate Plan of Action called for solutions to this problem within existing resource levels for the decentralized structure. Pending discussions by Members through the regional groups on the review of country coverage, which would be supported by Management, Management has put forward some specific solutions that can be implemented in the short-term to address the structural deficit.

These were presented to the Working Group of the Conference Committee earlier this month.

The first part of the solution is the elimination of the lapse factor for the Country Offices. In addition, we proposed the use of emergency coordinators who could act as officers-in-charge of country representations in three out of 40 countries where FAO has emergency coordination units, and also the outposting of up to five technical officers from Regional Offices to act as FAORs.

These measures, which can be implemented by Management quickly, will ensure that we will not have to keep FAOR posts vacant as they will eliminate the US\$2.7 million per annum structural deficit. To that extent, we believe we have made good progress in addressing the observation on FAOR vacancies contained in paragraph 9 of the Report of the Programme Committee.

The second aspect of that paragraph notes that we must have adequate resources. Recently the Working Groups encouraged us to improve the financial health of the Country Offices by paying greater attention to the collection of government counterpart cash contributions, which are government contributions to help in the running of these offices. We will pay greater attention to that and we expect that there will also be regular oversight by the Finance Committee.

In the longer term, of course, we need to address the issue of resources for the country offices. There was a detailed discussion of Council yesterday, as well, on Decentralization. As I indicated

yesterday, next month we will report on progress and our plans for the decentralized structure. Moreover, Members will have the opportunity to review the question of overall resources and also the resources for the decentralized structure of FAO in light of the budgetary proposals that will be submitted to you in the Draft Programme of Work and Budget next month.

The final part of paragraph 9 of that Programme Committee Report referred to adequate technical support from the rest of the Organization. Here again we are making good progress with the maturing of the Sub-regional Offices, ensuring that the multi-disciplinary teams in the Sub-regional Offices do provide additional support to the Country Offices and, of course buttressed and supplemented by support of the technical officers from Regional Offices and Headquarters as well. This is a state of, if I may say so, continuous improvement, of unifying the Organization and working as one between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. I would call this last point as work in progress, but I can assure Council that we are making good progress in that area as well.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I wanted to ask if we could go a bit further on the question of numbers of FAOR vacancies. I agree with what we have heard is progress with measures but I think it might be useful to hear if it can be done and what impact those measures have had. Is there anyway of saying how many vacancies there were that have been vacant for, let us say three months, two years ago, and one year ago and maybe this year. Maybe Manoj has got this in his head, he is a very capable person but it may be something that we have to ask to have presented to us later, but I think this is the sort of issue that the Programme Committee was concerned with.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

We can certainly present that information as the Governing Bodies themselves have requested more oversight in this aspect of FAO's work.

What I would like to emphasize however is that the measures I have just presented are very recent indeed and therefore the structural deficit of US\$ 2.7 million per annum has existed for quite some time now. In fact it has existed since the PWB 2006-2007 in roughly the same order of magnitude as I have just quoted.

The Working Groups of the Conference Committee reviewed these measures only two weeks ago. We are in the process of implementing some of them very quickly. Others will require a little more time. We will be able to indicate progress on the elimination of these vacancies as we move forward through the implementation of each of these measures.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

J'avais une question pour Monsieur Juneja concernant le renforcement des bureaux sous-régionaux, notamment celui de Tunis qui couvre l'Afrique du nord. Est-ce que le Secrétariat envisage d'y affecter une équipe pluridisciplinaire?

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

We are in the process of reviewing the skills mix of all the decentralized structures, that is the Regional Offices and the Sub-regional Offices. Of course, at present we are operating under certain budgetary constraints and I think that it would be more opportune to defer this discussion to the presentation of the Draft Programme of Work and Budget when Members will have the opportunity to see the presentation from Management in all its dimensions, both from a programmatic point of view as well as a budgetary view point. This is work in progress at the moment, we are looking precisely at the matter that has been put forward by the Representative of Morocco, it does have certain resource implications as well and, based on the submission that we would make in the Draft Programme of Work and Budget next month, we look to your further guidance and counsel.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I know the explanation given to the actions being taken to fill the vacant posts of the FAO Country Representatives and I think this has to be taken very carefully and not in a hasty manner for the sake of filling the posts and I am sure that is what is being done.

I think that caution has to be taken in view of what has been discussed in the past on the type of representation which we are thinking of. For example, issues were raised with regard to making emergency officers an FAO Representative or just having somebody to be there for a short time.

I think we need to have FAO Representatives at country level who really have been thought of very carefully and who abide to the terms of references which will be developed.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, I wish to second what my colleague from Tanzania said. I think the terms of reference of this emergency officer may not suit the criteria of the FAOR but one has to look at it very carefully. The issue of the FAOR is really not only to try to cover US\$ 2.5 million; it is much more fundamental.

It is the criteria for establishing offices. That is my first comment.

I am a member of the Programme Committee and I should not interfere in the reports that our Chair introduced but some delegates raised the question of this capacity-building in statistics. I think we had a very good discussion and Hafez Ghanem explained to us the nature of the difficulty. The difficulty was that the statistical capacity of FAO has eroded considerably and needs to be restored. And in doing that, there are three options given in paragraph 17. One is the possibility of adjustment within the existing allocation of resources to the Statistics Division. The second was different, a new blood transfusion in terms of staff to enhance the capacity at Headquarters, which is really weak. But the third was also to increase the capacity of developing countries because the problem is in the developing countries. You get bad statistics, so bad statistics come and you get garbage. So that capacity in the country is really very essential. And I think the Programme Committee report in paragraph 17 clearly says the Committee noted with the concern that extrabudgetary support was inadequate.

CHAIRPERSON

If there is no further request for the floor, I will try to make a little summing up of what has been discussed today. Please see if I forgot anything, you feel free to correct me or suggest some more elements.

First of all, I would say the conclusion of this short discussion put great importance on evaluation matters. A number of questions were raised and clarification provided by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Secretariat. The main points that are I believe should be reflected in the Council report are, first of all the need to pay greater attention to the FAO Representatives and the need to cover the back and forth as much as possible, as fast as fast as possible, in accordance with the financing of course, but this is a real problem that should be addressed as fast as possible. As Mr Heard said, this is the point of the good end of the FAO boat and we really must tackle this issue quite soon. Connected to this point, there is the need to tackle the problem of the resources, or lack of resources, of the decentralized structure, and in the logic of working as one which should be our leitmotif for the next couple of years or so.

The Organization should work with this double track of approach, the Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. There is a need to revise the skill mix and the Secretariat took note of this point raised by a couple of delegations and there will be a further discussion on this issue connected to the PWB in order to identify possible resources in this regard. So the discussion will continue on this point.

Some delegations raised the point of the statistics and how it is important for FAO to restore its capacity in this field because FAO can and has an added value in this field. So it will be very

important to strengthen its capability in this field. I would suggest, if there is no other suggestion on this point, that we can finish this item if the Council so decides. Egypt you have the floor.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed ABDEL AZIZ HOSNI (Egypt)

With regards to the point of samples for evaluation, it should be really widened to not neglect developing countries in some areas or regions as a whole, and also the point of national capacities for statistics as has been commented on now by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, they need to be raised in developing countries. So we would like to see these two points reflected, not forgetting also when choosing experts for evaluation. Geographical distribution of experts should be taken into account.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I would just like to support the comments made by Dr Ayazi and Dr Hosni as I think that the decisions about statistics and capacity in-country are very important and the scale of the task is not well understood. The amount of work that needs to be done to bring the statistical capacity of countries up to a level where you can totally rely on the input to the system so you don't get garbage in and garbage out is colossal. We are talking about a statistical collection process that is not just in the statistical office in the capital; it is also in the line ministries. It goes right down through regional governments, through municipal offices in towns, and the extent to which FAO's input in this is required is very substantial, but it is something that must be done in partnership with a lot of other UN organizations and with a lot of financing organizations as well, because it is colossal, but I do agree with what Dr Ayazi said.

CHAIRPERSON

With the clarification of Mr Heard and the suggestion from our delegate from Egypt, Mr Hosni, I take the liberty to declare that we adopt this report. The report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

12. Reports of the 121st (31 January - 1 February 2008), 122nd (22-30 May 2008), 123rd (6-10 October 2008), 124th (5 and 6 February 2009), 125th (9 and 10 March 2009) and 126th (11-15 May 2009) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12. Rapports des cent vingt et unième (31 janvier-1er février 2008), cent vingt-deuxième (22-30 mai 2008), cent vingt-troisième (6-10 octobre 2008), cent vingt-quatrième (5 et 6 février 2009), cent vingt-cinquième (9 et 10 mars 2009) et cent vingt-sixième (11-15 mai 2009) sessions du Comité financier (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12. Informes del 121.º (31 de enero - 1.º de febrero de 2008), 122.º (22-30 de mayo de 2008), 123.º (6-10 de octubre de 2008*), 124.º (5 y 6 de febrero de 2009), 125.º (9 y 10 de marzo de 2009) y 126.º (11-15 de mayo de 2009) período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12.1 Audited Accounts 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

12.1 Comptes vérifiés 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

12.1 Cuentas comprobadas 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

- 12.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 136/LIM/1)*
12.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 136/LIM/1)
12.2 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 136/LIM/1)

- 12.3 Other Matters Arising Out of the Reports*
12.3 Autres questions découlant des rapports
12.3 Otras cuestiones planteadas en los informes

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, now that we have concluded this item we may move to Item 12 Reports of the 121st (31 January - 1 February 2008*), 122nd (22-30 May 2008*), 123rd (6-10 October 2008*), 124th (5 and 6 February 2009), 125th (9 and 10 March 2009) and 126th (11-15 May 2009) Sessions of the Finance Committee: *for discussion and/or decision* (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8) and the all the documents related to all these meetings which we are not going to read. Since we have a large number of Reports placed before us, before the Council, I will invite on this occasion the regional spokespersons to intervene, to give regional perspectives, in order to save time and to avoid repetition and often similar statements.

I would like also to encourage the delegates making statements to look at the biological internal clocks so not to make too long statements. So thank you very much and maybe France wants the floor before we start with the discussion. We did not introduce yet all the issues but I got the impression that someone needs to speak before the discussion starts, unless France, you want to have the floor and Congo you want to have the floor? Can I continue? You want to have the floor first?

We have three Sub-Items under Item 12: Sub-Item 12.1 regarding Audited Accounts for 2006-07, as set out in documents C 2009/5 A and C 2009/5 B, which are presented to the Council for forwarding to the Conference for adoption; Sub-item 12.2 regarding the Status of Contributions and Arrears as set out in CL 136/LIM/1 and, finally, Sub-Item 12.3 regarding Other Matters Arising Out of the Reports.

Before inviting Mr Sorour, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce the Reports of the Committee, may I point out that document CL 136/LIM/1 provides the Council with an update on receipt of Assessed Contributions as at 10 June 2009, when the Organization had received over 129 million US dollars and 93 million euros in respect of 2009 Assessments. This represents 58.09 per cent of US dollars and 50.18 per cent of euros. Receipts of arrears of contributions have amounted to US\$ 27 million and 25 million euros, which is substantially higher than at the same time last year.

As of 10 June 76 Member Nations, 40 percent of the Membership of the Organization, had not made any payment towards their 2009 US dollar assessment, and 87 Member Nations had not made any payment towards their 2009 euro Assessment, thereby putting the activities of the Organization at risk. So this would be an encouragement for the Member Nations in arrears to contribute to this Organization in this very sensitive moment where this Organization needs all the support. At this point I would like to give the floor to Mr Sorour, to introduce its report. Thank you Mr Sorour. You want to make a presentation.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

During the course of my presentation I will tackle all of the matters and issues I consider necessary to bring to the attention of the Council, I shall divide my presentation into two parts: The first part will deal with those issues that call for a decision by the Council, that is the FAO Audited Accounts 2006-2007, and the second part is the Scale of Contributions for the biennium 2010-2011.

With regard to the Audited Accounts 2006-2007 the Finance Committee examined the Report of the External Auditors that issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts. The Finance Committee supports the said report. The Committee also noted that the vast majority of the recommendations contained therein are consistent with the IEE, as well as with the Root and Branch review. I would like to link that issue with another very important matter which is that of the follow-up by the Finance Committee regarding the recommendations of the External Auditors as the implementation thereof. The Committee in various meetings in 2008 kept a close eye on the follow-up list of recommendations, and we have already noted that a large number of the said recommendations dating back to 2007 and afterwards. Nonetheless, the Report that was submitted for consideration quite recently was excellent in quality, since it did establish direct relations between the recommendations of the External Auditors and the reforms taking place with the implementation of the IPA. Now this is a point that we would like to highlight and underscore with respect to the Report of the External Auditors. The Finance Committee recommends the adoption of a resolution through which it takes note of those Reports.

The second point which I would like to touch upon in the first part of my presentation and which does await a decision by the Council has to do with the Scale of Contributions. Now the Scale of Contributions was considered by the Finance Committee in conformity with the current practice recommended by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and this is also in conformity with the decision made by the Conference. The Finance Committee approved the Scale of Contributions for 2010-2011 and recommended the adoption of a resolution to that effect.

Now let me move on to the second part of our presentation, and I will now tackle those matters which require attention by the Council and they are as follows:

First of all, let us take a look at the financial status of the Organization. I would like to say that the Finance Committee ever since 2008 decided to do things whereby that this item would always be on its agenda and this in an effort to keep a very close eye on the evolution of the Organization's financial situation. As you know, we always are concerned regarding the insufficiency or shortage of the resources in the budget to cover the various activities. I will rapidly run through the financial status of the Organization up to the end of 2008. We noted that the deficit of the General Fund at 31 December was US\$413 million. Unpaid Member's contributions and as at 10 June 2009 were US\$136 million and €129 million. The Committee noted that practically 50 percent of the Member Nations have not paid their Assessed Contributions for the period 2007-2009 in addition a large portion of 2008 assessments (11 percent) remained unpaid as at 31 December 2008, representing US\$54 million. We all know very well that the fact of not paying the Assessed Contributions in due time does have a substantial impact upon the activities of this Organization, especially so in the light of the international situation prevailing at present and the challenges that the sector of agriculture sees all over the world so that I would like to link up that issue if I could, to an additional matter that has to do with the measures that the Conference called upon us to examine in an effort to resolve or this issue with respect to contributions, arrears and or the need to pay Assessed Contributions in time.

With respect to the Special Reserve Account in last July, we took a closer look at that matter when we considered the Programme of Work and Budget. Another point has to do with the staff of the Organization, in other words human resources and the need to cover the After Service Medical Coverage liability. In this regard, we noted that US\$14.1 million are not sufficient to cover the After Service Medical Coverage liability. This with respect to the amounts due to staff up to 31 December 2008. The staff related liability US\$1042 million at 31 December 2008 and the Committee does consider that the Organization should try to do something in order to ensure that coverage is in conformity practices in other Agencies and Organizations.

With regard to the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the Finance Committee underlined the importance of adopting and implementing this system and the secretariat in the response to our request highlighted that these IPSAS standards will be adopted between now and 2012.

Now the other point that we dealt with has to do with the measures to improve timely payment of contributions. I would like to underline that the Finance Committee so far has not come up with a precise, exact idea on what might be the most suitable appropriate way to resolve the problem of delayed payment or payment in time of Assessed Contributions. In the course of our preceding sessions and meetings, we stressed the measures adopted by the Conference of FAO which consisted in lodging appeals for Member Nations to pay their Assessed Contributions in instalments. This opened a certain amount of assessed contributions paid in local currencies. According to the data at my disposal these measures adopted by the Conference have not made it possible to register any substantial improvement or considerable progress in the direction hoped for.

Another point has to do with the payment of arrears, I can well understand that there are a number of considerations which come into the picture as regards payment of arrears. We do note that these arrears are paid very rarely with respect to budget adoption and this is another point that must be resolved. Now during the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of our Committee certain viewpoints were expressed and voiced and are included in the Report of the Committee of that Session. Some Members requested that the countries that do have delays be made to pay interest on the amounts in arrears and other countries recommended that the countries that do have arrears not benefit from the TCP or any assistance under the heading of TCP. It was also asked to consider the need of reviewing the Membership standing of said countries on the Technical Committees, Programme Committee or Finance Committee or CCLM. So these are the proposals that were raised but were not definitively adopted by the Finance Committee considering the divergence or difference of viewpoints. There was a general consensus around the right to vote. So, this is by no means a new point since the Basic Texts of the Organization tackle that directly. That is regarding those countries that do have arrears and delays in payment beyond a certain timeframe.

Another point raised and discussed which I will attend to has to do with budgetary performance and programme and budgetary transfers. The Finance Committee at its Hundred and Twenty-second Session studied the budgetary performance and noted that 99.8 percent of the 2006-2007 appropriation had been spent and there were possibilities of a surplus under Chapter 9 Security Expenditure, which is up around US\$1.5 million with expected transfers between various budget chapters. The estimates would lead us to consider that the transfers from Chapters 2, 4 and 9 going to Chapter 1 and US\$1.7 million Chapter 3 US\$1.6 million, and as you can see Chapter 5 US\$0.4 million and Chapter 8 US\$1.7 million.

Now there is another point that the Committee considered and adopted and this out of a concern to improve its performance in considering transfer between budget items. The Finance Committee took a look at Financial Regulation 4.5(b) and entered into this issue of inter-chapter transfers in such a way as to enable the Organization in September of each financial exercise to present its estimates on the potential amounts to be transferred from one chapter to another.

Now if there is any change under the general heading of those transfers and deemed necessary that the Finance Committee has to be duly notified or informed. Now if the change is considerable or substantial it is always necessary to come back to the Finance Committee before making a final decision thereupon.

Now, let us take a look at efficiency gains in 2008-2009. The Finance Committee pursuant to the decision made by the Conference decided that efficiency gains be identified as US\$22.1 million. The Secretariat has adopted measures so that efficiency gains of US\$18 million come into the picture for the financial biennium in question. Now the extra US\$4 million would be put in place, or the measures to achieve the outstanding US\$4 million would be put in place during 2009.

Now regarding TCP or Technical Cooperation Programme, the Finance Committee did tackle this topic as well in the course of a number of sessions and I must say it did occupy quite a bit of time in our various sessions because we noted that there has been a decline in expenditures under the general heading of TCP. Now we drew the attention of Management to the situation and we noted that the reason for this decline under this heading are due to delays in the adoption of projects and

programmes under TCP and in that sense the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session, I believe, underlined the need to pursue efforts for capacity-building at the decentralized offices, and this especially within the framework of the new measures to be adopted as of January 2010. So the adoption or the implementation of these new measures in conformity with what was underlined, highlighted and underscored by my distinguished friend from the Programme Committee, the Technical Cooperation Programme does need investments and this, according to the IPA, equivalent to US\$530 million.

Now, let us move on to tackle another area of interest, focussed upon by the Finance Committee in various meetings, it has to do with the Human Resources Management Policy and Strategy Framework. During the previous meetings of the various working groups of the CoC-IEE we noted that there was particular interest in HR development. We took a close look at this strategy and this will continue to be an outstanding item on our agenda at sessions, and as I said we took a close look at this item and I must say that there were not that many comments made on the HR management policy adopted by this Organization. Nonetheless, we did ask the Secretariat to prepare a detailed programme regarding the implementation of this Human Resources Management Policy. Now this programme was submitted for our consideration during the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee and we are going to take a very close look at it prior to its implementation.

I am sure you know as well that within the framework of the HR Management Policy we also tackled the issue of recourse to consultants and to retired staff members. In this regard the Committee examined a certain number of proposals submitted for its consideration by the Secretariat having to do the recourse to retired staff members and consultants and the view being to ensure a greater degree of efficacy, on the basis of directives that define the modes and means for the employment of the afore-mentioned categories of personnel.

We feel that it is necessary to bring to the attention of the human resources people what these measures are. The administrators of management is to bring back to the Finance Committee information regarding all the measures adopted relative to recourse to said personnel above and beyond full time staff members and this with regard to a proper utilization of human resources above and beyond full staff members. So those are the main points that the Committee did consider and adopt regarding improved access to human resources above and beyond full time staff members. I must say, in addition, that Member Nations did insist on need to respect to observe proper geographical distribution in the recruitment of said categories of personnel.

So, those are the main elements of the recommendations we made in human resources. There is another point I will tackle but when we do get to item 17 and that has to do with all of those matters arising under the global revision reform of the Organization. Now I think you will notice that I have left aside a number of issues having to do with the IEE. I will leave those points aside until we do tackle agenda item 17. In an effort of self critique on our part we did try to adopt certain methods that will improve and heighten and better our performance as a Committee.

Ever since we adopted the decision to allow Member Nations to be at the Meeting as silent monitors/observers we have improved the quality of our documents and this also enables those observers to attend. Now each document has a part that explains the reasons and another part which has to do with the application. And this has facilitated our task when we do examine and strategize various issues and questions.

We also have presentations on the electronic screen for each Agenda Item, so we do have – we will call it – a PowerPoint presentation. These are positive matters on a less positive point. I took a look at all the various points of the Finance Committee and personally, I feel that a certain amount of progress has been made recently in the clarity of said reports. The fact of the matter is that we do have to deploy an even greater effort so that the message we want to get across does get across.

That is the conclusion that I myself have reached through the close examination of all the reports issued by the Finance Committee in the past. I feel that this is something that we have to consider

closely so that we can make even greater progress. We also have to improve the way in which we prepare the Agenda for the Finance Committee, so that this Agenda takes into consideration what are the priorities, what is the importance of the issues brought to our attention for consideration and even, if by chance I noted that the separation between issues dealing with WFP and those dealing with FAO was quite evident to the fact of tackling those issues in two different sessions – FAO in one session meeting and WFP another meeting. This makes it possible to assist us in our work and also makes it possible for us to make the best use of the time provided to us by the three meetings of the Finance Committee. This has made it possible for us to take a close look at all of these issues and having done things in such a way that the Finance Committee has become a better performer in considering financial issues regarding the World Food Programme.

The last point, this is the fact of my conception and understanding of the reform. I would like to tackle this issue, as a Member of the Finance Committee – and I think we all agree – we have always tried to submit a report to Council but in return from Council we want the recommendations, we want counsel and advice on everything which Council may consider that we have either not considered, neglected or just said nothing about. This is a type of cross-fertilization evaluation with interaction between the Finance Committee and Council itself and that the work of the Finance Committee truly be what it is supposed to be for the house.

These are all the points I wanted to raise during the course of my presentation on the Finance Committee Reports and please call on me should any questions from Member Countries require a response from me.

Once again, I would like to highlight the fact that I have left aside all of those matters under IEE for discussion under agenda Item 17.

CHAIRPERSON

I think the list of speakers was already open before so I have the previous annotation from M. Sorour in which France, Congo and Egypt were noted. So France, you have the floor.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Ce rapport a été exceptionnellement dense et structuré. Nous remercions infiniment le Président du Comité des Finances des informations qu'il nous a données. Si vous me permettez, Madame la Présidente, je voudrais maintenant que vous puissiez passer la parole à la représentation de la Présidence de l'Union européenne, la Tchéquie.

Ms Daniela MOYZISOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me first join France in thanking the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his comprehensive and very clear presentation.

Let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States including Turkey, the candidate country to the European Union which associates itself with this Statement.

The EU appreciates the work done by the Finance Committee and its advices in areas falling within its competence, including matters related to the World Food Programme (WFP). The European Community welcomes the importance given by the Finance Committee to an enhanced cooperation between Rome-based organizations in administrative and financial matters and appreciates particularly the improvement in due time delivery of WFP documents to Finance Committee members.

The European Community particularly welcomes the steps taken by the Finance Committee to increase the transparency of its work by admitting silent observers to its sessions. It also appreciates the way FAO Management improved the communication with Finance Committee Members and facilitates their work in particular by strengthening the quality of documents circulated in due time and the content of the presentations during the sessions. As a result, confidence between Membership and Management is increasing, and the EU is very pleased about it. Moreover, in this context, the reform process and its funding would be easier.

According to Finance Committee recommendations, the European Community looks forward to receiving a detailed update on efficiency savings regarding PWB 2008-2009 implementation and to consider the prioritization of the Immediate Plan of Action in 2009 and the postponement of others to 2010-2011, taking into account other avenues of funding.

The European Community notes with appreciation that the Audited Accounts for 2006-2007 have received an unqualified opinion by the External Auditor of the Organization. The European Community agrees with the Finance Committee on the importance and relevance of the reports of the External Auditor and welcomes the system established for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made by the External Auditor, of which many had been consistent with those resulting from the Independent External Evaluation and the Roots and Branch Review.

The European Community endorses the draft Conference resolutions for the adoption of the Audited Accounts 2006-2007 and for the Scale of Contributions 2010-2011, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The European Community welcomes the continued scrutiny by the Finance Committee of the financial situation of the Organization on the basis of comprehensive reports, regularly submitted by the Secretariat, which could be better underpinned with more detailed financial information. The EU takes note of the detailed observations made by the Finance Committee and reflected in the reports on its Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session.

The European Community would like to highlight the importance of a full and timely utilization of the approved TCP appropriations and encourages measures to ensure the required capacity in Decentralized Offices. We would like to underline the need to address the funding requirements for staff-related long-term liabilities and the importance of adequate reserves and we encourage the Finance Committee to remain seized by these issues.

The European Community welcomes the steps taken for the full adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, which also supports various reform initiatives. The European Community encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts and to keep the Finance Committee informed of the progress made.

Finally, the European Community strongly support the view of the Finance Committee, that, only through timely receipts of Assessed Contributions and a settlement of arrears, the Organization will be able to meet its operational obligations without drawing on reserves and engage in borrowing resulting in additional costs for all Members States. The European Community thus endorses the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding measures to encourage timely payments to be examined during the next session of the Finance Committee, including four important elements.

Firstly, restriction as regards eligibility for Council election and loss of seat in the Finance and Programme Committees and in Council Committees, this is one element.

Secondly, amendments of sanctions provided by Basic Texts so that only one year of arrears, instead of two, would result in sanctions.

Thirdly, external borrowing costs, due to late payments, to be borne by countries with outstanding contributions.

Fourthly, existing regulations on loss of Voting Rights to be rigorously applied and developing a set of guidelines setting out conditions for accepting Voluntary Contributions from Member Nations in arrears.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Czech Republic, for this very exhaustive statement. Before I give the floor to other delegates, I would like to point out that delegates are invited to save comments on IPA and the Root and Branch Review for Items 14/17 this afternoon and for any comments on the proposed Summit on Food Security, these comments should be saved for Item 15.2 of tomorrow.

So we should focus today only on the response of the Finance Committee excluded these two issues which will be dealt this afternoon and tomorrow.

Now let me give the floor to Congo.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Madame la Présidente, je voudrais féliciter notre ami Yasser Sorour, Président du Comité financier pour sa présentation. J'interviens, Madame la Présidente, au nom du Groupe africain au sujet du sous-point 12/2: "situations des contributions et arriérés", document CL 136/LIM/1.

Nous voulons ici féliciter les rédacteurs de ce document qui nous fait un rapport exhaustif sur l'ensemble des contributions et arriérés que l'on observe au sein de l'Organisation et mon intervention va se limiter à trois points essentiels, à savoir: les contributions courantes, les arriérés des contributions et le total des contributions non réglées.

Au sujet des contributions courantes et en faisant une lecture rapide du graphique en page trois, document français: "Pourcentage cumulatif du regroupement des contributions courantes au programme ordinaire", ce graphique indique qu'en 2009 s'il y a eu des règlements assez timides en janvier, il faut tout de même reconnaître qu'en juin il y a eu une progression, à mon entendement satisfaisante. Un pourcentage de 53,86 à observer et ce pourcentage, comparativement aux autres années, est largement supérieur. Cela veut dire que le travail de sensibilisation de l'Organisation à mon entendement a porté.

En ce qui concerne les arriérés des contributions des États Membres, il faut observer que le document souligne qu'au 1^{er} janvier 1999 nous étions à 73 États Membres, mais 19 ont réglé leurs arriérés de façon intégrale, 16 partiellement, 38 aucun paiement, et pour se retrouver au 10 juin 2009 avec 54 États Membres qui ont encore des arriérés. Comparativement à 1999, Madame la Présidente, il faut observer que de 73, nous sommes passés à 54 États Membres, il y a là aussi, à n'en pas douter, une amélioration dans le cadre, j'ose dire de la sensibilisation des États, quant à leur devoir de s'acquitter de leur contribution vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. Mais, il y a tout de même un point choc, c'est qu'on peut lire qu'il y a 25 États Membres redevable d'arriérés tels, qu'il risquent de perdre leur droit de vote, et c'est là le point qui doit attirer notre attention. En faisant la proposition suivante, c'est faire de telle sorte qu'il y ait beaucoup de sensibilisation, beaucoup de contacts avec ces États Membres pour, qu'effectivement, ils s'acquittent de leur droit. Le devoir de l'Organisation n'est pas de chasser ses Membres, mais le devoir de l'Organisation est d'amener les Membres à s'acquitter de l'Organisation pour ne pas mettre en péril les activités de l'Organisation.

Maintenant, je voudrais passer pour terminer, à mon troisième point, à savoir, le total des contributions non réglées. Et là, je voulais inviter les Membres et observateurs du Conseil à se référer aux deux graphiques qui sont en page 4 et 5. En page 4, il y a des contributions non réglées en dollars et en page 5, des contributions non réglées en euros, et ce au 10 juin 2009. Vous observez que du point de vue des pourcentages, en première place il y a l'Amérique du nord avec 45,30 pourcent de contributions non réglées au 10 juin 2009, en seconde place vous avez l'Europe 27,20 pourcent, et en dernier lieu, je vous fais gagner du temps, l'Afrique 1,68 pourcent. En ce qui concerne les contributions en dollars et les contributions en euros, le graphique montre l'Amérique du nord 55,16 pourcent, toujours en première position et en deuxième position également l'Europe 28,73 pourcent. Et tout compte fait, une fois de plus, l'Afrique en dernier lieu 0,32%. C'est là, toute la problématique, Madame la Présidente, si nous voulons entendre le message de l'ensemble des Comités techniques depuis hier, à savoir: le Comité des pêches, le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des produits, le Comité des forêts; il faut renforcer le financement de l'Organisation, mais il nous faut contribuer. Mais si au 10 juin 2009, il y a encore ces contributions non réglées, il ne faut pas aller chercher loin, ceux qui veulent entraver la bonne marche de l'Organisation, il faut les cibler de façon claire et ces deux graphiques vous les ciblent. La sensibilisation doit porter vers ces milieux là. Je peux vous dire que je me réjouis du comportement de la ma région car, en fait, les États Membres ont compris qu'il faut aider l'Organisation en contribuant. Et vous avez vous-même observé que ce soit en dollar où en euros, nous occupons la dernière place.

Raafat Salah Eldin ZAKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to point out I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

I would like to begin by voicing our support to your efforts and your wise guidance for this Session of the Council. This meeting of the Council will be crowned a success for the results positive for the Organization. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the very very clear and excellent presentation that he made this morning when he introduced the Agenda item.

The Near East Group celebrates which is contained in the Report of the Finance Committee regarding Decentralization of the TCP activities and the need to implement this system as of 2010. We would see this as having a positive repercussion in that the Technical Cooperation Projects will be approved much faster. We see that the decrease in the resources earmarked for technical cooperation is a situation that needs to be corrected in order to streamline the approval of projects.

Regarding human resources, we do agree that the Finance Committee continue exercising control over the new human resources management policy, considering the programme execution that was submitted to the Committee in its most recent session.

In this regard, we do support the 6 points raised by the Finance Committee in implementing the human resources policy performance appraisal, administrative training, the presentation of reports, the simplification of procedures within a set ambience.

Regarding the recruitment, the policy for taking on retirees and consultants, we do agree with what is contained in the IPA and the Medium-Term Plan.

We also support respecting the 6 month lapse factor between retirement and re-hiring. We would like to express our concern is that the majority of consultants to whom the Organization has recourse come from developed countries. We as a Group trust and hope that this be corrected and that due consideration be given to geographical distribution when countries contracting consultants.

Many countries are complying with their obligations towards the Organization because it has an impact on the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and hope that the Finance Committee will be able to come up with concrete proposals for submission to Conference this year, regarding the methods, ways and means that could be adopted in an effort to resolve the problem of arrears and prompt payment of Assessed Contributions and of course on how countries could be assisted to do doing so, because as I said the negative impact of slow incoming resources on the Organization.

We also endorse the initiative taken by the Independent Chair of the Council for the establishment of a Group dedicated to work on incentives for countries that do give contributions for the implementation of the IPA and we also insist on the need to implement the IPSAS system as of 2012 because quite obviously this will have a very positive affect on the financial management of the organization and also provide important support for rapid decision-making.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait)

We would like to thank the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Yasour Sorour, for his presentation. Kuwait aligns itself with Egypt's statement on behalf of the Near East Group. I would like you to give the floor to Jordan, the Chair of the Near East Group.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to voice my support to what was just said by Egypt on behalf of the Near East Group.

I have listened to the discussion in utmost silence but there is a very delicate issue which has come to my attention and that is the question of arrears. Settlement of arrears, I would like to refer

to document CL 136/LIM/1. Now we in addition to what we can find in that document regarding concrete progress made especially over the last two months May and June compared to the percentage of increase during these past two years. However, the outstanding amounts are cause for concern because we are in the process of a global reform of the Organization.

I would like to voice my pride over what has been done by my Regional Group who have completely paid their outstanding contributions to the Organization, even though Iraq does have arrears. Now this is a very particular situation in Iraq especially in the framework of the Oil for Food Programme. On that basis the percentage of country contributions paid is up around 90 percent. The outstanding amounts indicated that we had borrowed more than 136 million euros. Now first of all we have arrears in contributions and people can understand that considering the difficult situation of countries. What I do not understand are the arrears that have been adding up over a number of years on the parts of some countries. It has been customary here that facilities be extended to countries who do have delayed their contributions and given them the right to vote in a dogmatic matter at Conferences and taking a step backwards to what is in the Basic Texts, I insist we must respect what we see in the Basic Texts of the Organization. This is not a sanction against the countries. What is important is to provide them with incentives, encourage them to fulfil their obligations towards this Organization. What is important is to put into practice what is in the Constitution, that countries that have arrears would lose their right to vote. On this basis I feel that participation in the Governing Bodies of this Organization and Technical Committees of the Council should also be come under the heading on the question of the right to vote which is depriving countries of the right to vote, I do agree with some colleagues that this is an issue of utmost importance. The Finance Committee must take into consideration at its next session, so it can come back to us with a proposal to improve the situation and then bring that on to the Conference in order to tackle the whole matter.

Once again I would like to reiterate what has been said in the past by countries from my Region and at the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE when we did not accept depriving countries of TCP activities. I insist that we must not punish people if their governments do not pay on time. Technical TCP is a service offered to farmers, to smallholders and citizens of our countries and therefore have to insist thereupon and we have to continue providing farmers with what they need and continue ensuring that they have the right to benefit from TCP even if their respective governments have not respected their obligations towards the Organization.

I would also like to insist on the importance of very closely examining and following the recommendations of the External Auditors and put them into practice. We have heard not only at this meeting but at previous meetings that there are recommendations of the External Auditor that are there on paper, but without any applications. It is very important because we agree with the role played by the External Auditor and hence it is of vital importance that the recommendations of the External Auditor be implemented.

In the face of the global reform underway in the Organization and the implementation of the IPA and speaking about economy savings, I note that the unpaid contributions exceed what is expected. If countries respect their obligations it would not be that necessary for us to have recourse for savings and efficiency gains. I would suggest that the Organization played its role in this context. I am very grateful once again to the Finance Committee for the style that it has maintained in its discussions, especially in enabling silent observers to be present during the course of their discussions by providing us access to the discussions discussed by the Committees.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Like those who have taken the floor before me I wish to comment the reports that have been tabled before us. They are informative and have given us a way to interact with the Finance Committee. The position for Africa on the arrears has been eloquently articulated by the Democratic Republic of Congo. So I do not need to go into it. I can only add that the recommendation seeks to punish the poor people when we are trying their best, and according to the statistics, Africa should account for only one percent of the arrears. Why should we be

punished when we have tried our best. We can only urge that engagement with Members will be taken into reconsideration as has been suggested by other regions.

We share the same views with the Near East on the Decentralization of the TCP and we therefore support what was indicated by the delegate from Egypt.

On the issue of retirees and consultants, I think that the issue has been clearly articulated by others and again we share the views that have been advanced in respect of geographical distribution. In addition to that we would like those elements to be considered alongside document CL 136/7 on the human resources age factor. I think that despite the advantages that come with utilising the consultants at that level we should also be mindful of continually rejuvenating the Organization. We would like to request Management to inform Members to know what progress is being made since the recommendation was made by the Finance Committee in paragraph 64.

This is of great importance because we believe that these contribute towards the institutional memory of the Organization and we would like that institutional memory retained within the Organization and continue to benefit everyone else.

The other area for which we wanted response from the Management is in document CL 135/7, paragraph 11 where again we find the Finance Committee being concerned about the slow-down in the TCP monthly expenditure rate. Are improvements being realized or is the situation still the same?

These are the only areas for which I wanted to seek a response from the Management. The rest, as you indicated, will be dealt with this afternoon.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

First of all I would like to express our appreciation to the dedicated work made by the Finance Committee Chair and members.

I have the same sense about the arrears issue. Assessed Contributions are a sound base for the activities of the Organization, so I ask the Finance Committee to discuss further the ways and steps needed to reduce arrears, including the suggestions made by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European countries. Please take the steps to make the recommendations for actions to be taken as early as possible. We have discussed this issue for many years and I hope under the present Chairperson ship we can reach concrete action.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I also wanted to join others in thanking our Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the work and the very clear presentation made. We share the view that the clearer the report is, the better connection we will have with Council and non-members of the Finance Committee. My delegation does applaud that move.

Most of the comments my delegation wanted to make were already made by Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia but I would like to touch upon just a few points.

As regards HR issues my delegation is still astounded by the number of consultants in this Organization. I cannot but agree I do not have to agree, it is a fact that the geographical origin of these consultants they really outnumber those from developing countries which is a very concerning issue. It really raises a lot of concern and some doubts on how the administration is working in hiring these people. Are we led to believe that developing countries do not have the capacity or the power or the ability to fill these consultancy jobs? I really doubt that, so we need to be very concerned. We need to be more concerned with the fact that consultants are too numerous and they go against what we are trying to achieve with the human resources policies in the Organization which is to promote the staff of this Organization, which is the biggest wealth we have in this Organization. So the consultants are a matter of huge concern, their origin, and the lack of geographic distribution is also very much a concern.

The second issue that I wanted to touch upon is the issue of outstanding unpaid contributions; and we very much look forward to receiving proposals from the Finance Committee in their discussions in the July meeting this year. However, we need to be very careful in regarding these proposals. At this time these are proposals and I do not think we need to verify the implications that they will have and not necessarily too as others, and specifically Zimbabwe, has mentioned that we cannot hurt developing countries in doing this. I think that my colleague from Zimbabwe mentioned that we cannot punish developing countries and I think a good message from this Council and the Finance Committee is that we should not punish those that cannot pay instead of going after those that have recurrently used politics to refrain from paying, not willing to pay, so we need to look at this differentiation of those not being able to pay and those not willing to pay. So let us see that reflected in our report and recommendations to the Finance Committee because my colleague from the Democratic Republic of Congo has just made it clear, from the documents that were received, where the payment is not coming from and what is actually hurting the Organization. Let us be clear in what we recommend to the Finance Committee for their deliberations.

The other thing I wanted to mention, there is mention in the report that the implementation of IPSAS will require funding from our next budget. Certainly I would welcome the adoption of IPSAS at FAO, but let us also look at other needs of the Organization not necessarily or more specifically on substantive issues. So in paragraph 51 of the report of the Finance Committee they have already probably outlined some growth expected in the budget next year in the next biennium. I certainly have missed that the need to grow is not only confined to some issues which are not necessarily substantive.

The other point which I wanted to make is that the Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke about the working methods of the Finance Committee and they being open to the decisions of the membership at large. Committees cannot be closed so they should be open. I was somehow struck by paragraph 100 in which trying to modernize the structure and the working methods of the Finance Committee, there would be intercession, preparatory electronic communication amongst members. This in a way Chairperson goes against the openness of the Committee because the Committee discusses on documents that are public. How can the membership be kept abreast of what is being discussed during the intercessional period if that communication is just confined to the members of the Finance Committee. So I would invite you to revisit this issue.

These were the comments that I wanted to make which are very much in line with what Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe had referred to.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

We have only one point to underscore on late payment and arrears. As the current liquidity situation of the Organization is critical, we would like to express our deep concern on this.

Regarding other issues to encourage timely payment of Assessed Contributions and proposed sanctions on measures for late payment and arrears, we would suggest more in-depth discussions be made in each regional group to provide inputs for further discussion in the next Session of the Finance Committee.

At this stage, we share the views expressed by many previous speakers that the sanctions on eligibility of TCP projects should not be applied as this would aggravate the ability of developing countries, who are already in difficulties.

Finally, before the endorsement of the Draft Resolution of the Audit Accounts 2006-07, we urge the Organization to consider and implement the recommendations of the External Auditors, especially the recommendations relating to field offices.

Sra María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

Voy a ser muy breve. Quiero apoyar en todos sus términos la exposición de Brasil, quiero agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas la presentación del informe y el trabajo realizado.

También quiero referirme brevemente al documento CL 136/LIM/1 sobre el estado de las cuotas, que es un documento muy claro y preciso. Dado que este tipo de documentos no puede reflejar algunas cuestiones que han sucedido el año pasado, quiero hacer mención que hay países que están atrasados en el pago de las cuotas y que están haciendo esfuerzos por regularizarlas. En el caso de mi país, el año pasado pagó más de 11 millones de dólares correspondientes a la cuota de 2008 y los pagos atrasados. En ese sentido quiero decir que, por un lado agradezco a los Miembros y a la Organización y, por otro lado, quiero decir que nosotros estamos tratando de hacer los esfuerzos necesarios para regularizar la situación.

Comparto plenamente que no es penalizando a los países la mejor manera para lograr resultados con respecto al pago de las deudas, especialmente cuando éstas se deben a cuestiones de crisis de cualquier tipo, ya que en nuestro caso se trató de una crisis económica realmente devastadora.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we conclude this Session, let me invite all of the delegates who have pronounced a statement, if it is possible to leave the statements at the verbatim desk.

Secondly, since the time is very little and I have the impression that Mr Sorour has many arguments and issues to reply to the questions posed and probably the Secretariat also needs and wants to participate in this dialogue with the Membership, my suggestion is, due to the time constraints, we conclude our meeting now, we will resume our meeting in the afternoon and, at that moment, Mr Sorour will conclude with a reply and the Secretariat will reply and probably there will also be some other conclusions from this Chairpersonship.

With that, let me thank you very much. I hope that you did not miss too much Professor Noori. I do not have white hair, moustache and I do not button my neck collar so well but I hope you did not miss him so much.

The meeting rose 12:30

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trent-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15 June 2009
Rome, 15 juin 2009
Roma, 15 de june de 2009**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

16 June 2009

Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:41 hours
Ms Rita Giuliana Mannella,
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 41
sous la présidence de Madame Rita Giuliana Mannella,
Vice-Présidente du Conseil, assume la présidence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14:41 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Ms Rita Giuliana Mannella,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (Cont'd)

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (Continuación)

10. Reports of the Joint Meeting (28 May 2008, 8 October 2008 and 13 May 2009) of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

10. Rapports de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (28 mai 2008, 8 octobre 2008 et 13 mai 2009) (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

10. Informes de las reuniones conjuntas (28 de mayo de 2008, 8 de octubre de 2008 y 13 de mayo de 2009) de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas (CL 135/2; CL 135/3; CL 136/10)

12. Reports of the 121st (31 January - 1 February 2008), 122nd (22-30 May 2008), 123rd (6-10 October 2008), 124th (5 and 6 February 2009), 125th (9 and 10 March 2009) and 126th (11-15 May 2009) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12. Rapports des cent vingt et unième (31 janvier-1er février 2008), cent vingt-deuxième (22-30 mai 2008), cent vingt-troisième (6-10 octobre 2008), cent vingt-quatrième (5 et 6 février 2009), cent vingt-cinquième (9 et 10 mars 2009) et cent vingt-sixième (11-15 mai 2009) sessions du Comité financier (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12. Informes del 121.º (31 de enero - 1.º de febrero de 2008), 122.º (22-30 de mayo de 2008), 123.º (6-10 de octubre de 2008*), 124.º (5 y 6 de febrero de 2009), 125.º (9 y 10 de marzo de 2009) y 126.º (11-15 de mayo de 2009) período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8)

12.1 Audited Accounts 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

12.1 Comptes vérifiés 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

12.1 Cuentas comprobadas 2006-07 (C 2009/5 A; C 2009/5 B)

12.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 136/LIM/1)

12.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 136/LIM/1)

12.2 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 136/LIM/1)

12.3 Other Matters Arising Out of the Reports

12.3 Autres questions découlant des rapports

12.3 Otras cuestiones planteadas en los informes

CHAIRPERSON

We resume now the session initiated this morning in order to give the possibility to Mr Sorour, the Chair of the Finance Committee, to reply some of the questions posed this morning and also to ask the Secretariat and Mr Juneja if they want to add anything and also to ask Mr Sumpsi if he wants to add some clarification on the issue of the TCP. Now I will give the floor to Mr Sorour in order to respond to the points raised this morning.

Mr Sorour, you have the floor.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I will be very brief in my response to the queries made this morning. To me, the arrears and the payment of assessed contributions, this item has been and is still an ongoing item on the agenda of the Finance Committee. We fully realize the difference and the discrepancy in the commitments between the Member Nations, because if any country from the 125 members, this affects the situation and the status of the contributions. This must be addressed as we discuss this item in the upcoming session in July.

We have to give the Conference a clear picture not only on the settlement of arrears because this is one part of the issue but, on the other hand, how to deal with the situation of the late payment of the assessed contributions. Some ideas were presented in this respect; however I do not think it is the appropriate time to talk about it here until we discuss it further in July. I fully understand and appreciate the importance of the settlement of arrears and the timely payment of contributions and therefore the Finance Committee receives, on a monthly basis, a statement or a table regarding the situation of the 25 main contributors to the FAO budget. For example, Argentina has adopted a settlement plan to pay in instalments in order to settle its arrears and we encourage all the other countries to follow the same pattern and to try to find a solution to this old ongoing problem.

This is what I had to say on the arrears issue and we do hope that we can respond to Japan and be able to find a solution in our session in July.

Regarding human resources and maintaining the institutional knowledge in this Organization and the recruitment and employment of consultants, we were very clear when we discussed this issue. We said that the employment of consultants should not be a way to make savings in order to use the money elsewhere. We took into consideration, of course, the fact that recruiting consultants is customary within the United Nations in general, but we have to rationalize this practice.

We also stress the importance of the geographical distribution in a fair and equitable manner. As you all know, also in the developing countries there are experiences that can support the work of this Organization. The geographical distribution issue was not discussed only in relation to the consultants' employment but also regarding the general positions in the Organization.

Regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the external auditor, we stressed the importance of implementing these recommendations and I wish to take the occasion to applaud the report presented to us from the Secretariat in the Hundred and Twentysixth Session as it was by far and by large the best report given to us in a very long time. The report took into account all the discussions that took place previously and there was logical linkage between what was presented and what was addressed before. I believe that many of the recommendations made by the External Auditor, some of them go back to 2003-2004, will be shortly implemented by the Secretariat.

Regarding paragraph 100 on the use of electronic means for communication among the Members, we mean to refer here to the internal communication with regard to the preparation of the agenda of the Finance Committee. As the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, I do communicate with the committee members electronically; by e-mails we exchange the views regarding the issues that must be added or deleted from the agenda before we give our final approval to the Secretariat in order to officially begin to prepare the items of the agenda. This is what is meant by the electronic communication among the members, and it has nothing to do with the substantial issues that are presented on our agenda. For example, before any Session I do send an e-mail to the Member Nations to ask and to enquire whether they accept or not to open the session, to the participation of observers, this is in order to save time on the first day of the Committee. If we take these decision previously this will save our precious time, therefore it is an element of facilitation and time-saving and this is the way we use the communication by e-mail.

If I have not overlooked any of the points, I believe that I thus gave my response to all the comments raised with regard is six months to the Finance Committee reports.

CHAIRPERSON

Maybe we can ask the Secretariat if they want to add any other information or if they want to provide some clarification. Mr Juneja, do you wish to reply?

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Human Financial and Physical Resources Department)

I wanted at the outset to thank the Czech Republic speaking on behalf of the European Community for their appreciation of the improved quality of Management's inputs and the improved Management communication to support the work of the Finance Committee. I am especially pleased at the assessment that as a result of this the funding of the Reform process would be easier.

The European Community also underlined the need to address the funding requirements for staff-related long-term liabilities. As you know, this has been a matter on the Finance Committee Agenda for a number of years. It is our intention to highlight the financial requirements to stabilize the General Fund deficit, especially by addressing After-Service Medical liabilities. We will do this in the draft Programme of Work and Budget.

We also need to ask you to consider more suitable levels for our safety nets - that's the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account - to avoid systemic cash shortages. Here again we intend to put forward some proposals in the draft PWB for your consideration.

Of course, as for all matters that require financial contributions, the decision lies with the Membership, in light of the other demands for resources.

The implementation of IPSAS has also been supported in many interventions and I wish to confirm that the proposals for funding its implementation will be included under the Capital Expenditure Facility - that's under Chapter 8 of the draft Programme of Working Budget 2010-11.

Members have also asked to be kept apprised of progress on efficiency savings. We will report this to the next session of the Finance Committee. The measures that have been instituted so far will achieve, as noted in the last Finance Committee report, US\$18.1 million per biennium of savings, while the Conference Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations foresaw that US\$22.1 million should be identified.

Identifying the savings so far has not been an easy task and we were hoping to implement the further measures, to close that gap of US\$4 million between the US\$22.1 million required by the Conference Resolution and US\$18.1 million identified so far, in part by building on the Root and Branch Review recommendations. However, measures contained in the Root and Branch Review will not produce those efficiency savings in 2009.

Turning to a couple of HR matters, the Representatives of Egypt and Zimbabwe referred to the Organization's policy regarding the use of retirees. A revised policy on the use of retirees was presented to the Hundred and Twentysixth Session of the Finance Committee, in May 2009. In line with the IEE recommendations and the Immediate Plan of Action, this policy proposes a six-month gap between the retirement and the re-employment of a retiree. It also indicates that retirees would not be re-hired in the same function that they were undertaking as staff members of the Organization. It also would institute a six-month limit of employment in any 12-month period. One of the purposes of this is to ensure that the use of retirees does not adversely affect succession planning.

The Organization is also addressing the age profile through the development of another recommendation in the IPA, which is included in the Human Resources Plan, and that is the development of a Junior Professional Programme. This would be implemented in 2010.

Now on the whole question of use of retirees and to some extent non-staff human resources, I should point out that many Finance Committee members have mentioned that cost-containment measures should remain an important objective in the management of these non-staff human resources. I mention this because this is a feature that was not given much emphasis by the IEE itself.

On Management's part, we indicated that there is some limited need for managerial flexibility in the hiring of retirees, especially during a period of transition. The establishment of the Shared Service Centre is a case in point, where we used a number of retirees in the transition period, including training of new staff members in Budapest.

The Representatives of Brazil commented on the number of consultants, and Brazil and Egypt both highlighted the need to recruit consultants from a wide geographical base. The Chair of the Finance Committee has commented in this regard. I should mention that we recognize non-staff human resources as an important flexible means of implementing our programme of work. In fact, in the 2005 budgetary proposals, we had put forward a target of 60 per cent staff and 40 per cent non-staff in the implementation of the programme of work. The latest actual figures show that in fact 34 per cent of our work force is made up of non-staff human resources.

From policy perspective, we need to ensure that we do not use consultants for long-term gap-filling of vacant posts. This feature is included in the policy proposals that were considered by the May 2009 Session of the Finance Committee.

At the same time, we do not wish to implement a system of ex-ante transactional controls in the recruitment and employment of retirees. That would go against the thrust of the IEE and in fact could impede effective programme delivery.

The policy proposals therefore seek to increase our transparency in recruitment with guidelines to be issued shortly to departments on the need for wider dissemination of non-staff human resource assignments, as well as the introduction of an I-roster from 2010.

Equally importantly, we envisage periodic reporting and oversight, by the Governing Bodies, on the geographic profile of consultants hired. So there would be some managerial oversight, and individual accountability, *vis-à-vis* the geographic distribution of consultants, but also periodic oversight from the Governing Bodies themselves.

Nicholas NELSON (Director and Treasurer, Finance Division)

I wish to announce with pleasure that Italy paid in full today, US\$11 million and Euro 9.4 million.

CHAIRPERSON

Imsa was very happy this morning and I thought that was due to some good news. In this case, maybe we could ask Mr Sumpsi if he wants to give some clarifications on TCP.

José M SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I would like to thank that Finance Committee for this close follow-up of the approval of expenditures of TCP. I would like to present very briefly some information on this issue that is very interesting.

First of all, we have to separate as some members expressed concern on that, at least the Members of Egypt and Zimbabwe, and maybe others. We have to distinguish between approvals and delivering. Of course both are very closely related and the correlation between approvals and delivering is very clear. Without approvals or with a low level of approvals, the delivery would also be low. The more rapidly we approve TCPs, the more rapid will be the delivering of these TCPs. It is obvious.

Now, the targets of these two different things are clear, approvals and delivering, are clear, and the terms of the Finance Committee are also clear. In the approvals, at the end of the biennium, 100 percent of the appropriation has to be committed, approved. On the delivering, 100 percent of the delivering has to be accomplished at the end of the following biennium.

Now, about appropriation of the biennium 2006-07, we have some trouble and this is a question on which we have to insist again, because there are some delays on this delivering. Anyway, we progressed very well in the last month. The reason for these problems are several, but maybe the main reason is, as I said, the close relation between approvals and delivering. I would like to remember that, for the liquidity problem, since June 2006 until July 2007 (one year) the TCPs for development were stopped at approvals and just the Emergency TCPs were approved. This decision of course delayed an important amount of approvals and provoked a problem in 2008 and 2009.

In any case, now the level of delivering expenditure is 75 per cent of the total appropriation of 2006 and 2007, and we have to arrive at 100 percent in December 2009.

We prepared a special plan of action following the projects with some problems on delivering. To solve the problem, we are analysing project by project following the countries and the country offices in which these projects are, trying to analyse the situation knowing the causes, and try to solve with extension if these offices and pressing the officers to achieve the results of the total delivering at the end of 2009. We expect to arrive very close to 100 percent of the expenditure on 31 December 2009. This is the target.

About the approvals, we are in a very good situation. Now on 15 June 2009, we approved 80 percent of the total appropriation of 2008 and 2009. We expect that even before 31 December 2009 to achieve the target of 100 percent approved of the appropriation 2008 and 2009. I think this will not pose a problem.

The good news is, and this is the last point that I would like to mention, that in the context of reform of FAO and the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, one of the projects is the Decentralization of the TCPs. A new business model for TCPs.

Now, in the context of this IPA implementation, we are taking advantage to change all the procedures, to speed up all the steps and try to gain rapidity in approvals and, of course, in delivering in the future for TCPs. I think this is good news. In fact, these projects will end in July 2009 and will start to be implemented in the second semester to be able as of 1 January 2010 to implement the new business model of Decentralized TCPs.

We expect that we can really speed up the process, eliminating some steps, bureaucracy and some elements and also taking advantage of this Decentralization.

Of course, one of the most important parts of this Decentralization is in the second semester 2009, to train all the Decentralized Offices, Regional Offices mainly, to the new business model of decentralized TCPs.

The project considers this element and now, thanks to the support of the Finance Committee, we will be able to expect to get funding for this Plan of Training and Guidance for these Decentralized Offices to implement the TCP projects after 1 January 2010. In that sense, I would like to inform that our idea is that, with this new Decentralized model and eliminating some steps, we could reduce the average period to approve TCPs. The average period is now six months, from the receipt of government until the approval, it takes six months. In the new situation, in 2010, with the new business model of Decentralization of TCPs, this simplification of the process, we will achieve the result of three months as the average period of approval, from receiving the request and the approval of the TCP for development projects.

For emergency projects, the period will be reduced from a two-month average approval time to one month for approval, in average. This speed-up of the process of approval of TCPs in the new context of a Decentralized model will allow us to speed up the whole process of approval and delivering of TCPs.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I just wanted to touch upon a very minor issue but to which we attribute importance, that was the comment that was made by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

You explained the issue of your exchange of notes and emails with the members of the Finance Committee but one issue that you spoke, it struck me as an inconsistency with the provisions of the IPA. You mentioned that you communicated with the members of the Finance committee on whether the meetings of the Finance Committee should be open or closed; and Chairperson , probably the Finance Committee should learn with the Programme Committee, openness. The conclusion of the IPA said in unequivocal terms that the Committees, Programme and the Finance Committees including Joint Meetings, will be open to non-speaking observers so this gives no latitude for the Finance Committee or the Programme Committee, as were the case, to determine whether they should be open or closed. They are to be open and no discussion of that should take place.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I do send this email regularly because according to the Constitutional rules in operation so far that have not been amended yet. The Committee meets in closed meetings unless otherwise decided and therefore with every session of the Finance Committee we have to make this decision. This is according to the Constitutional Rules in operation for the time being and if these rules are amended by the Conference in 2009, this situation will be entirely different. We are following the rules and operation in this Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize that Afghanistan has asked for the floor, but before giving the floor to Afghanistan maybe the Chair of the Programme committee wants to add some elements.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

We certainly have never had a closed meeting, recently, of the Programme Committee. The way we do it is to decide at the end of a meeting that the next one will be open so we do not have to email around. This is cheating. We also cheat by having informal meetings which perhaps I should not tell you about bearing in mind the comments about the Chair of the Finance Committee's email, but we are all based in Rome at the moment -- it seems a useful thing to do. We usually have more of a lunch and we would be happy to welcome non-speaking observers, but they would have to be non-eating observers as well.

Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

The information provided by Mr Sumpsi is very encouraging. He tells us that the project approval rate is likely to be reduced by half from six to three. Is this expected reduction due to the streamlining of the project preparation cycle or to the streamlining of the project appraisal cycle?

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I think the main element of the reduction is the streamlining of the process, producing some steps that are not strictly necessary and also improving the appraisal because the appraisal will be at regional level with the support, of course, of the regional staff and also Sub-regional Country Offices. In that sense, I think that this Decentralization could really speed up the appraisal process and also streamline all the subsequent processes after all the appraisal and totalling these two elements we could achieve these reductions. The only question is maybe in the beginning we have to test the system and we foresee an important training programme for the Country Offices, Sub-regional Offices and especially Regional Offices. And we expect that with this training could be very useful to start immediately as off January 2010 with this new system. Now the only thing is we have to test the system maybe with the first two or three months we will have some problems to that we expect along 2010 to solve all the initial problems or clarifications and, totalling these in approval and appraisal methods and streamlining the full process to achieve the result to reduce significantly the time for approvals and also for delivery.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Sumpsi. Is there any other request for the floor?

If then you allow, we can conclude making a little summing up of the results of this morning and a part of the afternoon discussion. Of course, as before, if there is any suggestion after this summing up I would be absolutely happy to get it in our notes.

First of all, on the financial status of the Organization it was noted that the unpaid contribution were US\$136 million and Euro 129 million at 10 June 2009. This is due to the situation of payments and Assessed Contributions and arrears.

Second issue, payments and arrears in contributions: the Council expressed concern about the situation of contributions. The number of Member Nations who have not made payment towards their 2009 Euro Assessment is still high. The Council notes that the number of countries having arrears outstanding is also high. The Member Nations are invited to honour their obligation in order to avoid the recourse to external borrowing by FAO.

As for the Audited Accounts for 2006-2007, the Council approves 2006-2007 biennium account on which the External Auditor has issued an unqualified opinion. The budgetary transfer authorized by Finance Committee is also approved.

On Budget 2008-2009, the Council endorses the budgetary performance for 2008-2009 biennium.

On the question of reappropriation of fortuitous gains or surplus, it was noted that real efficiency gains were identified in US\$21.1 million During 2009, measures will be taken to achieve this target.

On TCP the Council noted some progress in project approvals against TCP appropriations for 2008-2009 but some concern were expressed over the low level of expenditure for both 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 biennia and the expected monthly rate of expenditure for the remainder of 2009. The Council took note of some progress to be implemented in the near future.

On IPSAS, the Council reaffirmed the importance of implementing IPSAS to better support decision making and governance, and recognized that IPSAS would support numerous other reform initiatives and transparency.

On human resources, the Council noted that human resources was a key component of FAO Reform. In this regard, questions were raised about the use of consultants and retirees. The Finance Committee should be informed about the decisions concerning these non-staff categories. Geographical and gender distribution is one of the main aspects of concern for the Membership in this regard.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

*Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini, Independent Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair
Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la Présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini, Presidente Independiente del Consejo*

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon. I think that you had a very good time with Rita here this morning, and this afternoon but every good thing comes to an end. I hope to be here and serve you all. Let us now continue with Items 17 and 14. The Immediate Plan of Action, Implementation Progress Report and the Management Response to the Root and Branch Review. Please ensure that you have the joint document CL 136/17 and CL 136/21 before you. Given the interrelated nature of these agenda items, it seems appropriate to combine them for discussion, hence the joint document you have before you. As the document mentions, FAO is embarking on one of the most significant,

and I would add most wide-ranging, reform processes carried to date in the United Nations system.

Good progress has been made in implementing the agreed IPA projects in 2009 in the field of managing for results, Governing Body reform, human resources management, culture change and Headquarters structuring and also delayering. As you know, the Root and Branch Review of administrative services, recommended by the IEE, was completed earlier this year and management has agreed to implement most of its recommendations. We are joined by Mr Jim Butler, the Deputy Director-General, who will introduce both the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report and the Management Response to the Root and Branch Review, and then I will open the floor for discussion. Mr Butler you have the floor.

14. Management Response to the Root and Branch Review (CL 136/17)

14. Réponse de la direction à l'Examen détaillé (CL 136/17)

14. Respuesta de la Administración al Examen exhaustivo (CL 136/17)

17. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 136/21)

17. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immediate (CL 136/21)

17. Informe sobre los progresos alcanzados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 136/21)

James G. BUTLER (Deputy Director-General)

It is a pleasure to be with you and all of the Members this afternoon. It is my pleasure to introduce this item on the Immediate Plan of Action and our Management's response to the Root and Branch Review.

FAO renewal is of highest importance to us. We are convinced that the IPA will bring a renewed organization that focuses on delivering measurable results that respond to our Member Nations' needs and are effective for reducing hunger and rural poverty. We are convinced that at the end of this process we will have a stronger organization that is able to address the emerging and ongoing challenges of the 21st century.

The IPA has more than 260 activities, many of which cannot be implemented in isolation but as an integrated whole reform process. We have grouped them into 14 projects all of which have project teams from Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices, and these are progressing very well. We have sequenced IPA actions and activities in relation to the core of Reform, managing for results that have an impact, and are conducive to attain the Organization's goals that are measurable. The majority of these IPA actions, some three-quarters of them, do not have external costs for the Organization and are advancing. Fifty-eight or near 60 percent of the IPA activities are under implementation and some 4 percent have been completed.

A Root and Branch Review recommended by the Independent External Evaluation was undertaken over a nine-month period and completed this past May. Management has agreed to most of its recommendations and will implement them under the relevant IPA projects. A revised summary of costs and savings was produced by the contractor, Ernst and Young and agreed by Management indicating a net savings of US\$7.8 million over the first seven years of the biennium, saving some US\$13 million thereafter. After the Root and Branch Review, the anticipated external funding needs for 2009 were revised to US\$15.25 million, inclusive of programme support cost. Unfortunately, we are still short of reaching this amount. As of today, we have received US\$7.1 million in pledges from 27 Member Nations. In spite of this fact, we are going full speed ahead with the implementation of the no-cost items; if adequate resources are not received we will not be able to go ahead with some of the items.

I would also like to pause momentarily and to congratulate and thank all countries that have just made contributions. France has contributed an additional amount of their US\$900,000 in pledges, now totalling their amount to US\$840,000, Mauritius has just made a contribution to the IPA Trust Fund. Mozambique has also recently made a contribution as well as Nigeria. And I thank those three countries and the country of France for continuing to contribute.

I take this opportunity to thank all of the Member Nations that have pledged and importantly, those contributions that have been materialized are more significantly appreciated. I am sure that we, both the Members and the Secretariat will continue to work together, and I can tell because I have witnessed an increasing openness and a willingness to address our issues together and I see this moving in a very positive manner. Finally, I would like to thank the staff of FAO for their ongoing and untiring commitment to the FAO renewal and the many hours of hard work that they are adding to their Regular Programme schedules and their other responsibilities to make this plan be placed into action. Mr Chairperson, I thank you and the Members for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON

I would also like to add my voice to you to just express my appreciation to all staff of FAO and especially those who are working closely with the Membership on this issue and my special thanks also goes to all of you. The Permanent Representatives here in FAO who are working tirelessly to achieve the goals of our reform. Now this document is for information and also for your guidance and comments to do our job better. I would add that Jim has stressed that 27 countries, it means that 165 countries have still not contributed to the Trust Fund. I hope that with your intervention today we hear good news. But if not today, certainly in a few days to come, it is getting very late. You know that according to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, we have established a Core Champions Group for fundraising for this Trust Fund. We had a meeting today, and I am sure that hear from tomorrow all your friends and regional groups will come to you with some contributions.

With this I open the floor for your discussion and start with Kuwait, Norway, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Thailand, Chile, Zimbabwe. Ok, we do have enough speakers to start. Kuwait, you have the floor.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of the Near East Member Countries. We have welcomed the Management Response to the Root and Branch Review that was conducted by Ernst Young. The reform of the FAO is the largest and most in-depth of processes found across the UN. The current financial crisis, in addition to the recent increases in both food and energy prices, has repositioned the FAO as an important international organization and we must ensure that any reforms that we implement reflect the importance of the impact that the FAO will have. The Near East welcomes the concept of results-based management where the actions and goals of the Organization will be more measurable. The Near East welcomes the new approval criteria for the projects of technical cooperation while we are aware that these are works in progress.

With regard to Decentralization, the Near East as a region welcomes the reform suggested to the regional and Sub-regional Offices. These reforms envisage new competencies and a variety of skills in the technical staff posted to the region and this can but have a positive impact on the work of FAO on both the sovereign and the regional levels. The impact of greater competencies at the staff level will have a ripple effect on Regional Conferences which address important region - specific agricultural issues.

With regard to reforms to the Headquarters Organizational Structure, the Near East group would like to stress the importance of gender representation within the top management of the Organization. The Near East commends the management on its initiative in streaming and delayering the D-level positions. Any changes to the current approach would undermine the credibility and effectiveness of any changes that the Organization is trying to implement.

The Near East commends the concept of greater partnership between the Rome-based Agencies for reasons of cost-effectiveness and economies of scale and most important, delivering at country level. The implementation of IPSAS would allow for greater accountability and, most importantly, greater transparency.

The Near East would like to commend the Culture Change Team for all of their hard work and for the positive impact they have had on the FAO staff. Their success comes hand-in-hand with the new HR policies which the Near East region in particular is most eager to see implemented. This is in regard to equitable geographic distribution, an issue of particular significance to the Near East region as the least-represented region. Right competencies, transparent recruitment and transparent promotion based on performance evaluation.

As a final point, it must be noted that the language services are a vital resource to the region and to the UN as a whole. It is important that the funding model be changed from back charging to being incorporated into the regular budget. In order to strengthen the assets of the Department and the quantity and quality of their services, the Near East region is happy to work with the Meeting Programming and Documentation Service to strengthen the Arabic translation services and to increase the number of publications produced.

CHAIRPERSON

I shall read the speakers list to see whether I have the names right; Norway, Tanzania, Germany, Afghanistan, Thailand, Chile, Zimbabwe, Brazil and United States of America. Now, I invite Norway to take the floor, to be followed by Tanzania.

Arne B. HONNINGSTAD (Norway)

I might as well start with the good news, more money coming into the Trust Fund and Norway is contributing 3 million NOK which is the equivalent of US\$450 000. I will shortly appeal to other good donors from all the groups to get the cheque in the mail. But I will also say that we understand there are delays, it is a cumbersome budgetary process in each country. We really had to wait till the Parliament had looked at the revised budget for this year before we could start the whole thing and there is a lot of paper that needs to be filled in and signed for the Trust Fund, etc., etc. It is a sort of an excuse for being late.

The document that is before us, the two item points of the Agenda that have been combined. I think we can combine it with agenda Item 16.2 that we discussed yesterday. The discussion on the elements of the Draft Strategic Framework.

I have to remind you that some of the points that I made yesterday are just as valid for this discussion, particularly on sequencing and we have really some challenges there.

The Headquarters Structure and Decentralization and a few other things will be agreed in both the Conference Committee Working Groups and a few other things for the new PWB.

We will be more than busy during this fall and this has been pointed out many times now, this is the largest Reform process of any UN Organization, in fact in the whole UN System, and that is itself a challenge.

When we had finance, food, energy and price challenges last year, we noted with some regret that the world automatically turned to FAO, you know, you have the full discussion and get the answer.

The process that we are in now with the Reform which has come so far and I want to thank everybody again particularly the staff working so hard and the staff positive attitude to reform that contribute so much will change this Organization. It will make FAO the linchpin in any discussion on food security, agriculture and development. Next time, there will be a next time, that we have a crisis as we saw last year which is not fully abated, FAO will be in a much better position together with the other Rome-based agencies, to me that is kind of challenge, there is no doubt about it.

But it takes a lot, it also takes continued and enthusiastic engagement of top management and the top managers in the Organization.

Lots of things need to be done, even with Culture Change in this Organization, although FAO is changing, it is still a very bureaucratic cumbersome Organization. The emphasis on Culture Change cannot be under-estimated.

Also a few words on the Root and Branch Review, which at least to my delegation was a little disappointing. I do not think that the business model that they line up for us is a real template or a pattern for making the Organization less bureaucratic but this is a question of how we deal with those challenges. It was also a surprise, I think that the savings that will come through the process is so meagre saving US\$7 million over seven years and then US\$14 million, this is actually less than the Organization has managed during the last few years in efficiency gains.

So I think we have to look at those Members, scrutinize them and see if we can do better.

One thing on the Root and Branch Review, the recommendation that I understand Management has adopted, that we should take a closer look at the review of the Office of the Director-General, I think this is a necessary thing to do. Norway like many Member Nations, I think are wondering: what is really going on over there, all these people what are they really doing, that sort of things and there is a suspicion that part of the bureaucratic pyramid that this Organization has started at the top, this is something we should really look at.

We are very optimistic about the Reform process. We trust and we are pretty sure that this will change FAO to really be an efficient channel for lateral contributions and that is what this is all about, get more money to the Organization that will do good to the countries, regional levels, etc. I think we can do it.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation, on behalf of the Africa Group, is satisfied on the working mechanism framework and the structures put to implement the IPA. The IPA has been well-harmonized and coordinated. We also thank you for cautioning us that we have to be flexible and the flexibility has been built in this process and Members have been updated on the process. We strongly argued that this disciplinary spirit needed to be maintained.

We note the reported good progress and at the same time the threats to the progress, in particular the low contribution to the Trust Fund.

Though we note the actions being taken and the willingness by Members to pledge and pay, we have heard Mr Butler that the US\$7.1 million has been pledged but he will like to know how much has been paid in; that is cash which can be taken and can be used and what is the urgent work which needs to be done.

We would like to see that IPA projects will not be taken in a piecemeal approach, or stopping the processes that we have started, otherwise the spirit of undertaking the IPA work or projects as a package will be meaningless.

Sequencing of the work of IPA is a necessity, is a work in progress, but sequencing work for the lack of funds is very dangerous and we would like to get an explanation to my last three comments – is the sequencing for lack of funds, is that being anticipated in this sequencing or the sequencing is the whole sum of the process?

If the process goes on we strongly argue for the continuous discussion for the work on the IPA with the Staff Association, Professionals and the General Service staff at Headquarters and in the field. They are the main implementers of IPA and for the overall reform of FAO. Their views need to be taken in the process. We have had a seminar which was attended by the representatives of the staff and we heard some of their views and they were as if the process was going very fast and there may be too much to work on. I hope there has been further discussion on these issues which were presented during that seminar and we would like to know if there has been any progress.

The Africa Group do not have to repeat their concern in the previous interventions in regard to TCP and Decentralization or Decentralized Offices; we hope due consideration will be taken in concluding the work in these two areas.

Finally, we also want to express our appreciation for the good work which has been done by management and the Secretariat and, in particular the management in producing the drafts. They have produced enormous drafts and of high quality and to do this they have sacrificed their time, in particular, during the weekends and during the holidays, so we appreciate their commitment to the Reform of FAO.

Ms Astrid JAKOBS DE PÁDUA (Germany)

I think it is no news that Germany attaches high importance to the FAO reform and implementation of the IPA, but for the time being I ask you to pass the floor to the EC presidency, the Czech Republic.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Please allow me to speak on behalf of the European community and its 27 Member States. Turkey, the candidate country to the EU, associates itself with this statement.

We recognize the enormous effort that has been made by the staff and management of FAO who have continued to carry out their jobs within the Secretariat while devoting long hours to the Reform. It goes without saying that we are indebted to Professor Nouri for his dedicated leadership in the Conference Committee.

The members of the European Community are happy to endorse the Report of the IPA progress circulated by the Chair of the Conference Committee.

EU members based in Rome have tried to take a full share of the burden of discussion and preparation for all the meetings of the working groups and of the Committee itself. We also recognize that the considerable progress that has been made is the achievement of all FAO Members working together for a common goal – a more efficient FAO.

The European Community appreciates, in particular, the steps taken in the areas of Governing Body Reform, Human Resources, Culture Change, Headquarters Structure, Decentralization, Delaying and Procurement. We welcome the efforts made by the Secretariat to reassess the cost of the implementation of agreed IPA activities during 2009 which should be covered by extra-budgetary contributions.

We support the emphasis on enhanced partnerships within the EU system and in particular among the three Rome-based UN Agencies as well as with other partners such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The European Community underlines the importance of an enterprise risk management study and looks forward to the results of the consideration of this matter by the Finance Committee at its next Session.

The European Community considers the fundamental reforms of FAO as a priority for this year and the years to come. We are pleased to note that the Management has decided to implement the majority of the recommendations of the Root and Branch Review, while further discussion with the consultancy company is being held on the few remaining recommendations.

We welcome the integration of the Root and Branch Review recommendations under the relevant IPA projects in a wish to consolidate a single Reform package and to avoid duplication and dispersion of efforts.

We underline the importance to prioritize all reform initiatives and to define an overall project plan. We also believe that the culture change should be an integral part of this Reform Process.

The European Community considers the Human Resources function as a key to the success of a knowledge-based organization, such as FAO, urges the Secretariat to ensure that the function is

given due attention according to IPA and suggests the creation of a dedicated Human Resources Division directly linked to the DDG operations.

The European Community notes the amounts of possible savings during the current year and in future periods. It supports the call of the Finance Committee for a monitoring mechanism of the implementation of the Root and Branch Review recommendations within the context of the IPA.

The European Community would like to emphasize the urgency of the reviews of the Office of the Director-General's role in administrative matters and of the Shared Service Centre and awaits the results of such reviews.

The European Community further notes that the reinforcement of FAO Technical Departments is required in order to improve its balance with support services and to strengthen the result of FAO work in delivering public goods at global level and, at the same time, provide impact-oriented assistance to Members at country level.

In addition, a well functioning decentralized structure is indispensable. The European Community is of the opinion that this issue needs further attention in the reform process and good oversight by the Member Nations is part of the process.

The European Community recalls the consensus in the working group sessions that this is broadly a question of improving the quality of FAO's work at Headquarters and in the field.

To conclude let me state that we have no doubt that renewal of FAO is a common goal shared by all. We are, however, concerned that the IPA Trust Fund is still far from fully-funded and we fear that this may delay FAO renewal. At present approximately ninety percent of all pledges have been made by Members of the European Community. We urge that other FAO Members from all regions will come forward with resources for the Trust Fund as soon as possible.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Region on Item 17. The distinguished Representative of Kuwait already spoke on Item 14.

First we wish to express our appreciation to management and the staff of FAO in the speedy implementation of the IPA. The staff of FAO is doing a great job and we hope that a word of appreciation be included in the Report of the Council.

We appreciate the Progress Report and we urge the Secretariat to continue the dashboard approach in future reports, because it is sharp and crisp. We also support the two core elements of the Immediate Plan of Action, namely that the IPA has an integrated package of actions for the renewal of FAO and that the IPA activities have to be sequenced in relation to the results-based management.

Judging from the reports submitted to the Council, there does not seem to be any serious slippage in progress from the previous report that was dated 17 April. All of the 16 actions, under the 14 projects, are showing steady progress. All are green in color, unless I am colour blind. But there are some challenges and there is a serious resource gap. The presence of these two factors may cause some slippage and, in a few cases, probably considerable slippage in the future.

As shown in the annex, out of the 16 actions, under the 14 projects, seven actions face no challenges and another eight actions face some challenges. We are told that these challenges are all external, particularly their dependence on inputs from other projects. The problem is more serious with respect to the resources available for the implementation of the IPA. Although nine actions face no resource problems, four actions face some resource problems and three face serious resource problems.

Overall, it would appear that five projects face some problems. These are: Project 2, Audit; Project 7, Headquarters Structure; Project 8, Partnership; Project 11, Oracle; and Project 14, Human Resources. One Project – 12, Enterprise Management – is in serious trouble. It is marked red in respect to both challenges and resources.

The removal of these difficulties facing these projects in trouble, hinges on two things. One is the cash status of the Trust Fund and the other is the speed of output from other projects that become inputs for other projects. The latter could be eased by inter-project dialogue, joint planning where feasible and synergy between the specific activities.

With respect to extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the IPA, the situation of the Trust Fund, as we all know, is critical and calls for immediate replenishment. In this connection, we applaud the efforts of the Co-Chair, the Co-Champions, in trying to bring additional funds from Member Nations and from other sources. Your past record of achieving consensus among Membership on critical issues is a shining example and we wish you all the success in your efforts.

In this connection, we thank Norway for announcing its contribution a few minutes ago.

Finally, it would be appreciated if the risk assessment associated with each of these 14 Projects, could be included in future project reports, as was done in the Progress Report dated 17 April, which was submitted to the Joint Working Groups 1, 2 and 3. It would also be appreciated if Project 13 could also cover the progress of country change in Decentralized Offices.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation is pleased to learn of the progress made in implementing the IPA since the November 2008 Special Conference. We would like to commend this management for the proactive internal arrangements to implement a number of activities under the IPA without using extra budget and to thank FAO staff for their active contribution.

We support the management's response to the Root and Branch Review and look forward to the follow-up of the consultants' remaining work on the review of ODG and clarifications on the important questions, as pointed out by the Management.

Thailand recognizes the sense of urgency in FAO Reform to cope with emerging threats to its drive toward the MDGs. We are engaged in every discussion and consultation for that purpose. With regard to the short fall of financial resources for the IPA Trust Fund, my delegation would like to encourage Member Nations to share their ownership in the form of financial contribution.

As a developing country, Thailand is doing its best to share responsibility in the IPA implementation. In this regard, we have recently proposed to the Cabinet to contribute a symbolic amount of US\$50,000 to the IPA Trust Fund. We hope that, subject to the Cabinet's approval, we will be able to once again reflect our full support for this important exercise.

Sergio INSUNZA (Chile)

Mi delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaría por el informe sobre la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción y la respuesta a la administración del examen retroactivo, como también valorar enormemente los avances que se han logrado en su aplicación. Este informe refleja el gran esfuerzo que se está haciendo para poner en práctica las decisiones adoptadas por la Conferencia en su período de sesiones extraordinario del año pasado. Sabemos del enorme trabajo desplegado por los responsables de esta tarea, y del personal involucrado en ella, y a ellos vaya nuestro más sincero reconocimiento.

Los cinco pilares de la renovación de la FAO, los que se han integrado en las medidas del Plan Inmediato de Acción, constituyen una indicación clara de los objetivos a alcanzar. Vemos que los resultados hasta ahora logrados son significativos, en especial en algunas áreas, pero observamos también que en otras aún queda mucho por hacer.

Mi delegación da mucha importancia al objetivo de alcanzar un coordinado funcionamiento como organización de la FAO, como una manera de aprovechar adecuada y eficientemente los recursos que siempre son escasos. Lo anterior, nos parece, está íntimamente ligado a afrontar en modo acabado el tema de la Descentralización, garantizando por una parte la presencia de la FAO en modo adecuado y eficiente en las regiones y países, y al mismo tiempo adoptando las medidas de gestión y la dotación de recursos, que no limita la Descentralización a una cuestión meramente

formal, ello sin debilitar la estructura central, que debe mantener y mejorar sus niveles de calidad y eficiencia.

A este respecto, quisiera también referirme a la nueva estructura de la sede. Hemos podido constatar el enorme esfuerzo realizado por la administración para entregar la información que los Estados Miembros necesitan para examinar este tema tan complejo. Sin embargo, a pesar del esfuerzo realizado, hasta ahora dicha información no ha sido suficiente y requerirá por parte de todos el mayor esfuerzo para llegar a una solución adecuada.

Por último, nosotros deseamos expresar que estamos absolutamente concientes con la necesidad de que todos los estados puedan contribuir al fondo fiduciario y, por lo que a nosotros respecta, continuaremos haciendo los esfuerzos para que también nuestro país así lo haga.

Michael Muchenje NYERE (Zimbabwe)

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Tanzania, on behalf of Africa, and the statement made by Kuwait and Afghanistan, on behalf of the Near East. We also recognize the statements of Thailand and Chile.

My delegation notes, with great joy, that significant progress has been made in executing the agreed IPA project so far this year. I wish to note the positive attitude of the FAO Management to the Reform Process we have all engaged in.

I also wish to congratulate the Member Nations for the spirit of cooperation and unit of purpose that has become the hallmark of all group and Conference Committee meetings. May I reaffirm, at this point, my delegations commitment to the FAO's Reform Process.

My delegation welcomes the following changes and proposed changes. The modification of TCP approval to give priority to the neediest countries and to synchronize TCPs to countries needs and strategic goals of the Organization. We are particularly happy to note that TCP approval will be decentralized. This should result in much better and much greater utilization of funds allocated to TCPs.

The other point is Reform of the Governing Bodies, particularly the opening up of the Committees on Finance, Programme and Constitutional and Legal Matters Committees to silent observers. We are also happy with the extension of the work of the Inspector-General and with the steps taken to move the Organization towards a culture of a management for results.

On the Root and Branch Review, we are happy that management has agreed to implement the key aspects of the Root and Branch Review, as outlined in paragraph 28.

We note with pleasure that some savings may emanate from the reforms. In the light of the above, all Member Nations should dig deeply into their pockets to meet the IPA funding needs. In this regard, innovative mechanisms that enable developing countries to contribute in-kind should be vigorously pursued.

Finally, Member Nations should signal the arrival of the Reform with Growth era by availing more resources to the Organization.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

We also welcome the reports of the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action and the Root and Branch Review response by management. As a priority, we expect that implementation of the IPA can be fully achieved and financed by extra-budgetary funds, as determined by the spirit and letter of the Conference Resolution 1/2008.

As my delegation had the opportunity of stressing yesterday, Member Nations have decided during the Thirty-fifth Conference to finance this process through voluntary contributions. In this context, recent reduction of estimated costs in 2009 certainly demonstrates commitment and special effort in that direction.

My delegation agrees with the comments made by Tanzania, on behalf of the African Regional Group as well as by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East that the IPA is an integrated package. Stop-and-go practices, because the lack of funds, are far from being inspired by best practices.

As stated in the document before us, it is really crucial that FAO reform be oriented by principles as, Members' needs, better functioning, efficient use of financial resources, motivated staff and improved governance. Indeed, these are five pillars of the reform process and the future work of this Organization. However, this seems to be only the first step to generate the adequate environment and improvement for FAO's capacity to produce and transfer information, knowledge and technical expertise at the field level.

Returning to the Trust Fund, my delegation welcomes the good news brought by Norway and others this afternoon, joining the group of other countries that had already contributed, like mine, to the Trust Fund.

Regarding Item 3 of the document, Progress to Date, my delegation would like to reiterate our deep concern on the proposed Headquarters Organizational Structure. It became evident during the debates on 4 June that a considerable and representative number of delegations expressed the same kind of doubts on the implications and consequences of the proposed structure. We have noticed the genuine interest of Member Nations to improve the present proposed structure, however we have not seen any mention to those statements of concern in this document, nor have we seen the complete picture of the Headquarters Structure that my delegation and others have requested. We fear that some changes proposed may bring more difficulties than benefits to FAO internal administrative work. We have expressed concern with the suggestions of a Chief Information Officer (CIO), especially his/her relation with the Regional Offices and the objective of Decentralization inscribed in the IPA.

Regarding other issues related to the Root and Branch Review, my delegation has noticed – as Norway – that there are meagre savings identified. This confirms to us that FAO has been working at the limit. Another issue that my delegation thinks that needs to be very, very carefully examined – as put on the document before us – refers to the translation outsourcing proposed by the Root and Branch Review Report. In our opinion, translation as well as interpretation services are vital to FAO and its Members. Instead of increasing translation outsourcing – and we regret that the Root and Branch has not touched upon that – we should be discussing: a) how to continue improving the quality of interpretation and translation; and b) strengthening the internal group of professionals committed to the FAO demands in terms of quality and timely presentation of documents in official languages.

I would be remiss if at the end of my intervention I did not thank Jim Butler for introducing the document this afternoon and a word of gratitude also to management and all staff for continued efforts in moving ahead.

Finally, a word of praise also goes to you, the Vice-Chairs of the COC and the Chairs of the Working Groups for all the dedication and leadership in this process, which is being very open and participatory. This is a work in progress and my delegation will continue to participate actively in finalizing the Reform Process Roadmap for a stronger and renewed FAO that we all aspire.

Chrisopher S. HEGADORN (United States of America)

It is a particular pleasure to make my delegation's comments in your presence here this afternoon as it is in this CoC Working Groups under your able leadership.

We have all been here working very hard, first on a comprehensive review of the IEE and to fashion a comprehensive Immediate Plan of Action which was approved unanimously last November at our Conference Meeting here in Rome.

The hard work of implementation has already begun and will require the continued hard work of FAO staff, an item our delegation touched upon yesterday in our intervention and I align our statement today with comments made in that vein by other Members.

Particularly later this year, this fall, we know that the demands on staff and Management will be enormous regarding the Reform programme and should be given full attention and full support. It will also require the continued hard work and dedication of us, the Member Nation Representatives, to ensure full and faithful implementation of the IPA over this and the coming two years. Flexibility is required as this is a work in progress as others have stated and course corrections will certainly be required as we move forward.

We all need to look beyond the here and now, to a future where FAO's relevance is not questioned nor its funding in jeopardy. We worked last year in a spirit of collaboration, finding areas of compromise where we could all agree. We urge all Members to not lose sight of that spirit and avoid putting our own national interests in front of the bigger goal.

We must look to ensure better coordination among UN Agencies, look for partnerships as some mentioned in their interventions and, importantly, avoid a Zero Sum approach and look to broaden the pie for the benefit of us all and more importantly to those we are here working for, our citizens.

To that end, the US is working to try to make a voluntary contribution to the IPA Trust Fund.

Regarding the Root and Branch Review, I would like to point out that we see a tremendous value in having an external review of this Organization. It was not a perfect process but it certainly added value and we look forward to Ernst & Young completing some unfinished business this year, including the study on the Office of the Director-General, to look for added efficiencies and streamlining of the organizational management. Of course we look forward to discussions within the CoC-IEE on that point.

We also recognize that the Root and Branch Review had a limited mandate, but share the comments of Norway and Brazil and others noting greater savings were not identified but we believe there is more work to be done. This is a work-in-progress, and we thank you for your leadership in that process.

Ms YAO XIANGIUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

We appreciate the work of the Secretariat and we would also like to express our thanks and commend the very clear presentation of the Report and the work that has been done for the reform. Ever since the beginning, every since FAO embarked on the IEE process, China has been following it very closely and the Chinese delegation is very happy to see that by the end of May 58 percent of the work has been implemented and a lot of work has already been accomplished.

China will continue to follow very carefully what is being done and to support the FAO Reform process. The Chinese Government has provided a contribution to the Special Fund, this will be considered in the next budget cycle. We want to ensure that the activities and the programmes may continue and reflect closely the interests of the Membership, and for that purpose it is important that we ensure Reform with Growth which means not only to being able to mobilize more resources, it also means building on the capabilities and the ability of the Organization to serve Membership and developing countries.

FAO will be better able to play its lead role in the area of development of agriculture throughout the world. Regarding the Secretary's report in paragraph 15, there is a reference to a training programme starting in September 2009 to facilitate the handover of TCP facilities to the Decentralized Offices from January 2010. I would like to understand whether this Decentralization is to be made in a scaled fashion or in one go? Will it be a Decentralization towards Decentralized Offices or FAO representations? We would be more in favour of a gradual process of implementation of this Decentralization, and think it is important to emphasize the role and responsibilities of the FAO Representations in the countries.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

Our overview is already reflected in the statements made by the Czech Republic earlier so my comment will be very small and perhaps an additional note.

Turkey also welcomes the report and supports the overall Reform Process, in particular, we would emphasize that the Decentralization Process would enable the Organization to deliver its services to Member Nations all around more effectively and more quickly.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to pay our intended contribution to the Trust Fund due to procedural and bureaucratic problems. However, we have been and will be supporting the Sub-Regional office for Central Asia which needs a lot of support. In this respect, I would like to inform you that, in addition to the already ongoing projects, seven projects have just been formulated and approved towards this Region, through the Partnership Programme which became operational at the beginning of this year. I presume this would help to strengthen the Decentralized Office towards Central Asia.

Finally, I was intending to thank all the contributors to this really good work but if I start listing the contributors I would miss some of them and that would not be fair. So I will not go through the list, but one point perhaps, I am just wondering, I think that the visitors coming from the capitals should also be aware that we are receiving the e-mails and communications at midnight, at the weekends as mentioned by a number of speakers earlier. So in this regard we thank the Management and the Secretariat and all of those who contributed to this good work.

Hans-Jorge LEHMANN (Suisse)

J'aimerais relever que la Suisse est satisfaite de l'avancement des travaux de mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate, qui vont dans le sens souhaité. Nous accordons une importance toute particulière au développement de la stratégie en matière de partenariat, à la mise en place d'une Décentralisation effective, ainsi qu'à l'instauration d'une stratégie des ressources humaines, permettant une gestion efficace basée sur les résultats. Mon pays partage également le point de vue de l'Union européenne quant à la nécessité de procéder rapidement à un examen du rôle du bureau du Directeur général dans les questions administratives et attend les résultats de cet examen.

La Suisse, qui a fourni une contribution financière substantielle, est préoccupée par le fait que le financement du Plan d'action immédiate en 2009 n'est de loin pas assuré. Nous espérons qu'une solution à cette question pourrait être trouvée rapidement de manière à permettre la pleine réalisation du Plan d'action immédiate, dans le sens des décisions prises par la Conférence en 2008. Le Plan d'action immédiate constitue, en effet, un ensemble d'actions dont la mise en œuvre intégrale devrait permettre ce que nous souhaitons, le renouveau de la FAO.

James G. BUTLER (Deputy Director-General)

I would first like to extend my thanks to the Members who are here and in particular to those who have travelled to the Council Meeting from the capitals. I can say with all confidence that your representatives in Rome are working with us very diligently on our renewal and Reform effort, so if you in the capitals might be slow in hearing messages it is because your delegates in Rome are working hard with us. So be patient with them, but I too want to extend my thank you for the dedication that is occurring.

I would like to say that I do recognize the comments with regard to the Trust Fund, that have been made by several Members and we appreciate those comments and continued pledges. There was one question I believe from the distinguished Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania about the current amount in the Trust Fund and that amount is US\$3.9 million prior to the interventions that were made in the last few moments, so we are at US\$4 million in the Trust Fund.

I will certainly pass on your comments, which were so welcome, to the staff of FAO and I wish they could all be here to have heard that and we note that there is much work ahead but I greatly appreciate your comments with regard to the staff dedication.

In my view Growth with Reform is occurring and what I just heard you say in the last few moments is an expression of confidence and I appreciate that, as a staff member of FAO, and I

know that all of us in this room that work as a team between Management and your governments, also appreciate the confidence that has been displayed.

I would like to pass the microphone to my colleagues starting with Mr Juneja.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Really in the last 45 minutes, through your interventions, we have heard so many facets of FAO's renewal; Results-based Management, TCP criteria, Decentralization, Headquarters Structure, Partnerships, Human Resources Reform, Competencies, Culture Change, the Root and Branch Review, IPSAS, Governing Body Reform, and improvements in procurement and collaboration between Rome-based Agencies, just to name a few.

Of course, this is an ambitious programme of renewal but the most important thing from Management's viewpoint is that this is an integrated and interdependent package of Reform and renewal. This is not a new message from Management, this was also a message of the Independent External Evaluation. From our point of view, we have tried to sequence the actions recognizing these interdependencies as best as we can and have presented the information in the document before you. We believe we have found that balance. It is an ambitious balance, as you would expect from us, but what we feel is missing is another side of the equation, and that is, that we do need resources as the Deputy Director-General had mentioned in his introduction in order to be able to implement this integrated package of Reform and renewal.

As the Deputy Director-General had indicated at the outset, the amount that has been pledged so far from 27 members amounts to US\$7.1 million. Of that, only US\$4 million has been paid so far, and that is far short of the 2009 requirements that we have presented in this paper for 2009, of US\$15.25 million.

Providing adequate funding, we believe it is fair to say, is your part of this compact and this is not just a matter for 2009, but the IPA itself is a programme of work, of renewal for three years and therefore a matter which extends into 2010 and 2011 as well. We have also seen that the Root and Branch review spans a period of seven years in its recommendations, so it is clear that this entire process, in all its dimensions, will be a significantly phased process, where it is Management's intention to maintain the momentum.

I would like to turn to some comments made on the Root and Branch Review.

Norway mentioned that the savings from the Root and Branch Review are meagre and, in fact, Brazil commented on that. Let me say that Management will continue to review other areas of work. We will continue to look for streamlining and efficiency improvements in all areas of administration including areas which the Root and Branch Review may not have reviewed. An example of that in fact is the Shared Service Center, where we committed to undertake a review and report the results of those reviews, with that review to the Governing Bodies.

Now admittedly, the financial savings that the consultants have come up with are less than what the Organization has managed, but we need also to ask ourselves at what real cost has the Organization managed to achieve efficiency savings in the past. As far back as three years ago, your own Programme and Finance Committees had warned that efficiency savings must be realistic.

What the conclusion of the Root and Branch Review has shown is that we need to focus on improved effectiveness. We have opportunities for improvements in the effectiveness of FAO's administrative services and that is really an important focus of the Root and Branch Review recommendations and the result of nine months of work of the Root and Branch Review.

We will be able to measure our improved effectiveness through the results-based framework that is being implemented under the Functional Objective Y that is focused on administration through service-level agreements, that we will implement in our administrative areas and it is really

through that process that we believe we will be able to hold ourselves accountable to you, to demonstrate our improved effectiveness in the future.

Several comments were made on the review of the Office of the Director-General. Management has already agreed with the recommendations of Ernst & Young, the terms of reference for the review of the administrative activities of the Office of the Director-General and indeed the apex of the organizational structure, have already been finalized and given to Ernst & Young. The key consultants within Ernst & Young, who need to undertake the study, have also been identified because it is important in order to get a good product to ensure there is continuity with the consultants for this part of the study, in other words, using those who already have the institutional memory of the work that they have conducted during the past nine months. We will have a meeting this week with the Ernst & Young consultants with the aim of finalizing the contractual arrangements.

We have already indicated that we will not draw on the Trust Fund for the Immediate Plan of Action to fund this study and I should mention to you that Ernst & Young have indicated that the completion of this study will take somewhere between 10-15 weeks.

I wanted to also underline the importance of partnerships which was mentioned by several including Norway. As you know in the past months there have been at least two meetings of the Working Groups of the Conference Committee and a partnership strategy was put forward to the Working Groups. Partnership is a core function within the Strategic Framework. There is a functional objective with organizational results within Functional Objective X3 which are dedicated to partnerships and also dedicated to measuring our performance with regard to our partnerships with other organizations.

In fact, partnerships are considered within every organizational result in the MTP and PWB results formulation. You would have also noted from the documentation that partnership work is also one of the priority areas that have been sequenced in 2009.

I should finally also mention that we will be presenting to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee a report on Rome-based Agency collaboration in July, and that will cover both the administrative as well as substantive areas of collaboration amongst the Rome-based Agencies at Headquarters and in the field.

I would finally like to make a comment on the Headquarters Structure. Yesterday and today many Members have commented on it and in fact we have heard a number of suggestions and concerns on the Headquarters structure.

First of all, I should point out that the Immediate Plan of Action, which the Conference which you approved in 2008, itself said that the implementation of the Headquarters Structure will take place in the period up to 2012, that is stated in paragraph 46 of the IPA.

So, the main point here is that what we present now, or indeed what we implement jointly with your guidance from 2010 may of course be subject to further adjustment.

I should also point out that there are many models for an organizational structure. There will be many opinions. Management's proposals have sought to follow the principles which have been agreed with you over the past year and the structure that has been put forward so far is being consistent with Box 5 of the Immediate Plan of Action. The structure has also been refined in order to take into account the recommendations of the Root and Branch Review, for example, concerning the CIO function.

We look forward to further interaction and discussion with the Membership on this area, which, of course, we appreciate is of great interest to the Membership, starting with the informal discussion on Friday.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Thanks to Manoj Juneja because you already spoke about the resources, which is the most difficult part so allows me to take up the front part.

Let us be reminded that the Reform Process is only starting. We are at the beginning of a three-year process. We have only completed five and a half months of implementation and so therefore we have basically the bulk of the work in front of us. We are convinced that we are starting on a very solid ground, and we are reassured because we have heard that from you. You have told us that you are happy with the architecture that we have proposed, the mechanisms we have put in place. We are happy with the oversight that we are receiving from you and you have also mentioned that you agree with the five pillars of reform, which basically show the objectives on which we are moving.

A number of you have mentioned the principals of Reform and we, of course, fully agree with them. I think that we are implementing them from different angles – in a relationship with you, the Members, the Members between themselves, our relation with staff. All of us, I think, are being much more open, participatory and we are listening to each other in a much deeper way. We have ensured that we have flexible arrangements and we value that flexibility of moving ahead and we also value the work that we are doing and we will continue to be doing in partnerships.

A couple of you have mentioned the importance of staff concerns. You heard directly from staff about their own concerns. Again, this is an issue of transparency. We communicate much better to each other. All the different actors in this Reform Process have to be communicating better and the fact that you were able to talk to them directly was another instance of this. Sometimes you might have not liked some of the things you heard or they might not have liked some of the things they heard but the whole thing is that we have to be much more open and transparent in our communication.

You heard from staff – and this was underlined by the Ambassador of Tanzania – that staff were saying we are doing too much, too quick and it is confusing. I think that this might be a reflection of our transmission to staff of the sense of urgency that we all have. I think you have and we have a sense of urgency. It is a three-year process and three years is not a long time for a Reform of this magnitude. Therefore, we have to be moving and we have to be moving quickly. Obviously that creates some concerns amongst staff. It is important for us to listen to them and for you to listen to them and it helps us with more clarity in our communication with staff and we will be communicating much more. As we listen to their concerns, then of course we will be trying to respond to them as we continue implementation without losing our sense of urgency. You also heard from staff that never before have they been listened to and consulted so much as now. I think that was very positive and I was very happy to hear that from them. They feel much more consulted than in the past. As a matter of fact, their Management Response to the Root and Branch Review that you saw was also consulted with staff. Some of the ideas that are in that Management Response come from the staff associations.

Another principal with which we are doing the Reform Process is that of transparency. You received the Root and Branch Review at the same time we received it. You were confronted with the 400 pages of that Report at the same time as we were confronted. Again, this is in the spirit that we want to make sure that we are in this Reform together. We are working together and together we will be able to produce a much better FAO.

Several of you mentioned the issue of Culture Change. This is indeed one of our priorities. Without Culture Change we will simply not have any Reform. We take note of your suggestion to increase our efforts of Culture Change also in the Decentralized Offices. We are sure that, as we move ahead, we will come out much stronger. We will have a stronger FAO with leaner or more impact, etc. We will come out stronger.

I will just echo Jim's views that we will transmit to staff the kind words that you have expressed today. They will be very happy and eager to know what happened today in our meeting.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to thank you, the Members, because I see that without the big efforts that you are making and the large amount of extra work that you are taking on, this Reform would not be possible. For us, it is very reassuring and we also want to transmit our words of thanks to you.

That makes me even more optimistic than I was before and even surer that Reform is not only possible, Reform is real and actually Reform is happening.

David BENFIELD (Director, Information Technology Division)

Just one or two points. On the general funding issue. A reminder of course that 75 percent of all of the IPA actions do not require external funding but of course that 75 percent by number and within that 25 percent there are some very significant projects which have not moved forward from 2009 to 2011 will be with us and will require a constant level of funding so that Management can concentrate on delivering against those projects rather than constantly stop – go, have we got the funding to keep large projects underway. So, to us consistency of funding as we move forward is going to be a very important issue.

The other comment I would like to make is about the Root and Branch Review and the level of cash savings that came from that Root and Branch Review. The objective was to improve administrative services and it does now give a very balanced view in terms of the investments that are required in order to improve the services. So when we look at being better able to report back to you on how we are performing in a results-based management environment, we do need to make investments in management information systems, for example. When we talk about Decentralization, we need for everybody in the Decentralized Offices to be able to operate in the sense of delivering as one, an equal partner an equal staff member and we need to invest in, for example, our telecommunications network with the Decentralized Offices. So these are areas of investment that do need to be made in order for our administrative and support services to be more effective.

I would like to look particularly about the effectiveness side because one of the strong elements that came through from the Root and Branch Review is the need to align the administrative services more closely with the needs of the Technical Departments and that means constantly undertaking reviews with the Technical Departments, having formal service agreements with those Departments and changing that service delivery as the needs of the Technical Departments change and that enables the Technical Departments to better deliver against our mandate which is the end game that we are trying to achieve here.

I think rather than just taking a short-term view of those cash savings, it is important to look at the effectiveness side which I am sure will have cash benefits downstream for the Technical Departments and our Decentralized Offices to be able to better deliver against the mandate and I think one needs to look at the Root and Branch Review, also within that context.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any further questions or comments? If not, I will try to make a brief summary of what was mentioned here, although I cannot include everything that has been said.

I can conclude that Council expressed its satisfaction on the good progress made on the Implementation of the Plan of Action so far and also commended the staff and Management of FAO for their dedicated work and for their new attitudes towards the work.

Several areas need deeper work, more consideration and attention, which includes Headquarters Structure, Decentralization, ODG Office and Chief Information Officer post.

Quality translation and interpretation in the languages of the Organization are key services for the Membership and should be further improved.

Partnership, especially among the Rome-based Agencies, received attention.

Culture Change is an integral part of the reform of the FAO renewal and should be integrated together with all other aspects.

IPA actions and Root and Branch Review recommendations are an integrated package and should not be dealt with on a piecemeal basis.

Decentralized Offices and TCP need more speed, attention and resources.

The importance of Human Resources were emphasized and its appropriate placement in the Organigramme of the Organization.

Finally, there is a serious shortage in the Voluntary Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, and those Members who have not yet contributed are encouraged to do so.

With this, do I have your endorsement of this Item.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thanks to your efficient contributions we could manage to finish our work half an hour before time, and this gives you an opportunity to at least see the beautiful city of Rome before sunset.

Before concluding, I would like to make a proposal regarding the Timetable for tomorrow afternoon. I suggest that we begin with: Item 15.1 High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition; followed by Item 15.2 Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009; and then go on to consider Item 16, the Programme Implementation Report 2006-2007; followed by Sub-item 21.1 Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO.

Does Council agree with this proposal?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you – the revised sequence of items for tomorrow afternoon will be reflected in the Order of the Day for tomorrow.

May I remind those delegates who have not yet registered to do so in the Turkish Registration Centre. Delegates who do not register will not appear in the List of Participants appended to the Final Report of this Session.

Finally, I should like to remind you that sound recordings of our proceedings are available in the language of delivery on the Permanent Representatives Website, to which all Permanent Representatives have access.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of our work for today.

The Council will convene at 09.30 hours tomorrow morning. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 17:00 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trent-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
Rome, 15-19 juin 2009
Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

17 June 2009

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:42 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9:42 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

18. Reports of the 84th (2-4 February 2009), 85th (23 and 24 February 2009), 86th (7 and 8 May 2009) and 87th (25 and 26 May 2009) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20)
18. Rapports de la quatre-vingt quatrième (2-4 février 2009), quatre-vingt cinquième (23 et 24 février 2009), quatre-vingt sixième (7 et 8 mai 2009) et quatre-vingt septième (25 et 26 mai 2009) sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20)
18. Informe del 84.º (2-4 de febrero de 2009), 85.º (23 y 24 de febrero de 2009), 86.º (7 y 8 de mayo de 2009) y 87.º (25 y 26 de mayo de 2009) período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20)

18.1 Changes to the Basic Texts required for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal

18.1 Modifications requises des Textes fondamentaux pour la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO

18.1 Cambios en los Textos fundamentales que será necesario introducir para la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción para la renovación de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the fifth meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Council to order. Unfortunately the Agenda is starting 15 minutes late.

The first Item on our Agenda this morning is Item 18, the Reports of the 84-87th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Please ensure that you have documents CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20 and CL 136/LIM/2 before you.

This item has two subitems, namely:

Subitem 18.1: Changes to the Basic Texts to implement the IPA for FAO Renewal; and

Subitem 18.2: Proposed amendments to the Constitution on the Reform of the CFS.

These two subitems will be considered separately

First we will consider point 18.1 and then we will go to point 18.2.

As regards *Changes to the Basic Texts to implement the IPA for FAO Renewal*, Appendix II to the document CL 136/20 contains the latest version of the Proposed Amendments to the Basic Texts. So the Basic Texts is Appendix 2 to the document 136/20. At this present session, the Council is invited to endorse the substance of these amendments, bearing this in mind, please pay attention to the following points.

1) The proposed amendments regarding the CFS will be addressed separately and not in the context of implementation of the IPA; it will be discussed separately under Item 18.2 and we will decide on that.

2) The Charter for the Office of Evaluation is still under discussion, and will be reviewed again by the Programme Committee, so it is also out of our discussion today.

A few specific issues raised at the CoC-IEE meeting on 5 June will be reviewed by the CCLM at its Session in September;

And finally, at its September Session the CCLM will still deal with issues of structure and organization of the Basic Texts, so the Organization format will be discussed again in September.

The only thing that we have to discuss today is the substance of the amendments, considering that the external sending out of the CFS will not be discussed under this item. The Office of Evaluation is still under consideration. A few issues which were raised in CoC-IEE would be reconsidered by the CCLM.

With this, the job ahead of us is very clear and I ask Mr Fiol, Chairperson of the CCLM, to introduce the Item.

Julio FIOLE (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Es un honor para mí realizar una presentación breve de los informes del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos sobre los Cambios a los Textos Fundamentales Necesarios para la Puesta en Práctica del Plan Inmediato de Acción para la Renovación de la FAO. Como usted sabe, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos ha tenido un año más activo que lo que es su práctica habitual. A la fecha hemos efectuado ya cuatro sesiones, dos en febrero y dos en mayo este año, y los informes de dichas sesiones, como señalaba el señor Presidente, están delante de ustedes en los documentos 136/11, 136/13, 136/19 y 136/20. Desearía invitar a los Miembros del Consejo a revisar estos informes así como los documentos preparatorios que fueron sometidos al Comité.

Dada la gran cantidad de asuntos revisados durante este año por el Comité, no me es posible realizar una presentación detallada. Sólo quisiera señalar que el CCLM examinó en el contexto de la matriz aprobada en el Plan Inmediato de Acción los siguientes aspectos: nombramiento y mandato del Director General; Comités técnicos; reuniones ministeriales; Conferencias regionales; estatus y composición del Comité de Programa, del Comité de Finanzas y de nuestro propio Comité; delegación de autoridad por parte del Director General; criterios para la distribución de las propuestas de enmienda a los textos fundamentales; definición de los Órganos Rectores; implementación de las acciones del Plan Inmediato de Acción referidas a la Conferencia; Presidente Independiente del Consejo; Reforma del Programa del Presupuesto y el Seguimiento basado en resultados y la puesta en prácticas de las acciones del Plan Inmediato de Acción referidas al Consejo y los demás temas relacionados.

Además, como usted sabe, esta labor fue realizada en un contexto de diálogo constante y de colaboración entre el Comité, el Grupo de Trabajo número 2 y el Comité de la Conferencia, quienes examinaron en varias ocasiones la labor realizada por el CCLM. En efecto, el Grupo de Trabajo número 2 proporcionó indicaciones en varios asuntos y el CCLM solicitó en algunas ocasiones la guía del Grupo en otros temas específicos. El exhaustivo conjunto de enmiendas a los textos fundamentales que encuentran en el Apéndice 2 del documento CL 136/20 es el resultado de este proceso de colaboración.

Como usted lo señalaba, quedan pendientes de revisión algunos asuntos. En la sesión de septiembre veremos, entre otros temas, el Comité de Ética y una revisión preliminar de los órganos estatutarios con el objetivo de permitirles a algunos de ellos ejercer una mayor autoridad financiera y administrativa. Asimismo el Comité examinará algunos asuntos remitidos por el Comité de la Conferencia y la cuestión de la futura estructura y realización de los Textos Básicos.

Desearía invitar al Consejo a adoptar el contenido de las enmiendas contenidas en el Apéndice II del documento 136/20, en el entendido que los asuntos referidos al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, tal como lo señalaba el señor Presidente, serán examinados en forma separada, y que la Oficina de Evaluación deberá ser nuevamente revisada por el Comité de Programa antes de ser sometida al Consejo.

Quisiera destacar que lo que a medidas, a enmiendas a la Constitución se refiere, ellas deben consignar el Artículo XX del párrafo 4, deben ser sometidas a la consideración de los Estados Miembros con por lo menos 120 días de antelación a la apertura del Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia durante la cual serán consideradas. Esto significa que aquellas enmiendas a la

Constitución, que ya ha considerado el Comité, serán distribuidas y circuladas a los Miembros a mediados del próximo mes de julio. En este mismo sentido es importante saber que el Consejo en su próximo período de sesiones número 137, a fines de septiembre, será invitado a adoptar los proyectos de resolución que la Conferencia deberá conocer sobre este tema.

Quisiera agradecer a mis colegas y demás miembros del Comité, y a la Secretaría especialmente, por la inmensa e importante labor realizada durante el año. Tanto mi persona como la Secretaría estamos a disposición del Consejo para proporcionar aquellas aclaraciones que sean necesarias en cuanto a los informes presentados para la labor realizada.

CHAIRPERSON

Once again please remember that at the last Conference we endorsed the Immediate Plan of Action, which has more than 200 actions, so in order to implement these actions, there is need for amendments to the Basic Texts, and this is what has been done by the Legal Office and the CCLM during last year and we appreciate the hard work they have done.

I myself and Ms Feistritz, the Co-Chairperson of the Working Group II were present in all the meetings of the CCLM to be sure that what we do is consistent with the spirit of the Plan of Action and the discussions we have had. They did a very good job.

Working Group II, which was responsible for that, endorsed the report of the CCLM. Then we took the Report to the Committee of the whole, CoC-IEE, and again it was endorsed, as I said, with a few points that we will reconsider at the next CCLM. So this Report that we are inviting you to endorse has been already endorsed by two other bodies that you have appointed, and now the floor is open for your comments or recommendations.

I start with Kuwait, Italy, Congo, Chile and Japan. Ok let us start with that and continue. Now I invite the distinguished representative of Kuwait to take the floor, please.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, we would like to give the floor to Jordan, the Chair of the Near East Group to speak on behalf of the Group.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

It is indeed my honour to speak on behalf of the Near East Group. Allow me to say the following. The Near East Group highly appreciates the efforts made by the CCLM in the recent period and the tireless efforts we have all noticed in its work. We appreciate also the efforts of the Legal Office and their cooperation with the Member Nations and the competent Working Group. The fruit of their work is the document that was accurately translated and discussed in the Conference Committee on the basis of the IEE. As to the amendments to the Basic Texts, I was informed that as regards the Committee on World Food Security, it would be discussed separately, also the issue of the Office for Evaluation will be discussed later on. Our group endorses the amendments to the text regarding the implementation of the IPA including the following: issues relating to the Council as regards the election to the Council for a three-year mandate and the renewal of a part of the membership annually on the basis of three groups of Members to be elected by the Conference while taking transitional measures, it being understood that in November 2009, the Conference will be holding a Session as well as a session later on in June 2010.

Second: The election of the Independent Chair of the Council by the Conference in November 2009 for 18 months more or less until a new Chairperson is elected in June 2011.

Third: Functions of the Council as regards the world situation on food and agriculture and related issues; the inter-sessional work of the Council between the sessions of the Conference, being an executive body relating to the Conference and being mandated to adopt decisions that are not to be examined by the Conference; the frequency of the sessions; the terms of reference of the Council and the session it holds immediately following the regular session of the Conference, which includes among its items the election of the two chairpersons of the Finance Committee,

the Programme Committee as well as the chairperson of the CCLM; and adopting measures and actions that are based on the resolutions of the Conference.

Fourth: Mandates of the Director General, the election procedure to the post of Director General, as the mandate becomes four years that can be renewed for one time, including what was said regarding the delegation of authority by the DG.

Fifth: the sessions of the Conference - the regular session of the Conference to be held at the Headquarters of the Organization in June unless it is held elsewhere or at a different timing on the basis of a resolution by the Conference in a previous session, or if exceptional circumstances warrant it.

Sixth: membership and election methods of members of the Programme and Finance Committee as well as the CCLM. The members and the frequency of the sessions and the Rules of Procedure of those Committees, especially that those are mandates have addressed paragraphs that have created problems for us in the past of the Organization because of the imbalances in the geographical representation in those Committees.

Seventh: text related to the Technical Committees as subsidiary organs of the Council, commodity problems, agriculture world food security, COFI and COFO. Or reporting mechanisms of those Technical Committees it was decided that all issues regarding policies and organizational methods be reported to the Conference while programme and budgetary matters be reported to the Council.

Eighth: text related to the Regional Conferences, ministerial conferences and the frequencies and the functions.

Ninth: text related to the definition of Governing Bodies and, in particular, those relating to the Regional Conferences because they were lacking in the Basic Texts relevant to date.

Tenth: text relating to the Independent Chair of the Council.

Eleventh: reform of the Programme of Work and Budget underlining here as the Near East Group our appreciation of the work of the CCLM as well as the Legal Affairs Office of FAO for their continuous efforts made during the recent period and for the accurate reports presented to us containing the results of our work last year and the beginning of this year.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Chairperson of the Near East for providing a very good summary of the whole report for all of us and now let me read the speakers' list.

So it is Italy, Chile, Congo, Japan and we will add other names; and I now will invite Italy to take the floor to be followed by Chile.

Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

I am asking for the intervention of the Czech delegation, they will read a statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States and Turkey the candidate country to the EU which associates itself with this statement.

The European Community would like to highlight a few issues that were on the agenda of the Eighty-fourth, Eighty-fifth, Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. We refer more specifically to the amendments pertaining to the Implementation of the IPA to be submitted for approval to the Conference in November.

We welcome the fact that the CCLM, according to the Resolution 1/2008 of 19 November 2008, has facilitated discussion on the implementation of the IPA by attaching to its Report a consolidated appendix showing all amendments to the Basic Texts, including draft Conference Resolutions proposed for adoption.

The European Community agrees with the proposed amendments and proposes the draft Resolutions. We would like to express our thanks to the FAO Secretariat and the members of the CCLM for their constructive work in preparing the requested Basic Text changes.

We note the proposal to amend the Charter of the Office of Evaluation, notably with regards to the choice of its Director. The European Community is in favour of an Independent Office of Evaluation, and is convinced that the proposed procedures will contribute to that end.

We further note that the proposal to change the name of the Regional Conference for Europe was not ready for discussion since the European Regional Group was not consulted beforehand. This issue may be addressed at a later stage if the European Regional Group decides so.

Our comments on the amendments related to the CFS will be formulated during the dedicated Sub-item following this one.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your to-the-point statement and endorsement of the Report, now I will invite Chile to take the floor to be followed by Congo.

Cristián BARROS (Chile)

Deseo agradecer al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por el informe que ha presentado que refleja obviamente un intenso trabajo realizado en este período para dotar de las necesarias normas jurídicas para la aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción para la renovación de la FAO.

Mi delegación desea al mismo tiempo expresar su acuerdo con las propuestas de modificación a los Textos Fundamentales que contiene este Informe.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

J'aimerais d'abord savoir si nous pouvons intervenir à propos du Sous-point 18.2. Je voulais avoir cette assurance.

CHAIRPERSON

The discussion of 18.2 is the next item that we are discussing; we are not discussing it now, only 18.1, Amendments to the IPA. 18.2 will be discussed on the next item.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Je préfère m'inscrire pour la prochaine liste concernant le Point 18.2.

Tetsuya KAWASHIMA (Japan)

Japan would like to thank CCLM Chair and members for their deliberation for Basic Text changes for IPA implementation.

Firstly, Japan would like to endorse the CCLM Report.

Secondly, Japan would like to make a brief comment on the Charter for the FAO Evaluation Office as mentioned by you, Dr Noori. This issue is going to be discussed in the Programme Committee meeting next month. As one of the members of the Programme Committee, we look forward to discussing this issue with the other members of the Committee next month to study further the proposal in detail.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, distinguished delegate of Japan, thank you for your endorsement and definitely the Charter of Evaluation Office will be discussed in the Programme Committee.

United States you have the floor.

Ms Suzanne E. HEINEN (United States of America)

The United States would also like to join others in expressing appreciation to the Legal office and to the Chairperson on CCLM for their efforts in revising the Basic Texts to reflect the collective view of the Members on the issues of Reform.

We believe the changes suggested in these Reports accurately reflect both the spirit and the substance of the decisions made by the Members through the IPA and, therefore, we can endorse these Reports.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished delegate of the United States of America for endorsing the Report and now the final speaker on my list is Indonesia.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

My delegation wishes to join others in endorsing the work of the CCLM Report on the amendment of some Articles of the General Rules of the Organization, in particular on some issues with regard to the IPA programme and we would like to also thank the Secretariat who have been very useful and helpful in facilitating the document for discussions in the CCLM.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished Representative of Indonesia for endorsing the Report.

Are there any other requests for the floor? I see Argentina is asking for the floor.

Agustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Con relación a las propuestas de enmienda del Artículo V, párrafos 6 y 7, la delegación Argentina desea apoyar los textos propuestos y agradece los trabajos del Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales.

No obstante, como hicieron las otras delegaciones, la delegación Argentina se reserva la posibilidad de intervenir específicamente en el Tema 18.2 del Programa del Consejo sobre las Enmiendas a la Constitución referidas al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Argentina, any other requests for the floor? I do not think there were any requests or comments which need the Chairperson or Legal Office. Thank you, it means you have done a good very job.

Okay I can sum up with saying that the Council acknowledged the significant progress made on the Basic Text changes required to implement the IPA. It commended the excellent work done by the CCLM, its Chairperson and the Legal Office and endorsed the Report, the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts and noted that the amendments will be set out in appropriate draft Conference Resolution which will be reviewed at the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Council in September this year, for referral to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference in November for approval.

Do I have your endorsement? Yes, thank you very much.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Okay, now we will move to Sub-item 18.2. The Sub-item 18.2 is proposed amendments to the Constitution under reform of the CFS which was added to the agenda at the request of France.

Background to this Sub-item is available in document CL 136/LIM/2 and now I will give the floor to Mr Fiol, the Chairperson of the CCLM to introduce the issue.

Julio FIOLE (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Desearía presentar brevemente las propuestas de enmienda a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la Organización referidas al futuro estatus del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Como usted ha señalado, estas enmiendas han sido propuestas por Francia, como se indica en el documento CL 136/LIM/2, que reproduce las comunicaciones recibidas de la Representación Permanente de dicho país.

Desearía llamar su atención en particular a las enmiendas propuestas a los Artículos III y IV de la Constitución, las que se encuentran en el Apéndice II del documento CL 136/LIM/2. Estas enmiendas fueron examinadas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en su 87º período de Sesiones en mayo recién pasado, y las conclusiones que adoptó el Comité se encuentran en el Informe contenido en el documento CL 136/20. Dado que dicha propuesta contiene enmiendas a la Constitución, llamo la atención de los miembros del Consejo que éstas deberán ser notificadas a los miembros por lo menos 120 días en anticipación a la apertura del período de sesiones de la Conferencia durante el cual serán consideradas.

Por último, el CCLM también recomendó una enmienda al Artículo XXXIII párrafo 3 de las Reglas Generales de la Organización, referida a la presentación de informes al Consejo sobre cuestiones relativas al Programa del Presupuesto. La presentación de esta enmienda se encuentra al párrafo 22 del documento CL 136/20.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Fiol, so the issue is clear and now the floor is open for your interventions. I start with Congo which has reserved his time, then Kuwait, Belgium. Okay, let us start with these three then continue. Okay, Congo, you have the floor.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Ma déclaration effectivement porte sur le Sous-point 18.2: "Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif pour la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale". Je voulais souligner que pour notre part, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est un Comité technique du Conseil, jusqu'à preuve du contraire. Pour améliorer sa gouvernance, nous nous sommes mis d'accord pour la création d'un Groupe de contact où toutes les régions sont représentées et ouvert à l'ensemble des membres. Pour notre compréhension, ce Groupe de contact devrait, après avoir mené à terme ses travaux, soumettre son rapport à une Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour adoption. Ce Comité devrait saisir sous forme de recommandation, soit le Comité de la Conférence, chargé de l'évaluation externe indépendante, soit le Conseil ainsi que la Conférence par la suite. Mais aujourd'hui, nous constatons des urgences à mi-parcours de ce travail et un État Membre peut saisir le Conseil pour des amendements en rapport avec le CSA.

Nous retiendrons de ces amendements que le nouvel alinéa 9 de l'Acte constitutif précise: "la Conférence est assistée par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale". Ce Comité fait rapport à la Conférence et à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies par l'intermédiaire du Conseil économique et social et de la Conférence. Il est aussi dit que le CSA, selon la proposition, ne serait plus un Comité technique du Conseil de la FAO. C'est tout le problème pour notre délégation et le Groupe africain dans son ensemble, c'est une question capitale.

Il nous paraît prématuré de nous prononcer sur cette question car nos capitales doivent être au préalable largement consultées avant de prendre une décision finale. Souvenons-nous de la proposition de l'EI relative au transfert des activités du Comité des produits à Genève. Nous avons

pris beaucoup de temps pour informer nos capitales afin de nous prononcer par consensus. Voilà brièvement présentées, nos préoccupations. Nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut que l'on présente une situation de ce genre 120 jours avant la tenue de la Conférence mais, nous sommes aussi dépendants de nos capitales qui doivent être largement consultées car il s'agit là d'une question essentielle qui modifie ce qui a déjà en partie adopté par le Comité de la Conférence. Il s'agit du retrait d'un Comité essentiel du Conseil de la FAO pour dépendre directement de l'ECOSOC et de la Conférence. Voilà les préoccupations du Groupe africain et nous aimerions que cela soit pris en compte dans le cadre du Rapport du Conseil.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Could you please kindly give the floor to the representative of Jordan to speak on behalf of the Near East Group.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

As was stated by my colleague from Kuwait, I am speaking here on behalf of the Near East Group.

Concerning the amendments submitted here on the Basic Texts and particularly concerning the CFS, I should like to state the following :

First, in paragraph 21 of the Report, document CL 136/20, there is reference to the following: the CCLM considered the impact of the amendments submitted related to the CFS and its relation to the ECOSOC and to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This new state would mean that these United Nations bodies are desirous of assuming the responsibility of the affairs of the CFS and the CCLM recommended that the FAO would send a message at the required level to the United Nations to ascertain whether the United Nations shall indeed assume this mandate and this responsibility. End of quote.

However, the CCLM did discuss such an amendment before getting in touch with the United Nations. Indeed this message was sent after the drafting of the report and we have not received yet any response to this message and this shows the lack of logic and we are allowed to wonder about the suitability of the decision reached by the CCLM. Furthermore, the COC on the IEE when it dealt with the CFS, being a Technical Committee linked to the Council which is required to submit its reports to the Council concerning the policy affairs, and other affairs are submitted to the Conference and the other administrative and international issues are submitted to the Council.

We believe that the highest body within the Organization is the Conference and we believe that this agency is a Specialized Agency, a technical agency dealing specifically with the affairs of agriculture and food. The Conference within this Organization does embody the political will of the Member Nations and therefore establishing this link with the General Assembly and submitting the Report of the CFS to the General Assembly shall not bring about any positive advantages. I believe that we have reached this result when we discussed this issue.

Furthermore, on the basis of the Basic Texts and in particular Article IX of the General Rules of the Organization, there is a reference to the fact that the CFS shall submit a copy of its Report to the General Assembly. Article 3 of Rules and Procedures of the CFS does lay down this provision, and that is exactly what the CFS has been doing.

Third, we believe that the CFS has an organic link with the other Technical Committees such as COAG, CCP, COFI and other Technical Committees. Therefore, adopting the amendments submitted here shall urge the other Technical Committees to follow suit.

Fifth, the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the General Rules of the Organization does require that this Committee shall submit its Report to the Council, particularly concerning the programme and finance affairs. I believe that this does bring us further away from the principle of seeking the ways and means of translating the recommendations of the Committee into practice, because the text adopted by the CoC, namely that CFS shall submit its Report related to

programme and finance to the Council, is a stronger recommendation than the one laid down in this proposal.

Sixth, there is work and a way in order to boost the work of the CFS. Indeed a contact group was established and, furthermore, other groups were established dealing with the mandate of the CFS, the membership, the High Level Expert Group. I believe that this amendment is a measure which does not pay attention to the sequence of the other measures already taken, and it does not pay the necessary attention to the procedures to be taken by the intergovernmental organization, such as this.

Therefore, I believe that we have to wait for the response of the United Nations concerning what is contained in CL 136/20. We have also to wait for further discussion related to the amendments of this CFS, and we have to wait for the outcome of the Working Groups and the Contact Group. How could we agree on these amendments before we actually have the input of this work. We believe that we do need an exhaustive and serious work on this issue, namely, within the framework of the CoC and in order to study all the repercussions of this issue, we have to wait for the outcome of the work of the Working Groups and the Contact Group and we have to involve other organizations and all relevant parties.

Martine VAN DOOREN (Belgique)

Puis-je vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole à la République Tchèque qui va s'exprimer au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres?

CHAIRPERSON

I think from now on if the Czech Republic asks for the floor we can give the floor directly to the Czech Republic, not through a link.

You have the floor.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

I speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. Turkey, the candidate country to the EU, associates itself with this statement.

The European Community strongly supports the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in the wider framework of FAO Reform.

These amendments to the Constitution were first informally brought to the attention of the CFS Contact Group Meeting on 22 May, where a constructive discussion took place. The proposed amendments were subsequently discussed formally by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters at its 87th Session of 25-26 May. At this Session, the CCLM endorsed these amendments as stated by its Report.

The rationale for such amendments is to place the CFS at the highest political level. The renewed CFS shall become the coordination platform where all relevant stakeholders discuss and commit themselves on all matters of food security, at international, regional and country levels. According to such mandate, representation and ambitions, the CFS needs to transcend its current status of a Council Technical Committee. To fulfil its new responsibilities, it needs a high-level legitimacy, which shall come out of its upgrading as a Committee of the Conference, with reporting links to both the Conference of the FAO and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In any case, it remains a Governing Body of FAO.

Furthermore, first amendments to the General Rules of the Organization regarding CFS have already been endorsed by the CCLM to ensure alignment with the Immediate Plan of Action. Other amendments will be needed to address the political details of the Reform of the CFS, and they shall be discussed by the CCLM in September. What we need today is the endorsement of these proposed Constitution amendments to ensure that the CFS will be in a position to maintain

food security at the top of the international agenda, and that important decisions with concrete implementation will come out of it.

The European Community attaches great importance to the sound reform of the CFS and has considerable expectations on the future role of this Committee. This is why we strongly endorse the proposed amendment to the Constitution and invite all other Member States to do so.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Senegal to take the floor, to be followed by Republic of South Africa, Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania. Senegal, you have the floor.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je vais intervenir au nom du Groupe africain. J'aurais pu, peut être, après l'intervention du Congo ne pas prendre la parole, parce qu'il a repris l'essentiel des préoccupations qui ont été exprimées lors de notre dernière réunion de Groupe.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain ne fait pas une opposition de principe sur les amendements qui ont été formulés par la France concernant la gouvernance du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire, mais s'inquiète du manque de concertation et de communication qu'il y a eu sur ces amendements. Nous pensons, effectivement, qu'aujourd'hui la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire tend à lui donner beaucoup plus de pertinence au point de vue de son action. Il est nécessaire qu'une large concertation soit faite et que nos capitales soient informées de cette décision et réfléchissent pour nous donner un point de vue à exprimer par rapport à cette question qui nous semble aujourd'hui essentielle.

Effectivement, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire est un Comité technique du Conseil et aujourd'hui, vouloir que ce Comité rende compte directement à ECOSOC et à la Conférence des Nations Unies, c'est fondamentalement lui faire changer de statut. Je crois que cela est important et porte à conséquences sur les autres démembrements de l'Organisation, notamment de la Conférence. Il serait bon que tout cela soit pris en compte dans son ensemble pour que les réformes qui doivent aboutir soient largement discutées et que la France communique beaucoup plus sur l'utilité et la pertinence d'une telle démarche.

Voilà donc, Monsieur le Président, ce que je voulais dire au nom du Groupe africain, qui souhaitait, effectivement, qu'une plus large concertation et une plus large communication puissent avoir lieu sur la pertinence de ces amendements, si tant est que ces amendements doivent améliorer l'opérationnalité de ce Comité, qui aujourd'hui, joue un rôle clef et essentiel dans les préoccupations qui sont celles de l'heure, notamment la lutte contre les problèmes alimentaires, la faim et la pauvreté. Je crois que cela est essentiel et, pour cette raison, nous exprimons la plus grande réserve par rapport à cette proposition d'amendement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire en attendant que cette concertation puisse avoir lieu.

Duncan Moopelo SEBEFELO (South Africa)

We would like to reinforce the position presented by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal on the subject of the amendments of the Basic Texts, dealing with the reform of the CFS.

South Africa will make its full contribution on the reform of the CFS later when the Council discusses the subject. For now we just want to emphasize that the basic amendments dealing with the reform of the CFS should be deferred pending the work of the Contact Group facilitating the discussions around the reform of the CFS.

Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan believes that the Committee on World Food Security is an extremely important committee. The role played by this committee is fundamental. The reform, the business of this Committee is necessary and desirable. However, the reform being proposed and the amendments which we have before us today do contain several points which give rise to some hesitation and the Council has to decide on the work of all its committees. This Committee submits its report to this Council.

The World Food Programme also submits reports to this Council, the World Food Programme of course is extremely important, why would the same not apply to the CFS which is one of the essential Bodies of this Organization.

If you take the CFS out of FAO, it will become a very weakened organization. The subject is more important than ever before and therefore we believe that the reform and the way in which the Committee submits its reports, should not go ahead today. We must have time to consult our capitals and I support what was said by the Near East and the African Group on this.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

On behalf of the Africa Region, my delegation supports the view of other African countries and we also propose the Council to wait for outcomes and recommendations of the Contact Group. There are many issues related to the future of CFS that remain un-discussed, such as the membership, financial requirement, rules and procedures.

We also support the idea about having a clear definition of the role and the responsibility of the government NGO, CSO, as well as the private sector. We should have a clear definition to ensure that political decision making within the new CFS remains with the Member Nations.

Ms Suzanne E. HEINEN (United States of America)

The United States supports the efforts to reform and give greater emphasis to the work and the aims of the Committee on Food Security.

We are open to the possibility of changes in the Constitution to raise the level of the CFS. However, we remain concerned that the language offered here is the best approach. As noted in Report 136/20 paragraph 24, the United States believes we must have legal clarity on the language in Article III before making this change. We also believe that we would benefit from more thought and discussion to the eventual functions of the CFS before changing our Constitution.

That said, we recognize the time limits on offering an amendment to the Constitution as well as the right of a Member Nation to propose an amendment to the Conference. Therefore, we would request the Legal Office to do its utmost to get us more clarity on this language from New York, prior to Conference.

Regarding the change proposed to Article v, we believe, for the integrity of the total budgeting process, that the CFS should continue to work with the Council on these issues.

Tetsuya KAWASHIMA (Japan)

Firstly, Japan would like to make it clear that Japan is not in a position to support the contents of the proposal in this Council meeting. We need more time to carefully study the contents of this proposal to see if it is really beneficial for CFS and world food security. We understand that issues such as the position, the roles and functions of CFS will be discussed further, in detail, in future CFS Contact Group Meetings.

However, we also understand that there is a time limit of 120 days so we think it is reasonable for us to send this proposal to the Conference to prepare for a possible change in the Basic Texts.

Oleg KOVIAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation, like other delegations in this room, supports the broad and profound reform process for the CFS. Russia plays a significant role – it holds the Vice-Chairperson ship – in that Committee, in the Contact Group and the consultation under way regarding this reform.

We believe, of course, that we need to significantly bolster the activity of the Committee, make its agenda more relevant, raise its profile and involve more participants in the work, attracting professional and civil society, farmers and other interest groups. That would be in line with the universal trend in giving more attention to agriculture problems in the world, and would establish a global partnership on agriculture and food security.

Such a task is a very wide-ranging one and would not be resolved in the course of two or three days, weeks or months. We are rather concerned by the timing factor and the wish of several of our colleagues to put the cart before the horse before introducing amendments, and I am a lawyer speaking here. Of course we do need to have a detailed consideration of the framework of the work of the Committee, including possible impacts of amendments and have consultations with legal services – the Legal Affairs Office of the United Nations.

If we look at the letter of the decisions of the CCLM – and I am quoting from document 136/20 – unfortunately in that document I have not found the word "endorse". Perhaps some representatives can point me to the word "endorse", particularly those who have submitted the amendment. Let's not stretch the truth here. Basically, we cannot support this proposal and associate ourselves with those countries who are asking for widespread consultations. Let's not strive to push through this decision at this Council. The question requires detailed consideration, in-depth discussions and a well-thought-through decision involving all of the Membership of this Organization.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Like many others, I think it is premature to make a decision at the moment to support this proposal. We would like to suggest that in-depth discussions on legal implications of the proposal should be preceded in the CCLM with the gathering of inputs and suggestions of Member Nations during this Council and thereafter through the mechanism of the CFS Contact Group.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation supports that CFS should be reformed. Concerning the reform of CFS, we have up until now carried out many discussions. However, we believe that there are still a lot of questions that are not clear yet, especially the way of functioning of this Committee and the management mechanism after the reform – we do not know how it will be. We have not had a consensus on all of these issues. Therefore, we believe that we need more time to carry out in-depth discussions and coordination in a broad way. On the whole, we believe that after the reform CFS will play a further role to provide guidance to the Member Nations to promote the solution of the world food question and discuss the measures for solving these problems. This is our first consideration.

Secondly, I believe that the reform of CFS should be closely connected with the reform of FAO, especially since CFS is one of the Committees under the Council. To promote it to the status of reporting to the Conference, this will disconnect it from the Council. Therefore, I believe that we should deal with the relationship of CFS and the Council after the reform, because according to the Constitution, the Council is a very important decision-making process.

I think that the whole process in FAO should go through the Council. However, after the reform, CFS will be disconnected from the Council. How will the process be decided upon? We have to discuss this. Therefore, all of these issues will take more time for further discussion.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Moroc)

Ma délégation ne comprend pas tout le bien fondé de cet amendement proposé, aussi je me rallie aux déclarations faites par le Congo au nom du Groupe africain et celles faites au nom du Groupe du Proche-Orient. Je pense que si nous avons vraiment de grandes attentes, il serait plutôt judicieux de prendre le temps nécessaire pour atteindre les objectifs escomptés, à savoir le renforcement du CSA.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

I have been listening very carefully to the interventions made by some Members. With regard to the proposed amendments that we are now discussing, Indonesia wishes to associate itself with the views expressed by the African Group, and the Near East countries, as well as my colleague from Thailand on this matter.

We are also of the view that there are some points that are still difficult to accept or agree on by members and therefore, we think that Members still need more consultations with the involvement of participants and broader stakeholders in order to have an agreement on what the CCLM will be doing in the next programme.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Brazil is very much committed to the CFS reform and strengthening but we will be speaking on that when we deal with the next Agenda Item, on Item 8. My comments now are just on the issue under Item 18.2.

In very practical terms, I do not want to prevent you from summarizing your views from the podium, but the view from my delegation is that we have a very divided house on this issue. There is an overwhelming manifestation of pleading for time and I very much understand that. We need to have a better understanding of where we are and what we want to achieve in order not to reach a hasty decision without measuring and gauging all the possible consequences.

There is one regional group who strongly supported that, had the reading that I share with my colleague from the Russian Federation I have not seen here – at least on the English text – the use of the word "endorsed" by the CCLM. Although I understand the proposal of France to upgrade, so to speak, the CFS, I think we members need to have a better understanding of this and we have not had the opportunity of having that understanding in the Contact Group. Some countries could amplify their positions on this.

I think now we have an issue of how we are going to be deciding this issue here in this Council, because the actual decision pertains to the Conference. What we need to do here – through you I would put to the rest of the Membership, that if you consider fit – to have a Group of your Friends to decide on how the Council will decide on this. On this group of friends, for countries to be in a position to speak more clearly and to voice their concerns for us in an environment which we all want to have the CFS advancing but we want to be cautious and not take the wrong steps. So, through you, I would propose that – for this issue, so we can advance on other more important issues – to go and form a Group of Friends for us to better understand and hopefully align suggestions on how the Council will decide on this matter.

Ramalingan PARASURAM (India)

I have been listening very carefully to my colleagues and heads of delegations intervening on this very important Item, including those who have spoken before me and in informal consultations.

There is a very high level of aspiration and ambition insofar as reforming the CFS is concerned. All of us have been very actively engaged with the Contact Group, which was formed for this purpose. But what is probably important and what needs to be kept in mind is that we satisfy ourselves fully before we carry out an amendment. This is important and this is what we have seen in expressions from around the house here, which includes – in addition to all of the other issues – the resulting de-linking of the Committee of Food Security from this Council. This is something which Members have asked for, their being in a position to examine in greater detail and that needs to be respected.

Also what we, perhaps, need to respect equally is the process that we have started on seeing how CFS can become a more effective pan-UN Body, if I may be allowed to use that expression. How can these two things converge and how do we really facilitate the process? We also have before us this constraint of the Conference meeting in November and the stipulations of 120 days, which has been said, and also we are well aware that the next Conference meets, perhaps and hopefully, a year and a half from then on, if not two years.

Therefore, how do we really address all of those aspirations we have for the CFS? Given all this, and I will be very brief here because I think my colleague from Brazil has already spoken of requesting you and for the house's consideration, the constitution of a Group of Friends, which might look at possible ways of finding a way forward. What is important is that we keep moving forward and how best can we do it even as we address everyone's concerns, which are probably

common actually – aspirations seem to be common and concerns also widely expressed are equally important. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that we go along with the proposal made by Brazil in this regard.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Vous avez pu noter jusqu'à présent, tout au long de nos réunions, que la discipline communautaire jouait à plein et nous vous avons toujours épargné plusieurs prises de parole d'un groupe qui s'appelle l'Union européenne. Nous aurions pu sur un sujet ou un autre nous exprimer à 10, 12 ou 15 puisque nous sommes 27 mais nous nous sommes tenus à cette discipline pour raccourcir les débats et vous aider à tenir dans les délais.

Dans la mesure où c'est, en effet, mon pays qui a déposé cette proposition d'amendement, je pense qu'il est utile, sans être trop longue, de faire quelques petits commentaires. Du côté de l'Union européenne, comme vous l'a dit notre Présidente tchèque, nous sommes au clair et en faveur de cet amendement et la déclaration est très renforcée puisque nous indiquons que nous supportons fortement cet amendement donc il n'y a pas à revenir là-dessus.

Nous sommes au clair parce que nous sommes extrêmement engagés dans la réforme du CSA, parce que nous y travaillons d'arrache-pied et aussi parce que nous croyons que, de cette réforme pourrait naître, ainsi que l'a proposé le Directeur général de la FAO, une nouvelle forme de gouvernance mondiale pour les questions d'agriculture, de sécurité alimentaire, de nutrition et d'alimentation. Et si tel est, en effet, l'horizon que nous n'avons pas encore atteint, mais le possible point de mire sur lequel nous pourrions éventuellement nous rassembler, alors il est très important que nous réfléchissions ensemble sur ce que pourrait devenir ce nouveau CSA et nous y travaillons au sein du Groupe de contact dont je remercie la Présidence du CSA de l'avoir créé.

Voilà ce qui a motivé l'intervention de la France parce que nous avons fait l'analyse que, bien qu'ayant besoin de temps, nous étions contraints par des délais et les délais sont clairs. Pour que la Conférence de novembre 2009 puisse éventuellement se prononcer sur un sujet de ce type, il faut que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques ait été saisi 120 jours avant. Donc, sous cet angle, nous avons fait un travail technique, nous avons simplement vérifié que cette porte pouvait être ouverte et je suis aujourd'hui, à titre personnel et pour mon pays, parfaitement satisfaite de voir que nous avons ouvert cette porte car désormais elle est ouverte. Et si nous voulons franchir le seuil de cette porte, personne ne nous dira que la porte est fermée parce que nous n'avons pas respecté le délai des 120 jours. Et sous cet angle, je suis très contente de ce que nous avons fait, je dois le dire en toute modestie.

Maintenant, nous sentons parfaitement qu'un grand nombre d'États Membres qui, eux aussi, sont impliqués dans la réforme du CSA, se posent des questions. Je voudrais dire, de façon claire, qu'à mes yeux ces questions sont légitimes et fondées. Nous, au sein de l'Union européenne, avons fait notre travail: nous avons saisi nos capitales et nous avons déjà les réponses. Pour cette raison, nous sommes en mesure de vous dire comment nous voyons les choses mais nous pouvons comprendre qu'il n'en est pas ainsi pour l'ensemble des États Membres du Conseil et pour l'ensemble des États Membres de la FAO. Ceci n'est pas du tout, à nos yeux, un point délicat, c'est une procédure normale. Prendre le temps de travailler, de parler, de réfléchir, nous pensons que c'est utile, tant que tous les États Membres n'ont pas acquis un degré de maturité sur le sujet, de compréhension et de discernement sur les enjeux, afin qu'ils se forment une véritable opinion. C'est la moindre des choses, compte tenu de ce que nous voulons possiblement faire de ce CSA. S'il devient ce que nous imaginons, il nous faudra savoir où nous voulons le mettre au sein de la FAO.

Je pense donc que cette discussion que nous venons d'avoir est, en réalité, extrêmement positive car à partir de ce jour, de cette minute, plus personne ne peut dire qu'il n'est pas au courant qu'il y a un vrai sujet à traiter. Plus personne ne peut dire: "je ne savais pas", plus personne ne peut dire: "on ne m'avait rien dit", plus personne ne peut dire: "je suis en retard sur le train". La locomotive est là, les wagons sont accrochés et le train va démarrer, c'est le train de la réflexion et de la concertation. Par conséquent, je pense que notre collègue du Brésil ainsi que celui de l'Inde, ont

parfaitement compris la situation. Et nous pensons, nous en tant que France, sans avoir et je le regrette, pris le temps de la concertation avec la Présidence de l'Union européenne, que les deux propositions faites par le Brésil et l'Inde sont parfaitement légitimes et il me semble que vous pouvez, nous aider à réfléchir tous ensemble.

Je conclurai en disant deux choses: premièrement, si à la fin du processus nous décidons de ne pas donner au CSA, l'ampleur que nous imaginons, la France s'inclinera. Nous ne sommes pas tout seul, nous avons simplement voulu ouvrir une porte et pour nous, ce n'est pas un sujet difficile.

Deuxièmement, nous sommes très à l'aise. Je suis parfaitement à l'aise, je suis même contente parce que nous avons fait le travail d'ouvrir la porte et aujourd'hui tout le monde est au courant et seul le Conseil pouvait le faire car le travail de couloir c'est bien mais à un certain moment, le travail de lobbying, c'est limite. Aujourd'hui, le sujet est devant nous et nous devons le travailler.

Mon dernier point, en conclusion, concerne ma vision qui est celle de mon pays, un pays tout seul, un petit hexagone de 65 millions d'habitants. Nous n'allons pas réguler la planète, mais notre conviction est que la FAO est une Organisation démocratique et la démocratie veut que ce soit la Conférence qui décide. Nous sommes ici en Conseil, nous sommes 49, évidemment nous représentons l'ensemble de la Communauté mais la vraie démocratie de la FAO est à la Conférence, là où nous avons tous les États Membres. Par conséquent, ma suggestion est qu'on ne dise pas aujourd'hui que la Conférence n'aura jamais à connaître ce sujet car la Conférence est l'instance ultime, démocratique de cette Organisation et il nous semble que c'est à elle de décider. Voilà pourquoi, je plaide pour la solution proposée par le Brésil et soutenue par l'Inde: gardons la porte ouverte, travaillons sous votre Présidence attentive et efficace et nous saisisons, en temps utile, l'organe décisif et démocratique de notre Organisation.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much France. I do have still a few speakers, Australia, Sudan, Cuba, Panama, Sudan are speaking for the second time. Please be very, very brief because we have to come to a decision and it seems that we have to make a decision, as soon as possible, how to follow this issue, if not, because I am sure also that we cannot make the final decision today, but during this Council we have to come to some kind of understanding. Now I invite Chile to take the floor followed by Australia.

Cristián BARROS (Chile)

Ciertamente seguiré su consejo a la brevedad. Pero el tema adquirió una relevancia en este Consejo y como ha dicho mi colega de Francia bienvenida sea la discusión de este tema en este Consejo. Por esto es un deber manifestar la posición de mi país respecto a él.

Es la primera vez que estamos de acuerdo con la reforma que se ha presentado, probablemente podemos tener algunas objeciones sobre la forma, pero en el fondo la compartimos. Tenemos solo una duda y esa duda son los tiempos de realización, creemos que esta discusión debe seguirse en el Grupo de Contacto, y de allí pasar a lo que es la reforma en general de la FAO y sucesivamente se podrá examinar el tema propuesto.

Es cierto que los tiempos son largos, pero también es muy importante lograr el consenso. Los tiempos no tienen validez cuando no hay consenso, por lo tanto, aunque nos demoremos un poco más tendremos que buscar una fórmula que agrupe todas las opiniones que aquí se han expresado. Esta es la opinión de mi país.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

Like others, I have been listening to the debate. I think there is a consensus about reforming CFS but there definitely isn't a consensus about the amending the Constitution now and I don't get to say this very often, that I agree with Brazil, that I do not think we are going to resolve this here and whether we could set up some Friends of the Chair process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thanks for being frank and brief. Sudan, for the second time.

Mohamed EL TAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. It is clear that there is no agreement between the regions to adopt this proposal. Thus, on behalf of my group, we believe that this issue is important and therefore must be given highest interest and examination/consideration by the Council. We propose that there should be direct consultations by the Chair of the Council and the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups with a view to arriving at a solution that is agreeable to all. Thank you.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

La reforma del CSA es tan importante que ha conllevado a este tipo de discusión. Creo que faltan muchas cosas por ver, pero al mismo tiempo considero que no podemos desaprovechar aun cuando existen algunas diferencias planteadas en el Consejo de la FAO. Por tanto, mi delegación apoya la propuesta de Brasil que también fue secundada por la India, Francia y otros.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Resulta obvio que el tema tiene una importancia fundamental. Igualmente es obvio que el debate hasta ahora sostenido nos demuestra que no hay consenso en el tema, por lo tanto queremos referirnos a lo expresado por Brasil, India, Australia y otros, en el sentido de crear un Grupo de Amigos del Presidente, propuesta que apoyamos decididamente.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for being brief. Now I invite Mexico to be followed by Zimbabwe, Republic of Korea, and finally Argentina, and the list is closed.

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Creo que no hay que confundir que aquí hay dos cuestiones básicas que se están discutiendo. Una tiene que ver con la forma y otra tiene que ver con el contenido. Y creo que hay diferencias entre las dos. Yo no quiero subrayar que con respecto al contenido y no a la forma se llegara a un acuerdo dentro de un tiempo limitado.

Dada la importancia de los temas, esto tendría que ir a consulta a las capitales de los países miembros, que en este momento mantienen un punto de vista diferente. No quisiera que saltemos o evitemos algunas de las etapas de consulta con las capitales, ya que estas son necesarias para que ciertos países puedan cambiar su posición nacional en busca de un consenso.

Entendemos la prisa, los tiempos y la necesidad de las reformas, pero creo que es muy importante que consideremos estos aspectos: los tiempos, la forma y por otro lado la importancia del contenido de lo que aquí se está discutiendo. Este no es un contenido sencillo, es talmente importante que la prisa pudiera traer consecuencias. No tratemos de obligarnos a una respuesta o a un consenso, solamente por llegar a este.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Mr Chairperson, I won't go into the position because the position of Africa is already known. I would rather pick from where you left - your earlier summary. You hinted that you might be looking at the way forward and it is the way forward that I would like to contribute to. I share the views of the following friends, Brazil, India, Australia, France, on the suggestion that we find a way forward but all I would like to add to that view is that, Mr Chairperson, you will have many friends on this subject so you had better open your door so that you don't constraint the friends to just one or two. That is all I am asking. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Madame Ambassador, yes I am sure that I would love some friends but, unfortunately, my apartment is very small. Thank you. Okay, the Republic of Korea, you have the floor.

SEO Hae-dong (Republic of Korea)

Our delegation fully supports the comments by India and Australia.

Augustín ZIMMERMANN (Observador de Argentina)

Ante todo, la delegación Argentina quisiera agradecer el trabajo realizado en este punto por el Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales.

Asimismo, apoyamos la propuesta presentadas por Brasil.

No obstante ello, quisiéramos manifestar nuestro apoyo a las propuestas de enmienda de la Constitución de la FAO sobre la reforma del CSA presentadas oportunamente por Francia.

Nuestro apoyo se fundamenta en los siguientes puntos:

Primero, la enmienda que acabamos de aprobar al Artículo V, párrafo 6 de la Constitución asegura el vínculo de todos los Comités, incluido el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, con el Consejo de la FAO para los asuntos de Programa y Presupuesto. Por lo tanto, estimamos que el vínculo orgánico del CSA con los otros Comités Técnicos de la FAO está resguardado.

Estimamos, asimismo, que en la enmienda al Artículo III de la Constitución daría una mayor visibilidad al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, lo cual es en todo congruente con el espíritu de reforma del Grupo de Contacto para la Reforma del CSA, y en este sentido, estimamos también que esta enmienda a la Constitución de la FAO significaría un primer resultado concreto del proceso de reforma del CSA.

Adicionalmente, creemos que la enmienda aportaría a un mayor nivel de coherencia, coordinación y consistencia a la gobernanza global sobre la seguridad alimentaria.

Por último, quisiéramos expresar que compartimos, como han expresado otras delegaciones, la idea de la necesidad de que los órganos pertinentes de las Naciones Unidas se expidan respecto a la consulta cursada por Oficina Jurídica de la FAO sobre estas propuestas de modificación a la Constitución.

CHAIRPERSON

Even though I have closed the list there is the Chairperson of the G77, I think for this fellow I can not keep the door closed and, Congo, because you were the first speaker and he wants to be the last one.

So, I will go first to the G77 Chair and then come back to Congo.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observador de República Dominicana)

Deseo solamente, como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, tomar el tema donde lo dejaron México y Zimbabwe. Si la decisión que va a ser tomada es la de convocar a un grupo de amigos suyos, solo pedirle que no haga esta reunión en su apartamento sino que busquemos una sala apropiada en la FAO de modo que pueda haber la participación más amplia, y que incluso pueda considerarse la participación de todos los Estados Miembros en este ejercicio, en el caso que ésta sea la decisión final.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Je voulais tout simplement dire que nous intervenons à nouveau, non pas pour mettre en cause notre intervention de départ, mais c'est pour apporter un petit éclaircissement à ce que nous entendons. Nous sommes d'avis que d'ordinaire la proposition d'un autre Président, dont vous avez souvent joué le rôle a porté ses fruits, nous sommes d'accord. Mais, pour cette question précise et,

comme l'a souligné le Président du Groupe des 77 (G-77) et de la Chine, il faut élargir la composition de ce Groupe des Amis du Président.

La concertation à ce niveau nous inquiète, ce serait donc un forum, est-ce que la solution idéale et rapide serait trouvée? Pour cette raison, nous nous inquiétons.

Mais en fait, il y a aussi d'autres aspects au problème, Monsieur le Président, lorsqu'on évoque les 120 jours pour joindre le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, c'est vrai mais, je ne suis pas juriste et je pense qu'il y a quand même un principe juridique que nous ne pouvons pas décider ici d'inclure l'ECOSOC sans avoir son avis. Voilà pourquoi nous, Monsieur le Président, nous intervenons à nouveau pour insister sur ce point, la proposition de notre ami de la Jordanie mériterait d'être vraiment prise en compte. Il faut d'abord la réponse de l'autre partie, notamment l'ECOSOC, avant que l'on se prononce ici.

CHAIRPERSON

I just have one minute to discuss something with the Secretariat and then I will come back to you.

May I have your attention please? Before deciding how to continue, I think there were two questions raised by the Membership – one was by Jordan and the answer from the United Nations, what have you done? and the other one raised by the Russian Federation that there is no request for endorsement, so I think one is the legality aspects and the other one is what you have done. Please answer these two questions quickly then we will continue our discussions on how to go forward.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Regarding the first question as suggested by the CCLM, I wrote a letter on 5 June to the Legal Counsel of the United Nations presenting the request by the CCLM. I asked for her views on this issue and also enquired whether she was the right person to respond, or whether I should write to anybody else in the United Nations.

We also tried, through some colleagues in the Office of Legal Affairs, to expedite the matter, but until today I have not received any reply. Let me clarify that this was only in connection with the General Assembly because the CFS is already reporting to the ECOSOC. So the question was whether we could approve this reporting line on our side without any formal approval by the UN General Assembly, or not. This was my question and I have not yet received any reply.

Regarding the endorsement or not by the CCLM of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, you will note that in paragraph 22 it is written "the full set of proposed amendments endorsed by the CCLM is reproduced in Appendix II of this Report". Let me clarify on behalf of the CCLM, if I may, that the CCLM is only a technical body. The role of CCLM is to look into the legal issues connected with the proposed amendment and to see whether the proposed amendment is legally acceptable. The CCLM never enters into political issues or discussions on the merits of issues. So this is what the CCLM did. The CCLM only received the proposal from France, looked at whether it was legally correct and suggested an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization in order to clarify that the reports of the CFS on budgetary and finance matters should be referred to the Council. So the endorsement is from a legal point of view. The policy issues should be discussed in other fora.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Pucci, for answering the questions. Mr Chairperson, do you have anything to add?

So let us start by referring to Mexico's statement, we do have issues of substance for timing and wording. These are the concerns raised by lots of speakers today and I do agree that we are not in a case to say that we have any consensus on this and the way that was proposed by Brazil and supported by many countries, actually all the other countries that took the floor after Brazil they supported the idea of having Friends of the Chair. This means that during this Council, and not in the formal agenda outside of that, I myself, with you together, all of us, will discuss this issue and by the end of the Council we will reach a decision on how to deal with this. We have done this in

a few other cases and the mechanism is that this Friends of the Chair would be an open-ended forum; everybody could participate, but in order to be efficient each regional group would have, for example, three spokespersons that whatever they want they to say, to speak on behalf of their region and hopefully in one or two meetings, because we do not have time outside the frame of this Council, we reach some kind of consensus on how to go forward on this issue, because everybody says that the reform of the CFS is very important and it has been started and it continues with the Contact Group and this misunderstanding, I think, could be dealt with in time. But how to deal with this time now, 120 days before the Conference, because there is a change to the Constitution and in all other aspects, it needs more discussion.

So if you do agree that we form a Friends of the Chair and we will inform you of the meeting and the places which, most probably, will start tonight. After finalizing our formal agenda, the first meeting of the Friends of the Chair and the place will be announced.

If you agree, please go to your regional groups and identify your spokespersons, there is no need to report to us, then when we announce the time you come to the venue and you say that these are our spokespersons, but let us not have any formalities, because it is friendly, Friends of the Chair.

I do have your agreement on this. Thank you very much, so decided and we will inform you of the place of our first meeting of Friends of the Chair this afternoon.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (cont'd)

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

8. Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-17 October 2008) (CL 135/10)

8. Rapport de la trente-quatrième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (14-17 octobre 2008) (CL 135/10)

8. Informe del 34.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (14-17 de octubre de 2008) (CL 135/10)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us thank the Ambassador of Brazil for the good suggestion and thank all of you for your spirit of cooperation on this and we are in real time pressure. We have to quickly move to the next item of the agenda, which is Item 8, the Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and I think the arrangements for the podium will be changed. I thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for the excellent job done in all of this. Thank you very much, and I thank also Legal Counsel.

Okay, I will invite the Chairperson of the CFS, Madame Squeff, to come to the podium.

Sra María del Carmen SQUEFF (Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria)

Nuestro Informe es diferente al de los otros Comités que tuvieron lugar en el primer semestre de este año. El Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial fue aprobado en el 135º Período de Sesiones del Consejo de noviembre de 2008.

No obstante, las propuestas principales efectuadas por los Miembros durante el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, en octubre de 2008 y durante el 135º Período de Sesiones del Consejo ya mencionado, nos permiten presentar las acciones realizadas

hasta la fecha. Las actividades que la Mesa del Comité y de la Secretaría debían realizar, se referían a la necesidad de:

- Preparar el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité, teniendo en cuenta una Agenda más centrada y orientada hacia políticas esenciales. Dicha Agenda debe poder abordar los desafíos que enfrenta la seguridad alimentaria ante la crisis económica y financiera global y debe posibilitar propuestas de políticas opcionales para afrontarla.
- Examinar los procesos de monitoreo e informes por países de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la alimentación.
- Preparar un documento sobre el seguimiento de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural (ICARRD).
- Continuar fortaleciendo la colaboración entre las Agencias con base en Roma.
- Mejorar la participación de las Organizaciones Gubernamentales y Organizaciones No Gubernamentales en el Comité.

Estoy en condiciones de informar que se ha profundizado la colaboración entre las Agencias del Sistema con base en Roma. Asimismo, el monitoreo de los Informes Nacionales y las formas de aumentar la participación de las Organizaciones Gubernamentales y No Gubernamentales en el Comité, están siendo abordadas con el objetivo de fortalecer la forma y el contenido del Comité mismo y de considerar una agenda más puntual y focalizada.

Con relación a la ICARRD está en preparación un documento sobre el seguimiento de dicha Cumbre.

En el punto anterior de la Agenda de Este Consejo se aludió a la reforma del Comité. Al respecto puedo decir que se está adoptando un acercamiento más transparente e incluyente para revitalizar el mismo.

El proceso de reforma es un conjunto que incluye cuatro aspectos fundamentales: la gobernanza, la presencia en el terreno, el panel de expertos y la movilización de recursos.

Como todos saben, la Presidencia está acompañada por una Mesa compuesta por cuatro Miembros (Bélgica, Jordania, Federación Rusa y Madagascar), y ha decidido, luego de un proceso participativo de consulta, la composición de un Grupo de Contacto. Este Grupo tiene tres pilares: los representantes estatales, -dos miembros de cada Grupo Regional, pero de composición abierta- las organizaciones internacionales involucradas en el tema: un representante de cada una de las siguientes organizaciones internacionales: FAO, FIDA, PMA, un representante de la *Task Force* de ONU, Banco Mundial, el Relator del Derecho a la Alimentación y Biodiversidad, y las organizaciones de la Sociedad Civi: ONGs involucradas en el tema, productores y consumidores.

Se ha preparado un borrador de documento que señala los elementos claves del proceso de reforma del Comité.

Asimismo, se ha creado un espacio web, dedicado al Grupo de Contacto del Comité para facilitar el intercambio de documentos de trabajo, minutas de las reuniones importantes y las distintas contribuciones provenientes de los participantes. Les invito a visitarlo y valorar las contribuciones recibidas.

Como el tiempo que disponemos es breve se han formado cuatro Grupos de Trabajo que el próximo martes en una reunión maratónica, de 9.30 a 21.30 hs, abordarán cuestiones específicas que se considerarán luego en la reunión plenaria.

Abro un paréntesis Señor Presidente.

Hemos recibido cientos de *mails* con el deseo de participar de los grupos de trabajo. Quiero decir que todos están inscriptos en los grupos que han solicitado. Además los Grupos de Trabajo son de composición abierta, por lo tanto, todos los Representantes son bienvenidos. Solo quiero pedir, responsabilidad, sentido de la participación y mesura en el uso del tiempo.

Con relación a la Agenda provisional del 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité, que se realizará los días 14, 15 y 17 de octubre próximo, la misma fue discutida en una Reunión abierta de la Mesa del Comité realizada el 29 de mayo, donde enfatiqué que la Sesión de octubre del CFS deberá alentar la discusión de cuestiones y políticas focalizadas, orientadas alrededor de pocos temas claves y con un formato renovado. Para ello, los Representantes Permanentes deberán contribuir preparando a sus propias delegaciones para un trabajo distinto, con el fin de obtener los mejores resultados de este nuevo formato.

La agenda, probablemente incluirá los siguientes temas claves: Propuestas para la reforma del Comité; Impacto de la crisis financiera global en la seguridad alimentaria; Monitoreo e informes nacionales; y Seguimiento de la ICARRD.

Los Miembros han solicitado más tiempo para discutir la agenda propuesta con los respectivos grupos regionales y presentarán sus comentarios en las próximas semanas. La Agenda deberá estar finalizada para fines de julio a los efectos de disponer del tiempo necesario para la preparación de documentos y fundamentalmente, para poder implementar un nuevo formato de trabajo.

El proceso de reforma del Comité resulta necesario no sólo porque es un ámbito creado en 1974, sino también porque es un foro universal, en el que deberían confluir todas las propuestas y todos los actores involucrados en el tema: los Estados, las organizaciones internacionales y la sociedad civil. Cada uno con sus competencias y sus responsabilidades.

Hoy las respuestas a los grandes problemas no pueden venir de un solo actor. Las situaciones son tan complejas que muchos son los que están en condiciones de aportar conocimiento y acción.

Pero, un proceso de renovación requiere, por una parte, mentes abiertas y dispuestas a asumir los resultados de tal proceso; por otra, una sumatoria de consensos entre los actores del mismo que permitan visualizar como viables y más efectivos los cambios que se propongan.

La realidad alimentaria mundial, sumada a la crisis estructural que atraviesa el mundo, nos obliga a rescatar de las instituciones lo más rico de sus tradiciones pero, también, a encontrar nuevas respuestas, más eficientes, más novedosas, más focalizadas, destacando experiencias exitosas, poniendo en juego toda la creatividad y el talento de los expertos y siendo más eficaces en el uso de los recursos financieros.

Quiero agradecer a todos los aquí presentes, este trabajo es su trabajo. Quiero agradecer a las organizaciones internacionales que están participando en el Grupo de Contacto, a las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y un especial agradecimiento a los colegas del bureau, en donde discutimos, tenemos diferencias y nos encontramos, a la secretaria, al *management* por su incondicional apoyo absolutamente desinteresado y sin ningún tipo de coacción.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ms Squeff, Chairperson of the CFS. You know that we have a very long day ahead of us, and will go tonight, I don't know to what hour, there is Friends of the Chair and for the time being for this morning there is 45 minutes. I hope that with you your efficiency and comprehension we can finish on time for this not to be postponed until this afternoon.

At the front page of the Report you will find that the attention of Council has been drawn to paragraph 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17. I would appreciate if you would not repeat what has been said by other speakers and refer to that express your agreement or disagreement so we can manage our time in the best way.

The floor is open for your comments, we need your endorsement and your guidance for the report.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, including Turkey, candidate country to the European Union, which associates itself with this statement as he has already stated.

The European Community takes note of the Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) which met in Rome from 14 to 17 October 2008.

We fully support the recommendations of the Committee to FAO, in particular to promote the inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of national food security.

The CFS is currently the only existing intergovernmental body within the UN System with the mandate of: "*reviewing and following-up of policies concerning world food security*". This clearly implies that the CFS has a central role in food security global governance.

The EC supports the ongoing reform process of the CFS aiming at its strengthening and enabling it to act as a cross-cutting committee that approaches the food security issue from different angles. The European Community also agrees with the need to enhance participation of stakeholders (NGOs, CSOs, farmers' organizations and private sector) ensuring the representation of the sectors of the population less heard but highly affected by food insecurity, such as small farmers and rural women among others. This participation could be assured on the basis of the proposals approved by the CFS last year.

Within the framework of the CFS reform process, the EC acknowledges the important steps already taken such as the creation of a Contact Group, to conduct an inclusive consultation process aiming to prepare a report with concrete measures as to the CFS revitalisation, to serve as a basis for the discussion at the forthcoming CFS session in October 2009.

The European Community welcomes the first "Zero Draft" note on the reform of the CFS, highlighting possible options on the structure and governance of the CFS. We expect that it will be subject to a wide in-depth discussion among all key stakeholders to reach consensus, building also on the conclusions of the recently created thematic working groups that should focus on the main chapters of this "Zero Draft" note.

The EC acknowledges that this process aims at a deeply renewed CFS that will then become the central political forum of the Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN) without creating a new institution or body and in line with the Madrid Meeting statement.

The EC believes that the reform of CFS presents two major challenges:

One is ensuring a higher level of political commitment and need to give more emphasis to the global level where the CFS will operate, ensuring a better link between the technical expertise involving key dimensions of food security (such as agriculture, health, finance, education, trade and social security) and the political level performance.

The European Community believes political participation from FAO Membership would be enhanced by appropriate high-level representation and active participation of the UN Rome-based Agencies, as well as other UN Agencies (especially those involved with the UNHLTF), the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO. To ensure this involvement of the other relevant UN Agencies, the idea of a mixed CFS Secretariat, consisting of staff members of at least FAO, WFP and IFAD, should be further developed.

The new CFS should not only provide technical solutions but also foresee emerging issues that affect food security and, in its new format, should go further not only by understanding factors, but by being able to attract the discussion on issues regarding world food security as a major political forum. In other words, the CFS will not be a simple *ad hoc* Committee.

The second major challenge regards the inclusiveness principle that should allow engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders (NGOs, farmers' organizations, private sector). These actors should share information, define key priorities, deepen commitments to action, monitor progress, and develop a better understanding on best practices in relation to food security policies and programme designs, including trade-related issues, at national, regional and international level.

A reformed CFS should not carry out any fund mobilisation functions.

The European Community acknowledges that a deeply renewed CFS entails a fundamental revision of its statutes, particularly as to its composition, decision making process and relationship to other relevant bodies such as the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to ensure its action will, in the long term, represent an added value and contribute to reaching the overarching objective of food security for all. The success of the reform of the CFS could be measured on the basis of a results-based framework to be established to that effect.

The EC acknowledges that the renewal process is already in full progress. The European Community will actively participate in the deliberations of the Contact Group and Working Groups and will look forward to the outcomes.

Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, we would like to submit this statement.

The Near East Group, having considered the content of this document submitted to the Council does endorse the recommendations contained in this document.

Furthermore, we do endorse the efforts aiming at reforming the CFS in order to secure a genuine and real food security.

The Near East Group is looking forward to see the work of the Contact Group and the High-Level Panel, those groups which we expect shall give the relevant input into this CFS committee, with their knowledge and skills and we do hope that this committee shall work on the basis of scientific evidence.

Furthermore, we believe that the involvement of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations and all stakeholders which are concerned with food security should be secured and all these stakeholders should be involved in the reform process.

Furthermore, we believe that the Draft Report to be submitted to the upcoming meeting to be held in October, this Report shall be undertaken bearing in mind the work of the Contact Group and the various stakeholders. We believe that this document is of great importance and we hope that all stakeholders shall contribute to the preparation of this report to be submitted to the upcoming session in October.

We also look forward to seeing the reaction of the General Conference on that score.

In conclusion, we endorse what is contained in this report and thank most sincerely the Chairperson of the CFS for her efforts.

CHAIRPERSON

I really thank the Near East Region for just having one spokesperson or rarely another one but usually sticking to that rule which is increasing our efficiency.

Duncan Moopelo SEBEFELO (South Africa)

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the Contact Group and the Committee on Food Security and the Secretariat for the excellent report.

On behalf of the Africa Group, we would like to make the following comments on the reform on the Committee on Food Security. First, Africa supports the overall objectives to reform the Committee on Food Security to play an important role in the global food security matters. The need to reform the CFS is not a choice but a necessity, imposed on us by the new global challenges requiring new tools and new methods of engagement. In this context, we are of the view that multilateralism is indispensable.

Second, Africa welcomes the proposal to expand the CFS to include the participation of NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector. The participation of these organizations will not only enhance the policy making process of the CFS but will also promote inclusivity, representativity and accountability of the CFS.

Third, Africa however strongly believes that the roles and responsibilities of governments, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations must be clearly defined to ensure that the political decision making within the new CFS remains with Member Nations.

Fourth, Africa also wishes to appeal to the Council to await the outcomes and the recommendations of the Contact Group as there are many issues related to the future of the CFS that remain outstanding and unresolved, such as the Membership of the CFS, rules of procedure and others.

In conclusion, we wish to state also that Africa believes that, in light of the outstanding issues, the discussions on the FAO Basic Text amendments, dealing with the reform of the CFS, should be deferred pending the work of the Contact Group.

Sergio INSUNZA (Chile)

Acogiendo su invitación a la brevedad, me limitaré solamente a señalar algunos puntos, y nuestras opiniones sobre el tema se encuentran en un texto escrito que traeremos a la Secretaría. No podemos dejar pasar esta oportunidad para manifestar nuestra preocupación por la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial que consideramos extremadamente grave, ya que la población que padece hambre en el mundo no sólo no ha disminuido sino que aumenta dramáticamente. Por ello estimamos necesario e imperioso que la comunidad internacional reaccione con la máxima fuerza y urgencia y que se honren los compromisos adquiridos en materia de cooperación internacional y de ayuda al desarrollo.

Debemos entregar a la FAO los instrumentos para que juegue su rol en el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, en los objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio y en el tema de la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. En este contexto expresamos nuestro total apoyo al proceso de reforma y fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de la FAO que está en curso en el marco de la reforma de la FAO, como instrumento fundamental para la lucha contra el hambre.

Valoramos altamente el trabajo que realiza la secretaria y el Grupo de Contacto y muy en especial la dedicación de su Presidente. Apelamos a los países para que hagan el máximo esfuerzo para lograr el consenso necesario para que este Comité sea plenamente eficaz.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

We certainly appreciate the report that we endorse. I want to speak specifically on the CFS reform and the very important challenge that stands before us.

I want to thank the Chair and the Bureau for the work that they have started and which is advancing well.

We have to make CFS the central forum for food security but this is not an FAO task alone. We have to get the whole international architecture for food security involved in this. That means, of course, the other two Rome-based Agencies but it also means the Bretton Woods institutions, civil societies and NGOs to make all stakeholders really relevant for the deliberations and recommendations of the CFS.

How should we do this? I think there are five points that we really have to be aware of and that we have to deal with.

First, we have to have the relevant Agenda. We have to clean up the Agenda. When we look at it today there are too many – I would not say irrelevant, but there are again the points on the side and there are other conferences around the world reporting things – a real relevant Agenda for all stakeholders.

We need interactive participation of all stakeholders on an equal footing and not on the decision side – and I would say that to South Africa and the African Group. We understand their concern but the Basic Texts and the CFS text in the Basic Texts are absolutely clear on this and it is also

clear in other ways. I basically regret that we spent the morning discussing changes in the Basic Texts for the CFS. I thought that was unnecessary.

Interactive participation means that we also need to clean up the speakers' list because we need inter-activity. It does not make sense to me that we have to wait until 22.00 hrs. in the evening, when a lot of people have left the room, to hear the other Rome-based Agencies and other partners from the international architecture speak but more importantly, to hear civil society and NGOs. I am saying this again, it has to be interactive with full participation in the debate.

CFS has to give clear and relevant recommendations, and we have to have the proper lines of reporting. That is the fourth point.

And then it comes to the fifth point – I think, basically, to get this framework in place is the most important. That is a joint Secretariat, a Secretariat based on the other Rome-based Agencies, the High-level Task Force on Food Security, partners, the Bretton Woods Institution and WTO. This is what we have in the High-level Task Force, a unique cooperation. We must find ways to preserve it. We all know that it is time-limited, but this will be one way of preserving that cooperation. That joint-Secretariat has to be fully involved in the preparation for the meetings, in the meetings itself and, of course, in the follow-up of the recommendations.

In this way we can create a global network for food security, a global partnership, if you will, where CFS will be the lead agent. Back to broad ownership and participation and that includes other institutions that I have not mentioned so far – the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition definitely, CGIAR and other research institutions. In that way we can create a technical and scientific basis for the work of the CFS.

I will come back to the scientific high-level panel later under another Agenda Item.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am in no position to talk about the reform of CFS because this is work in progress and the four Working Groups have not even started their work, so it is very difficult to know what will be the nature, scope, mechanism and let alone the Secretariat of the reform. I will limit my comments to what you had asked: paragraphs 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17.

Paragraph 7. With respect to the soaring food prices of 2007 and 2008, it is abundantly clear that FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP), which was launched with speed and determination, served as a catalyst for action by the international community at large. The high price of food was a waking call for the international community that later led to the High-Level Task Force and the Comprehensive Framework of Action. In implementing the ISFP, FAO opted for collaboration with other partners, especially the two Rome-based Agencies. We support the integration of the ISFP into the Impact Focus Area under the new FAO Strategic Framework, namely, "Action towards global food security in the context of the current food crisis and climate change" and possibly also in the fifth Impact Focus Area, that is, coping with scarcity of land and water.

Paragraph 8. All the 12 bullet points are landmarks in many areas of FAO's work and many of them are incorporated into the new Strategic Framework. The twin-track approach is not only the guiding principle of FAO but also for WFP and IFAD. The Right to Adequate Food, the emphasis on smallholder agriculture, promotion of investment in agriculture and the relationship between bio-fuel production and food security are high on the agenda of the three Rome-based Agencies.

Paragraph 10. We support the contents of paragraph 10 on International Alliance Against Hunger and wish to point out its effectiveness hinges on the creation of National Alliance Against Hunger. We strongly support this approach.

Paragraph 12. We recognise the difficulties encountered in reporting by FAO on the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. We hope this matter will be given further consideration in the reform process of CFS currently underway.

Paragraph 14. We support the active involvement of CSOs and NGOs in the work of CFS.

Paragraphs 16 and 17. We feel that both issues, namely more focused and policy-orientated CFS session and the timing and frequency of CFS meetings should be investigated in the reform process of CFS that is currently underway.

Romano Mungiira KIOME (Kenya)

The Kenyan delegation would like to take note of the Report and supports the report basically because it does not contain much controversial items.

We would like to comment on the report, specifically on paragraph 9, the recommendations for FAO. Judging from the recommendations, one does not see much of what is going to be done differently, even when we recognize that the food security situation is not at heart. If I go bullet by bullet – for example, if you look at bullet 2 – I think some of you will agree with me that if you go to the website, you will find many books about that subject and I have read quite a few myself. I am wondering what value is going to be added, to that analysis, maybe somebody to do a synthesis and circulate but it is a subject that has been researched and much written about it.

If you go to bullet number 5 Analyze Constraints of Pathways out of Poverty for Smallholder Farmers, again I have read quite a few books about that and if you go to the website you will find quite a few. I am wondering about the value that can be added, again someone can do a synthesis and circulate it. I am not sure much has been done out of the books written about that.

When you go to bullet number 3, Provide Analysis into the Possible Effects of the Financial Crisis on Food Security. If you consider that this meeting was held in October last year and we are now in June making a decision on that particular subject. If anything were to happen, it has happened already. Therefore, time is of essence and I would like this Council to know that things are happening very rapidly now because of information and communication technology. What we considered as a World Food Crisis that is something quite different now within six or seven months ago. That did not happen 20 years ago, because of the way information, communication and everything is happening very fast. So, if you do not do analysis early enough, by the time you do it, it may be too little or too late. I am wondering whether we should not be more responsive that these decisions are taken rapidly analyses are done rapidly and the actions and recommendation passed on very quickly.

By and large, I think right now, for this report, I do not think we have much choice but to support it, but I have a feeling it could be done better.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

We would like to say that we support the report before us and we can endorse it but I would like to pick up some elements in our discussion.

Brazil is firmly committed, as we have mentioned repeatedly, to the process of revitalizing the Committee on World Food Security, which has required tireless efforts from all FAO Members, the CFS Bureau and the FAO staff. We believe that the joint efforts will lead to a renewed and more effective CFS and an efficient structure in the world governance on food security and nutrition.

In spite of the very encouraging steps that we have taken, we still have a huge task ahead of us in renewing the CFS and preserving its multilateral and intergovernmental approaches. As we have stressed, we favour that the CFS will be the point of convergence in the UN System to debate, coordinate strategies, policies and take decisions on actions to be taken to meet the needs of those most in need to ensure a more food secure world.

To accomplish this task, improved governance, strengthened field presence and predictable financial resources are the main pillars on which the CFS should be built. The renewed CFS will provide the structure to gather all relevant actors interested in food security and host a global partnership.

The challenge of a world without the scourge of hunger, affecting one billion people – one out of every six human beings on this planet – does indeed require not only permanent action from

governments, but also the presence and active participation of representatives of non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. This wide participation of actors and entities dedicated to food security issues will certainly enrich the debate, provide new perspectives and points of view and also provide an environment in which experience can be shared to improve governance and the Member Nations decision making process

An open CFS bureau should emerge in a permanent basis, acting as a standing forum, which would permanently follow up on the food security trends and build on steps made such as the results of the Conference on World Food Security in 2008 and the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 2006, especially in the context of food and economic crises.

To help the CFS, Brazil believes that a science-based and technical support from worldwide experts is indeed required. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition is a pro-active response of FAO, to which Brazil has already given names of national experts to be considered. This emerging global network will work in close collaboration with the CFS, FAO, Rome-based and other UN Agencies to implement actions in the fight against hunger and develop food production in the world.

We very much look forward to working with all members for a successful Thirty-fifth Session of this CFS. For Brazil, the follow-up of ICCARD and the strengthened CFS are the main items on the agenda in the next Committees meeting this coming month of October.

Finally, allow me to congratulate and express the gratitude of my delegation for the Bureau, especially to Ms Squeeff of Argentina, the Chairperson of that Bureau. Her skills, dedication and dynamism are remarkable, so is her willingness to work with all in a truly democratic, open and transparent way.

We pledge to support the Bureau and the work of the CFS to build a new governance architecture in which the realization of the Right to Food will indeed be a reality for all.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the statement. Now I invite Zimbabwe to take the floor followed by Cuba.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Allow me to commend the Chair of the CFS for the succinct report she has tabled today. It outlines the areas very clearly and we also commence the broad consultative process she has put in place. Mr Chairperson, my delegation, from the outset, wishes to associate itself with the statement that has been tabled by South Africa on behalf of Africa. We believe in NGO and in civil society participation but we believe in having clearly-defined roles so that we do not tread on each others' toes, and this is what Africa is merely cautioning. We are very much on board in having all partners but we would like to know what each partners will be doing. So we appeal to the Chairperson to have this clarified so that, through the Contact Group, we all know what we are expecting from which participants.

At the same time Mr Chairperson, many ideas have been put forward by various delegations as to what they want to see in the reforms. We too have our own ideas as to what we want to see in the reforms but we would rather leave the assignment in the hands of the Chair of the Contact Group to coordinate this on a broad-based level because it is a matter which interests many people. So we would like to see this as work in progress, as others have said.

CFS renewal is critical but we have to deliberate it in a comprehensive manner and I cannot think of any other forum in which we can do that without this broad-based consultative process that has been suggested by our colleague. Regarding the paragraph that you said to us Mr Chairperson, paragraph 7 on Rome-based organizations, true, we are all for more cooperation between the these organizations but I think, again, the detail has to come through the CFS because I heard quite a lot of suggestions which were never flagged among ourselves, the Member Nations, and our

governments are not aware of that. So I would like to suggest that that too, we give it to Madam Chair for her consideration.

In paragraph 8, we think that those observations are a true reflection of what came of the last consultation, so we are very much in the picture and would like to say we go along with them. Paragraph 9 shows, as Kenya raised many questions, there are questions to raise, but one question becomes very clear. The issue of hunger requires visibility, and how are we going to attain this visibility? Some of the bullet points that I saw there, I am refraining from making my conclusions, but I think this visibility, this will be addressed in the next item that we are handling this afternoon, in Item 15, so I would refrain from giving you my recommendations now once we are undertaking this assignment, but in paragraph 14, my delegation believes that NGOs, farmers' organizations and other civil organizations from the developing countries in the past have not been able to participate and yet they know the face of hunger better than any of us here. So I would appeal to the Madam Chair of the CFS to consider this aspect in detail and explore ways which would help the participation of these civic organizations from the developing world because without that clarity or that assurance, then the cardinal principle of equitable representation in decision-making in this multilateral setting would be denied, as it is only NGOs and civil societies that can afford to be here in Rome who will come and participate.

Mr Chairperson, I think it is time that we also hear the word, or the voices of those who are in the field, the farmers themselves, those people who suffer from hunger day in and day out, not read about it but suffer from it. I thank you Sir.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Trataré de ser breve. Ante todo deseo agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria por el informe presentado. No quiero dejar pasar la oportunidad de reconocer el trabajo que ha realizado, la transparencia, dinámica e iniciativas que ha logrado impregnar a todo este proceso junto con el resto de la mesa.

Consideramos que el informe presentado y los aspectos relativos al Grupo de Contacto demuestran que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es un Órgano de la FAO que debe revitalizarse y ocupar el lugar que le corresponde dentro de la gobernanza de esta Organización, acorde con la inmensa responsabilidad que le fue otorgada por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

El hecho de que no hayamos avanzado lo suficiente en la lucha contra el hambre a nivel mundial sitúa este Órgano en el mismo centro del debate del accionar internacional en pos de concretar las metas mundiales aportadas en términos de reducción del hambre y la malnutrición.

En el Grupo de Contacto hemos abordado diferentes aspectos. Considero, en aras a la brevedad, que son fundamentales los tres pilares que se han considerado. Igual es la necesidad de coordinación, de una mayor coordinación, entre las agencias de Roma. Otro aspecto que también se ha visto en profundidad son las propuestas para fortalecer la participación de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y los ONG en los debates del Comité. Nuestra delegación considera que ello es necesario. Sin embargo, el fortalecimiento de la participación de estos actores no puede significar el menoscabo de carácter intergubernamental del CCA, por lo que las decisiones deben continuar siendo tomadas y ejecutadas por los Estados Miembros, así como el posterior seguimiento de las mismas. Nuestra delegación apoya la creación del Panel de Expertos. Creemos que es importante y de hecho Cuba ya ha nombrado los expertos seleccionados en su propuesta de expertos.

Para finalizar, deseo recalcar que la delegación cubana apoya toda acción destinada a fortalecer el mecanismo de trabajo del CCA siempre que se fortalezca su mandato dentro de la estructura de la FAO y su carácter intergubernamental y multilateral, en consonancia con lo establecido por la Constitución de la FAO y el papel otorgado a este órgano por la Declaración de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno a la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación del 1996.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. Now I invite United States to take the floor.

Ms Suzanne E. HEINEN (United States of America)

Speaking from North America we want to just agree with the view of perhaps everyone in this room that we want and need to see a revitalized CFS. We appreciate the work of the CFS Bureau and especially commend the Chair of the CFS who has energetically taken up the recommendation to strengthen the CFS, and who has worked hard to ensure transparent and participatory process by Member Nations and other stakeholders.

We are committed to this past reform process and appreciate the chance to contribute to an outcome that is sensible, constructive and assists with improved global coordination of the energies needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goal No. 1. We will take this report into account along with other reports in our further deliberations. We look forward to a healthy debate in the four working groups and in the next session of the CFS in October. Given the ongoing nature of this reform debate, we do not seek to prejudge the outcome of the talks on the scope, role, vision, structure, cost, expert input and other items under consideration by Members, other UN Bodies and NGOs, but we do remain confident that we can make this forum more effective in reaching our goals of improving food security. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, distinguished representative from the United States, and I come to my last speaker who is Indonesia.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

At the outset let me thank the CFS Chair and also the Bureau for the hard work that has been done in preparing this report for our full discussion and also to help us to make a decision on this agenda item. Mr Chairperson, Indonesia fully supports the report before us and with regard to the work that has been done, especially on some paragraphs that you asked us to make some kind of contribution, of comment, Indonesia wishes to share its views or experience on this matter.

It is our view Mr Chairperson, that the occurrence of food crisis caused by stocking on the global food supply and we fully support any initiative on proper warning to this situation. Indonesia believes that this situation cannot be solved by individual country, we therefore also reiterate the initiative for the solutions of food crisis or food security to be brought to the poor and the needy countries.

Indonesia fully agrees that food security is the highest national priority for every country. We believe food security is not only about the availability of food but also about the accessibility to food. Globally actually, food is sufficient but not distributed properly. In this regard, we therefore propose that a fair international trade of agriculture products is highly needed. I think this view is very closely related with paragraph 9 of the recommendation for FAO, especially bullet no. 5.

Indonesia is actively submitting the national report on progress in the implementation of Plan of Action. We, therefore, suggest that the CFS should introduce a simple report on this matter. As mentioned in paragraph 14, especially about the involvement of other participants or stakeholders, we believe that food security is not only about the government responsibility but also the responsibility of other relevant broader stakeholders like the private sectors and non-governmental organizations and also academicians. Only through these joint and concerted efforts, the attainment of the Millenium Development Goals, especially on poverty reduction and fighting against hunger could be achieved.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much distinguished representative of Indonesia. Any other observers wish to take the floor? I don't see any. I thank the interpreters for allowing us a few more minutes to finalize our debate. Morocco is asking for the floor. Please be very very brief.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

La réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) est fondamentale et nous est dictée par les impératifs du moment. En ce qui concerne la participation des ONG et de la société civile, nous ne sommes pas contre. Nous pensons, cependant, que le processus de gouvernance doit demeurer sous la supervision des Gouvernements, auxquels il incombe d'assurer le suivi.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much distinguished representative of Morocco for being very very brief. Now I come back to Madame Chair and the Secretary of the CFS, if you have anything to say. Yes, Madame Chair, you have the floor.

Sra María del Carmen SQUEFF (Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria)

Creo que hubo varias cuestiones dirigidas a la participación de la sociedad civil. Quiero recordar lo que está sucediendo en estos momentos en el grupo de contacto. Las mismas agrupaciones que están participando han hecho alusión a la responsabilidad de los estados y a que el Comité debe continuar siendo intergubernamental en la toma de decisiones. Ello no obsta que haya un tipo de participación de consulta, de recomendación, que venga de otros actores involucrados. Creo que es importante remarcarlo, porque si se consulta hoy la página Web, se puede encontrar los documentos donde esto está expresado por organizaciones muy reconocidas.

La segunda cuestión, referida por Kenya, es absolutamente comprensible el tema de las prioridades y de la temporalidad. Cuando hay problemas y hay hambre es necesario resolverlos sin lugar a dudas. No obstante ello, creo que algunos de los temas que el distinguido delegado ha formulado, hay que continuar trabajándolos focalizando más en la acción en el terreno, por ejemplo la cuestión de género que es la primera que menciona. Hay mucho escrito, la cuestión es hasta dónde hemos llegado en las realizaciones, o por ejemplo, en el análisis de los obstáculos de la vida para liberar de la pobreza a los pequeños productores. Este tema es un *issue*, un punto focal del FIDA. Hay mucho hecho pero no es suficiente, por lo tanto, se tiene que seguir la Agenda de una manera reformada.

Creo que los trabajos de los cuatro grupos pueden venir muy bien, algunas cuestiones son realmente muy interesantes. Agradezco la confianza a la representante de Zimbawe con respecto a algunas cuestiones que debemos asumir en la presidencia.

Creo que el aporte de todos va a ser fundamental y creo en los Grupos de Trabajo, especialmente los Grupos II y III. Hay muchos colegas anotados en el grupo I, que es muy interesante y muy importante, pero son los grupos II y III los que van a definir el nuevo CFS y los nuevos mecanismos. Por lo tanto, creo que hay que estar muy atentos y trabajar fuertemente en estos grupos.

En este sentido, creo que coincido totalmente con la Embajadora de Zimbawe. El CFS no tiene visibilidad y esto lo digo con dolor. Hubo cuatro cumbres importantes este año y a ninguna de las cuatro cumbres fuimos invitados como CFS. Esto es una muestra porque los países organizadores de la cumbre son parte de FAO y también son parte del CFS. La cuestión no es la de participar en una cumbre que va a resolver un problema sino la de ser tenido en cuenta. Ser tenido en cuenta implica si se tiene o no una visibilidad. Sin lugar a duda, la visibilidad se obtiene de diferentes maneras. La propuesta que hoy debatimos mucho tiene una cuestión de mantener una visibilidad. Veremos como terminamos, pero la mayor visibilidad la darán los resultados que obtengamos en la práctica en el terreno. Esta es la mayor visibilidad de todas. Llevó un tiempo y hay que rescatar las experiencias que tenemos para poder mostrarlas pero coincido plenamente con Zimbawe en

que hay que hacer un trabajo fuerte y mantener el tema en el top de la Agenda y dar al Comité una mayor visibilidad.

Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I will be even briefer because Mrs Squeff said most of what I wanted to say, which was really to assure the colleague from Kenya that obviously we are trying to do things in a different and more effective way. The three bullets in paragraph 9 that he picked on are gender, smallholder agriculture and the impact of the financial crisis and I would like to assure him that we are trying to be innovative and not repeat what is in all those books that he referred to. But there is no way that we can ignore the gender issue in agriculture.

Seventy percent of the food in the world in developing countries is produced by women. The impact of the food crisis as we have shown in our last State of Food and Security Report, the impact of the food crisis on female-headed households has been much higher than on male-headed households, and we will show again that, as far as the financial crisis is concerned, it also has had very differential impacts on men and women. So, he is right that we need to focus more on being effective and efficient, but certainly there are certain issues like gender that we cannot ignore if we are serious about fighting hunger and poverty in the world.

On smallholder agriculture, three out of every four poor people in the world live in rural areas and they are small producers. This body, I think it was yesterday, was discussing changes to Strategic Objective G, to focus more on smallholders, so, of course, he is absolutely right that we need to be innovative and do things differently. But obviously FAO cannot focus on helping smallholders get out of poverty.

On the financial crisis, I think that as part of the advocacy work, we cannot just let the world focus on how the financial crisis has affected banks; the financial crisis, as you will see in our Report and in our Director-General's presentation on Friday the financial crisis has had a devastating impact on the hungry people in the world and it is our role to remind the world that it is the poor and the hungry who suffer most from economic slowdowns.

CHAIRPERSON

Again I appreciate the cooperation of interpreters and I will take about one or two minutes to make a summary of the rich debate that we had today and also do not expect to include everything.

So the Council endorsed the Report of the Committee on World Food Security and commended the dynamic role which the Chair and the Bureau of the CFS are playing, also commended the role of FAO in dealing with food security, especially in the food crisis, and they emphasized that timeliness in responses to food security is of vital importance.

CFS reform is crucial and essential, but it is work in progress; its details should be worked out in Working Groups and Contact Groups. It should play a strong role in the governance of world food security. Partnerships with all stakeholders, including NGOs, CSO, private sector and especially Rome-based Agencies has been recommended, but with a very defined role for each of them and especially the decision-making should remain with the Member Nations, and also the interactive deliberations of mechanisms of how to debate is very important, among other things.

A strengthening field presence and adequate resource are essential in the success of CFS and these are some of the points, among others, that I wanted to reflect upon.

With this can I assume I have your endorsement of the Report and the points which were raised?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Now we will break for lunch and we will take Item 8 of our agenda again this afternoon, but before breaking we have two items. One question raised was if the spokespersons of the Friends of the Chair should be Members of the Council or could be Observers. To the extent possible, yes, the Members of the Council should be the spokespersons for the regions, but if any region has any difficulty, they can decide themselves to appoint an Observer as their spokesperson.

I think the Director-General will be with us this afternoon at the beginning of our session and there is a statement that Ms Williams wants to make.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have an announcement from the Chair of GRULAC. GRULAC will meet at 1.00 pm today in the Mexican Room; that is, in the next ten minutes.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours
La séance est levée à 12 h 50
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trente-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
Rome, 15-19 juin 2009
Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

17 June 2009

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:44 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 44 xx
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14:44 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

I call the sixth meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-six Session of the FAO Council to order.

We have the pleasure of having the Director-General today with us and without any delay I will now hand the floor to him.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Let me start expressing again my apologies for not having been here to welcome you as usual on Monday because I had to attend the sad ceremony of the funeral of the Dean of the Heads of State of Africa.

Mr. Independent Chairperson of the Council, Honourable Delegates, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my great appreciation for your presence in Rome to participate in the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the Council. Your meeting is taking place at a crucial time, when the Organization has just embarked on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action and when the world is facing remarkable challenges at the core of FAO's mandate.

These conditions have also created opportunities for FAO to address these growing challenges as a reformed Organization. Indeed, the IPA is the blueprint for the most comprehensive reform process that any UN organization has undergone to date. We are now in the first months of the implementation of an ambitious three-year plan that you unanimously endorsed at the Special Conference in November 2008. We all knew it would not be easy – yet, we are clearly on the right track.

The implementation of the IPA needs strong leadership and commitment, and close collaboration between staff, Management and you, our Members. I am pleased that we have these pre-conditions for success in place.

Members are already aware of, and should have observed through my actions, my commitment to the renewal of FAO. I have personally provided the leadership and given the strategic guidance to ensure swift, efficient and sustainable progress, with the necessary measures for the day-to-day implementation being taken by the Deputy Director-General. To ensure a participative and distributive structure, we have involved many staff, and indeed many leaders – selecting the most qualified individuals for each area of the work of the IPA. Through this sharing of effort at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices, we can be confident of obtaining successful and sustainable results.

On your part, the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up and its Working Groups have met more frequently than was envisaged by the 2008 Conference. Members continue to participate in large numbers, to engage with management in an unprecedented form of intense dialogue. Rome-based Members have also participated in several informal meetings, with management and the staff representative bodies. I wish to sincerely thank you all for your untiring commitment to the IPA implementation.

I am convinced that through our joint and constructive efforts, FAO will emerge from the reform process with better governance structures and improved mutual understanding among the Membership, and with the necessary regular budget and extra-budgetary resources to fulfil its mandate adequately.

On management's part, and with your guidance, FAO will continue in its efforts to demonstrably function as one, with its structure, roles and responsibilities aligned to a focussed results-based framework, supported by streamlined administrative and management systems, and a motivated

and highly-performing work force. I hope that these reforms will constitute a central part of my and your legacy to this Organization.

In these early months of implementation, we are already starting to see some encouraging results of our efforts.

As a noteworthy example of joint work and partnership between the Secretariat and Member Nations, important changes to the Basic Texts have been discussed to Members' satisfaction in record time.

This session of Council is also witnessing the joint efforts of Management and the Conference Committee and its Working Groups, as well as the Committees of the Council, in preparing the Strategic Framework and combined Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. These documents will integrate the work of Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices, global and regional priorities, and Assessed and Voluntary Contributions around specific results. While the documentation presented to this session is "work in progress", we can be satisfied with the improvements and innovations made. The first complete draft of these documents will be presented next month.

Another central aspect of the renewal package is in the area of Human Resources. Members have agreed on a Human Resources Management Strategy and Policy Framework, and the Finance Committee last month endorsed the key areas of work, including new human resource policies and Staff Performance Evaluation. Some new policies, such as flexible working arrangements and use of retirees, have already been adopted.

Despite resource constraints, we have made tangible progress in improving the effectiveness of our decentralized structures since 2005. To name just a few areas: stronger alignment with country needs through preparation of National Medium Term Priority Frameworks and better partnership in UN System country level activities; more effective support to country level activities through a revamped Sub-regional structure; improved arrangements for dealing with transboundary issues at Sub-regional and regional levels; increased delegations of authority; and improvements in administrative and communication systems. Further changes are under execution, including revised reporting lines for Country Offices, delegation of Technical Cooperation Projects to the regions, a new competency framework for FAO Representatives and an extensive training programme.

The Root and Branch Review recommended by the IEE was finalized less than two months ago. We have agreed with the vast majority of its recommendations and will implement them through the IPA projects. These recommendations are expected to improve the effectiveness of our administrative services and result in US\$ 7.8 million of net savings over the first seven years and US\$ 13 million per biennium thereafter.

FAO Renewal is progressing at full speed. In the first six months of the three-year plan, 58 percent of the activities are already under implementation and some 4 percent have been completed.

While some three-quarters of IPA actions do not need additional external funding and are being currently implemented, some of the core areas of reform require significant funding. The provisional 2009 costs have been substantially revised down to US\$ 15.25 million through careful sequencing, the constant search for more efficient means of delivery and the incorporation of the results of the Root and Branch Review. However, it should be noted with great concern that the IPA Trust Fund only has received pledges for a total of US\$ 7.2 million, of which only US\$ 4 million in actual contributions.

Taking FAO renewal to completion will require the continuous commitment and hard work of Membership, management and staff, and your generous contributions, not only in 2009 but through to the end of 2011. I have no doubt that we will continue to rise to the challenge, building on the spirit developed throughout 2008 of joint work and mutual understanding and give and take.

Mr. Independent Chairperson of the Council, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I trust that you will agree with me that the current state of world food insecurity is unbearable. The events of the last three years have been particularly tragic. They clearly demonstrated how fragile our global food system is and how vulnerable we are. The situation goes beyond the traditional humanitarian dimension. It calls for a '*new world food order*'.

In 2007-2008, because of high food prices, millions and millions of people were pushed into hunger. In 2009, as a consequence of the economic crisis, it is projected that some 100 million human beings would be added to the ranks of those who do not have adequate access to food.

Today, more people than ever are victims of hunger. Over one billion in total. In other words, one in every six persons suffers from hunger and malnutrition on a daily basis.

In addition, as of last April, 31 countries were in a situation of food crisis requiring emergency assistance. Of these, 20 in Africa, 9 in Asia and the Near East and 2 in Central America and the Caribbean.

This cannot be acceptable. How can we explain to people of good sense and good faith this dramatic situation in a state of abundance of international resources and when trillions of US dollars are being spent to salvage the international financial system.

The problem of food security is a political one. It is a question of priorities in the face of the most fundamental of human needs.

Plans, strategies and programmes to defeat hunger and malnutrition in the world do exist at national and regional level, even though in some cases they may need updating. In fact, as part of the preparations of the High-Level Conference on "*How to Feed the World in 2050*", to be held in Rome in October 2009, FAO is revising the Anti-Hunger Programme which was prepared in 2002 and is addressing all related issues.

It is true that international food commodity prices have come down from the peaks of June 2008, but it should be noted that they are still high by historical standards. In only two years, between 2006 and 2008, prices of basic foods rose by about 60 percent while those of grains doubled. As of last month, the average price of food was still 24 percent higher than in 2006 and 33 percent higher than in 2005.

The global financial crisis has attracted the full attention of the world. The G20 leaders have already met twice since last November and a third meeting is foreseen in the next fall. In their meeting in London early April, they agreed on a financial stimulus package worth US\$ 1.1 trillion. I should say I was happy to note the renewed commitment to meeting the MDGs and to achieving official development assistance pledges.

The food security crisis requires no less attention for, in addition to its economic, social and ethical ramifications, it has proven to be a serious threat to peace and security in the world. The financial and economic crisis must not deter our attention from the food crisis, leading to further marginalization of the poor and the hungry.

The world has to ensure the food security of the one billion hungry people and also double food production to feed a population projected to reach 9.2 billion in 2050. And this has to be achieved in the face of several challenges, including demographic and dietary changes, climate change, bioenergy development and natural resources constraints.

Aware of the urgency of the situation and the paramount importance of food security for world stability, economic growth and prosperity, I took the initiative on 23 October 2008 on the occasion of World Food Day celebration in New York and in the presence of the UN Secretary-General and President Clinton to propose the convening of a Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2009.

I subsequently presented the proposal to Membership in my statement to the Special FAO Conference in November 2008, and also submitted it to the Heads of State and Governments of Member Nations for their consideration.

The proposal has received wide support from the different regions as reflected in declarations and resolutions of Summits of Heads of State and Governments and Ministerial Meetings, and also by means of official letters of reply.

In light of the current state of international affairs, the case for a high political event, to keep world food security on top of the international agenda and tackle the root causes of hunger, is compelling. Hunger is on the rise and global food security is facing the greatest challenges of modern history.

While the two previous summits of 1996 and 2002 have effectively contributed to keep food and agriculture on the international community's agenda, the proposed summit should be about real changes. Decisions about policies and strategies have to be taken at the highest political level.

As I stated to the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees last month, the Summit would be financed entirely from extra-budgetary resources, in full compliance with the Financial Regulations and with no negative impact on the regular programme of work of the Organization. It would build on the work of the High-Level Conference on "*How to Feed the World in 2050*", which was approved by the FAO Conference, and most of the technical documents would be prepared in advance using expert group meetings on subjects covered by normal activities of the Organization, with peer review for quality control, and in relation with the other ongoing processes.

Mr. Independent Chairperson of the Council, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the current context of difficulties and challenges, it is the responsibility of us all – Secretariat and Membership – to rise to the expectations of the hungry and the poor and also the hopes of the founding fathers of this very Organization. The current food crisis cannot leave us indifferent.

In closing, I will reiterate that the challenge of eliminating hunger and malnutrition is no longer a question of lack of knowledge or means in the hands of the global community. The vision of a hunger-free world is possible if there is high-level political will. Concrete changes will be indispensable.

Although tempered by the recent 'food, fuel and financial' crisis, several countries have realized remarkable progress toward the achievement of the set goals of hunger reduction, including in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We know technically what should be done. We should build on these successes.

World leaders and the international community have to take courageous decisions and follow up with the required actions to eradicate hunger, totally and rapidly, as it has been decided regionally by the Latin American and Caribbean leaders, so that everyone on Earth can enjoy the most basic of human rights – the right to food, and thus to existence.

In a world with abundant resources, the persistence of hunger is a scandal. We have to act now – the hungry and poor cannot wait.

Conscious of this, Nehru recalled in his economic decisions some 60 years ago that "*Everything else can wait, but not agriculture*".

So, let us not wait and stand up to our responsibility to ensure that food is on the table of everybody, today and tomorrow, allowing those suffering from hunger to liberate themselves from the yoke of unsatisfied basic biological needs to rise up to the spiritual and ethical vision of a world free from hunger.

While looking forward to the results of your deliberations, I wish you every success and good continuation in your work.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for a good summary of what we have done in the Working Groups and CoC-IEE for the reform and an inspirational address on the state of world food security and wish you success.

We now move on to Agenda Item 15, FAO Contribution to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action and the relevant document is CL 136/14 and its Sub-items, that is: 15.1, High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security CL 136/15; and 15.2 Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009 CL 136/22.

I would like to invite Mr Sumpsi, Assistant Director-General of the Technical Cooperation Department, to make his introduction on the *FAO* Contribution to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (Cont'd)

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (Continuación)

15. FAO Contribution to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CL 136/14)

15. Contribution de la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du Cadre global d'action (CL 136/14)

15. Contribución de la FAO a la aplicación del Marco Integral de Acción (CL 136/14)

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I would like to highlight the main elements of this document that supports a very intensive work of FAO in 2008 and 2009 up to now.

The Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, launched by FAO in December 2007, made it possible for the Organization to take a prominent role in framing the international response in a broad range of fora. In April 2008, the Secretary of the United Nations established the High-Level Task Force for Global Food Security and proposed to draft the Comprehensive Framework for Action as a main global document for the United Nations and Bretton Woods Institutions activities related to the Global Food Security Crisis.

In May and June 2008, FAO played a key role in supporting the drafting of the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the United Nations High-Level Task Force and integrating the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices as a part of this CFA. Since then, FAO has worked jointly with Agencies of the High-Level Task Force for the achievement of the outcomes defined in CFA at country level.

FAO is playing a central role in achieving the CFA's main objectives, namely: to improve access to food and nutrition support and take immediate steps to increase food availability; and to strengthen food and nutrition security in the longer-run by addressing the underlying factors driving the food crisis. FAO also plays a leading role in both the short and longer-term CFA goals related to increasing small farmers' food production in a sustainable way and in the improvement of food market information systems and is also contributing to the deliberations on food and nutrition security policy adjustment and the emerging issues of climate change and bio-fuels.

FAO had an active and key role in supporting the Madrid High-Level Conference on Food Security for All held from 26 to 27 January 2009 in Madrid, and convened by the Government of Spain and the United Nations System, the Secretary-General, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders from 126 countries, including national governments, civil society trade unions, private sector, academia, donor agencies and multilateral organizations. The purpose was to follow-up the High-Level Conference of June 2008, held in Rome and continuing the advocacy of resource mobilization to respond to the Global Food Security Crisis. In that Conference, the President of Spain announced the decision to establish a Euro 1 billion fund, for a five-year period, in support of CFA implementation and other donors expressed their willingness to contribute with additional resources.

In working towards the achievement of CFA outcomes, FAO has contributed to pilot a new model for interagency cooperation, which was applied for the Euro 1 billion European Union Food Facility, to implement short and medium-term measures of CFA in 50 countries. FAO will implement – and has started to implement already – programmes in 25 countries, becoming the High-Level Taskforce Agency with the greatest share of this Euro 1 billion European Union Food Facility.

This cooperation model, that has been especially close between the Rome-based Agencies, was very effectively demonstrated in the joint deployment of 17 large-scale interagency assessments and 41 Rapid Assessments and crop and food supply assessments.

FAO has also been working together with the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), particularly in the framework of Pillar 3 of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), dedicated to food security.

To date, FAO has deployed 74 input supply Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) within the context of the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices. The objective of these projects has been both to provide a concrete and immediate response to the request for assistance of Member Nations, as well as to provide a catalytic role for mobilizing additional donor resources, both through FAO and bilaterally. The TCP also funded 35 technical assistance operations in support of the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices for a total of US\$ 6.6 million. This includes six regional and Sub-regional TCPs.

As of 1 June 2009, at the time of drafting the Council papers, FAO had mobilized US\$ 248 million under Initiative on Soaring Food Prices and in connection with the CFA implementation short and medium-term measures. These figures have increased in the last month because we signed agreements with the European Commission to implement the projects funded by the European Union Food Facility. As of today, this figure has substantially increased compared with the figures that you have in the paper we prepared almost one month ago.

FAO is in the process of signing, in the next week, the last part of these projects, amounting to: the total FAO resource mobilization in the context of the implementation of CFA, based on the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, is US\$ 402 million, of which US\$ 37.3 million from FAO funds – TCP and TCP facility – US\$ 283 million from the European Union Food Facility and US\$ 81.7 million from 10 additional donors – Austria, IFAD, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, OCHA, the United States and the World Bank.

Lastly, in the areas of information and policy advice, FAO has developed a guide for immediate country level action that reviews various policies and actions that are available to respond to the food security crisis, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches and instruments. In addition to monitoring food market prices, including prices in developing countries, the food insecurity situation and the impact of high food prices, FAO has been monitoring the policy response of countries to the crisis. FAO is also actively contributing to the establishment of a common reference framework for bio-fuels as a partner in the Global Bio-energy Partnership, which is developing policy-relevant sustainability criteria for all bio-energy pathways, and in the Round Table on Sustainable Bio-fuels which is working towards a sustainability standard for liquid bio-fuel projects by the end 2009.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Sumpsi for your good report on what has been done in FAO in this regard and now the floor is open for your comments or if you do have any questions for Mr Sumpsi. EU wants the floor.

Renaud-François MOULINIER (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey associates itself with this statement. We thank Mr Sumpsi for his exhaustive presentation. The European Community welcomes the prominent role played by the FAO in the framework of the recent food crisis. Its Early Warning System in 2007 about the risks of soaring food prices, followed by its deep involvement in 2008 for framing the international response through a major contribution for the elaboration of a common framework for action has to be very positively underlined.

We also welcome the development by FAO of the food price information tool that will be of great help for the international community in these times of financial and economic crisis. Mr Sumpsi has highlighted the positive effects of the EC's response to the food crisis, with the one billion Euro food facility or the ballot and support of the EU Member States. Besides the funding aspect, it is worth noting that throughout the food crisis, the EC food facility has promoted partnerships between UN Agencies and the World Bank involved in its implementation. This is important in the context of the reform process and very much in line will be the Accra Agenda. This partnership has strongly developed and preserved its numerous joint initiatives and missions in the field. The EC would like to insist on the importance of this improved coordination process. Starting with the assessment missions and covering the whole process from project formulation to implementation. Future cooperation in agricultural food security policies should build upon this experience.

The EC would like to see this partnership dynamic more expanded towards supporting the elaboration and/or implementation of real national food security strategies under the auspices of the UN high level task force where FAO, WFP and IFAD play a crucial role.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I am seeking an explanation. We are on Item 15. So there are Sub-items, 15.1 and 15.2. They will be presented separately.

Thank you Mr Chairperson, Can I continue? I just have one comment and I thank Mr Sumpsi for his presentation and the role that has been taken by FAO to respond to the soaring food prices and to our delegation. We thank very much those who have contributed to this action. Of course I know the amount of money is not so much, given the gravity of the situation and now there are several projects which have been proposed. I don't how these projects are being streamlined within country programmes, otherwise we shall be having the tradition of small projects thrown here and there which do not have any impact.

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Thanks to the European Union's comments about the efforts of FAO in trying to respond to the global food security crisis. Of course FAO in the context of the High-Level Task Force, not alone but with all Agencies in the High Level Task Force, is trying to get additional resources to continue implementing CFA at country level. This is not easy. We are in a particularly difficult moment because of the financial crisis. This is true. But do we hope that maybe in the coming times we could really get some additional resources to continue implementing national plans. Because, as the Director-General said, now after the intensive work of 2008-2009, all the agencies, in close collaborations with governments and stakeholders, prepare national plans to really meet mid-term and long-term perspectives with this global food security crisis. The problem is that these plans are not sufficiently funded and we need additional resources. We expect to receive maybe some additional resources, but it is a difficult situation, no doubt.

Concerning the comment of Tanzania, I think it is a very good point. How these projects that we are implementing with the funds of the European Commission facility or other funds, other donors' contributions, are embedded, are integrated, with the rest of problems at national level, this is a very important issue. And I will assure you that in the work of the High-Level Task Force, and FAO is a key actor within the High-Level Task Force, all these national plans are discussed with the governments and integrated in the national policies and strategies dealing with food security - sometimes national plans for food security, sometimes as other kinds of national strategies, but in any case we try to implement these projects not in a separate way from the rest of the programmes but integrated with the national strategies. And in that sense, the important fact is that to implement these projects we extend or even sometimes create national mechanisms to ensure the coordination that our national committees on food security or other fora reach the governments, stakeholders, and all the Agencies are part of this mechanism for coordination, trying to ensure they get the synergies between the different projects and different plans and try also to be consistent with the national authorities and the policies. These projects are not implemented in a separate way. We are trying to get all the synergies together, trying to be much more effective than if we work separately. I think that this, probably, is one of the most important outputs of the crisis - the new cooperation among all the Agencies, national governments and stakeholders and proceeding in a new way, much more coordinated and much more consistent. And I think that this is a very important output although, as I said, we have some problems with the lack of resources and we expect that maybe in the coming times we could really obtain some results on this question of fundraising for these projects.

Romano Mungiira KIOME (Kenya)

My Kenyan delegation welcomes and fully endorses this High-Level Conference on World Food Security fora report, I think it is a very useful report. We commend the FAO for the early warning of the food crisis as areas May-June 2007. We strongly thank the European Union for its very rapid response. It is probably the only donor that came up with US\$ 1 billion very quickly. In fact, Kenya is a beneficiary of that one billion dollars, to the time of US\$ 20 million, and also others who pledged and fulfilled to their pledge as small as it may look. We would like to ask the FAO, what happened with the rest of the pledge. I standard the pledge was of US\$ 23 billion. If it would be possible for FAO to provide a matrix showing who pledged, how much, for where and when they are likely to fulfill the pledge, or maybe unlikely to fulfill the pledge. Maybe such a matrix should be taken around, we would know who is responsible and who is not and maybe we could talk to each about this.

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I think that this is an important point. As we always said, FAO tried, in connection with the new philosophy of FAO also in the line with of the IEE report and the reform of FAO. FAO is trying to play a catalytic role. This means that not everything has to be implemented by FAO. FAO implements some projects, no doubt, but the value of the FAO and other Agencies is to play this catalytic role. It does not matter if at the end these new financing resources and new problems and plans are implemented by FAO, WFP, World Bank, and bilaterally for national institutions, or other ways. The important thing is the money arrives to country level and in a consistent and coordinated way. In that sense I could say that after the Conference in Madrid, there are some new additional resources, but it is not sufficient and it is not of course in line with the pledges made in the Conference held in June 2008.

There are some additional resources, for instance in the case of Spain, which approved 300 million recently for a plan in West Africa that will be implemented through the World Bank, in the context all these High-Level task force initiatives. In case it will be the World Bank in West Africa who handles millions of dollars.

Yesterday we heard the representative of the USA about the new additional resources announced by President Obama, and it is US\$ 1 billion. I think that these are additional resources that will be implemented in different ways through different Agencies or bilaterally. Also there are some

other initiatives in the context of G8 meeting, the G8 Summit to create a new fund for food security and the proposal for (but is just a proposal) US\$ 300 million.

All these things are new initiatives that is showing that something is moving of course. The scale of these resources is far beyond the initial expectations but it is not sufficient to cover these pledges if about while US\$ 11 billion or even more. I think that these are positive signals, that things are moving, that additional resources will come through different donors, different Agencies, different ways, even bilaterally, and I think this is very important but of course it is not sufficient, and it is not really close to the pledges in June 2008.

Lastly, I would like to say that this information is possible because the Secretariat of the High-Level Task Force is trying to track all the new resources and plans implemented in the context of CFA implementation. The problem is sometimes we have problems. The Secretariat of this High-Level Task Force has problems to track the funding that is provided bilaterally, because all these figures that I mentioned is because they are some public announcements or even after the Madrid Conference. We track these ideas of Spain or USA or other countries or the G8 initiative but in other cases some donors could bilaterally contribute with additional resources for projects in some countries. It is not easier. This coordination and tracking system melting multilateral channels and bilateral channels to contribute to the additional resources is not always easy because the information is not really flowing very easily.

Now the Secretariat of the High-Level Task Force, under the coordination of David Nabarro, is trying to improve this monitoring system to be able to inform not just in FAO but all the Agencies and all the international community about the total amount of additional resources contributed, to deal with this global food crisis independent of the Agencies that will implement this money or would wish bilaterally or different mechanisms or ways to proceed.

CHAIRPERSON

I think this brings us to the end of this discussion. I thank you and I wish you and the Secretariat of the Contact Group all the success.

Now we are to move to the next Item which is 15.1.

15. FAO Contribution to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CL 136/14)

15. Contribution de la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du Cadre global d'action
(CL 136/14)

15. Contribución de la FAO a la aplicación del Marco Integral de Acción
(CL 136/14)

15.1 High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security (CL 136/15)

15.1 Groupe d'experts de haut niveau de la sécurité alimentaire (CL 136/15)

15.1 Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria (CL 136/15)

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I feel greatly honoured to report on the task assigned by the Special Conference to the Secretariat regarding the establishment of a High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. The Draft Zero and the Draft One have been shared with the Member Nations in a written form as well as during presentations made before different groups, including the CFS Bureau, the Contact Group, the Asia Group and the G77.

I have prepared just four or five slides to remind you of the functions of the High-Level Panel, its principle and its architecture, but the full paper is available for those delegates who want to learn more about it.

Four main functions have been identified. The first one is the assessment of the extent of food insecurity and under nutrition. The second one is analysis of the causes and consequences of food insecurity in the world. Third provides advice on emerging issues, like bio-fuels. Fourth, identify areas for further studies.

The proposed structure – slide please – the High-Level Panel is composed of two main units, the International Scientific Coordination Committee on Food Security and Nutrition and the Network of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. The first one, the International Scientific Coordination Committee, will be composed of twenty-five to thirty members from around the world, including a Chair and three to four Vice-Chairs. It will be composed of eminent scientists and personalities selected through an independent panel. It will act as a scientific arm of the CFS Bureau and ensure the scientific coordination of the Network of Experts.

The Network of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, the second part will be composed of four hundred to five hundred high-level specialized experts covering all disciplines relevant to food security. I think you see here on this slide the different fields of expertise that are relevant for food security and the numbers of the network will be provided by the FAO Member Nations, by intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, civil society and also from specialized institutions like the CG Centres and academia. The selection of these experts will be done by an independent panel under the authority of the Chair of the International Scientific Coordination Committee. The Network will serve as a roster for the constitution of working groups and task forces of the High-Level Panel.

The next slide, as you see, it will be possible from this roster to put together experts from different fields of expertise to constitute thematic working groups or to constitute task forces on the request of the CFS Bureau. I think this is very important, so it is really a very flexible structure.

Besides the two entities, the International Scientific Coordination Committee and the Network itself we have identified some secretarial functions to be managed by a dedicated Secretariat or, if you decide to, because we have two options, a dedicated Secretariat or this function can be fulfilled by the Secretariat of the renewed CFS Bureau. The Secretariat will deal with the servicing of the roster of experts and selection panels, the correspondence with members of the Scientific Committee, the organization of meetings, the commissioning of work and dissemination of information, the website management, etc.

We think that this scientific High-Level Panel of Experts will serve as one of the three pillars of the Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition and especially it will serve as the scientific pillar of this Global Partnership.

We think also that the High-Level Panel will serve directly under the leadership of the bureau of the renewed CFS.

Next slide. The Council is requested first to take note of initial action taken by the Secretariat to engage Membership in the development of the High-Level Panel; second, to support the decision of the CFS Bureau to include the establishment of the High-Level Panel as part of the dialogue among Membership on CFS reform and the proposed terms of reference, structure and composition of the High-Level Panel.

To conclude, I want to just say that to date we have received from Member Nations and different international organizations 559 nominations from 69 member countries and 41 international organizations, including NGOs, civil society organizations and CG Centres. Among the 559 nominees we have 124 females.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Traoré, for your introduction. Before opening the floor for your intervention I draw your attention to the last part of the introduction by Mr Traoré, which is also in page 2 of the document in front of you. On page 2, paragraph 6 there is what we have to do. The Council is requested to "take note of initial action taken by the Secretariat to engage

membership in the development of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition" – we have already done it.

Now the second part is "support the decision of the CFS Bureau to include the establishment of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition as part of the CFS reform process and to continue a dialogue among Membership on its proposed terms of reference, a structure and composition". This is what we have been asked to do and I would appreciate it if you could concentrate your comments on these specific questions because we do have a very heavy agenda this afternoon and I am sure that all of us want to go home at a civilized time.

Thank you very much; the floor is open for your comments and interventions.

United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Afghanistan, Norway, China, Brazil. Okay we have enough to start and we do have Czech Republic, France. So as usual, Czech Republic speaks on behalf of many Members, so we will start with Czech Republic as I promised. It is the appreciation of the discipline.

Ms Daniela Moyzesová (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you for giving me the floor as the first speaker and let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. Turkey, the candidate country to the EU, associates itself with this statement.

The EC welcomes the proposal elaborated by FAO aiming at the setting up of a High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPEIFSN) as requested by the Membership during the Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference in November 2008.

From the discussions in several recent international fora, it is clear that the establishment of an international panel of experts could be seen as an important support to the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN) providing science-based analysis, and highlighting needs and future risks.

At global, regional, national and local levels, the whole range of scientific and professional expertise must be more efficiently mobilized and better shared in order to highlight long-term choices and tradeoffs, clarify the present state of knowledge, in particular, for controversial issues, meet new challenges, such as demographic growth, climate change, trade, rising inequality, nutritional imbalances, as well as applying a cross-cutting approach comprehensible for decision-makers.

The EC agrees that the establishment of an International Panel of Experts provides an important support to the Committee on World Food Security and is important in the context of the revitalization of the CFS. The guidance of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) should assist the CFS in fulfilling its role in coordinating global, national and regional policies to ensure food security for all by formulating adequate strategies for international concerted actions.

The topic of food security cannot be approached solely from the angle of development issues or solely from that of agriculture. Therefore, the EC is supportive of a HLPE interdisciplinary model that foresees an independent panel, coordinated by the Scientific Committee, composed of a limited number of experts of international reputation, selected on the basis of maintaining an adequate balance between regional and professional backgrounds.

However, further clarification on the proposed model of a HLPE is still very much required, notably on its structure, methods of work and links to existing networks such as CGIAR. We also underline the need for having clear terms of reference for the selection of experts ensuring transparency, independence and equitable representation. Moreover, the European Community is not convinced at this stage of the interest in having a predetermined network of four hundred experts before knowing the issues that are going to be discussed. To date, the European Community has not sent any names of experts, waiting for the terms of reference of the HLPE to be agreed, and expecting information on potential costs.

The European Community suggests that a road map and respective timeline for the HLPE implementation be presented to the Membership as well as detailed information on financial impact and funding sources for such a panel.

Finally, we welcome the initiative of the CFS Contact Group on establishing a Working Group for the HLPE issues. The European Community hereby confirms its commitment to actively contribute to the discussion in a constructive spirit.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I would like to begin by thanking the Director-General for his remarks. Strong commitment towards the IPA and the expeditious implementation of the IPA and particularly the comments about the importance of integrating the work of headquarters and the Regional Offices and integrating the assessed and voluntary budgets, of integrating the work of FAO with a broader community and the integration of the work we do with specific results. Those are all very very important elements of the reform process and along with that one of the key contributors to all of those areas will be the High-Level Panel of Experts.

As you know, the United States of America has volunteered to assist the Bureau as the Coordinator of Working Group Four which will meet this Friday to begin a dialogue on how expert opinion can be synthesized with a revitalized CFS and here the word integration is, I think, paramount again.

These ideas and discussions are expected to be reviewed in October as part of the CFS Sessions deliberations on its reform.

The architecture of any High-Level Panel of Experts should be informed by the experience of existing expert panels, such as the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and it should take full advantage of the expertise of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Ideally, the High-Level Panel of Experts should be drawn from these existing networks.

The United States of America supports as well the formation of an *ad hoc* experts group to address technical issues contributing to food insecurity if the purpose of such groups, and the mandate for their creation, are clearly defined in advance.

A virtual network of experts, to our mind, would be preferable. Communicating via email and digital technologies with pre-determined rosters of experts in a variety of fields in place as required.

Formation of a reputable expert panel with a Secretariat can be costly. Clear estimates on the full cost of creating and operating any High-Level Panel of experts are needed from FAO. Any subsequent decision to fund the High-Level Panel of Experts linked to the CFS should be done via Voluntary Trust Funds, not via the regular Programme of Work and Budget.

We will consider supplying expert nominations once these decisions have been adequately addressed and here our position is very similar to that of the European Union.

The suggestion from FAO that this proposed High-Level Panel of Experts or one of its component parts be formed and meet before the next CFS Session in October is premature.

This Council Session should take note of the work underway, and the very ambitious work underway, to reform the CFS and here I would like to particularly commend the Chairperson of the CFS for very strong leadership including in the area of the rule of expert input for its deliberations.

I do want to reiterate that the United States of America strongly supports efforts to revitalize the CFS to enhance its role in an emerging global architecture to address food security. This is a very welcome and very strategic undertaking.

The specific details will be debated in the CFS Working Groups and Membership benefiting from the ideas, input of all members of the CFS Friends of the Chair Group.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

We want to emphasize that to proceed with the CFA coordinated action among related international organizations is critically important, in particular in the field of establishing global partnerships and we believe that FAO should play the central role in this field.

Japan also understands that a High-Level Panel of Experts is an essential tool in proceeding on world food security, in particular the global partnership. A High Level Panel of Experts would provide science based analysis and advice for us.

However, I find it difficult to accept the second bullet of paragraph 6, the document in front of us. It looks as saying that the establishment of the High-Level Panel of Experts under the CFS has already been decided by the CFS Bureau. I do not think so. We have to discuss the role and the function of the reformed CFS first and then we have to make it clear how the High-Level Panel of Experts will contribute to the new CFS. We will hold CFS Working Groups meetings next week and I hope that in those meetings we can move ahead with these points.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

As I said earlier, Australia supports FAO renewal and reform of the CFS.

Australia is also tentatively supportive of the proposal for a High-Level Panel of Experts for Food Security to support the work of the CFS. However, as others have stated, including Japan, the United States of America and the European Community, we need to see some details about likely costs and the role of the Panel before we could commit to participation.

We need to see these details as soon as possible before we would consider nominating anyone to participate.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada's starting point on this issue is its strong desire for a well-governed FAO.

The IEE identified the critical problem of unclear decision making in its Governing Bodies resulting in unfunded mandates and we all know the problem that that has created for the FAO.

With the IPA we did achieve some limited governance improvements. We did agree that we needed decisions to be properly prepared with documentation and costings leading to clear decisions, preferably in the form of resolutions.

On this subject of a proposed Panel, none of the above has yet happened so the Panel remains a proposal, as yet uncosted. Management's ideas and other inputs have already been provided to the CFS so there is really no need for this Council to refer the proposals to the CFS. Indeed there is no need for the Council to take any decision today and could consider this item as information only, but if there is an insistence on a decision then for the second bullet we would want to insert the words "*proposed*" before HLPE/FSN in both places.

All, including Canada want neutral, scientific and technical inputs to decision making. Indeed some of us thought that was what we were doing in 1945 when we established the FAO.

We do not wish however to pre-judge the consultative process being diligently chaired by Argentina or the work of Working Group IV. In this regard, we support the interventions of the United States of America, the European Union, Japan, Australia and others regarding proper sequencing.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We support the creation of the High-Level Panel of Experts. Paragraph 4 of Article VI of the Basic Texts authorizes the Director-General to create Panels of Experts with the view to develop consultations with leading technicians in the various fields of activities of the Organization.

Needless to say, that the individuals selected must be reputed experts with long experience and the Panel must be balanced in terms of scientific discipline, gender and ecological and geographic distribution. The contribution of the High-Level Panel of Experts must be of high quality,

transparent, unbiased and science-based. Its contribution must generate an incremental value and must not substitute or duplicate the normative work conducted by the FAO staff in various disciplines. In short, the contribution of the High-Level Panel is over and above the output produced by the Secretariat.

We consider the four functions assigned to the High-Level Panel, as stated in Section 4 of the document, to be adequate and we also agree with the procedures of the selection of the scientific committee and members of the network as outlined in Section 5 of the document. However, we would prefer that the listed functions and selection procedure be reviewed by Working Group IV which is coordinated by our friend from the United States, Mr Hegedorn and which meets next Tuesday.

There are a few issues which this Working Group could also address:

One, the network of 400 to 500 national and international experts matches the profile of the technical expertise maintained by FAO for its normative work. Thus there is synergy and that is a good thing for FAO's technical staff but the network itself and the Group of Experts and Task Force go beyond the terms of reference of the CFS. It could equally serve COAG, COFI, COFO and CCPA. One could also say that the regional components of the network may be used to assist the Regional Offices of FAO with respect to their agendas of the Regional Conferences, and maybe also to the FAO Regional Commissions.

Two, to what extent the High-Level Panel can be shared among the Rome-based Agencies if they are willing to take advantage of it.

Three, will the High-Level Panel render advice and technical inputs to the FAO field operations in subsectors related to food security?

Four, a further look into the adequacy of the proposed Secretariat for the High-Level Panel and finally, what effect will the High-Level Panel have on the support of the FAO to the South-South Cooperation?

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Yes, scientific advice and a scientific basis is very important but I must agree with Canada on this. This is what FAO is all about, scientific role, but on the other hand, many years ago, we divided the strictly scientific part of FAO and that was what became CGIAR and there is the background there. If we go back and make that link again we should not forget that network of scientific expertise and some of it we have to link it up with an eventual new scientific Panel, let that be said.

A number of countries have raised a lot of questions about mandate, selection of experts, etc. and financing of course, and we would share those concerns and further discussions are absolutely necessary, but the main idea as it is presented in the decision is something that Norway supports.

Linked to the reform of the Committee on Food Security, let the Secretariat, the joint-Secretariat if we get it, be also the Secretariat for an eventual scientific panel. That we support.

When you look at the decision in paragraph six and in the second tier, we should definitely get something in there about financing. I think that is necessary for discussion.

Ms YAO XIANGJUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation thanks the Secretariat for its presentation and we also appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat and the initial work conducted by the Secretariat on the establishment of this High-Level Panel of Experts. We believe that the establishment of such a High-Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition will contribute by strengthening the role of the FAO in the governance of global food security and in particular will contribute to strengthening expertise and capacity of the FAO for interventions. So we support this work in principle.

We have also observed that the network of experts and also the establishment of this international coordination network has already begun. But unfortunately we do not yet have a very clear idea regarding this network of experts. We hope that the management of the FAO will continue to hold consultations with Member Nations on the Concept Note, on the terms of reference of this group, the selection modalities, the working methods of the group of experts and the sources of funding in order to achieve a consensus as quickly as possible.

The Chinese delegation has also observed that certain delegations proposed the establishment of a Working Group to discuss concrete issues. We believe that this is a feasible proposal but at the same time we propose that during selection, sufficient attention should be paid to regional representation as well as national representation as far as expertise, disciplines and gender equality are concerned.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Organization for this timely initiative towards the establishment of a High-Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition.

This is exactly the FAO we expect to emerge from this process of renewal and strengthening, an efficient and pro-active organization which is able to deal with the urgent problems facing the world food security and agriculture and propose solutions for them.

As we are aware, in the process of revitalising the Committee on World Food Security a High-Level Panel is expected to provide policy, technical and scientific advice and inputs to enrich and improve discussions and decisions. In practice, the support of experts will apply to the CFS and other agencies involved will certainly contribute to better governance on food security.

Recently, in the Contact Group of the CFS reform process, members agreed to create four Working Groups, one of them precisely to deal with the proposal of a High-Level Panel. Brazil supports the setting up of such a High-Level Panel and has already supplied names of experts to be considered by FAO in their individual expertise.

Brazil believes that careful consideration should be given to geographic and gender balance aspects.

Asianta SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

The spirit of FAO reform, Indonesia fully supports any attempt to strengthen the role and capacity of FAO to serve its Member Nations, in particular on specific issues dealing with food security and malnutrition as well as fighting against poverty.

In this regard, we welcome the proposed established of the High-Level Panel of Experts to support the work of the CFS. In line with our support we have some questions to pose, to seek further clarification and more information from the Secretariat.

As a matter of fact some of the questions we would like to pose have been raised by the distinguished representative of Afghanistan before, but I still have one or two questions that are regarding the representations of the experts that will be recruited by FAO :

One, whether the expert will be based mainly on a personal capacity basis or there is the element of the balance of geographic distribution as Afghanistan raised before me. Also the other one is about the Selection Committee, whether we are going to establish a Selection Committee, or if we are going to leave it to the Secretariat because I know that the Director-General has the mandate to establish a High-Level Panel of Experts.

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTER (México)

He estado revisando el documento CL 136/15 que se ha distribuido y no encuentro ninguna referencia a las implicaciones financieras que tiene este panel. Yo quisiera solicitar a través de usted a la Secretaría un informe detallado de estas indicaciones financieras, sobre todo porqué cuando se discutió inicialmente este Grupo de Alto Nivel se dijo en varias ocasiones que no tendría consecuencias financieras. En cambio aquí leo que ya hay personal referido, o sea que

puede ser cualquier número, al menos el que está aquí mencionado. Yo quisiera antes de poder pronunciar la delegación de México en un sentido o en otro tener este informe.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

First and foremost, I wish to add my voice to those who have already spoken in support of the High-Level Panel and I wish to insert, for the record, that my country has already submitted nominations for the Panel. We support the view.

Maybe we are coming different angles. We are coming from a hungry continent and we would not shun any initiative that seeks to deepen the understanding of hunger. Any problems, doubts or misconceptions that I might have had have been cleared by Afghanistan's presentation in this debate. He has articulated all of the things that I thought would clarify any doubts I might have had. Furthermore, I think Brazil, China and Indonesia have also articulated some of the notes I had included in my presentation, so I will not go into those.

Our view is that we are not talking about some academic panel for which we would have the luxury of time in which to decide. We could defer this year and tackle it next year or the year after. We are talking of a crisis that is before us. We are talking of a crisis that is unfolding. Statistics on the food situation and the hunger statistics, that we get every day from this Organization, are self-explanatory. We are therefore trying to find something that is encroaching for which we can no longer wait. We in Africa, and indeed most of those people who are working for the developing world, cannot afford to procrastinate. The High-Level Panel seeks to respond to an urgent crisis and so we feel the least we can do is to support this initiative.

The second thing is that FAO is a panel for knowledge exchange and I think this initiative falls within its mandate to try and deepen its knowledge capacity in handling the challenges before us. So, I have great difficulty when I hear members saying that we should not deepen FAO's expertise and yet we are saying the core competence of FAO should be knowledge exchange. In reaching out to scientific experts in the various regions, I thought we were trying to deepen the understanding of FAO in this particular area. For that, I think the High-Level Panel would play a very important role, assuming there are problems.

From my listening, I did not quite get the impression that people are against the High-Level Panel. I thought the challenge was in the modalities but again, I thought the modalities were a second level. If that was the case, maybe a question I could pose to the Management – if you would allow me to pursue the argument that had been advanced by Australia – is that if the question was the issue of details, would the Secretariat be in a position to give us the details pertaining to the possible financial hypothesis and maybe possible challenges pertaining to the Secretariat? Because I think it is the modalities, that follow the agreement of the Panel, that seem to be worrying some and maybe if we had those out it could help us to take a decision with clarity.

What I would like to appeal to our colleagues, from what I have heard, really without fail, those that are coming from the hungry continents are seeking to have this initiative put in place. Those that are coming from continents that are not facing hunger to the same of extent as those of us who are facing it at this point in time have got a different view and I would only like to appeal to colleagues that, in this diversity, we are seeking to meet each other half way. I would like to appeal that maybe let us get the Panel going, be it from the initial phase along the lines that were proposed by the United States be it initially on a virtual basis. Let us have the idea agreed and then we can shape the content of the modalities as we go along.

CHAIRPERSON

My understanding is that you have already met each other more than half way. I do not have your understanding that there is a wide difference between ideas expressed so far. So I will come to a conclusion and question and answer.

Mohammed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Le Maroc accueille favorablement cette initiative et a, d'ores et déjà, proposé toute une liste d'experts en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition. Leurs compétences couvrent des domaines tels que l'irrigation, la gestion des ressources hydriques, la production végétale, l'agroéconomie, la recherche et l'élevage.

Nous pensons, à juste titre, que si les conditions objectives de sa mise en place étaient réunies, ce mécanisme pourrait constituer l'outil idoine pour répondre efficacement aux multiples défis posés par la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire. Le fait qu'il soit placé sous la houlette du CSA, comme présenté par le Secrétariat, laisse la question en attente.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation is very much forward-looking for the reform of the Committee on Food Security and expert scientific inputs to the Committee on Food Security is very much appreciated, this is part of the Committee on Food Security reform in the given worsening hunger situation.

The proposal by the CFS Bureau to include the would-be established High-Level Panel of Experts is part of the CFS reform process is accepted by my delegation.

Details on the selection of panel of experts, the terms of reference, etc. will be discussed in the coming few days by the Working Group 4.

The ultimate objectives of any expert's opinion on issues for food security should be taken very seriously and should be presented at the forum as to be desired by many.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais au nom de mon pays le Sénégal et au nom du Groupe africain qui s'est prononcé sur cette question lors de sa dernière réunion, appuyer fortement l'idée qui a été émise de mettre en place ce Groupe d'experts de très haut niveau. Nous pensons que c'est une bonne décision et aussi que ce Groupe d'experts va pouvoir fortement aider l'Organisation et le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à atteindre des points de performances qui soient au profit de la lutte actuelle contre la faim, la malnutrition, etc.

Je voudrais revenir sur la discussion qui a eu lieu, je pense que si l'Organisation, le Bureau du Comité a fait cette proposition, il est évident qu'il faut sous-entendre aussi que des critères de sélections vont être mis en place. Notamment ce que certaines personnes ont évoqué tout à l'heure, à savoir le critère régional, le critère de la compétence, le critère de l'équilibre homme-femme, c'est-à-dire le critère genre. Tout cela effectivement constitue, non pas des questions subsidiaires, car il est important que pour qu'une telle structure puisse être performante que les membres qui la compose soient à un niveau d'information et d'expertise qui permettent de conseiller et d'orienter utilement le travail du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire. Mais, comme je voulais le dire tout à l'heure, je suis effectivement persuadé que dans le Groupe de travail désigné dans ce sens, tous ces critères-là vont être pris en compte et l'équilibre qui doit régner pour que cette structure soit la plus performante possible, sera effectivement en fonction des critères déterminés pour permettre un bon choix par rapport aux membres qui vont composer ce Groupe de travail, ce Groupe d'experts de très haut niveau. Voilà donc, ce que je voulais exprimer, c'est-à-dire appuyer fortement l'idée de la création de ce Groupe d'experts de très haut niveau, et nous pensons que des critères objectif vont être mis en place pour que les choix opérés par rapport à la création de ce Comité soient des choix pertinents au service de l'efficacité de ce Comité.

Han-Jorge LEHMANN (Suisse)

La Suisse appuie la décision du Bureau du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'inclure l'établissement d'un Groupe d'experts de haut niveau comme faisant partie du processus de réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Mon pays est disposé à continuer sa participation, de manière active et constructive, aux travaux de réflexion visant à la constitution d'un tel groupe. Ceci dit, nous estimons toutefois, comme d'autres pays, qu'il convient de procéder

de manière systématique et progressive et de définir tout d'abord clairement la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en terme notamment de mandat, gouvernance et financement. De plus, nous souhaiterions également avoir des indications plus précises concernant le coût et le mode de financement envisagés de ce Groupe d'experts.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the end of the list of speakers and now I will go back to Mr Traoré for responses to the points which were raised.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I must say that we, at the Secretariat, are very happy with these discussions because our goal was just to introduce the issue, to give the Member Nations the opportunity to discuss among themselves, to decide what would be good for this High-Level Panel, how you want it to operate and function. I think we have reached a level of understanding and we are really happy with that.

I want to thank all the delegates for their contribution. I think it was important and we understand that to reach this level of understanding, of course, we should thank the entire Bureau, the CFS, Madame the Chairperson of the CFS for having given to us the opportunity to explain and present something. Really, what we want to reaffirm here is that we do not have any preconceived scenario or model for you. We just wanted to provide you, taking example of the IPPC, the Panel on Climate Change, as you have mentioned and also the experience of FAO in handling external groups. That is why we provided you with these options, models and criteria, but it is up to you to decide what is suitable for the High-Level Panel you want to put in place and what is not suitable. So I think this will be really the task of Working Group 4, under the leadership of the United States and we hope that if you need our support, if you want us to prepare or to give any kind of support we are ready to do so. But, it is your process, it is a Member-driven process, it is not an FAO-driven process.

Maybe I will take advantage of that to clarify one or two things. The first is that the role of this High-Level Panel is not in competition with what FAO is doing. I take just one example among the four functions we have listed – the Issues of Controversy. You know the last crisis at the end of 2008, FAO was the one to have alerted the world maybe six to seven months before the crisis but nobody paid attention to that. Why? Our experts worked on the issue, they followed the trends in the markets, in the prices and they alerted but when the crisis happened everybody seemed to have been taken by surprise. Why?

That is why at the Special Conference here and also at the G8 Conference in Japan people recognized that maybe we have not paid attention because we think that FAO people will be anyway alerting us – they have been doing that for years and they will keep doing it. Now, if we really want to have a system to alert the decision makers at global, national and regional levels let us think about this mechanism where everybody will be represented – countries and research people will be represented and also the expertise on the ground and in the field. There is a big difference between academia and scientific communities and experts operating on the ground. If you are able to put together these people, maybe this will be the solution and nobody will contest or question a recommendation of this kind of Panel.

The issue of bio-fuel was really a very questionable issue and we know that even scientist do not have the same point of view on the impact of bio-fuel on the food security at the global level. If we can have a mechanism which is considered as a neutral, credible one I think this will be the best solution for everybody. I note that we are making progress and I think also that maybe now the challenge for us is to support Working Group 4, proposed by the CFS Bureau to organize us to achieve what remains to be done. I think this is very important. That is why, to me, your questions about the modality of functioning, the criteria of selection and the funding details are not details. In fact, we have proposed just two options. We have said that, if you want the Panel can be serviced by the same Secretariat as the CFS. CFS has got a small Secretariat but if you want to minimize the costs maybe we can ask this same Secretariat to deal with the issue, maybe by

introducing one or two additional staff. They will be doing the job. There is another option to have a dedicated Secretariat with two Professional staff and maybe one General Service staff to organize the meetings – the meetings are not physical meetings, they are virtual meetings. This is very clear since the beginning. We are not going to call meetings and meetings, no. These people sitting on the network will be working mainly through emails and electronic ways and I think this is the best way to minimize the costs. We should recognize that maybe there will be a need for a physical meeting, 25 to 30 people sitting in the international Scientific Coordination Committee maybe should attend the meetings of the CFS Bureau. If you think that this will be important and think that they should be there to present the report to advise the CFS, I think this is your responsibility, you will decide that. If you decide that there is no need for them to attend this meeting they will not be coming.

I think these are the kinds of options we have offered knowing it is your decision, it will be your responsibility to decide on the basis of what we want and the amount of resources you want to put in this process to decide what option will be the best for you.

I think that if some delegates want some more details, we have a PowerPoint presentation, a full paper on these issues with all of the details available and we stand ready to share this document with you. I think this will be better than to try to reply to individual questions.

I really want to thank you and all of the delegates for this very interesting interaction and we hope, from now, we will be at your disposal if you think we can bring something to service the Working Group. We are ready to do so if you think that this would be important.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any other further questions? I do not see any so let me see if I can sum up the very interesting deliberation of today. I think I can say that Council supported the establishment of a High-Level Panel of experts on food security and nutrition in line with the revitalization of FAO but further clarifications were asked on different aspects, on structure on procedures on terms of reference for expert selections, on the number of experts and the special and cost as financial implications and social funding. It is preferable to be funded by Trust Fund and Voluntary Trust Fund and not the regular budget and that gender, geographical and scientific balance should be maintained in the network and in the scientific group. Some other suggestions were made raised as to take advantage of other existing networks, to see which works better and which is cheaper and having mutual network is better than having a physical network. And whatever you do, it was raised that it is emergency, an emergency case and this matter needs a rapid action and not relaxing and say ok let us do it when we can.

On the other hand, it seems that the best framework for answering these questions is discussion of the membership themselves as was answered by Mr Traoré to discuss it within the framework of the contact group and the Working Groups that you have I think it was mentioned that Working Group number 4, on Friday they will start already discussing some of the issues that were raised here. With this do I have your endorsement on the establishment of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, reconsideration of the questions raised.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

I think that is not in line with the concerns quite a few intervenors have made, not prejudging and meeting it properly, costing and all the rest of it. So you can review before we agree to establishing a panel. Perhaps a better way to characterize what has been said would be to replace the second point in the proposed actions simply by saying welcome consultations underway in the CFS on the proposed High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. Much in line with what Mr Traoré said, so we are not prejudging the outcomes of those consultations and we welcome consultations underway in the CFS on the proposed High-Level Panel of experts.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

Thank you Chairperson, I was going to make a similar intervention as Canada.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I apologize because the version in the document is slightly different from the one in the PowerPoint and this is a final one, the last one, the one I read during my presentation. Please if you could consider it, I think it is a reply to what you have raised as an issue.

I hope you are happy with that.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

It still does prejudice that there are going to be two levels as opposed to what the United States said about a virtual network and there had been other proposals. There does still seem to prejudice the work of Working Group 4. Perhaps if we could add in front of HLP, "proposed" and then down on the fourth line where you have propose move that word to the fifth line in front of HLPE/FSN then we are not prejudging the work of the CFS. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

You have "proposed" before both, later we have both HLPE/FSN and we will move the "propose" in the fourth line. Please will you put it? While they are doing that, Norway has asked for the floor.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I would strongly recommend that we put something on this decision on financing, "financial" or words to that effect, and not only to the three elements that we now have in the decision. This is something we need to discuss, and this is something that we also need proposals from the Secretariat on.

CHAIRPERSON

And that I think the Secretariat was saying that you tell us what you want, and then we come with a cost estimate for you, and still we do not have the structure. The structure would be discussed and according to your preference, when you decide on the membership and on the structure or in different options, the Secretariat would provide you with the cost estimates. So this is a healthy process that is evolving.

Christopher S. HEGADORN (United States)

I just want to reiterate that this Friday morning at 9.00, all Members of the Working Group 4 have been invited to the first discussion. In that discussion, we will address all the issues and more that were brought up today a proposal, a list of questions that is on the Website and we welcome any comment or addition in the lead up. Friday will be the first. We will follow-up on Tuesday afternoon with another discussion and an open plenary on Tuesday evening. So there are several chances to debate this and as it was said by many here, Members do need to consider all the options and put recommendations on paper. One word I think would simply change the meaning to what I think the general feeling is you want go with "propose", that's fine, or change "establishment" to "consideration" and it simply does not prejudice the outcome of the Working Group.

Dialogue: The Working Group, as had been pointed out earlier by the Chair of the Bureau, includes members of the other Rome-based Agencies, IFAD and WFP, as well other international organizations and members from NGO and CSO organizations, as pointed out by and was so important to many delegates here today. So again, many of those people are not in this room today, do not have a chance to weigh in on this discussion so I think if we just simply change it to "proposed" or change the word "establishment" to "consideration", that would do the trick. But again, we look forward to a very open, transparent and participatory process in Working Group 4 for the benefit of the full Bureau. Thank you.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, effectivement le problème du coût m'a effleuré tout à l'heure, quand j'ai fini de prendre la parole sur le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Concernant le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, c'est vrai que par les temps qui courent, avec les ressources qui se font rares et, surtout, très difficiles à mobiliser, je pense qu'on ne pourrait pas faire l'économie de la détermination du coût de fonctionnement de cette structure qu'on va créer. Mais il me semble qu'il ne nous faut pas mettre la charrue avant les bœufs, actuellement la discussion est ouverte, on est en face d'une idée qui a été proposée et largement soutenue. Maintenant, le problème, est de voir comment cette idée va être structurée: définir la composition et les fonctions de la structure pour pouvoir, peut-être, en déterminer le coût. Il s'agira, certainement, d'un coût de fonctionnement et je pense donc, comme l'a dit tout à l'heure le délégué des Etats-Unis, la discussion étant ouverte au niveau du Groupe de travail 4, que nous avons largement le temps, lorsque nous aurons défini les contours, la composition, la substance de cette structure, de pouvoir proposer un coût concernant son fonctionnement.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Cost estimate is one thing, financing of the experts and the whole operation is something else, and that is what I am pointing to and there are different modules: regular budget, extra-budgetary contributions, Trust Fund, even the model, possibly, for cost-sharing between the different Rome-based institutions because I don't see this as a scientific panel specifically for FAO. It is the revised and reformed CFS that we have to bring the other partners into. So cost-sharing is also a possibility, and I think that's what we need to have in the mandate so that we can discuss it fully.

CHAIRPERSON

I fully agree with you and in summing up I prefer to have voluntary funding as one of the options but we have agreed to discuss all the things among ourselves and find an agreed position on that. Okay, now we have one proposal in front of you. If you do agree on that, we can save time. Otherwise there is another proposal from the United States that we can consider.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I know this is not a forum for literary contest but this sentence reads awful to me. I think if we would go - not to change the meaning - but "...we will continue as part of the dialogue among Membership on the CFS reform..." and put a full stop there. Oh, nobody is taking note of that. "...CFS reform...", put a full stop there. "These discussions should..." or "This dialogue should include..." and then continue the sentence. I think it would read better because it is confusing the way it is drafted now, but I don't want to change the substance.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

We would like to join in principle the Brazilian proposal. It means to put a full stop after reform, if possible, and delete the rest. So we fully support the Brazilian proposal. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

I think Ambassador of Norway agreed for the time being to delete this financing because we have agreed to go with that. How does it meet your endorsement? I don't see any request for the floor so I take it that you have endorsed this decision. Thank you very much.

So we have facilitated the work of the Drafting Committee, you should not go through this, we have already done it for you.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

15.2 Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009 (CL 136/22)

15.2 Proposition d'un Sommet sur la sécurité alimentaire en 2009 (CL 136/22)

15.2 Propuesta de Cumbre sobre seguridad alimentaria (CL 136/22)

CHAIRPERSON

Let's move to Item 15.2 Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009, another interesting issues. As you know, the Director-General has proposed that a Summit on Food Security be convened in November 2009 back-to-back with the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, and we do have Mr Müller here to introduce the issue to us.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

Let me please begin with a clear statement: The food security crisis is not over! It is not only still with us, but could aggravate further unless corrective decisions and steps are taken urgently.

The number of hungry and malnourished people has increased substantially over the past few years and with the 2008 SOFI Report, FAO reported that the global food insecurity situation has worsened. Our preliminary estimates for the end of 2008 place the total number of the world's hungry at 963 million, and our estimates for 2009 are even worse.

For the first time in human history – according to our latest figures - more than one billion people are undernourished worldwide. This is about 100 million more than last year and around one-sixth of all humanity.

One year ago, in June 2008, the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy highlighted the dangerous impact of the soaring food prices and the threat of climate change to the livelihood of the world's poor and vulnerable populations and called for immediate action to face the alarming situation.

The current financial crisis and economic slowdown are exacerbating an already grave situation, and they are shifting attention away from the needs of the hungry and the poor.

The global economic downturn, which follows, and partly overlaps with the food and fuel crisis, is at the core of the sharp increase in global hunger. It has reduced incomes and employment opportunities of the poor and significantly lowered their access to food. The current crisis is historically unprecedented in several ways.

First, it follows a global food crisis characterized by rapid and sharp increases in staple food prices beyond the reach of millions of poor people during the period 2006-2008. The mechanisms that are normally used by poor households to cope with economic shocks are therefore already stretched very thin.

Second, the economic crisis is affecting large parts of the world simultaneously. The economic crisis does not only affect individual countries negatively, it has a global negative impact on the world's most vulnerable people. And with developing countries today more financially and commercially integrated into the world economy, they are far more exposed to shocks in international markets. A fall in global demand or supply or restrictions in credit availability as a result of the crisis has immediate repercussions on developing countries.

Today, increasing hunger is a global phenomenon. No part of the world is immune and, in fact, all world regions have been affected by the increase in food insecurity and this cannot be acceptable. We need to tackle the root causes of hunger, and we need to address the complex and fundamental issues of global hunger and malnourishment in order to secure food security for all - today and tomorrow. It is global challenge that requires a global decisive and urgent response.

Furthermore, you all know it; global food production must almost double to feed a world population projected to reach 9.2 billion in 2050.

As the Director-General mentioned in his statement earlier today, the global financial and economic crisis has attracted the world's full attention. The G20 leaders have met twice in the space of six months and a third meeting is foreseen in the next autumn.

Food security merits no less attention. It is about world peace and security as witnessed in 2007-2008 with riots in 22 countries, political stability shaken and global inflation rising. It is also central to poverty eradication, good health, good education and economic growth.

Clearly, the time is ripe for world leaders and the international community to take the proper decisions, and follow up with the necessary actions to reverse this dangerous trend and liberate humanity from the scourge of hunger.

It is in this context that FAO has proposed the convening of a World Summit on Food Security in 2009 for Heads of State and Government.

The proposed World Food Summit would build upon the work of the upcoming High-Level Conference on "How to Feed the World in 2050" and, of course, normal expert meetings on subjects covered by the day-to-day work of the Organization.

I also wish to reiterate that it would be entirely financed by extra-budgetary resources and would not have any negative impact on the Regular Programme of Work of the Organization.

As outlined in Council document CL 136/22, the World Food Summit objectives would be as follows:

- To eradicate world hunger by 2025 in conformity with the "International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" and the "Right to Food Guidelines".
- To put in place a more coordinated and effective system of governance of world food security, that has a scientific and technical basis for decisions, a high-level political process of decision-making and an inclusive partnership with governments, civil society organizations, NGOs, Farmers' Organizations and the private sector.
- To agree on rules and mechanisms to ensure that farmers in developed and developing countries earn an income comparable to those received by workers in the secondary and tertiary sectors of their respective countries, through support that does not distort markets.
- To mobilize the necessary funds for public and private sector investments in rural infrastructure and in activities designed to boost food production and productivity in the developing world. In conformity with the Monterrey Consensus, and the outcomes of the Accra and Doha meetings, development aid to agriculture should be boosted. It is important to note in this regard that the share of agriculture in ODA has dropped from 17 percent in 1980 to 3.8 percent in 2006.
- Last, but not least, to adopt a mechanism for early reaction to food crises resulting from economic shocks, based on the existing mechanisms for crises due to natural disasters and conflicts.

FAO believes the proposed World Food Summit would be pro-active in focusing world attention on the plight of the world's hungry and poor and, furthermore, it would serve as a catalyst for governments, donors, development partners, NGOs, civil society, farmers' organizations and the private sector in devising and promoting viable and lasting solutions, while simultaneously fostering greater collaboration and coherence in the fight against hunger.

A few remarks on the process - a Zero Draft Declaration would be prepared and forwarded to the Regional Groups for consultation to set up a process of negotiations, fully engaging Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to arrive at a consensus before the Summit. This process of negotiations would be based on our experience of our joint constructive work leading towards a Final Declaration for the High-Level Conference in June 2008.

We believe that the time has come to meet these challenges, and are fully prepared to work in close collaboration with all of our Member Nations to ensure that a global commitment to eradicating world hunger can be obtained and achieved.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Müller, for your introduction on this paper. As we all know this issue has been discussed in the Finance Committee from the financial aspects of that and I have invited Mr Sorour, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to brief us on the discussion on that aspect. Mr Sorour, you have the floor.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

It is true that in the Finance Committee during the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session we examined proposals in respect to the World Food Summit 2009. We examined this item complying with our terms of reference and with the Constitution, that is, we only examined the financial aspects of this matter. So with this particular proposal, we listened to the representative of the Director-General and Mr Müller, who assured us that all the costs related to the Conference would be covered by extra-budgetary resources.

Now we had the cost estimate between US\$1.5 million and US\$2.5 million.

We were also informed that the High-Level Conference in 2008 was funded to the tune of US\$1.9 million, but these costs are pertaining to security, translation and other logistical expenses that are related to the organization of a summit like this.

The Organization is not expected to have to cover the other expenditures which could arise in regard to this conference, namely the production of documents related to this World Food Security Summit.

Indeed, we have sought to raise extra-budgetary resources, and we have raised up to US\$1 million to cover these additional expenses, and that is for the preparation of documents.

Now, finally our Committee noted that we have been assured that there are initiatives. The Finance Committee has assured us that there are currently initiatives underway to reduce, as much as possible, the costs related to this meeting. This includes cooperation with the Italian Chamber of Commerce or the Italian Parliament which could assist us, and through their help reduce the costs of this Summit.

So that was briefly the report of the study carried out by the Finance Committee on this item of the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Sorour, Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Now I am opening the list of speakers and I have already established the list and added names, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Norway, Morocco, Malaysia, Sudan, China, Japan, Kenya, Senegal, United Kingdom, Cuba, Congo, Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago.

The list is as Czech Republic, Panama, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Morocco, Sudan, China, United Kingdom, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina among the rest.

Mexico, Australia, Bangladesh – they were among the first ones to ask – Tanzania.

Okay, anybody want to register for 1.00am in the morning? United States? Venezuela among the Observers, New Zealand.

Let us start with a few first and then, Czech Republic.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you very much for giving me the floor as first speaker on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States and Turkey the candidate country to the EU, which associates itself with this statement.

We appreciate very much the effort by the Director-General of placing the challenges of world food insecurity on the top of the international agenda. The international community should find the best way of eradicating hunger among almost a billion of world population.

The European Community wants to express its concerns about the need for the Organization to effectively prioritize activities during the course of this year. We also want to recall that the Reform of FAO is the absolute priority, both for the Membership and the staff, and should remain so in any case.

The European Community recognizes that a World Food Summit could possibly contribute to a progress in addressing food insecurity, provided it brings a real added value such as launching the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS) as an efficient mechanism for putting all relevant stakeholders together. This would bring about changes in the world security situation, by helping affected countries in the spirit of Accra Agenda Action rather than on the summing-up of pledges.

However, at this stage, the European Community still remains to be convinced of the utility of holding a Summit on Food Security, in particular at the proposed juncture given the very tight international agenda. Therefore, it might be useful for this Council, before taking a decision, to reconsider the timing of holding such a Summit.

Furthermore, any summit should be organized in close cooperation with the wider multilateral system, in the spirit of the GPAFS.

Prior to making any decision, it would be necessary that appropriate detailed information on the final format of the Summit and related costs be made available without delay to the Membership and with assurances that the required extra-budgetary funding will be gathered in due time.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Solicito ceder la palabra al Presidente del G 77.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observador de la República Dominicana)

Tengo el honor de dirigirme al Consejo, por su intermedio, en nombre del Grupo de los 77, que reúne a los 130 países en desarrollo. Por la especial naturaleza de las Cumbres, el apoyo de cada Estado y su participación, es decisión reservada a los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno. El G 77 ha considerado en sucesivas reuniones plenarias la propuesta de celebrar una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 2009 y ha tomado nota de la documentación preparada por la FAO para informar a los Estados Miembros sobre los antecedentes, la justificación, los objetivos, el proceso preparatorio tanto técnico como organizativo y los aspectos financieros.

Sobre este último tema el G 77 invitó al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas quien explicó, como lo acaba de hacer un instante, que la Cumbre propuesta sería financiada con fondos extra-presupuestarios en el pleno cumplimiento del reglamento financiero y sin que se produzcan repercusiones negativas en el Programa de Trabajo de la FAO. Estas consideraciones aparecen en los párrafos 3 y 13 del documento CL 136/22. El señor Muëller también se refirió a estos aspectos en su intervención de hace unos minutos.

El G 77 también tomó nota de los objetivos de la Cumbre propuesta que están indicados en el párrafo 6, incluyendo la puesta en marcha de un sistema más efectivo y coherente de gobernanza de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, la promoción de los agricultores, la movilización de 30 mil millones de dólares anuales para apoyar la producción y la productividad agro-alimentaria, la promoción de un regreso a una proporcionalidad en la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo que

favorezca las inversiones en la agricultura y la adopción de un mecanismo de respuesta rápida ante las crisis alimentarias. Los países en desarrollo han puesto particular atención al objetivo central de la Cumbre propuesta, esto es la erradicación del hambre para el año 2025.

El G 77 ha tomado nota de la información provista en el párrafo 4 sobre el creciente número de apoyos a la celebración de la Cumbre propuesta incluyendo países desarrollados. El Grupo de los 77 ha tomado nota, por último, de que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, cuya aprobación está sobre la mesa del Consejo para decisión, ha sido apoyada por la mayoría de los países en desarrollo y, deseo subrayar, no se ha registrado oposición por parte de ninguno de los 130 Estados Miembros del G 77 a la Cumbre propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Chairperson of the G77, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, I now invite Canada to take the floor, to be followed by Chile.

After Chile is Brazil, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Morocco, Sudan, China, Cuba, Norway, Democratic Republic of Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, Bangladesh, Mexico, Senegal, Australia, United Republic of Tanzania, New Zealand, the United States of America, Japan. Among observers Argentina, Venezuela and Switzerland. Canada you have the floor.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada is deeply committed to improving world food security. Canada responded quickly to the food price crisis, and we are responding to the continuing needs of our development partners.

On 20 May our Minister of International Development announced that food security is a thematic priority for Canada's development assistance going forward. It is evident that the world needs to invest more in promoting agricultural productivity, research and trade, as well as access to safe and nutritious food. This is not a new realization or position for Canada. Indeed for 2007, before any warnings of a food price crisis, Canada was already committed and devoted 14 percent of a large and growing aid budget to food security. Half of that was for agricultural development, the other half for nutrition and for food assistance.

Thus the Government of Canada is committed to building up from a solid base an abiding commitment to agricultural development, and food security and nutrition.

Canada is pleased with the political attention that food security has attracted. Since last June Summit here at FAO we have had the Madrid follow-up Conference and the International Grains Forum in Russia. Toyako's G8 Summit saw leader's statements devoted solely to world food security, and the Italian Presidency has carried that work forward.

Numerous opportunities present themselves in the remainder of 2009 to keep the political focus on food security. Later this month in the multilateral's systems highest body, the President of the United Nation's General Assembly, Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, has invited leaders to a Conference on The World's Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development.

The hunger situation and food security are addressed in the draft outcome's document. If it is not adequately addressed, surely correcting that should be the focus of FAO.

At L'Aquila next month there will be the biggest ever event seen at a G8 Summit devoted entirely to food security. About 30 leaders will participate, including the Chair of the African Union, and a dozen regional and international organizations, including the FAO, will participate. The G8 and partners will undoubtedly reconfirm commitments both to food security and to Africa's development.

Furthermore, food security in developing countries will remain a major priority for Canada throughout our G8 Presidency in 2010.

Here at FAO headquarters, we have a High-Level Conference on Feeding the World within 2050, World Food Day and the Committee on World Food Security, all in October.

As part of FAO Reform, we have reinforced the separate role of Council and Conference, specifically with the view of turning Conference into a vehicle for high-level deliberation on policy matters of global importance. Thus, with or without a Summit we have the opportunity in November to give due attention to the matters put before us in CL 136/22.

The November timeframe poses a practical problem for the leaders of APEC. Those leaders who represent over 40 percent of the world's population and 54 percent of its GDP had already committed to be in Singapore on the dates subsequently chosen by FAO Management. November would, of course, be too soon for other reasons. FAO is at a critical juncture when it is turning vital reforms from plans into action. The world needs an efficient and effective FAO more than ever.

Management has to deliver both on the programme of work and on the reforms that will attract further resources. Management and Membership alike have huge tasks ahead in the coming months. We are jointly committed to revitalizing not only the FAO, but the Committee on World Food Security, too. Let us focus on actually improving global architecture and governance.

It strikes us that what is needed is time for intergovernmental deliberations in conjunction with our multilateral organizations and keeping in mind opportunities throughout the UN System. Jointly, we need to forge consensus as to when to hold a World Food Summit, as well as on its objectives. Unless we do this right, another Summit risks fostering cynicism rather than collective action. In the meantime, we need to get on with the many jobs at hand, first and foremost for the benefit of the billion hungry poor.

Cristián BARROS (Chile)

La propuesta que está sobre la mesa de convocar una Cumbre Mundial de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno que tiene lugar, como se ha dicho, en momentos en que la seguridad alimentaria se vuelve cada vez más precaria y las personas que padecen el hambre aumentan dramáticamente. En este contexto que mi Gobierno expresa su realización en el convencimiento en que todo lo que puede hacerse para detener e invertir este proceso y asegurar a cada ser humano el derecho a la alimentación cuenta con nuestro apoyo.

Nos complace constatar, como lo señala el informe, esta opinión es compartida por muchos países y que en la Región de América Latina y el Caribe ha recibido el apoyo de los Jefes de Gobierno de la Comunidad del Caribe y de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana, así como de otros países individualmente.

Deseamos expresar nuestra opinión diciendo, que una reunión de esta naturaleza para poder ser exitosa debe ser acuciosamente preparada en estrecha colaboración con los Estados Miembros y se deben tener y proponer objetivos claros y realistas.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I have to be brief because my country has a bilateral encounter with the United States of America later at 8.30 this evening, so I cannot miss that meeting.

Allow me to reiterate the firm commitment of the Brazilian Government to all the initiatives that may contribute to the endeavour to free the world from the scourges of hunger and poverty.

The proposed World Summit on Food Security, which we strongly support, is not supposed to be a simple renewal of the commitments made during the World Food Summits in 1996 and 2002 and the Millennium Summit in the year 2000. We need to build on them and capitalize on the lessons learned, and not repeat the same mistakes. We think that this is an opportunity to launch a more ambitious vision and our expectations are very high that we will indeed succeed in this struggle against hunger and poverty in the next decades.

The more than a billion people suffering today deserve full attention of the world community. The voice of the sizeable part of humankind cannot continue to go unheard. In this regard, my delegation shares the view that this Summit will provide the occasion to discuss the root causes of hunger. Our goal is a world free of hunger through both increased production of agriculture and

increased access to food through investments in agriculture and world development, through predictable and sufficient resources to reduce poverty and through a fair trade system to stimulate economic activities in the developing world.

According to available data, it is possible to determine that as of today we are collectively losing the fight against hunger in developing countries. We fear that even all our efforts will not be enough to meet MDG 1 and half the hunger by 2015. Brazil believes that hunger is indeed a silent crisis. Despite international mobilization and media coverage during the recent food crisis, attention to hunger has been clearly overshadowed by the most recent financial and economic crisis. Let us refocus and concentrate our work to keep hunger and poverty in the centre of the international agenda and FAO in the centre of governance of world food and agriculture.

This is why a World Summit on Food Security is so vital and being convened at the most appropriate moment. President Lula Da Silva has already announced the endorsement of the Brazilian Government for this initiative which we trust will be indeed meaningful. We trust also it can be the beginning of the reversal of a situation that today is unacceptable on all accounts – a situation in which one out of six human beings is a victim of hunger. It is time to act now and make sure that every human being will realize fully their right to food. Postponing the Summit will not be clearly understood and politically justifiable.

Ramli bin NAAM (Malaysia)

On behalf of the Asia Group we would like to commend the Director-General of FAO for the proposal of having the World Food Summit and we welcome the idea to have the highest level of commitment to combat hunger.

While many of the Asia Group Members have expressed their country's full support to this Summit, there are others who still do not do so, saying that November 2009 would be too early to make the Summit really meaningful.

We would also like to propose that this Summit be better organized to address all related issues and to propose a more workable recommendation that would lead to a better global food security.

We would suggest that there are more discussions and consultations among Member Nations to study the lessons that we need to learn from our past mistakes, before we have the Summit. Perhaps the High-Level Conference on "How to Feed the World in 2050", which is planned to be held also this year, would provide a solid platform for the preparation of a better World Summit on Food Security.

The Asia Group supports that the Summit is to be decided on a consensus basis through the discussion here in this Council.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. Before saying something about the Summit, I would first like to thank Alexander Müller for his statement on the desirability of convening the Summit and our Chairperson of the Finance Committee for clarification on the financial aspect.

The Near East Group supports the proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009 for the following eight reasons:

One, agriculture in many developing countries is awash with structural problems and faces many severe challenges. Solutions to these structural problems and challenges require enormous effort phased over a long period. There are no quick fixes and no magic solutions. It requires a sustained effort. Allow me to say that the developed countries are by no means immune from structural problems, otherwise there would be no need for such heavy subsidized agriculture. So both the developed and the developing countries, their structural problems are endangering food security and increasing the vulnerability of billions of people.

Two, the low income net food-importing countries, developing countries, cannot afford another upsurge in the prices of basic food commodities as happened in 2007 and the first half of 2008.

This upsurge has been far too painful to the livelihoods of the population. Moreover, it has impeded their economic development by diverting valuable foreign exchange from development to food imports.

Three, contrary to expectations, global poverty is rising and not declining. The so-called two-way traffic is at work, while some people move out of poverty, others plunge into it and the balance leans towards a rising absolute number of people gripped by poverty. As we all know, poverty and hunger are intertwined.

Four, the financial crisis and its effect on global economic downturn is distressing to many societies, poor and rich. The worst affected are the poorest segment of the populations which has the least coping capacity to withstand the pressure.

Five, one casualty of the financial crisis is the rapid decline in world trade and rising tendency towards protectionism in order to slow down the rising unemployment at home. Trade and agriculture are adversely affected and small producers in particular find it prohibitive to get access to the free market.

Six, climate change is causing uncertainty and greater anxiety about the resilience of many ecosystems, especially those that are already fragile. Unless the process of adaptation in agriculture to climate change is accelerated, many areas of the earth that are currently large producers of food could witness a sharp fall in productivity;

Seven, quick gains in productivity are hard to come by since, in the immediate future, not much is expected from variety improvement. This is because research takes considerable time to produce tangible results at the farm level.

Eight, by 2050 there will be 2.5 billion more people to feed and the great majority of this increase will be in the developing countries where lack of nutrition is already evident.

The proposed Summit must aim high and explore new opportunities. The Summit will enable Member Nations to learn from their past mistakes, to reach a consensus on the implementation of a coherent policy package supported by a strong sustained and effective action plan to cope with any sudden surge in food prices, to improve the resilience and productive capacity of smallholder agriculture and to end world hunger by the year 2025.

No package of action is feasible without a firm political commitment. The proposed Summit will be the right forum for Member Nations and major international actors to declare their political commitment for the eradication of hunger in the world and in placing agriculture at the top of the development agenda.

The proposal by the Director-General for a Summit on Food Security is nothing extraordinary. Since 1990, there have been 32 High-Level Conferences/Summits/World Assemblies and Ministerial Conferences held on twenty major topics of concern to the international community. In nine cases the word Summit has been used, one for children, two for food security, one for sustainable development, one for social development, two for Millennium Development and two for information society.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Je voudrais d'emblée souscrire à la déclaration faite par le Président du Groupe des 77 (G-77), le Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire a pour objectif principal de parvenir à un large consensus et de poser les bases d'un ordre agricole mondial destiné à libérer la planète du fléau de la famine et de la malnutrition.

Le Maroc appuie la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO de tenir ce Sommet et est convaincu que le secteur privé peut jouer un rôle crucial au niveau de l'éradication de la faim dans le monde. Le département de l'agriculture et de la pêche maritime, en collaboration avec la représentation de la FAO à Rabat a organisé le 29 avril dernier, une consultation avec les représentants de ce secteur, pour les sensibiliser davantage sur les objectifs de ce Sommet, et notamment, recueillir leurs éventuelles contributions et recommandations.

Nous espérons toutefois que les décisions qui émaneront de ce Sommet seront traduites concrètement dans les faits.

Mohamed EL TAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

My thanks also go to the Director-General and his collaborators for the exhaustive explanation they submitted to us concerning this important Summit, indeed.

Sudan does fully endorse the convening of such an important Summit on this vital issue, namely this issue that is of relevance to a large part of the people of the world. We do support the convening of this Summit at the proposed timing in order to deal with the issues which are of paramount importance.

By saying so, we would like to endorse what has been said by the Representative of the Group of 77 and the Near East.

The crisis is still stifling the efforts of the poor people in the world and therefore, this Organization is duty bound to deal with this organization and to speak directly to the world leaders in order to shed light on the importance and danger of this crisis. It has to, at least, organize on a yearly basis such a meeting in order to warn against such a nefarious aspect of the crisis. We have to see that the financial crisis has seen a mobilization of resources in order to find a solution but the food crisis has not seen such a mobilization of efforts and money. If we take into consideration the prices of food crops, which are still high, and bearing in mind the climate change and the dire warnings about the climate change and its implications, thus we believe that we have to bear in mind the dangers that are facing us in terms of our livelihoods and the peace and security of the world.

The Director-General and his collaborators have already clarified that the cost of such a Summit shall not be borne by the Organization from its budget. Therefore, I do not see any reason behind any apprehension or fear of convening such a Summit. This Summit is not an idea that was born today or a month ago. Such an idea was floated a while ago. Some countries have already rejected this idea at its early stages, but my country has endorsed this idea and this initiative and we conveyed our message to the Organization.

Therefore, we have to say that the Organization should have a clear conscious, it has already warned all and sundry about the importance of this Summit and therefore, we endorse the idea of holding such a Summit at its specific timing.

Ms YAO XIANJUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

The delegation of China would like to thank Mr Müller for his presentation.

The delegation of China supports the Dominican Republic's delegate for his statement on behalf of the G77 and China.

As a developing country, the Government of China attaches high importance to the important role and the visibility of this issue because eliminating hunger is the main issue on the agenda of every country. If people cannot eat then it is useless to talk about development.

Therefore, the Government of China has always insisted on self-reliance and self-sufficiency on food and agricultural issues. We have always strived to solve the problem of 21 percent of the population's food and agricultural issues. We are a responsible country.

At the same time, the Government of China attaches high importance to its active participation in international cooperation to realize international security in food and to make our contribution.

The delegation of China believes that while the world is striving to eliminate the financial crisis, we should not forget the food crisis. On the contrary, currently the food security situation in the world cannot leave us optimistic. Hungry and poor people are still growing, and agricultural production is facing big challenges.

Therefore, the delegation of China is of the view that the international community should go through common efforts and take coherent actions to reiterate and achieve our solemn commitments for world food security.

The Government of China has always placed a high importance to the important role and visibility of FAO on international food and agricultural issues. We understand fully and support actively FAO's initiative of convening a World Summit on Food Security. We hope that FAO will speedily coordinate different positions and make appropriate preparations for the coming meetings, and strive that the Summit obtains substantial results.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Voy a ser breve al presentar dos declaraciones:

La primera, en la condición de Cuba como Presidente del Movimiento de Países No-Alineados. En los días 29 y 30 de abril, se realizó en La Habana una Reunión Ministerial en la que participaron 118 Ministros de los Miembros del Movimiento de Países No-Alineados, quienes dieron su pleno apoyo a la celebración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación en noviembre 2009. Existe un documento oficial de Naciones Unidas que ha sido circulado. Hasta aquí la declaración como presidente del movimiento.

En el nombre de Cuba quiero decir que el Gobierno de mi país ya ha comunicado oficialmente su apoyo a la celebración de la Cumbre.

Cuba concuerda claramente con la visión de la FAO acerca la principal razón para convocarla que se radica fundamentalmente en que la situación de seguridad alimentaria mundial ha empeorado y sigue representando una grave amenaza para la Humanidad y en especial para los países del tercer mundo. A los pocos avances que hemos alcanzado en la erradicación del hambre y de la malnutrición, según las cifras de la FAO, se une la ocurrencia de una serie de eventos que, como bombas silenciosas, agudizan la situación alimentaria mundial, que ya hace que sumen mil millones de hambrientos. Se presentan además fenómenos tales como el cambio climático, sequías, inundaciones, desertificación, ciclones tropicales y huracanes, entre otros, que agravan cada día el estado de la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

Más preocupante es el hecho de que el mayor devastador de estos fenómenos ha sido provocado por la acción del hombre, y que a ellos se hayan unido otros fenómenos de igual o mayor potencia destructora, tales como la crisis provocada por la elevación de los precios de alimentos y la crisis económica y financiera mundial.

Esperamos que en esta Cumbre exista la voluntad política de los países desarrollados para establecer una mayor coherencia en la gobernanza mundial de la seguridad alimentaria, trabajar por el compromiso de erradicar el hambre para 2025 y lograr un aumento sustancial de la asistencia oficial de seguridad agrícola, y entre otras, que permitan soluciones duraderas a nivel político, financiero y técnico para el problema de inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

El documento que se los presenta informa que los documentos técnicos se elaborarían con la interacción y mediante reuniones de grupos de expertos sobre temas cubiertos por las actividades normales de la Organización en cooperación con los asociados y en relación con otros procesos en curso. Consideramos que para garantizar la participación de todos los países en dicha Cumbre en igualdad de condiciones, es necesario que el proceso de preparación esté caracterizado por la transparencia y la equidad en especial durante todo el proceso de preparación de documentos por parte de grupos de expertos y en otras instancias hasta su debate y aprobación en la Cumbre.

Reitero el apoyo de Cuba a la iniciativa del Director General de convocar esta Cumbre.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Yes, a Summit, we need to keep food security and agriculture on the top of the international agenda, no doubt about it, and I think the Director-General made a very good and compelling speech on that subject and also Alexander Müller this afternoon. A Summit, yes, but we have to

be clear about one thing. What we are discussing here and what we should be discussing are the preparation for the Summit and the timing.

To that, I fully share all the views presented by Canada and the European Union. I am afraid that the Membership and the Organization is in the process of doing themselves a disservice. We do not need another ill-prepared Summit or High-Level Meeting like the one, with all due respect, that we saw at the end of last year and what was the outcome of that Mr Chair? I am not asking you, I am asking everybody. We cannot put ourselves in that situation. FAO cannot put itself in that situation. That is exactly what we are in the process of doing, in my delegation's view.

What are we working on now? We are working on FAO reform as a first priority. This Organization is stretched like a rubber band. We all see it. The challenges that we have this summer with the budget, the Medium-Term Plan, the reform of the CFS and the sequencing around that is a tremendous strain on the Organization and on the Membership – we are the ones sitting in all the meetings.

When we are talking about the document 22, paragraph 13, yes, it should have no impact on the Regular Budget and the Programme of Work but the Programme of Work in that sense is just the budget and nothing else.

With all these preparations coming up, this will be an ill-prepared Summit. It does not matter how clever we all are and how much work we already put into the process, it will be a badly-prepared Summit, which ever way you turn on it.

When you look at the schedule, like Canada and others have pointed out for us, this autumn, how do you think we are going to get the Heads of State and Heads of Governments to Rome on such a short notice? I think we should seriously discuss that and not take it for granted that there will be a huge attendance. This is one of the many, many risks that lie in this timing. We have to really consider what we are doing. Do we really want to insist on this, my friends in G77?

I have heard very good arguments from all of you on why we should have a Summit but we all have to go back and think if it is really possible to have a Summit with a real outcome and with a follow-up. Think about it.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Pour gagner du temps, Monsieur le Président, en sus de toutes les déclarations prononcées par ceux qui soutiennent l'organisation du Sommet du nouveau Millénaire 2009, j'aimerais ajouter ce qui suit: si, ailleurs et de part le monde, des réunions se multiplient pour trouver des solutions tangibles à la crise financière et économique mondiale, nous pensons, pour notre part, qu'une même attention devrait être observée pour la crise de la sécurité alimentaire. C'est à juste titre, selon nous, que la sollicitation d'une volonté politique, au plus haut niveau des États Membres, pour solutionner cette question cruciale de la crise de la sécurité alimentaire est d'une nécessité impérieuse pour les pays en développement, en particulier.

Voilà pourquoi nous ne devons plus attendre. Nous pays en développement car attendre signifierait la marginalisation accrue des pauvres et des personnes souffrant de la faim comme l'a souligné le Directeur général dans son allocution.

Pour terminer, nous voulons souligner que, dire à celui qui a faim d'attendre parce que votre calendrier ne vous permet pas de lui apporter à manger, est un crime.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished Representative of Congo. I invite Trinidad and Tobago to take the floor followed by Bangladesh.

Dennis FRANCIS (Trinidad and Tobago)

I make the statement on behalf of the 15 Members of the Caribbean Community. The Caribbean Community wishes to thank Mr Müller for having introduced the report, which as you know outlines a compelling case for convening the World Food Summit in 2009. The Director-General

set it very eloquently in his statement earlier today when he said the hungry cannot wait. It was this sense of urgency and the need to address the worsening situation of food insecurity that prompted the inclusion of this matter on the agenda of the Twentieth Intersessional Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community at their meeting in Belize City on the 12th and 13th of March 2009. The Conference expressed deep concern over the situation of food prices and availability in the Caribbean Community, especially its impact on the family and on the most vulnerable groups in society. The Caribbean Community is an open economy, heavily dependent on food imports, so you would understand the context in which the Heads of State and Government felt compelled to take quick action, both on a national and a regional level to seek to mitigate the effects of the global food crisis.

On a regional level, action is being taken to revitalize Caribbean agriculture through the adoption of the Jagdeo Plan, so named because it is chaired by His Excellency Mr Bharrat Jagdeo, the President of Guyana. And the first of this plan is to mobilize investment, both from public and private sources, as a means of increasing the output of agricultural production in the region. The Conference unreservedly endorsed the proposal of the Director-General to convene the World Summit on Food Security this year. As the Heads of State and Government regard the Summit as a necessary part of the continuum of coordinated action, spanning national, regional and global action, to return stability to global food markets, not as a short-term objective but rather as the guarantor of eradicating global poverty and hunger and the promise of hope for the affected multitudes.

C.Q.K MUSTAQ AHMED (Bangladesh)

Given the precarious situation regarding the food security and food situation for that matter as stated by Mr Müller in his introductory statement, my delegation would like to lend its unflinching support to the hosting of the proposed World Summit on Food Security in November this year. We endorse the reasons and justifications put forward by Afghanistan, Sudan, Cuba, China, Brazil and probably almost all the countries that have so far spoken.

In this connection let me reiterate the commitment of the newly-elected government of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to improve food security in Bangladesh. Ever since her election, the agricultural sector is receiving utmost priority and allocations. FAO is at historical crossroads and we believe under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, the Organization, with necessary reforms in place, will be able to forge all possible alliances to face up to the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. To that end, my delegation believes that the forthcoming, or should I say the proposed, Summit will render a great opportunity to put the gravity of the situation in focus, or in refocus, and act together in mitigating world poverty and hunger.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much distinguished representative of Bangladesh. Now I invite Mexico to take the floor to be followed by Australia and, before giving the floor to Mexico, let's see where we are. We are at about ten past six, and I do have 14 other speakers on my list. I hope it won't be added to that. On top of that the interpreters at most they want to break at 7 o'clock. So if you are due, try to be brief. I think at least we can finalize the first round of discussion on this and then decide what to do next. In addition, this morning we said that the Friends of the Chair would meet tonight and the Drafting Committee has to meet again. So please be as brief as possible and as efficient as possible, because the time pressure is now as high as it could be.

So with this I will go to Mexico to be followed by Australia.

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

La contribución de mi país a la seguridad alimentaria es más que conocida. La participación de México en la primera revolución verde, con el desarrollo de semillas nuevas que se adaptaban perfectamente a otros tipos de clima, y otro tipo de suelos, está bien documentada en todos los análisis de esta Organización.

México comparte y puede compartir sin ninguna duda los objetivos que se incluyen en el documento CL 136/22. Creo que no se trata de un problema de objetivos ni de fechas. Una Reunión Cumbre tiene que ser exitosa con respecto a los objetivos que se han fijado. Una Reunión Cumbre no puede reunirse exclusivamente para adoptar textos que no lleven al cumplimiento real de los objetivos que se han planteado.

Hemos escuchado también que hay documentos que se están preparando para la Conferencia de Alto Nivel 2050, pero quisiera señalar que estos son documentos que para mi delegación son base y de ninguna forma serán los documentos que se adoptarán en una conferencia de alto nivel.

Quisiera poner dos ejemplos de los objetivos que están incluidos en el documento CL 136/22, el de acordar reglas y mecanismos para que los campesinos tanto de los países desarrollados como en desarrollo tengan un ingreso comparable al de los trabajadores del sector secundario y terciario. Me parece algo que podemos compartir y que podemos empujar, ¿cuáles son esos mecanismos que vamos adoptar en esta cumbre para que esto se logre? Creo que no se trata de una negociación de documentos bases, sino una negociación política de fondo y de mucha trascendencia.

Un segundo ejemplo que yo pondría sobre la gobernanza de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria que dice que un proceso intergubernamental de toma de decisiones de alto nivel, ¿qué quiere decir eso en los hechos, en los resultados operativos? , no como un objetivo. Yo creo que todo el mundo lo puede aceptar de muy buena gana y de muy buen talante, ¿pero cuando van a haber las negociaciones suficientes para llegar a un acuerdo político entre todos los Miembros de esta Organización que pueda llevar a la adopción de decisiones, que lleven a la aplicación práctica de estos objetivos?

Para la delegación de México no es importante la fecha, si la fecha es mañana, o dentro de x tiempo, es lo mismo, siempre y cuando podamos garantizar que haya la adopción de los mecanismos que estamos buscando para alcanzar los objetivos que se están fijando. Los objetivos *per se* no se van a lograr. Participar a una reunión que no tenga resultados concretos no es lo que todos deseamos.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

The Australian Government has given careful consideration to the proposals for a World Summit on Food Security to be held in November 2009, and we see possible merit in it. If it is to be successful, we feel that the proposed Summit must differentiate itself from several other international meetings held this year on food security. I am referring to meetings such as the one we had in Madrid earlier this year, and the G8 leaders' discussion on food security which will be held next month. We also feel that the proposed Summit must have clear objectives and outcomes if it is to make a difference to those who are hungry. One concern we have is about the narrow emphasis in the objective on increasing support for farmers in developing countries. We are looking to have a stronger and clearer emphasis on a more comprehensive approach to the role of good economic and trade policies and open and efficient markets in improving world food security. By the same token, however, we do support the Summit addressing the links between climate change and food security.

I have been listening to other Members making many interventions, including those from the Asia region, Norway, EC, Canada and more recently Mexico and, I am going to be a bit naughty here, my impression of the discussion so far is that it sounds like we all want a Summit. It is just that maybe we need more time to prepare for it to make sure that it delivers what we want it to deliver. There is no doubt that everyone in this room is concerned about feeding the hungry, otherwise none of us would be here. The biggest concern seems to be making sure that we do not have a Summit just for the sake of it, but that it actually makes a difference.

CHAIRPERSON

Before giving the floor to Tanzania, Mr Sorour, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee wants to make some clarifications regarding his introduction of the issue in the Finance Committee. You have the floor, Mr Sorour.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

My attention was drawn by my dear Italian colleague regarding my presentation related to the Italian Parliament. The interpretation that they have received said that the Italian Parliament would bear the cost of the Summit, which is not the case. What I meant is that the Italian Parliament could finance a possible Side Event. This is what is behind my statement, but I did not mean that the Italian Parliament will bear the cost of the Summit.

CHAIRPERSON

Okay, thank you very much for your explanation but the Italian Government has been so generous to FAO. Now I invite Tanzania to take the floor, to be followed by the United States.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I think I can support Australia. What she said is true and that is what I read, that we need a Summit. Mr Chairperson, the African group supports what has been said by the Chair of the Group of 77. Listening to what was presented by Mr Müller, the Director-General, and also the previous Committee on Food Security meeting which noted with concern the worsening situation of world hunger and noted the lack of progress in meeting the world food security goals, even before the impact of high food prices. Further, more seriously, Mr Chairperson, is that mentioned by the Director-General - out of 31 countries affected by the food crisis, Africa is ahead with 21 countries affected by the crisis. Africa suffers instances of imbalances of international trade, which affect efforts for eradication hunger and poverty. All these issues are reasons for keeping the agenda and the advocacy of food security in continued visibility and discussion - discussion in a group forum of a scientific nature, as well as at the high political level, as the proposed World Summit on Food Security which is strongly supported by the African Union Heads of State which met late last year to support the proposed Summit.

Mr Chairperson, despite the so many preoccupations in the international arena, we should not retreat, otherwise we would be left behind. Who will be blamed Mr Chairperson ? Let's not run away from our responsibility as Members of FAO which has the global mandate on issues of food security and agriculture.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador and thank you for being brief and my recommendation to other colleagues, please be brief as much as possible. I invite the United States of America to take the floor, to be followed by Japan.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

It's crucial that the Food Summit be structured to focus on concrete near-term actions that can be measured and will have a positive impact on alleviating global hunger.

Well coordinated actions feed people. Declarations don't. It is also essential to ensure that the planning and preparation for such a Summit does not distract FAO Management from implementing the Immediate Plan of Action. Likewise, as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee has stated, the Finance Committee Report for May clearly states the Summit should be financed completely by voluntary donations. No Regular Budget funds should be used for the Summit.

United States expects the Finance Committee, during its July Session, to uphold its fiduciary responsibility by reviewing with FAO Management and approving the related financial details of the proposed Summit to ensure that adequate extra-budgetary financing for the Summit is indeed

available. If the Finance Committee does not certify the funding proposal of the Summit at its 128th Session, then the Summit should be reconsidered. We thank the Secretariat for document CL 136/22. However, we believe that the proposed Summit should focus on practical means to combat hunger such as country-specific partnerships among donors and the private sector with clearly defined goals, benchmarks, national commitments. It should provide further impetus to the work of the High-Level Task Force on Food Security. We do not believe the Summit should attempt to renegotiate previously agreed international goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, nor should it address issues such as global governance or the establishment of rules and mechanisms for agricultural support. These issues are receiving high-level attention in discussions in other appropriate fora. Those discussions should be allowed to continue to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are taken into account in crafting an integrated global action programme, that enjoys the full support of all countries at the highest political level. If consensus on holding a Summit is achieved at this Meeting, we ask that the Council approve establishing an open-ended committee made up of interested Member Nations and representatives of the Rome-based agencies, that would develop concrete objectives and outcomes in the next few weeks for a Summit that adds value to discussions taking place in various fora at various levels.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Mr Chairperson, Japan understands the importance of having a World Summit on Food Security. Japan appreciates the DG's initiative in this field. Japan appreciates the financial aspects explained by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee as well as Management. However, Mr Chair, Japan has been emphasizing in many fora that FAO should place its first priority on its reform. The human resources are limited. FAO should concentrate its resources on proceeding with the reform for the coming months. We should also discuss further on what we can achieve from the Summit, if we have it, which is not yet clear. From this point of view, Japan has serious concern that the timing of the Summit might be too early and supports reconsidering the timing of the Summit as expressed by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Community and many others.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

When we talk about food prices and food security, Indonesia would like to reaffirm its commitment in supporting any international effort to cope with the problems of hunger, food crisis and also food security. With regard to the proposed World Summit on Food Security, we see a possible merit in it and we support the initiative to hold the Summit. However, bearing in mind several other international events that are now in the pipeline, that also invite the participation of world leaders, to take place at the end of this year, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the views expressed by Malaysia on behalf of the Asian Group, in particular on the issue of the timing.

Juan Sebastián CAMACHO CANEDO (Bolivia)

Mi delegación desea sumarse a lo expresado por Brasil, Cuba y los países que apoyan la realización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria en noviembre del 2009.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In principle, Russia would like to point out the topicality of the Director-General's proposal concerning the holding of a World Summit of Heads of State and Governments on Food Security. The arguments addressed and the correctness of the objectives and the implementation of such a measure were all reflected in the presentation of Mr Müller. It is true we do not have a lot of time, if the Summit is to be held in November this year as proposed, and we need to work through a large number of issues. In that connection, we agree with what was said by the United States of America, Canada and Norway as well, that is, in order to ensure that the format is not just a declaration of rights which all countries are aware of, we need some careful preparation for the Summit.

Despite the fact that there is a large burden lying on the shoulders of Missions and the Secretariat, when it comes to preparing such an event, at the same time we need the agreement of the

overwhelming majority of countries and their Governments with regard to the funding of such an event in order to support it this year. We will have to be able to rely on an agreement to fund such an event and have to ensure prompter funding for the IPA. The funding for Summit has to be quickened and also we need preliminary agreements on the list of documents and issues to be discussed to ensure the sustainable development of the agrarian sector in all countries. In order to overcome the food crisis, great efforts are being undertaken in the UN as a whole by the Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, and other structures as well. In order to elaborate a substantive document which would really constitute progress in our efforts to overcome under-nutrition and hunger, we must be very clearly aware of the situation, the impact of the financial crisis, we need to evaluate energy issues and environmental issues. Since FAO is a key element in attempts to achieve food security, we of course need to take into account the full processes underway in the Organization and envisage how they could help to achieve further progress in the implementation of plans and decisions which might be taken at such a Summit. The Russian Federation is prepared to offer every possible assistance in the holding of such a Summit. We think it is necessary, and if the decision is taken on the holding of such a Summit despite the huge burden of work involved, we are prepared to help in every way with the preparation of such a Summit and the preparation of the necessary documents.

Ahmed SALAMA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I just want to underline that Egypt associates itself with what has been said by the Near East Group as well as what has been said by the African Group supporting the convening of this Summit.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation too supports those that have spoken in support of the holding of the Summit, in particular the delegates from Africa, Congo and Tanzania represent my views, Near East, the G-77 position and many others. The list is long.

For us reference is made to the meeting of the EU that was meant to discuss this particular issue. Realizing that the visibility of the food crisis was being swept under the rug because of the more recent crises that have come on board, the EU resolved that it is critical that the world leaders refocus their attention on hunger. The resolution of the EU is there for the record. The sense of urgency is urging us to explore all opportunities of addressing the effects of the global food crisis. It would appear listening to the debate here that the emergency we are facing is being overlooked in this debate in favour of country interests. We appeal to multilateral commitment to the achievement of the reduction of the number of the hungry. The work from all the meetings that have been held since the food crisis will need to be brought together under the broader framework of world food security in order to enjoy the political support they require. There cannot be any doubt that this is the direction to take for the Member Nations. FAO is reforming, we accept. And this should also see it reforming in the way it handles hunger crises. We cannot shy away from the responsibilities, otherwise we fail in our mandate. The world expects to see FAO leading in this core mandate and I think I would like to refer you to the IEE paragraph which said that if FAO was not, the world would have invented it and I think that the IEE was looking at situations like this where the FAO leadership in the food crisis is mandatory. If not, we see other Agencies moving in to occupy the space. Again I do not feel that the logistical arrangements should be the things that should downplay the importance of the political will that we seek. I accept that there is need for preparation. But I think that once we take the decision, we can all move in a more focused approach to achieve this objective.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Gracias al Director General por la presentación introductoria que hizo para la plenaria de la tarde de hoy y también gracias al Señor Muëller por su explicación detallada respecto a los propósitos, a la necesidad de realizar esta cumbre y a las posibilidades de los resultados. Venezuela quiere en primer término señalar que apoyamos la realización de esta Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Cuando realizamos en el 2008 la anterior cumbre, no se había producido el estallido de la crisis financiera. El verdadero estallido de la crisis financiera se produce posterior a la realización de la cumbre. Y es tan simple, tanto que ya ha sido mencionada en distintos escenarios a parte de la FAO, en nuestras instituciones hermanas, como el FIDA, en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y en otros escenarios, y es que esta crisis ha conducido a que ya estén cerca de 2 mil millones de personas por debajo de la línea de la pobreza.

Esta crisis financiera ha sido debatida y se le han buscado salidas. Posterior a ella se han realizado reuniones de los distintos grupos llamados G, G-20, G-8, etcétera, y yo creo que hemos dejado de visualizar como aspecto central la crisis alimentaria que habíamos tratado con tanto interés y con buena intención en junio del 2008 en la anterior Cumbre.

La crisis alimentaria hay que volverla a colocar en el protagonismo que le corresponde y por ende a la agricultura y a todo lo que conlleva alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria para todas, y todos, los habitantes del planeta. Esto hay que ratificarlo con el énfasis con que se debe decir, y aquí lo dice el documento en el objetivo principal de la cumbre: erradicar el hambre de la tierra para el 2025.

Se toma una modalidad que fue diseñada, un programa que fue diseñado en América Latina y el Caribe, cuyo nombre es precisamente ese, “América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre al 2025”. Esa pudiera ser uno de los replanteamientos, que pudiéramos tratar de focalizar a la FAO hacia esa búsqueda, que el objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio uno, ya no es posible alcanzarlo al 2015 y que la erradicación del hambre conlleva a que no sigamos planteando la circunstancia de que 50 por ciento de las personas que padecen hambre dejen de padecerlo al 2015 y ¿qué hacemos con el otro 50 por ciento? Es la erradicación total del hambre.

Independientemente de que nosotros, a nivel regional, hemos llevado a cabo innumerables reuniones en donde hemos tenido este tema como centro de la atención, y estoy hablando de reuniones bilaterales, trilaterales como en el “ALBA”, el “MERCOSUR”, el “Caribe”, tal como se ha señalado aquí, hemos colocado como centro de nuestra atención ese tema de la erradicación del Hambre para el 2025.

Acojo lo planteado en la última de las intervenciones por Zimbabwe, necesitamos el escenario multilateral para definir ese nuevo compromiso de los gobiernos, ese nuevo compromiso que, implicaría introducirle elementos nuevos a la reforma, elementos innovadores para la búsqueda de la solución de este problema, a la FAO que está en su proceso de renovación.

Yo no entiendo cómo se puede percibir que paralelamente vaya el proceso de la reforma y que demos tiempo más adelante para que tratemos esto en mejores condiciones, en mejores circunstancias. Yo creo que esto le inyectaría, le insuflaría a la reforma de la FAO nuevo entusiasmo, nuevas fortalezas y nuevos compromisos, a esta FAO que requiere reformarse pero que requiere también que introduzcamos esa nueva estrategia a mediano y a largo plazo para erradicar de manera simple y llana el hambre en el planeta.

Creo que con todos los eventos que hemos hecho en los distintos escenarios, en las distintas regiones, nosotros traeríamos acá, a esa cumbre, elementos nuevos, compromisos nuevos, alternativas y nuevas salidas que ya estamos proponiendo en todos esos escenarios. Yo creo también que esa cumbre tiene validez, tiene cabida y apoyo

Cuanto a lo planteado por Argentina en la idea de tratar de afinar algunos aspectos por una parte de objetivos y por otra parte de lo que en definitiva aspiramos de ella.

Apoyamos también las propuestas de Brasil, las propuestas del G-77 y las propuestas de Cuba y de todos y cada uno de los países africanos que han expresado su apoyo a esta Cumbre.

CHAIRPERSON

I would remind the speakers that we have listened to almost thirty statements on this issue, so it is not difficult to be brief, and I hope that you consider that. I invite New Zealand to take the floor please.

Ms Catherine R. MC GREGOR (New Zealand)

While New Zealand is happy to support in principle the proposal for a further World Summit on Food Security, we do share the concerns conveyed by a number of other delegations we have heard here this afternoon, including Australia, Canada, the United States of America, the European Union, Malaysia, Norway, Japan, Mexico and a number of others. In particular, we are concerned about whether November is the optimal time to hold such a Summit given the other number of important meetings related to food security which have taken place, or will be taking place, this year, as you have heard from other speakers here.

We have questions about the effect of this proposed timing of the Summit – back-to-back with the Regular Session of the FAO Conference will have on the Conference itself. This will be a very important session of the Conference, focussing on bringing in the Reform and renewal process we have all been spending so much time and energy on.

We also share other delegations' concerns about the objectives set for this Summit and would like to see these more clearly defined in terms of practical, achievable and measurable outcomes. It would seem desirable to have in place an appropriate preparatory process to help achieve this.

We have questions too about the budget set for the Summit and where this funding is to come from, as the price tag, estimated at, I believe, US\$1.5 million and US\$2.1 million. Is this a realistic price tag in comparison to the cost of similar Summits? How was this figure reached? Are the underlying costs that are not included in this overall estimate perhaps reflecting work already being done in the Organization and therefore funded from other parts of the FAO budget, but which nevertheless involve opportunity costs that should be cited? Where are the extra-budgetary funds referred to come from? Is it anticipated that Members will be asked to make a one-off contribution to pay for this Summit or are the funds to come from FAO's existing extra-budgetary resources, perhaps via some of the Trust Funds? It would certainly be helpful to have details of these sources.

We would appreciate clarification of these important matters and we would hope to see a fully worked up budget proposal go to the Finance Committee in July.

Finally, we also wonder how well placed FAO's already hard-working staff will be to contribute to the staging of this quite labour intensive event around all of the other events taking place within this same short timeframe, including Feeding the World 2050 Conference, the Committee on Food Security meeting in October, the World Food Day, the biennial Conference and the various side events, round tables and other things taking place in the context of these meetings.

Han-Jorge LEHMANN (Suisse)

La Suisse accorde une grande importance au défi posé par l'insécurité alimentaire et la réalisation de ce droit humain fondamental qu'est le droit à l'alimentation. Mon pays s'engage à travers une action coordonnée, cohérente et efficace de la communauté internationale, dans le contexte de laquelle, une FAO réformée a un rôle important à jouer.

Pour mon pays, l'opportunité de l'organisation d'un Sommet sur la sécurité alimentaire en 2009 doit être mesurée à l'aune de cette nécessité de coordination, de cohérence et d'efficacité.

De plus, c'est un élément important pour la Suisse, un tel Sommet ne doit être, en aucun cas, préjudiciable à la nécessaire réforme en profondeur de la FAO. Cette réforme doit avoir, à nos yeux, la priorité absolue.

Un Sommet ne devrait pas se limiter à des déclarations et à des considérations sur les aspects financiers mais également viser, comme l'ont relevé plusieurs autres délégations, à atteindre des mesures concrètes atteignables notamment au niveau des pays. En outre, il devrait également examiner la question importante de la pénurie des ressources naturelles en liaison avec le changement climatique.

C'est un point important pour mon pays qui serait disposé à apporter une contribution à l'examen de ce thème.

Sra. María Isabel NOLCK BERGER (Guatemala)

Mi delegación a nombre del Gobierno, como lo hiciera el Presidente Álvaro Colón en la Reunión Extraordinaria de Presidentes y de Jefes de Gobierno del Sistema de Intergación Centro Americana (SICA), que tuvo lugar en Managua, Nicaragua, el 25 de Marzo de 2009, acoge con beneplácito la propuesta del Director General de celebrar una Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación, con la que se espera retornar a focalizar la atención del mundo sobre el escándalo del hambre.

Exhortamos que el proceso de preparación de la Cumbre se inicie de inmediato, asegurando una amplia participación, con el propósito de llegar a configurar una agenda que sostenga y que no llegue sólo a resaltar la urgencia de solucionar este drama, si no que logre formular propuestas y acciones concretas que sean suscritas al más alto nivel político, para que el mundo alcance en tiempo real la meta del Milenio propuesta. Por lo tanto se apoyan las intervenciones de Argentina, del G-77 y de las otras delegaciones del GRULAC.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Primeramente deseo expresar mi acuerdo con lo expuesto por la delegación de México con respecto al tema que estamos debatiendo. He escuchado muchos argumentos convincentes sobre la necesidad de celebrar una Cumbre de Alto Nivel sobre Seguridad Alimentaria pero hasta el momento no he escuchado ninguna buena razón para celebrarla dentro de cinco meses cuando tenemos tantos y complejos asuntos en el camino dentro de esta Organización.

Nos preocupa que se diga que el trabajo preparatorio está en este momento en manos de expertos. En este respecto hay varias preguntas que es necesario resolver, en primer lugar: ¿cuándo se van a conocer el estado de los trabajos que se están adelantando? Igualmente valdría la pena saber qué noción tienen los expertos sobre los muy delicados problemas políticos que hay que resolver con el fin de superar los problemas de hambre y alimentación, que no se tiene la forma de resolverlos.

La Conferencia de Alto Nivel del año pasado había sido convocada inicialmente con el propósito de analizar el efecto sobre la seguridad alimentaria del cambio climático y la bio-energía y por motivo de la crisis de los altos precios terminó convertida en una pequeña Cumbre con un documento que, para muchas delegaciones, se consiguió con un consenso muy precario. En la medida que no logró articular ni definir de la manera adecuada las causas profundas del hambre. Se suscribió este documento y sin embargo en el curso del último año un importante número de personas se han sumando a la fila de los que sufren hambre.

Otras preguntas que nos surgen son: ¿cómo se va a preparar la declaración final?, ¿en qué tiempo?, ¿cuál a va a ser el procedimiento para llegar a esta declaración final?

Acogemos con satisfacción el informe acerca de los costos según nos informa el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas pero consideramos que debe reflexionarse sobre la necesidad de una mayor preparación del evento, si es que se decide adelantarlo en todo caso. Por ejemplo, se nos había informado previamente que se consideraba que entre la celebración de la Reunión de 2050 y la Cumbre misma no habría necesidad de reuniones preparatorias. Yo estimo que esto no va a ser posible dada la complejidad de temas que están involucrados. En todo caso, y dependiendo de la respuesta que tenga la Secretaría, a este punto nos parece importante responder a todos los interrogantes que se han planteado para saber si en los términos que está proponiendo el Director General esta Cumbre es una buena idea o no celebrarla dentro de cinco meses.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

I really do not know whether I have a solution or not, but I will add to your directive that one should be brief, and perhaps I am the last so I shall be the briefest.

India supports in principle the proposal for holding the World Summit on Food Security.

Jorge CASINELLI (Uruguay)

No puedo ser menos breve que el distinguido Representante de la India para decir que mi país efectivamente apoya la realización de la Cumbre tal como lo ha manifestado el presidente del G-77 y otros países de nuestra región.

José Eduardo Dantas FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

Thank you, Mr Chair; it was briefer!

Moungui MÉDI (Observateur du Cameroun)

Il est vrai que le Cameroun a été très silencieux depuis le début de cette session. Merci de nous donner la parole en tant qu'Observateur.

Deux arguments vont habiller la proposition que nous allons essayer de faire ici.

La première argumentation vient de M. Müller qui a dit que si l'idée de ce Sommet était acceptée, il y aura une proposition de déclaration qui circulera.

La deuxième, un point de détail, peut-être, qui est ressorti de la déclaration de la Communauté européenne: si l'idée de ce Sommet est acceptée, il faudrait mettre l'accent sur le Plan d'action global sur la sécurité alimentaire. Je crois que notre argumentation, en ce moment, est surtout de mettre un accent sur les débouchés et la conclusion de ce Sommet. C'est beaucoup plus important que ce dont nous en sommes en train de discuter et la conclusion de ce Sommet viendra certainement de cette décision qui mettra un accent particulier sur le partenariat mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire.

SEO Hae-dong (Republic of Korea)

I fear that the majority of the Member Nations at least acknowledge the wish for the Summit. So I feel that the timing of the Summit is the real issue at the moment and I feel it is better for discussion to be focused on that issue.

RI Song Chol (Observer for Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to fully support the proposal of the Director-General to convene the World Summit on Food Security. In this context my delegation would like to share the statements made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic in charge of G-77, China, Cuba and Malaysia.

CHAIRPERSON

This is the time to go back to the Secretariat, Mr Müller, to answer questions. I can say in principle, everyone agrees to the necessity for the Summit, but there are serious questions of concern about timing, funding and conflict of the Summit with other UN events either outside or inside FAO. If you could try to answer these ambiguities or questions, you might help us to reach agreement on this.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

Thank you very much Chair for these three very easy questions. So I do not have to reiterate what seems to be consensus here that the world food security situation has worsened, that food insecurity is in the centre of a multiple crisis, the high food prices 2006 to 2008, climate change will have a very negative impact on food security. The fuel crisis, high prices in the last years, volatile prices currently and the impact of the economic crisis. This seems to be consensus. This is also the starting point for our proposal. So the starting point seems to be real in consensus. That is the reason why we presented in paragraph six the objectives of the Summit, and these objectives are very different from the objectives of all the other meetings mentioned.

In my very personal assessment of the situation in 2010 is that there will also be a lot of meetings, a lot of high-level meetings but none of these meetings will address the question "how to eradicate hunger from the earth by 2025". This is unique and I would like to underline that this does not

mean that we want to open negotiations on the MDGs. This is not renegotiating the MDGs, this is an additional goal to entirely eradicate hunger by 2025.

All the objectives are based on the preparatory work currently done for the High-Level Conference on "How to Feed the World in 2050". So the preparatory process of this Conference, including the cost estimates, concentrate only on the organization of the Conference, the logistics of the Conference and the preparatory process of a Draft Declaration. Here I would like to repeat what I already said, we want to build upon our very good experiences with an Open-Ended Working Group. This will be a lot of work for all of us.

We will in the next days, after you have endorsed this proposal, submit to all of you a Zero Draft of a Declaration for the Summit, and then you can see that this Zero Draft Declaration will build upon the preparatory work currently undertaken for the High-Level Conference on "How to Feed the World 2050". So there will be no additional documents needed, and that is the reason why the cost estimate for this Summit is between US\$1.5 million and US\$2.5 million. Only covering the cost of the logistics of a meeting held back-to-back to the FAO Conference in November and only covering to a certain extent the preparatory negotiations. All other costs, all other documents will be prepared in the process leading towards the Conference of 2050. This is the reason why this Conference will not need an amount of about US\$4 million. The High Level Conference in June last year cost about US\$4.5 million because there was a whole preparatory process with Expert Meetings where we tried to cover all areas linked to climate change. So the question of the cost estimate is linked to the timing of this, back-to-back with the Conference, and building upon all the preparatory work to be done in the Conference of 2050.

The timing question is a political question. You have to decide it. Our proposal is on the table that is to hold this Conference back-to-back with the FAO Conference in November. This could reduce the cost to a certain extent. Any other time would increase the cost of this Conference.

These are the answers I could give you. I do not know if my colleagues want to give additional information.

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

About financing the Summit. This is not a minor question and it is not an easy question but I could tell you that of course we did not start approaching any kind of source of funding until the Council approved the Summit. Also, I can assure you that Management is ready to move rapidly if it comes to approve the Summit trying to prepare a plan for financing the Summit.

It is not a huge amount, we are talking about US\$2 million. We will try to be innovative and imaginative in the sense of not just approaching the classical and traditional donors but trying to explore innovative sources of funding for the Summit and, in any case, the most interesting suggestion that some of the Members proposed is that Management present to the Finance Committee, at the end of July, a plan of financing the Summit with concrete figures and concrete sources of funding.

Lastly, if the Council approves the Summit, we could hope that the Members that support, under the consensus of which the Council will support the Summit, will be relatively consistent and easy to get this US\$1.2 or US\$2 million for financing the Summit.

Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Not much, just to inform everyone that in terms of the preparation of the Conference on "Feeding the World 2050", we had already briefed the Permanent Representatives and we are now at the stage where the twenty papers that we have commissioned are ready in draft. Next week there is a workshop of the authors and reviewers, the referees for those papers, which will take place here in Rome. That background work will be ready by the end of next week.

CHAIRPERSON

So the Management says that the funding will definitely be provided from extra-budgetary sources and the timing was referred back to the membership.

So many of the delegates are agreeing to have the Summit in November 2009, back-to-back with the Conference and quite a number also are asking about the timing.

How do you want to continue the debate on that? To decide what is the good timing?

I was expecting the Secretariat to provide more reasoning for the timing of the Summit in November, back-to-back with the Conference and then see what would be the reaction of the Membership to that.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

I think we have all listened with great interest to what each other had to say. We should do each other the respect of reflecting on what we have heard, overnight. Perhaps some need additional instructions or need to inform their capitals of what they have heard and that we should resume this discussion tomorrow morning, keeping in mind what you have already told us about the other activities, that you have in mind for us this evening.

CHAIRPERSON

I think that is a good suggestion. For the necessity of the Council we do have the consensus, the Summit is needed; but the funding, the Secretariat says will be provided from extra-budgetary sources and not to worry about it. So the main issue which remains is the timing.

The United States of America came up with a very good solution, having an Open-Ended Committee to discuss objectives and all aspects related to this, and you have to decide.

Management have come with some suggestions, but they are suggestions, everything will be in your hands, if we have an Open-Ended Committee, we can discuss all of this.

The only issue that really remains is the timing. So the timing, if it is in November, it is back-to-back with the Conference, it reduces the cost of the Summit, and there is some merit in that, but you might have other arguments.

Please reflect on the discussion that we had, more than thirty interventions and proposals and the statement by the Director-General also, it was in the same line today. As a matter of fact he has started putting so much emphasis on the Reform, it was a kind of guarantee that this Summit would not interfere in any way with the process of the Reform.

So, having all of these things in mind, please reflect on that and we now will keep this item pending, and come back to it tomorrow morning to see what we can do, but before that, not only reflecting on that. Please try and talk to each other and hopefully we do not have to spend too much time tomorrow on that issue.

I was informed that the Friends of the Chair have already made lots of progress on the issue which was referred to that proposal made by France and it is almost certain that by tomorrow morning there will be an agreed proposal. So we do not have to deal with that anymore this afternoon.

But we have two other urgent items which we have to finish tonight and we have the Drafting Committee.

I have asked the Ambassador of Cuba, the Vice-Chair, to chair the two items which have remained. So I have excused myself. Unfortunately, I cannot do anything for you. You have to stay and finalize these two other items which are for today's discussion and I invite the Ambassador of Cuba to please come and take the Chair.

Enrique Moret Echeverría, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair
Enrique Moret Echeverría, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Enrique Moret Echeverría, Vicepresidente del Consejo

16. Programme Implementation Report 2006-2007 (C 2009/8)**16. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2006-2007 (C 2009/8)****16. Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2006-2007 (C 2009/8)****PRESIDENTE**

Esperemos que esta sección sea breve. Deseo informar que el grupo de redacción va a comenzar luego de la conclusión de esta reunión, en la que se discutirán dos puntos.

Continuaremos con los trabajos programados con el tema 16 del artículo del informe sobre la ejecución del Programa 2006-2007. Como ustedes saben, el Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa presenta a los Miembros la labor realizada por la Organización durante el último bienio. Los documentos relativos a este tema son el C 2009/8 y el CL 135/3.

Doy la bienvenida al Sr. Boyd Haight, Director de la Oficina del Programa, de Presupuestos y de Evaluación, y le solicito no presente este tema.

Boyd A. HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I will briefly outline the purpose, format and content of the Programme Implementation Report for the 2006-2007 biennium.

The PIR informs the Membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the past biennium. As part of the currently-established suite of accountability documents, it looks back to provide information on the financial performance of the Organization and what it achieved – in terms of outputs and outcomes – under the Regular Programme appropriation and with extra-budgetary resources.

The assessment of longer term outcomes and objectives remains the subject of independent evaluations that cover a longer time span than the quantitative biennial picture of achievements in the Programme Implementation Report.

This version of the PIR is presented in a more compact and readable format. It focuses on two main aspects of performance: What FAO achieved and Corporate initiatives in support of programme delivery.

The section on What FAO Achieved provides an overview of the total resources in the biennium, selected highlights of programme implementation, and regional dimensions of FAO's achievements. The coverage of the Technical Cooperation Programme has been expanded, at the request of Conference, to include more analysis of the catalytic role of TCP projects and their relation to FAO's programmes, especially for capacity-building.

The section on Corporate Initiatives in support of programme delivery reports on the implementation of approved Reform Proposals in 2006-07; the cost of supporting the field programme; progress in achieving efficiency savings; the use of the capital and security expenditure facilities; the application of the FAO language policy; and progress in geographical representation and gender balance of professional staff.

Annexes I and II in the printed document provide more detailed information and Annex IV provides an overview of resources and outputs at programme level – Annex IV is available on the FAO website.

In terms of results, what did we achieve during 2006-07? From a resources viewpoint, the biennium was marked by several challenges, as noted in the Director-General's Foreword. Nonetheless, due to the large increase in voluntary contributions, total expenditure was nearly 13 percent higher than the previous biennium. Most of the increase was for emergency activities, while delivery under the Technical Cooperation Programme declined by nearly half compared with the previous biennium.

This PIR addresses selectively the outcome of FAO's work in twelve programme areas under three substantive Chapters of the Programme of Work. These highlights seek to convey the key

role that capacity-building, partnerships, the TCP and extra-budgetary resources have played in the achievement of sustainable outcomes at country, regional and global levels. The achievements include such areas such as: rapid response mechanisms and innovative control measures to mitigate the outbreak of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; strengthened national food control systems and enhanced participation in Codex activities to ensure food safety; analysis and policy advice on adaptation of climate variability and climate change related to livestock and rural communities; the first steps towards negotiating port State measures as a means for combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, including capacity-building in developing countries; and commodity markets analysis and projections including the impact of soaring food prices on food insecure countries.

What about the future? This PIR reports on achievements under the programme framework in place during 2006-07. A similar report will be prepared in 2010 for the current 2008-09 biennium under the same programme framework, and it will be the last of this type of report. In the future, as you know, under the Immediate Plan of Action we are putting in place a new results-based programming framework, along with a new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan, starting with the 2010-11 biennium. It will be accompanied by new monitoring and reporting system, focusing on achievement of outcomes based on targets and indicators. Thus a new implementation report will need to be devised. It will be an important tool for Members and management to gauge the extent to which the Organization has been able to deliver on planned results, and provide a means to adjust the results framework in the medium-term.

With this brief overview, the Secretariat is ready to provide any clarifications required by the Council in considering the Programme Implementation Report 2006-07.

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco al señor Haight por su presentación. Ahora doy la palabra al señor Victor Heard, Presidente del Comité de Programa, el cual nos va a presentar la sección del informe de octubre 2008 de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanzas.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I can be very brief, as part of the report of the discussion we had on the PIR was taken yesterday in another context and also Boyd has just referred to one of the things that we focused on during the meeting and that is there will only be one more PIR on the basis of the existing way of budgeting. After that, we will be onto a results-based budgeting system, and the Programme Implementation Report should be different, possibly more informative and possibly more focused on outputs than measuring how we spent the inputs, which is, to some extent, what the current version is doing.

We ask for information on how this is being taken forward – that is quite a radical change, albeit for the obvious one that flows on from the process that we are following with results-based budgeting.

I will refer to two other things that came up in our discussion. One of which we thought was quite serious and was not apparent to us until the discussion got into the issue of the cost recovery and the fact that there was an under recovery of administrative and operational support costs for extra-budgetary activities. Apparently, these have been under-recovered to the extent of 37 percent. In financial terms Manoj Juneja was able to find us a figure of US\$44 million over the biennium which had been effectively a subsidy from the Regular Programme, the Assessed Contributions Programme, to support the costs of running the extra-budgetary programme. This, we thought, was serious and we strongly recommended to Management that they should find some way of getting the cost recovery to the extent where there were no subsidies, as we could see no justification for this, even though a lot of the people who are running extra-budgetary programmes and would have to pay the extra costs were sitting in the room and joining in the discussion.

There was one other item that came up that was quite surprising – surprising that it came up during this discussion – and this is the matter of Arabic translation and it is referred to specifically in a very short report. It was a matter which had been a concern to those who receive documents in Arabic throughout the Programme and Finance Committee Meetings. Apparently it was especially bad in the context of the Programme Implementation Report, which was not intelligible to any Arab speaker in any dialect of Arabic. We have said that we had not noticed any improvement in this over a few years – there had been improvement in French and Spanish – but steps must urgently be taken to improve the situation and that we would expect a report on it at our next meeting, which will be the one that I will be chairing in July.

Those of you who were at one of the Working Group Meetings recently where the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia thanked the translation service for helping him improve his English, will understand that there may not have been very much improvement and I am not optimistic but we must keep up the pressure on this, as obviously it is something that puts one group, our brothers and sisters, at a disadvantage.

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco al Sr. Victor Heard por su presentación. Luego de las dos últimas presentaciones, invito a los Señores Delegados a hacer uso de la palabra sobre estos informes.

Cedo la palabra a la delegación de Bélgica y a continuación la delegación de Egipto.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt)

By way of beginning, I would like to thank the distinguished all of those who took the floor on the part of the Secretariat and who have given us an excellent overview and, in this sense, I would like to add my voice to what was said by my colleague from Kuwait. In effect, it was unjust on our part just considering their importance, we should have discussed all these matters in the presence of one and all so our discussions would be at the same height as those elements and topics. Once again, I would like to thank all of those who have shared light on our information to the presentations and we await these joint documents to be discussed by the Rome-based Organizations at the Finance and Programme Committee.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey, associates itself with this statement.

The European Community welcomes the shorter format of the Programme Implementation Report 2006-2007. Clearly, both this version and that covering 2008-2009, to be prepared in 2011, will continue to be on the present format. However, the subsequent Programme Implementation Report will cover the first biennium when the full results-based framework is in place. We assume this will necessitate a change to a new Programme Implementation Report format linked with the new approach.

We would welcome hearing FAO Management's ideas for this. We suggest that in the course of deciding how it will be approached Management should consult Members about how they use the present Programme Implementation Report, and what sort of information they will require in future on past programmes.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank you for your statement concerning the Arab language.

The issue of the translation of Arabic is very important and I myself was with the Chair of the Near East and we discussed this matter, along with the Jordanian delegation, on how to improve the quality of Arabic translation within the Organization, considering the importance of the documents. It is important that we also make sure that the Arab countries and administration making use of these documents, receive good quality translations. I was quite surprised when I saw the report concerning Food Security 2008, because that was the best translation that we had –

the best translation that I have had in the last four years. This translation was excellent, it was crystal clear and this comment was made by the Egyptian authorities who received this document. They also commented on why it was of such high quality, how the translation had been done and how the text had been revised.

Therefore, we think it is possible to follow a certain number of criteria to ensure the quality of translated documents. If the end-users – the Arab speakers who will be using the documents – receive the documentation produced by this Organization, documentation that is important, then it must be of useable quality, otherwise there is no point even in supplying the documentation in the first place.

Once again, I would like to thank the Secretariat for having provided the explanation they did concerning the translation process, and we hope that in the near future we will continue to receive Arabic translation done appropriately.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de revenir sur cette question que nous considérons cruciale et suite aux dires de Monsieur Mekouar. Toujours à la page 89, la figure 16 sur la proposition des réunions par nombre de langues, vous constaterez que les réunions tenues en une seule langue, en anglais, est de loin supérieure. C'est un document que vous avez produit: sur cinq langues, remarquez la marge pour les trois périodes; sur quatre langues, remarquez la marge; etc, etc, sur une langue, l'anglais, remarquez la proportion. Vous pénalisez les autres États Membres en maintenant cette pratique. Voilà pourquoi nous posons la question tout à l'heure. S'agit-il d'un manque de personnel dans les autres langues, dans ce cas, qu'est-ce que l'Organisation fait pour corriger cela ou s'agit-il d'autre chose? On ne peut pas favoriser dans une Organisation que le taux se maintienne seulement dans une seule langue.

Considérez que nous quittons nos ambassades, nous venons pour une réunion au siège et celle-ci se tient en une seule langue et en anglais, nous repartons donc à l'ambassade. Et je vous avais dit, entre-temps, de bien spécifier dans l'invitation qu'il n'y a pas de traduction mais cette pratique ne doit pas être favorisée dans l'Organisation. Là est mon inquiétude, Monsieur Mekouar.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I'm speaking on behalf of the Near East countries, but before making specific comments on PR 2006-2007, I wish to make two general observations. One, with the introduction of the new results-based operating model, Members need to pay greater attention to future PIRs. Two, for well-known reasons, we expect no treatment of impact assessment from the PIR, even the one that will be based on the new operating model. Firstly, its time-span is too short; secondly, complementary inputs from stakeholders in support of FAO actions are often not on board and thirdly, there is always a time-lag between outputs delivered by FAO and final outcomes at the level of the recipient. Therefore, we keep the PIR as a document restricted to all good performers: efficiency indicators in producing the outputs and exploring, where feasible, preliminary signs of potential effects emerging from the use of selected outputs. The assessment of impact, arising from the use of outputs delivered by FAO, is the task of evaluation and not that of PIR.

Let me now turn to the PIR in question. We are satisfied with the contents of the PIR as an accountability document with useful material to inform Membership. For the recent bienna, two features of the PIR can be confirmed. One, the size of the report is being significantly reduced. Two, there has been a steady shift towards stressing the financial aspect of the implementation and lesser treatment of the qualitative narrative of outputs achievement.

Mr Chairperson, let me now address a few specific issues related to PIR.

From Table 1 of paragraph 18, we note a minor increase in Regular Programme expenditures – two percent from the previous biennia; an immediate boost in expenditures funded from extra-budgetary resources, both for emergency and non-emergency operations, a 34 percent increase. We also note the rising share of the extra-budgetary resources tied to the normative work of FAO which reached 19 percent in the biennium 2006-2007 – Figure 1 of paragraph 2.21. Some

Members feel that the disproportion that proportionately lies on extra-budgetary funds for core programme activities is not a healthy trend for the Organization. We associate ourselves with this view. From the resource point of view, other positive developments include: a sharp rise in multilateral contributions and a doubling of US contribution to external funding, this is Table 4, paragraph 34; a quantum jump in the FAO-donor partnership programme – this is Table 5, paragraph 36; TSS as a percentage of total delivery went down by a small percentage point – Table 14 of paragraph 2.92; the AOS – Administrative and Operational Support Costs – also declined slightly as a percentage of total delivery – this is Table 16, paragraph 3.01; a drop of 13 percent in the number of meetings in comparison to the year 2004-2005; improvement in the percentage representation of female international professional staff – Figure 20, paragraph 3.40. Annex 2, that is pages 91 to 98 of the English text, now also covers the implementation of outputs by non-technical programmes, which was not included in the PIR 2004-2005. This new addition is welcome and it shows that the performance of non-technical programmes was better than that of the technical programme – 97 percent compared with 93 percent - this is in the tables under paragraph 3.48.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, further changes will be required in streamlining the PIR with the requirements of the results-based operating model with targets and indicators for each of the 49 Organizational Results envisaged in the Strategic Framework. We look forward to the PIR 2010-2011 which will reflect the new model.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, it's a pleasure seeing you presiding over our work.

Mr Chairperson, I won't repeat what was said by Professor Ayazi from Afghanistan, but I think that two issues that he raised deserve our full support – or at least from my delegation: the issue of the qualitative approach which is lacking there in the PIR and the fact that the use of extra-budgetary resources for core functions is certainly far from a healthy practice. But, Mr Chairperson, we realise that these PIRs will change in the future, but we still have to go through another PIR in the next biennium and the time-lag that we have between that analysis and when we review the Report will certainly lead us to the very simple conclusion that we are dealing with history – a history we can hardly change, and it's awful that we can be, in some cases, crying over spilt milk.

Mr Chairperson, I'm happy to hear what I heard from the delegation from Egypt saying that the quality of Arabic translation has improved, but I have a basic concern with this recommendation that came from the joint meetings that the steps to be taken – fine, we applaud that – but, taking into consideration the recommendations that came from the Root and Branch Review – I don't think we can share that point of view because we don't share the increased outsourcing that has been suggested in that Report for the sake of translation.

The other point that I wanted to raise, and that's my final point, is regarding this paragraph 7 of the Report before us which talks about the level of under-recovery of administrative and operational support costs for extra-budgetary funded activities which had been estimated at 37 percent in the biennium in question. Through you, Mr Chairperson, I'd like to ask our friends in the Secretariat: what has happened? What happened on that occasion? People paying less, it's part of the game, but those that should be charging more, where were they? This is an accountability report, and who is being held accountable for the 63 percent missing? What are the actions made to level up the recovery of administrative and operational support costs of extra-budgetary funded activities? What is being done? We have been told what happened, that it is the level of under-recovery. We'd like to ask, through you, the Secretariat – who is being held accountable for that and what is being done to correct that?

EI PRESIDENTE

¿Hay alguna otra delegación que quiera hacer uso de la palabra? En este caso cedo la palabra al Sr. Haight y al Sr. Heard para que puedan responder las preguntas solicitadas por las diferentes delegaciones.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

I'd like to thank everybody for their comments. I'd envisaged addressing an empty room at this time of night, but it's really good to see people still here.

I agree with my colleague from Congo that it would be wrong to favour one language, just as it's wrong to disfavour Arabic and get that wrong in translation, so I completely agree with what you say about the apparent emphasis given to English.

I think that paragraph 8 of our Report which refers to the Root and Branch Review – I think it accurately reports what we said during the meeting, and that was, of course, before we saw the Root and Branch Review, so I think we were perhaps expecting something rather different. On the Brazilian Ambassador's comments about the delay in seeing this data, I must confess that, in my administration, we try and produce this sort of information within a year of the closing of the period to which it refers, so I would agree with him on that.

Thank you, Sir. That's all I have to say.

Boyd A. HAIGHT (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation Division)

Thank you for the very useful comments. I think that first, looking to the future, in fact we have been asked by the Joint Meetings to come back with a proposal next year in terms of how we will address the future PIRs, but I think Afghanistan has already given some hints about how we would be reporting on achievements of the Organizational Results through reporting on the indicators against targets. In fact, for several biennia, the Council has endorsed the views of the Programme Committee that we should move more towards reporting on outcomes, that is the uptake of FAO's products and services, not just on our outputs. We have, as you have noticed here, a difficult time in the current format of the programmes in achieving that reporting goal. The new Results Framework, with a much more clear focus on results, on outcomes should allow us to provide you more of an indication of the actual use of the work of FAO.

Brazil has asked what is happening on the support cost recovery – what are we doing about it. In fact, at the same set of meetings in October 2008, the matter was also before the Finance Committee. The Secretariat produces an Annual Report on the implementation of the support cost policy which is approved by the Council. The Finance Committee also expressed its concern at the under-recovery of 37 percent which means a recovery of 63 percent currently and supported a proposal to expand the support cost policy to cover also fixed and direct costs, a proposal that will be presented in July.

FAO is also actively involved in the interagency work on harmonization of support cost rates throughout the United Nations. FAO charges a standard rate of 13 percent - many of the funds and programmes charge lower rates and we are under pressure in some areas, within our policy, to also keep our rates down so we are looking for harmonization to ensure that the costs that FAO incurs are actually covered. We are constantly seeking to reduce our costs because support costs are about money that is spent to administer these extra-budgetary projects. The accountability is with both the Secretariat and the Members in that the policy is approved by the Members and the Secretariat implements it, as we have been doing for many biennia, and tries to bridge the gap between the costs that are incurred and the actual recoveries that are made.

Mr Chairperson, on the language issue, perhaps I could defer to my colleagues in the KC Department on that matter.

Ali MEKOUAR (Directeur, Division de la Conférence, du Conseil et du protocole)

Vous avez soulevé la question de la traduction des documents en français. Les graphes auxquels vous avez fait référence, il y a un graphe sur la traduction des documents de réunions et un graphe sur la traduction des publications. Vous remarquerez qu'il y a, selon l'exercice biennal, des hauts et des bas en fonction des langues et il est clair que la plupart des documents sont d'abord écrits en anglais puis traduits dans les autres langues.

La traduction des documents se fait aussi en fonction du public le plus intéressé. Certains documents ont une portée plus régionale que mondiale, auquel cas ils sont traduits soit en français, soit en arabe, soit en espagnol selon que les documents en question concernent par exemple l'Afrique francophone, l'Amérique latine ou les pays de langue arabe, si bien que d'un exercice biennal à l'autre, en fonction des publications, il arrive que certaines langues soient plus traduites et plus couvertes que d'autres. Vous remarquerez donc que dans cet exercice biennal en particulier, certaines langues ont augmenté, d'autres ont reculé. Inversement en ce qui concerne la documentation, certaines réunions, statutairement, sont menées dans toutes les langues de l'Organisation, d'autres, en raison également de la nature régionale de ces réunions sont tenues seulement dans les langues qui sont parlées dans ces régions là.

Tout le monde reconnaît qu'un effort supplémentaire doit être fait pour améliorer la couverture linguistique, aussi bien des documents des réunions que des documents de la publication. Ceci est une recommandation du Plan d'action immédiate et nous entendons faire un effort supplémentaire pour mettre la mettre en œuvre. Egalement, le commentaire qui a été fait par le Brésil en ce qui concerne les recommandations de l'Examen détaillé, il a été convenu que la recommandation concernant l'externalisation ne soit pas mise en œuvre, par conséquent, aussi bien la Direction que les États Membres sont d'accord pour qu'il n'y ait pas davantage d'externalisation de la traduction.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de revenir sur cette question que nous considérons cruciale et suite aux dires de Monsieur Mekouar. Toujours à la page 89, la figure 16 sur la proposition des réunions par nombre de langues, vous constaterez que les réunions tenues en une seule langue, en anglais, sont de loin supérieures. C'est un document que vous avez produit: sur cinq langues, remarquez la marge pour les trois périodes; sur quatre langues, remarquez la marge; etc. etc., sur une langue, l'anglais, remarquez la proportion. Vous pénalisez les autres États Membres en maintenant cette pratique. Voilà pourquoi nous posons la question tout à l'heure. S'agit-il d'un manque de personnel dans les autres langues, dans ce cas, qu'est-ce que l'Organisation fait pour corriger cela ou s'agit-il d'autre chose? On ne peut pas favoriser dans une Organisation que le taux se maintienne seulement dans une seule langue.

Considérez que nous quittons nos ambassades, nous venons pour une réunion au siège et celle-ci se tient en une seule langue et en anglais, nous repartons donc à l'ambassade. Et je vous avais dit, entre-temps, de bien spécifier dans l'invitation qu'il n'y a pas de traduction mais cette pratique ne doit pas être favorisée dans l'Organisation. Là est mon inquiétude, Monsieur Mekouar.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I will base my intervention on what was said by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Brazil, regarding the recommendations included in the Root and Branch Review. I participated in the Joint Meeting that you headed and what the Meeting was thinking about how to benefit from the recommendations following the Root and Branch Review.

I would like to express here what was said by the Near East Group at the Working Groups' meeting by way of reservations on the state of translation in the Organization.

EL PRESIDENTE

Cedo la palabra nuevamente al Embajador de Brasil. Tiene usted la palabra por favor.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I thank Mr Haight for the information provided regarding the under recovery. Indeed, this was an aspect that was put forward by the IEE, the subsidization of the Regular Budget funds on extra-budgetary-funded activity and that is an issue of great concern. Even the External Evaluators mentioned that fact, but again, I apologize for putting this question again, but did I understand from Mr Haight that there will be another Report to the Finance Committee on this issue, because we are not talking about an irrelevant sum of money; we are talking about US\$44 million.

People were talking about questioning the Summit for the end of the year because of under US\$2 million, but nobody is talking about US\$44 million that went down the drain; that is everyone's money and according to the Basic Texts it says that no extra-budgetary resources can be accepted if they incur other burden to the rest of the Membership. Where have the responsible people been at that moment that they knew, or they still know. I don't know if this has already been corrected, that such subsidization is not occurring any more and certainly this is an issue of concern. We are talking about US\$44 million again. There were US\$22 million on efficiency savings that had been decided in the last budget. Now we are talking about another, now under, US\$20 million to fund the IPA on extra-budgetary funds, but nobody is concerned with US\$44 million that just vanished, just disappeared, just were paid, unduly paid for such extra-budgetary-funded activities.

This is an issue of great concern to my delegation. It was an issue raised by the External Evaluation, and I certainly would invite the Secretariat to be more assertive in what they are doing in order to avoid such things, and keep us informed of what is happening, what is the total today, not for us to be two years later, for us to be complaining on such situations. Just harmonizing with the other UN Agencies probably will not do the trick because of what happens is somewhere else, not that it is not a concern to my Government because it is the same Treasury that pays all the contributions but we are very much concerned with this happening here because we will be talking later. The next coming budget will have extra-budgetary resources listed in the new PWB, so where is the recovery going to be dealt with when we talk about this in the next coming budget. Certainly my delegation would welcome more updated information on this, and what is being done to avoid such under-recovery.

EI PRESIDENTE

Agradezco al Embajador de Brasil y cedo la palabra al Representante de China.

PANG YULIANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I have just heard about the translation problem in the Working Group's discussions. FAO Management did promise to carry out a study on FAO translation; that is an in-house study in FAO and related to outsourcing of translation. We hope that FAO management will start this study on translation as soon as possible. At the same time, we hope that consultations will be held as much as possible with the countries affected in the course of this study. We are not just speaking about translation; we are also speaking about interpretation. Mention has been made of outsourcing of interpretation in the Working Group. Outsourcing of interpretation has been mentioned. So we hope that FAO management will carry out this study on translation as soon as possible and we also, as I say, hope that Member Nations will be consulted to that end.

Boyd A. HAIGHT (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation Division)

Just to follow up on Brazil's comment on the AOS costs, in fact, the matter has been before the Governing Bodies for a decade now when the policy was first promulgated and put in place in 2000 to close the gap between costs and reimbursements. The policy does have a certain amount of flexibility under it to allow for recognition that some types of projects will be exempted from support costs, for example the travel of participants from developing countries to Technical Meetings and Conferences that are funded by extra-budgetary resources, even though there is a cost to administering those funds that would be subsidized in part by the Regular Programme.

At the same time, the policy has been strengthened to ensure that we do recover as close as possible to the costs. For example, the recovery rate on the so-called normative projects, the projects in support of the Regular Programme, was increased from six percent to thirteen percent. Also the recovery rate on emergency projects was increased from six percent to ten percent and emergency projects comprise a large proportion of the extra-budgetary resources. We report on an annual basis to the Finance Committee and they review the performance and all projects are approved within the policy – there have been no waivers granted on support costs outside the policy since it was put in place – and every effort is made to recover costs, but there is the gap and it does mean that there is a way to go and improvements to be made.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Just to say that I think the Joint Meeting spoke of full cost recovery as quickly as possible.

EL PRESIDENTE

Cedo ahora la palabra al Señor Mekouar que desea hacer una aclaración. Tiene usted la palabra, por favor.

Ali MEKOUAR (Directeur, Division de la Conférence, du Conseil et du protocole)

Pour répondre aux remarques du Congo, comme je le disais tantôt, le fait que la traduction et l'interprétation ne soient pas assurées pour un certain nombre de réunions est dû à deux raisons, principalement une qui est statutaire et l'autre qui est financière. La raison statutaire est évidente: pour les réunions des Directeurs pléniers, comme la Conférence ou le Conseil ou les différents Comités qui ont lieu ici à Rome, la traduction et l'interprétation sont assurées dans toutes les langues de l'Organisation. Ces réunions sont exclues des ces statistiques et la documentation de ces réunions également. Ces statistiques concernent les réunions qui n'ont pas une couverture linguistique totale, par exemple, en Amérique latine, une réunion se fera sans traduction et sans interprétation en russe, en chinois et en arabe. De la même manière en Afrique, il n'y aura pas de traduction et d'interprétation en russe et en chinois et ainsi de suite. Concernant la raison financière, et là je pense que vous avez raison, est qu'un certain nombre de réunions, notamment techniques, se font uniquement dans une langue qui, en général, est l'anglais et beaucoup plus rarement dans une autre langue de l'Organisation. Je pense qu'une des raisons principales est une raison financière, mais aussi le fait que le personnel travaille principalement en anglais et les documents sont d'abord produits en anglais puis traduits dans les autres langues. C'est une règle.

Continues in English

Egypt, yes, I think that the fact that the recommendations made by the Root and Branch Review on outsourcing were not endorsed. This was clearly mentioned several times in the Working Groups, in the Conference Committee, in the Finance Committee meeting in May and yesterday again during the discussion of the Report on the Implementation of the IPA and Root and Branch. Also in that same Report in paragraph 28, it says that "Management agrees to change the funding model of translation services" and this is in response to the comment made by China. Yes, as we said last Friday in the Working Groups an internal review will be undertaken, and we will be happy to consult with our Members.

Yesterday Kuwait, speaking on behalf of the Near East, offered to work with us to improve also the translation into Arabic, so we are happy to take all your comments and advice on board.

EL PRESIDENTE

¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer alguna pregunta? Trataré de hacer un breve resumen que pueda recoger las cuestiones principales planteadas:

El Consejo tomó nota con satisfacción del informe incluida también su forma breve.

También tomo nota de la recuperación de los costos para la ejecución de los proyectos, ya que éstos no cubren todos los costos operacionales y solicita que la Secretaría mejore la situación.

El Consejo tomó nota de que este documento es el penúltimo de ese formato y solicita que la Secretaría consulte con los Miembros para determinar el formato e información del PIR 2010-2014.

También tomo nota con satisfacción del aumento considerable de recursos extra-presupuestarios y la inclusión de los programas técnicos en el PIR por primera vez.

El Consejo también tomo nota de la necesidad de proporcionar servicios de traducción de buena calidad en todos los idiomas de la Organización notando los progresos realizados en la traducción en árabe y pidiendo que los esfuerzos sean mantenidos en esta materia a fin de que puedan mantenerse en un plano de igualdad todos los idiomas de la Organización.

Si están de acuerdo y no hay ninguna objeción quedaría aprobado el documento.

V. OTHER MATTERS
V. AUTRES QUESTIONS
V. OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Any Other Matters
21. Questions diverses
21. Otros asuntos

EL PRESIDENTE

Ahora continuamos con el Tema 21.2 relativo a los desarrollos en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO. La Medida 2.31 de la matriz de medidas del Plan Inmediato de Acción referente al Presidente Independiente del Consejo prevé que éste tiene que garantizar que el Consejo esté al tanto de los acontecimientos en otros foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO y que se mantenga un diálogo con otros Órganos Rectores según procede. En particular, los órganos rectores de los organismos para la agricultura y la alimentación con sede en Roma.

Pido entonces a la Señora Williams, Secretaría General de la Conferencia y del Consejo de explicar cómo vamos a desarrollar este tema. Por favor tiene usted la palabra.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are joined on the Podium by the following colleagues, each of whom will make a brief presentation on developments, a very brief presentation on developments, in order of importance for the mandate of FAO.

Mr Ezzedine Boutrif, Director of the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division will speak on inter-agency collaboration on nutrition – the role of FAO.

Mr Pietro Gennari, Director of the Statistics Division who will speak on decisions of the Fortieth Session of the UN Statistical Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Department will make a presentation on development on issues of world fisheries in the United Nations and other international fora, including the annual consultations of the UN General Assembly Resolutions.

Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General of the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department will give a presentation on Agriculture, Land Use and the Climate Change Negotiations.

Ms Anika Söder, Assistant Director-General of the Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up will make a presentation on UN Reform, Governance, Funding, Gender Architecture and Delivering-as-One Opportunities and Challenges.

Mr José Sumpsi, Assistant Director-General of the Technical Cooperation Department will present FAO Collaboration with the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's development.

In the interest of good time management, may I ask my colleagues to speak for five minutes. At the end of the last presentation, delegates will be invited to ask questions or make remarks on the presentations.

EI PRESIDENTE

Tengo el gusto de darle la palabra al Señor Boutrif, Director de División de Nutrición y Protección del Consumidor. Tenga Usted la palabra por favor.

Ezzeddine BOUTRIF (Director, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division)

It gives me great pleasure to present the document on Interagency Collaboration on Nutrition with all of FAO.

The work on nutrition is by nature multidisciplinary and requires the collaboration of many actors in order to ensure effectiveness and impact. There are many ongoing initiatives and programmes that deal with nutrition and involve many agencies and institutions.

My presentation will limit itself to three main interagency mechanisms where FAO plays an important role. Namely, the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), Standing Committee Nutrition Cluster and finally the Renewed Effort against Child Hunger, REACH.

FAO is a founding member of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, which was founded in 1977 and was at that time called the Administrative Committee for Coordination Subcommittee on Nutrition.

The SCN presently has three constituencies: the UN agencies (FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF), including other international and regional development finance institutions (WB, IFAD, the ADB and others); bilateral partners, with representatives from both high income countries and low income countries; and the civil society, including international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and other civil society representatives.

The mandate of the SCN is to promote cooperation among UN Agencies and partner organizations in support of community, national, regional, and international efforts to end malnutrition in all forms and in one generation.

The Secretariat of the SCN is presently hosted by WHO Headquarters in Geneva and funded through voluntary contributions by the UN Member Agencies.

FAO is represented at the Steering Committee of the SCN by the Director of the Consumer and Protection Division. In 2006, the SCN adopted a new Strategic Framework with a view to contribute more concretely to the development of harmonized actions for accelerating the elimination of all types of malnutrition and to help achieve the majority of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the country level within the framework of the Millennium Declaration.

SCN regularly issues a flagship publication called *The World Nutrition Report* with input and contribution from all members of the SCN, and FAO contributes largely to this report. The sixth World Nutrition Report is under active preparation and will be released toward the end of 2009.

Several Working Groups and Task Forces have been set up within the SCN, most of which are relevant to FAO's work. FAO chairs the *Working group on Household Food Security* and the *Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights*. FAO also co-leads with WFP the *Task Force on Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation*.

FAO's ADG, Mr Müller who is with us here, is the current chair of the SCN and through him FAO is playing an increasingly important role in shaping the international nutrition architecture.

The second institution with which we work is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Nutrition Cluster, chaired by UNICEF, both in the field and at Headquarters levels. Since its creation, the Nutrition Cluster, which is part of OCHA, for those that are familiar with OCHA's work the Nutrition Cluster has been working closely with the SCN, Working Group on Nutrition in emergencies. Main partners include UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNHCR and relevant NGOs. The key functions are coordination and information sharing, capacity-building, developments of tools and approaches to address nutrition in emergency situations. FAO is represented by the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division in the IASC Nutrition Cluster. Current work is focussed in four pilot countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Somalia, and Uganda.

The third interagency mechanism is REACH. The heads of agencies of FAO, WHO, UNICEF and WFP have recently endorsed the Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger (REACH) initiative to facilitate joint action to end child hunger and undernutrition at country level. The REACH core-team, hosted in WFP Headquarters, includes representatives of the different agencies and key partners, in particular from NGOs. A facilitator is posted at the Resident Coordinator's office to ensure appropriate knowledge management, planning and fundraising. The promising results of the pilot experiences in Laos and Mauritania, supported by the Boston Consulting Group, are generating increasing interest and support and three more countries will be added next year to this REACH initiative.

In terms of conclusion, I would say that although FAO is playing a key role in these different inter-related interagency mechanisms, stronger support from Council is needed to increase FAO's visibility and contribution to help Member Nations to raise levels of nutrition. Unless agriculture and health factors jointly and explicitly take the lead at local level, no effective and sustainable progress in alleviating malnutrition can be obtained.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Señor Boutrif. Cedo ahora la palabra al Señor Pietro Gennari, Director de la División de Estadísticas. Agradecería a los oradores que tengan en cuenta el llamado que ha hecho la Señora Williams de los cinco minutos para la intervención ya que es un poco tarde.

Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

I am pleased to provide you with a brief report on the decisions of the Fortieth Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Agricultural Statistics, and on the follow-up actions taken by FAO to implement this decision.

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system which meets annually to consider programmes to address emerging statistical issues and to approve international statistical standards.

The Fortieth Session was held in New York from 24 to 27 February 2009, and was attended by top managers of 122 National Statistical Offices and 38 International Agencies. Among other important issues of direct interest to FAO, such as climate change statistics and environmental-economic accounting, the Session discussed a document jointly prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Union, the World Bank, FAO and the United States Department of Agriculture and FAO, on the need to develop a Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics. The negative assessment of the current status of agricultural statistics, particularly in developing countries, and the conclusions on how to address this situation are consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the successive Evaluation of FAO Work in Statistics.

On this issue the United Nations Statistical Commission:

Stressed that agricultural and rural statistics are essential for policy-making and that strategic direction is needed, to meet the increasing demand for information at both the international and national levels, especially in the light of the recent food crisis;

Emphasized the important role of agricultural ministries and other institutions in the compilation of agricultural statistics, supported the development of strategy based on recommendations and road map as set out in the report;

Recognized the important role of FAO, as the Specialized Agency in this field, and welcomed the commitment and effort of FAO to involve the Ministries of Agriculture through its Governing Bodies in the development of the strategy and the implementation plan;

Agreed with the creation of a Friends of the Chair group to steer the process, with FAO and the United Nations Statistics Division serving as Secretariat, stressed the importance of proper

representation of countries from all regions and at different levels of development, and welcomed the interested countries to participate in the group to ensure ownership of the process by countries;

Requested the Friends of the Chair group to report back to the Commission at its Forty-first Session on Progress in the Development of the Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

Following these recommendations FAO has taken the lead in the development of the Global Strategy, working with an international consultant to prepare the background document, facilitating the creation of the Friends of the Chair Group and organizing a series of meetings in which the new global strategy on Agricultural Statistics will be reviewed. The Statistics Division is coordinating FAO input to the process, working closely with other divisions conducting substantial statistical work to ensure that a comprehensive approach is adopted in developing the Global Strategy.

With regard to the meetings planned for the review process, a Seminar with Permanent Representatives of FAO will be convened on 22 June 2009 to present the work undertaken thus far and to encourage Member Nations to actively participate and contribute in the review process so that this document will fully reflect the situation and needs of the countries.

Following the seminar, the document will be discussed in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 2009 at a satellite meeting of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and it is expected that 100 experts from Ministries of Agriculture, National Statistical Offices and International Organizations will attend this meeting and to discuss the key elements of the "Global Strategy".

The document will also be finally deliberated upon at the FAO Conference in November 2009 before being presented at the Forty-first Session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2010.

The expected outcome of this global strategy is the improvement of national and international food and agricultural statistics with an internationally-validated methodology for the design of evidence-based agriculture and rural development policies at the national and global levels. The support of all stakeholders, both countries and development partners, in the development and implementation of this Global Strategy will be critical for the success of the initiative.

Thank you very much for your attention and your active collaboration in this important endeavour.

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco al Sr. Gennari por su presentación y cedo ahora la palabra al Sr. Ichiro Nomura.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Since many of you look exhausted, I will take my presentation to two minutes and please refer to my presentation in the document CL 136/LIM/3.

First I will refer to two important fora in the UN.

The first is called the "United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea" which is now being met in New York this week for its Tenth Session to discuss whether or not to continue with that process. So it is very critical.

Most important for us is, as mentioned to you in relation with the next session of COFI are two United Nations Resolutions: one on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea" and the second on "Sustainable Fisheries".

The Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries is particularly comprehensive and many examples include a number of references to FAO and to COFI; out of the 125 paragraphs of the last resolution, there were 49 references to FAO and seven to COFI.

We have good collaboration with the International Maritime Cooperation on safety for small fishing vessels.

With regard to International Labour Organization we have collaboration on working conditions in fishing, including safety at sea and child labour.

On climate change, I would like to refer to the Manado Ocean Declaration, which was referred to by the Indonesian Delegation, just two days ago. That was adopted by the World Ocean Conference. It referred to FAO reports that identified key issues and consequences of climate change for fisheries.

Lastly, as I said briefly in the COFI Report. We have collaboration with the WTO and with CITES, Washington Convention with regard to International Trade.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

I would like to be even briefer than my colleague Ichiro Nomura. I want to deliver three messages.

The first message is agriculture can be part of the solution of the Copenhagen Agreement on Climate Change. If you look at the roadmap of Copenhagen you see there will be a lot of meetings and FAO is actively involved with all of these meetings. We are providing information for the parties negotiating the Draft Declaration for the COP 15 in Copenhagen.

The second message is that we should always consider that a very important issue for agriculture is adaptation to climate change – I do not want to speak about it because you all know that it is very important for agriculture to adapt to climate change, especially in developing countries.

The third message is there is something new. Now, mitigation is also on the agenda of the Climate Change Negotiations and agriculture offers significant technical potential for mitigation. Agriculture could mitigate about 85 percent of its own emissions – a technical potential – but it is a long way from a technical potential to an economic potential to a real potential. That is the reason why FAO provides the part of the negotiations. A very important point is that 70 percent of technical mitigation potential from agriculture is in developing countries. There is a real opportunity for developing countries to benefit from this mitigation potential. Of course, there are a lot of technical problems. FAO is ready to gather with partners to provide solutions.

Additionally, we have to adjust the financial mechanisms so that they fit to agriculture. The current financing mechanisms do not capture agriculture, we have to expand the scope of the team development mechanism and we have to design new mechanisms. How are we going to do this in a way towards COP 15 and beyond? Agriculture and land use were initially not on the agenda of the meetings and now the latest text of the chair of the negotiation makes reference to agriculture and this reference will be expanded in a revised text and FAO will continue to support parties as requested.

Beyond Copenhagen, we have to start a coordinated set of country-level pilot activities to validate methodologies, collect data, to test innovative payment/incentive schemes – especially for developing countries, so that the technical mitigation potential could fully be realized – support countries in building capacity. We want to build upon our experience on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) means UNDP, UNEP and FAO are working closely together and this is what we want to achieve in the Climate Change Negotiations.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Sr. Müller. Cedo ahora la palabra a la Sra. Anika Söder, Sub-directora General de la Oficina de Coordinación con las Naciones Unidas y Seguimiento de los Objetivos del Milenio.

Ms Annika SÖDER (ADG, Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up)

You heard all of my colleagues speak about very important partnerships in the UN System at different levels and in different contexts. That is why we, with a small question mark, we claim that the UN System is actually our most important partner, as we work with the entire family in different ways. You heard about REACH, you heard about statistics, climate change, where the Secretary-General is making an effort to align the UN System behind all of the activities that are needed in the climate change process. Also, we talked earlier today about the High-Level Task Force and the Comprehensive Framework for Action, so we are already living UN Reform I would like to state.

Your colleagues in New York are heavily involved in intergovernmental processes that actually affect us. They are presently discussing a paper on Governance of the United Nations Operational Work on the basis of a Secretary-General report where they discussed that ECOSOC may have a stronger role in the future in coordinating all of us, and where they also discussed to have an advisory group to support operational activities and look into operational activities that we are all running in the field.

Another important development is on funding, where another paper has been submitted by the Secretary-General and that is also trying to support more UN collaboration in the field by more predictability, when it comes to funding multi-year planning frameworks and to fill the funding gaps in the common country programmes.

Also, the gender architecture is being discussed by your colleagues and they have three options: a new gender department in the UN Secretariat; a new fund or a new programme; or a combination of the two. This will, of course, affect the Specialized Agencies, even if we are not directly a part of this structure, we work very, very closely already now with three to four gender entities that we have presently in New York

Also there will be an Independent Evaluation of the Eight Country Pilots that are testing out how to work better together in the field and that Independent Evaluation is also being discussed in the General Assembly. All of these four activities are presently coordinated by Namibia and Spain and we expect some outcomes before the end of this General Assembly.

Internally, in the UN System, we have changed the development group where all of us work together to improve the work in the field. This means that FAO and the other Specialized Agencies are now taking as much part in this, having good impacts in the field, as earlier the funds and programmes did. We have also set up an advisory group, where the bigger Specialized Agencies are members, and FAO is starting now to be a partner in the Regional Director Teams. This might sound very bureaucratic but they are actually doing the oversight and looking after what is happening in the field in the One UN Programmes.

Delivering As One is something that I know the Members here in FAO are very interested in, so here I have listed some achievements, some challenges and some opportunities.

We see more national leadership, we see a better role for those agencies that are not present in the field but can influence the programmes through the Resident Coordinators. We see a stronger involvement of line ministries, including agriculture ministries. We see a slow change of business models to become more convergent and we hope that promises of new global funding mechanisms for important UN programmes will also be funded. We see a very active role being played here by Spain, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The problems are still: funding of the One UN Programmes; increased transaction costs – because you need people on the ground to be able to be part of the programming. We have many, many reporting lines that constitute a bureaucratic problem for us and still we expect that UNDP will clarify more its different two roles – the one being having UNDP activities and the other being the representative of the whole UN System.

Opportunities for FAO are: 90 new countries doing their UN programming where we see that we can make a case for food security in agriculture; for policy assistance and capacity-building being core functions of a Specialized Agency; and that the understanding of the mandates of the Specialized Agencies is also growing. Also, as I said, the funding issue is not only a challenge but we think also an opportunity for the future, as we see that when we work together donors are also more interested in working with us.

I know that the Chair is also interested in what we are doing on Rome-based collaboration. It would take us too long to talk about that tonight. We will provide a joint document to the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees - a joint document between WFP, IFAD and FAO on our future collaboration. I hope that the Members will appreciate this effort that we have made together.

So, I said that the UN is the most important partner and I would like to also add that the World Bank is actually our biggest partner, according to the evaluation we have made of partnerships. Also regional partnerships are increasingly important and I guess my colleague, Mr Sumpsi will talk about that.

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I will speak, after the introduction of my colleague Annika Söder, not on all regional collaborations with FAO but one particular case of regional collaboration with FAO, that is the collaboration with the African Union and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

FAO has been collaborating with the African Union and NEPAD since their inception, principally in the following five issues. The first is, formulation and implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). At the very first meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State Implementation Committee in Abuja, Nigeria, in October 2001, FAO was requested to assist in the formulation of the NEPAD Agricultural Programme. The programme, now named Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), was formally adopted in July 2003 by African Heads of State and Government as a framework for enhancing agricultural development and food security in Africa.

Since 2002, FAO has continuously provided technical support in the development of implementation plans and related investment operations for CAADP pillars, as well as in enhancing the capacity of the NEPAD Agriculture Unit through secondments of senior experts. Currently, FAO has two experts assigned to the NEPAD Secretariat in Pretoria.

Second, support directly targeted at the African Union (AU). Outside the NEPAD process, FAO remains a leading technical partner of the African Union. It has assisted the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in designing in 2005, and currently revising, its Strategic Action Plan. FAO has also consistently provided technical support in the organization of High-Level Meetings and Summits in which food security and agricultural development are on the agenda. For the next African Union Summit in Sirte in July, FAO has drafted the technical background document.

Third, FAO supports the African Union and NEPAD in the context of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). FAO convenes the United Nations Cluster on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, which is aimed at coordinating UN support to the African Union and NEPAD agriculture agenda.

Fourth, FAO collaboration with NEPAD within the framework of the global food crisis. This is one of the more recent developments and I think it is very important because all of the work of the High-Level Task Force and the CFS implementation in Africa is coordinated in the Framework on NEPAD and CAADP and I think it is a good example. In response to the global food crisis, NEPAD cooperated with FAO and other Agencies in the High-Level Task Force in some interagency assessment missions. FAO assisted in the organization of a NEPAD workshop on the crisis. Moreover, in operationalizing the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CFA) developed under the auspices of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF), both FAO

and the High-Level Task Force Secretariat use CAADP as the main framework for Africa and this has to integrate all of our projects and activities in Africa through NEPAD and CAADP and this is, of course, a very important development.

Fifth and last is advocacy and resource mobilization. FAO has been actively engaged in resource mobilization for the implementation of the CAADP by engaging regional and international financial institutions, as well as bilateral and multilateral donors.

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco por las importantes presentaciones que se han hecho, además todas en un breve tiempo, cumpliendo con el tiempo establecido, sin afectar la calidad en ningún momento y ahora propongo ceder la palabra a los Señores Delegados que podrían hacer alguna pregunta según la competencia de los oradores que han intervenido. Tiene la palabra la Embajadora de Kuwait y seguida por Tanzania.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait)

I just want to say that, it is so important and I would like to thank all of the speakers. It is such an important topic and it is so unfair not to see the rest of the Member Nations listening to it. What I am suggesting that we would like a Seminar just to listen in detail. What you have been saying is what we need to report back to capitals.

I do not want to ask anything, I just want to say thank you very much. Yes, we will discuss it in depth but we would like you to give us a Seminar, if possible.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation supports what has been said by Kuwait, and we also want to register our appreciation to the Council Chairperson for his proactive action for implementing IPA Recommendation Item 2.31A.

We note the importance of this IPA recommendation through the presentations which have been made but we appeal. Maybe next time this item should be presented at an appropriate time.

Asianta SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

We also thank the Secretariat for the presentations, which I think are very comprehensive and very clear on the substance.

With regard to this Agenda Item, I just want to make a comment or observation to paragraph 25, page 4.

Indonesia wishes to take this important opportunity to express gratitude for participation of Members during the WOC Conference held in Manado Indonesia last month. In line with the issue of the report we received from the Secretariat, I just want to know if the Secretariat could provide us with any information on the development of the issue on oceans, which has been discussed during the Bonn Meeting last week. I know that certain delegations put a proposal of putting oceans within the context of UNFCCC.

I wish also to take this opportunity to refer to paragraph 26, which the Secretariat correctly identified or informed us about the trade negotiations in WTO. We are of the view that trade is an engine of growth, development and also poverty reduction. With regard to paragraph 26, it is mentioned here that the Secretariat is also working closely on serving the negotiation on fishery subsidies within the WTO itself. Since trade is an engine of growth and development, I think it is also appropriate if the work of FAO also looks at the negotiation on agriculture at the WTO negotiations, in particular on the negotiation on the Elimination of Trade Distorting Subsidies on Agriculture Products because agriculture is part of the main concern of developing countries, in particular when we talk about the food security programme.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt)

By way of beginning, I would like to voice gratitude to all those who took the floor on the part of the Secretariat and who have given us an excellent overview and, in this sense, I would like to add my voice to what was said by my colleague from Kuwait. In effect, it was unjust on our part towards these subjects considering their importance, we should have discussed all these matters in the presence of one and all, so that our discussions would be at the same height as those elements and topics. Once again, I would like to thank all of those who have shed light on our information to the presentations and we await this joint document to be issued by the Rome-based Organizations at the Finance and Programme Committees.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

J'aimerais, Monsieur le Président, très rapidement, comme les autres, remercier le Secrétariat pour toutes ces informations et je suis d'accord avec mes prédécesseurs, notamment l'Ambassadeur du Koweït, de la Tanzanie et mon cher frère, Monsieur Sorour, de l'Égypte, pour souligner qu'il va falloir à l'avenir placer ce point quand nous avons la présence de la plupart des Membres et quand nous avons également un peu de force. Mais, qu'à cela ne tienne, j'appuie ces débats d'instance intéressant la FAO, qui sont de nature à faire en sorte que le Conseil soit tenu au courant de l'évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO ce, en conformité avec l'Action 2.31 du Plan d'action immédiate.

J'ai deux petites observations au sujet de la décision de la Commission des statistiques sur les statistiques agricoles des Nations Unies. J'aimerais souligner que je suis d'accord pour l'ensemble des recommandations, mais je suis également d'avis, notamment pour souligner que les statistiques agricoles et rurales sont essentielles pour la prise de décision et pour également souligner le rôle important des Ministères de l'agriculture et autres Institutions dans la compilation de statistiques agricoles. Mais à ce propos, il y a comme une difficulté notoire au niveau des pays en développement, les pays africains en particulier, sur l'insuffisance de formation des agents sur le terrain qui seraient en mesure de faire la récolte de toutes ces informations statistiques et ce qui pose souvent le problème au niveau des pays en développement dans leur ensemble. Voilà pourquoi sur cette question précise, il va falloir que l'on pense au renforcement des capacités de la plupart de nos agents sur le terrain pour qu'ils soient en mesure de pouvoir rendre des statistiques fiables, ce qui contribuerait effectivement à donner une image correcte de l'ensemble de ces statistiques, notamment en ce qui concerne les pays en développement.

Pour terminer j'aimerais, au paragraphe 42, concernant le plaidoyer et la mobilisation des ressources. Ce qui est dit est bon pour nous, nous apprécions cela, mais à l'avenir, nous aimerions qu'on nous donne quelques statistiques. Il est bien dit ici que la FAO s'est activée pour obtenir une mobilisation des ressources en vue de la mise en œuvre du PDDAA, en faisant intervenir des Institutions financières régionales et internationales ainsi que les donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux. Quelles ont été les conclusions de ces interventions? Ce serait une indication assez précise pour nous États Membres sur les contacts qui ont été pris par la FAO pour obtenir quelques financements en faveur de nos États.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

At this time of the evening, the Secretariat, I think, can only receive our praises and congratulations for the good work but I am sure if this Session was in a better time, you would have received a lot more praises, you can be sure of this. I totally agree with our colleagues, previous speakers, that this Session could have been in a more preferred time. Of course, it is no criticism, we congratulate all the staff but just one comment, perhaps. We appreciate very much the regional collaboration organizations in Africa, I was just wondering about the other regions, Asia, Latin-America and also I am wondering how much the Regional Offices and Sub-Regional Offices are involved in regional events and collaboration with related Organizations.

PANG YULIANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I have the following points. First, I agree with the delegate of Kuwait. In order to have better understanding of the document, we need to have a Workshop or Symposium, however such Symposium should have a subject and we would prefer to have such an arrangement for each subject. And second, this document is quite comprehensive which focuses on the very good basis for the establishment of a good partnership in FAO. It also shows the directions in which we can think about this issue because before when we were discussing this partnership, mainly the discussion was focussed on the relationship but not on the subject. However this document raises issues such as nutrition, statistics, fishery, land use, climate change, as well as cooperation within the UN System. All these are the focal points to be considered and the Chinese Government attaches great importance to these issues, therefore this document helps us have the correct thinking for these topics for us to then also think about strategic priorities.

Another point I would like to mention is related to statistics. In this field, it mentions the Commission on Statistics in the United Nations, the Statistical Commission on Agricultural statistics. It also mentions the Friends of the Chairperson, which is paragraph 15 in this document, Item E in paragraph 15. It says "the Secretariat is jointly owned between the Commission and also FAO".

Now I have a question: How would this Secretariat function?

Another point for a good partnership, FAO can play a very important role, however such relationship or partnership can be reflected in other fora such as the meetings related to statistics. The meetings are held in New York City. So my question is, maybe after such meetings and the topics discussed, that such meetings can be related to the Permanent Representation in FAO in Rome. This is in line with the proposal from Kuwait concerning the organization of Symposium or Workshop on different subjects; they have the same functions.

Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

As this is the first time we see the implementation of Action 2.31 of the IPA, of course we have to give some credit to the Management. I would consider implementation of this action work in progress. I am saying this because the intention from the Membership was not to limit this information and development in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO to collaboration and partnerships, the intention was to inform the Council about important developments in order to give the Governing Body the opportunity to request or support as appropriate.

The Secretariat can weigh certain activities, certain messages and intervene in other processes and even if I appreciate this rather short document at this time of the hour, and also the brief presentation, I still miss a number of important developments in the document and in the presentation. For instance, recently in the meeting in the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York, to my surprise, these people managed to produce a resolution of seventy pages and most of the pages are clearly within the mandate of this Organization on agriculture, food security, rural development, desertification and soon I would have expected that at this occasion we would at least have short information on that development. Also, there is always something, I would imagine, to report from the developments in the World Trade Organization which also has many members interested in this Organization. UNCTAD is also dealing with many of the activities that are very close to or within the mandate of FAO, for instance climate change and the development in Africa, and they are offering, I read recently suggestions that organic agriculture should be a very sustainable solution in Africa. It might be but I would like to hear from the Secretariat your assessment of this.

On the information presented, I just have one remark, and I thank Alexander Müller for the report on the developments on climate change. Personally, I think that maybe the assessment is a little bit optimistic, I realize that the deforestation is clearly on the table, and will be also at the COFI 15 in Copenhagen.

I have some more doubts about agriculture and what we are talking about the current situation in agriculture. I am not sure that it is fully recognized by all partners that it should also be an element in a comprehensive agreement in Copenhagen and I think it would have been a good opportunity for FAO to request the support of the members of the Governing Body in your endeavours to put agriculture high on the agenda, for instance in climate change connections.

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco el Representante de Dinamarca por su intervención y convido a otra delegación que quiera hacer uso de la palabra. Si no es el caso, le paso la palabra a los miembros de la Secretaria que quieren responder a las preguntas según la competencia. Tienen ustedes la palabra Señores.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I think I received a particular inquiry from Indonesia about two paragraphs, paragraph 25 and paragraph 26 in the document.

As a matter of fact, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department sent an officer to the Bonn meeting simply because otherwise we feared that fisheries and aquaculture would be totally neglected in the negotiation. Of course, FAO was not allowed to make any amendments but I heard from a delegation, it was Indonesia as a matter of fact, that it was going to propose a difference to amend the ocean declaration into whatever would be negotiated. So we are counting on that.

With regard to paragraph 26, our role in the WTO Fisheries Subsidy, as I explained to you yesterday, this is only in relation to fisheries subsidy and that particular linkage to the need for effective management. Only that apart, we may be request to give expertise to WTO or Panel or whatever.

Now it remains to be seen, as currently drafted in the negotiating text in WTO, there was a reference to the FAO Panel. We have not put forth that proposal to our Governing Body yet because it is still unsure, we don't know. When it becomes clearer, we have to present it to our Governing Body to see whether or not we would be allowed to do that and if so how.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

I would only like to underline what my colleague Ichiro, Nomura, has said that participation of FAO in all negotiations leading towards COP 15 in Copenhagen is done in an interdepartmental way so staff from all departments is participating so we are really trying to deal with this cross-cutting issue.

It was not possible to bring Fisheries on the agenda because FAO is not a party there. We are not part of the negotiations. What we can do is support the negotiations when the Secretariat or Member Nations request us to support this. We did it over the last one and a half years in a way that we submitted information material to the parties there together, for example, with IFAD we submitted a proposal on how to improve the financial mechanisms to deal with mitigation potential of agriculture.

So, Indonesia's request Ocean was mentioned there in a Working Group on long-term collaborative action, but no decision was taken and it needs, I think, additional steps, from Member Nations, especially from the negotiators there and supported by FAO to put this again on the agenda.

The distinguished delegate from Denmark said my presentation was optimistic. Yes it was. My presentation to the Conference of the parties in Bonn was also very optimistic because I want to convince them that agriculture can be part of the solution and within the next days, the Chairs of the Working Groups will present their revised text and then we will see how much they have taken into account of the presentations we made.

It was a very good signal that only two organizations were invited to make a presentation two weeks ago in Bonn, IPCC and FAO. That is one of the reasons why I continue to be optimistic

while at the same time realizing that there are a lot of technical problems and a lot of political problems of course. However, within the next month we have to find, one way or another, bring agriculture to the agenda because I am convinced that agriculture has the potential to contribute to the solution and this creates opportunities for developing countries. To be very honest and then the work really will begin because we have to set up systems for monitoring, reporting and verification. We need baselines systems for carbon sequestration and here I agree with Denmark, this will be very difficult.

The question was also raised by why do we not report on other issues. I had a list of four items to be presented, one was the outcome of CSD, another item was what is the current situation in a very important negotiation in CBD the Convention of Biological Diversity on Excess and Benefit Sharing. This is of very high importance for agriculture.

The third item was the current situation on the reform of the CGIAR system linked to FAO, and item number four was climate change conventions.

So we had to make a selection so, of course, we selected climate change because this is a very important topic but I would be happy also to inform you on other items.

Ms Annika SÖDER (Assistant Director-General, Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up)

On a more general note, it is very rewarding, I think for all of us that this is appreciated and is totally in line as we all realize with the ideas put forward in the Independent Evaluation.

I would like to say also on all of our behalf that it is very difficult to pick the items that would interest you and that would not take too much time away from other more internal work so we did the selection this time.

We are ready to provide any information on any subject, whenever needed and, on two issues; I would like to say on regional organizations, we are very closely involved. The regional offices are very closely involved in different partnerships at the regional level and we are, of course, ready to provide more information about that. I also know that the regional groups know quite a lot about what is going on in the regions. Also it is sometimes difficult to draw the line between a partnership and intergovernmental process, so bear with us if we sometimes talk about partnerships and sometimes about intergovernmental processes.

Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

I would like to thank all the delegates who have expressed interest in the statistical work of FAO and requested additional information and the possibility of having a seminar.

As mentioned in paragraph 17 of the document that was distributed, a seminar for Permanent Representatives will be organized next week, on 22 June, to ensure that proper information is provided to all the Member Nations and to encourage them to participate actively in this review process of this global strategy.

The second question that I would like to respond to is about the importance of statistical capacity building activities and of mobilizing resources for that purpose. I fully agree with the intervention from the delegate from Congo and I must say that the starting point of the global strategy is exactly the recognition that the situation of agricultural statistics is very poor – especially in developing countries, which have received very little attention, both from the donors and from the countries themselves – has become a low priority and we have to put statistical statistics back on the top of the political agenda, because it is essential to design, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies in support of agriculture and rural development.

The third point I want to make is in response to China's intervention. I am happy to report that China will be part of this Friends of the Chair Group that will lead the process of producing this Global Strategy and that FAO and UNSD are already working together to organize the work of the Friends of the Chair Group. The Secretariat is working together to convene a meeting. We have organized together the meeting in Maputo in August, and we are organizing together also the

Seminar for the Permanent Representatives and the Presentation to the FAO Conference in November 2009.

José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I would like to join the statement by Annika Söder in thanking everybody for these encouraging messages that these are important issues and we would like to provide in-depth explanations and presentations.

I think I could say that all of us – in the same way as all of you – share some sense of frustration as we do not have sufficient time to discuss in a more in-depth manner and more extensively in these matters. I expect that in the coming time we will be able, with these special and informal seminars, to continue presenting these topics and discussing in-depth. I think these are really important subjects because, in a certain way, it is a new phase of FAO, the new FAO that we extend all these partnerships.

I would like to answer the question raised by the Representative of Congo about the advocacy and resource mobilization of FAO in support of NEPAD and CAADP. The main activities that we provide to NEPAD and CAADP are through the Investment Centre, supporting the CAADP plans and projects to convert into bankable projects to be presented to the international and financial institutions and regional financial institutions – mainly the World Bank and the African Development Bank. FAO is intensively supporting these plans in the African countries, preparing projects that could be presented to these financial institutions to get finance and investment in agriculture and rural development.

Also FAO is doing an important job trying to mobilize resources from some bilateral donors. There are two important cases – two countries in the last five years that have increased their cooperation in Africa enormously – and those are Italy and Spain. We are already convening some meetings with CAADP on these countries to mobilize resources to implement some plans of CAADP in this context, and there could be some results with bilateral donors.

Lastly, I would like to mention that one of the problems is that the Technical Secretariat of NEPAD is not very strong and one of the weaknesses of NEPAD and the problems of the slow development of CAADP programmes is the lack of technical support and technical strength of the unit and the Secretariat of NEPAD.

In that sense, we also get some resources to strengthen the capacity of the Technical Secretariat of NEPAD and we expect in the coming time the effectiveness of NEPAD and implementation of CAADP programmes and plans will be increased.

Those are the three main areas: investments to the Investment Centre and to financial institutions; some bilateral donors getting support from some plans of CAADP; and resource mobilization to strengthen the technical capacity of NEPAD to implement CAADP programmes and plans.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias Sr. Sumpsi. Deseo nuevamente reiterar el agradecimiento a todos los miembros de la Secretaría por las presentaciones que han hecho que han sido muy importantes y de gran utilidad para todos nosotros. En este sentido me atrevería hacer un breve resumen que sería el siguiente: acoger con gran aprecio la iniciativa tomada por el Presidente del Consejo de incluir este tema en el programa del Consejo de conformidad con el Plan de Acción Inmediato. También sugeriría dedicar el tiempo adecuado en el futuro para debatir con más profundidad estas temáticas.

Hemos llegado a la conclusión de esta 5ª Sesión. Mañana continuaremos los trabajos a las 9.30 horas de la mañana. Inmediatamente después de que se levante esta reunión el Comité de Redacción iniciará su primera reunión en la Sala del Líbano.

The meeting rose at 21:35 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.35 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trente-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
Rome, 15-19 juin 2009
Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

18 June 2009

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:43 hours
Mr Li Zhengdong,
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Li Zhengdong,
Vice-président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.43 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Li Zhengdong,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (cont'.d)
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (Continuación)

**7. Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2007
(C 2009/INF/10) and 2008 (C 2009/INF/14)**

**7. Rapports annuels du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités
en 2007 (C 2009/INF/10) et 2008 (C 2009/INF/14)**

**7. Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades del PMA
en 2007 (C 2009/INF/10) y 2008 (C 2009/INF/14)**

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

I declare open the seventh meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Council.

The first Item on our Agenda this morning will be under my stewardship. I am from the delegation of China. Today I have a very good opportunity to chair this meeting in Chinese. As you all know, Chinese is a very beautiful language. In the past we had seldom an opportunity to chair a meeting in Chinese, in this beautiful language. Therefore, I wish you a pleasant meeting this morning.

The first Item on our Agenda this morning is Item 7, Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2007 and 2008.

Please ensure you have documents C 2009/INF/10 and C 2009/INF/14 before you.

I should like to extend a warm welcome to the following WFP Secretariat Members: Mr Aranda da Silva, Deputy Executive Director, ad interim; Claudia von Roehl, Secretary to the Executive Board; and Mohamed El-Kouhene, Deputy Director, Multilateral and NGO Relations Division.

I will now give the floor to Mr Aranda da Silva to introduce the Reports of the WFP Executive Board for 2007 and 2008.

Manuel ARANDA DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, a.i., World Food Programme)

I am happy to present to you the Annual Reports to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2007 and for 2008. These reports were approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2008 and 2009, respectively.

The Reports tell a story of WFP's progress in meeting global challenges through UN System-wide cooperation and partnerships. Given the greater intergovernmental and interagency attention to UN reform, the reports provide more information on how WFP is moving forward in implementing the UN Reform to increase the coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development and humanitarian programmes.

In 2007, climate change emerged as a major global challenge for the United Nations. System-wide cooperation was immediately recognized as critical to meeting the multiple facets of this challenge. WFP contributed to the UN's efforts through active participation in interagency and intergovernmental discussions, including the drafting of the Chief Executives Board statements and policies on the subject, and the Secretary-General's High-Level Event on Climate Change at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

In 2008, while climate change continued to be a major United Nations System-wide cooperation issue, the global food and financial crisis emerged as a new challenge that the United Nations was uniquely positioned to mitigate. As a result of natural disasters, conflicts and high food prices, WFP's funding requirements rose from US\$3.1 billion to US\$5.8 billion during the course of 2008. WFP recast its original Programme of Work for 2008 to meet the increasing costs of food and fuel and to provide for the larger numbers of people in need of immediate assistance. By

year's end, donors had contributed more than US\$5 billion, a record sum that enabled WFP to deliver an unprecedented amount of food assistance to more than 102 million people in 78 countries.

Let me put these figures into perspective. Compared to 2007, when WFP's contributions amounted to USD 2.7 billion, we provided food assistance to over 86 million beneficiaries in 80 countries.

Let me briefly outline some of WFP's major achievements in working in United Nations reform and interagency cooperation.

First, we worked to increase our leadership role of the humanitarian logistics cluster – from four to seven emergencies in 2007 to 2008. In addition, we continued co-leadership of the emergency telecommunications cluster, under which the principles governing relationships among United Nations and Inter-Agency Standing Committee logistics bodies were reviewed to increase their effectiveness and clarity.

Second, WFP remained by far the largest appealing agency in the Common Appeals Process, accounting for 36 percent in 2007 and for 38 percent in 2008 of all requirements. WFP received over 90 percent of requirements against appeals in both years.

Third, WFP increased its participation in joint programmes dramatically, from 46 in 2006 to 84 in 2007. Hence, WFP's involvement in joint programmes peaked in 36 countries in 2007, compared with 27 in 2006. In 2008, though involved in joint programmes in slightly less countries, WFP intensified the quality of its joint programmes, which remained constant compared with 2007. The main areas of cooperation were education, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition. Let me point out here that one third were implemented in the Delivering as One pilot countries, which brings me to my next point.

Fourth, in 2007, WFP supported the piloting of Delivering as One, particularly in the four pilot countries where WFP has country offices: Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda and Tanzania. In Mozambique, for instance, WFP played a key role in six of the 11 joint programmes, and was the convening agency for one programme implemented together with the FAO and IFAD.

In fact, the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review gave further impetus to ongoing reform so that in 2008 WFP increased its involvement in the Delivering as One pilot countries, particularly in linking joint programmes aligned with national priorities.

Let me provide you with a good example. In Cape Verde, the Government signed a One Programme document with the United Nations on 1 July 2008 to address the implications of Cape Verde's graduation from the group of least developed countries and its attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. WFP-supported school feeding was integrated into the new budgetary framework to be handed over to the Government.

Fifth, WFP continued to support the enhancement of the Resident Coordinator system. In 2007, WFP's Executive Director participated in the induction of new Resident Coordinators to stress WFP's commitment to UN Reform and delivery of results at the country level. WFP also supported the improvement of the Humanitarian Coordinator system through interagency collaborative mechanisms established under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In 2008, four WFP staff were assigned as Resident Coordinators to Algeria, Cambodia, Myanmar and Tajikistan and we expect further WFP staff to take these positions this year.

Sixth, WFP continues to strengthen its partnerships. Let me concentrate here specifically on the collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies - WFP, FAO and IFAD - which is of utmost importance. We have come a long way in these past two very eventful years.

In 2007 and 2008, WFP and FAO collaborated in over 60 countries, while cooperation between WFP and IFAD took place in 14 countries.

In February 2007, the WFP Executive Board urged the Rome-based Agencies to improve collaboration by developing a strategic partnership. We initiated a joint Mapping Exercise to

identify and report on our collaboration. This analysis was at three levels – Headquarters, regional and country levels around five pillars: agricultural investment; policy formulation; capacity-building, knowledge management and advocacy; emergency and rehabilitation; and administration.

In November 2007, WFP submitted a paper entitled “Collaboration Among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies” to the Executive Board on the Mapping Exercise. The Board urged WFP, subsequent to the strategic planning process, to consult with FAO and IFAD on drafting a joint document on the directions that future purpose-driven partnerships could take at the global, regional and country levels.

This joint document entitled “Directions for Collaboration Among the Rome-based Agencies”, is now finalized and will be presented to the respective Governing Bodies this year.

In line with WFP’s current Strategic Plan, which makes collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies a central element of its partnership approach, the Directions identify responses to current challenges, such as food price rises and climate change. They reaffirm our commitment to improved collaboration in the future. We have three main objectives of this joint collaboration.

First, we collaborate with a common vision to address world food security on the basis of the “twin-track approach” intended to: alleviate hunger through food assistance nutrition support measures and social safety nets, and eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty; through long-term support to agricultural development and smallholder farmers.

Second, we work to strengthen the capacities of the three agencies to achieve their goals in providing guidance and support to the international community.

Third, we work to assist member countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 1.

In 2008, WFP, FAO and IFAD were active in the Food Security Theme Groups, which are important elements of responses to food insecurity at the country level. The Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on Food Security and the Comprehensive Framework for Action underlined the need for coordination among stakeholders. The Rome-based Agencies were prominent in promoting the twin-track approach to global food and nutrition security. At the Doha International Conference on Financing for Development, the Rome-based Agencies held a joint side event that emphasized the factors underlying the ongoing food crisis, drawing on the findings of the Comprehensive Framework for Action and outlining steps needed to achieve a more food-secure world.

Joint missions by the Rome-based Agencies, the World Bank and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development took place to identify country-specific responses to the food crisis in various countries.

Further, the Secretary-General’s Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group identified WFP as a major agency for implementing its recommendation for significant increases in school feeding and micronutrient-fortification programmes. The group endorsed an Agriculture and Food Security Business Plan. As a result of advocacy by the Rome-based Agencies, it called on governments to support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which provides a framework for national agriculture and food security strategies.

In June 2008, the Rome-based Agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to improve food production, food security and rural incomes, particularly in the context of Purchase for Progress by creating opportunities for small farmers.

These reports are in accordance with streamlined corporate reporting to the Board and WFP parent bodies. They are consistent with the United Nations Economic and Social Council format for annual reporting by United Nations Agencies, based on provisions of the General Assembly resolution on the TCPR of Operational Activities for Development. The Reports have an

Addendum which answers General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions which specifically mention WFP as a follow-up Agency, as well as the salient points raised at the FAO Council in June 2007.

On behalf of the World Food Programme, I look forward to strengthening this purpose-driven cooperation with FAO and IFAD, which makes a real difference in the lives of the hungry people we serve.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Aranda da Silva.

Before we start to discuss about it, can I just raise to hopes from me?

In order to maintain our high efficiency of the Council, at the same time consider this really heavy task this morning, Please make your interventions as brief as possible. Like a Chinese saying, "open your door and see the mountains straight away" – so direct and to the point.

May I also request you to please speak as slowly as you can.

Ms Harriet SPANSON (United States of America)

The United States thanks Manuel Aranda Da Silva for the thorough and thoughtful Reports to ECOSOC and FAO Council and for the succinct presentation today covering two years of activities. For the US, WFP remains our number one humanitarian partner and we appreciate WFP's active participation and leadership in the cluster system and WFP's commitment to build local capacity and promote food-security and respond to gender issues.

We also commend WFP's participation in delivering as one pilots and its collaboration with other UN Agencies and NGOs on joint programmes and hope that this intensive coordination efforts will lead to greater effectiveness and increased efficiencies.

Lastly, we are pleased with WFP's commitment to staff development and the increase in the number of WFP candidates for the resident coordinator system and we commend those WFP staff members who were designated as resident coordinators.

Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

Can I please ask you to pass the floor to the Czech Delegation, they will speak on behalf of the European Community.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

On behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States and the candidate country to the EU, Turkey, associates itself with this statement.

The European Community welcomes the Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2007 and 2008, which provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges that WFP has faced recently. Especially, the report of 2008 is very informative. We appreciate its detailed information on the cooperation of the Rome-based UN Agencies. We acknowledge that the year 2008 was extremely challenging for WFP because it had to cope with the rocketing food and fuel prices and the ongoing financial crisis.

The last two years 2007-2008 have been perceived as an important transitional period in WFP's history in which we witnessed the transformation from a food aid to a food assistance agency, the introduction of the new Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and innovative tools such as cash and voucher programmes.

The EC welcomes, in particular, current assessments based on the impact of WFP interventions rather than the previous input evaluation. We also welcome the increase in the number of beneficiaries assisted by the WFP through its emergency operations in response to the exceptional nature of the food price crisis that occurred in 2008. The EC provided important contributions and believes this is a substantial expression of the strengthening solidarity around the world.

The EC also recognises that WFP's achievements would have not been possible without the continued engagements of its implementing partners, local actors and donors. The unprecedented levels of aid and donor contributions demonstrate that even in times of crisis and pressure on budgets, we continue to remain engaged *vis-à-vis* those that need us most. It is, therefore, important that we continue enabling WFP in the implementation of its Strategic Plan to ensure that the most appropriate food assistance responses continue to be provided using sound needs assessment and response analysis, effective and efficient use of limited resources in a coordinated manner with other actors, the principles of partnership.

However, the EC regrets that the measuring outcomes, especially in 2008, remain a challenge for WFP as indicators were not clearly defined, methods of data collection differed and various data sources were used. At the same time, inadequate baselines were established to measure the impact of new activities.

The EC encourages WFP to continue its work in implementing appropriate food assistance responses and to ensure that its achievements for 2009 be measured on the basis of the indicators put forward in the Strategic Results Framework of the new Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

Finally, in view of the growing number of natural disasters and ongoing protracted crises affecting people worldwide and given the growing number of vulnerable people that rely on external assistance, we encourage WFP to continue prioritising and targeting its food assistance operations for 2009.

José QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación cubana agradece a la Secretaría del PMA por la calidad de los documentos que nos ha presentado, que ya fueron considerados por la Junta Ejecutiva de este organismo.

Reconocemos todas las gestiones del PMA en la movilización de fondos con los donantes, a los cuales lógicamente también agradecemos.

Invitamos a todos los estados miembros a continuar cooperando con el PMA para asistir a los países que presentan emergencias alimentarias. Invitamos también al PMA a continuar teniendo en cuenta, dentro de su Programa de Trabajo, las actividades de desarrollo, muy importantes para los países que las necesitan. Nuestra delegación quiere además manifestar el compromiso de Cuba de continuar cooperando con el PMA y de continuar trabajando junto a esta Organización, para contribuir a sus actividades en todo el mundo.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I shall try to be very brief, looking at the mountain immediately, and just having the door slightly ajar.

I would also like to thank Mr da Silva for the presentation and would like to mention four points: No. 1, the importance of WFP preserving its mandate; No. 2, the importance of fulfilling the Strategic Framework in all its aspects, not neglecting the very important development component; No. 3 Brazil welcomes very much the pilot experiences in the handing out of vouchers as well as the very important P for P; No. 4, we think that programmes like school feeding should be reinforced and continue for the beneficial returns in terms of fostering food security as well as restructuring production in target countries.

Farid Hasan BAKTIR (Indonesia)

At the outset, allow me to thank Mr Silva of WFP for the presentation of this report and I find now it is really impressive and very useful for Members. Indonesia is one of the Member Nations that has received a series of assistance from WFP in the last five years. Having said that, allow me also to express my sincere appreciation to WFP for its consistent assistance to the emergency cases in Indonesia through various projects such as school feeding, nutrition programmes for pregnant women and assistance programmes for the tsunami and earthquake-affected areas. I hope that WFP will keep its commitment to assist Indonesia, handling various emergency cases in the country.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation is grateful to Mr da Silva for introducing the Annual Reports of the Executive Board of WFP – the World Food Programme – concerning its activities in 2007 and 2008. We pay tribute to the work of the Secretariat and the Executive Board of WFP. In a very complex period of global food crisis, WFP has been one of the first, if not the first, to mobilize resources to provide the hungry populations of various countries with food, in particular in developing areas. Russia has been cooperating with WFP for some time, but has been doing so particularly intensively in recent years. As you know, the Chairperson of the Executive Board of WFP is now a representative of the Russian Federation. Of course, the main thing is that WFP is a professional organization and mobilizes resources for assistance in emergency situations and provides assistance which is not otherwise reaching populations who are suffering from natural catastrophes or political conflicts.

It is important that the implementation of the main mandate fulfilled by the Organization be at the highest professional level. WFP is devoting itself to its main objective in what it does and also the programme is extending its activity to establish more stable and normal social and economic conditions in countries to ensure sustainable development for the production of food and to improve the welfare of populations. Furthermore, WFP is a major source of information and that information comes directly from the field and from the regions and countries from which we need information – information required for the activities of FAO as well as WFP. We feel that process should be further strengthened. We should reinforce cooperation between FAO and WFP, using more progressive methods and we welcome a move towards this on the part of WFP whilst retaining its main mandate, that is providing assistance to populations in order to alleviate hunger, provide assistance to women and children, alleviate poverty and we are grateful to the Organization for the report on what it has done in the last few years.

Beide MELAKU (Ethiopia)

Allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to WFP for the excellent report and also to express my delegation's appreciation for the support that WFP is providing to my country, particularly the various programmes that are going on in the country, especially Merat and the productive safety net which programmes are concerned with the protection and development of livelihoods in the rural areas of my country.

Michael Muchenje NYERE (Zimbabwe)

We want to commend Mr da Silva for the various full reports. We appreciate the WFP's activities in Africa and particularly in Zimbabwe. We commend the WFP's cooperation with the other UN Organizations and other players, like Brazil. We want to stress the importance of development activities along with major activities.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

Would anyone else wish to take the floor? Any further speakers? I see no further cards raised. And therefore, I should like to thank all delegations who have taken the floor and I shall now give the floor back to Mr Aranda da Silva to respond to the points made by delegations in their statements. You have the floor.

Manuel ARANDA DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, a.i., World Food Programme)

Thank you very much for all your support and comments. I would like, in particular, to thank the United States of America, Indonesia, Russia and Ethiopia for their words of support, and to ensure that the comments that have been made by the European Commission have been in the core of our concerns of improving our way to measure results that have been discussed in the last Executive Board as a critical issue for next year, where we want to align the measurement results-based indicators based on our new strategic plan and we are doing that. We hope to be able to report to you next year with a much more consistent type of figures on that.

Also, to acknowledge the comment of Brazil concerning the comprehensive field of work of WFP and, in particular, we acknowledge also the leadership of Brazil in the world on fighting hunger using social safety nets and social protection measures that we are learning from with many countries, but in particular Brazil, to introduce in our programming.

Thank you very much for your kind words.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

I should like to thank Mr Aranda da Silva for his reply. This was a very successful discussion and you all saw the mountains immediately and were very efficient in your statements. I thank you.

I shall now provide a summary of our discussions this morning under this item of the agenda.

The Council noted that the WFP Executive Board provided a report for 2007-2008 and we have taken note of this report. At the same time the Council expresses appreciation for the efforts undertaken and the results achieved by WFP and encourages Rome-based Organizations to further strengthen the cooperation between them and with other stakeholders as well.

I think this concludes discussion of Item 7 of the Agenda and I should like to thank the representatives of WFP for their attendance.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

V. OTHER MATTERS (Cont'd)

V. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)

V. OTROS ASUNTOS (Continuación)

21. Any Other Matters

21. Questions diverses

21. Otros asuntos

21.1 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (CL 136/INF/7)

21.1 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (CL 136/INF/7)

21.1 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (CL 136/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

We shall now move on to Item 21 of our Agenda; Item 21.1 first of all. I should like to refer you to document CL 136/INF/7. This item is entitled Margarita Lizárraga Medal.

This medal is awarded biennially by the Conference upon the proposal of the Council to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The medal pays tribute to an FAO Official responsible for fisheries, Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga.

I now give the floor to Mr Nomura, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department who will introduce this Agenda Item.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The FAO Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, by Resolution 18/97, instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded biennially by the Conference upon the proposal of the Council to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

For the 2008-2009 Award, the Selection Committee, in accordance with the Director-General's Bulletin No. 2008/26, received three candidates which had been drawn from 15 nominations received both inside and outside of FAO.

The Selection Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the Margarita Lizárraga Medal be awarded to Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia.

Dr Iyambo is the first individual to be awarded the medal, while five past winners since 1999 are all organizations. He was selected with recognition of his national, regional and international leadership with distinction in the application of the Code through implementation of responsible fisheries science, policies and management including the negotiation leading to the Reykjavik Declaration, contribution to the establishment of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BCLME), the Benguela-Environment-Fisheries-Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) as well as the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

You may wish to invite the Council to endorse the nomination of Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia, and propose that the Medal be presented to the Minister by the Director-General, as part of the proceedings of the next Session of the Conference.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Me permito leer esta intervención a nombre del Representante Permanente de México, Embajador José Eduardo Chen Charpentier, que hubiera deseado estar en este momento, en esta ocasión que nosotros consideramos importante.

Mi delegación desea reiterar su sincero respaldo a la entrega de la medalla Margarita Lizárraga, la cual se realizará durante el 36° Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO en noviembre próximo, tal como se ha venido celebrando desde 1997, cuando este acto conmemorativo fue instituido por la Conferencia de este organismo durante su 29° Período de Sesiones.

México refrenda su compromiso con el desarrollo de aprovisionamiento sostenibles de los recursos pesqueros y por ello comparte con orgullo la trascendencia de este tradicional reconocimiento otorgado por la FAO en honor de la Doctora Margarita Lizárraga Saucedo, nacional mexicana, que dedicó su vida al servicio y promoción de la pesca, la acuicultura y la agricultura, en aras del beneficio nacional, regional e internacional, marcando siempre un énfasis especial en la defensa de las aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo.

Margarita Lizárraga fue una mexicana que se caracterizó por su responsabilidad, dedicación y sensibilidad social. Su carrera profesional de más de treinta años, culminó precisamente en la FAO, donde contribuyó decididamente a la adopción de un instrumento internacional de pesca que constituyó un rito histórico, el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

El Comité de Selección para la concesión de la medalla Margarita Lizárraga otorga este importante reconocimiento a una persona u organización que siguiendo estos intereses de beneficio colectivo se haya distinguido en la aplicación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. En este sentido el Comité de Selección, reunido el 4 de marzo pasado, acordó de forma unánime otorgar por primera vez la medalla Margarita Lizárraga a una persona física, el señor Abraham Yllambo, Ministro de Pesca y Recursos Marinos de Namibia. Su sólida preparación profesional, innegable capacidad de liderazgo y genuino intencionalismo por el fomento del sector de la pesca y la acuicultura a nivel nacional, regional e internacional, hacen del señor Abraham Yllambo un merecedor indiscutible de la medalla Margarita Lizárraga por parte de esta Organización, por lo cual mi delegación, la delegación de México, desea expresar su más amplio y sincero respaldo a tal candidatura, esperando que el Consejo ratifique dicha nominación y en consecuencia se otorgue la medalla al señor Ministro Abraham Yllambo como parte de la actividad del próximo Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia.

México agradece la FAO por mantener vivo el recuerdo y la invaluable contribución que la Doctora Margarita Lizárraga dio al sector de la pesca y la acuicultura e invita todas las

delegaciones presentes a continuar los esfuerzos para mejorar las condiciones sociales de las pequeñas comunidades de pescadores, para fomentar la creación de mecanismos que promuevan y faciliten la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo y para impulsar las redes de interacción constructiva en materia pesquera a nivel subregional, regional e internacional, pues sólo así se fortalecerá y se logrará el desarrollo sostenible y duradero de este importante sector.

Michael Muchenje NYERE (Zimbabwe)

The Africa Group would like to express its full support for the awarding of the medal for the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Honourable Minister Abraham Iyambo of Namibia. The Honourable Minister has played a sterling role in the development of the fisheries sector in Africa.

In Southern Africa, in particular, he has played a very important role in the fisheries problems that arose in the Zambezi Basin.

We are sincerely grateful that his efforts have been recognized. We thank you.

Abdul Razad AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the countries of the Near East. We give our full support to the statement made by the distinguished representative of Mexico and the distinguished representative of Zimbabwe.

Alexandr OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would also like to support all the statements we have heard already to the effect that we should award the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Minister of Fisheries of Namibia, Dr Abraham Iyambo.

The Russian Federation was elected as a Member of the Bureau during the Twenty-seventh Session of COFI and participated in the discussion on this issue and at that point we voted in favour of this candidacy. We believe, according to our information, fisheries management in Namibia, in which our candidate Dr Iyambo is involved, that system is one of the best in the world and he really therefore deserves the award of this medal.

Beide MELAKU (Ethiopia)

My delegation fully supports the statement made by Zimbabwe and Mexico, and also wishes to congratulate the Minister Iyambo and the country Namibia.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

Ghana supports the statement made by Zimbabwe and all other speakers. We also endorse that the award be given to Honourable Abraham Iyambo who has done a sterling job in implementing the Code of Conduct.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Last time we looked at the mountain, this time we will look at the water. My delegation welcomes very much the decision of the selection committee to award the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia, and we are very honoured to fully endorse that decision.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Panamá también se une al apoyo por lo manifestado por México, Zimbabwe y todos los países que me han precedido en el hecho de otorgar la medalla Margarita Lizárraga al Ministro de Pesca y Recursos Marinos de Namibia.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

Thank you. Is there any delegate who wishes to take the floor? If there is nobody, then I would like to thank all the delegates who took the floor.

Now I will invite Mr Nomura to reply to the points raised.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Thank you very much for your kind words and I apologize that I just forgot to mention how much we appreciate the continuous support from the Government of Mexico for this Medal, both spiritually and budgetarily. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Chinese)

Thank you, Mr Nomura, for introducing this item of the agenda. If there are no more comments I can conclude that the Council endorses the nomination of the Hon. Abraham Yambo, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia, and recommends that the Director-General delivers the Margarita Lizarraga medal to be presented to the Hon. Minister at the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference in November 2009. Are there any comments or additions? We conclude Item 2.1.

So, I finished my Chairperson ship for this morning, it was very short. But I believe that you understood the beauty of the Chinese language. Fortunately, I'm a Permanent Representative here so I will have more opportunities in the future to make you listen to the beauty of the Chinese language and bring you happiness.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mahammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI, Independant Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair

Mahammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Mahammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends. Let me start by thanking His Excellency Li Zhengdong for chairing the first part of the meeting this morning and also Ambassador Moret Echeverría, the Ambassador of Cuba, for chairing yesterday evening session. I appreciate their willingness and ability to steer the Council to this agenda.

9. Preparations for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference (CL 136/12)

9. Préparatifs relatifs à la trente-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO

(CL 136/12)

9. Preparativos para el 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO

(CL 136/12)

9.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable

9.1 Organisation et calendrier provisoire de la session

9.1 Preparativos para el período de sesiones y calendario provisional

9.2 Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of Council

9.2 Date limite de dépôt des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil

9.2 Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo

9.3 Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II

9.3 Désignation du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents de la Commission I et de la Commission II

9.3 Presentación de candidaturas para los cargos de Presidente de la Conferencia y presidentes de las comisiones I y II

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed with Item 9: Preparations for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference. The relevant document for this item is CL 136/12. The sub-items are:

9.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable.

9.2 Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of Council.

9.3 Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II.

Ms Williams, Secretary-General of the Conference and the Council, will introduce this item. Madam, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Document CL/136/12 contains proposals on the conduct of the 36th Session of the Conference, including the Provisional Agenda. The Provisional Timetable will be placed before the Council for approval at its 137th Session in September this year.

Mr Chairperson of the Conference will vote on the following matters: the admission of any Applicant Members, the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of Council, the election of the Council Members, the budget level for the next biennium, amendments to the Basic Texts brought about as a result of the IPA.

CHAIRPERSON

What we would need to discuss right now, among the points that Ms Williams raised, is the Provisional Agenda for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, which is Appendix A to this document CL 136/12 that you have. I would like to have your views on this Agenda.

Do you endorse this Agenda? The timetable will be prepared and we will discuss it during our next meeting of the Council in September. It seems that there is no question or comment on that.

India, you have the floor.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

I just want to seek a couple of clarifications. If my understanding is correct, there is some discussion on dates for COFI earlier today?

CHAIRPERSON

This is only for endorsement of the Agenda. All other items or comments on the election of the Chairperson of the Council will be dealt with now, one by one.

Do I have your approval now? Brazil.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I understand that we take note of this Provisional Agenda as I understand that the Final Agenda will be approved when the Conference starts.

CHAIRPERSON

That is correct; we take note of the Provisional Agenda. Any other comments or questions?

So, the Council took note of the Provisional Agenda and they will discuss it later on during the Conference itself.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We can now proceed with Sub-item 9.2: Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of Council. Ms Williams, you have the floor.

So the proposal is that we set the Deadline for Nominations for the Independent Chairperson for 7 September. Then one week later, the Secretary-General will distribute all the nominations for information of the Members.

Does this meet with your expectations? No comments?

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is proposed in paragraph 21 of document CL 136/12 that the deadline for the submission of nominations for the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of Council be set at 12:00 hrs on 7 September 2009, and that 14 September 2009 be set as the date by which such nominations are circulated by the Secretary General. Please note that the deadline for the submission of nominations will be Monday 7 September 2009, and not Friday, as erroneously mentioned in paragraph 21 of document CL/136/12. Are there any objections to these proposed dates?

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Sub-item 9.3: Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II.

After consultations with the Regional Groups, it has been proposed that a representative from the United States of America be nominated to the Post of the Chairperson of the Conference. Do I have your approval on that?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

The Council will endorse the nomination of the person proposed by the United States of America at its 137th Session in September, it means the name. Now that we have appointed and agreed on the country, the name will be decided at the September meeting. This nomination will then be submitted to the Conference in November.

With regard to the nomination of the Chairperson of Commission I of the Conference, following consultation with regional groups, I understand that Mr Noel De Luna from Philippines is proposed for this Post.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

With regards to the nomination of the Chairperson of Commission II of the Conference, further to consultations with the Regional Groups, I understand that the Representative of the Netherlands

will be proposed for election to this post. We do not have the name yet but we do have the country. Do I have your endorsement?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

I trust the Netherlands will communicate the name of the nominee in time for the next Session of the Council in September 2009.

At its September 2009 Session, the Council will also be asked to nominate the Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the Members of the General Committee, the Credentials Committee and Resolutions Committee. This, for your information, to be prepared before next September.

These Vice-Chairpersons and the Members of the General Committee, the Credentials Committee, and Resolutions Committee.

Paragraph 5 of the document CL 136/12, the document under consideration, makes reference to IPA Action 2.5. It states that, I quote: "each Session of Conference will usually have one major theme agreed by the Conference, normally, on the recommendation of the Council".

I contacted the Regional Group Chairs on the question of the theme to be selected for the 36th Session of the Conference and note that there is a broad consensus on this topic, which is "Ensuring Food Security in a Context of Global Challenges to Agriculture".

Can I take that Council wishes to recommend this as main theme for the General Debate at the 36th Session of the Conference?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

The theme will be communicated to the Membership with the letter of invitation to participate in the Conference, which will be dispatched in August, and the background document will be posted on the Conference Webpage.

We now move on to our final Item for today, Item 20: Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2009-2011.

Brazil has a Point of Order.

Point of Order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

Renato MOSCA (Brasil)

Yo quisiera expresar que me pareció muy rápida la aprobación de este Tema General para la Conferencia.

Yo deseo decir, en nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, que nosotros no estamos en desacuerdo con el Tema sino que nos gustaría hacer una pequeña alteración, si fuera posible, porque entendemos que para lograr la seguridad alimentaria en un contexto de crisis, la

agricultura es solamente una parte de lo que entendemos ser el problema de la seguridad alimentaria.

La seguridad alimentaria también guarda una fuerte relación con el problema del acceso. No es solamente con la producción de la agricultura que se logrará la seguridad alimentaria. El mismo Director General ya expresó en esta casa que hay producción agrícola en el mundo para toda la población pero tenemos que pensar que el problema de la seguridad alimentaria es de acceso y de distribución.

Pensamos que podríamos intentar hacer algo como la seguridad alimentaria con la agricultura en el contexto de la crisis global, o sea analizar todos los puntos que verdaderamente contribuyen para la inseguridad alimentaria y no solamente la producción agrícola, sino también otros temas.

No es muy diferente de lo que está propuesto pero esto nos daría un entendimiento más completo del tema y de la problemática de seguridad alimentaria. Entonces repito, tratar el tema de la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura en el contexto de la crisis mundial.

CHAIRPERSON

Please repeat exactly what is your proposal for everybody to take note and then we discuss it.

Renato MOSCA (Brasil)

Ayer enviamos esta información a la Secretaría en la persona del Sr. Mekouar y puedo repetir. Nos referíamos a la seguridad alimentaria y agricultura en el contexto de la crisis mundial o global. Esto nos permitiría aclarar el tema sin salir de él y nos permitiría discutir la seguridad alimentaria como un tema más allá de una simple gestión de producción.

CHAIRPERSON

Now you have all heard the proposal by GRULAC, which is more or less the same thing in a broader context, which is Food and Agriculture in the Context of Global Crisis.

I would like to have your reactions to that.

Beide MELAKU (Ethiopia)

My delegation would fully agree with the proposal made by Brazil, on behalf of Latin America and Caribbean countries.

I think the issue is not only one of production. The issue is one of production, availability and distribution of food. Therefore, it has to be treated in a comprehensive and holistic way and my delegation fully agrees with the proposal made by Brazil.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

My delegation agrees with the GRULAC, but we need to work on the language whereas it conveys the concerns which our friends from GRULAC have in their mind, but to leave it in the context of global crisis does not really explain what kind of a crisis we are talking about. Or, are we all in such a situation that everything is a crisis?

The first part is absolutely correct. We have to look at food security and agriculture together rather than leaving food security in the context of developing agriculture. That is well taken but my position is that we do look at the second part of this rather cryptic subject. The question is, what type of a global crisis are you talking about? It becomes very difficult to explain in a very long-winded sentence so, therefore, probably we need to work on the language a little, if my colleague from Brazil will accept this addition.

Andul Razad AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am with my colleague from India because leaving it as a "Crisis" not everything is in a crisis, there are challenges also.

One thing I would like to ask Brazil, I do not want to eliminate the word "Ensuring" because that is very important.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

The "Crisis" is a very sharp word. Last year, up to the beginning of this year, when we talked about crisis the perception was food crisis, but this year, when you talk about crisis, the perception is a financial or an economy crisis. So, as India suggested, I think we had better refrain from using the word "Crisis" in the phrase and perhaps consider more a word like "Challenges". It seems to be more attractive to me.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I have just a question of clarification. I know that we have not decided yet on when we will have the World Food Summit but, to be honest with you, what we are talking about now – as a theme for the Conference – it sounds a lot like the World Food Summit, which will have happened, in theory, two days before. So, it sounds a bit repetitive to me. Maybe it depends if we do postpone the Summit to allow more time for the preparation. Maybe then the theme is appropriate because we will have some discussions at the Conference, in the lead-up to a better preparation for the Summit. Otherwise, if we leave the timing in November, it sounds like we are talking about the same theme for the whole week.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Australia, it is a good consideration as well.

Would anybody like to propose either a different version of this proposed theme or something else?

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

Can I suggest that we postpone the decision on the topic for the Conference until we have made a decision about the timing for the World Food Summit?

CHAIRPERSON

To me it seems like a good suggestion. I think it is right, let's decide on the Summit first and if we decide on the Summit the issue of food security will be fully discussed there and we have to think about it.

My general thinking was that since we already have agreed on the 11 Strategic Objectives of FAO and we discussed them so broadly among ourselves, one of those objectives might be a good theme for the next Conference.

So, we postpone the discussion on that after deciding on the Summit. Meanwhile, please review the Strategic Objectives and you might find a good topic as the next topic for our Conference.

Do I have your agreement on that?

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

No tengo problema con lo que usted está proponiendo, quiero sólo hacer una pregunta sin demorar ni complicar este tema. Creo entender que estamos hablando del período de conferencias normal y es simplemente para conocimiento. ¿Desde cuándo las Conferencias tienen nombre? ¿Es necesario ponerle un nombre a la Conferencia que se reúne cada dos años? ¿Estamos hablando de eso? Disculpe la confusión.

CHAIRPERSON

I did not get your point about a name for the Conference.

Ok, yes, we said that we will have the theme, but let's decide it after deciding about the Summit because if the Summit and the Conference are back-to-back, we do not want to repeat what was said in the Summit in the Conference.

So, when we have decided on that, we can better decide on the theme for the Summit.

It seems that I do have your agreement on that so we will keep this pending – we have a few Items pending – and add that to the others and come back to them later.

20. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2009-2011

(CL 136/INF/6)

20. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales 2009-2011 (CL 136/INF/6)

20. Calendario para 2009-2011 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 136/INF/6)

Chairperson

We move to Item 20, the Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions during 2009-2011, as contained in document CL 136/INF/6.

In Appendix A, changes to the Calendar for 2009 are indicated with an asterisk to enable the Council to have a complete picture of the pattern of sessions this year.

On 21 April this year, I circulated the draft calendar for 2010-2011 given in Appendix B to document CL 136/INF/6 to the Regional Groups through their Chairpersons. The comments received have been summarized in Appendix C.

Although the Calendar for 2010 does not have to be approved until the Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session of Council in November immediately after the Conference, it is important that the Council at this present Session takes a decision on the following: the dates proposed for the 2010 round of the five Regional Conferences and the dates proposed for Sessions of the five Technical Committees – so, Sessions of the Regional Conferences and Sessions of the Technical Committees.

This would allow Host Countries and Governing Body secretariats sufficient lead time to organize these major meetings.

I will go through the proposed changes one by one and seek the approval of Council for each proposed change.

First, Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Republic of Korea), we have received a request.

The Republic of Korea, the Host Country for the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, has requested that the dates of the Regional Conference be moved to September or October 2010 due to elections scheduled to be held in that country in June 2010, and unfavourable weather conditions during the summer months. This proposal refers specifically to the 2010 Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The 2012 Session of this Regional Conference would return to the IPA recommended timing for Regional Conferences – as you know we have the IPA recommendations for Regional Conferences to be held in the first quarter of the first year of the biennium. It is therefore suggested that the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific – and only this Conference – be held from 6 to 10 September 2010.

This is the proposal and I explained the reason this is proposed and this is an exceptional change.

I call the Republic of Korea for further clarifications.

SEO Hae-dong (Republic of Korea)

As the delegation of the host country for the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, I would like to explain our views on this matter.

The Korean Government had examined this matter very seriously and repeatedly in every aspect and in May our Government came to the difficult conclusion that the first and the second quarters of 2010 would not be appropriate. This matter was also discussed at the Asia Group Meeting and

on the whole, Member Nations in the region understood the situation in my country and expressed their views that they respect the decision of my Government as the Host Country.

I do not want to insist in making this case a general rule inserting the overall schedule for FAO Governing Bodies 2010-2011. It is actually an exceptional one. I hope to have further consultation with FAO Management on suitable concrete dates as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

You have listened to the distinguished Representative of North Korea and this is of course a deviation from IPA recommendations, but we can decide otherwise when there are reasons for doing so.

For the future meetings of Regional Conferences, I think you have these IPA's approved by the Conference – so that is Conference approved and we have to observe it – and before deciding on the Host Country, we have to take everything into account. You know we are in a transition period and we have to make some adjustments, just exceptionally, in this transition period.

In this regard, I seek your agreement to this change.

I see no opposition to that.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

The Near East Regional Conference.

The Near East Regional Group has requested that the Thirtieth Regional Conference for the Near East be held in April 2010.

I propose that the Secretariat approach the Host Country to ascertain whether dates in the latter part of March are feasible given the absence of an available slot in April.

Do you agree that if the Secretariat talks to Sudan, and if they agree to have this in March then we change this date to March?

The Chairperson for the Near East is here and he is asking for the floor.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Concerning this issue, we have exhaustively dealt with the distinguished delegate of Sudan. Indeed the delegate of Sudan said it would be appropriate to convene it in April. However, if this proves to be impossible or difficult, we can choose the last 10 days in March because maybe some circumstances in Sudan might obstruct such a convening of a Regional Meeting. I believe that contact should be made with Sudan in order to establish the appropriate date.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the Region Near East accepts my proposal that the Secretariat should contact the host country and then decide on a date.

Do I have your approval?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Spain, which will hold the Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2010, has informed the Secretariat that a meeting of the European Ministers of Agriculture has been convened during the week of 3-7 May 2010.

It is therefore proposed to schedule the Twenty-seventh Regional Conference for Europe from 10-14 May 2010 and consequently, if we do that, the Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council from 17-21 May 2010.

So, because of that meeting we have to change the meeting of the Regional Conference for Europe and if we do that, we have to change the date of our Council meeting from 17- 21 May.

Do I have your endorsement of this?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

The Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Nomura evoked and decided this issue under Item 3 of the Twenty-eighth Session of COFI. It is proposed that the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI be held from 24-28 January 2011. It has to be pointed out that this is out of cycle with the IPA model. However, Mr Nomura and the present Chairperson of COFI have drawn our attention to the broader institutional architecture of which COFI forms a part. I think that Mr Nomura explained to you that, to get information from others further related to COFI, they have made this proposal.

It is proposed that the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI be held from 24-28 January 2011.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

Just a quick question, is this a one-off change and in subsequent years it will go back to what the IPA says?

CHAIRPERSON

Yes. This a one time change for this coming Session.

Argentina has asked for the floor.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observadora de Argentina)

Deseamos solicitar, al igual que lo hicimos en el COFI como miembros plenos, es que la reunión pudiera tener lugar excepcionalmente en el mes de febrero. Enero para los países del sur es como agosto en Europa. Esto lo hemos reiterado en varias oportunidades durante la reunión del COFI.

En ese sentido, también con carácter excepcional, y tal como lo preguntó Australia, yo también pido que la reunión del COFI se realice durante la primera o la segunda semana de febrero, con carácter excepcional.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We do not have any problem with the proposal made by Mr Nomura regarding the holding the meeting of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI from 24-28 January 2011.

CHAIRPERSON

May I come back to the Secretariat, Mr Nomura, do you want to take the floor?

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

In consultation with the Chair of COFI, I had also been talking informally with PBE.

Even though the last week of January is not perfect in the view of PBE, it is not impossible. Nonetheless, as far as the COFI members' wishes are concerned, February is not a problem but I was told that in view of making available the COFI report to the Programme and Finance Committee which meets some time in March, I was told that February was a bit too late so that is why the date of January is the best choice, at least in view of the COFI Chair as well as the Secretariat.

If I may, one clarification regarding the request from the delegation of Australia. I do not know if it is a good idea that this change of COFI is only one time or not, because the reason why we are discussing the revised schedule of COFI is not one time because we would like to avoid a clash with other important meetings as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution which has a lot of impact on COFI. So it is not only for the issue which may come out of the next biennium. Nonetheless, of course we may want to try if this schedule may still maintain the vantage position of COFI as well as not disrupt the FAO cycle. In that kind of understanding we can say it is a trial but please do not misunderstand that this is only a one time cause.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not want to misinterpret this statement by Mr Nomura.

For the time being we are only deciding on a one-time change. For the future it goes against IPA; if we want to do it, we have to do it in the right context to see how to deal with it.

For the time being, only a one-time change on what we have discussed.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I am looking at the Calendar here for 2009, Appendix B in document CL 136/INF/6.

I think we can accommodate, as suggested by Argentina, during the month of February and we have three meetings during the month of February here in Rome.

One is IFAD, the Governors' Council, we have WFP the week after and then we have the Council. But it is mentioned here the meeting of the ECOSOC, I do not want to be selfish on this issue but none of the people in my mission will be participating in ECOSOC, but certainly we could look at the possibility of moving this meeting instead of January to February and it could be accommodated without conflicting with other meetings here in Rome. We also understand the circumstances in which this has been proposed and, exceptionally, we would flexibly interpret the IPA for the reasons that were alluded to by Mr Nomura and yourself and we should try and make this meeting in February and not in January.

CHAIRPERSON

The reason Mr Nomura mentioned was not the timing but the fact that the report may not be ready for the Council which is at the end of February, but since we have Mr Boyd here we might consult him to see the possibility. Mr Boyd, this is only about a week delay, does it really make a change?

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I would like to make the Council aware of the implications on the preparation of the Programme and Budget documents of this one-time proposed change in the timing of COFI.

Under the new cycle of preparation of the Programme and Budget documents starting in 2010, the Technical Committees are to provide their inputs on priorities normally during the first year of the biennium. Moving the COFI meeting into the second year of the biennium means that the inputs provided will not be seen by the Programme and Finance Committees and Council together with the other Technical Committee reports near the end of the first year.

Holding the COFI meeting in January of the second year would still allow the inputs of COFI to be taken into account in finalizing the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget documents, which must be completed by the middle of February in the second year of the biennium, that would be in February 2011, in order to despatch them to Members on the 21st of February, four weeks before the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees which are provisionally timetabled for 21-25 March.

Therefore, holding COFI in early February would mean that the views of COFI could not be taken into account in finalizing the documentation that would be presented to the Programme and Finance Committees and Council prior to transmission to the Conference for approval in the second year of the biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

My question is that according to your view, you have agreed to 24-28 January. Now the proposal is to move it to the first week in February. The change is not that drastic, is it impossible because participation is also important.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

The timing in January is not ideal. It would be in any case difficult to take into account the views of COFI only two or three weeks before the finalization of the documentation. As we move towards the final document, it will be more difficult to adjust the budget for COFI priorities.

The alternative is that the Programme and Finance Committees and Council simply receive the report of COFI together with the draft MTP and the Programme of Work and Budget documents, understanding that the views of COFI are not reflected in those documents.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Again looking at the very useful provisional calendar we all have before us, I see for the reasons mentioned by Mr Haight, why not to move this COFI meeting to the first half of December which is empty and there are empty slots for meetings so we would not coincide with the IFAD Executive Bureau the week before that. It certainly could be a possibility and not getting too close to the end of the year festivities.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

That is not impossible but that is not the best time for COFI members, simply because we do not know whether or not the final stage of the UN General Assembly Resolution on sustainable fishery, which has a lot of relevance to COFI, has been completed or not. It is very delicate timing. There is also a big Fishery Management Meeting for the first week in December. We were told informally that if we schedule it in December, some delegations, particularly from the Asia region, would not be able to participate. So it is not impossible but for the sake of COFI, January/February does not make a big difference to us, but December/January makes a big difference. Nonetheless, if it is the wish of the Council then the first week of December is still better than September, October and November.

Ms Stephanie HARRIS-LALONDE (Canada)

Canada cannot agree to do other competing Fisheries events. Canada cannot agree to a meeting in December, it is going to be very difficult for Canada to participate, so our preference would be January/February and if that is not possible, June 2010.

CHAIRPERSON

So the choice is between the proposed date in January and the first week in February.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I see we have many possibilities and many questions related to all these possibilities.

Could I suggest to you, without us running away from this decision, that we postpone such a decision until the September Council in which we can have made the contacts and see the conflicts of possible dates? I think we could put on our report that this decision will be taken at the September Council meeting for us to be able to ascertain all the implications relating to possibilities of dates.

CHAIRPERSON

Legally, we do not have any difficulty with that, because we do not have to decide during this meeting, but let's come to the Secretariat to see. Do you have any difficulty with that Mr Namura? Sorry, before that India has asked for the floor.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

I would tend to agree with the suggestion made by Brazil, that we finally look at the Calendar and its adoption in September. However, in September, we should not face the same questions. So it's best for all of us to at least, at this point, add all our views and objections that we may have on certain dates. Having said that, we also feel from India that December is not convenient because there are far too many commitments in December. Taking on from what Mr Namura said and the point made by Canada, we feel that December is not the best of times. As for June, this is for the Secretariat to examine. We are perfectly fine with June because now that there is no Council scheduled for June, it looks lighter than it has always been, so we probably can look at June but that is for the Secretariat to examine in all its implications.

CHAIRPERSON

We missed the opportunity of taking this to the Plan of Work and Budget. June 2010 is alright. Yes Mr Nomura.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I have to take issue with this proposal with our friends from Canada and India. June 2010 is out of the question, if I may say so. I tell you the reason. We already changed the general cycle of COFI and the Sub-committees. You remember we have two big Sub-committees on fish trade and aquaculture, big meetings, they report to COFI for decisions. So that really disrupts that. We follow your guidance, but we do appreciate very much that in order for us to schedule the Sub-committee, Sub-committee usually takes place in the Host Country with a kind invitation. The Sub-committee on Aquaculture has been already decided to be hosted by the Government of India and the Sub-committee on Fishery has been decided to be hosted by the Government of Argentina. We try to schedule that Sub-committee as soon as possible, unless we have a clear date for COFI, it will give us problems to reschedule that Sub-committee. So we would very much appreciate if we can have some indication, no formal decision, but general indication from Council, either last week of January or first week of February and that can be decided during the September meeting. That will give us a good relief.

CHAIRPERSON

So shall we decide that the COFI meeting should be between the last part of January or first week of February. We just put these dates, and then the exact date will be decided at the September meeting. We do have more time for consultation. So at least we give some indication to COFI, to Mr Nomura to plan other meetings and there is need for flexibility between these two times for the GRULAC. May I have your agreement on that? I do not see any flags raised.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

So COFI will be planned for the last week of January or first week of February according to the consultations between the different parties.

Now let's go to the Council. As regards the Council session at the beginning of 2011, it has been suggested by the European Regional Group that this be replaced by an informal budgetary meeting in the same period for information and preparation of the Programme and Work of Budget of the following biennium. So the proposal is that the Council, at the beginning of 2011, be replaced by an informal budgetary meeting. The purpose is to prepare for the Programme of Work Budget for the following year. And I now would like to secure your views on that.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

We would first of all like to understand the implications from Mr Haight on this and then probably react to the issues, because we really are not privy to consultations in the European Group. So what exactly would this imply, no. 1? No. 2, does he really find it necessary to have two Council meetings, one in February and the other one following it within just under two months in April? So, if we can have some explanation on this from the Secretariat, it will help us decide on the issue.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Same question, Sir.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

In fact, the 141st Council Session that is proposed for February 2011 does not figure in the cycle of Programme and Budget in a results-based monitoring. So it is not really an issue for Programme and Budget, but there could be other reasons for that meeting.

I think we would like to call the attention of the Council to what the Immediate Plan of Action says about informal consultations on extra-budgetary resources. Under action 3.9, it calls for, in the period of January to March of the second year of the biennium, not as part of the Governing Body cycle of meetings, an informal meeting to be held with interested Members and other potential sources of extra-budgetary funds and partnership to exchange information on extra-budgetary funding requirements, especially in relation to impact focus areas. If this is the meeting that is referred to by the European Group, then certainly it is something envisaged in the IPA.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Mekouar, do you have any explanation why we plan this Council for 21-24 February? Or do we have this proposed meeting of the European Summit or it has to change, or is it not in the calendar at all?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

According to the IPA, the Council should meet five times during the biennium and this is in the Action Matrix for the Council. We have Action 38, first year of the biennium with at least two meetings of the Council and Action 39, at least two and probably three main meetings of the Council, Action 38 and Action 39. As suggested by the European Group, the meeting that is foreseen in February 2011 could be replaced by the informal meeting on budgeting, and therefore we would have only four formal sessions of Council in the course of the biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

So it seems that if we change this and it means that we agree with the suggestions by Europeans, we are still in conformity with the IPA. We have at least five meetings of the Council in the biennium, and we have this recommendation of the IPA to have that informal consultation and it would be good to have it in February. With this can I have your endorsement of this proposal by the European Region or European Union? European Regional Group. It means that, yes. I think that there is a mistake. With this Council meeting in Feb 2011 it becomes six Council meetings, while in IPA we have planned for five. So this is a mistake. And so the proposal by the European Union, I think not only prevents this mistake but brings that meeting that is foreseen to our Calendar. Any comment? Do I have your agreement on that?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

About the Council we do have another consideration. It has also been proposed that the post-Conference Session of the Council in 2011 take place on one day rather than over two days and

we usually had this on one day, right? Do we have any reason why we have a schedule for two days? No, so the proposal is that we just keep the usual practice of having that post-Conference Council for one day, which is consistent with the efficiency savings. Do I have your agreement on that? Ok, Secretariat, Mr Mekouar?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I think the reason for that is that we are going into a new cycle of sessions and we do not know exactly what will be the items to be discussed in that post Conference Council Session, but as you said, I think since now we have started a new method of work with more efficiency in conducting the business of Council, so perhaps one day could be enough but also we may have the flexibility of planning two days, and complete working only one day if you can. So perhaps you could have flexibility of planning two and holding the session only in one day.

CHAIRPERSON

The proposal is that because we are not sure we can finish in one day, according to the new changes, let us have it for two days planned but the Secretariat would try to do it only in one day, or all of us together – to do it in one day. When I say all of us, excluding myself because I will not be there on that Council.

Do you agree with this decision? Thank you very much.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

12. Reports of the 121st (31 January - 1 February 2008), 122nd (22-30 May 2008), 123rd (6-10 October 2008), 124th (5 and 6 February 2009), 125th (9 and 10 March 2009) and 126th (11-15 May 2009) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8) (Cont'd)

12. Rapports des cent vingt et unième (31 janvier-1er février 2008), cent vingt-deuxième (22-30 mai 2008), cent vingt-troisième (6-10 octobre 2008), cent vingt-quatrième (5 et 6 février 2009), cent vingt-cinquième (9 et 10 mars 2009) et cent vingt-sixième (11-15 mai 2009) sessions du Comité financier (CL 135/6; CL 135/7; CL 135/7-Add.1; CL 135/8, CL 136/6; CL 136/6-Add.1; CL 136/7; CL 136/7-Add.1; CL 136/8) (suite)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to remind us of what we discussed and what we have to decide in this time. Mr Sorour, you have the floor.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson of the Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, I would like to remind you that if we take into account the logic adopted by the Finance Committee concerning the windfall gains and I should like to emphasize this concept – windfall gains - the unexpected income, that is to say. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was criticized by a number of Members whereby this windfall gain to be used in order to implement the IPA. Mr Chairperson, in principle, the Finance Committee did not give its final recommendation but it has agreed, in principle, on this procedure on the condition that this issue will be reconsidered again by the Finance Committee, if and I insist on this, if those windfall gains were to be achieved.

Mr Chairperson, the Finance Committee's adoption of this issue is conditional. We have not given a blank check in order to use these windfull gains. We wanted to make sure that the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009 should be complete on the basis of the General Conference's

adoption of such a procedure. So these are the two conditions put forward by the Finance Committee before deciding on the principle of using the windfall gains. These are my comments, Sir, thank you.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I would just like to add a few comments to this. Looking at the Resolution on the IPA, I would like to read this because it makes it clear that there is some discretion here. The Resolution reads "Decides implementation of the IPA of 2009 requires funding by extra-budgetary contributions and that its funding for 2009-2011 will be treated under the Programme of Work and Budget." Now it does not say exclusive funding and this is where I think what the Finance Committee is trying to do is to ensure that you have a good balance between the financial oversight responsibilities of fully implementing the Programme of Work and Budget, but also being very clear about cases where there may be extraordinary savings which could possibly be used for a number of purposes.

I think the language in the Finance Committee Report was aimed at incentivizing management that, in the case that there should be extraordinary gains, they put on their thinking caps and consider the possibility of possibly using this for the IPA with the caveat that that would come back to the Finance Committee. So again, as a point I made previously, this was an attempt to empower management to look at possibilities and come back to the Finance Committee with possible proposals in the event that there might be extraordinary savings or windfall gains. So I think we are operating very much in the realm of speculation here. It is important that we not close off avenues, that we be flexible, but as well that the Finance Committee be very vigorous, and I think we have been very vigorous, in assuring that the Programme of Work and Budget is fully implemented.

CHAIRPERSON

So, do you remember that this was the different interpretation from what the Finance Committee has decided? The language was not that clear. Now we have listened to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Finance Committee reassuring that this is not a *carte blanche* to Management to do whatever they want, but I do not have anything to add, let us see if others have. Brazil, you have the floor.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I would like to raise a few points and I thank Yasser for the comments he just made to us.

I have one question and some comments.

First is the question regarding savings. We heard the other day that we are still to meet the target of the savings level determined in the current PWB.

Second, in case of extra savings and windfall gains, what is the practice of the Organization? Where do we put these savings? Why necessarily to put in this implementation and not into programmes that could be at a certain moment identify that they were underfunded. So this is one question that I have.

The other sort of comment that I have is that I do not think it is the correct thing to do, although I have some discrepancies with the interpretation of our colleague from the United States of America into the reading. He has a very inflexible reading – an overstretched reading actually – of the text that we all agreed and he participated actively in these negotiations and the spirit of this was exactly to put exclusively. But we did not put in trust and in confidence that all the financing of the IPA would be made by extra-budgetary resources. So we would like to recall those very vivid discussions that we had when we approved this resolution text.

But this text put in the section approval of a suggestion by the Finance Committee goes against the idea of calling on Member Nations to bring some extra-budgetary resources, because if I send this to my capital, my capital has already contributed to the fund. If you send this letter to other capitals or still to my capital for more money to be brought to this fund, it is contradictory

because we are saying 'well, there might be some funds there' and it gives the idea that we will be able to fully fund the IPA activities. What is missing there from the extra-budgetary levels that we have heard are still very very incomplete to do all the IPA actions and it gives the wrong picture. It will discourage countries from bringing money as extra-budgetary resources into the Trust Fund that is funding these activities. So politically, it is the wrong message and it does not necessarily respect the spirit in which we negotiated this resolution. But I still insist on what do we do normally in terms of windfall gains and extra savings? And why should it just be put into the IPA without considering other possibilities that we may identify?

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I agree with the interpretation as given by the United States of America and I have sat through all the meetings as well. If we are truly concerned about feeding people, which is what we have all been talking about, and we have all agreed that reform of FAO is one of the best ways that we can do that, and we have all agreed that that is a priority if we have any windfall gains, I think that is what they were called, it does not make any sense to me why we would quibble over the fact that it would go into reforming this Organization which, in turn, will then help developing countries - particularly if the PWB is going to be delivered in full, based on what the Chair of the Finance Committee said.

Personally, I do not want to waste a lot of time talking about this, because I do not think we are going to agree, but to me it does not make any sense why you would not put the money where you would have the greatest impact – which is reforming this Organization.

Moungi MÉDI (Observateur du Cameroun)

Merci de nous avoir donné la parole en temps qu'observateur pour parler de cette question. Je pense que le débat que nous sommes entrain de conduire ici ne fait pas justice à tout ce qui s'est dit pendant la session du Comité financier qui a traité de cette question.

Je pense sincèrement de mon point de vue, que le Comité financier est suffisamment entré dans les détails pour pouvoir arriver à la proposition que nous avons faite. Je parle en tant que Membre du Comité financier et je crois que notre Président a peut-être parlé de manière rapide de l'ambiance qui a régnée quand on discutait de cette question. La proposition que nous avons sur la table est, comme quelque chose d'innovateur, parce qu'autrement nous serions restés sur des sentiers battus si on n'avait pas fait une proposition qui tendait à mettre en exergue la priorité de l'heure, qui est la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate. C'est ça la priorité de l'heure et on n'avait pas les moyens assurés pour que ce financement soit là. Il a donc fallu créer, et je pense que les têtes du Comité financier se sont mises en exergue pour essayer de proposer quelque chose qui, selon ce que notre Président a dit, soit mis devant la table du Conseil pour pouvoir décider. Je pense qu'il faut aller au-delà des sentiers battus et peut-être recontextualiser le débat à l'intérieur du Comité financier pour voir que ce n'était pas une proposition juste prise comme ça, mais je crois qu'elle a été largement discutée et mûrie.

J'en appelle à la compréhension des Membres du Conseil, parce que nous, en tant qu'observateurs, nous ne participons pas à la prise décision, mais j'en appelle à la compréhension des Membres du Conseil d'administration pour qu'ils essaient de comprendre que c'était une proposition collective et qui a été mise sur la table pour pouvoir alimenter le débat au Conseil.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would like to remind my colleagues of the practice which exists in many organizations in the UN System within the context of conventions and agreements in the UN System. If organizations make savings in their budgets, identified savings as it were, then as a rule, such organizations distribute those savings among all the Member Nations on a *pro rata* basis proportionate to their contributions. Then such savings are either offset against regular contributions or are used by each individual Member and at their discretion.

Now, in this case, some countries have already made their contributions to the Trust Fund for Reform. They can use the savings at their discretion. Others might say that they're prepared to

donate the savings of the money, for the purpose of implementation of Reform in the Organization. In other words, after the savings have been distributed, each Member has the right, in principle we are all working on the basis of Voluntary Contributions, after all. Each Member has the right to use the savings at their discretion. That is maybe a way out if the majority of the Members think it possible to donate their share of their savings on a *pro rata* basis distributed to them. If they feel it possible to donate those savings to the reform process, that possibly is a way out for us.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Russian Federation. I have Chile and Japan. Please be brief: we have had lots of discussion in this and we do not have time and we have to make a decision on that. Yes, Chile followed by Japan and then we will go to our Observers.

Sergio INSUNZA (Chile)

Una pregunta en primer lugar ¿estamos hablando de actuales ahorros o de eventuales ganancias? Sería interesante saber qué grado de realismo tiene esta hipótesis.

En segundo lugar, creo que lo que ha manifestado el representante de Brasil francamente coloca la cuestión en los términos claros. Aquí hay un acuerdo de la Conferencia respecto del financiamiento del Plan Inmediato de Acción. Creo que francamente ir más allá de este acuerdo no sería lo correcto, salvo que la propia Conferencia pudiera adoptar un acuerdo de este tipo.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I will be very brief. As for Japan, the most important thing is the swift implementation of the IPA. This is our first priority. When we talk of a windfall gain, it might be difficult if it happens, I support that it will be spent for the IPA, which is the most important field in front of us, through the approval of the Finance Committee.

Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I would like to rally myself with the statement which has been made by Cameroon. I managed to be a member of the Finance Committee and I also want to state that this decision was not just reached without any consideration of different parameters. We first looked at some issues. We looked at the concern that the Immediate Plan of Action needs to be immediately implemented and we looked at the progress that so far has been made in attracting financing into the Trust Fund, and you may recall the figures that have been reflected upon. So far, we need more than US\$10 million to implement the programme. There are pledges for about US\$7 million. But the actual remittances into the Fund are about US\$3.4 million. So we had to reach an agreement, we had to make a decision and a pragmatic decision, a decision that is not going to cripple the Organization and, of course, at the same time, not to go against the Conference Resolution of 2008.

We didn't just make a decision for the sake of a decision, it was based on discussion and thinking. That's the contribution I wanted to make.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, distinguished representative of Uganda.

With this I come back to Mr Juneja to answer the question raised by Brazil, to hopefully reach an agreement in this issue.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Let me say at the outset, that we have had the opportunity in the past weeks to bring together the costings of the IPA and the Root and Branch Review, and we can state with a good degree of confidence that the 2009 requirements for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action integrated with the Root and Branch Review is US\$15.25 million.

As the Director-General has himself indicated in his address, there is a significant shortfall between the requirements for implementing the Immediate Plan of Action and the funds already available from extra-budgetary resources.

The message from the Council should therefore be clear. I do not think that there is any great risk of a mixed message and it could quite easily be reflected in your Report based on your discussions under Item 14 and 17 that additional Voluntary Contributions to bring us to a figure of US\$15.25 million for the implementation of the IPA in 2009 are essential.

Turning to the questions raised by Brazil, indeed we are still short of meeting the efficiency savings targets that were established by the Conference in its Resolution in 2007. As we have reported, the biennial level of efficiency savings in 2008-2009 are estimated at US\$18.1 million versus a target established by the 2007 Conference of US\$22.1 million. The Finance Committee looked at these figures very carefully based on a report that was produced by Management.

It goes without saying that it is an absolute priority for Management to try to find the balance of efficiency savings that balance between US\$22.1 million and US\$18.1 million.

We are under an obligation to update our figures, update our estimates of the implementation of the Programme of Work 2008-2009 and report the matter to the Finance Committee at its July Session. So at the July Session of the Finance Committee we will be presenting an Annual Report on Budgetary Performance that will be examined by the Finance Committee, which will also have the opportunity to receive updated figures on our progress in achieving efficiency savings, but more importantly also to examine the implementation of the Programme of Work 2008-2009.

Now based on what I have said so far, we of course face a very challenging situation, just *vis-à-vis* the achievement of efficiency savings in 2008-2009. In response to the question raised by Chile about how realistic windfall savings might be in 2008-2009, I would have to respond that the situation is not a very realistic one. We are unlikely to have windfall savings, and therefore unlikely to be in a situation where paragraphs 12 and 29 of the Finance Committee Report of May 2009 would be put into effect.

Responding to the question raised by Brazil about windfall gains and their application, I think it is important first to define what we mean by windfall gains. We would define windfall gains as being the full implementation of the Programme of Work 2008-2009 by spending less than the budgetary appropriation. That is how we would define a windfall gain. A financial surplus in 2008-2009 despite fully implementing the planned Programme of Work. Now if that windfall gain were to arise and if we were to do nothing, there would be a Regular Programme surplus in our budgetary performance that we would report to the Finance Committee. If we did nothing about it, then the consequence of that budgetary surplus would be to reduce the accumulated deficit that the Organization shows under the General Fund in its balance sheet. As you are aware, there is a significant accumulated deficit of several hundred million dollars in our balance sheet, and a budgetary surplus in 2008-2009 would have a small effect in reducing that deficit.

There would not be any distribution to Members as indicated by the representative of Russia because we do not have a surplus in our balance sheet. If we had a surplus also in our balance sheet, then, as he had indicated, that surplus of the current biennium would be distributed back to Members. That is not a situation that would arise in the case of FAO.

An alternative therefore, if the Finance Committee and the Council were to take pro-active measures, could be to anticipate a budgetary surplus and to pro-actively take action to transfer that budgetary surplus, a windfall gain, to one of the chapters of the budget where the financial regulations permit a carry-over of a surplus from one biennium to the next. We have two such chapters of the budget, the Capital Expenditure Facility, Chapter 8 and the Security Expenditure Facility, Chapter 9, and, it is here that paragraph 29 of the Finance Committee Report has suggested that an overall budgetary surplus could be pro-actively transferred to Chapter 8 of the Programme of Work and Budget.

What I would like to say from Management's perspective, as I indicated in my intervention earlier this week, is that we are bound by the two Conference Resolutions. There is just no question in our minds that those are the directives and the collective will of the Membership. From our point of view, it is abundantly clear that the Programme of Work needs to be fully implemented and we are, on the whole, comfortable with the wording that, indeed, was very cautiously discussed by the Finance Committee, both at its March Session and its May Session. We are comfortable that wherever the Finance Committee Report specifically mentions flexibility, for example, in paragraphs 12 and 29 of its May 2009 Session, it refers at the same time to the precondition that the Programme of Work needs to be fully implemented. And, with that guidance in mind, we feel that we are clear in Management's mind as to how the remainder of this biennium needs to be implemented.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, juste une petite question à Monsieur Juneja. Je ne suis pas financier, mais c'est un problème de logique. J'ai entendu tout à l'heure, qu'il parlait d'un bilan négatif pour l'Organisation. S'il y a un bilan négatif pour l'Organisation, est-ce qu'il ne serait pas souhaitable avec les excédents, au lieu de faire un transfert dans le chapitre comme il l'a souligné, pourquoi ne pas corriger le bilan négatif? Enfin, je ne suis pas financier, c'est un problème de logique: le bilan est négatif, nous avons des excédents, pourquoi ne pas le corriger au lieu de faire des transferts à des chapitres? Je ne comprends rien.

CHAIRPERSON

This is an interesting question but it is not related to our debate here, but I would like Mr Juneja to very briefly answer that so we can finalize our debate.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Very briefly to mention that, in fact, the Finance Committee itself recommends prudent financial management and this may indeed be one of the options that they consider in the July 2009 Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Coming back to this issue and listening to all of these arguments and different sides from Management, I agree with Chile that we are talking about a theoretical issue, one thing that does not really exist. As Mr Juneja said, we have minus US\$4 million of efficiency savings. If any savings comes it should go, first of all, to fill up this US\$4 million gap. As he mentioned, it is not probable that this will happen and we go beyond the US\$4 million savings to then decide where it should go. But if – which is really improbable – something happens, there are other possibilities.

It is a misunderstanding that if something is there, it should go directly to the implementation of IPA. I think Council should decide that if such a windfall gain occurs, Management should report it to the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee will discuss it and then we will decide what to do. In other words, we do not give a *carte blanche* to any saving to go wherever they want. It would be a gain to one of the Governing Bodies and they would consider it, and finally their decision would come back again to our meetings of the Council.

If you agree, I think it would be a decision that gets out of this misinterpretation of decisions of the Finance Committee.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I do not think it is a simple solution. I wish we were in that position, because now what we are doing is reinterpreting or condoning or agreeing with an interpretation which we did not agree with, number one.

Number two, the Finance Committee and the Chairperson, in whom we have all the confidence, are talking about the full implementation of the programmes.

When will we know that the programmes were fully implemented before the end of the year? We just reviewed last night the PIR of 2006-2007, so when will the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee be in the position to fully determine that all the programmes, included in the PWB, were fully implemented before the end of the year?

We are not only talking on theoretical possibility, as mentioned by my colleague from Chile, we are talking about a possibility – from what we understood from Management – that is a bit far-fetched to expect will happen this year. When will we know that the programmes were fully implemented? Actually, what is mentioned here would have no impact on the IPA Implementation during 2009 because when will we be able to determine that programmes were fully implemented for the 2008-2009 biennium, before the end of the biennium itself. So, whatever is there for the immediate implementation for the Immediate Plan of Action is not going to be immediate if the extra-budgetary resources are not foreseen and are not coming.

I beg to disagree with Manoj but I think that this is such a decision, as outlined by the Finance Committee, that does send a mixed signal for all the circumstances that we have spoken about before and the fact that the full implementation of the programmes is not determined until the very end of the year. So, not only in theory but in no practical terms are we advancing the full implementation that we had expected to be funded by extra-budgetary resources of the IPA.

CHAIRPERSON

I totally agree with you. There are many things that we cannot answer right now, but I think in order to get an answer to the question that we are considering, Council decides that if there is any windfall gain it should be reported to the Finance Committee, and it will be discussed in the Finance Committee again, and let's see what they decide. Of course, all the decisions of the Finance Committee would come to our next September meeting.

Again, I think that during these four months it is improbable to happen, but if it happens, Council decides that it should not go without any discussion – Council decides that it should be reported to the Finance Committee and Finance Committee decides how to deal with that. Of course, again, as a matter of procedure it would come to the next Council as well.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I apologize for intervening so often.

I still stress that the wrong message has been sent to countries that might potentially be participating in the Trust Fund. It is an interpretation of the Resolution of the Conference which we do not share. So I think it has some practical implication, it has some differences in terms of interpreting the Resolution 1/2008 and has no actual meaning in the implementation of the IPA because the determination of windfalls will not be occurring before the end of the year, so I am not sure I understand. I did take note of the comments by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and many other honourable members of the Finance Committee, but how can they be anticipating such windfall gains before the end of the year? Not to talk about other possible uses of that money.

I think there are so many issues in endorsing such proposals that I do not think they should be endorsed.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not think we endorsed that. We add this. We say that with regard to paragraph 12 and 17 Council decided that if any windfall gain or something occurs, it should be a gain reported to the Finance Committee and they will discuss and decide. It means that we do not accept any other interpretation, that if windfall gains occur, it could go to the IPA – no.

We say, if it occurs, it should go to the Finance Committee and be discussed and see what they decide. You yourself said that it is very improbable that if something happens and they say that there is a windfall gain.

I think we are very, very safe if we just may add another decision of Council to those paragraphs and say yes, if something happens – a windfall gain – it should be reported to the Finance Committee and then they decide to either put it in the Reserve Account or bring it to the IPA.

This is my proposal, which I think is very logical, although it might not be perfect.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Je partage un peu le point de vue du délégué du Brésil. C'est un problème de logique. Une Organisation qui, depuis un certain temps, a un bilan négatif et on pense que, avant la fin de l'année, on pourrait avoir des excédents. On n'est pas en fin d'année, mais on suppose qu'on pourrait avoir des excédents, mais alors comment expliquer la négativité de ce bilan? Si vous pensez que vous pouvez avoir des excédents, c'est cette préoccupation qu'on compte. S'il y a des excédents, s'il y en a eu dans le passé, moi je pense pour un problème de logique on devrait corriger la négativité du bilan au lieu de penser à renflouer les chapitres. Donc, je comprends personnellement comment le délégué du Brésil s'en préoccupe, donc on ne peut pas parler des excédents du passé, on n'en a pas eu donc le bilan est négatif.

CHAIRPERSON

This is exactly what I am saying. You yourself mentioned that we are not financial experts, and I am not, but the Finance Committee are financial experts and there are financial experts from Management participating in the Finance Committee so if something happened, I say it will go to experts who would discuss it and decide what to do. This is the most logical way that we can go. We cannot decide in advance what to do with something we do not know would be happening or not. We have five minutes to conclude and listen to your views.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I support your proposal and I think this is the most logical way to go out of this.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I also support your proposal and trust the Finance Committee to sort it out.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I do not want to delay the deliberations but I would like to see the text in writing and I need to consult my capital on their agreement on such proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

So we come to the end of our Session today. We will prepare a sentence and we shall distribute it and then see if we have your approval or not.

We have lots of work to do again today. We have to talk about the Summit, the reform of the CFS – which are ending – and please be on time at 14.30 hrs this afternoon to start our discussion.

The meeting rose at 12:39 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.39 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session Cent trente-sixième session 136° período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 15-19 June 2009 Rome, 15-19 juin 2009 Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009</p>
<p>EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>18 June 2009</p>

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:48 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 48
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14:48 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

18. Reports of the 84th (2-4 February 2009), 85th (23 and 24 February 2009), 86th (7 and 8 May 2009) and 87th (25 and 26 May 2009) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20) (Cont'd)

18. Rapports de la quatre-vingt quatrième (2-4 février 2009), quatre-vingt cinquième (23 et 24 février 2009), quatre-vingt sixième (7 et 8 mai 2009) et quatre-vingt septième (25 et 26 mai 2009) sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20) (suite)

18. Informe del 84.º (2-4 de febrero de 2009), 85.º (23 y 24 de febrero de 2009), 86.º (7 y 8 de mayo de 2009) y 87.º (25 y 26 de mayo de 2009) período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20) (Continuación)

18.2 Draft Proposed Amendments to the FAO Constitution for the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2)

18.2 Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif de la FAO pour la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2)

18.2 Enmiendas propuestas de la Constitución de la FAO relativas a la reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We do have three outstanding items on our Agenda. One is the reform of the CFS; the other one is the Report of the Finance Committee and the third one is the Summit.

For the two first ones, the reform on the Committee on Food Security and the Report of the Finance Committee, the Friends of the Chair are working behind the scenes and talking to each other to come with agreed texts to be proposed to the Council, and I think we will deal with those two items later.

The first item, therefore, this afternoon will be the proposed Summit on World Food Security, but unfortunately we do not have management here with us to start the discussion. We are still not at a stage of having legal difficulties to come to you but we asked yesterday the Management to think about things and then come to the meeting. So the only option is please engage in your personal affairs until Management comes.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

Of course, we appreciate when Management is working, especially behind the scenes, but still maybe you could enquire why Management would not be present at a pre-scheduled meeting and as we have legal advice – this is not serious, Sir – does management only have the right to attend or also the duty to attend this meeting?

Thank you.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Dans la mesure où le Conseiller juridique est là, pourrions-nous traiter la question du CSA? De plus, cela nous mettrait de bonne humeur puisque nous sommes tous d'accord.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said, they are working on a statement and let's see if it's ready and at a stage to start talking about it.

Turkey, you have the floor. No?

Now, we do have Mr Müller and Ms Williams with us and we can start our discussion on the Summit.

Yesterday we had a brief discussion about the Summit and if I can again summarize our discussion of yesterday, I can say that there was general agreement for having a Summit, so nobody disagreed with having a Summit, but we did have different views on timing, on funding and how to prepare the Summit. On the issue of funding also, everybody agreed that it should be totally funded by extra-budgetary resources and by no means use the money from the Regular Budget of FAO. Where does the money come from? It's the Management's part to have a plan on that and I think there was some mention that this issue of financing should be handled by the Finance Committee. So Management has to come up with a finance plan, go to the Finance Committee meeting in July and present their case and then it will come again from the Finance Committee to our Council meeting in September.

On issues of preparing for the Summit, I think it was again general agreement that, as usual, we have to have an Open-Ended Committee of the Membership, open to everybody, and they'll discuss all aspects of the Summit which starts with the objectives and goes down to all the issues of how to do it, when to do it, the timing, and even discussions on the final declaration, as is usual, because the Summit usually has a Declaration and should be agreed upon.

Timing: we did have divided ideas and some totally agreed with the proposal of the Director-General that it should be back-to-back with the Conference in November; others didn't agree to that but we did not have any other proposals. We asked the Management to think about it and come up with some preferences, at least on timing, and I also ask you to kindly talk to each other and come up with new ideas on your discussions today. So, this is what we have to start, and I would like to ask Mr Müller to see if he has anything to add to our yesterday's discussion.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

Thank you very much Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to come back to the three items you mentioned on the Summit funding, the process – especially the process leading towards the Declaration - and the question of timing. Please allow me to start with funding.

I would like to reiterate that this Summit will be funded by extra-budgetary resources and we will be happy to inform the Finance Committee about the budget plan and where the money will come from. These extra-budgetary resources will be resources dedicated to the Summit, so there will be full information at the next Finance Committee. What is the budget? The budget also depends a lot on the format but we are now in the range of US\$1.5 million to US\$2.5 million if we hold the Summit back-to-back with FAO's Conference in November. So the information will be available. I want to say very clearly that we have not started negotiations on extra-budgetary resources because the Governing Bodies until now have not approved this proposal. So we will inform the Finance Committee in July how much money is needed, where it should come from and you will have the information and we can discuss everything.

Secondly, the process leading towards the Declaration. I reviewed yesterday evening all your contributions relating to what kind of Declaration do we want to have, what are the objectives of the Summit and in a nutshell, the final declaration will also define the objectives. If you agree on A, B, and C on the final declaration, this will also include the substantive items to be discussed during the Summit. So, I would like to reiterate what I offered yesterday. We should build upon the very good experiences we had in the preparation of the final draft for the High-Level Conference in June 2008; we want to establish an Open-Ended Working Group of all Members – you all, not only the Council Members – all FAO Members, can discuss, negotiate and you will decide what the final declaration will be. We will offer to draft a Zero-Draft Declaration after the approval of this proposal, and we will send it to all of you, let's say, within one week, so that you have the Zero-Draft, and this Zero-Draft also then gives an overview of the objectives of the Conference. I have some doubts if we establish two groups: one for negotiating the Declaration

and one for discussing the objectives, because I tried to look in all the blank meetings of the Conference Committee and all the other blank meetings. The time will be very tight for the Declaration, so my proposal is the Declaration will decide what are the objectives of the Summit and we will forward to you a Zero-Draft of this Declaration to be discussed in the Open-Ended Working Group and we will, of course, consult with the Regional Groups because we need Chairs, or Co-Chairs, for this Open-Ended Working Group. We had very good Co-Chairs in the process leading towards the Draft Declaration of the High-Level Conference, so we would like to consult with the Regional Groups on who should lead this process. This also means that the Declaration based on our Zero-Draft is in your hands and you, in the negotiations, will decide what are the objectives of the meeting.

Coming back to timing - Item no. 1 - we discussed it internally and the proposal is still to have it back-to-back with Conference, but if you endorse this proposal and there is, let's say, the need to change one day or the other, I think we are open to discuss it. If the problem I understood yesterday, for example, is the APEC Meeting, it would be good to have the Summit one day later, I think we have to look at what other consequences it would have but for one day, this would not be a problem. So, the timing, in principle, back-to-back with the Conference but if you have endorsed it, and we could review what other conferences there are at the same time and there's a need to change one day or the other, then I think this is only a technical problem, and then we will come back to you.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the list of 154 countries that have signalled their support for the Summit. These countries represent the majority of the world population.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

This is a little bit too much time. We would be grateful to have in writing a list of those 154 countries. Thank you very much.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I agree with my good German friend, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany on this totally useless reading a list of 154 countries supporting a Summit. Norway will be on that list of course, but this is not the question now, the question is timing and preparation and I think the Secretariat should respect that.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates, I think there was an issue of which countries were supporting judging from the discussion yesterday, and I have been asked to read the list to make it quite clear who is supporting and who is not.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I think that all of us support the need for a Summit, and we all agreed that yesterday and I do not think we need to be read 154 countries. I do not think it is a very good use of time. We need to get to the substantive issue – is there enough time to prepare for a Summit that will make a difference for people who are hungry? That is what we need to talk about and reading the list of countries is not going to help do that, so please do not read the list of countries, but can we get onto the substantive discussion?

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

If it were not for the interventions before I imagine we could be down to the one hundred and twentieth country on that list. I think it is very relevant information to be kept informed of those who have already supported and the list can be increased. So I think it would be very relevant that we would have such information to be shared, but I would certainly welcome that information to be provided to us in writing.

Emile ESSEMA (République du Congo)

Monsieur le Président, vous avez bien résumé les débats de nos travaux. Mais, il me semble tout de même, d'après ce que nous avons tous entendu qu'il y avait aussi une grosse inquiétude. Que l'on vienne ici pour nous lire une liste en tenant compte du temps, et qu'aujourd'hui, on reconnaisse que ce n'est plus intéressant, j'en conviens. Mais, il faut souligner qu'hier, on avait ce souci de savoir qui avait donné son accord, parce que je suis surpris de constater qu'une direction ne peut pas se retirer comme ça et venir pour nous produire une liste dont nous n'avons pas besoin. Cela est important, Monsieur le Président, il faut le souligner! Et que cette liste soit connue pour nous, pays en développement, le Groupe Afrique en particulier, nous avons besoin de cette liste pour informer aussi nos États que le Sommet a eu tel accord.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

I would like to recall my initial statement – it was very short but I believe I mentioned two points, first of all I do not think we need to read out the list. We are having here lots of professionals around the table, and my duty – I have many duties, like my colleagues – is not to take shorthand, and that is why I asked immediately if you would kindly provide the list in writing, make a copy of this one or two pages and distribute it here and then we know it. May I also refer our colleagues to the very valued paper produced by the Management which in paragraph 4 includes already quite an outline of which states and which groups of states and regions have supported it. So I am keenly interested in getting the names of all the 154, but I would also be interested in, of course, to see the actual letter of support they gave to the Director-General because I know for many countries 'yes, of course, we support the Summit in principle, but we attach certain conditions to it'. So we might have a list of 154 states, but it would be a more concrete, comprehensive and really genuine picture of the scene if we know what kind of conditions those Government Heads of State attach to their agreement to a Summit.

I do not expect, because it may be confidential correspondence, to get this, so to follow-up this thing that several colleagues have mentioned, of course we all should know the states supporting the Summit, but we can have it in writing and we should not use our time for reading it out because it is not my job to write down all the names of the 154 countries. Maybe if you could mention those countries that opposed it in writing as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador. I am not going to discuss this anymore because as the Ambassador of Brazil said, if you would consider time saving, we could have finished with that and I am sure that if we do not read it it continues at least for one hour for both sides to agree or not agree.

Yesterday everybody who spoke here agreed with the Summit, we did not have any disagreement as mentioned at the beginning among the Members and Observers, but in order to put an end to this please read it very quickly and then send a copy to all Members of the Council and Observers in writing.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I find this very unusual and maybe if you let me speak on it I will come back.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, I do not want to have a long discussion because if you speak again I see several other flags up and it really destroys our discussion. So really quickly.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will try my best, Mr Chair.

The countries I will call out will represent the majority of world population and are home to the majority of the hungry and poor. Those who have signed declarations in support of the Summit are Heads of State, Members of FAO (*reads list of names*)

Victor C.D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I suppose one reading of the letter that my Secretary of State sent would be support, but we did actually express reservations.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I am not convinced that the list is totally accurate. What I said yesterday was on behalf of the Australian Government. It said 'the Australian Government has given careful consideration to the proposal for a World Food Summit and we see possible merit in it' and then I went on to clarify 'provided that the objectives were clarified that it could distinguish itself from other food summits that were held this year and last year even though we no longer call it a food summit'.

So I am a little bit cross, (a) about the reading of the list, and (b) about its accuracy.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

First, to be very honest it would be more serious and responsible that we would have the exact wording of all the letters of support or whatever because I know of a number of countries here in this list that they have expressed to some degree, I do not want to use a legal term, reservations or conditions or whatever, so that list is not, I believe, accurate and I would look still forward to having it in writing. I think it was a waste of our time because I can't recall, except someone from Brazil, I can't recall all the 154 who supported it, and so I look forward to the list.

Secondly, Management didn't start this afternoon well by being late 20 minutes and then compensating by using up this time unnecessarily.

But my final comment is the most important one, which is, I believe, valid. I am surprised that the Secretary-General on behalf of the Organization has to read out a list to us of 154 Member Nations after you, Chairperson, last night declared after very useful debate that you already had found a general consensus among all of us about holding this Summit subject to conditions and so on and so on. So I think it is going a step backwards and, of course, I would love to learn what about those other Member Nations who, as before, last night were perhaps opposing it to some degree. So, again, I look forward to the list and look forward to conducting more serious business this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Naturally, I think both will be done. I held a serious discussion this afternoon and I already instructed the Secretariat to send the list to all the countries.

I have Norway followed by France, Congo and United States of America, please be very brief because the way that I see it, I have to be here until midnight.

Okay, I have Norway, France, Congo and the United States of America.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

If a list discussion like this should have any meaning, it has to be extended to the question of timing and preparation. Yesterday night we heard from five countries from five different regions asking questions or having reservations about the timing, and that is what this discussion is about. I hope that Norway was read out on that list. I want to check it when we get the written one, but that does not mean that we want a Summit in November. I think I gave very good reasons yesterday for not having that Summit in November. I am not going to repeat them, but I will tell you it is going to hurt this Organization if you or somebody, you or top Management, or the Director-General is pressing this through against serious and weighty arguments, and maybe even outright reservations, from some countries. I can tell you, and I use my gift of prophecy on this, you are all going to pay a heavy price.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Je ne parle pas au nom de l'Union européenne, car c'est la Présidence tchèque qui parle au nom de l'Union normalement mais, sachez qu'au sein de l'Union européenne, nous avons eu des débats

très sérieux sur ce Sommet et c'est vrai que, maintenant, nous sommes en train de perdre l'esprit qui nous anime, c'est-à-dire un esprit de consensus, un esprit de dialogue. Vous avez décidé de passer à la lecture de cette liste, cela ne m'ennuie pas, mon pays n'a pas signé de lettre, en même temps je sais parfaitement que mon Gouvernement pense qu'il est important d'avoir un Sommet.

Donc cette liste a un sens mais, si nous pensons que cette liste est une forme de vote qui n'est pas un vrai vote, qui est simplement le rappel de tous ceux qui sont pour, je pense que la décision était déjà claire hier au soir. Oui, ce Conseil est en faveur de la tenue d'un Sommet sur l'alimentation, l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, c'est à peu près une évidence.

Et sans être trop longue, Monsieur le Président, depuis le mois de mai, nous avons eu beaucoup de réunions en dehors de la FAO qui, certes ne représentent pas non plus, là encore, la terre entière mais il y a eu un G8 des Ministres de l'agriculture, élargi aux Groupes +5 et +3, au sein duquel étaient invitées toutes les organisations internationales en charge de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Il y a eu la semaine dernière, un G8 des Ministres du développement qui a mis l'accent sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire de façon inédite jusqu'à présent. Le Président du Conseil italien est en train de préparer le Sommet de l'Aquila et nous savons déjà qu'il va y avoir un accent inédit, jusqu'à présent, mis sur la sécurité alimentaire et l'alimentation. Nous savons que le Président des États-Unis, car nos amis américains nous le disent et émettent des signaux extrêmement positifs, que le Président des États-Unis lui-même est en train de mettre la sécurité alimentaire et l'alimentation tout en haut de ses priorités.

Nous savons que nous allons tenir un CSA, nous savons que nous allons avoir une Conférence sur comment nourrir le monde. Donc, je pense qu'il ne fait aucun doute que ce Sommet a du sens et je pense qu'il serait vraiment dommage que nous perdions l'esprit de collaboration et de dialogue qui nous anime en crispant les débats et en donnant l'impression qu'il y a des "sales types, des imbéciles heureux" qui sont contre et qui, comme le disait hier mon collègue du Congo, sont des criminels et puis de l'autre des gens qui ont tout compris et qui sont pour et qui donc ne sont pas des criminels. Ceci n'est pas tolérable, il ne faut pas crispier le débat.

Maintenant la question, c'est en effet celle que nous posons: est-il véritablement faisable d'organiser un Sommet de qualité, un Sommet avec des vrais résultats? Pour ceux qui justement n'ont pas à manger, est-il imaginable de le faire bien au mois de novembre? C'est tout, c'est très simple, ce n'est pas compliqué. Il y a ceux qui pensent que oui, nous pouvons le faire et il y a ceux qui émettent un certain nombre de doutes, pas sur le fond mais ce que nous voulons c'est un Sommet de qualité, alors faut-il que l'on soit réduit au silence, faut-il que l'on soit renvoyé dans l'enfer des criminels? Non, je pense, Monsieur le Président que vous devez nous aider à répondre à cette question. Le principe du Sommet est acquis, tout le monde l'a compris. Ce n'était même pas la peine de faire un Conseil pour comprendre cela, nous le savions déjà. Mais la question est: qu'est-ce qu'on va faire, comment va-t-on le préparer, comment va-t-on obtenir des résultats qui nous permettent, cette fois, d'être à peu près sûrs que nous allons enclencher des actions opérationnelles?

Voilà, c'est cela notre sujet et nous sommes très tranquilles, énormément tranquilles sur le principe. Je suis tranquille, mon Président est tranquille, il sait que c'est important, il sait que ce Sommet aura lieu, c'est sûr, alors s'il vous plait, dépassionnons et revenons à la question: à quelle condition un Sommet de qualité? Car, on a tous beaucoup de travail ici et cela va reposer sur les Représentations permanentes. Il n'y a pas que le Secrétariat, nous sommes là aussi, nous existons nous.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we have already started the discussion, so let us continue and talk about the logic of when to have a Summit, which is most useful to the hungry people.

Emile ESSEMA (République du Congo)

Monsieur le Président, après l'intervention de Madame l'Ambassadeur de France, j'aimerais souligner ce qui suit. Madame l'Ambassadeur de France est rentrée dans le débat mais, ma

préoccupation est liée à la perte de temps, comme l'a souligné l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, sur ce que nous appelons: "liste de ceux qui ont accepté le Sommet". Je voulais tout simplement dire que la Direction de l'Organisation communique, à mon entendement, avec les États sur deux voies: il y a la partie du Pays et il y a la représentation ici à Rome. Donc, quand on vient dans une salle avec une liste élue par notre Secrétaire général et que l'on demande des justifications de pièces reçues par la Direction, je trouve cela inacceptable, Monsieur le Président, inacceptable.

On donne une impression que la Direction d'une Organisation, assez forte, disons forte comme la FAO, puisse venir dans une salle du Conseil avec des éléments de fausseté. Je ne partage pas ce point de vue, Monsieur le Président, c'est ma préoccupation, et pour préciser ma pensée nous ne sommes pas encore dans le débat et je remercie Madame l'Ambassadeur de France pour avoir déjà éclairé ce que nous avons déjà dit jusqu'à ce jour. Ma réaction, je le précise, est liée à cette liste. Je disais tantôt que nous avons besoin de cette liste et c'est ainsi que la Direction est venue nous la présenter et quant à demander à une direction: "amenez-nous les pièces justificatives" qui feront que l'on puisse vraiment accepter que cela est vrai, je dis: "c'est inacceptable!".

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I think under the leadership of the Independent Chair, we have made a lot of progress in identifying our overriding objectives. I think we all share the same objectives, and I want to thank my dear friend, the Ambassador from France, for pointing that out and also for taking the words right out of my mouth to reiterate the extremely high-level importance that President Obama assigns to food security and agricultural development. So our challenge now is to transcend our neo-interest, we need to look at the overriding interests, we need to look at the way that FAO can contribute to a global process. This is not a black and white situation, it is a very nuanced situation, there are a great deal of subtlety in positions of countries. On another point, I think it was very unhelpful that the Secretary-General reflected a very bad judgment to read a list which portrays black and white and yes and no decision, because it is not. And I am hoping that, as the Ambassador of France said, we can now get beyond this, and start looking at nuances, because we have little time and there is an extreme urgency to the work we are doing.

CHAIRPERSON

So it seems that we really do have an agreement and let us put this behind, the list was read and now you are informed about it but here a Council of forty-nine Members representing their countries, of course with other Observers which are a lot and we want to decide the best decision that we can take in order to have a Summit, on timing, funding and how to do it. We did not have that added value information from the Management I expected today, because they say that first you decide when you want to have it and then we provide the information that you want, so the ball is back again in our court.

Please start discussing the timing of the Summit because we have the general agreement on having the Summit, financing will be there within the Finance Committee and all other issues relate to how to have it, starting from objectives down to the Declaration. I think the general agreement has to be decided by the Membership in an Open-Ended Committee. So the vital question that we have to answer today, and as soon as possible, is the timing of the Summit.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

I would also like to come back as previous speakers to the consensus we have reached yesterday. I would really like to reiterate this because this is the common basis of our work.

First of all, all speakers yesterday expressed that it is unacceptable that the number of hungry people has now reached one billion. No doubt, everybody expressed concerns and everybody said it is unacceptable.

Second, in all the analyses being provided in the different comments, remarks and contributions yesterday, it was very clear that food insecurity is in the focus of a multiple crisis.

It is the economic crisis, it is the fuel crisis, it is climate change ahead of us so we need high-level attention to food security. The question is: "Can we prepare the Summit?" As I tried to explain yesterday, this Summit has to build upon the Conference on how to feed the world in 2050. I have to say very clearly, without a preparation for this Conference and, you know, Experts' Meetings will be held, there will be the World Food Day and this High-Level Conference. Without the proper preparation for this Conference, we will not be ready for it. But you have decided for the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009 that this High-Level Conference: "How to Feed the World in 2050" should be held, and FAO is prepared for it. So, we will build upon the expertise of this Conference, and this is the basis for the debate, also especially for the substantial debate. I do not want to reiterate what I said about the financial situation, this has to be financed entirely from extra-budgetary resources.

The most important question for me here is the substance; being responsible for the preparation, I really need your guidance.

And here I would like to say again that CL 136/22 in paragraph 6 makes a proposal of the substantial discussions to be held also during the preparation of the Final Declaration.

So, build upon the preparation of the Conference on "How to Feed the World in 2050" and on these bullets here: to eradicate hunger from the Earth by 2020-2025; to put in place a more coherent and effective system of governance; to agree on rules and mechanisms for farmers in developing countries to earn an income comparable to other sectors; to mobilize adequate financial resources; and to adopt a mechanism for early reaction food prices, we will be ready to provide a draft of the Declaration which could be seen as a starting point for your Declaration.

So the question: "Can we do it?" is based upon the achievement of the preparation of the Conference "How to Feed the World in 2050"; but, without this preparation, we could not do it.

CHAIRPERSON

So this is the basic argument in having the Conference in November. Do you have any other arguments regarding the cost and other aspects?

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

Yesterday, I said our proposal is to have this High-Level World Food Summit back-to-back with the Conference and of course, this would reduce the costs because all necessary expenses we have to take for preparing this Conference, all the people and the other things could be used also for this World Food Summit. Again, the delegations will come to Rome, so this would reduce the costs. We have a very rough estimate that a World Food Summit not back-to-back to the Conference would maybe cost one million Euros; but this is a very rough estimate, it depends very much on the level of attendance, how many people attend the Conference and I personally have to admit that being responsible for the High-Level Conference in June last year, the costs increased because we had 1,200 journalists attending the Conference, we had more than 5,000 participants, so this increased the costs and we want, we are proposing to have this Conference back-to-back to this High-Level Summit in November. We would like to propose to limit the costs to a range between US\$1,500,000 and US\$2,500,000 but the cost would increase if you have the Conference later.

CHAIRPERSON

With this explanation from the Management, I invite you please to concentrate your interventions on the timing or other issues but not on the necessity of having the Summit because we have already the Summit and there is no need for that. The floor is open.

James MELANSON (Canada)

I am not sure I will be able to answer all your questions, but let me take a start.

First of all and just parenthetically, some countries have commented that the characterization presented by the Secretariat and the list they read was a nuance. I think I would have to agree with that. I am not sure where Canada was presented in that rendering was sufficiently detailed to make it an accurate representation of our position.

I would take your starting point that there is some agreement to go forward and I think we would all agree that the Summit should be effective. If we are going to have a Summit, let us make it an effective Summit. In a way, I think that is the entry point rather than trying to establish at this point in time what the correct or what some of the elements of effectiveness are. I think we want a good experts' process. Mr Müller has outlined one aspect of that experts' process, or Mr Müller has rather, which is preparing for feeding the world in 2050. That is one element, I think there are a number of other elements to it and we have to look at when are we going to get deliverables from those experts' processes. In the case of a 2050, those deliverables are not coming to us until a few months from now.

So an effective experts' process is one.

Two, I think we want to be well-situated in the other international events related to food security that are taking place. I will not go through all of them, they were listed yesterday, one of them is next week but there are others coming down the pipe. So I do think we need a complete picture of where this is going to fit in. I think to date it has been conceived a little bit more in stand-alone mode.

There is the question on financing. I think it has been suggested that we have a Finance Committee coming up which can come to grips with that.

I am not totally convinced by the argument that back-to-back with Conference is a necessity because of the financial question. I think again that our entry point is that we want an effective Summit with a useful outcome, and I think that is a more important question than some marginal cost savings that might be affected.

Finally, I guess, just speculating on the intergovernmental process that would make sense for this, I find the Secretariat has perhaps reversed what I would consider a logical order for this kind of preparation, that being, tabling a Declaration and then deciding on the objectives and a good Member-based intergovernmental agreement on what the objectives for such a Conference are before we can begin to consider a Declaration.

When I put all those elements together, a good experts' process followed by an intergovernmental process that agrees on objectives and then subsequently tries to work through a Declaration, I personally find it very challenging to arrive at a date this November that would allow us to fulfil all those requirements for an effective meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

That was a very good statement so we will listen to others.

I do have some requests from the Observers, Australia.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I do not think I have to say very much because Mr Melanson just stole all the points I was going to say. The point about having it with the Conference in November just to save some money, that does not wash very well with me either because it is about making a difference to people who need it, so I do not see that as a particularly valid argument.

I also disagree with Mr Müller that you have a Declaration and then you work out what the objectives are. Again, that will not deliver a real change for the people who need it. Therefore, I still have a lot of hesitation about how we could have an effective Summit in November, one that is going to make a real difference.

CHAIRPERSON

If I do not have any requests from the Members, I have Eritrea and New Zealand.

Eritrea, you have the floor.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

We have been here for a long time. I have participated and listened during the previous preparations of the different Summits.

To participate in the Summit is not binding whether those 150 countries that we have heard will come or not, whether they support it or send a letter of participation, it is not binding. Even if 50 percent of those who support it sign or come it is a big success and it seems like a tradition. Those countries that are objecting have objected before about the previous Summits. Even those who indicated if we see the previous Summits, who participate, very rarely those who do not support it come even if they say if there is a consensus it does not mean they will come. So the expectation, as usual is, those who came before, will definitely come.

As to the timing, back-to-back to the Conference, there is an advantage. Not only to FAO but to Nations also. In the Conference, mostly it is attended by Ministers so if we have different timing, if the Head of State comes, also the Ministers will accompany him. So this saving is not only for FAO, when it is back-to-back, in fact mainly to Member Nations it is a big saving because when the Minister comes and the Heads of State come all together at the one time. If it is at different times, say the Minister comes then again he cannot come again with the Head of State, so the back-to-back is very special for those developing countries. It is very favourable and I really support the proposed timing instead of trying to change it.

Ms Catherine R. Mc GREGOR (Observer for New Zealand)

Just quickly reverting to the list, New Zealand shares the views of others here, including Australia, Norway, Germany and Canada and others who have expressed reservations about the accuracy of the list.

Personally I think it would have been better if we had remained listless. New Zealand, as others yesterday expressed conditional support, support in principle for a possible Summit, that is not the same as unqualified support if certain conditions were met or our concerns were addressed. I would just like to reinforce that.

On the question of timing of the Conference, I would just like to support everything said by Canada and Australia and others on the problems of having a Summit in November.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

This conversation is just an extension of the debate we had yesterday, and as you all will remember, a much larger number of countries had reservations on the timing and on the preparation. Maybe they have been thinking during the night but for my delegation, the situation is just the same. I fully support what has been said by Canada and others, but I made an argument that I think we have to consider; and that is the fact that the IPA, the Reform Process and the PWB and Work Plan are other very heavy processes coming up in the next months have made this Organization into a stretched rubber band. Even though we have been told that the preparation for "Feed the World in 2050" is the main preparation for the Summit, then I really have questions around that. What is being prepared is basically technical papers or projections of trends for the future, meeting of the needs in 2050. Is that what we are going to discuss at the Summit? I do not think my Minister will come for that kind of discussion, and I question how many will be there. I mentioned that argument yesterday - on such a short notice, at least my Ministers and Head of State, have their schedules full for this coming half year.

But back to the situation in this Organization, the people that are filling the offices here, where you see the lamps burning until late at night, why are they here and what are their priorities? It is in the Organization at all levels, a fantastic support for the IPA and the Reform process. Do we have this same support at top Management when they are starting this process? I really have to ask that and this is coming down the wrong track for the Organization. I do not think we will be able to do it.

Alexander Müller and others tell us "yes this will be no problem", but there is another part of the equation here. Having a Preparatory Committee on top of everything else. Most of us are small delegations, we cannot order people from the capitals to come down here for meetings every week. This will be an extra and serious load on every Permanent Delegation in the city of Rome. Is another Declaration what we really want? I heard people yesterday asking about action on things that really could be done about world hunger. A Declaration does not solve a thing, even though you can say it mobilizes political will, etc, etc.

I will refer to the discussion we had in the World Food Programme in the Executive Board last week. Major Donors signalled that it will be a very hard for them to maintain the level of humanitarian support that they saw last year. Unfortunately, it is the same thing for development. We also have to think, should we have a Declaration saying "you have to give more", "you have to do more" and nothing happens. One delegation yesterday talked about how that led to cynicism - cynicism among ourselves, cynicism among our partners, cynicism among those who really need our support. So we have to be careful here, we really have to be careful.

There are so many elements pulling in this direction. We want the Summit, we want to not only keep but get food insecurity and agriculture development higher up on the Agenda, but I am afraid that what we are doing now will backfire, will backfire in this Organization and will backfire in public and we will, as I said, pay a heavy price when it comes to the Reform of this Organization, which has to be of a first priority now, and I think everyone should realize and see that.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

With your permission may I pass on the word to the Czech Republic, which will speak on behalf of the European Community.

Mrs Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States to ask you for a recess, for a break, we need to consult our position.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I think the Czech Republic really reflected some of what was going through me.

I feel that we, in any way forward, we want goodwill from togetherness.

Some of the statements I have heard, I do not think create that goodwill. Can we try and find a way of rediscovering ourselves? We have tried to build this kind of spirit over a long time and we do not need to destroy it over this little item. That is why maybe today you have not heard my voice. I just did not want to get into this discussion, but I thought that now I would need to contribute as I have got a country that has great interest, and a region that values multilateralism.

Let us try to retain the goodwill that we have had. Some of us have lived in this room and seen how these kinds of statements can tear us apart. We still have a lot of things where we need to work together as one. I do not think we are building ourselves as one. We would welcome that short break but I just want to appeal one thing: yes, we all have diverse interests but we only have one FAO to build. Can we try to look at the good that is coming from either region and see whether we can find a way forward. If need be, let us have a small committee to see what they can salvage from this debate because I do think the longer we continue like this we will be tearing ourselves apart and it will not be healthy for this Organization, I must admit. If you look at it yourself you can almost cut the atmosphere with a knife, separate it and give it definitions and this is not what I would want this Organization to be all about. It is a diverse Organization, but an Organization where unity can still be attained.

So we have heard concerns from either side and some of the concerns relate to what the Secretariat could do. I would also want the Secretariat to see how they can assist us and whisper to us how we can try to accommodate each other, in this, because maybe if we do not have this flexibility among ourselves as a team, it would be very difficult to find the way forward. That is

why I think in the end we might need a small group just to explore and see how we can find a way forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your words of wisdom. Yes I think we are taking this break to prevent a break. It is necessary and I hope that it yields good results.

I do have Afghanistan, Dominican Republic and Brazil, after that we will have the break.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

At yesterday's discussion, I was almost sure we had the Summit in our hands. Today, I think we are beginning to somehow slip from that position and we have to restore, come back on track. I think I fully agree with my colleague from the Czech Republic and my friend from Zimbabwe that we have to secure the situation and that can only be done by extending dialogue among the different groups. I do not know whether you would like to have a Friends of the Chair meeting. We have to salvage, we cannot go along this track. This discussion is useless.

Sra. Virginia SERULLE (República Dominicana)

Deseamos brevemente reiterar que el Gobierno de República Dominicana apoya la celebración de una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en noviembre de 2009. La posposición de la Cumbre sería como posponer la resolución definitiva del escándalo del hambre, y todavía no hemos escuchado ninguna propuesta para una fecha alternativa. El momento de actuar es ahora. Presidente, Noviembre de 2009 es ya tarde, entre el día de hoy y la fecha de la Cumbre propuesta habrán muerto de hambre cinco millones de personas, la mayoría de ellos, niños menores de cinco años y prácticamente todos en los países en desarrollo.

República Dominicana desea unirse a las declaraciones realizadas ayer por el delegado de Trinidad y Tobago a nombre de la Comunidad de Estados del Caribe CARICOM, por la delegada del Guatemala a nombre del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana SICA y del delegado de Cuba a nombre del Movimiento de Países No Alineados.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I look forward to the break.

CHAIRPERSON

Regional Groups get together to talk to each other, half-an-hour break will be enough, right, not more than that? We need you to come back with new proposals, how to find our way forward and make decisions about a good Summit.

So it is now 4 o'clock. We will again start here at 4.30 pm. You have 30 minutes to talk to each other and come back.

The meeting was suspended from 16.00 to 16:53 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 heures à 16 heures 53

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.00 a las 16.53 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Ok, we resume our discussion on the items but before that we do have a very difficult situation ahead of us because still have a few issues pending that we have to decide on. One is the issue of the Summit that you are going to discuss, the other is the reform of CFS, I have heard that there is almost agreement on the way out of that, we do have a decision on the Finance Committee to still agree on. We have the theme for the next Conference still pending.

These are all the things on which to have agreement today and we do have lots of drafts which have not been discussed, so the Drafting Committee needs the interpretation and we have only one set of interpreters. So these are all added the difficulties to shoulder. Please be as efficient as possible and let us continue with the issue of the Summit. I hope that your consultation in the

different Groups has resulted in some new ideas and proposals and the floor is open for your interventions.

Ok, I think the European Union who asked for the break now can break the break.

Yes, Ms Moyzesová of the Czech Republic you have the floor.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, and let me speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Members. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey, associates itself with this statement. The European Community appreciated yesterday's invigorating debate regarding this important Agenda Item. It seems clear to us that there is, in principle, a consensus about the need for a Summit on World Food Security. There are, however, a few crucial issues that still are to be addressed, such as timing, content, preferred outcome, and financing of such a Summit. The European Community is of the opinion that a next Summit should bring a clear added value, meaning action-oriented outcomes to the process of promoting global food security. We also acknowledge the concerns raised by others. Mr Müller proposed to set up an Open-Ended Committee. The European Committee supports this proposed transparent approach and suggests that the Open-Ended Committee reports to the Council Session in September. It should put forward recommendations regarding the issues of timing, content, and decided outcome of a Summit. The European Committee proposes that all issues pertaining to financing of a Summit be deferred to the Finance Committee session in July. Thank you Mr Chairperson .

Vladimir V. KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson . We support the position of the European Union and of other Regional Groups which consists of recognising that there is a consensus on the need and the importance of holding such an important event as the World Food Security Summit. Now, we, of course, understand that this sort of Summit has to produce a concrete, tangible outcome and should be prepared thoroughly in all its aspects, starting from the sort of conceptual content of the issues that will be considered at the Summit and also including organizational aspects. Now, we've heard different views by different delegations, and the essence of these views basically amounts to how could we best organize this kind of Summit, and I think that on all the different aspects of the Summit we need to reach as broad as possible agreement amongst the Member Nations of the FAO and, with this in mind, we fully endorse the proposal expressed by Mr Müller and the Secretariat of the FAO on establishing an Open-Ended Committee which would examine all these various issues and, following this discussion by this Committee, we can adopt a decision on this in a timely manner.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I think we are in the way – the discussions we have had today – I think they're missing the point. Many interventions that we have heard seem not to have a sense of urgency required by the current food insecurity situation. They are failing to observe the fact that, if we don't start working already, with a determined date, we are doomed to not having a Summit at all. Those that are opposing the date - and I fail to understand such opposition - they keep saying we don't have a clear vision yet of what we want to have: the outcomes, the objectives, so on and so forth, but the ball hasn't even started rolling, Sir, and I would appeal to all of those that have expressed such concerns to revisit their positions in terms of the time, of the content and the clear added value.

We have been also hearing that there are too many Summits this year regarding food security, but are we talking about all of the Member Nations, the entire 192 countries, being involved in such a process? I think the answer is "no". We have been talking about an inclusive approach, we have been talking about taking everyone on board and these processes do not include everyone, and how can those involved consider that they will serve, and they will solve all the problems if you do nothing for them and do not give them the opportunity to work on this. We have been hearing about the clear added value and we have just heard now from the EU Representative of that, but what is it exactly that they want? They are missing the point that, besides the political importance

of the meeting, besides the very important political issues related to the Summit, are we sending the message that the situation of the one billion people, those that are going to be dying until we meet as referred to by our colleague from the Dominican Republic, the sense of urgency is being put aside on this issue.

If we do not start working on an attempt to start reversing the desperate situation, an unacceptable situation on all counts, we are missing the point. If those countries that are expecting this to be a meeting for a very specific road map, I think they are also missing the point and why not think from the perspective that this will be the starting point of a new situation – the starting of a new route down which we all want to go – to reach the final and happy situation in which all human beings would be freed from hunger.

Again, this is a building-up process that, in the position of my Government, does indeed require the Summit. Let us look into the perspective that many developing countries have been insisting for very long on the importance of agriculture and it has been neglected over the years. Many countries have been talking about the importance of food security and it has been neglected for many years. A few years ago, we started having a shift on this – we had the World Development Report from the World Bank talking about the importance of investing in agriculture. As part of this build-up process, it is important. We also heard that the G8 will be talking about food security this year in L'Aquila, but that's eight countries and some other invited countries. Why not allow all of the 192 Members to work collectively to reach some points in which we can indeed start attempting to reverse this desperate situation. Now we also heard the very welcoming news that the West is also shifting its position and starting to look at the issues that we have for so many years been insisting upon. This Summit is to continue mobilizing political will; it's a starting point. It cannot be construed as a final product. It's the beginning of a process. We have all talked about how to make the Conferences more meaningful so that they would attract the interest of Ministers. How many times have you heard that, Mr Chairperson, during the CoC, Plenary and the Working Groups' deliberations? This is a fantastic opportunity to talk on the real issues and start the long way for us to look at the situation and seek solutions, seek instruments that will indeed incorporate or free those that are hungry from that very unacceptable situation.

My Government cannot buy the idea that we do not have time. This is just off the mark. We have participated in other situations in which less than four months were required for leaders to deal with the issues that we all want to deal with at the November meeting. So what is so impossible that we can indeed start working and indeed start defining the idea of setting up a Working Group to determine whether the Conference will be at this date or that date? We are postponing, indeed, a very crucial decision and risk making the Conference or the Summit that we have so many high expectations about, a total failure. So we want to have a very meaningful Summit, we want to have a successful Summit, but we cannot just postpone. It is unethical to be forgetting that one out of every six human beings suffers from hunger. The world has been eagerly mobilized to solve this situation of the financial systems, and we understand the rippling effects that that will have, but what is the world doing regarding the hungry people in the world? We cannot be gloomy and start professing self-fulfilling prophecies that this will not work. We need to start working, we need to get our act together, we need to work with the Secretariat, we need to do a better job than we did in mid-year last year; we need to indeed arrive at the very successful and meaningful meeting, but we need to start working, we need to start defining the exact date because September comes as proposed by the EU and then the excuse will be: "No, I'm sorry, our leader's agenda has been taken and so he cannot make it". Let us start working already. People know that the meeting is scheduled for November and let's start working and fix this date, close this issue and pull up our sleeves and start working definitely in having a very successful preparation that will indeed result in a successful Summit in November.

There is very little else I can say. I don't think time is an issue – we have plenty of time until November to work. We indeed have a very heavy schedule ahead of us, but we need to talk and we cannot turn our backs on those suffering from hunger. Unfortunately, these are from developing countries and are in a situation that we do need to understand that it requires a collective effort – no country will do it alone to solve the financial situation, to get out of the

economic crisis that we are facing and the world requires global action and a global mobilization; political will to solve the hunger problem.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I think we're making some progress here and I think the EU proposal for a way forward is very good. The United States of America can endorse that proposal fully.

When it comes to a sense of urgency, I think that is the issue here, but urgency has to also be married with pragmatism and I think a point that many have made before is that Declarations don't feed people; it's actions at the country level, with country ownership, that feed people. From that standpoint, we need to shape the Summit in a way that enunciates FAO's role in making that vision a reality in a way that enables countries to move ahead and realize their aspirations.

I think that sometimes here at FAO we underestimate ourselves – the fact is that FAO is one of the largest repositories of technical knowledge and expertise in the world. We need to mobilize that knowledge and make it manifest and incorporate it in the objectives and goals of the Summit. I think we Members here have a huge amount of experience with coming together towards a consensus of views. We also need the staff and we need the management of FAO to make this very concrete. I don't think we should begin from a Declaration and I don't believe we need a Zero-Draft Declaration. I think we have the capability and the expertise if we work together with the staff and management to enunciate a clear vision. I think that the Working Group can certainly do that if we all put our heads together and work collectively – staff, management and Members - to enunciate the objectives that will come out of this Summit. The timing: I think it should take place as soon as possible, but it should not be premature. It should not be one which focuses on political outcomes; it should be focused on pragmatic outcomes.

Shri Arif Shahid KHAN (India)

I speak on behalf of the Asia Group. We don't want to repeat and underscore the importance of the need for the Summit on which very eloquent statements have already been made by all of us from around the table.

In the discussion before the break, you will recall, Members from Asia did not ask for their turn to speak. This was perhaps with good reason. We, and from the interventions we have listened to, perhaps the entire Membership, agrees that a Summit has to be held. We would like to build on this and strive for a successful outcome which results in the holding of the Summit at the earliest. We are of the view that the objectives of the Summit need to be clearly understood, and, as was explained by the Secretariat, spelt out, following which, work on all other interrelated and consequential matters need to be completed, including a Draft Declaration.

We also want to emphasize that the proposed event is a Summit and therefore we need to approach it with a level of commitment and involvement of the highest order. It is not just another Conference. With all this in sight, and mindful of a consensus, the Asia Group is of the view that a mechanism and an inclusive process, owned by the Membership, be put in place which can take us forward. Even if we are not in a position to agree on timing and detail this evening, it is very important that we keep the objective of the very reason why we started on this and embarked upon the route to take us to the convening of the Summit. One possible way is to constitute a "Friends of the Chair" that is under your Chairperson ship which, in some other words, was called the "Open-Ended Committee" – it can be whatever you decide – which facilitates this process and reports to the Chair, to whatever mechanism that we may decide here, including to the Permanent Representations or whatever. This mechanism and process would decide on all issues and a date that is acceptable to all, including the Secretariat, of course, and achieve the objective to everyone's satisfaction.

We, however, would like to emphasize that the sense of urgency should inform us all and we should have a date which is the earliest possible and acceptable, starting November. We are extremely concerned that if we allow ourselves to look at dates in the distant future, the urgency and immediate necessity of holding such a Summit will perhaps be lost. So we from the Asia

Group would therefore like to reiterate that we want this process to result in a successful outcome which, as of today, is a date for the Summit.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación desea apoyar estrictamente la intervención del Embajador de Brasil y quisiera hacer un breve comentario. La celebración de esta Cumbre cobra cada día mayor vigencia. Es cierto que han existido diferentes reuniones en los últimos meses y hay otras próximas a celebrarse, pero siento también que nada se ha resuelto para 2 mil millones de hambrientos en el mundo.

Mi delegación se pronunció ayer apoyando la fecha de la cumbre para que esta se celebrara en noviembre 2009, inclusive yo también hablo en nombre de los 120 ministros de los Países No Alineados que se reunieron en La Habana donde todos apoyamos la celebración de la Cumbre en el mes de noviembre. Quiero que esto quede aclarado, porque existe una Declaración, están los documentos y está el deseo expreso por esos Países.

Considero además que la celebración de esta Cumbre, fue sobre todo una decisión política, que debe de estar centrada en la solidaridad. Por donde más participe la comunidad internacional y sobre todo en la representación de todos esos Países que sufren el hambre es que pueda estar presente una decisión de este tipo.

Considero además que ese hablar de tres, cuatro, cinco meses para preparar los documentos, los objetivos, etcétera, son factores que hay que tomar en cuenta, pero si existiera un verdadero, una verdadera decisión política, no sería un obstáculo para poder dar una Cumbre en un corto plazo.

Pienso que estas propuestas que se están manejando ahora, de crear un Grupo de Trabajo, para poder ver esto, temo que vaya a crear todo un proceso largo, perdiendo así ese carácter de urgencia.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

I would like to come back to the concerns expressed before the break and to all the contributions after the break. And again I would like to start with the consensus we have achieved. There is a consensus in principle that we need a Summit. Now we are discussing what is the best way to prepare the Summit and what is the best timing. So we should always keep in mind we have achieved this consensus. I would like to come back to what was said by some of the Member Nations, to say a Summit is always a political issue. If you look at the objectives being proposed in the Council document in paragraph 6 you can see that one of the objectives is to eradicate hunger from the earth by 2025. This is a political decision. This is a decision that could only be made by at the highest political level.

My personal opinion is that we cannot, we can never achieve in an Expert Consultation a scientific basis so that everybody says, yes, it is evident, we have to do it. This is a political decision. So the question is the timing, I would not link it to the question whether we have solved all expert questions in the meantime. We have to keep momentum and we have to say yes, we want to make a political decision at the highest level. Still independently, you can discuss if November is or December the right date. So I would like to come back to what the distinguished delegate of Norway has said and I share his concerns there. He said it will be very difficult to maintain the level of humanitarian support because of the economic crisis. This is real challenge, not only for the hungry people but also for the people suffering from illness and other things because the economic crisis will have a negative impact on the situation there. So one of the reasons why the Director-General has proposed November back-to-back to the Conference is because he wants to keep political momentum. And again, this is a political decision. Also in 2010, there will be a lot of international conferences and there will be a lot of competition. Do we talk about Climate Change or do we talk about Hunger? I think one billion hungry people in the world merits the highest political attention. This is the political decision which has to be taken. I would also like to come back to the proposal by the European Union supporting my proposal, but

I have to admit that my proposal was slightly different. My proposal in a very pragmatic way says that in order to be able to organize this Summit, we need a date and if this proposal leads towards the postponement of the decision and we will decide in Council in September. Council in September, I hope I have the right dates in my head will be held 28 of September to 2nd of October - it will be even more difficult to organize this Summit in November. So let's be honest. If we say Council in September we should decide, this means it's even more difficult, it's really almost impossible to organize. If we say September, it's more difficult, including that I do not know how to inform the Finance Committee in July because we need a decision in principle to outline what are the real costs. It depends very much on the format, it depends very much on how many people will attend, it depends very much on - and I cannot talk about the level of security. So we will not be able to give you sufficient information in the Finance Committee in July if we don't have the decision when this meeting should be held. Otherwise we can give you a paper and you will say the information is not sufficient and my only answer would be, I agree, this is not sufficient. So if the proposal, is accepted let's decide end of September, it will be very very difficult to have this meeting organized in November.

Coming back to another issue, again to the objectives – the political debate. We have put in the Council document and in April in the document which was submitted to the Finance Committee what the objectives are and if people here think we should try to bring two issues together, first of all, to keep the momentum and to have a high political profile in this momentum and that we should discuss between Members and Secretariat, and I think the proposal to create Friends of the Chair - sorry Mr Chair, this will make additional work for you - would be a good solution. However, for organizing it, I would need a date for the Council. If we create a group of Friends of the Chair and if the Council decides end of September, I really don't know how to organize the Summit with Heads of State in November, so I don't know if this is my role to propose this compromise but a possible compromise could be to create this group, Friends of the Chair, keep the date so that we can start fundraising, so that we can keep organizing it and within this debate with Friends of the Chair, of course I said it in the beginning there are possible adjustments to accommodate the concerns of APEC - one or two days, I don't think it is a major problem for you, so that we keep together the momentum, we have to enable us to create, to prepare for the Summit, and we have these Friends of the Chair. I know that sometimes compromises are very difficult, and I am really aware that this compromise is a very difficult one because 50 percent of what you want in having expressed your concerns is in the compromise and 50 percent of my pragmatic approach is in this. So I think this is the only way to keep the momentum, to keep the date and to also involve the Member Nations more.

Again, my very last sentence, it is ambitious to organize this World Food Summit but the decision taken at the end of September for the middle of November, I don't know if it is possible to get all the things we need.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I am going to be a bit naughty. Have you actually thought about a date next year? I think part of the problem is that on the one hand we are concerned about having an effective Summit in November and others are concerned that if we don't have a date that we are not really committed to it and that we will lose the momentum. Have you looked at a date in 2010 that we could work towards and we could publicize and we could put in latest calendars. Have you thought about a possible date in 2010?

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

First of all I may be out of context because I was not here in the morning but listening to what has been said, our African Group supports what has been said by Brazil and Cuba. I do not need to repeat that and we also see a consensus for holding a summit. This has been reached by all Members. We also support an Open-Ended Working Group. In fact this was suggested earlier by United States and on really very elaborative measures which need to be taken to work on the contents and substance for the work which has already been done by Management and we heard

yesterday from Mr Ghanem how many papers have been already produced, almost 20 papers which are being reviewed, and they put in the structure how the Summit should be taken.

So I think this Group can work on this one with the exception of the timing. Let's move this timing issue out of this Working Group. If need be, it should go to the Chairperson to work with his friends on the timing which we need to resolve now because we see and agree for us, for example in Africa, that in November it is really appropriate. It was agreed by our Heads of State very much in advance late last year, so they put this in their engagements. This date is already on their calendar. Waiting until hearing on the timing in the September Council, I don't know what will be the decision on the timing during the September Council; it remains a question mark. Therefore it will be very very important for us, let us say if the Summit meeting is in November as was proposed long long ago and a lot of work has gone into it, then get this Working Group, the Open-Ended Working Group, to work on the substance so that it allows time for FAO, the Director-General, to invite the Heads of State, or the Heads of Government to attend this Summit, this is a good sign. So we would plead for a consensus for the timing in November.

Sra. Beatriz CALVO VILLEGAS (Colombia)

Quisiera recordar que nuestra delegación el día de ayer se preguntaba sobre los argumentos para que la fecha de la Cumbre fuera en noviembre, sin dudar de la importancia de la esta. En este sentido hemos estado muy atentos a todas las argumentaciones que se han dado.

Decía el delegado de Estados Unidos de trabajar pragmáticamente pensando en que fuera cuanto antes y luego escuchando al Sr. Müller, que afortunadamente no insistió en el argumento de que sería más económico, sino de decidirlo en el próximo Consejo que se realizará del 28 de septiembre al 2 de octubre y también dijo que sería inconveniente para el caso de que se decidiera hacer en noviembre.

Me pregunto si el argumento anterior era que la Cumbre se estaba ya prácticamente preparando junto a los documentos que van a ser trabajados para la Conferencia de Alto Nivel sobre como alimentar el mundo en el 2050. Entonces ¿Cuál es la diferencia? ¿Porqué decidirlo en octubre? Después de un trabajo de preparación sería un gran inconveniente.

Si la argumentación anterior era que todo realmente se estaba preparando, solo que los Países Miembros no teníamos todavía conocimiento. Son preguntas que surgen del debate que se está dando y para que todos tengamos muy claro cuáles son las argumentaciones y en este sentido puedan decidir los Miembros del Consejo.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Quiero informar que nuestro país en mayo pasado celebró elecciones presidenciales. El Presidente electo asumirá el poder a partir del primero de julio. Se le comunicó sobre la propuesta que hay de celebrar esta Cumbre en noviembre. Una de sus prioridades en su plan de Gobierno es precisamente la seguridad alimentaria y, confirmó que en principio el asistiría.

También hemos escuchado algunos países que en principio se oponen a que la Cumbre se celebre en noviembre no han todavía fijado una fecha para el 2010 tal como lo mencionó Australia. En ese sentido nosotros nos queremos asociar a lo expresado por Brasil y Cuba, Países Miembros que nos precedieron.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Me quiero sumar a lo dicho por Brasil y Cuba. Mi delegación ayer apoyó la Cumbre. La Cumbre para Argentina es una Cumbre política, así lo dijimos en una reunión que mantuvimos como vicepresidencia del GRULAC ante el Director General.

Concretamente nos gustaría referirnos al tema de la fecha. Entendemos que la definición de la fecha no debería estar ligada a la cuestión del Grupo de Amigos. La fecha tiene que ver con las urgencias. En este sentido nos parece que noviembre es una fecha adecuada. Me parece también un grado de sinceridad, honestidad y de reconocimiento a los trabajos realizados.

Los estados desde el punto de vista político estamos preparados para la Cumbre. Me pregunto sino qué estuvimos haciendo y qué estuvieron haciendo nuestros colegas y nuestros superiores políticos en la Cumbre de Madrid, por ejemplo; o en la Cumbre de Treviso donde se reunió el G-8 más unos 10 países más, entre ellos, el mío; en San Pietroburgo donde se celebró la Cumbre Mundial de Cereales; las Cumbres que realizaron los G-20 sobre la cuestión financiera; las Reuniones Regionales como por ejemplo las de los países del Caribe y de América Central; las de los países de América del Sur reunidos en UNASUR.

Si todas estas Reuniones y estas Cumbres no dan insumos ¿qué estamos haciendo? Estos son insumos que deben venir, de alguna manera tienen que venir a esta Cumbre como valor agregado, y perdón porque creo que me olvidé de la Cumbre de África. Aquí estaríamos representados todos los Países Miembros del sistema multilateral.

Me parece que estos insumos se pueden socializar y tienen que venir aquí a la FAO y servirían para realizar una cumbre exitosa, que es la que queremos todos. No nos gusta lo del Grupo de Trabajo para organizar la cumbre, nos gustaría un grupo abierto para trabajar directamente en forma muchísimo más eficiente de lo que hicimos el año pasado en donde con una Cumbre en la cual salgamos todos convencidos que tenemos algunas medidas para aplicar a nivel local, nacional, regional y global.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

La diplomatie est un métier merveilleux, on peut tourner en rond des jours entiers, cela nous fait plaisir, c'est notre métier mais, Monsieur le Président, est-ce que vous ne croyez pas que tout cela est cousu de fil blanc? (je demande à l'interprète de chercher la bonne expression pour la traduction: merci à la cabine française). En réalité, qu'on décide dans 30 secondes ou qu'on décide dans 48 heures en n'ayant pas quitté cette salle, la décision sera que le Sommet aura lieu en novembre. Est-ce que vous ne pouvez pas prendre votre marteau, dire que vous en avez assez entendu et dire qu'il aura lieu en novembre et nous demander ensuite comment nous le voyons, ce Sommet?

Parce que, Monsieur le Président, je parle à titre personnel, j'insiste, je ne parle qu'à titre personnel. Je me suis déchargée des consignes de l'Union européenne, ce Sommet je ne le vois pas du tout comme le propose le Secrétariat. Ce n'est pas une agression à l'égard du Secrétariat, je ne le vois pas comme cela. Je suis une dame du terrain, j'ai parcouru l'Afrique, j'ai travaillé au SIDA, j'ai vu des gens mourir du SIDA et pas seulement de la faim, du SIDA aussi. Je voudrais que ce Sommet soit concret.

Je voudrais si je rêvais, comme je rêve souvent, que ce Sommet dure seulement deux jours. Qu'au cours de ces deux jours, on fixe trois thèmes qui soient: le Partenariat global, le CSA et la gouvernance générale que nous voulons mettre en œuvre pour notre petite planète. Nous aimerions des financements innovants et pas juste l'annonce de 30, 40, 50 ou 150 milliards de dollars. Il y a beaucoup de choses qui sont en cours de préparation, il y a des idées de taxes sur les échanges de carbone, il y a des idées de pourcentage d'une partie du paquet général consacré à la crise financière que nous mettrions dans le développement. Il y a des idées de partenariat privé-public et cela marche, nous l'avons déjà démontré. Nous avons une Organisation qui s'appelle *United*, qui taxe les billets d'avions et fournit des médicaments pour le SIDA, nous savons comment faire. Nous aimerions une Table ronde sur les financements innovants et comprendre comment traduire cela concrètement sur le terrain. Que Monsieur David Nabarro nous dise comment il voit cela, et que nous, nous disions à nos amis les plus chers: si vous prenez l'engagement de consacrer à l'agriculture 10 pour cent de votre budget, si vous prenez l'engagement d'écouter vos petits paysans, alors nous serons là. Nous vous garantissons que nous, nous serons là! Voilà comment je vois ce Sommet, mais je ne vois pas de déclaration où l'on mettra trois semaines à discuter de *should* et de *could* et de *immediately* et de *urgently* et de je ne sais trop quoi! Je pense que c'est un autre Sommet qu'il nous faut. Ce n'est pas un Sommet habituel et c'est de cela que nous devrions discuter maintenant.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

France seemed to have articulated very clearly what was on my mind, that the Government of each nation should listen to their smallholder farmers. The whole world agreed now that they have the potential to help us in this crisis.

Stepping back a little, last year's Summit came on and everybody seemed to be happy that we were making progress. Suddenly, the financial meltdown came and it seemed to have been lost but it is key that we must not let the political will, particularly of African leaders, die on an issue that is so important and so critical to the development of the African nations.

I have seen, over the last 40 years of my experience as an agriculturist, that on a decade by decade basis the local farmers are getting worse and worse. I want an institution where Heads of State should be confronted, with a question for Africa, for instance, how many Members have achieved the Maputo Declaration? Those who have, let them have more of the issues that will make them progress in helping their farmers.

There has been a lot of talk also about issues like private-public partnerships. What are the elements that we want to put in practically to make this happen? I believe these are substantial matters that if properly articulated and defined this Summit will give us the result.

Finally, I want to say that the Ambassador from France is right. Yes, we want and need consensus, we need to move together but as far as I can reason the consensus has been achieved and the question of dates – based on what Brazil, Cuba and Tanzania said it is sacrosanct for some nations. I cannot imagine the Director-General writing to the Heads of State, perhaps who have agreed to it, to say sorry, it is no longer on.

I think this is a matter that we should all take forward and take it forward quickly.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

This is to give Norway's support to the European Union statement. I think what they have lined up is totally reasonable and covers really well the full meaning and views of the full Membership. Unfortunately, I cannot recommend what the French Ambassador asked you to do. In a situation like that I think, at least, my country would have to make a reservation. At this time it would be a reservation that would block any such decision on a Summit in November. We want the Summit, but we want a full preparation and discussion and we want all of the elements to go into it.

I had thought I should tell Management this later today but I have talked at length with my principals in Oslo, asked what the situation is and if a decision is forced Norway is withdrawing its pledge for the Trust Fund for IPA reform – the US\$450,000 – and you have to talk to me before that can be put in the lists, and I want this statement on record.

Mohamed EL TAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to applaud the distinguished Ambassador from France on what she said, for her very noble and eloquent words voicing noble sentiments towards what are the needs of people throughout the world. During the course of her statement I did take note of what was said about innovative financing and I think one of the important results of this Summit would be to heighten the awareness of countries and the leaders of developing countries that food security is on the frontline. Those countries must undertake and commit to raise the amount of budget earmarked for agriculture – 10 percent according to the Maputo Summit. I think that is much more important than US\$30,000 million that African countries suggest. By allocating 10 percent, we would have had an agricultural boom throughout the entire continent and food security.

Agriculture must be one of the top priorities of developing countries and I feel that this statement is of utmost importance and we in Sudan do support it entirely.

Victor C.D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I should be grateful if you could give the floor to the Czech Republic to make a statement on behalf of the European Community.

Mrs Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Let me express a request. I should be grateful if you would ensure that the statement by the French Ambassador is recorded as a personal statement, which is how it was described. The position of the French Republic was reflected in the European Community's statement.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)

We have been listening to this debate very, very keenly. We listened to the African delegate herein. Nigeria spoke some time before me as well as Tanzania, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina and other delegates.

I have tried to scrutinize the European Union statement, in which there is a kind of roadmap, which is a half way roadmap, which I think is not very constructive. If we want to have a roadmap it should be a full roadmap in the sense that it gives us the details or terms of reference of a Working Group or a Contact Group or the Friends of the Chair, whatever. It gives us a timeline of September for further discussions but it does not give us a date for the Summit. That is why it fails. We need to have a date here, now and today. The only thing we have is what the Finance Committee brought forward as a financial proposal for the Summit in November. We have nothing outside of November. How much would it cost in January, March or December next year? These are the details we do not have and we can only take a decision on the basis of what we have at hand and the only thing we have at hand is US\$1.5 million for a November Summit, back-to-back with the Conference.

Calling me now to try to swim in an open sea would be very difficult and I really plead that some of our delegates here at least for once they understand the voice of African Heads of States. They have made it clear and are expecting that today we come and inform them that the Summit will be held in November.

I know that we are not part of the big leaders in Africa but there are some – Nigeria, South Africa and so on. They will take part in some of the G Summits. Please listen to 53 states that have made it clear that they want to have a clear continuum on the debate on World Food Security in November this year. That is clear enough in our minds. So, thank you Chair of the European Union, to propose what is there, which is an element of discussion, but it should come up if we have decided that we will hold the Summit in November.

That is the cry of Africa. If you can at least listen to it and not threaten to withdraw or suspend your participation into a multilateral organization which is a threat and not a good sign for any rich state. Whatever riches it has, for us in Africa we feel we continue to be treated as children, which is not good. "If you do not do it then we will withdraw our money". That is very bad.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Regional Group of the Near East. My colleague from Kuwait has told me that I am not speaking as an Observer, but as Chairperson of the Near East Group.

I very closely followed the various speakers who have taken the floor thus far in this discussion. Maybe speaking at this point in our discussion could prove useful. Now I heard things that I did not want to hear, that I did not like hearing and I am speaking here after my colleague from Cameroon. Here we have before us the reform of this Organization and that is a humanitarian message which goes far beyond the Summit. The objectives that this Organization is to pursue

and obtain are much, much, much more important than an event that we are discussing and here I would like to highlight that point and support what my colleague from Cameroon had to say. This theme has to be kept very much in the forefront of our minds at all times. This Organization has to deploy an ongoing international effort to tackle hunger and poverty in the world.

Now this is the introduction to my statement. I would not even have asked for the floor had it not been for a number of statements made in the other direction, and it is quite clear that we are not close to a consensus on this issue. I would like to recall the session that took place earlier when we discussed the preparation for this meeting of Council, when we got together with the Regional Groups, and we raised this self-same situation, how are we going to decide on consensus regarding celebration of this Summit and you, Mr Chairperson, said that consensus is the only avenue and here I say, we have reached consensus on part of this theme – the principle of holding this Summit. No one rejected the celebration of the Summit, everyone is in favour of holding the Summit but there are diverging views regarding the dates of this event. Ideas have been raised about setting up an Open-Ended Working Group that would work between now and the end of September and then a decision would be made on the Summit itself, and then the idea is not to have this Summit in November because it would not be normal to notify Heads of State at the end of September to attend a Summit in November. Now some Regional Groups are against the November date. That is a fact. In the Near East Group, as my distinguished colleagues said yesterday – Afghanistan, Sudan and others – we have been insisting from the outset on the importance of this Summit and the importance of attending to the issue of food and food security and the hungry in the world, whose number is mounting day by day at a dizzying pace, and not only that, but the reports prepared by the United Nations indicated that the world cannot cope with a new food crisis beginning of 2010. Now if FAO is not the body that is to sound the alarm, who is supposed to sound the alarm? This is the basis of the resolution made by the Arab Summit for this Summit to take place at the place and on the dates proposed, but as I say, consensus is fundamental. Consensus is a very, very sensitive issue, we know that, and especially because we are seeking to increase investments in agriculture. Now if this Summit does reflect the wish and desire of the developing countries but without any agreement from the developed countries, there will be no usefulness whatsoever in making investments to assist this sector of agriculture in developing countries.

The entire world, I repeat, the entire world has felt the effects and the impacts of the financial crisis. Everyone has been trying to find out ways to resolve this financial crisis. In the Near East Region we have taken part in efforts to resolve the financial crisis and its effects. Let me add that food is more important than money. The souls of the hungry and the hunger of the hungry are more important than money. We have to give them everything we can in order to resolve that problem – the problem of hunger and imminent death – and since this Summit is something decided, let us work together in order to agree on a date to come up with some sort of mechanism prior to the date proposed by the European Union, because if we end up in September we would go far beyond what are the normal limits for inviting Heads of State. If we can reach a consensus on that then we as the Near East Region Group would be in favour and would support that. Thank you for your attention.

José Eduardo Dantas FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

Yesterday actually I have to recognize that when I tried to give the impression that I was just trying to be quicker than my colleague of India, I was not just doing that in fact. I was trying to be constructive because I believe that, as a lot of other colleagues put it here and first of all my dear colleague from Zimbabwe, Ambassador Muchada, the decisions that we should take here only make sense if they are collective decisions that have all of us behind them. So my real intention was to support India because India said that they supported in principle, so I was at the same time reiterating the position of my continent and giving room to the possibility of negotiations because I recognize that a Summit, whatever date we will try to chose, will have to be chosen by all of us if we want that Summit to attend the objectives that we all want.

I believe that the discussion that we had yesterday was very encouraging in this sense and I cannot but appreciate also the intervention of our colleague, the Ambassador of France, for her statement and support the intervention just made by my friend from Cameroon. In fact, I believe that if we have an important issue to deal with, we cannot just try to protect ourselves behind something that we are not seeing clearly. We cannot prejudge the urgency of the matter with arguments that we are not seeing clearly. I believe that for all of us it was recognized during this meeting that there is an important matter, a matter that is urgent and probably it is the mother of all urgencies, so it would not be acceptable for us to not have a decision on this matter at the present moment. There was a proposal by the Secretariat of a date; it would not be fair to ask the Secretariat to make another proposal of a date. I believe that if some have concerns about the proposal of the date, they should propose an alternative date but one that will meet the urgency and the importance of the issue that we are dealing with. I do believe that our Council has the capability to do that. Our countries can take a good decision; a decision that really will make all of us stand ready to solve the great problems that human beings – probably more than one billion – are facing right now. So I would appeal to our colleagues to take very much into consideration this fact and try to decide as quickly as possible. In fact, we have, if we want to see, we can see that before those crises, the agendas, all the agendas of the world, probably all the Agendas of all those Bodies that already met, were different but they had to be changed right away because the crisis came and there was no difficulty to change those Agendas, they were quickly changed and there were good Summits that all of us appreciated and they had very good outcomes and we hope very much that the outcomes of those Summits will be implemented for the well-being and the sake of humanity. Thank you very much.

Mme Martine VAN DOOREN (Belgique)

Je voudrais lever une ambiguïté, parce que je vous dirais que je me sens assez mal à l'aise lorsque des pays posent des questions, comme l'a fait l'Union européenne, d'être mis à peu près sur le banc des accusés, des gens qui ne s'intéresseraient pas aux personnes qui souffrent de la faim. Je vous dirais, puisque c'est le genre d'argument qui passe ici, que j'ai passé toute ma vie en coopération au développement et que le souci de la coopération et des gens qui meurent de faim, est un souci que j'ai eu toute ma vie, ainsi que mon pays. Donc, je pense que c'est un peu court de nous mettre, pour ceux qui ont posé des questions, dans le banc des gens qui ne s'intéresseraient pas à ces questions. Je vous dirais que je suis un peu offusquée. Deuxièmement, je vous dirais: pourquoi en sommes-nous arrivés là? Parce qu'il n'y a pas eu de concertation, dès le début. Cette décision du Sommet nous est arrivée sans qu'on nous demande notre avis. Je crois que c'est une leçon que l'on doit tirer lorsque l'on prend des décisions importantes, il vaut mieux dès le début demander l'avis de tout le monde.

Troisièmement, je crois que si nous posons des questions, ce n'est pas parce que nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec le Sommet, mais c'est parce que nous souhaitons avoir une Conférence de qualité. Il y a toute une série d'événements importants qui se passent: la Conférence, le Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire, la Conférence pour nourrir le monde, plus le Sommet. Est-ce que tout cela est gérable en même temps? Vous savez, gérer les délégations qui arrivent, souvent vous ne faites que cela et vous n'avez plus beaucoup de temps pour vous occuper du reste. Donc, je pense que nos questions étaient plus des questions pour avoir, à la fois, une Conférence et un Sommet de qualité et je pense que le procès qui nous ait parfois fait de vouloir bloquer un processus, ne me semble pas un bon procès. Ayant dit cela, je crois qu'il faut trouver le plus rapidement possible un consensus et essayer tous les arguments et les discussions possibles si nous voulons un Sommet de qualité, il faut aussi faire des choses différentes de ce que nous avons fait. Pour moi, si les Sommets permettaient de nourrir le monde, je serais d'accord pour que l'on organise un Sommet tous les jours. Donc, je crois que réellement il faut réfléchir au format, comment rendre les choses différentes, on n'a pas encore eu l'occasion de le faire. Donc, je crois que notre proposition est constructive, nous ne pouvons pas nous bloquer uniquement sur les dates mais sur la qualité de ce qui doit en sortir. Je souhaiterais qu'il y ait vraiment un consensus et plus cette impression qu'il y a "les bons et les mauvais". Je crois que nous devons aussi dépasser ce genre de choses et personne ne souhaite traiter les gens comme des enfants. Simplement, il faut construire ensemble

pour que le Sommet soit de qualité, tout comme les autres évènements, telle la Conférence. Cela fait quatre ans que l'on discute de la Réforme de la FAO, elle doit se terminer. Cela doit aussi être une priorité parce que c'est une Organisation de qualité qui va permettre de trouver des solutions et résoudre les problèmes pour aider les gens qui ont faim. Donc, je pense aussi que traiter cette question-là sérieusement mérite toute notre attention parce que c'est d'une FAO de qualité dont nous avons besoin.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I am taking the floor again and I apologize for that, but I think it was necessary after having heard my good friend from Cameroon relating to countries holding monies back as a sort of blackmail.

I would remind him through you, Mr Chair, that in 2008 Norway was the third largest contributor to the UN System for extra-budgetary and Voluntary Contributions; more than US\$900 million. That is the equivalent of a biennial budget, including Voluntary Contributions to this Organization. Norway is at the present the only country that has reached one percent of GNP, so nobody can come and tell us that we are not preoccupied with development, and that we are not fully fledged and reliable partners.

But it is my Government's policy to have certain conditions, not as conditionality but we want to be efficient and effective and have the best development effect. The reason that we are holding back our contribution of US\$450 000 to the Trust Fund, and the EPR is that there is a question now in Oslo – does this Organization and its top management, are they really serious about the Reform?

I can refresh you, my Minister four years ago made a Reform speech in the Conference. Everything she said at that time holds true still. We want results on the Reform, we seriously think that this is a hindrance for the Reform. If you are talking about dates, let us do a Conference in a year, June next year; we do not have the work plan, the budget, all the sequencing we are thinking about. There are a lot of things. This is a clear sign, the way this has been run from top Management that they want this Summit in November; it is to us more than a clear sign that this Organization is not taking the Reform seriously.

Shri Arif SHAHID KHAN (India)

I will be brief, but you would agree that the first time I took the opportunity to speak it was on behalf of the Asia Group and you will also perhaps give it to us Asians that we are very very brief.

What I want to say are only a few things.

We are digressing from the issue; this is not a contest here to speak of how much we feel against hunger and poverty. Each of us, I am sure, in our own capacities, in the years gone by, have spent time fighting poverty, but that is not the issue at hand and I am sure you will agree with me that we must get back and try and find a solution to the issue at hand.

In my view there are only two issues here. One, if I have understood everyone correctly, we need to agree on the time and date for holding a Summit, and the second, that we need to achieve consensus on it. Can we concentrate on these two points rather than anything else because I can give a big speech on poverty and hunger and how to eradicate it, but is that the point here? We have refrained from doing that in our own statement from Asia. My suggestion here is that in our statement we said we like November but we would definitely like to listen to other suggestions and what other mechanism can achieve that objective and I feel that the statement from the Chair of the Near East Group, also in most part concentrates on that and this also includes some other statements and I do not want to name countries individually on that. But my suggestion here is therefore let us concentrate on this point rather than on beating around the bush. I am sure we all understand that we are all for ending poverty and hunger but that we also all understand that five more hours of debate here is not going to make a damn difference to anybody in this world, and let us be clear on that and let us come down to this simple point which we, from the Asia Group, have tried to put before you. Thank you.

Ms YAO XIANGIUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to touch three aspects.

Firstly, the Chinese delegation emphasizes that the convening of a Summit is of urgency. We had stated that facing the situation of the world food security which is deteriorating which should have a certain consensus on the timely convening of the Summit in which we could timely discuss the food security issues and I think the G8 Summit is going to discuss the issue and I think in Russia there is a forum on this subject. I think that as the Specialized Agencies of the UN Food and Agriculture, the Chinese delegation thinks that we have the obligation to discuss such a big issue so that we can make our due efforts to sort the problem of hunger and poverty,

Secondly, the time for convening such a Summit, China supports November as the time for convening such a Summit. This is because most of us think that the convening of such a Summit is urgent and I think if we are really sincere and through our joint efforts to the full preparation, I think the Summit to be held in November can achieve very good results.

Thirdly, I would like to touch upon the relation between Reform and the convening of this Summit. China hopes that the trust and friendship established at the IEE meeting can be kept, and I think that we are capable of keeping this momentum and finding a solution. Many of our colleagues emphasize that the important work this year is the Reform of FAO, but we do not think it is contradictory between the two, that is Summit and Reform. This is because the ultimate goal of the Reform is to strengthen FAO to be an Organization which can help the whole world to combat hunger and poverty. Therefore, the convening of the Summit is a very important milestone to attest our achievements and progress towards this goal and we think the convening of the Summit is of positive significance towards the Reform.

Sra. Cladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Disculpe que tanto ayer como hoy me ha tocado entre las últimas, pero tengo como costumbre de escuchar todo el debate y sacar algunas conclusiones. Parte de lo que aquí se ha dicho y que también mis colegas del GRULAC escucharon, no las voy a volver a sostener.

Quiero más bien apoyar el planteamiento que han hecho las personas que me han antecedido y que pertenecen a mi región. A todos ellos, a los Representantes de los países africanos y a los otros países que han señalado la urgencia y necesidad de que convoquemos esta reunión.

Nosotros, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela así como lo señalaba la representante de Argentina, tenemos distintos documentos de nuestra región. El Sr. Müller hacía referencia a los que se están preparando para la Conferencia sobre el Mundo sin Hambre para 2050. Nosotros tenemos muchos planteamientos, durante el año nuestros Presidentes, nuestros Jefes de Estado, nuestros Ministros de Agricultura se han abocado a trabajar sin que esté la FAO.

Nos han dicho que con una visión global multilateral enfoquemos las soluciones y que traslademos estas respuestas, alternativas y propuestas acá. Bien, además de los documentos que dice el Sr. Müller, tenemos documentos en América Latina, en los países africanos, teniendo en cuenta que allí se celebró una Cumbre. Todas estas informaciones, aunque estemos distantes de Europa, las recibimos en los mails de nuestros gobiernos todos los días.

Tenemos respuestas, vamos a sentarnos entre todos a buscar la solución, porque es una urgencia que merece la pena atender y que ha sido agudizada mas aun por la crisis financiera. Creo que muchos pobres y desempleados que están ahora en la franja de la pobreza van a caer en la franja de los que pasan hambre, o sea, que reciben menos de 1.2 dólares por día, menos del nivel de pobreza establecido.

Tenemos que trabajar en conjunto, vamos a poner un cronograma de trabajo. No se requieren grupos aparte especiales, es muy simple todos tenemos y podemos dar aportes. Además hay que involucrar un aporte muy importante que pueden dar los pequeños productores del campo, que también tendrían que ser invitados a participar a esta Cumbre y sus aportes tienen que ser tomados en cuenta.

Nuestro país ha manifestado el año pasado en la Conferencia la necesidad de que la FAO va a tener que incorporar a los agricultores al diseño de sus proyectos, porque nosotros no podemos seguir trabajando sin la participación de ellos. Con sus experiencias y sus conocimientos, porque no podemos llegarles como unos grandes conocedores y teóricos de una materia que ellos viven todos los días, sin la FAO y a veces sin la ayuda de los gobiernos mismos. Hay una preocupación universal sobre el tema, tenemos que traer aquí respuestas que ayuden con los documentos, las declaraciones y los objetivos que tenemos.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Venezuela.

Okay let us take an account to see where we are after two long sessions of a very fruitful discussion among ourselves.

I want to start with what we were reminded of by Zimbabwe. Let us not forget the value of the unity and solidarity that we have got during two past years and let us not return to the divide which used to govern our life and this Organization. I do not think that any issue has the value of returning us or bringing us to that divide. We have achieved this solidarity and unity, which everybody appreciates, and it is the biggest achievement in the past two years that we have achieved. Please do not forget that.

Second, we all want an effective, high-quality conference. We want, for example, a good expert basis. We want a conference which is intergovernmental, Member-based objective identification - the points that you raised. At the same time do not forget the sense of urgency. It should be urgent; we do not have all time available to us and again, as I usually say, please do not go for perfection. Perfection is the enemy of the good. We want to have a good Summit and we have consensus on that and in this next round of discussions I think we again came together for the mechanism of having this Summit.

The European Union has proposed this mechanism of an Open-Ended Working Group, whatever you want to call it - others call it Friends of the Chair. Asia has recommended the same thing with a different name and from other parts also you have supported that.

So the mechanism is still here. The only point of departure that we have is, for example, the EU who says that we have this mechanism but let us go and decide and come to report to the September Session of the Council.

Now I want to put all this together with a small change. Yes, let us have this mechanism of an Open-Ended Working Group which works and decides on every aspect of the Summit, starting from objectives, how to do it, how to be most efficient - we should have intergovernmental Member-based decision-making, all those things, but here comes the sense of urgency. People are right to say that if we leave the timing also to be reported to the September Session it means that we are not having this at least in 2009.

Let us have the Working Group and tell them that they have the delegated authority to decide on everything, but the Summit should be done not later than 2009. So we give them all the authority but fix this time because the Secretariat has to know the date and they have to work from tomorrow preparing for that date. So this is my proposal and my appeal to you to accept this.

The floor is open for your interventions.

Afghanistan you have the floor.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I support your proposal.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Sorry, Mr Chairperson, the African Region do supports your proposal. Thank you.

Shri Arif SHAHID KHAN (India)

The Asia Group would also like to align with your proposal and work along side you on this.

Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)

I actually did not get an answer to my earlier question about has the Secretariat looked at a date in 2010, early 2010, as a compromise? So my proposal is I can go along with what you are saying but instead of by the end of 2009 can we say by June 2010?

CHAIRPERSON

Okay, do you want to answer this question, to continue?

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management and Environment Department)

Indeed looking at various dates for 2010, it is not clear what other high-level events will be held so it was for us to decide what is the best time in 2009 and there was one date which we all should consider, this is COB 15 in Copenhagen, beginning of December, so the question was after COB 15 or before COB 15, in 2009. There are some uncertainties with the ongoing negotiations on Climate Change. Nobody really knows if a consensus will be achieved during the first two weeks in December of 2009 so we looked for another possible date and then we came to the proposed date, November 2009. Of course, we also looked at other ongoing plans, dates, but there will always be a competition with other high level meetings there. Additionally, I would like to repeat that our very, very rough estimate is that a stand-alone meeting would cost about 1 million more. One may argue this not alot of money - I like to hear this because for me getting US\$2.5 million maximum for this World Food Summit seems to be quite a challenge - so if people tell me 1 million more is not a problem, I like to hear it, but it's difficult to get this money.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Russian Federation, Germany and Norway.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. Bearing in mind the situation which has arisen and the course of our discussions, we would like to support your proposal. We think it's a wise one, well thought through which is worthy of discussion. Thank you.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, please give the floor to the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU.

Ms Daniela MOYZISOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Mr Chairperson as the European Community cannot find a consensus at the moment we would be grateful for a short recess.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, my delegation has already expressed its point of view, I'm not going to repeat them. We can go along with your proposal and will be doing our utmost for the meeting, the Summit to be held in November. Thank you.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Mr Chairperson, I realise and I know everybody in the room realises when, if you say by the end of 2009, it will be November. This is not satisfactory to my delegation and I don't think it's satisfactory to a number of countries in this room. I made a concrete proposal, Mr Chairperson, I made a concrete proposal that it should be held before the end of June 2010. I would like to have that tabled. Thank you very much.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Sir, I would like to add my voice to yours and support your proposal. Also support what was said by our distinguished friend from Brazil, that is that we will spare no effort whatsoever that the Summit takes place in November 2009. Thank you.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

Thank you, Chair. Taking to account Tanzania's speaking on behalf of Africa, my delegation supports your proposal. Thank you.

Dennis FRANCIS (Trinidad and Tobago)

Speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, my delegation has no difficulty whatsoever supporting your proposal.

Cristián BARROS (Chile)

Me sumo al apoyo a su propuesta.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

También mi delegación se suma y apoya su propuesta.

Juan Sebastián CAMACHO CANEDO (Bolivia)

Mi delegación también se suma a su propuesta.

Sra. María Isabel NÖLCK BERGER (Guatemala)

Mi delegación se une a su propuesta.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Apoyamos su propuesta en la línea expresada por Brasil de tratar que la Conferencia sea en noviembre a los fines de ahorrar fondos.

Jorge CASSINELLI (Uruguay)

En el mismo sentido para apoyar su propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor? The European Community has asked for a break again. I hope this break is more efficient than the previous break and will come with good news. I am pleased that you are looking for a consensus and since we do need this time tonight for drafting and the draft should be ready, I am proposing that this break will continue until tomorrow morning. That meeting of the Working Group has been cancelled we have to work all day through, I think tomorrow because we still have a few pending items. So this break is until 9.30 tomorrow morning and we will resume the meeting for that time.

The Drafting Committee will start its work right now.

The meeting rose at 18.39 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.39 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session
Cent trente-sixième session
136° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15-19 June 2009
Rome, 15-19 juin 2009
Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009**

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

19 June 2009

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:51 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 51
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.51 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

18. Reports of the 84th (2-4 February 2009), 85th (23 and 24 February 2009), 86th (7 and 8 May 2009) and 87th (25 and 26 May 2009) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20)
(Cont'd)

18. Rapports de la quatre-vingt quatrième (2-4 février 2009), quatre-vingt cinquième (23 et 24 février 2009), quatre-vingt sixième (7 et 8 mai 2009) et quatre-vingt septième (25 et 26 mai 2009) sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20) (suite)

18. Informe del 84.º (2-4 de febrero de 2009), 85.º (23 y 24 de febrero de 2009), 86.º (7 y 8 de mayo de 2009) y 87.º (25 y 26 de mayo de 2009) período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 136/11; CL 136/13; CL 136/19; CL 136/20) (Continuación)

18.2 Draft Proposed Amendments to the FAO Constitution for the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2) (Cont'd)

18.2 Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif de la FAO pour la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2) (suite)

18.2 Enmiendas propuestas de la Constitución de la FAO relativas a la reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CL 136/1-Add.1; CL 136/LIM/2) (Continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now call the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Council to order and I would like to return to Item 18.2.

Before that, we still have a few outstanding issues to deal with: one is the reform of the CFS, the other one is the Summit and we do have also the theme for the next Conference and one item on the Finance Committee. We do need the rest of the day for the Drafting Committee to do their job in order for the Report be ready by this afternoon for adoption. So I again appreciate you being brief and up to the point and not repeating what has already been said.

With this, I would like to return to Item 18.2, Proposed Amendments to the Contribution on the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security. We agreed that the Friends of the Chair discuss this among themselves and come to a conclusion. As you mentioned that you are all Friends of the Chair, I appreciate that. We have done that and I think Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh, who is the Chairperson of the Near East Group, has the proposed text for us.

Ibrahim, you have the floor.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

On the basis of the discussions undertaken within this room when we dealt with Item 18.2, we have seen different points of view. However, through the consultations undertaken within the framework of the Friends of the Chair Group, who are actually in this very room, we were able to consult with the regional groups and the Member Nations in an informal manner. We wanted to avoid wasting any additional time. Numerous proposals were submitted and, after having consulted among the various regional groups and Friends of the Chair and having resorted to the Legal Council - and Mr Pucci and Mr Tavares were of great help - we reached a conclusion and I shall be reading this text in English very slowly so that all of you can follow.

Thank you, Sir. So I shall read the text.

Continues in English

So, "Took note of the proposed constitutional amendments submitted by France, contained in document CL 136/LIM/2, and mandated the Contact Group of CFS to further discuss these amendments and advise, through CCLM, the Conference in November to take a decision on the said amendments, in light of the outcome of the discussion of the Contact Group of the CFS, the legal advice of the CCLM, as well as the response of the United Nations regarding the forwarding of the CFS Report to the General Assembly. Meanwhile, without pre-judging the outcome of the discussion and the decision of the Conference, the Council noted that the draft amendments would be circulated to the Members of the organizations as required by Article XX, paragraph 4, of the Constitution."

This is the text, Mr Chairperson, and this is the conclusion we have reached, and as you are aware, this consensus text does not reflect any given position, but is rather an attempt to bridge the gaps or get the different points of view closer. Nobody found that this is perfect for him or for her but it's rather a consensus.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ibrahim.

You have listened to Ibrahim and the proposed text and, as was mentioned, it has the informal consensus of everybody. Now I'm looking for your formal consensus to adopt this text.

Hisham Ahmed SOROUR (Egypt)

Egypt did take part in the drafting of this text, and we endorse it fully because such a text takes into account all considerations raised by the Member Nations within this Council.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Merci Monsieur le Président, peut-être pourriez-vous passer la parole à ma collègue de la Présidence tchèque.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, the European Union and its 27 Members approve this statement read by Jordan.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Representative of Czech Republic speaking on behalf of EU. Since this is a decision, we only keep the intervention in the Council Members. I don't see any other....India, yes.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, I take the floor on behalf of the Asia Group, and we are OK with the statement read out by the Chair of the Near East Group. Thank you.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain a participé à cette concertation et approuve le point de vue lu par le Représentant de la Jordanie. Je vous remercie.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

We can simply agree with the proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I see, I think that we do have the agreement so if somebody disagrees please ask for the floor. And I do not see any so the Council endorses the statement as was read by Mr Ibrahim.

It is so decided. Thank you very much.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

15. FAO Contribution to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CL 136/14)

15. Contribution de la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du Cadre global d'action (CL 136/14)

15. Contribución de la FAO a la aplicación del Marco Integral de Acción (CL 136/14)

15.2 Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009 (CL 136/22)

15.2 Proposition d'un Sommet sur la sécurité alimentaire en 2009 (CL 136/22)

15.2 Propuesta de Cumbre sobre seguridad alimentaria (CL 136/22)

CHAIRPERSON

OK, now we come back to where we left yesterday, the proposed Summit on World Food Security in 2009, and of course we all remember that yesterday afternoon I made a proposal and it received wide support from the Membership. The European Union asked for a break to consult among themselves, and now, after the break I would like to ask them to report to the Council on the result of their deliberations and then continue with others.

Ms Daniela MOYZESOVÁ (Observer for Czech Republic)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States including Turkey, the candidate country to the European Union which associates itself with the statement. Mr Chairperson, we accept the Chair's proposal. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Kent VACHON (Canada)

I think, yesterday you usefully presented us with a proposed decision which had two parts and those two parts were about the elements of effectiveness and about timing. I think we had earlier intervened on the subject of effectiveness and I will not repeat all the points we made, but I think it is important as we go forward with this decision to focus as much on the effectiveness part of your decision as on the timing part. If I may, I was going to make a short digression to look at some previous Summits that I think we would all agree were effective ones and examine what were the elements of the preparatory process of those Summits that allowed them to be effective, because I think it's going to be important to focus on those as we go forward with this process.

The two that come to mind are the Monterrey process, which allowed us to arrive at the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. I think they had three defining characteristics: one was an expert process, an expert process that allowed for the definition of realistic and achievable outcomes from a Summit; the second was an inter-governmental process that allowed the participating members to build consensus around those expert-defined, realistic outcomes; and the third was a process that was well-fixed in a multilateral framework. I think all these need to be in place and they need to be properly sequenced and I think, as we pointed out yesterday, to our mind the Secretariat has not yet entirely presented us

with a plan that has those elements in the sequence we think they need to be. For that reason I think we would thank you for highlighting some of the elements in our proposed decision.

I think I would just like, though, to particularly underline one of those and that is the multilateral framework. In the area of food security we do have what again I think we've all agreed is a well-functioning mechanism, and that is the High-Level Task Force on Food Security. It has developed a comprehensive framework for action. It has an ongoing effort at country level to assist with preparation of country policy frameworks and plans and, in addition, I think a number of countries yesterday, in our discussions, usefully pointed out the Maputo Declaration and its focus on the country level and steps that need to be taken at the country level to move us toward improved food security.

So, I think that all of these elements are ongoing, and we have to examine in our process how we can add value and that's the challenge of this preparatory process, to define where we can add value.

I would just say, Canada is prepared to participate in that preparatory process. We do not think it is a simple proposition. There are risks to not undertaking it adequately and correctly and the risks significantly are reputational for this Organization, so let us focus on making this a successful process so that the outcome does credit to us all.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Canada, for the very wise statement and I am sure that the Secretariat takes note of this and not only will they take a note of that but they will react and act and be proactive on that, as I say. Any other, okay we do have a speakers list. I do have Italy.

Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

First of all, Mr Chairperson, let me thank you for your wisdom and conduct of these works and the appreciation we have for you, for the work you are doing also in other fora. Here we would like to say something about the importance the Italian G8 Presidency is attaching to the question of food security. We have been engaged for the past months, all through the winter and spring, in a very important process along with other partners, including G5 partners, according to an outreach process we started a few years ago, and we are now enlarging this process to other important partners, especially African partners. Let me remind you that in a few days in Sirte, Libya, the African Union will also convene an important Summit and that Summit will devote, again, important attention to the question of food security and water. We have also involved in this outreach process the international organizations, to begin with the UN-Rome-based organizations. Our aim is to have in L'Aquila, in the middle of next month, during the Summit, an important separate statement dealing with food security, because water and food security will be at the highest possible level of attention at the Summit.

It is important, Mr Chairperson, to keep the political momentum and the attention, so there is urgency. The urgency has been proven also by recent interventions, I refer not only to interventions of my Prime Minister and my Government, but the President of the United States. The United States also mentioned important financial contributions. Other countries have done the same, and others will follow. We are entering into a phase, a very important phase, where all these issues will have to be considered and we hope, and we want that these organizations and the other Rome-based organizations will be involved in this process.

So we believe that L'Aquila will be an important step forward towards the achievement of these global partnerships, and we praise the efforts of the Argentinean Chairperson is making, and the other colleagues, and all of us I should say, with the enormous progress in the work on the CFS reform we have achieved so far. Many of these processes, as you know, will find a natural conclusion in the fall, the first year of the IPA implementation, the CFS reforms and others.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairperson, by telling my colleagues how much we care for this Organization and how much we have appreciated the spirit of cooperation among the regional groups in the past couple of years, among the Membership and the Secretariat. It is a unique and

important experience that we should be proud of. I happen to travel to the UN in New York, to Geneva and I happen to meet colleagues and people saying, "what's happening in Rome". We must be proud, we must maintain this level of cooperation in good spirit, among all of us. Please let us keep up the good work together.

Lee A. BRUDVIG (Unites States of America)

I want to just take a little time to reflect on some of our discussions and I want to start by saying I fully endorse the statements made by Canada and Italy, these are very, very important processes. The one thing I would take away from our discussions yesterday is the very strong desire among the Members here to assure that this process is Member-driven, and that it is country-focused. Those are themes that come up over and over again. There are three other words, and I am going to be brief, in just enunciating these three words as three guiding principles in our discussions in crafting a Summit: Number 1 is Opportunity, Number 2 is Responsibility, Number 3 is Partnership.

Opportunity, because I think that in the past year we have contributed very effectively to raising the bar of understanding of global needs on food security and agricultural development. This is certainly the case of my President, President Obama. Food security is now at the very top of our agenda, and I can assure you it will stay there. President Obama has asked Congress for US\$1 billion of additional money next year. He has already stated that in the next three years, we will increase that every year. That money will go to whatever channel is the most effective. We have said very clearly that we would like to make use of multilateral channels to the maximum extent possible. That is something that is earned, that is something that is won by confidence, by demonstrating a commitment to Reform, and by enunciating clear measurable achievable goals. So I think this is a great opportunity, but it is also a responsibility for us as Members to take control of this and make sure that we exert our responsibility in enunciating realistic measurable country-focussed goals.

Partnership, this is something that Italy has just talked about. This is absolutely crucial. This is a great opportunity again for FAO, having put forward the most ambitious Reform programme ever enunciated by a UN Organization that is fully supported by the Director General. We have the Opportunity to package this in a way that inspires confidence, builds partnerships, and assures that we can move ahead, step by step, but this is going to take time. It is going to take all of our cooperation.

The United States is very anxious to work with all of you, and we hope that we can transcend the perspective of FAO and make this part of an emerging global partnership.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished representative of the United States, I agree with all the points that you raised and I hope that we can show that we are effective so a bigger part of that money would also come to this Organization. I am asking the Secretariat to take note of the points raised, and implement them pro-actively. I invite Turkey to take the floor, please.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

Mr Chairperson, thank you very much for the floor. We are very happy to see that we have come to an agreement, and now we can go to the details, perhaps. The United States talked about partnership and we are all aware of the importance of this, and in this respect if we look at Section 3 of the document, there are Expert Meetings mentioned there. I think among those Expert Meetings, we would like to see one additional meeting on agricultural research and technology transfer which, I think, is crucial for agricultural development and food security in the long term. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. As we have decided there would be an Open-Ended Committee and all the Members would be involved in bringing up all their wants and their views so let us keep out of

the very detailed things today, but the Secretariat takes note of your proposal. Norway, you have the floor.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Very good interventions have been made by Canada, United States of America, Italy and others on the preparatory process, and I would underline all of those points.

This is a decision that Norway deeply regrets. We know that it will have effects on the Reform Process. We see it like this. The Reform Process itself is in danger. We seriously doubt that the Organization will be able to sequence all of these challenges that we have before us that have to be ready for the Conference in November.

I spoke at length about this before and I am not going to repeat it but in overview – and this is the view shared by my principals in Oslo – I am again referring to the Reform speech made by my Minister in Conference four-and-a-half years ago and repeated at subsequent Conferences – every word in that statement stands today.

It will have consequences. We now doubt seriously that top Management has the right priorities for this Organization. Norway is absolutely for a Summit, it was timing and preparation and nothing else the influence it will have on the Reform Process.

You, Mr Chairperson, will have a responsibility yourself and we certainly wish you well because you are going to lead now the sequencing and integration of the outstanding questions in the Conference Committee for the Budget and Plan of Work, and we certainly will support you in all of your endeavours in that respect.

CHAIRPERSON

I will assure you that I will make the utmost efforts not to let anything negative affect the Summit and the Reform. It is my belief, and I hope by the end of the process we can prove that it really has happened. Thank you for your support.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

At the outset, let me say that we are very grateful to your negotiating skills and the way that you have been conducting our business. We see, with a bit of nostalgia already, that we will not be seeing you here on this podium next year but certainly you have made yourself known as a Chairperson who is able to get the collective consensus, to lead us into a congenial manner of doing business and, certainly, my delegation is very grateful to you.

Regarding the Summit, we have already expressed our support yesterday but I think a few elements I would like to raise at this point in time. I mentioned yesterday that we need to build on previous experiences and try to avoid mistakes of the past and we need to make this Summit – at least that is the intention of what I gathered from the room – is that we want this Summit to be a turning point in the situation which is totally unacceptable. For that, we shall have to work on issues regarding the short-term and long-term issues, and also we will have to consider a rights-based approach on this Summit. I am not inventing anything, these were issues that were outlined by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the Madrid meeting, when he spoke about the three-pronged approach. Certainly, along with that approach, we also need to consider access to food as important as increasing production and productivity in developing countries and stimulating the smallholder farmers.

My delegation will be working very much for the success of the Summit. We are very committed to it and we pledge all the support for this venture.

There is one other issue that I touched on very briefly when we discussed the document CL 136/22, paragraph 11, which talks about organizing parallel, special events with NGOs, CSOs, farmer organizations, private sector and National Parliaments. My delegation attributes great importance to that and we applaud and welcome this initiative, especially those related to the NGOs, CSOs and farmers' organizations. We suggest that, based on past practices of Summits

and meetings of this magnitude, we allow these meetings and these organizations room enough to interact with the intergovernmental process, and are given a true chance of having their points made during the Summit.

CHAIRPERSON

I especially thank you for your nice words about myself. If I had any success it is because of the friendship with all of you and if there has been any failure that is my shortcoming.

I am sure that we have taken note of all of your proposals, and we will act accordingly.

Mohamed EL TAYEB ELFAKI EL NOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Allow me to give the floor to Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh, Chairperson of the Near East Group, to speak on behalf of the Near East Group.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Before referring to the details, I would like to support what has just been stated by the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil, with regard to your wise guidance of this Council, which helps us very much in reaching a consensus. Initially I sensed some concern with regard to the possibility of reaching consensus but thanks to your wise guidance and the cooperation of all Members, particularly the European Union, which understood their position very well, we have achieved the results that we have here.

I would like to emphasize the need to take advantage of lessons learned in the past. Past Summits and High-Level Conferences have issued Declarations, but there was a lack of vision and practical measures. Therefore, I think we need an executive programmer and a programme for implementation. We said that we wanted to eradicate at least half of the world's hungry, but the figures have shown that we have failed. Why, because we did not have effective instruments for implementation in Member Nations. When we are talking about global food security, we must maintain a permanent inter-relationship between donor countries and the beneficiaries, so that we can increase the investment in the agricultural field in order to enhance productivity of this sector.

In the Near East Group there are donor countries and also beneficiary countries. The donor countries in our Region not only help the Members of our Region but also help other countries outside of our Region.

On behalf of the Near East Group, we have worked towards a consensus, and therefore I welcome the solution and I hope that we can learn from the past.

Once again, I would like to repeat my thanks to you personally for your very wise guidance of this Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your kind words. We will take note of your important points.

Ramalingam PARASUMA (India)

I was looking at the June issue of FAO's Food Outlook and if I am not mistaken, Brazil and India are the two largest producers of sugar in the world so we would like to add our amount of sugar to the sweetness of comments that our colleague from Brazil made about you. We really appreciate the kind of leadership that you have shown here and have seen us through multifarious issues and resolutions. We extend our compliments to you on this occasion.

On a more business-like note, we welcome this development. We were always for the Summit and we were one of the earliest supports. We, therefore, look for some very positive outcomes.

Therefore, I would like to underline what Canada and Italy have said – and I think they have made some very important points – we join them and indeed others who have expressed their views on this. We look at the Summit as something going beyond just a statement by the Heads of States and Governments. We would like to see something concrete emerging out of it. Call it whatever name you would – an Action Plan or whatever – there are several divergent processes which we

have tried to bring together here, including the very important point on reforming the CFS – on which we have all given so much praise to the leadership shown by our colleague from Argentina – and the initiative that is coming under the Italian Presidency at G8 plus G5 and others on a Global Action Plan. We would like to see all of this converging into something very concrete.

I will refrain from verbalising more on this – having been cautioned by you earlier on about not going into details – but what I would like to say is that some of the elements which have been expressed by Canada, for instance, need to be looked into very seriously and a framework of action – which, again, is translated into reality – needs to emerge from this Summit. Otherwise, all these apprehensions that were expressed yesterday and before might just come true and that is not what we want. We do want something more concrete emerging out of this. The Summit should not be an end in itself, it should be a beginning of a new era under CFS and FAO leadership and partnerships with other United Nations Agencies and Governments. So that what we have been talking about yesterday – about ending hunger and poverty – becomes a reality sooner than later. I do not know whether it is maybe 2050 if it is better, probably it will be in my lifetime.

CHAIRPERSON

First of all, I hope that definitely it will be in your lifetime, even if it is 100 years from now.

Secondly, thank you, because I was always wondering why I liked your interventions. Now that you revealed the secret that you are the biggest sugar producer, so it is always sweet.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

No, I should not take the title of it. Brazil is number one!

CHAIRPERSON

You raised important points – some of them referred to other colleagues before – and I want to make sure that the Secretariat takes full note of all these points which are very important and we hope that we achieve the results that the Council is looking for.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Allow me, on behalf of Africa, to thank you for helping us to rediscover ourselves in this process. We welcome the many encouraging statements that we have heard this morning from our colleagues representing the various regions and indeed from Italy, our host in Rome.

We wish to restate that Africa will play its part to promote collegial rapport that is called upon in the process of this nature. We continue to hope that, amid all of the gymnastics that we may have to play in order to achieve this goal, we should not – the question that was given to us by Canada during COAG – whatever happens, let us not miss the goal. Success will largely depend on us, the players, and not on the process itself. We make the process.

We hope that in drawing up the paper for the way forward we will be able to tie up all of the initiatives that we have been working on throughout the year and bring fruition to our work of reforming FAO and CFS.

Ms Astrid JAKOBS DE PÁDUA (Germany)

In line with the European Union statement delivered by the Czech Republic, I would like to recall what the Honourable Ambassador of Zimbabwe said yesterday and just reiterate it.

The spirit of consensus among FAO Membership is most important if we want to successfully live up to the challenges and our own expectations in the difficult months ahead of us. Parts of the discussion in this room, especially yesterday, have been unfortunate in this sense and threaten to harm the success of our joint efforts of the last months. We urge the Secretariat and FAO Membership to work with each other in a respectful, transparent and sincerely consensus-oriented way.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for a very short statement but pointing to a very, very important point. I appreciate that very much.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation joins others to congratulate you for your leadership role and wisdom. We also required your support on all these Agenda Items which were seen to be difficult, but through your leadership we have been able to go through them.

I echo what has been said by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group. Whatever we do, let us do it better than before. We, as Members of FAO, have been applauded for our determination to reform FAO and one of FAO's work is advocacy and this is what we had been trying, here in this meeting, to see that the advocacy of FAO still and continues to remain on the Agenda – particularly on the issue of food security. We have been able to come to the conclusion very successfully, and with a very good consensus.

My country will participate fully in this process and would like to see that whatever has always been raised by our Heads of States, in particular if the African Union is taken into so much consideration – and much of it was referred by many delegates, including France and Italy – they have referred to the issues of Africa and, in particular, the issue of partnerships and to move our CAADP programme and investments which are needed for this – and in particular, the issue of irrigation and water. These are areas that we would like to see coming out, and how they can come into what will be the resolution.

Beide MELAKU (Ethiopia)

My delegation joins others to express our appreciation for your leadership and wisdom and we also support the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of Africa. We also agree with Canada, Italy, United States of America, Brazil and others that the Summit should be well-prepared and effective.

But, I think what is of critical importance is in the final analysis. It is the countries that should be responsible for their own policies and strategies in achieving food security. Of course, this has to be done in partnership with people and countries of goodwill. From what we saw in this Council, there is willingness of all Members to contribute to that goal and we appreciate that very much. We appreciate our partners who support us in our endeavour to achieve food security in our various countries.

Hisham Ahmed SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset let me express my thanks and appreciation for all of your efforts and your leadership of this Council in order to attain consensus. This only ensures – as our colleague from Germany said – the importance of keeping the momentum and keeping the consensus we have maintained during the Reform Process of the Organization. This should be in our minds, in our way to prepare for the Summit and finish the Reform of the Organization.

I reiterate the points made earlier regarding the good preparation of the Summit. We believe the Summit will be a very opportune occasion to reach a consensus on many sides and issues. Egypt confirms its desire that the Summit should lay the way and the steps leading to addressing the issue of food security. The food security issue is very critical and should remain as the top priority of the international agenda. We in Egypt will host the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in July, and we also emphasize the importance of food security to be on the Agenda of the Summit and it will also shape up the way the Non-Aligned Movement will take up this issue in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Egypt. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank you for the important role that you are playing in your capacity as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and in your personal capacity.

Thank you very much.

I would like to invite China to take the floor, please.

Ms ZHANG MING (China)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. As the previous speakers, China's delegation appreciates your wisdom and your high skill of coordination that has led our discussions to a very fruitful result. We also appreciate all Members of the Council for their spirit of cooperation, sincere cooperation and the Chinese delegation, with regards to the consensus that was reached, expresses its satisfaction. We also agree with countries like the, United States, EU, Brazil and Canada on their ideas and opinions.

China has always participated actively in the Reform Process of FAO, as well as the preparations for the World Summit on Food Security.

The Chinese delegation believes that all Members of the Council, as well as the Conference of the FAO, should make joint efforts to make the Summit a success. Through our efforts, the Summit will prove that FAO is changing with the Reform Process. The new structure, the new culture and the new efficiency of this Organization will contribute to food security and to the reduction of poverty worldwide.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. First of all, I would like to fully associate myself with the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of India on the achievement that we have received this morning on our programme for the next Summit.

Mr Chairperson, I take this opportunity to reaffirm our strong commitment in working closely with all Members in tackling the problems of food security. I wish to take this opportunity also to express my delegation's gratitude to you for your able Chairperson ship that has brought us to productive solutions for the bigger work and challenges ahead of us. I would also like to assure you that we are committed to working closely with you, with the Secretariat and with all Members during the preparatory process of the next food security Summit. Lastly, Mr Chairperson, I would like to thank all delegates who had shown their cooperative and constructive position during the deliberations of all Agenda Items before us.

Thank you, very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your nice words, and especially I am also sharing your last point that I also appreciate the attempt of all delegations to reach this consensus. I'll invite the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, United Kingdom, to take the floor.

Victor C.D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I am fully a party to the European Community statement made earlier. I am not going to speak of the problems which we have to resolve, as I think we proved ourselves very good at resolving problems for the first couple of years. There was a moment yesterday when I wondered if the good relations that we enjoyed between all of the regions and all of the delegations here might somehow be suffering yesterday. I am very much reassured by statements from Brazil, Jordan, India, Zimbabwe, Germany, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Egypt, China, now, Indonesia. That's how good relations remain, and I would like to thank you for that, Sir, for your personal contribution in

keeping us on track yesterday. I was most impressed. I do not speak of sugar here as we do not produce much, but I was most impressed you managed to do so without recourse to chocolate. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for the very important points that you are raising and we always remember your chocolates in the Working Groups. Now I will go to the Observers, and I do have Switzerland.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse accepte également votre proposition. J'aimerais relever ici que nous soutenons ce qui a été dit par les délégations du Canada, des États-Unis et de l'Italie, notamment en ce qui concerne l'importance des partenariats. A nos yeux, en effet, il est important que ce Sommet soit bien préparé en étroite collaboration avec le Secrétariat de l'Équipe spéciale de haut-niveau, et que ce Sommet débouche sur des résultats concrets.

J'aimerais aussi rappeler notre souhait et notre intérêt à ce que le Sommet traite la question de la pénurie des ressources naturelles en liaison avec les changements climatiques.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Ma délégation se félicite que le Conseil a pu, sous votre conduite éclairée, sortir de l'impasse dans laquelle elle se trouvait hier. Monsieur le Président, nous savons tous que la fédération de nos efforts est très importante pour la suite de nos travaux.

Je voudrais, surtout, vous remercier d'avoir rassuré, quelque peu, ceux qui parmi nous avaient des craintes quant à l'impact négatif d'un tel Sommet sur la poursuite de la Réforme.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Morocco. I do not see any other request for the floor. I sincerely thank all of you for all the good intentions, a spirit of cooperation and showing the political will to come to a consensus decision on a very important point that, I agree yesterday, on some points we thought that we would never reach an agreement. But such excitements would appear sometimes unexpectedly. Fortunately, as you all said, we are back again on the spirit of solidarity, goodwill and cooperation, and I hope this would all prevail in the FAO for the rest of its life.

As I stated yesterday, I am sure that Secretariat would pay attention to all the important points raised by all delegations, especially it should be under expert process, participatory process, multilateral framework, Membership-driven and learning from past experiences and mistakes, and all other things that we said, I cannot sum up all of that. We said that Council decides that the Summit be fully-funded from extra-budgetary resources and the Report, in this regard, will be provided to the Finance Committee at its July meeting, that the preparation of the Summit in no way should affect the implementation of the Reform Process and implementation of the Plan of Action, that an Open-Ended Working Group be established to prepare for the Summit, with the full participation of all Members.

In my summing up yesterday, I said that the date of the Summit should be no later than the end of 2009, but this morning, in informal consultations, many representatives requested that we fix the date because the Committee might take a long time to decide on that, and the Secretariat has to start its work. So if I can propose again that it should be in November, but close to the Conference but considering other events, international and regional events, there might be need for moving the proposed date some time, a few days here and back and forth. If you agree with that, I think then the Open-Ended Working Group could start its work on important issues such as objectives and processes, and all other specifications that you dealt with. Do I have your endorsement on this? I do not see any request for the floor.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources and Environment Department)

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for this very constructive discussion. What we will do immediately is, as promised, to invite you to an Open-Ended Working Group to discuss all important issues related to this Conference and, if you agree, that's the reason why I asked for the floor, I could immediately, next week, invite the Chairs of the Regional Groups to prepare this Open-Ended Working Group. So it will be an Open-Ended Working Group, but for the preparation of this Open-Ended Working Group, I would like to invite the Chairs of all Regional Groups to discuss what could be the sequencing of the steps, so that this could be a real Member-driven process. In this invitation to the Regional Chairs, we could also consult on the question who should Chair this Open-Ended Working Group because, as several of you stated, it should be Member-driven and the best thing is that we have a Chair or we have co-Chairs so that this process could be really in your hands. I have taken note of all the requests, and I would like to start the preparation immediately next week.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for being ready to take action, but in cooperation between the CoC-IEE and this process, yesterday I was thinking that we do have this Working Group already, because we have Working Group II, which was working on Governance and now they have finished their work. Thanks to their efficiency, they do not have anything to do. We have Co-Chairs and a spokesperson, and structures in place, but they might want to change their Co-Chairs, but the structure is there. That is a recommendation and not a decision. So you might take advantage of that as well. France you have the floor.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

"Ça c'est sûr" aurait dit ma grand-mère "que vous êtes un super bon Président". Merci beaucoup.

Je voudrais simplement dire à Monsieur Müller que je souhaiterais vivement que ce groupe soit effectivement très ouvert comme l'ont indiqué nos collègues du Canada, des États-Unis et des autres pays. Je voudrais que l'on ne se contente pas d'inviter les Présidents des groupes régionaux, non pas que nous n'ayons pas confiance dans les Présidents des groupes régionaux, mais il faut faire venir toutes les bonnes volontés qui ont envie de travailler, qui peuvent mettre des ressources humaines à la disposition de ces Groupes et mettre aussi leur énergie et leur diversité. Donc, je suis à nouveau d'accord avec mes collègues des États-Unis et du Canada pour demander que ce soit vraiment ouvert et que nous n'ayons pas ce système d'observateurs silencieux, où finalement il y a des quantités de gens qui sont là, qui ont envie de travailler et qui ne peuvent pas.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources and Environment Department)

I can reassure you that open ended means open ended and in the Working Group leading towards the High-Level Conference in June 2008, we had the same principles. There were no silent observers, there were only active participants and in the end, this was the only way to achieve a consensus on the Declaration. I would also like to ask the Regional Chairs if they agree to invite the Rome-based Agencies to this Working Group, so that it is really as you said, an Open-Ended Working Group.

9. Preparations for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference (CL 136/12) (Cont'd)

9. Préparatifs relatifs à la trente-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO

(CL 136/12) (suite)

9. Preparativos para el 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO

(CL 136/12) (Continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We dealt with a very delicate and interesting topic. Now I will come to Item 9, Preparations for the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. As you remember, we were thinking about identifying a theme for the coming Conference because the IPA recommends that we do that. Earlier there was a proposal, and the theme was "Ensuring Food Security in a Context of Global Challenges to Agriculture," and the distinguished representative of Australia very wisely said that if we approve the Summit, then we might repeat the things again and the theme might be repetitive, and so now it is a truth.

Yesterday I said let us take a look at the Strategic Objectives of FAO because we have discussed so much and now we have agreed on 11 Strategic Objectives. Let us take one of them as the theme for the next Conference. I was looking at the first theme of the first Strategic objective. It is "Improving Preparedness for an Effective Response to Food and Agriculture Threats and Emergencies". Threats and emergencies are national disasters such as drought, complex crises such as civil conflicts or market shocks, and the effects of climate change including their incidence on transboundary pest and diseases. So that's an all inclusive title, and if you agree, we can select this theme as the major theme of the next Conference for November of this year. I would like you all to respond to that. As a matter of fact, we do not have to really discuss it. I would ask for your endorsement. Do I have it? Yes, thank you very much.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

On the issue which we discussed in the Finance Committee, paragraphs 12 and 19, I have been informed that consensus has been reached, and the Drafting Committee would deal with that and we do not have to discuss it here. It comes in the final report today. India is asking for the floor.

Ramalingam PARASURAM (India)

To clarify matters for my benefit and perhaps for others as well, much as we would very much like to go along with what you had proposed and adopted as the broad theme, at the same time we do need for it to be properly worded. My suggestion therefore is not to start considering the text of the couple of sentences that you might like to have drafted but that the Drafting Committee comes out very clearly with what it is, so that by tomorrow we can communicate with the capitals on a very clear and cryptic theme for the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Before completing our work this morning, I would like convey a message I have received from the Representatives of the three FAO staff associations in which they express gratitude to the Council for the recognition by Council Members of the commitment and hard work of the staff and I will read the letter to you. The letter is addressed to me.

"We would be grateful if you could convey to the Members at the closure of the Council, our appreciation for the recognition of the commitment and hard work of the staff, particularly during the Reform Process that will lead to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Above all, we remain committed to our goal, to a world free from hunger and malnutrition."

I have conveyed the message and now on your behalf, I will send a message to them that we appreciate this good gesture and we really appreciate that the gap that existed between the Membership and the staff is closing, and we are working very closely together.

With this, I come to the end of this meeting and we will reconvene to adopt the report at eight o'clock this evening because it should go to translation and they still have to do something, so please plan for a late dinner. The Drafting Committee will meet immediately after this meeting.

The meeting rose at 11:01. hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 01

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.01 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session Cent trente-sixième session 136° período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 15-19 June 2009 Rome, 15-19 juin 2009 Roma, 15-19 de junio de 2009</p>
<p>TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>19 June 2009</p>

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 21:59 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 21 h 59
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 21.59 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 136/REP/1 - CL 136/REP/21.2)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 136/REP/1 - CL 136/REP/21.2)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 136/REP/1 - CL 136/REP/21.2)

CHAIRPERSON

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the final meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Council. We will now proceed with the adoption of the Report. Please ensure that you have the Draft Report before you.

Now I invite Mr Victor Heard from the United Kingdom, Vice-Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the Report.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Vice-Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I had the honour to begin the work of the Drafting Committee under the Chairpersonship of Doctor Lamya Ahmed Al-Saqqaf, of Kuwait. Half-way through, she was called away for other business and I had the honour to be asked to take over from her as the Vice-chair of the Drafting Committee.

I would like to begin by thanking my most constructive colleagues for their helpful and very constructive attitude. We managed to go through all of the problems that might have arisen, that we could think of, in the course of working on this Report and to, I think, resolve all of them except one, which I will come to in a moment. I think everyone was trying to find ways of making sure that what we produced accurately reflected your discussion.

One or two points, you probably noticed on CL 136/REP/12, page 3 there are three words in square brackets [deterioration of the]. In fact, this was missed in the final editing of the text because we had deleted that from the text so that should be deleted. It is a minor error. The reference is CL 136/REP/12. It is one of the longer bits of the text, and it is on page three in line 4, where it says "members express concern at the" and it should say "the financial situation of the Organization" not the "deterioration of the financial situation of the Organization". That was agreed by all members of the Drafting Committee, and has failed to be reflected in the final edit. That is a minor point.

There is a slightly more serious point which comes up in CL 136/REP/15.2. This was one of the more interesting parts of our discussion this morning, the proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009, which seems an awfully long time ago but it was actually only this morning that we agreed this final paragraph.

In the text agreed by the Drafting Committee, you will find on paragraph 4 a reference to the Working Group deciding the exact dates. Now this has been discussed at some length. One or two of you may have noticed a little meeting going out the front here where the various regions of FAO were in a tight discussion, waving their arms, and demonstrating that something was not quite as it should be. In fact it was not. This was slightly out of line with the final statement that Professor Noori made at the end of the meeting this morning, where he referred to more precisely the way these dates ought to be treated. To fully reflect that we suggest a minor change in the document, in line 2 of paragraph 1, in CL 136/22: "be held", and then it says "before the end of". In fact, what Professor Noori said was "in November". So, will you please strike out "before the end of" and replace it with "in November".

The second minor amendment, which has the agreements of the Regional Groups who were discussing this out the front here, is in paragraph 4 in line 5 where the Drafting Group said "including its exact dates". Indeed, Professor Noori did say that the dates would be decided, but you will recall when Mr Müller was talking to us about this he said there was an APEC meeting which was coming up about that time, and it might be necessary to move the dates of the Conference one day one way or one day another. That is not quite the same as deciding the exact dates. So, what has been agreed for that is that we should strike out "including its exact dates,"

and replace it with the following short phrase "moving one day either way, depending on the APEC meeting".

With that, I would like to once again thank my colleagues and the Secretary of the Drafting Committee for the quality of the discussion we had, and for their constructiveness and patience and to commend to you this Report, which I very sincerely – as all chairs of Drafting Committees do – hope you all adopt *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Heard for an excellent job done in the Drafting Committee. I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the consensus which has prevailed this week, and maintaining this spirit of consensus, I would like to propose that the Report be adopted *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. This applause goes to the Drafting Committee, the Secretariat, as well as all of you for having done the main job. We are expecting the Director-General to join us, and I think he will be joining us shortly to have some say at the finalization of a very successful Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much. I really have very little to say except to thank you again for the very serious work that you have done and all the time you have spent in discussing all the different issues and arriving at the Report which has been approved quite late, indeed at 10.00 pm. I would, again, like to express my thanks and appreciation to all of you for the work done to address the problems of the hungry in the world, and at the same time to ensure that the Organization is adequately improved to be able to address the different challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me finalize our work tonight with our appreciation first to all of you for your cooperation for the fruitful debates that we had during the week and for lots of achievements that we had this week. You did an excellent job. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Vice-Chairs, to the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and Secretary and members of the Drafting Committee, to Mr Mekouar who has very closely and very efficiently worked with me and to all the Secretariat staff who have been working behind the scenes to make this possible and especially to the interpreters, who have been with us all the time and even when we left they joined the Drafting Committee and stayed until midnight. Our appreciation goes to them, and without you we cannot do the good job we are usually doing.

With this I have another point to add. The amendment that we made with one day moving either way relates to the date which has been proposed by the Secretariat that one day moving either way refers to that because as it stands it is difficult to understand the meaning.

With this I will conclude this meeting of the Council. I wish you all the best. Those of you who are returning to the capitals, I wish you a safe trip and those of you who are staying in Rome, after one week of hard work, have a good weekend.

Enjoy it and next week we will see each other again in the working groups, and all other meetings that we do have.

Have a nice evening and see you soon. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 22:11 hours

La séance est levée à 22 h 11

Se levanta la sesión a las 22.11 horas

