

Rome, Roma 1999



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 Eighteenth Session • Cent dix-huitième session • 118° período de sesiones

**Rome, 24 November 1999**  
**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 24 novembre 1999**  
**PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 24 de noviembre de 1999**  
**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**



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(24 November 1999)

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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Eighteenth Session Cent dix-huitième session 118º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 24 November 1999 Rome, 24 novembre 1999 Roma, 24 de noviembre de 1999</b></p>
<p><b>FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>24 November 1999</b></p>

**The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.35 hours  
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding**

**La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 35  
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,  
Président indépendant du Conseil**

**Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.35 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo**

**CHAIRMAN**

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Eighteenth FAO Council to order.

This Session of the Council is traditionally short and to the point, and so I call upon your cooperation in keeping our proceedings as smooth running as possible. Since I have the floor, may I take this opportunity to extend a cordial welcome to the Director-General. I also wish to welcome the new Council Members, namely: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iceland and Lesotho.

May I ask the Director-General to take the floor, please.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

I just wanted also to welcome the new Members of the Council and to say how much we appreciate the work that is done by this important Governing Body, which deals with issues of great importance between sessions of the Conference. We are counting on you to provide us with guidance, with advice on the different activities. Naturally we will continue to implement in all loyalty and effectiveness all your decisions to achieve the goals of this Organization in the framework of the mandate and the Basic Texts.

Let me also wish you well, because this is also the last meeting of the Council for this Century and this Millennium. It is therefore a historic Council, and I am sure it will be also an opportunity for us to have guidance as to the important challenges that lie ahead.

**CHAIRMAN**

Now before going any further, I should like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Community.

**LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL**

Avant l'ouverture de cette réunion, je voudrais faire une courte annonce. Comme vous le savez, la Communauté européenne participe à cette réunion en vertu des paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

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

**1. Adoption of the agenda** (CL 118/1)

**1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour** (CL 118/1)

**1. Aprobación del programa** (CL 118/1)

**CHAIRMAN**

We should proceed now to the Adoption of the Agenda.

The first item we have before us is the adoption of the Agenda, as set out in document CL 118/1.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

May I, with your permission, draw the attention of the honourable delegates to the fact that it has been suggested that Item 3, the Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee, should be dealt with after Item 6 and before Item 7, Matters Arising Out of the Conference Session. This is requested because consultations are continuing on this item, and the request is that more time be given for consultations to continue.

**CHAIRMAN**

It seems that if it facilitates the Session of the Council, it is good, and it is fine that we do that.

Any comments from the delegates? I see no comments. Any other suggestions on the Agenda? You have not, then the Agenda, as amended, is now decided.

*The Agenda, as amended, was approved*  
*L'ordre du jour, ainsi amendé, est approuvé*  
*El programa, así enmendado, es aprobado*

**2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons**  
**2. Élection des trois Vice-Présidents**  
**2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes****CHAIRMAN**

Item 2, according to the Agenda, is the Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson: Ms Rita Claverie de Sciolli of Guatemala, Mr Ahmed Suleiman Al-Aquil of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mrs Laurie J. Tracy of the United States of America.

**CHAIRMAN**

Are there any objections? Then I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election. I understand that Guatemala wishes to take the floor.

**Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)**

La Delegación de Guatemala desea manifestar su complacencia por su elección y por verle presidir el 118º Período de Sesiones de este último Consejo del Milenio. No deseo distraer la atención del Consejo de las tareas específicas que le han sido encomendadas. Sin embargo, Guatemala debe aprovechar esta ocasión para compartir con esta asamblea el alto honor que tiene para su pueblo y que el Gobierno de Guatemala ocupe hoy una Vicepresidencia y se sume a los distinguidos Países Miembros del Consejo. Es esta la primera vez que Guatemala ocupa un lugar en este Órgano Ejecutivo desde que en 1945 se constituyó como Miembro Fundador de la FAO. Guatemala asume con responsabilidad su cargo en el Consejo con el empeño de contribuir a los trabajos de la Organización en su lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición y a los grandes desafíos que hemos decidido enfrentar y vencer para cumplir por los compromisos adquiridos durante la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Deseo también expresar el reconocimiento de Guatemala a todos los Países Miembros de la FAO por el esfuerzo que realizaron para elegir por evidente consenso los Representantes al Consejo para el Primero y Segundo Período a quienes hacemos llegar nuestra felicitación. Esta decisión que marcó la 13ª Conferencia de la FAO, constituye una forma ejemplar de garantizar la participación soberana de todos los países en los Órganos Rectores y de reafirmar el carácter multilateral de esta Organización.

Para finalizar, Guatemala agradece especialmente a los países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe por el endoso a su candidatura y especialmente a los cinco países que integran dentro del GRULAC el istmo centroamericano, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua y Panamá por el apoyo con el cual nos han distinguido y que nos compromete en el trabajo que hoy iniciamos.

**Ahmed Suleiman AL-AQUIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your election as Independent Chairman of Council for a second term of office. I would also like to extend our thanks to Council Members for having selected the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to one of the Vice-Chairpersonships. I would also like to

congratulate the new Members elected to Council, and likewise congratulate Guatemala and the United States of America at having been elected to posts of Vice-Chairpersonship.

We are extremely satisfied that Item 3 relative to the election of the Chairperson Members of the Programme Committee will be discussed a bit later in the course of our proceedings to enable Members and Member Nations to continue their consultations on this point. We trust that the Asia Region will be able to reach a satisfactory solution, a compromise and agreement among the countries now standing as candidates for the posts that do pertain to that Region on the Programme Committee.

We trust and hope as well that within the framework and context of Item 9, Any Other Matters, we hope that it will be possible to discuss the rights of each Region and the representation of each Region on each of the Committee's Programme and Finance Committees, because that matter is still dealt with according to customary practice. The rights of each Region have not been clearly defined, as regards representation on each of those Committees. We trust and hope that the Legal Counsel will be able to shed some light on that matter for us so that we could have a clearer idea of the situation. I would hope that that can be taken up under Agenda Item 9, Any Other Matters.

**Mrs Laurie J. TRACY (United States of America)**

Like my colleagues from Guatemala and Saudi Arabia, thank you very much for the confidence you have shown in me and congratulations to the new Members of Council.

There is something that I would like to raise. It is very brief and it is, hopefully, non-controversial, under Any Other Business as well.

**II. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES**

**II. ÉLECTION DES COMITÉS**

**II. ELECCIÓN DE COMITÉS**

**4. Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Finance Committee** (CL 118/LIM/2; CL 118/LIM/2-Corr.1)

**4. Élection du Président et des membres du Comité financier** (CL 118/LIM/2; CL 118/LIM/2-Corr.1)

**4. Elección del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Finanzas** (CL 118/LIM/2; CL 118/LIM/2-Corr.1)

**CHAIRMAN**

We now move on to Item 4 of our Agenda, namely Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Finance Committee.

As you will have seen in paragraph 6 of document CL 118/LIM/2, as amended by document CL 118/LIM/2-Corr. 1, we have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Mr Aziz Mekouar of Morocco.

According to Paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, in the case of an election when there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be made by clear general consent. I now propose that the Council appoint Mr Mekouar Chairperson of the FAO Finance Committee in this manner.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*



**CHAIRMAN**

Will the Secretary-General please clarify the situation regarding the Regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Near East.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The Council has just appointed Mr Mekouar of Morocco, which is in the Africa Region, as Chairperson of the Committee, that is, the Finance Committee. So, for membership from the Regions concerned there are five vacancies, and we have five candidates as follows: for Africa, Tanzania; for Asia, India and the Republic of Korea; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina and for the Near East, Sudan.

**CHAIRMAN**

Given that we have the same number of nominations as posts to be filled, may I invite the Council to appoint them by clear general consent.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**CHAIRMAN**

I shall now ask the Secretary-General to inform us of the situation regarding nominations from the Regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

As indicated in Paragraph 8 of document CL 118/LIM/2, for these Regions there are three candidates for three posts to be filled: for Europe, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and for North America, the United States of America.

**CHAIRMAN**

Given that we have the same number of nominations as posts to be filled, I take it that there are no objections?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**Aziz MEKOUAR (Maroc)**

Je voudrais avant tout exprimer la satisfaction de la délégation marocaine pour votre élection à la Présidence de notre Conseil.

Je voudrais également remercier le Conseil pour l'honneur qui a été fait à mon pays en m'élisant à la Présidence du Comité financier. Une tâche, m'a-t-on dit, difficile, mais que je tâcherais d'accomplir au mieux avec la collaboration de tous, de tous les membres du Conseil, de vous-même, et des membres du Secrétariat.

**Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)**

Je voudrais au nom du Groupe africain féliciter le Président du Comité financier que nous venons d'élire ainsi que tous les autres Membres qui siégeront désormais au Comité financier.

Je voudrais particulièrement remercier les membres du Conseil pour la confiance qu'ils ont su accorder à Son Excellence Monsieur Mekouar, Ambassadeur du Maroc, qui est un membre du Groupe africain, candidature pour laquelle vous savez, nous avons eu quelques difficultés. Nous tenons ici à remercier une fois de plus l'ensemble des membres du Conseil pour cette confiance et les assurer que notre Président ne les décevra pas.

**5. Election of the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

(CCLM) (CL 118/LIM/3)

**5. Élection des membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ)**

(CL 118/LIM/2; CL 118/LIM/2-Corr.1)

**5. Elección de los Miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CACJ)**

(CL 118/LIM/2; CL 118/LIM/2-Corr.1)

**CHAIRMAN**

Can we now proceed to Item 5?

Item 5, Election of the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CCLM. Here again we have the seven candidates for seven seats, as indicated in document CL 118/LIM/3.

Does the Council wish to appoint, by clear general consent, the following: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Iraq, Malta, Senegal, United States of America and Uruguay?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)**

Vous revoir présider le Conseil est assurément un grand plaisir pour la délégation sénégalaise. Je tiens à vous renouveler toutes ses félicitations en les accompagnant de nos vœux les plus sincères pour que vous puissiez réussir votre second mandat avec autant de brio. Vous pouvez être sûr de pouvoir toujours compter sur la délégation sénégalaise.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour renouveler toute notre gratitude aux Membres du Conseil pour avoir de nouveau fait confiance au Sénégal, représenté à ce Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques par Monsieur Moussa Bocar Ly, Ministre Conseiller à la Mission du Sénégal et vous dire que Monsieur Ly, juriste très talentueux, est servi par une expérience de multilatéralisme assez solide. Il ne ménagera pas ses efforts pour contribuer comme il l'a toujours fait par le passé à consolider le travail remarquable accompli par ce Comité.

**III. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**

**III. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL**

**III. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS**

**6. Election of six Members of the WFP Executive Board (CL 118/INF/2;CL 118/LIM/4)**

**6. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM**

(CL 118/INF/2;CL 118/LIM/4)

**6. Elección de seis Miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (CL 118/INF/2;CL 118/LIM/4)**

**CHAIRMAN**

Any other comments before we go on? I see none. We can go on to Item 6, Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board. The documents are CL 118/INF/2 and CL 118/LIM/4. You will note that Council is required to elect six Members of the WFP Executive Board for a

term of office of three years, for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002. The candidates are listed in paragraph 2.1.2, and I give the floor to the Secretary-General to read them.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

For List A there are two candidates, Egypt and Madagascar, for two vacancies.

For List C there is one candidate, Peru, for one vacancy.

For List D there are two candidates, Australia and Spain, for two vacancies.

For List E there is one candidate, Romania, for one vacancy.

Mr Chairperson, there are therefore six candidates for six seats.

### **CHAIRMAN**

Does the Council agree to appoint six candidates to the six vacant seats by clear general consent?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

### **José Ignacio TRUEBA JAINAGA (España)**

En primer lugar la delegación española quería agradecer muy sinceramente a los Miembros del Consejo por su elección como Miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Consideramos que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos está desarrollando una labor sumamente importante en el contexto mundial de la ayuda alimentaria y que, como se ha dicho hoy, importantes esfuerzos con el fin de clarificar sus actuaciones, incrementar su transparencia y definir mejor su eficacia.

### **Sra. Ana María DEUSTUA (Observador de Perú)**

Quiero felicitarlo por conducir nuestras labores el día de hoy, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo y expresar mi saludo especial a los nuevos Miembros del Consejo. También he pedido la palabra para expresar el reconocimiento especial del Perú y del Gobierno del Perú en la elección de mi país como Miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA. Quiero dejar expresa constancia del especial agradecimiento a los Miembros de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, reunidos en el GRULAC, y en particular al Brasil que nos ha presentado y endosaron desde el momento inicial la candidatura peruana. Reconozco también a todos los Miembros del Consejo la decisión que han tomado hoy al elegir al Perú como miembro del PMA. Quiero señalar, adicionalmente, cuanto aprecia mi país el trabajo conjunto, el amplio sentido de solidaridad, del trabajo en concenso y el trabajo de unidad del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

### **Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I too, sir, would like to add my voice to those preceding colleagues to congratulate you on your re-election as the Independent Chairman of Council.

I would like to address words of thanks to Members of Council that have supported Egypt's candidature as a Member of the Executive Board of WFP.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity Sir, to thank the Africa Group which submitted our candidature and which has supported us from the very outset. I would like to reiterate the fact that Egypt will fully play its role and expedite its appointed tasks on the Executive Board of WFP. This, in very close collaboration with the Africa Group and the other Regional Groups, in order to implement the assigned objectives of WFP. We shall spare no efforts in that sense.

**Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)**

Je tiens tout d'abord à adresser, au nom de la délégation de Madagascar, toutes mes félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de notre Conseil. La nomination de Madagascar au Siège du PAM est d'autant plus importante pour Madagascar que les activités du PAM constituent des activités qui soulagent la population malgache qui est en mesure d'en profiter. Cette nomination constitue également pour Madagascar une chance pour permettre à son Représentant de jouer pleinement son rôle au sein du PAM afin que tous les pays qui puissent bénéficier de son aide puissent en jouir pleinement.

Nous remercions également les pays qui nous ont soutenus, en particulier le Groupe africain qui a présenté la candidature de Madagascar ainsi que tous les autres membres du Conseil qui ont approuvé cette candidature par l'élection d'aujourd'hui. Madagascar jouera pleinement son rôle au sein du Conseil d'administration du PAM en tant que Membre à part entière de cette Organisation.

**II. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES (continued)**

**II. ÉLECTION DES COMITÉS (suite)**

**II. ELECCIÓN DE COMITÉS (continuación)**

**3. Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee (CL 118/LIM/1; CL 118/IIM/1-Corr.1)**

**3. Élection du Président et des membres du Comité du Programme (CL 118/LIM/1; CL 118/IIM/1-Corr.1)**

**3. Elección del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité del Programa (CL 118/LIM/1; CL 118/IIM/1-Corr.1)**

**CHAIRMAN**

We shall now go to Item 3, the Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee. Documents CL 118/LIM/1 and CL 118/LIM/1-Corr.1 refer to this item.

Paragraph 6 of document CL 118/LIM/1 shows that there is only one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Mr Ronald Rose of Canada.

According to paragraph 9(a) Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, "... in the case of an election in which there are not more candidates than vacancies the Chairman may submit to the Conference or Council that appointment be made by clear general consent". I propose that the Council appoint Mr Rose Chairperson of the FAO Programme Committee in this manner.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**CHAIRMAN**

Membership of the Programme Committee consists of eleven Member Nations. Eight seats from the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East. Three seats from the regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific.

As indicated in paragraph 7 of document CL 118/LIM/1 and amended in document CL 118/LIM/1-Corr.1, we have nine candidates for eight seats for the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East.

The Candidates for Africa are: Cameroon and Zimbabwe.

For Asia: China, Indonesia and Japan.

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia and Jamaica.

For the Near East: Lebanon and Libya.

May I inquire whether any of the candidates wish to withdraw. I see none.

Given that none of the candidates are willing to withdraw, we shall proceed to a secret ballot. The Secretary General will now read the relevant instructions.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Delegates will be called one at a time to go to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidates. Each elector, unless he or she wholly abstains, shall cast a vote by marking a cross, X, in the box beside the eight candidates he or she wishes to elect.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of the same Rule XII, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than eight candidates shall be declared defective.

I take the liberty of reminding you that in accordance with paragraph 9(f) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper may request a clean one from the Elections Officer.

I should just like to stress once again, the ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than eight candidates shall be declared defective.

**CHAIRMAN**

I kindly invite the delegates of Austria and Australia to act as tellers and to proceed to the voting area. After which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries. May I also draw the attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII which specifies: "Once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the voting".

*Vote*

*Vote*

*Votación*

**CHAIRMAN**

May I ask Members who have not voted to kindly do so now.

Voting has ended. The tellers will now leave the room with the ballot boxes to count the votes.

We now have the results of the vote, and I shall ask the Secretary-General to read them out.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The results of the vote are as follows:

CL 118/RS/3

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (Africa, Asia, Near East, Latin America)
	1	COMITE DU PROGRAMME (Afrique, Asie, Proche-Orient, Amerique Latine) COMITE DEL PROGRAMA (Africa, Asia, Cercano Oriente, America Latina)

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	48	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	44
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	44

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	23
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
LEBANON	44	JAPAN	25
ZIMBABWE	44		
CAMEROON	43		
COLOMBIA	43		
LIBYA	43		
JAMAICA	42		
CHINA	41		
INDONESIA	27		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature  
Firma *Mrs H. Wogerbauer*  
Mrs H. WÖGERBAUER  
Austria

Signature  
Firma *Mr P. Ross*  
Mr P. ROSS  
Australia

24.11.99

Date  
Fecha

*B. Linley*  
B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RS/CI

**Ronald ROSE (Canada)**

I just wanted to take the floor briefly to thank the Members of the Council and, especially the Members of the Regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific for the confidence that they have placed in me, in nominating me for the post of Chairman of the Programme Committee. I do accept the challenge but I fear that the Council Members may eventually regret their decision, since the only way that I will be able to accomplish this task is with their hard work and their

assistance. I will require the help and support of each of the 49 Members of Council, not to mention my colleagues on the Programme Committee.

I also take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your deserved re-election. I look forward to working closely with you, as a valued participant in the meetings of the Programme Committee and in the Joint Meetings that we have with the Finance Committee.

With your permission, I would like to take this opportunity of having the floor to note that we will not meet for almost a full year, and we have just noted the departure of two of our colleagues who happen to sit on the podium. I fear that eloquent though the words were, they were not adequate to express our appreciation for these two. But we do not want to forget the other individuals in the Secretariat who will take retirement over the next year. We have no idea who they are, but we do depend very much on them for the conduct of our work. I hope that the Report of our meeting would note that they also deserve our recognition.

**Masato ITO (Japan)**

I regret that my country is not among those that have been elected as a new Member of the Programme Committee, despite the warm support of many countries. On this occasion, my delegation expresses its sincere appreciation for the support from those countries.

At this moment, it is my duty, as a Representative, to report on the outcome of this election and recommend to my Government to continue its support to FAO activities in spite of the result of this election.

**LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted for China. China wishes, together with all the Council Members present, to contribute to world food security in the light of the serious situation that prevails in the world. We wish with all our hearts to do our best.

**Ahmed Suleiman AL-AQUIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic)**

I would like to congratulate the Member Nations from the Group of 77 who have been elected to the Programme Committee, in particular Lebanon and Libya. I would also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Group of 77 who concludes his mandate by protecting the rights of all Member Nations of the Group of 77 who belong to this Organization.

I would also like to thank Mr Gerald Moore for the information he has given us concerning elections to the Finance and Programme Committees, and also to the CCLM.

**Carlos Eduardo MARTÍNEZ SIMAHAN (Observador de Colombia)**

Acepten los señores Miembros del Consejo nuestro agradecimiento por la elección de Colombia en el Comité de Programa. Nuestro agradecimiento especial al GRULAC y específicamente a la noble actitud de la delegación de Chile que permitió con su retiro la elección de Colombia. El regreso de Colombia a los Organos Rectores de la FAO ratifica el compromiso de nuestro país con los nobles propósitos de esta Organización con la que aspiramos a seguir contribuyendo.

**CHAIRMAN**

I would like to ask the Secretary-General to please clarify the situation regarding the Regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The eight Members for the four Regions have been elected. The Council has already appointed Mr Rose of Canada, which is the North American Region, as Chairperson of the Committee, so there remain two vacant seats from the Members of the Regions concerned, and we have two candidates: Netherlands and Australia.

**CHAIRMAN**

Now, given that there are the same number of nominations as post to be filled, I take it that there are no objections?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**Rolf GERBER (Observer for Switzerland)**

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their support in electing Switzerland to the Finance Committee. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration with all the newly-elected Members of both the Finance and Programme Committees.

**IV. OTHER MATTERS****V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES****IV. OTROS ASUNTOS****7. Matters Arising out of the Conference Session****7. Questions découlant de la session de la Conférence****7. Cuestiones planteadas en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia****CHAIRMAN**

I suggest that we should proceed to Item 7 of the Agenda, Matters Arising Out of the Conference Session.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

There are two matters under this item. One arises from paragraph 1 of C 99/REP/2, that is the Conference Report which the Conference adopted yesterday. Specifically, it is a proposal from Conference that the Programme and Finance Committees examine the possibility of an Annual Performance Report in future versions of the Programme Implementation Report.

The other matter arises from C 99/REP/3 and refers to the Draft Resolution on the Alliance on Food Security. You will recall that the Conference requested the Committee on Food Security to carry out an additional study to develop the concepts further, with a view to possible adoption of a resolution on the matter.

**CHAIRMAN**

That is quite clear. Therefore, unless anyone has any comments, we will include in the Report a request to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to examine the possibility of an Annual Performance Report in future versions of the Programme Implementation Report, and will relay the Conference instructions to the Committee on Food Security. This will take care of the two matters arising from the Conference.

Any comments? If not, then it is so decided.

**It was so decided**

**Il en est ainsi décidé**

**Así se acuerda**



- 8. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2000-01**(CL 118/2)  
**8. Calendrier 2000-01 des sessions des organes directeurs et des réunions principales de la FAO** (CL 118/2)  
**8. Calendario para 2000-01 de los períodos de sesiones de los Órganos Rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO** (CL 118/2)

**CHAIRMAN**

We shall go on to Item 8, namely, Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions for the Years 2000 and 2001, document CL 118/2.

I call upon Mr Pérez de Vega, Director of the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division, to make some remarks on this item.

**EL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO**

Permítame unas palabras para presentar este pequeño documento, CL 118/2, y a la vez señalar el carácter innovador del mismo. En estrecha colaboración con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y el Fondo Internacional para el Desarrollo Agrícola, a través de los mecanismos de cooperación y consulta que hemos establecido entre las tres organizaciones, hemos logrado armonizar nuestro ciclo de conferencias para el bienio y al mismo tiempo programar conjuntamente las sesiones más importantes. Este mismo documento que ustedes tienen ahora delante, ya ha sido considerado y aprobado por las Juntas Ejecutivas del PMA y del FIDA. Esperamos que esta programación conjunta facilite la asistencia de los Representantes de los Países Miembros de los diferentes órganos. Evidentemente el FIDA y el PMA han aprobado solo sus propias sesiones, mientras que las sesiones de los otros dos organizaciones figuran en anexo solo para información.

**CHAIRMAN**

Now the Council is requested to approve the Calendar for 2000. Are there any comments?

**Ronald ROSE (Canada)**

It is simply to express, on behalf of my delegation, the thanks to the Secretariat for the innovation that the Assistant Secretary General just mentioned, of providing us with Appendix B, which covers all three of the major Rome Agencies with which we work. It is very much appreciated and will certainly come in very handy, particularly as we get into the Session and start planning other meetings.

I also would like to express the thanks of my delegation to the Secretariat for the steps they have taken to respect the various holidays which our different religions and cultures observe throughout the year. I think this will be appreciated by all of us.

**Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)**

Comme le Représentant du Canada, la délégation du Sénégal se félicite également de cet effort de coordination entre les différentes organisations. J'ai seulement une difficulté pratique pour le mois de février. La Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique se tient du 21 au 25 février, et nous avons la réunion du FIDA, le Conseil des gouverneurs, qui commence le 20 février. Tout de suite après, ça c'est moins grave puisqu'il s'agit d'un début, il y a le COFI commence le 26 février. Etant donné que le FIDA, le Conseil des gouverneurs, est assez important pour l'Afrique. Souvent les deux ministres étant concernés par les deux réunions, les mêmes ministres, cela peut causer un problème de calendrier, surtout qu'il s'agit de dates très limitées 20-21 février alors que la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique commence le 21 février.

**CHAIRMAN**

I think you are referring to the tentative Calendar for 2001. Now we are trying to adopt the Calendar for 2000. I do not think there is any problem there. Senegal, is that all right?

Any other comments?

**Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I too would like to thank the Secretariat for the efforts deployed in order to coordinate the planning of meetings among the three UN Agencies here in Rome.

Having said that, with regard to the holidays or feasts, there are a certain number of holidays – Easter, Ramadan, Eid El Adha – for each of the years, but no mention was made of Eid El Fitr, which indicates the end of the month of Ramadan, or fasting, so that omission should be corrected.

**EL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO**

Tengo entendido que la Fiesta de Eid El Fitr tiene lugar al final de Ramadán y está comprendido en las fechas que damos aquí, es decir, hemos tenido en cuenta también esa fiesta pero no aparece separadamente, sino que forma parte del Ramadán.

**CHAIRMAN**

Any other comments? I see none, so the Calendar for 2000 – is it approved?

**Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt)**

I would like an answer to my comment, please, before approving.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I would have to double-check this, but my understanding is that the holiday that the distinguished delegate of Egypt has referred to is the end of Ramadan, forms part of the Ramadan, and has been taken into account in the dates for Ramadan, Eid El Fitr, even if it is not shown separately.

**Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt)**

I want the feast to be specifically mentioned.

**CHAIRMAN**

It is noted. I think the Secretary General will do it.

Can we now approve the Calendar for 2000? Any comments?

**Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)**

Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec mon collègue de l'Egypte qu'il faudrait mentionner la date de la fin de Ramadan, car le Secrétariat va courir un grand risque s'il ne peut pas à priori déterminer le jour.

Je pense que cette formule est bonne en mentionnant Ramadan (jour de la fin du Ramadan), vous mettez la période maximale d'un mois, ça doit se trouver à l'intérieur et évite de programmer une réunion pendant cette période. C'est peut-être la solution mais la période deux mois est assez importante et vous mettez entre parenthèses "jour de fin du Ramadan".

**CHAIRMAN**

I would like again to ask for other comments.

So, do we approve the Calendar for 2000?

*The Calendar for 2000 was approved*  
*Le calendrier pour 2000 est approuvé*  
*El Calendario para 2000 es aprobado*

**CHAIRMAN**

The provisional Calendar for 2001 is noted.

So, in the Council Session in November 2000, Council will approve the Calendar for 2001, when it will have for consideration the provisional Calendar for 2001-2002. So, we will go to Council in November 2001 for a decision on the Calendar for 2002.

Having approved the Calendar for 2000, the Council has also agreed that its Hundred and Nineteenth Session will be from 20-25 November 2000, the place being in the Red Room, as is traditional.

We will now move to Item 9, Any Other matters.

### **9. Any Other Matters**

#### **9. Autres questions**

#### **9. Otros asuntos**

#### **Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)**

En este 118° Período de Sesiones se han llevado a cabo distintos y merecidos reconocimientos a los vicepresidentes electos de este Consejo, a los nuevos Miembros del Consejo así como a países que pronto van a ser elegidos para el Comité de Programa, que ya fueron elegidos para el Comité de Finanzas, el PMA y los Miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en fin, todo un colectivo de excelentes y nuevos Miembros que se incorporan a reforzar los trabajos que comienzan precisamente en un nuevo milenio.

Hemos pedido la palabra precisamente para referirme a dos importantes personalidades muy apreciadas en estos predios y que ahora nos dejan, aunque esto fue referido con emoción y sentimiento en la Conferencia, no podemos dejar la oportunidad de hacer referencia en este Consejo a dos personalidades: al Embajador de nuestro país anfitrión Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti y el señor Frederick B. Zenny, Secretario de la Conferencia y el Consejo de la FAO. Repito que no podemos dejar de hacer referencia en este Consejo y de que quede constancia en los documentos el reconocimiento y el aprecio que ellos nos merecen.

El Embajador Fontana-Giusti, como se dijo ayer, ha dejado una estela de aprecio, de talento y de sensibilidad. Podremos estar en un punto de acuerdo o no de acuerdo con Fontana-Giusti, pero siempre hay que apreciarlo. Vuelvo y repito que ha llenado con su inteligencia y ha puesto el nombre de su país muy alto. Lo conocimos aquí y desde el primer momento vimos en él un verdadero diplomático capaz de llevar a cabo las negociaciones más difíciles con una sonrisa en los labios.

Al señor Zenny lo conocemos hace más tiempo. Ha sido una persona laboriosa y trabajadora. Ha sido un representante de América Latina y el Caribe.

Creemos que estas dos personalidades se van a dejar sentir, ayer se decía que habría que ver el reemplazo de estas dos personalidades, tanto de uno como diplomático y del otro como dirigente y funcionario. No queremos que se vayan sin que este Consejo les haga llegar todo el aprecio que ellos se han sabido ganar y que les deseamos, como se les deseó ayer en la Conferencia, el aprecio y la felicidad al lado de sus familiares y amigos.

#### **Lyll W. SMALL (Barbados)**

First of all, let me express my congratulations to yourself and to the other Members of the Bureau on the excellent work that you have done in guiding this Council and the Hundred and Seventeenth Council.

I would, however, wish to state that I have been mandated by the sixteen CARICOM Member Nations to say a few words of appreciation of the services rendered to FAO by Mr Frederick B. Zenny, who is leaving us at the end of this year.

I first met Mr Zenny when he was Resident Representative of FAO in Barbados. He was an outstanding Representative there, in our view, and this view must have been mirrored by the hierarchy at FAO who brought him to Headquarters to assume such high posts as *Chef de Cabinet*, Assistant Director-General and Secretary General of the Conference and Council. His performance at Headquarters has been no less outstanding as he, in his unassuming, quiet and analytical way, made effective and politically-correct use of his position to influence the direction FAO took in a number of areas to the benefit of FAO's constituents.

Mr Zenny is held in very high esteem by all levels of Caribbean staff at FAO. His imminent departure from FAO will leave a void which will be somewhat difficult to fill. On behalf of the Caribbean Group, I wish him the very best in his future endeavours and hope that, after an appropriate period of well-deserved relaxation, some way will be found to utilize his considerable talents in Jamaica and FAO.

**Mrs Laurie J. TRACY (United States of America)**

The North American Region, on whose behalf I am speaking, fully shares the sentiments expressed by previous speakers with respect to Ambassador Fontana-Giusti and Mr Zenny. We will miss them both very much. But I asked for the floor as well to express the appreciation of the North American Region for the work of FAO and WFP Legal Counsel Mr Gerald Moore.

We understand that this Conference which we have just completed will be his last as Legal Counsel but certainly not, we hope, the last one at which we might expect to see you and count on your wisdom to Member Nations. We have got to know Mr Moore very well over the past few years and to appreciate his knowledge, especially his integrity and the sense of commitment that he brings to everything that he does, both in WFP and to FAO. He is always creative without ever compromising his integrity, and I think that that is a very special gift indeed. Gerald has been instrumental as well in the work of the CCLM, which has considered so many important matters over the past years, and he has been instrumental in resolving most, if not all, of the serious conflicts that have arisen among the Members of this important body in last several years.

It is hard for me to imagine, and I am sure Ronald Rose fully shares this view and Bill Doering and the rest of the members of the Canadian delegation, it is just hard to imagine how we will see our way through some of these controversies without your presence. But I know that in whatever you do we can count on your continued friendship and your continued engagement in matters related to FAO.

We wish you nothing but the best and, like I said, I hope we can continue to count on your assistance in anything we undertake.

**Dietrich LINCKE (Germany)**

May I ask for the floor for the speaker of the European Regional Group, Ireland.

**Tony DEVLIN (Observer for Ireland)**

I would like to add my voice, the voice of the European Regional Group, to the others who have spoken before me in expressing the appreciation of our group for the work carried out by both Frederick B. Zenny as the Secretary-General of the Organization and also to Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, whom I know quite well from working with him in the European Regional Group. I have very high respect for him, as have all the Members of the European Regional Group, and we wish both parties very well as they retire from this stage. We hope that their knowledge and wisdom can be tapped into as necessary in the future. We would hate to lose such great talents.

**Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)**

Je voudrais joindre la voix du Sénégal à celles qui se sont exprimées pour exprimer à nouveau la satisfaction des membres du Groupe africains pour le travail remarquable accompli par Monsieur Fontana-Giusti, par Monsieur Zenny, et nous nous joignons maintenant, en tant que membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, au Représentant des États-Unis pour exprimer toute notre satisfaction à Monsieur Moore. Il a en effet été très remarquable pour notre Organisation.

Je me demande même si l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti, qui a eu cette idée géniale et dynamique qui continuera à nous occuper pendant longtemps pour cette Alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire, n'est pas non plus indirectement à la base d'une alliance pour ce départ très important dans l'Organisation; car il s'agit là d'un trio extrêmement important. Cela me donne l'espoir que cette alliance pour le départ d'expériences aussi avérées continuera en tous cas à en

faire bénéficier notre Organisation parce que nous comptons toujours, aussi loin qu'ils pourront se trouver, sur leur expérience et sur leurs conseils.

**Humberto MOLINA REYES (Chile)**

Quisieramos también felicitarlo en esta oportunidad por la excelente labor y por su reelección al frente de este Consejo. Al mismo tiempo, quisieramos sumarnos a las palabras expresadas por los anteriores oradores respecto al Doctor Zenny y al Honorable Embajador Fontana-Giusti. Quisieramos también, hacer un merecido reconocimiento y homenaje a Gerard Moore. Hemos tenido la oportunidad de participar activamente en uno de los hitos mayores que tuvo y que ha tenido esta Organización: la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y, si existe un arquitecto de los acuerdos que pudimos lograr en ese larguísimo proceso de negociación que duró más de un año, esa persona es Gerard Moore. Tuvimos oportunidad de apreciar sus grandes cualidades, no sólo de hábil jurista sino de diplomático, quien en muchas circunstancias pudo facilitar el entendimiento y la comprensión entre los Estados Miembros y que al final coronó este trabajo y su trabajo en la declaración política del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial. Será una gran pérdida para la Organización y en lo personal, creo también será difícil poder llenar este espacio vacío que deja en nuestra amistad. Quisiera subrayar y desearle todos los éxitos, estamos seguros que podrá hacer un gran aporte no sólo en esta Organización sino donde tenga a bien seguir desarrollando su vida. Le deseamos éxito a él, a su familia y estamos seguros que seguirá aportando para el bienestar de la humanidad.

**LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all my delegation would like to congratulate you on your re-election to the post of Independent Chairman of the Council. We rest assured that under your helmsmanship this Council will once again be able to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the World Food Summit.

The Chinese delegation would also like to express its agreement with what has been said by other delegates in congratulating Mr Zenny for the work he has done in this Organization, and for the work done by the Legal Counsel.

Mr Zenny, your enthusiasm in everything you do means that we will try to keep in touch with you after you have travelled widely throughout the world and, if I am not mistaken, after your visit to China.

**Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)**

Comme l'a déjà dit l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, j'ai déjà eu à rendre hommage hier lors de la plénière et ceci au nom du Groupe africain, à l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti, ainsi qu'à Monsieur Frédéric Zenny. Je voudrais ici réitérer les sentiments que nous avons déjà exprimés et associer le Groupe africain au sentiment également exprimé tout à l'heure par les Présidents orateurs à l'endroit de Monsieur Moore qui a toujours été pour nous tous une référence vivante et incollable pour tous les problèmes juridiques qui lui ont été posés.

**Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)**

Since this is the moment of tribute, I will put my voice again too. I have heard so many nice things being spoken about Gerald Moore, so I withdraw the question I intended putting to him a short while ago. And my question was, when is it forbidden to have a drink, a coffee or a coke, when on the podium? That said, I remember Mr Moore in many of our meetings as the man who always helps to remove the brackets when we have problems. So, I wish him success to go on in life removing brackets and making life easier for himself and for other people.

About Mr Zenny, I will say that it is a family secret, Mr Zenny is a son-in-law of mine. You see I go so far to Haiti to look for a good wife for my son. Mr Zenny will soon finish up by giving us his coarse voice again when he will tell us the election results we are going to listen to, and we shall miss that. In the ten years that I have known Mr Zenny, here in FAO, he is a tiny little monument by himself.

Yesterday, I spoke a little bit about my colleague and friend, Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, but there was a part of him that I left out which I would like to share. When I had the honour to be in a delegation with him in China, we went to monitor the WFP programmes there, and the Chinese Government made it possible for us to come very close to the abject poverty in China. And when we were face to face with some poor men, a gentleman moved forward and told us that the clothes that he wore at the time were all that he had in his life. Ambassador Fontana-Giusti was so moved, very moved, it was only fortunate that I was standing by him, because he turned to me and said "How can a man be so poor?" and then he said, "Can I give him my jacket?" Then I stopped him; he was in the process of pulling off his jacket to give to this poor man. And I said to him, "If you pull your jacket off we will have a diplomatic incident and second you will put other delegates into difficulty because we will not do away with our jackets the way you want to do away with yours so easily." So, you see this other side of Ambassador Fontana-Giusti. He is a man who's heart is full of the milk of human kindness.

Now for those of you who cry so much because you are going to miss Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, if you do not know where to find him, later please call Farnesina and there you will be told that he stands even taller and more distinguished we think.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Ms Neela GANGADHARAN (India)**

May I request you to give the floor to Viet Nam, Chairperson of the Asia Group, to speak on behalf of the Asia Group.

**Ms NGUYEN CHI THANH (Observer for Viet Nam)**

The Asia Group once again is happy to extend its appreciation and its admiration of the efforts, wisdom and skill in which our Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel and the Ambassador from Italy have spent a lot of time to conduct our Conference and Council so successfully. We know that without their assistance, their experience and their help, our work at the Council and Conference would not have been as successful as we expected. So, once again, we would like to join with the other regional groups and our previous speakers say how much we appreciate your enormous assistance and experience, and how much we have benefited from them.

**Mohammad Saed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

I would like to join others in thanking all the friends and colleagues, namely, Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, Mr Zenny and Mr Moore.

As far as Mr Zenny is concerned, I have no other choice except to join in what was said by Cameroon, which was really true. Mr Fontana-Giusti, my friend, my Italian is not very good, I do not know what Fontana-Giusti means in English; it means "fountain of justice" or "fountain of decision". But in any case, you fulfil the requirements of both. We had a great time with you and we will miss you as a friend and neighbour's seat in the Council.

Mr Moore, everybody has congratulated you on your achievements. I have another reason for doing that because I know that your wife, and as you yourself put it, your better-half is Persian, and I know that she has a good part in your success. So, we take pride in all the good words that have been forwarded to you, and wish you success and wherever you are.

**Ahmed Suleiman AL-AQUIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)**

We also wish to express our appreciation and thanks to these outstanding figures at the end of the year. Unlike my colleagues who spoke earlier, in the Near East we believe that if what is good is brief, it is even better. We agree that Mr Zenny has given us cause for considerable respect. We recall his role during the preparation of the World Food Summit, which was so successful, and we remember his work in many of the events and activities of our Organization. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

As for Mr Moore, our Legal Counsel, he has always preserved a position of neutrality. He has revealed an enviable degree of experience and knowledge on many occasions, and he gave cause for us to show him our greatest respect and admiration. I think it will be difficult for us to imagine FAO without Mr Moore. The person who takes over from him will find it difficult to live up to his example.

We will also remember Ambassador Fontana-Giusti in the context of the "Three-fold Alliance". He made such good proposals at the appropriate time. His initiative is indeed one which deserves our full support because it is aimed at improving coordination between the three United Nations Organizations headquartered in Rome. We wished him every success yesterday in Plenary. I am sure that his initiative will be taken very seriously and taken up during the work of our Committees next year.

We believe that coordination between the three Organizations and cooperation between them is of fundamental significance. We have gleaned considerable experience in these last six years in the Governing Bodies of the Organization. We can assure you without coordination or cooperation between these Organizations, the interest of the developing countries will not be correctly taken into account.

**José ROBLES AGUILAR (México)**

Queremos sumarnos a este merecido tributo que el Consejo rinde a estas tres personalidades. El día de ayer, al concluir la Conferencia, mi delegación lamentablemente no pudo hacer una propuesta en virtud de la eficiencia y la rapidez con que se aprobó el Informe de la Plenaria, pero queríamos solicitar y ahora lo reiteramos, la propuesta que ha sido planteada para que en el Informe de este Consejo se haga un reconocimiento a la labor y a la amistad del Embajador Fontana-Giusti. Él es una persona, como lo han destacado todos los oradores que me han precedido, con una gran calidad humana y una gran calidad profesional. En relación con el Sr Zenny, queremos reconocer el silencioso pero, también a la vez, clave trabajo que ha realizado durante todos estos años en la Organización - una persona de la cual la Región del América Latina y el Caribe está orgullosa de que haya participado en todos estos años en la Secretaría de la FAO. Del Sr Moore, nos sorprende mucho este comentario, queremos reconocerle que siempre ha sido el fiel guardián de la ortodoxia legal, ha sido la consciencia legal, ha estado como nosotros decimos en español "al pie del cañón" en todas las reuniones, particularmente en aquellas que han requerido mucho de su apoyo.

Queremos desearles a todos ellos lo mejor y nuestra permanente amistad y nuestro permanente reconocimiento.

**Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italy)**

I wanted to say to the previous speakers, to wish to Mr Zenny and to Mr Moore all the best in their new life. If I can reveal a private secret. I must say that I am a big admirer of Mrs Zenny. Mrs Zenny is a charming lady with many qualities and with the fault of having a spouse with as bad a character as I have. As far as Gerald Moore, he has been defined rightly as the architect, as the guardian of orthodoxy and I could not agree more on that. He is certainly a very good friend and colleague, and we all went to ask his advice even on the Resolution on the Alliance. I would also like to apologise because yesterday I did not have time, and did not want to prolong the debate, to thank so many friends who have given compliments to me that I do not deserve.

I have been proud to serve in FAO, as well as in the World Food Programme, and to have been Permanent Representative to IFAD. I value very much each of the three Organizations, and I am certain that what each of them can do for humankind, and for those of our brothers who are less privileged than we are, could be done much better if their missions and actions could be coordinated in a more closer framework. You can be sure that this is my last time to speak to you about the Alliance for Food Security. I wish that the idea remain lively in my heart and my mind, wishing that you will work on it and make it successful.

We are already working on the idea of having a Website page on Italy and FAO, World Food Programme and IFAD. So, we have started with the electronic means to put the three Organizations on the same plan.

I was also considering some way of having a unique Trust Fund for the three Organizations, but that is maybe too ambitious. I am old enough to recall the war and the hunger in my own country, and young enough to consider that the best part of my life has yet to start. I already refused some proposals for new jobs, but I am very much tempted by volunteer work with Italian agronomists. One of them is a very close friend of some of the people present here; I refer to Mr Valerani. We discussed the idea of organizing an activity that could be called "Agronome Sans Frontières". "Agronome Sans Frontières" would be a sister of course of "Médecins Sans Frontières". There are already, by the way, some additions to this idea from France, and I think that some agronomists of goodwill could work together for the aims that are common to us, to face the menace of desertification, preserving biodiversity, and contrasting the conditions that bring climate changes. For FAO, I think it has many challenges to face with the new Millennium. Sometimes I have felt the frustration of a Permanent Representative not being able to play the role that Member countries expect we play. After the unsuccessful attempt to adopt the Resolution of the Alliance, I would not dare to propose another Resolution on the role of Permanent Representatives. I am glad the Director-General started consultations with Permanent Representatives from different Regional Groups, like Presidents and Vice-Presidents. I think that is a new turn, a very important step forward, both in the role Permanent Representatives and Member Nations and of better and closer consultation among Regional Groups, which sometimes I missed in my period here. I think and I wish that this initiative be institutionalized, and Permanent Representatives, without forming a permanent group like in other Organizations, could play a major role.

*(Continue en français)*

Si je peux abuser de la patience des interprètes en passant au français, je sais que je crée des problèmes techniques, mais je m'en excuse et les remercie en même temps pour l'excellent travail qu'ils ont fait en traduisant mon mauvais anglais et mon mauvais français.

Je dois dire que j'ai beaucoup appris de chacun de vous et je vous en remercie bien vivement. Je crois qu'un grand philosophe danois, Kierkegaard, disait que chaque homme est une exception. Je voudrais ajouter 'une merveilleuse' exception, et chaque culture est une richesse commune. Nous pouvons et nous en avons d'ailleurs tous profité dans cette enceinte.

C'est très beau, par exemple, la coutume de nos amis musulmans de commencer l'intervention en invoquant Dieu le tout-puissant. Je souhaiterais que les chrétiens aient la même force d'âme et la même force de caractère. Il y a une très belle prière janséniste qui dit "il faut prier comme si tout dépendait de Dieu et agir comme si tout dépendait de nous". Et nous devons agir. Nous devons réduire, de 20 millions par an, les affamés. Ceci est nécessaire pour atteindre l'objectif du Sommet de Rome et c'est déjà peu de chose parce que finalement avoir encore 400 millions d'affamés - ce n'est pas un but duquel se réjouir.

Il faut mobiliser les consciences, les opinions publiques, les milieux politiques. C'est notre tâche, c'est la tâche que tout homme civilisé, c'est le but de la FAO, du PAM, du FIDA, de la Banque mondiale, de la famille des Nations Unies. Tâche qui ne doit pas être ni se traduire en bureaucratie, en routine, en protagonisme individuel, en contumace. C'est une tâche noble mais immense qu'il faut envisager avec courage, humilité, persévérance. Il y a une très belle poésie que je lisais ces jours-ci d'un poète sioux, Lacota. J'essaie de traduire de l'italien en français mais c'est très difficile de traduire une poésie. Ce sioux disait "en me pliant pour rentrer dans cette cabane je me souviens de n'être rien devant toi qui est tout", se référant à Dieu naturellement, qui nous a mis sur cette île, qui nous a créés en dernier, "Toi qui viens avant tout et qui a toujours existé."

Je regrette de décevoir mon cher ami, l'Ambassadeur du Brésil en ne récitant pas une phrase latine. Je pourrais en trouver une; mais je crois que je veux avant tout le remercier pour ses très belles paroles d'hier. Mais quand même, sans citer une phrase latine en regardant vers mon troisième âge, si je le regarde avec tant de sérénité et d'optimisme, c'est grâce à une lecture de



Cicéron. C'est une lecture que j'ai faite pendant mon enfance, qui s'appelle Cato Major ou *De Senectute* et qui parle justement de la beauté, des avantages, de la sérénité de la vieillesse où on peut jouir de choses dont n'a pas pu jouir pendant une vie de travail trop intense. Merci à vous tous chers amis, j'ai été très touché par vos paroles. Merci pour votre générosité à mon égard et pour votre amitié que je vous réciproque de tout cœur.

Je vais quand même finir avec une phrase en latin, celle d'un écrivain latin romain, qui disait *homo sum nihil homini a me alienum puto* (I am a man and nothing which concerns other men is alien to me). Je suis un homme et rien qui ne concerne les autres hommes m'est inconnu.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)**

La delegación de Guatemala desea solicitar que se le conceda la palabra a la Presidencia del GRULAC, la delegación de Haití.

**Sra. Suze PERCY (Observadora de Haití)**

Me sumo a los oradores que me han precedido para felicitar, una vez más, al Embajador Fontana-Giusti que ha revelado ser un embajador ejemplar por su dinamismo, su gentileza, su gran sensibilidad como persona y por su espíritu de iniciativa.

En cuanto al Sr Zenny, quisiera decir que él supo ganar la admiración de todos en nuestra Organización y es para mí un honor tener a un compatriota del calibre del Señor Zenny, me siento muy orgullosa. Asimismo, quisiera agradecer al Sr Moore por su trabajo en el seno de esta Organización. El Sr Moore ha sido para nosotros un pilar, siempre tiene la buena llave para abrir puertas que son, a veces, difíciles de abrir.

A nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe, permítame desear al Embajador Fontana-Giusti, al Sr Frederic Zenny y al Sr Moore, éxitos y días muy felices.

**Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)**

Una necesaria aclaración, ya que las emociones en este corto Consejo son muchas, cuando hablé fui el primero en esta ronda, no conocía la noticia oficial sobre el Dr Gerard Moore, razón por la cual me asocio a lo expresado fundamentalmente por nuestra Presidenta del GRULAC, la cual en aras del tiempo es poco lo que pudo decir sobre el Dr Moore. Buena suerte, Doctor.

**Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE)**

Je vous prie de vouloir m'excuser si ma voix n'arrive pas où je voudrais. L'Ambassadeur Fontana-Giusti ne peut pas me retenir de dire ce que je veux et ce que j'ai trouvé en lui en venant à la FAO. A la FAO, je dois vous avouer que j'y viens depuis sa création en 1946. Il y a presque deux mois j'avais perdu ma voix à la suite d'un ictus, et les paroles de l'Ambassadeur avant moi, en parlant de la prière et de la foi, me donnent le courage de dire que c'est seulement aujourd'hui que j'ai retrouvé la parole.

Effectivement, je l'ai retrouvée parce que mes amis me connaissent et se sont précipités tous à la paroisse en priant pour moi et en priant pour ma parole. C'est pour cela que je ne peux pas me retenir et dire ce que j'ai trouvé dans ce qu'à dit l'Ambassadeur Fontana-Giusti - j'ai retrouvé tout.

Si je pouvais le faire, je dirais tout ce qui s'est dit hier à la Conférence et aujourd'hui même et je suis avec eux. L'Ambassadeur Fontana-Giusti, qui me connaît depuis longtemps, peut juger si effectivement c'est mon cœur qui parle. Perdre l'Ambassadeur Fontana-Giusti est pour la FAO un vrai dommage, et j'espère qu'il voudra y réfléchir et que les amis effectivement reconnaîtront ce que je me permets de dire maintenant. Je lui souhaite les choses les plus merveilleuses au monde, il les mérite.

Je vais seulement dire cela: ma voix est un cadeau du ciel qui m'arrive et je l'ai dit à mes amis qui ont prié pour moi. La prière ne l'oubliez-pas, c'est le médicament le plus sérieux et le plus sûr. Je finis avec ces paroles mais mon cœur continuera à battre pour qui le mérite.

### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Before I do deal with this matter of geographical representation, I would just like to thank you all very much from the bottom of my heart for your kind words and to assure you that it has been an honour, a privilege and a pleasure to work for FAO over the last thirty years and also to say that, when I leave, an important part of me will remain with the Organization - my heart.

I would like now to deal with the question that was raised by the distinguished delegate from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding what has happened in the past with respect to equitable regional representation on the Programme and Finance Committees.

I should recall that normally there is consultation and coordination between the groups that deal with this question in a satisfactory way, but there have been two occasions, back in 1985 and 1987, in which there were difficulties. On one occasion, in 1985 I believe, the United States of America, an important donor, was not elected to the Finance Committee and, in 1987, there were difficulties with the representation of Africa on the Programme Committee.

As a result of the first case, the Conference took up the matter in 1987, and adopted a Resolution which said, "The Conference decides first to affirm the need for just and equitable representations of the various regions on the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee; second to underline that an essential element of such representation is that all regions who so wish are in fact represented on the Committees; and third that the Members of the Council should bear the above in mind, as well as the importance of securing equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region when electing the Chairman and Members of the two Committees in accordance with Rules XXVI-3 and XXVII-3, respectively."

As I say, the difficulty occurred again in 1987, that was after this Resolution had been passed, and the matter was considered at some length by the CCLM and the Council in the following biennium. Various proposals were put forward by the CCLM but, in the end, the Council and the Conference decided that there should be no change to the current, rather flexible system of ensuring regional understandings amongst and within the regions. The Conference agreed that it would be preferable to maintain the flexibility inherent in the present system and not to introduce any modifications thereto. So doing, it recalled the necessity of ensuring sufficient consultation and coordination, both within and between regions, in order to respect the criteria set forth in Resolution 11/87, which I have just read to you, the text of which was appended to the Report of the Conference. So, the Conference reiterated this resolution, and then expressed the hope that in the forthcoming elections, to be held at the next Session of the Council, this would result in the just and equitable representation called for in that Resolution. It said, at that time, it could be seen whether further action would be required. No further action was taken or deemed necessary.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

May I just crave your indulgence, and that of the Members of the Council. I would like to thank you all for the very kind words expressed at the Conference and here today. Looking back, I have served the United Nations for nearly 36 years, and 33 of those years have been here with FAO.

When one exits, and exits are just as important as entries, obviously it is a period of adjustment but I can assure you, that with your words, you are helping me - - and I am sure that I can speak for Gerald when I say this - - along the way although he has two or three months left.

I would like to take some credit, incidentally, because perhaps you do not know this but it was I who recruited Gerald Moore. We worked very closely together, and he succeeded me when I went to the field, so I take some credit also for him and I share the sentiments that you have expressed.

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

I will try to be brief but before we close, I do want to thank those departing Members of the Council. Your work here has been very much appreciated. I would also like to welcome the new Members of the Council and assure you that those of us in the Secretariat look forward to working with you.

Let me also congratulate and welcome the new Members and the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Mr Chairman, I, and all of us in the Secretariat, congratulate you on your re-election; you can count on our support. We look forward to working with you over the next two years.

I know that we mentioned Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, but there are also a number of other individuals who have served on the Council who will not be with us next year, because they will be taking up other assignments. I would like to express our appreciation to all of those who have worked so hard to help this Organization.

If I could, I would like to also single out Ambassador Fontana-Giusti and, on behalf of the Secretariat, Mr Ambassador, I would like to congratulate you on your very distinguished career. In particular, I would like to thank you for these past three years or so, when you have worked so hard to help make this Organization better. I remember when we first met and you came to my office in Forestry and you asked for my advice. You asked how you could help make the Forestry Programme in FAO better. Little did I know that you would soon be coming back to my office on many occasions giving me advice, lots of advice, all of which has been very much appreciated. I have grown to respect you a great deal because you are always well prepared. I know that the Secretariat asks all Representatives to do a lot of work in reading all of the materials that we prepare. You are called upon to attend many meetings, etc. but Mr Ambassador you, in particular, have always come very well prepared, and we do appreciate that.

I am also very much appreciative of your real commitment to the Organization and to development. You have been constructive in bringing forward initiatives. You have often been tenacious too. You have not let go. Personally I have appreciated that. I have appreciated it even when you have made life difficult for the Secretariat, myself in particular. I remember being put on the edge of my chair on various occasions. In fact, on one occasion you had me so much on the edge that my chair almost hit me in the back of the head. I took that as a wake-up call. I think that those of us here in the Secretariat need to be available, we need to listen, we need to understand Members of the Council and Members of this Organization. You have always freely shared your advice, and I believe we are a better Organization because of you, Mr Ambassador. I have enjoyed very much working with you.

Now, I know you are also disappointed that the Conference did not go as far as you might have hoped, on the Alliance, but let me assure you that your counsel on partnership is not forgotten. Your counsel has not fallen on deaf ears. Those of us in FAO, and I know I can speak for IFAD and the World Food Programme, very much believe in partnerships, and we are committed to work together in a much better and more efficient way.

Mr Ambassador, many thanks to you for your personal advice to me and for your advice to this Organization. May I wish you, your wife and your family all the best in the future.

Before I close, I know that perhaps it is a bit unusual for the Secretariat to thank Members of the Secretariat but, if you the delegates think that you are going to miss Mr Zenny and Mr Moore, think how I feel. They have pulled my feet out of the fire on numerous occasions, and their wisdom, their knowledge of the Organization, their understanding of procedure and the Regulations have saved me from untold embarrassment. I do wish to express my appreciation to them publicly, even though I will have other opportunities to do so privately in the months ahead.

Although this is their last Council Meeting, they still have some work to do and I know they have a long list of things that they would like to accomplish before they leave. But I would like you to know that they have been very valuable to me personally, and I will miss them.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**CHAIRMAN**

Any other comments? I see none. I think this time we really conclude the work of this Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Council. The meeting stands adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 45*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas*