


December 2011

	<p>منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة</p>	<p>联合国 粮食及 农业组织</p>	<p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>	<p>Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture</p>	<p>Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций</p>	<p>Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura</p>
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session • Cent quarante-troisième session
• 143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU
CONSEIL**

**Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIÈRE RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

28 November 2011

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.53 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première réunion plénière est ouverte à 9 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera reunión plenaria a las 9.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 143/1; CL 143/INF/1; CL 143/INF/2)**1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 143/1; CL 143/INF/1; CL 143/INF/2)****1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 143/1; CL 43/INF/1; CL 143/INF/2)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je déclare ouverte la cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil de la FAO et souhaite la bienvenue aux Membres du Conseil et aux Observateurs de cette session et au Directeur général élu, notre invité. Avant de commencer nos travaux, je donne la parole au Secrétaire général du Conseil pour une brève annonce.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

L'Union européenne participe à cette session conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. La déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres qui figure dans le document d'information CL 143/INF/2 est portée à l'attention des Membres.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'homme affamé souffre, l'homme affamé n'est plus maître de lui, l'homme affamé est dangereux. Il nous renvoie l'image des problèmes qui restent à résoudre, alors que nous sommes entrés dans le Troisième millénaire avec près d'un milliard d'êtres humains qui ne mangent pas à leur faim.

Au moment d'ouvrir cette nouvelle session du Conseil, je souhaiterais que nous gardions à l'esprit en permanence cette réalité insupportable connue de tous. Elle doit peser sur nos débats et sur nos conclusions pour les rendre plus efficaces, pour qu'elles aient un impact avoir un impact sur le terrain et y diminuer le niveau de souffrance.

Permettez-moi d'abord d'adresser au nom du Conseil nos remerciements chaleureux à notre Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour tout le travail accompli au sein de la FAO au cours de ses mandats successifs. Je sais, Monsieur le Directeur général, cher Jacques, que vous considérez que la Conférence a déjà été l'occasion des ces remerciements, mais dans le Conseil, ce sont aussi vos amis, et ils tiennent à vous féliciter, à saluer vos mérites et vous souhaiter le meilleur pour la suite.

Cette session se déroule à un moment que je considère comme particulièrement favorable où, dans la foulée de la Conférence, trois éléments fondamentaux émergent: un consensus renforcé entre les Membres, un programme de travail et de budget 2012-13 maintenu au niveau requis et un passage de relais entre un Directeur général sortant et un Directeur général entrant qui, autant que je sache, se déroule au mieux des intérêts des organisations.

Par ailleurs, le fait que la FAO et plus particulièrement son processus de Réforme, soit nommément citée au début de ce mois dans le communiqué final du Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement des pays du G20 constitue également la reconnaissance du rôle majeur que ces pays accordent à l'Organisation. C'est la confirmation que nous sommes dans la bonne direction et un encouragement à poursuivre nos efforts.

Au cours de cette session et pour la première fois, une disposition majeure du plan de Réforme sera mise en œuvre, l'aménagement du PTB 2012-13 sur la base de la Résolution votée par la Conférence lors de sa Trente-septième Session. Les travaux préparatoires se sont déroulés dans une ambiance constructive, et je tiens à féliciter à cet égard le Secrétariat, ainsi que les Présidents et les membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier.

Je félicite aussi le Président et les membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour leur contribution, en particulier pour la mise place du Comité d'éthique.

J'appelle votre attention également sur le suivi du processus de Réforme que la Conférence, dans sa Résolution 6/2011, a désormais confié au Conseil. Un rapport sera présenté cette semaine et il vous revient de faire connaître vos recommandations pour améliorer, si nécessaire, le dispositif mis en place et son fonctionnement.

Il en est de même pour ce qui concerne le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), qui a confirmé son rôle central de plateforme inclusive de coordination. Le rapport de la dernière session vous sera soumis pour recueillir votre avis en matière de programme et de budget, et il convient que le Conseil s'exprime sur ces deux points.

Mais au delà de cette session, nous devons porter notre regard sur le biennium 2012-13, qui est sur le point de démarrer. Depuis le vote de la Réforme en novembre 2008, il sera le premier à respecter intégralement le calendrier du Plan d'action immédiate et, ce faisant, à mettre en pratique ses concepts de base et sa logique. Ce devrait être le cas en premier lieu dans le fonctionnement des Organes de gouvernance, incluant les Conférences régionales et les Comités techniques, et dans la construction du Programme de travail et budget 2014-15. De mon point de vue, deux évolutions majeures devront être atteintes: (1) une réunion informelle sur les contributions extra-budgétaires, début 2013, véritablement innovante dans son approche et dans ses résultats et (2) la fixation du niveau de budget 2014-15 par le Conseil d'avril 2013.

Auparavant, dès le premier semestre 2012, les Conférences régionales auront à assumer pleinement leur statut d'Organe directeur à part entière. Elles devraient être un moment privilégié pour mieux écouter et pour mieux entendre les préoccupations des acteurs de terrain. Elles sont à mes yeux une étape essentielle du fonctionnement de la FAO, et comme je l'ai déjà indiqué à plusieurs reprises, leur coordination avec le processus de décentralisation sera à optimiser.

Avec la modernisation du fonctionnement du Conseil, une meilleure définition des priorités et une gestion adaptée des ressources humaines constituent les points fondamentaux du processus de Réforme. Ils nécessitent d'être consolidés et intégrés dans le fonctionnement quotidien de l'Organisation. Leur impact, sur les résultats obtenus au niveau du terrain, doit être effectif et perceptible. C'est bien là et d'abord là, sur le terrain, que nous pourrions mesurer les véritables retombées de la Réforme et comment elle a pu contribuer à faire baisser le niveau de souffrance que j'évoquais au début de mon propos.

Pour terminer, je voudrais souligner deux points qui me paraissent absolument essentiels pour renforcer nos chances de succès: (1) tout d'abord, nous devons maintenir un dialogue permanent entre les Pays membres, entre les Groupes régionaux, avec le Secrétariat et avec les autres institutions. La richesse de ces échanges constitue le socle, de la pérennité de ce que nous construisons. Conformément au mandat qui m'a été donné par la Conférence je ne ménagerai aucun effort pour faciliter un tel dialogue; (2) ensuite, nous devons mobiliser toutes nos énergies au début du mandat du Directeur général élu, cher José Graziano Da Silva, tous ici nous sommes avec vous. Vous pouvez compter sur nous sans aucune réserve. Nous sommes à votre disposition à chaque instant pour appuyer votre combat, notre combat, contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

J'ai le plaisir de vous souhaiter cordialement la bienvenue à la cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil, spécialement à ceux et celles d'entre vous qui ont fait le déplacement de leur pays jusqu'à Rome.

En application à la Réforme adoptée par la Conférence visant à assurer une plus grande efficacité de la gouvernance de l'Organisation, cette session du Conseil est la dernière des cinq organisées pendant le présent exercice biennal, dans le cadre du nouveau cycle des réunions des Organes directeurs.

Cette session est également la dernière réunion d'un Organe directeur de la FAO à laquelle je prends part en tant que Directeur général. Je me réjouis de le faire dans cette enceinte du Conseil, la plus importante structure de gouvernance après la Conférence, dont les réunions rapprochées favorisent un dialogue constant et des interactions régulières entre les Membres et aussi avec la Direction.

Il m'est donc particulièrement agréable de m'adresser aujourd'hui aux Membres du Conseil – non pour évoquer les réformes entreprises et les programmes mis en œuvre au cours des trois mandats – ce que j'ai déjà fait lors de la dernière Conférence, mais pour exprimer ma gratitude et rendre hommage à tous les Membres de l'Organisation pour l'excellente collaboration et la grande confiance qui ont marqué nos efforts concertés tout au long des 18 années durant lesquelles j'ai eu le privilège de servir la FAO et de guider son action. Soyez-en profondément et sincèrement remerciés. Naturellement mes vifs remerciements s'adressent aussi au Pays hôte, l'Italie, pour sa généreuse hospitalité pendant ces dernières décennies, depuis le transfert du siège de la FAO à Rome, dont nous avons célébré récemment le 60ème anniversaire.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour rendre un hommage mérité à l'ensemble des membres du personnel de la FAO ainsi qu'à leurs familles. Je leur réitère, du fond du cœur, ma profonde gratitude pour m'avoir accompagné et soutenu durant ces longues années. Je voudrais leur exprimer mon appréciation pour leur compétence, leurs sacrifices et leur dévouement à la noble cause de la lutte pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire à tous les êtres humains.

Qu'il me soit également permis de renouveler mes vœux les plus chaleureux de plein succès à Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva au moment où il s'apprête à prendre ses fonctions de Directeur général de la FAO. Fort de sa vaste expérience dans les domaines relevant du mandat de l'Organisation, qu'il a acquise comme Sous-directeur général pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, mais aussi en tant que Ministre de la sécurité alimentaire et comme un des principaux responsables du Programme «Fome Zéro» au Brésil, M. Graziano Da Silva, j'en suis convaincu, saura conduire la FAO avec toute la compétence et l'autorité requises. Je sais aussi qu'il pourra compter sur le soutien du Conseil et des autres Organes directeurs pour mener à bien sa lourde tâche.

Depuis son élection en juin dernier, M. Graziano Da Silva a travaillé sans relâche pour préparer sa prise de fonction dans les meilleures conditions. Il a ainsi été étroitement associé à la préparation des Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13, dont vous aurez à débattre ces jours-ci. Je suis heureux de noter à cet égard que les ajustements au PTB que j'ai proposés, conformément aux orientations fournies par la Conférence en juillet dernier et avec la contribution effective de M. Graziano Da Silva, ont été favorablement accueillis par le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme, notamment à leur Réunion conjointe au début de ce mois. Ce consensus est de bon augure pour vos délibérations sur ce point important de l'Ordre du jour.

Avec mes remerciements renouvelés pour notre longue et fructueuse collaboration, je souhaite plein succès à la Cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons donc continuer nos travaux. Première information, comme vous le savez, les délégués peuvent désormais demander la parole au moyen du système électronique en appuyant sur le bouton rouge en dessous du microphone, le voyant clignotera jusqu'au moment où le délégué prendra la parole. L'ordre des orateurs automatiquement enregistré s'affiche sur l'écran placé sur le podium auprès de moi. Je donne à nouveau la parole à Monsieur Mekouar pour un brève compte-rendu sur la documentation de cette session du Conseil comme nous l'avons convenu depuis maintenant un certain nombre de Conseils. Monsieur Mekouar, vous avez la parole.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

La documentation de la présente session du Conseil comprend 19 documents principaux, dont huit sont les rapports de réunions qui se sont achevées après ou peu avant le 3 octobre, date prévue pour la soumission de la documentation à la traduction. Quinze documents principaux, à savoir tous les rapports des réunions qui se sont tenues avant octobre, ont été publiés avant ou à la date limite de distribution, à savoir le 31 octobre. Les quatre rapports des réunions qui se sont achevées après cette date étaient disponibles dans les trois jours ouvrables suivant la fin des sessions correspondantes. Des efforts accrus ont été déployés afin que les documents soient mis en ligne dans les délais convenus et nous sommes, à cet égard, reconnaissants aux collègues concernés pour leur diligence.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 1: l'Adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du Calendrier qui fait référence aux notes CL 143/1, CL 143/INF/1 et CL 143/INF/2. L'Ordre du jour provisoire a été communiqué aux Membres du Conseil le 28 septembre 2011 en même temps que l'invitation à la présente session. Je vous propose quelques modifications: la première: l'élimination du Sous-point 9.1: Invitation à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressée à des États non-membres et le Sous-point 9.2: Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation dans la mesure où aucune invitation n'a été adressée à des États Non-membres et aucune demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation n'a été reçue. En complément, je vous demande aussi d'inscrire dans le cadre des questions diverses l'intervention de M. José Graziano da Silva, ici même, jeudi matin à 09h30. Cette intervention ne sera pas suivie, à sa demande, de débats. Je vous demande aussi d'inscrire dans les questions du Point 17: Evolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressées par la FAO, le Sous-point concernant Les évolutions du G20 vis-à-vis de la FAO. Ce sont les communications que j'ai à faire sur l'Ordre du jour et le Calendrier. Avez-vous des remarques ou des commentaires à faire sur cet Ordre du jour? Pas de commentaires, ni d'objections? L'Ordre du jour est donc adopté.

En dehors de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais vous indiquer un élément qui se déroulera en suspension de séance mercredi matin à 10h30 dans cette salle même où nous dévoilerons le portrait de notre Directeur général. Nous le ferons en suspension de séance, ici à 10h30, ou entre deux points qui seront terminés.

En ce qui concerne le Calendrier de la session qui figure dans le document CL/143/INF/1 Rev.1, je vous ai transmis avec ma lettre du 15 novembre une proposition de Calendrier annoté pour nous aider à bien gérer le temps et structurer la discussion des points suivants: (i) ajustement à apporter au Programme de travail du budget 2012-13 dans le point 3; (ii) le Point 10: Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action immédiate; et (iii) au Point 11: Rapport sur les programmes de travail pluri-annuel du Comité financier du Comité du programme et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et du Conseil. Les références au paragraphe concerné sont indiquées dans le Calendrier, nous en parlerons dans le détail lorsque nous aborderons ce point et dans la préparation du Conseil, j'ai eu l'occasion d'en discuter et de nous mettre d'accord avec les trois Présidents des comités concernés. Sous le Point 20 aux questions diverses, je propose d'inclure la Nomination d'un nouveau Président et d'un nouveau premier Vice-président suppléant du Comité de recours suite à la fin du mandat de l'Ambassadeur Francis Montanaro Mifsud qui assurait cette fonction depuis Novembre 2000 et de l'Ambassadeur Henri Fissore qui a terminé sa mission à Rome en 2006. Voilà en ce qui concerne le Calendrier. Pas de questions ou de remarques?

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 los tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 2 de l'Ordre du jour: l'Élection des trois Vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction. Le Point 2 porte sur l'Ordre du jour sur l'élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction. Après consultation entre les groupes régionaux, un accord a été trouvé pour proposer seulement trois Vice-présidents: il s'agit de son Excellence Monsieur Friedrich-Carl Bruns de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, de son Excellence Kristenso Obama Ando de la République de Guinée Equatoriale et de son Excellence Javad Shakhs Tavakolian de la République Islamique d'Iran. Avez-vous des

commentaires ou des questions à poser sur ces candidatures? Si tel n'est pas le cas, y a-t-il des objections pour élire ces trois Vice-présidents? Pas d'objections? Mes félicitations aux trois Vice-présidents que j'essaierai de faire participer au mieux pendant cette session. Le Canada a demandé la parole.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada has not called for a vote regarding the nomination of Iran for the position of Vice-Chair of this Council.

However, we must express our reservation regarding this nomination for reasons which, we are certain, are well known to this Membership.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres remarques ou d'autres commentaires? Nous passons à la question suivante concernant le Comité de rédaction. Les Groupes régionaux ont proposé le Représentant de l'Espagne pour la présidence et les délégations des pays suivants comme Membres: l'Afghanistan, l'Argentine, l'Australie, l'Espagne, le Canada, la Chine, la Fédération de Russie, le Mozambique, la République de Corée, la Tunisie, l'Uruguay et il nous manque quelques autres Membres, nous vous les communiquerons au cours de cette journée ou demain. Avez-vous des commentaires sur ce sujet ou des questions à poser? Pas de commentaires? Il en est ainsi décidé.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande à ceux qui sont un peu en retard d'être diligents pour nommer les derniers Membres de ce Comité de rédaction. Comme je l'ai dit dans ma lettre du 15 novembre et, conformément à nos Méthodes de travail, j'invite les Membres à faire des interventions concises et ciblées et autant que possible, des déclarations de groupes de pays pour éviter les répétitions mais il ne faut pas empêcher le débat. Pour ma part, je tirerai les conclusions des débats afin de faciliter la rédaction du Rapport de la session.

Comme convenu, le Rapport consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations tandis que les débats figureront intégralement dans les Procès-verbaux de la Session. Le Secrétariat s'efforcera aussi de produire des Projets de Rapport concis, portant essentiellement sur les conclusions et décisions du Conseil. La tâche du Comité de rédaction sera ainsi facilitée, lui permettant d'achever ses travaux plus rapidement. Je vous saurais également gré de remettre à l'avance vos interventions au Secrétariat, de préférence à l'adresse courriel indiquée dans l'Ordre du jour afin que les interprètes puissent les rendre au mieux dans les autres langues.

Les interventions orales devraient être faites à un rythme raisonnable pour une meilleure qualité de l'interprétation. Enfin, je rappelle que vous pouvez remettre une version intégrale de vos interventions pour inclusion dans les procès-verbaux et présenter oralement une version plus condensée. Dans ce cas, une annonce sera faite à cet effet. Y a-t-il des commentaires? L'Iran m'a demandé la parole. L'Iran, vous avez la parole.

Mr Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Let me simply express my views regarding the intervention made by Canada.

All of you know exactly that this Organization is a technical organization rather than a political one. So all of us, we have an obligation. We have to respect the Agenda of this very important Organization as a technical one. This Organization is responsible for many millions of hungry in the world and we have to work in this field rather than in the other things. So I would like to encourage all of us to avoid politicizing this Organization. Rather than do that, please take into account that none of us are allowed to do so.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour votre intervention. Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur le fonctionnement de notre Conseil? Vous avez donc tous entendu les appels faits concernant la brièveté mais aussi la concision sans empêcher le débat et surtout, de pouvoir communiquer au plus tôt vos interventions pour améliorer la qualité de nos travaux. Merci.

7. Report of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (17-22 October 2011) (CL 143/2)

7. Rapport de la trente-septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (17-22 octobre 2011) (CL 143/2)

7. Informe del 37.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (17-22 de octubre de 2011) (CL 143/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je passe tout de suite au Point 7 le Rapport de la Trente-septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (17-22 octobre 2011) (CL 143/2). J'ai le plaisir d'inviter M. Franklin Moore, le Vice-président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et d'excuser par la même l'occasion l'Ambassadeur M. Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, élu président du CSA à la 37^{ème} Session du Comité en lui souhaitant aussi beaucoup de réussite ainsi que à son Vice-président.

Mr Franklin C. MOORE (Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

As has been the practice for the Committee on World Food Security since Reform in 2009, the Committee's agenda for its 37th Session in October 2011 corresponded largely to its main roles, namely coordination at global and regional levels and providing support for national processes, promoting policy convergence and coordination on topics central to food security and nutrition and supporting the on-going implementation of CFS Reform and functioning of the Committee. While Council decision is not required on any of the items highlighted in the approximate box which precedes the CFS Report, I wish to draw the attention of Council Members particularly to the following actions to be pursued before the next session of CFS.

First, arrange an additional negotiation session with a view to finalizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance for Land Tenure and Other Natural Resources.

Second, request the High-Level Panel of Experts to include in its plans for future work, taking into account available resources, a comparative study of constraints to smallholder investment and agriculture in different contexts. This would be in addition to reports currently being prepared by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Climate Change and on Social Safety Nets.

Next, support an inclusive consultation process within CFS for the development of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhance food security and nutrition, to be conducted after the Voluntary Guidelines have been concluded.

Next, propose options on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms "food security", "food security and nutrition", and "food and nutrition security and nutrition security".

Next, continue facilitating the process of developing and implementing country-level mapping of actions for food security and nutrition, as well as create a suite of core food security indicators including the development, adoption and promotion of internationally-accepted standards and FAO to improve its measure of undernutrition.

Next, develop a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition.

Next, further clarify and improve the CFS Rules of Procedure to ensure their conformity with the CFS reform document, and adjust Article XXIII of the General Rules of Organization accordingly.

Next, prepare a succinct annual report on expenditures against projected costs from available resources and further integrate the 2012-13 Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 with the results-based framework, and finally organize a High-Level Expert Forum on Food Security in countries in protracted crisis, with a view to, inter alia elaborating an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crisis. The Report of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security has been submitted as Documents CL 143/2 for acknowledgment by Council, as there are no items requiring decision.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, M. Moore, de la présentation de ce document. Sans plus attendre, je cède la parole aux Membres du Conseil. Comme je vous l'ai dit tout à l'heure, vous appuyez sur votre bouton rouge pour demander la parole; cela s'inscrit dans l'ordre qui est prévu. Je vous donne la parole et je pense qu'au fur et à mesure, il y aura effacement. J'ai déjà trois demandes de parole, et je donne la parole au Représentant de la République de Tanzanie. Monsieur l'Ambassadeur.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I want to thank the Director-General for giving an opening speech this morning. We very much appreciate your statement.

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Regional Group extends its appreciation to the former CFS Chairman, Mr Noel De Luna, the Secretariat and the Bureau for the good arrangements of the 37th Session of the CFS. The Session proved to be an inclusive international and inter-governmental platform for all stakeholders to offer an opportunity to discuss important food security issues.

The Africa Regional Group are offering general comments regarding the organization of the CFS sessions in future. Firstly, CFS should avoid overloading the agenda so that there is a balance that gives Members flexibility and, in particular those with small delegations, the opportunity to participate in the Roundtable discussions. The agenda should be short.

Secondly, CFS should reduce the number of Plenaries and Roundtables. The maximum should not be more than three, unless the topics, demand to have more than that. This will give more time to Members to contribute to the debate.

Thirdly, CFS should avoid listing many decision points. A long list of decision points is subject to a long discussion, and causes difficulties in drafting.

Fourthly, CFS should, as far as possible, take precaution in drafting its agenda to avoid night sessions.

Let us now reflect on the suggested actions in the decision box. The Africa Regional Group acknowledges the outcomes of the 37th Session of CFS, and we would like to make the following few remarks.

Firstly, the CFS received the progress on the negotiations of Voluntary Guidelines. We appreciate the progress in their decision box, and the Africa Regional Group looks forward to participating actively in the follow-up round of negotiations with live memories that we will be concentrating on the remaining sections while respecting and honouring the consensus reached on the negotiated part. Also, we remind the Secretariat to arrange the follow-up round of negotiations carefully, so that it does not coincide or collide with other meetings of Governing Bodies in FAO, IFAD or in WFP.

Secondly, the work ahead of CFS is enormous, entering studies, several negotiations, consultations on RAI, GSF, etc. As indicated in the Final Report of the 37th Session of CFS, we call upon the Secretariat and the Bureau to ensure that the process to be undertaken is transparent and inclusive, as was the case before the Voluntary Guidelines negotiations.

Thirdly, the CFS Bureau should seek the opinion of Members, and possibly the Regional Conferences, in clarifying and improving the adopted and revised CFS Rules of Procedure. One important aspect refers to the election of the CFS Chair, the terms of tenure and the rotation.

Fourthly, the linking of CFS to Regional Conferences and country food security initiatives remain a challenge. All efforts should be made to realize this important linkage.

Fifthly, dealing with CFS activities remains a challenge; we thank those who have voluntarily contributed to the CFS activities.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional Group extends its thanks and appreciation to all the delegations who attended our Side Event with the title 'Africa Can Feed Itself'. Our partners in the arrangements were the Pan African Farmers' Association. The outcomes fed into the Roundtable and Plenary on how to increase food security through smallholder investment in agriculture.

Also the Africa Regional Group acknowledges the CFS for electing Dr Yaya Olaniran, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, to be the next Chairman of CFS is now the Chairman of CFS for 2012-13. The Members' expression of their support to him and to the work of the CFS is valued.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'ai cinq demandes d'interventions, dans l'ordre: la Norvège, le Brésil, les Philippines, le Canada et Cuba. Si d'autres veulent intervenir, n'oubliez pas d'appuyer sur votre bouton. La parole est à la Norvège.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. We welcome the report of the 37th Session of CFS.

The decisions and recommendations from the Session contained useful recommendations and advice to governments multilateral institutions and other important actors in key areas for improved food security and nutrition.

We encourage the Secretariat, the new CFS Chair, Governments, as well as other stakeholders to communicate and utilize these recommendations widely.

This is the second session after Reform and we are gaining experience which can guide efforts to further realize the objectives of the reformed CFS, the Committee that now reaches beyond FAO.

We are clearly moving in the right direction but we do believe that we should aim to do even better. At this instance, we would like to focus on the working methods of the Committee. The broad participation, including from civil society and the private sector, is one of the successes of the Reform of CFS. This must be maintained. But in our view, CFS should make better use of this expertise. Attempts should be made to facilitate more real dialogue and substantive exchanges than the current format allows for.

The Roundtable discussion must become more a platform for real discussions, and less a forum for prepared statements.

With regard to participation, the ambitions for the reformed CFS was for Member Nations to "participate in Committee sessions at the highest level possible, Ministerial and cabinet level is desirable". In this respect, CFS has not succeeded. Very few Ministers participate. If we want them to attend, the Committee must create a reason for them to be there. At the last Session of the CFS, the Committee spent more than two full days in Plenary to detail the drafting of the content of the decision boxes. This way of utilizing valuable Plenary time is clearly not conducive to high-level participation. By working in this way, the Committee may, in fact, run the risk of becoming too inwardly focused, not seeing the forest for the trees, so to speak. Focus should be on short, succinct substance and messages that can be easily understood by those outside the more narrow food and agriculture circles.

There are surely many ways of addressing these challenges. Re-resetting the working methods of the Committee is a very practical one. Some possible ideas for consideration, are the following.

With regard to better utilization of participating expertise: to continue to organize Roundtables is certainly viable and a good idea but it should have fewer panelists, shorter introductions, should have a pro-active chairing of the discussion, more time for discussion and less use of prepared statements. In

addition, a short paper from the Roundtable Chair on the format, key questions to be addressed from the participants, would help focus the discussion.

It may again be considered whether Plenary Roundtables are suitable for genuine exchanges and the best utilization of available expertise. Maybe smaller settings in parallel sessions would be preferable and more conducive to real exchanges. We say so well aware that this could mean that smaller delegations, including our own, may not be able to participate actively in each and every Roundtable.

With regard to political participation, real political engagement requires a suitable agenda and thorough preparations. It may be too ambitious to aim for that every year. If the CFS succeeds in creating agendas conducive to political participation, one possibility could be to consider introducing segments of CFS specifically designed for Ministerial attendance, including Ministers from other sectors than agriculture. Such Ministerial segments could be held in non-Conference years, and last not more than one or one-and-a-half days.

With regard to improve decision-making and freeing up Plenary time for substantive discussions, the CFS Plenary should be used for substantive discussions and decision-making, not for drafting.

Of course, the transparency and broad participation must be maintained to ensure the high-quality of the decisions. But quality lies first and foremost in content, not in details of formulation. We believe these are good, transparent, less time-consuming and tested methods to maintain and even improve on the substantive quality and relevance of CFS decisions and recommendations.

In conclusion, we encourage the CFS Chair, the Bureau and the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member Nations and other CFS stakeholders to consider how improved working methods could assist in improving even further the impact of CFS work and deliberations.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

The Brazilian Delegation thanks the CFS Vice President for the presentation he made on behalf of Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, and welcomes the Report of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

At the offset, we wish to commend the work done by Mr Noel De Luna during his tenure as Chairperson of CFS. His leadership was decisive for the accomplishment of the complex agenda entrusted to the reformed CFS. We present our warmest thanks to him, and wishes of continuing professional and personal success.

We also salute the election of Ambassador Yaya Olaniran as the new CFS Chairperson. As a seasoned and respected diplomat, he has all the necessary abilities to continue the work initiated by Mr De Luna. He has the full support of the Brazilian Delegation.

The 37th Session of the CFS has kept the same high standards of the previous sessions, in terms of openness, participation and quality of debate, while further tightening the decision-making process and achieving clarity and objectivity in its outcomes. Some of these outcomes were not easy to reach, requiring intense negotiations. Negotiations are an integral part of any multilateral process. In the particular case of the CFS, they are a clear consequence of its relevance and focus on substantive policy matters. That is why we should find ways to further streamline the negotiating process in order to enhance its efficiency, particularly in the final drafting stages during the Plenary itself. Whatever the difficulties, the results are plenty.

The Report contains many concrete action points, including several recommendations of interest to Member Nations and to this Council, such as price volatility, small-holder sensitive investment and responsible investment, land tenure, gender, nutrition, protracted crisis, statistics and indicators about hunger, mapping of food security initiatives, the preparation of a global strategic framework and others.

Some of those will require further development. The Brazilian Delegation is proud to have actively participated in the achievement of such results. I am confident that we in the CFS will keep the positive spirit of initiative and collaboration that has so far animated all of our Governments, as well

as the non-state participants and the Secretariat, to continue to carry forward this very important agenda.

Brazil supports the report of the 37th Session of the CFS, as well as the suggested action by the Council, as contained in the document CL 143/2. We would like that the Council, Conference and other Governing Bodies are kept abreast by FAO and by CFS Secretariat of the developments of the initiatives presented in the Report.

Mr Lupino LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

We would like to join the delegation who earlier spoke in welcoming the Report of the CFS Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the CFS Chair. My delegation would like first to thank the Council Members for their strong support to the CFS Chair and the Committee's work during the past two years. We also wish to again congratulate the newly-elected CFS Chair, Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, and assure him of our delegation's support in facing the challenges ahead.

We appreciate the commendable efforts of the CFS to bring to a successful conclusion the negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The sense of compromise of the negotiating parties in resolving difficult issues has resulted in significant progress in the negotiation, but time was simply short. We would therefore encourage CFS to resume the negotiation process at the earliest opportunity to conclude the negotiations on Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, bearing in mind that this is an important pillar in realizing equitable and fair solutions for small farmers.

The complementary process of consultations on the proposed Voluntary Guidelines on responsible investment in agriculture should continue.

We welcome the various regional initiatives to address food security issues in the context of food price volatility. While these are still in the early stages to reach conclusion on the contribution to the global efforts to address food insecurity, we urge the CFS to continuously monitor these regional initiatives and encourage the HLPE to study the lessons learned and how best practices could be shared among the regions. We highly appreciate the timely and comprehensive work of HLPE on land tenure and international investments in agriculture and price volatility and food security. We have taken note of the observations that could guide us in addressing these complex issues.

We welcome the G20 agricultural marketing information system initiative to address global food price volatility.

While we support CFS participation, the link between CFS and the AMIS rapid response forum should be clarified. We look forward to periodic updates of this initiative.

We encourage the CFS continue its work in providing a policy forum for improving the quality of the statistics related to food security and in defining level on undernourishment with a view to improve reliability and timeliness of the data. We consider this an important pillar in increasing the productive and forecasting ability of FAO, and endorse the proposal for establishment of a core of food security indicators. The recent declaration of the UNGA of the Year of Family Farming in 2014 clearly underscores the interest and importance attached by the global community that the small-holder farmer plays in addressing food insecurity. Small-holder farming must remain high in the CFS agenda, and we support the proposal for HLPE to study issues related to small-holder farming.

We recognize the importance of policy and legal framework that ensure equal access to land, technology and education, including inheritance rights for both sexes in addressing food security issues in many countries. Nutrition should be given greater consideration in the interventions to address food insecurity.

We urge CFS to continue its constructive role in focusing on these issues. Finally Mr Chair, we encourage CFS to continue its efforts to deepen partnership with the private sector and the civil society as well as with the Rome-based UN Agencies.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais faire un point avec vous parce que j'ai vu des inscriptions apparaître sur mon tableau et disparaître. Il est donc important que quand vous avez appuyé une fois, vous n'appuyiez pas à nouveau. Je prends l'exemple de l'Union européenne qui a été inscrite et elle a disparu. Je pense que l'Union européenne a toujours envie d'intervenir, et donc je vous donne la liste de ceux qui sont inscrits actuellement: le Canada, Cuba, la Syrie, la Thaïlande, l'Argentine, le Japon, la Chine, la France, le Mexique, l'Inde, le Kenya, l'Indonésie et l'Afghanistan. L'Union européenne a encore disparu. Vous appuyez une seule fois, c'est rouge et vous n'y touchez plus. Je ferais intervenir l'Union européenne avant les États Membres, parce que j'ai compris la démarche. Il n'y aura pas de problème. Bien, faites attention. La parole est au Canada.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

First, Canada would like to fully support the points made by the distinguished Representative of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group and by Norway on behalf of the Nordic Group, particularly regarding the working methods of the Committee on World Food Security.

We are fully supportive of the goals of the CFS and of the ongoing CFS Reform Process. Recognizing the CFS as a dynamic and evolving institution with limited resources, we express our caution over the expanding workplan and would argue for a more measured and realistic approach to the CFS agenda and its responsibilities. We would therefore urge the Bureau to carefully consider and identify priorities as we go forward into the next session.

Sra. Carina Milagros SOTO AGÜERO (Cuba)

El examen del Informe sobre los resultados alcanzados por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su período de sesiones más reciente revela la profundidad con que fueron analizados varios temas importantes.

Felicitamos al Comité por el trabajo realizado. A la vez, el Informe muestra cuánto trabajo queda por hacer, entre otros aspectos, para finalizar las Directrices Voluntarias para la Gobernanza Responsable de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional. El tema de las directrices merece una especial atención por parte de todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización, sobre todo en cuanto a la importancia que tiene un acceso seguro y estable de los campesinos pobres a la propiedad de la tierra o al derecho a trabajarla como condición indispensable para garantizar su derecho a salir de la pobreza. En este sentido, estamos de acuerdo con la continuidad del análisis de las directrices a través de un proceso inclusivo de consultas del Comité. Además, apoyamos el resto de las medidas que están dirigidas a continuar la aplicación de su Reforma.

Por otra parte, estamos convencidos de que hay que continuar profundizando el análisis de las causas de la inseguridad alimentaria. Se aprecia el avance alcanzado en los diferentes procesos encauzados por el Comité, pero como elemento fundamental los Estados Miembros debemos mantener nuestra atención en los aspectos que pueden permanecer incidiendo negativamente en la volatilidad de los precios, concretamente nos referimos a la especulación financiera en el mercado de los alimentos. No podemos perder de vista que esta es una de las causas principales de la crisis alimentaria que se ha padecido en varias regiones. Sabemos que este es un tema que ha sido abordado en otros momentos; incluso se han anunciado o prometido medidas al respecto. Pero proponemos volver una y otra vez sobre el asunto en tanto esta Organización esté comprometida con los esfuerzos para eliminar el hambre en el mundo, y para esto debemos alertar sobre las causas reales que lo han provocado.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group. Firstly, I would like to thank Jacques Diouf, the Director-General, for his opening address and I would also like to bid a warm welcome to the new Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva. I would also like to say that we agree with what you said in your own statement. I would also like to thank the Secretariat and the staff of the CFS. May I thank the Chairperson De Luna for his efforts in steering that Committee. I would also like to congratulate Mr Yaya Olaniran, the Chairperson elect, and on behalf of the Near East I would like to say that we

commend the Report of the 37th Session of the CFS. It reflects the excellent work done by the Committee. I would like to make a number of comments.

Firstly, I support what the Ambassadors of Brazil and Tanzania have said.

Secondly, we need to enhance regional work and workshops in the field of food security. We need to adopt a more concise agenda for forthcoming sessions, taking into account the other meetings taking place elsewhere in the Organization. We should not increase the number of Roundtables – one or two should suffice – in order to avoid dispersal of efforts.

Fourthly, we support what has been agreed about Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests. We pledge to continue the work on these Guidelines, and we hope that very soon we will succeed in the negotiations - the programme and timetable for those negotiations. We also think we need clear and unambiguous text. With regard to the Chairmanship of the Committee and Members of the Bureau, in keeping with the Rules of Procedure, we should take steps in keeping with the timetable laid down pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

We also urge the Committee to cooperate with the private sector, as well as with regional and international institutions in order to obtain our objectives in dealing with food price volatility and the needs of food security. I also support what the delegate of Iran has said about Iran's nomination for the post of Vice-Chairperson. I think this is an issue which is the responsibility of each Group, and other Groups should not interfere. It is an internal matter.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation welcomes the Report of the 37th Session of the CFS. We take note with appreciation of the achievements of the reformed CFS with new mechanisms put in place, like high-level Panels of Experts and inclusiveness of all concerned stakeholders.

We also appreciate active participation of every party in the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, and encourage their finalisation in the near future.

We believe that adoption of the Guidelines will be a key incentive for investment of resources and labours in agricultural production and will promote the basic livelihoods of farmers, especially of small-holders in developing countries.

We also look forward to the consultation process to formulate the Guidelines for responsible agricultural investment soon after conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure.

With regard to the Rules of Procedure, further discussions among Members are required on eligibility of an in-office Chairperson for every election for a second term, as well as on order of rotation among regions.

Finally, we welcome Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, the new CFS Chairperson and his new Bureau members and wish them every success in their endeavour. We would also like to thank Mr Noel De Luna, the outgoing Chairperson, who has dedicated himself during the past two years to realizing concrete outcomes of the reformed CFS and in placing CFS high on the international agenda.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

La Delegación Argentina felicita a las nuevas autoridades del Comité, a su Presidente el Embajador Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran y a su Vice-presidente Franklin Moore, y reiteramos nuestro compromiso de trabajar activamente con ellos sosteniendo las actividades del Comité. Agradecemos también al Embajador Noel De Luna por todos los esfuerzos que comprometió durante su gestión.

Argentina adopta y respalda plenamente las decisiones adoptadas en la última sesión del Comité, y si bien compartimos muchas de las observaciones realizadas sobre la mecánica de las reuniones, estamos seguros que se irán corrigiendo en la medida que vamos desarrollando la experiencia necesaria.

Donde sí queremos insistir, es en considerar dos temas que nos parecen fundamentales para el desarrollo del Comité: la necesidad de avanzar en el desarrollo del Marco Estratégico y también en la ejecución de la Reforma del Comité, aclarando y definiendo las reglas operativas que sean necesarias.

Avanzar en estos dos campos fortalecerá al Comité y contribuirá a que sea mayor su influencia y su liderazgo en el escenario internacional.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan welcomes the successful outcome of the 37th Session of the CFS, in which every stakeholder actively participated and had a fruitful discussion, until midnight. And we are especially thankful to Mr Noel De Luna and the Secretariat headed by Mr Kostas Stamoulis, for their dedication to the burdensome duties. We wish Noel De Luna all the best in his new assignment in Manila.

We would like to support the proposal made by Tanzania and supported by Norway and Canada, for the more efficient use of our time.

With respect to the future work of CFS, we fully endorse the suggested actions stated by the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Franklin Moore. Especially with regard to the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, we highly appreciate Dr. Gregory Myers for his tireless work as the Open-Ended Working Group Chairperson. It was unfortunate that we could not complete the consultation, but we believe that we will reach consensus early next year.

In the world food market, commodity prices are still high and we are afraid that land-grabbing investments may be boosted. Given the situation, we should continue our efforts for early conclusion of Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure and prompt commencement of the work for establishing principles of responsible agricultural investment, as we agreed in the CFS last month.

Finally, for the information of our colleagues, Japan will make a financial contribution to a pilot project for verifying the effectiveness of the principles of RAI – Responsible Agricultural Investment, which was jointly developed by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and World Bank. We are pleased to provide information on the pilot project in due course for those who have an interest in it.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all we would like to thank the Secretariat, the former Chairperson of the CFS and also the Secretariat for their efforts for the successful completion of the meeting.

We also congratulate Mr Yaya Olaniran on his new election as Chairman. As a member of this Bureau, China will give full support to its work. At the same time, we congratulate the Director-General Elect for his presence at a meeting and we also would like to express our appreciation to him.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the Report of the 37th Session of CFS. We believe this Session was crowned with success, and its Report is very comprehensive.

The Chinese Delegation supports CFS to continue consultations on the voluntary Guidelines as appropriate and as the results permit. However, we would like to stress that the final adoption of the Guidelines should be conducted in all working languages of FAO. It cannot be adopted only in English. CFS would like also to reiterate, as noted by the Africa Region, the concern expressed over the arrangement of the Roundtable meetings, the organization of the meetings in general. We would like to give our full support to the CFS regarding these arrangements.

Sr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas IZQUIERDO (México)

Permitame saludar la presencia en esta sala de el Director General Electo, Sr. José Graziano da Silva a quien damos la bienvenida.

Gracias al Sr. Moore por la presentación del Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Quiero felicitar al Sr. Noel De Luna por su extraordinario trabajo al frente del Comité, así como al nuevo Presidente del mismo, el Embajador Sr. Yaya Olaniran, Representante Permanente de Nigeria, quien tendrá en su encargo todo nuestro apoyo.

En términos generales, México se congratula por los resultados alcanzados en el 37º período de sesiones del Comité, en especial por los avances en la negociación de las Directrices Voluntarias para la Gobernanza Responsable de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional. Confiamos en que una sesión futura alcance el objetivo de finalizar este importante trabajo.

Nos congratulamos también por la decisión del Comité de elaborar un Marco Estratégico Mundial para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición que deberá presentarse en la próxima reunión del Comité. A nuestro juicio, este Marco debe tener en cuenta las iniciativas mundiales y regionales ya existentes para lograr así un impacto verdaderamente significativo que guíe al mundo en este tema en los próximos años.

México asumirá la coordinación del Grupo de los 20 en diciembre próximo. El G-20 ha mantenido el tema de la seguridad alimentaria como uno de sus temas prioritarios, y México lo mantendrá como un tema fundamental para la reunión de este Grupo que tendrá lugar en Los Cabos, México, en junio de 2012. Deseamos que el Grupo de los 20 y el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria mantengan una comunicación fluida y efectiva que incida positivamente en la tensión internacional para este enorme reto, uno de los más importantes de nuestra época.

Varias delegaciones se han referido también a los métodos de trabajo del Comité. Yo me limitaré a hacer una sugerencia muy puntual, de dedicar un día o día y medio de las sesiones del Comité a un Segmento de Alto Nivel con un tema específico orientado en los resultados. Ayudaría mucho a lograr la presencia de Ministros de Agricultura y otros Ministerios relevantes de los Gobiernos para lograr así lo que algunas Delegaciones han llamado aquí: un mayor intercambio de opiniones entre las delegaciones y el Secretariado de la FAO y el Comité y los Expertos. Este Segmento de Alto Nivel podría llevarnos a este feliz resultado.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

India would like to join the chorus in welcoming the Report of the 37th Session of the CFS and its recommendations. We would like to appreciate the leadership role of Mr Noel De Luna in steering the CFS for the last two years. At the same time, I take this opportunity to compliment and congratulate Dr Yaya Olaniran, the distinguished Ambassador of Nigeria, in getting elected as the Chairperson of the present CFS.

We are aware that food security is the primary goal for all countries. The Session of the CFS that took place in October 2011, and this Session of the Council is now taking place at a time when food security issues are attracting heightened concerns around the world. We are happy to observe the presence of the Director-General Elect, Dr Graziano da Silva, who will be steering this Organization in the face of some of the foremost challenges of this Century, that is, hunger, poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, high and volatile food prices, and last, but not least, falling productivity in agriculture.

On the last day of October this year, world population touched the seven billion mark. Many are asking the question as to the maximum number of human beings that our planet can feed. Various experts would have different answers. Some would say it is not a question of numbers, but of uneven cultivation patterns, vagaries of nature and access to technologies and there are other viewpoints. However, the one fact that cannot be disputed is that more and more people will have to be fed and land and water are limited resources. Possibility of their expansion would, at the very best, be limited. In the longer term, the key to tackling rising food prices lies in increasing productivity and production in agriculture and allied sectors.

Some major breakthroughs in agricultural productivity would remain highly dependent on innovative approaches towards agriculture on new technologies and new knowledge management systems.

Apart from what CFS has concentrated and the suggestions made, we feel that we must concentrate on development of partnership frameworks between farmers, the private sector and the Governments, which are transparent and where farmers retain confidence about the ownership of the land and protection of their interests through an appropriate legal framework.

It is our formal understanding that only farmer-centric and farmer-supportive systems of production and marketing will make for durable arrangements. We need to integrate agriculture with other sectors. Institutional arrangements and policy orientation for a farmer-centric, industry-driven and knowledge-based paradigm are required for enhanced competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

There should be deliberations on evolving suitable models for partnership between farmers, private sector and the government in agriculture and rural development. There should be formal industrial partnerships in whichever way possible. It can include crop-specific and reason-specific models by making farmer associates or shareholders of cooperatives, or organizing them into primary productive bodies. Groups of farmers with industrial establishments could cover, apart from production, processing, value addition, stores and marketing, all of which would contribute to better price realization.

All these agreements should, on one hand, safeguard the ownership of the land of the farmer and, on the other hand, ensure tenure security regarding the agreement period. The role of the Government should be that of a facilitator, and the role of FAO should be that of advisor.

There are international agricultural research centres around the world working to find ways of increasing crop yields, while front line research is taking place at all these and more places. The linkup with national research centres, institutions and organizations in different countries should be intensified in a manner that innovations are communicated to the farmer in an easily understandable format. Apart from this top-down approach, there is also a need to look for innovations made by people in farming communities. It is important that these innovations can be refined and made marketable by developing knowledge partnerships. In this context, the importance of South-South Cooperation is very important.

How can this be done? Should we decide it? Traditional knowledge in farming is often good enough to meet several location-specific problems of agricultural practices. How to blend the traditional wisdom with modern scientific knowledge is something that we must look into in detail.

Having said this, I think a number of suggestions have been made by my colleagues and also by the High-Level Panel of Experts. The CFS has made considerable progress on many fronts, and we welcome this, but much more needs to be done. We hope that the additional negotiation session proposed by the CFS will help in finalizing the Voluntary Guidelines in the coming days.

I fully agree with the suggestions of several of my colleagues in improving the working methods. We are happy to know the adoption of the revised CFS Rules of Procedure. However, precious time was consumed by different regional groups to arrive at a consensus for the election of the new Chairperson.

We strongly feel that a term of office for the Chairperson and members of the Bureau and the principle of rotation enshrined in the CFS reforms document should be amplified to make it clear and unambiguous and so that there is no room for misinterpretation of the Rules of Procedure. We continue to encourage the CFS to face the challenges of food insecurity with the help of all the Member Nations.

Ms Magdalena KROPIWNICKA (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on Food Security and the increased level of participation by all stakeholders, including the civil society through the Civil Society Mechanism and by the private sector and their new modality of representative engagement. This impressive participation by all actors proves that together we can improve the global governance of food security with the reformed Committee on Food Security. The European Union reiterates its continued support for the Committee on Food Security Reform Process, as well as for the proper implementation of the decisions and recommendations arising from its 37th Session.

The 37th Session had a particularly heavy agenda. We would prefer that the future Committee on Food Security sessions hold a maximum of two policy Roundtables based on the High-Level Panel of Experts' reports as mandated by the Committee on Food Security. Moreover, it is important to give enough time to the debate and to improve the preparation, focus and conduct of the negotiations.

It is crucial that the Committee on Food Security Bureau, in close collaboration with the Advisory Group and the Joint Secretariat, develop a roadmap and its reflection in the Committee on Food Security MYPOW in order to both prioritize and assure proper implementation of all the decisions and recommendations arising from the 37th Session. Preparations for the 38th Session should not compromise the implementation of all key activities and actions recommended by the 37th Session.

The European Union reiterates the need to give highest priority to the constructive and swift finalization of the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Once adopted, the Committee on Food Security mandate to begin consultations on responsible agricultural investment should not be further delayed, and it should build upon the roadmap already developed by the Working Group of the Bureau.

The European Union has been pleased with the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts and the quality preparation of its Report in such a short time. We hope that in the future the Committee on Food Security session, the discussion of the High-Level Panel of Experts reports will receive more time and attention.

The Committee on Food Security must continue to implement its Reform Process. The finalization of the Terms of Reference for the Secretary of the Committee on Food Security, as well as of introduction of changes into the General Rules of the Organization and the Committee on Food Security Rules of Procedure to assure that they reflect the principles of the Committee on Food Security Reform document have never been more urgent.

The European Union encourages continuation and intensification of collaboration between the UN Rome-based institutions in the implementation of the inter-sessional work of the Committee on Food Security, and for the proper reflection of the Committee on Food Security workload in the allocation of human and budgetary resources.

The European Union also encourages the Committee on Food Security Secretariat, Bureau and Advisory Group to develop and implement a strong and innovative communications strategy.

We believe that the lessons of the 37th Session should be taken seriously, and that we have a responsibility to deliver on the actions and recommendations adhered to during the last two Plenary Sessions. It is also time that the Committee on Food Security decisions and recommendations find resonance in the whole UN System and international organizations.

In conclusion, the European Union would like to thank the former Chairperson of the Committee on Food Security, Mr Noel De Luna, for the excellent work he performed during two years in order to revitalize the Commission on Food Security. We have greatly appreciated his leadership, his hard work and his great human and professional qualities. We will miss him. We would like to congratulate also the new Chairperson, Mr Yaya Olaniran and the Vice-Chairperson. We would like to wish him a great success in his future work. The European Union stands ready to become involved and support the Committee on Food Security to achieve success in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je rappelle les cinq Membres qui sont inscrits sur mon tableau: l'Indonésie, la Russie, l'Australie, l'El Salvador et la République de Corée. Si il y a d'autres candidats, veuillez vous inscrire en appuyant sur votre bouton rouge. La parole est à l'Indonésie.

Mr Agus Prithatin SAPTONO (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to congratulate the new Chairman of the CFS, Ambassador Yaya Olaniran and show Indonesia's support for the CFS, and to thank Mr Noel de Luna for his previous leadership of the CFS.

My delegation welcomes the Report of the 37th Session of the Committee and we wish to request the Council to give the mandate to the CFS Bureau to conform the additional negotiation session with the intention to finalize Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure as soon as possible.

Furthermore, my delegation acknowledges that the recommendation presented by this High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition should be included in the future workplan. We take note of the importance of agriculture investment that will elevate the livelihood of small-holder farmers and women.

This small-holder investment incentive scheme needs to be fully supported by an international investment policy.

My delegation welcomes the inclusive consultation process within the CFS for the development of the broader ownership principal for responsible agriculture investment that enhances food security and nutrition.

Finally, my delegation supports the recommendation of the Committee to request the Secretariat to continue facilitating the process of developing and implementing country-level mapping of action for food security and nutrition, and report on the progress of this action to be presented at the 38th Session of the Committee.

We would welcome the suggestion to floor the Global Strategy Framework for Food Security in Nutrition to be submitted to the session of the CFS.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Sorry, I pushed my button quite early, so obviously it didn't register, so maybe you should explain the system because many of us are confused.

First of all, we wish to express our deep appreciation to Mr De Luna for his successful leadership of the CFS Bureau for the past two years, and also to express our full support for the new leadership of Yaya Olaniran and all members of the CFS Bureau.

I wish to make two observations:

Observation one, among the ten suggested actions in the box, we wish to assign greater weight to item 1: early completion of EGLT; item 2: comparative study by HLPE of constraint to small-holder investment in agriculture in different contexts; item 6: completion of the GSF; item 8: adjustment of Rule 33 of the General Rules of the Organization; and item 10: early commencement of the High-Level Expert Forum on Food Security in Countries in Protracted Crisis.

Observation number two, taking the lead from Tanzania, Norway, Brazil, Philippines, EU and others, we encourage the new Bureau of the CFS not to overlook the agenda of the 38th Session of CFS and to select the items with great care. In particular, we recommend no more than two Roundtables which should not to be conducted simultaneously, and less Side Events. In conducting the Roundtables, more time should be allowed for the participation of Member Nations in the debate once the Panel Members have spoken. We strongly recommend a small number of panelists. We encourage the CFS Bureau to accommodate the priorities of the Regional Conference related to food security in the agenda of the 38th Session of the CFS. We also suggest that only key decisions be presented in the box and that decisions on matters of second priority be avoided.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

As this is the first opportunity I have had to speak during this Council, I would actually like to recognize the Director-General Elect and give my particular welcome and that of my region to him in being here today. We are very pleased to see you here, Sir.

Given that I am the fiftieth speaker, I think I will simply endorse and support many of the comments that have been made before me about the CFS. In particular, going right back to the start, the Ambassador from Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group made a very incisive presentation.

I think the key point here is that there are many lessons that we have learned from the last CFS Session, and the key one being that it is better to have a small number of powerful decisions rather than many decisions that dilute, perhaps, the impact.

In particular, I wanted to support comments made by a number of delegations about the need to prioritize work and establish a realistic work programme during the next few years. This has been something my delegation has spoken about at some length during CFS Bureau meetings, and will continue to do so.

Finally, I would like to place on record the appreciation of my country and my region for the work of the outgoing Chairperson, Mr De Luna. Noel has been an inspirational leader for the CFS, and has taken it from its period of Reform to where we are today, and it would not be possible without his enthusiasm and good will to make this happen. In particular, I would like to add my personal thanks and appreciation for the friendship and good camaraderie of Noel during this time. I think it is also fair that we thank the outgoing Vice Chairperson, who is not unfortunately here with us today, but Hugo Verbist of Belgium was instrumental also in the work of CFS. In a similar note, I would like to congratulate the incoming Chairperson, Ambassador Yaya Olaniran of Nigeria. He comes in at an important time for the CFS, and we look forward to working with him closely.

Finally, I think it is very important that this group also recognize the hard work and dedication of the Secretariat to the CFS, ably led by Mr Stamoulis who is on the front podium.

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

Russia, as most of the speakers of the Council have already indicated, approves the Report of the 37th Session of the Committee on Food Security. We would also like to thank the former Chairperson of the Committee, Mr De Luna, for his efficient way of working and for the very focused and steadfast way in which he has led the work of the committee, which has led to very positive results over the past two years.

We would like to highlight the importance of the future coordination of the work of the Committee with other international bodies on specific issues of agriculture, fisheries, land tenure and other topics, for example, specifically coordinated with similar bodies under the G20 and the G8. There is no doubt the Committee on Food Security will play a growing role within the UN System regarding the issue of food security. It is very important that we don't slow down, that we don't lose the pace that we have gathered, and that we don't lose the status and credibility that we have acquired on this topic at the international level.

Now as many have said here, for this it's very important to plan the work of the Committee very carefully to establish very clear priorities and to establish specific targets as we move forward in the Committee's programme and in the work that the High-Level Panel of Experts has to play, since they will make a very important contribution in defining priorities. The clearer the goals, the clearer the targets that are defined by this High-Level Panel of Experts, then the easier it will be for Member Nations to take their decisions. We are in favour of maintaining the Committee as an inter-governmental body so it will be easier to adopt such decisions by them so that they can then be put into practice by all the Member Nations. This is precisely why we fully endorse this High-Level Panel of Experts, and specifically Russia has provided financial assistance in this work.

We welcome the fact that many of the decisions of the CFS are leading to concrete steps and are leading to very specific final outcomes. Now we can only commend the efforts of the CFS aimed at coping with price volatility on food markets, for example, in support to small-scale farmers. But that being said, we also understand that the development of Voluntary Guidelines in such areas as responsible land tenure, or responsible investment in agriculture or responsible principles for governing ownership of fisheries or forestry is important. These are very complex issues for Member Nations that have to take into account their own national legislation and national interests, and it is not very easy to find consensus decisions on these issues that are a good fit to all of the different countries around the world. Nevertheless, we welcome what we consider very successful work in this area, and we are hopeful that regarding the main principles in this area, we will be able to achieve a result that is satisfactory to everyone.

I would like to wish the new Chairperson of the Committee, Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, every success in his work and also Mr Stamoulis, I hope that he works as well, and is as efficient as in the previous Session. I also wish the Committee a successful completion of its programme during its next Session.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Agradecemos la presentación de este tema y, sobre todo, el excelente trabajo realizado por el Comité. Nos unimos a las felicitaciones para el ex Presidente Noel De Luna, para la Secretaría, y damos la bienvenida al nuevo Presidente y a su mesa.

Nos parece, señor Presidente, que vamos por buen camino, y que debemos continuar con nuestros esfuerzos para dar al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial el rol que debe tener en el universo de las Naciones Unidas.

En este sentido, estamos de acuerdo con las propuestas de mejora en sus métodos de trabajo que permitan una mayor participación de los Países Miembros.

Apoyamos las declaraciones hechas por las delegaciones de Brasil, Cuba, Argentina y México. En este sentido, deseamos respaldar lo relativo a la convocatoria de un período de sesiones adicional para finalizar con éxito las Directrices Voluntarias para la Gobernanza de la Tenencia de la Tierra. Confiamos en que llegaremos pronto a un consenso en este importante tema.

Por otro lado, deseamos dar nuestro pleno respaldo a la propuesta de elaboración de un Marco Estratégico Mundial para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición, así como a la organización de un Foro de Expertos para la Elaboración de un Programa de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria en Países Afectados por Crisis Prolongadas.

Con estas palabras, nuestra delegación da su pleno respaldo al Informe presentado al Comité.

Ms PARK Su-jin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to welcome the Report of the 37th Session of CFS and its recommendations presented by the Vice-Chairperson of CFS. We would also like to join previous speakers in complimenting the work of CFS during the last two years under the leadership of Mr Noel De Luna, who dedicated most of his time during the last three years to putting the Report of CFS on the right track.

We also would like to congratulate Mr Yaya Olaniran in his election as the new Chairperson of the CFS, and wish to extend our full support in his work for the next two years.

Regarding the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, we appreciate the active participation of all the Members and relevant stakeholders. We expect that negotiations will be resumed soon and come to a fruitful conclusion.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank Dr Gregory Myers for his dedication throughout the negotiation process.

Finally, we would like to support the proposal by the Ambassador of Tanzania on behalf of Africa Group and Norway regarding the working methods of CFS. In particular, we should avoid overloading the agenda of CFS and prioritize the work of CFS, taking into account available resources. We believe that the recommendations of the Session should be succinct and concrete enough so that they are clear and easily understandable to the international community, in particular, political policy-makers.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a pas d'autre intervention du Conseil? J'ai une demande de Membre observateur, la Suisse. La Suisse, vous avez la parole.

M. Hubert POFRET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse est globalement satisfaite des résultats du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Ceci dit, même si des progrès notables ont été accomplis, ce que nous apprécions, des améliorations semblent devoir être encore à apporter au CSA. Ces progrès, selon nous

doivent porter sur, premièrement, le processus de prise de décisions qui doit devenir plus dynamique et plus efficace. A titre d'exemple, les recommandations pour les Tables rondes devraient être beaucoup moins nombreuses et davantage orientées vers l'action.

Deuxième domaine où l'on peut améliorer les choses, il conviendrait d'avoir une plus forte et meilleure représentation du secteur privé dans toute sa diversité.

Troisième point, il convient également de veiller à une participation plus active des institutions multilatérales qui ne sont pas à Rome.

Et quatrième point, il nous apparaît important que l'Ordre du jour soit moins chargé et facilite des échanges de vue encore plus encadrés par un nombre contrôlé de «Side Events». Pour terminer, j'aimerais aussi souligner l'importance que la Suisse accorde à la conclusion rapide des négociations sur les Directives Volontaires pour une Gouvernance Responsable des Régimes Fonciers.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Mi delegación quisiera manifestar aquí mi agradecimiento al Presidente saliente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria el Sr. Noel De Luna, con el cual trabajamos muy bien. Guatemala es miembro de la mesa, y hemos realizado un trabajo de la mejor manera que se pudo, todos aportamos nuestro esfuerzo puntualmente para presentarlo al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su 37º período de sesiones.

Quiero felicitar al Embajador de Nigeria por haber sido electo como nuevo Presidente, y también quiero felicitar al Vice-presidente. Estamos muy contentos de poder trabajar con ambos. Queremos mencionar aquí también nuestro secretario leader del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria el Sr. Kostas Stamoulis. Sin su colaboración, no podríamos hacer bien el trabajo para el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas d'autres demandes d'interventions? Je donne la parole à Monsieur Moore, Vice-président et, c'est lui qui, s'il y a besoin, donnera la parole au Secrétariat. C'est sous sa responsabilité. Vous avez la parole.

On a dit que vous étiez dynamique. Il y a vingt deux interventions, vous avez le temps d'y répondre et vous faites au mieux.

Mr Franklin C. MOORE (Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

Let me start by saying I will pass on to our outgoing Chairperson the thanks and appreciation that was offered to him, and pass on to our new incoming Chairperson the congratulations and support that has been shown for him.

I have taken pretty copious notes which I will present to the Bureau meeting which takes place the week after next, to give you some highlights of what was submitted by this body: a need to better prioritize; a need to complete the Voluntary Guidelines and a time and method that does not conflict with other elements of the schedule of the three Rome-based Agencies; a need to look at the rules particularly as they relate to the tenure of the Chairperson and rotation;

With regard to the Roundtables, I think there is a consensus that was presented on the number of Roundtables being reduced. Some mentioned two, some three, and that they proceed with a new working method that in particular looks at both the number of participants on the panel and a way that panel relates to the Membership.

Further highlights were on decision-making, looking at both the number of boxes and the size of boxes, and the possibility of a High-Level Segment. In particular, there was a discreet suggestion made by Mexico but it was also echoed by Norway's intervention on behalf of the five Nordic Countries. There are some other smaller points that I will also raise at the Bureau meeting, but those are the main elements.

May I ask the Secretariat if you have any further comments?

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

First of all, the Secretariat would like to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, the outgoing Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Noel De Luna, and also the outgoing members of the Bureau. We had an excellent working relationship. We also want to congratulate the new Chairperson, Mr Yaya Olaniran and members of the Bureau, with whom we are convinced we shall have an excellent working relationship with as well.

The Secretariat would express our deep thanks for the words of appreciation regarding our contribution to the ongoing Reform of the Committee and its work.

I would like to assure the members that we are continuously accessing and evaluating our work. We try to learn from both our successes and failures in order to better serve the Committee and its noble goal for a world without hunger.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais dire deux choses. Je crois que cela a été très clair dans vos interventions, l'appui au travail engagé mais aussi une grande demande d'améliorer le fonctionnement. Je vous propose, comme élément de conclusion pour le Rapport:

Le Conseil a approuvé le Rapport de la Trente-septième Session du CFS et les différentes actions préconisées dont notamment, la convocation d'une réunion supplémentaire visant à finaliser les Directives Volontaires pour une Gouvernance Responsable des Régimes Fonciers Applicables aux Terres, Pêches et Forêts, ainsi que l'élaboration de Principes Directeurs sur des Investissements Agricoles Responsables et d'un Cadre Stratégique Mondial pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et la Nutrition.

Le Conseil a aussi noté les propositions faites en vue d'améliorer les méthodes de travail du Comité et le format des sessions pour assurer une plus grande efficacité dans le cadre du processus de parachèvement de la Réforme du CFS, en collaboration avec toutes les parties prenantes concernées.

Voici ce que je propose de tirer comme conclusion puisque nous sommes, pour le Rapport, dans les conclusions et recommandations. Toutes vos interventions seront, bien sûr, intégralement incluses dans les textes.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, M. le Vice Président. Transmettez nos salutations à votre Président et tenez compte aussi de toutes les remarques qui ont été faites. Vous avez du travail dans le cadre du Bureau, et je pense qu'il est important, qu'un mois après le CFS, les Membres du Conseil puissent vraiment dire comment ils l'ont perçu. Cette attente concernant le fonctionnement a été claire pour tout le monde donc vous avez à définir les priorités, bon courage mais nous sommes aussi à votre disposition pour vous aider.

The meeting rose at 11.59 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 59

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.59 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

28 November 2011

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda reunión plenaria a las 14.30 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures
Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO
Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

4. Reports of the Joint Meetings of the 108th and 109th Sessions of the Programme Committee and the 140th and 141st Sessions of the Finance Committee (12 October and 3 November 2011) (CL 143/9; CL 143/13)

4. Rapports des réunions conjointes du Comité du Programme (cent huitième et cent neuvième sessions) et du Comité financier (cent quarantième et cent quarante et unième sessions) (12 octobre et 3 novembre 2011) (CL 143/9; CL 143/13)

4. Informes de las reuniones conjuntas del Comité del Programa en sus períodos de sesiones 108.º y 109.º y el Comité de Finanzas en sus períodos de sesiones 140.º y 141.º (12 de octubre y 3 de noviembre de 2011) (CL 143/9; CL 143/13)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour l'après-midi, je vous propose, avec mes deux collègues Présidents du Comité du programme et du Comité financier d'aborder le point 4 en commençant par le rapport de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme, le cent huitième et cent neuvième, et le Comité financier, le cent quarantième et le cent quarante-unième du 12 octobre et du 3 novembre. Dans un premier temps, le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme comme je viens de l'indiquer. Pour l'efficacité de nos délibérations, je propose que les paragraphes 4 et 6 du Rapport de novembre concernant les ajustements au PTB 2012-13 soit abordés au Point 3 de l'Ordre du jour cet après-midi, et que le paragraphe 8 du même Rapport sur l'État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du PAI soit examiné au point 10 prévu mardi après-midi. Je demande donc à chacun des délégués de s'abstenir de faire référence aux questions relatives au PTB et au PAI, jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient abordées au Point 3 et 10 et nos deux Présidents, d'ailleurs, vont faire de même pour pouvoir présenter les documents.

Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole à Mme Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe, Présidente du Comité du programme, pour présenter les rapports de la Réunion conjointe.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

It gives you a completely new perspective to see everybody from this point; it is actually much warmer up here than down in the Swedish corner, so I am happy.

Just to tell you a little bit: Médi MOUNGUI and I were very close colleagues, and we are discussing every subject only once; we will be intervening several times which we hope you will appreciate. I will start off by saying something about our Joint Meeting on 12 October, and then I will give the floor to Médi MOUNGUI for the next meeting.

As you have seen in document CL 143/9, the Report of the Meeting, we are really trying to be very clear and focused. We had some extremely interesting matters to discuss. We first looked at the Vision for the Structure and Function of the Decentralized Offices, and we voiced strong support for Decentralization. We will follow very closely the developments, and we would like to see a clear, concise description of the way ahead, hopefully with a timeline.

We accepted the suggestions, except for the usage of possible savings that should be discussed in other fora. We would like to see a comprehensive framework for accountability and a clear and rigorous system of checks and balances, along with clear priorities for human resources which include mobility, accountability, etc. We also thought that the FAOR role in emergencies should be clarified. When we

discuss Decentralized Offices, it should be in a holistic way with all FAO Offices, including Liaison and Information Offices as well. There is a suggestion, which I personally find is very useful because we do it with our Embassies, to have a system of inspection of the Decentralized Offices. We look forward to having the implementation plan along with the budget next year.

Then we looked at the resource mobilization and management structure and we wanted to know a little bit more about the South-South Cooperation, even though we thought the document was very good, since it highlights the involvement of Decentralized Offices and the increase of contributors' base. For the Website, which is excellent, but could always be better, we should have a full inclusion of donors, whether they be donors of money or in kind, how FAO is incooperating foundations, the private sector, that is, non-traditional contributors, to give us a fuller picture. We want to ensure tracking in achieving results to see how resource mobilization contributes to FAO's goals.

Then we heard a Progress Report on the FAO Strategy on Partnerships with the Private Sector, which we thought were very good. We yet again underlined the importance of cooperation within the UN, particularly in Rome. We underlined, as we will underline every single time, gender equality and women empowerment, and the Private Sector Strategy must be engrained into the Strategic Framework. We look forward to hearing the Report on the consultations that are to be held with the private sector and the updated strategy.

The final item for the meeting on 12 October was Progress on Implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. There must be proper training for the Decentralized Offices to be able deliver TCP in a speedier manner. We would also like to see a further breakdown of TCP funds that have been used into categories, such as consultant travels. The old hobby horse of all the Committees is that we need to get documents on time. We will follow the gender dimension in TCP very closely. We look forward to having a summary of the criteria used to select TCP projects, and there was no other business.

Médi MOUNGUI, would you like to take over for the next meeting?

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

Cecilia vous a présenté le Rapport de la session de la Réunion conjointe du 12 octobre. Moi, je vais vous présenter celle du 3 novembre. Avant de commencer, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de remercier le Secrétariat, M. Manuel Juneja, Directeur général adjoint et M. Nicholas Nelson, Sous-directeur général (CSSD) et toute son équipe qui nous ont assisté pendant tout le travail. Mais en tant que Président du Comité financier, permettez-moi également de dire un grand merci à notre secrétaire Rakesh Muthoo et toute son équipe, parce que derrière lui il y a une grande équipe qui a travaillé avec entrain pour nous permettre de produire les résultats que nous allons présenter. Il est vrai que dans le cas de la Réunion conjointe, le Secrétariat était également soutenu par M. Khan, tous ont travaillé pour que nous puissions avoir les résultats que nous vous présentons. Ceci dit, Monsieur le Président, comme je pensais parler à une audience plus importante, j'ai choisi une autre langue que le français. Dans ce contexte précis, je vais faire mon rapport en anglais. C'est le Cameroun qui veut cela, car c'est une obligation aussi pour nous. On n'est pas francophone, on n'est pas anglophone, mais on est les deux.

Donc avec votre permission, je vais faire le choix pour ce rapport en langue anglaise.

Continues in English

I am pleased to present the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 109th Session of the Programme Committee and 141st Session of the Finance Committee that took place on 3 November 2011.

The Report is submitted to the Council under document CL143/13. This special Session of the Committees considered two documents which are before the Council on a separate agenda item as mentioned by the Chairman.

First, the adjustment to the PWB 2012-13 on Item 3, and that will be discussed under Item 3 so I will not be coming back to that part at this point in time, and the Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation under Item 10. I will come back to this when we discuss Item 10.

As agreed with the Independent Chairperson, I think he has already expressed that to the Council. So the Joint Meeting considered the process for review of the Strategic Framework in preparation for the Medium-Term Plan of 2014-17.

The Joint Meeting complemented the Secretariat for taking a pro-active approach and thus the five guiding principles that were defined inside that document, and generally agreed on the proposed process and provisional timetable. But I must mention here that the status of the preparation of the Strategic Framework 2014-17 is still at the very very beginning. So please bear with us not to give the details so far on the process itself, because it is just at the beginning.

The Joint Meeting emphasized the need to include in the planning process global, regional, sub-regional and country considerations, and the need to improve the prioritization process through measures previously recommended by FAO Governing Bodies by encouraging FAO to consult the work of the two other Rome-based Agencies and emphasized that the process should be sufficiently inclusive to all relevant stakeholders.

In this regard, the Joint Meeting requested the Secretariat to organize an informal consultation for all Members in 2012.

Under "Any other business", the Committees also considered possible ways of improving efficacy and efficiency in its methods of work, including formal and extraordinary meetings. In this regard, the two Chairs, that is Cecilia and myself, were requested to work very closely with the Independent Chair of the Council. When we are preparing the agenda we should therefore mention that there are no duplications in the agenda items to be discussed in each of the Committees and the Joint Meeting.

So, globally this is what was discussed in the Joint Meeting, as per this Agenda Item number 4.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme ce matin, si vous voulez la parole, appuyer sur votre bouton rouge une fois, vous le laissez allumé et votre nom s'indique sur mon tableau. J'ai la demande de l'Ouganda.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

This contribution is made on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. I would like to state from the beginning that we had already prepared this statement before we got instructions that there are some elements of the Report that we shouldn't comment on, but we had already prepared those comments and had given them to the Secretariat, both in hard copy and electronic version. So with the indulgence of the Chairperson, allow me to make those comments.

The Africa Group thanks both the Programme and Finance Committees for their hard work, dedication and commitment in supporting the efforts of the Organization in the ongoing Reform Process. We particularly welcome the two Joint Reports mentioned, and make the following comments:

Actions Arising from the Vision for the Structure and Functioning of FAO's decentralized Offices Network

Firstly, like the Joint Meeting, we acknowledge the complexity of implementing the Decentralization Policy, as it greatly depends on IPA implementation. It is important that more efforts are directed to accelerate implementation of Decentralization with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the Decentralized Offices to deliver services more efficiently and effectively, as elucidated in paragraph 9, parts (a) to (f) of the Joint Report.

Secondly, implementation of the Decentralization policy should further clearly articulate the linkages and mutual benefits between the Decentralized Offices and the Regional Conferences as part of Governance.

Thirdly, we note in paragraph 9 b) the recommendation for the Secretariat to explore measures to reduce the General Staff levels in Decentralized Offices. We would appreciate getting some explanation regarding this recommendation, especially considering that implementation of such a decision may adversely affect decentralized service delivery.

Fourth, since this particular programme is supposed to fall under the adjustment in the Programme of Work and Budget, we feel it is important and can be treated as a preliminary statement from Africa, which can later be carried forward by the members of the African Group.

In paragraph 9 d) of the Report, we note that the Joint Committee rejected the proposal to automatically allocate eventual additional savings under Functional Objective X and Functional Objective Y to the Decentralized Offices.

In principle, the Africa Regional Group supports the recommendation of the Joint Committee that Financial Regulation 4.5 should prevail during allocation of the savings. However, we consider that future decisions to allocate the savings should give priority to implementation of the Decentralization Policy given its centrality in the Reform at FAO.

Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy

While we support paragraph 12 in its entirety, we consider that it should include a well-structured and elaborated part to capture and track information on results of the mobilized resources, their utilization and accountability. Such information should include mobilized resources, pledges made; pledges honored and finance activities among others, which would in future ease identification of resource gaps.

FAO Strategy on Partnerships with the Private Sector

We support paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 as presented under this Item, with emphasis placed on gender equality and women's empowerment in partnerships as reflected in 14 c); the importance of the consultations with the Decentralized Offices in 14 d); and risk management and avoidance of conflict of interests as reflected in 14 g).

Progress on Implementation of the TCP

We note the improvements made in the implementation of TCP, and welcome the recommendation by the Joint Committee as articulated in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report. We particularly underscore paragraph 17 d) requesting a report of how TCP selection criteria were applied in Decentralized Offices.

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 109th Session of the Programme Committee and the 141st Session of the Finance Committee.

We note the satisfaction registered by the Joint Committee that the adjustments in the PWB 2012-13 had been made under the guidance provided by the 37th Session of the FAO Conference, and in that regard congratulate the Secretariat for that achievement.

We welcome the recommendations on the review of the Strategic Framework and Preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17. We particularly support the recommendation to use a highly-consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, and look forward to participating in the proposed informal consultation of all Members in 2012.

With these comments, Africa Regional Group endorses the two Joint Committee Reports, and thanks the Joint Committee for the good work done.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme convenu, il y a quelques éléments dans votre intervention qui seront reportés dans la discussion du PTB par la suite, mais comme vous nous en aviez averti, on respecte la position. L'Union européenne.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The European Union agrees with all the recommendations expressed in the Joint Meeting Reports, and suggests that the Council endorses them. Additionally, the EU would like to make four main points:

Firstly, with regard to prioritization, the EU recognizes the enhanced role of the Regional Conferences; looks forward to engaging in an exchange of views with the future Director-General; requests the Secretariat to prepare a common methodology and framework for the priority-setting so that all Regional Conferences work in a similar manner and so that a synthesis of their outcomes can be established more easily, and welcomes the timely beginning of the process of review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17. We support the five Guiding Principles proposed. We especially welcome the goal to reduce the current set of Strategic Objectives to five or six of a cross-cutting nature, as well as a clearer definition of Functional Objectives. The EU offers its close cooperation regarding that process.

Secondly, the EU reiterates in principal its support to the Decentralization Process, but the success of this process depends on the clear application of corporate Human Resources Policies, effective delegation of power to the field, existence of accountability frameworks, effective system of inspection of Decentralized Offices and good dialogue between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. We look forward to engaging in an exchange of views with the future Director-General and among the Member States. Taking into account the role of the Regional Conferences, the EU would like to request the Secretariat to prepare under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council a common methodology and framework for the analysis of Decentralization during the Regional Conferences.

Thirdly, the EU notes with appreciation the progress of FAO's work in defining partnerships with the private sector. We also note the good progress made in improving resource mobilization. We are looking forward to engaging with the Secretariat in the future on these matters.

Finally, the EU welcomes the Joint Meeting decision to ask the Chairs to develop more efficient methods of work and also allow for informal and special sessions. We see that this decisive moment in implementation of FAO Reform requires more flexible approaches, and we are happy to support the Chairs of the Committees and the Independent Chairperson of the Council in their efforts.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

I have four comments to make with regard to the Decentralized Offices. We thank the Secretariat for the Reports.

We believe since the implementation of the IPA started, FAO has done a lot of satisfactory work pertaining to Decentralization. We have also observed, concerning these Decentralized Offices, that Members share this view.

The Chinese delegation supports the views put forward by the Secretariat. We believe that it is necessary to strengthen the work of these Decentralized Offices, and that it is necessary to establish a link between the work of these Decentralized Offices and the Regional Conferences. It is also necessary to enhance or build the capacity of these Decentralized Offices.

With respect to partnership with the private sector, we believe that in recent years, FAO has stepped up its cooperation with the private sector and we have also developed a strategy pertaining to partnership with the private sector. The delegation of China believes that when implementing the strategy, it is necessary to lend importance to the results and take into account the Strategic Objectives of the Organization and also respect the interests of Members. It is also necessary to adopt the methods used by other institutions and organizations in the UN System.

With regard to the review of the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan, we believe that the principles and the calendar proposal of the Secretariat are very relevant, so we support this Calendar and also the reduction in the number of Strategies. We need to strengthen consultation with Member Nations.

In conclusion, we also observed that for the next biennium there will be recruitment of 25 JPOs, and we would like the Secretariat to bear in mind gender equality and geographical representation. It is also necessary to lend priority to those regions which are under-represented.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada would like to begin, as other Members have stated, by thanking the Chairs of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their introductory remarks. We wish to inform Council that we fully support their assessments of the meetings, and therefore recommend that Council approve these Reports.

Having said that, Chairperson, we have just a couple of points that we want to stress. The first one is on the Decentralization. We would like to reiterate that a well-functioning Decentralized Office network is essential for the FAO to carry out its overall mandate and pursue areas where it has a comparative advantage, both at HQ and at the field level.

We are also aware of some of the inefficiencies in the current structure which grew rapidly in the absence of a sensible action plan.

Canada's view, corroborated by the excellent FAO evaluation recently completed with regards to the offices in the Middle East and North Africa, is that these Offices and their operations need first to be streamlined to minimize overlap and duplication among regional, sub-regional and national offices. Until existing operations and structures are not only reviewed but streamlined, Canada will remain unconvinced that the need for net transfers from Headquarters to the field.

Collocation with international agencies may facilitate cost savings while improving inter-agency coordination. As a direct result, we certainly agree with the recommendation made by Programme and Finance Committees that there must not be, at this time, any automatic reallocation of efficiency savings to Decentralized Offices.

It should be noted that Canada agrees in principle with FAO's suggestion to move to a more flexible Country Office structure based on needs and effective priority-setting.

Point number two, with respect to private sector development and engagement, we see this as a very high priority and we will continue to support efforts, once again, at Headquarters and in the field that promote an efficient and enabling environment for doing business, entrepreneurship and improve connections to new markets. As was highlighted during this year's CFS, Governments must create this enabling environment through properly-functioning commercial frameworks, science-based regulations, micro-credit availability, skills training and increased investment, specifically on research and development and infrastructure.

We need this in order to optimize the private sector contribution to reduce poverty and food insecurity challenges. It should be noted that bypassing the private sector is not a sustainable approach.

With regards to the Strategic Framework and the need to update the Medium-Term Plan, Canada concurs with the process identified by FAO Management, and sincerely thanks them for their proactive approach in undertaking the overall review, including the need to revisit the number and the composition of the Strategic Objectives. We wish to stress that during this process, FAO should:

First, utilize and build on lessons learned experienced over the last biennium with regards to priority-setting;

Second, bring forward a pragmatic and realistic approach to implementation modalities of the new Medium-Term Plan;

Third, focus on how the Organization can implement results-based budgeting; and

Fourth, establish clear accountability guidelines within Management.

On the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, we will reserve our comments for Item 3 but just one last point regarding IPA. I know that we will have a full discussion, but we want to just make a couple of quick points. Certainly, I think that we hope that the FAO considers the implementation of the IPA as being a top management priority coming into the next biennium. I really do hope so.

Among the ongoing challenges for Reform, Canada encourages the FAO Management and Members to focus on strengthening the FAO field structure, again by rationalizing existing operations,

implementing meaningful Human Resources Reforms and improving the effectiveness of Governing Bodies.

Finally, Canada strongly encourages FAO to assess, within the context of the IPA, the programmatic risks -- not just the Human Resources and financial risk but also the programmatic risks in implementing some of the key-elements of the IPA that we have not done so already.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Juste un commentaire en ce qui concerne la ré-allocation, elle sera renvoyée au Point 3.
Une ré-allocation quasi automatique comme il a été convenu.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Deseo hacer una intervención muy breve sobre dos puntos. En primer lugar, deseo agradecer a las Presidencias de los dos Comités por los esfuerzos que han realizado para que las Reuniones hayan sido tan positivas. También deseo extender este agradecimiento a los trabajos que ha realizado esta Secretaría.

El segundo punto tiene que ver con la Descentralización: Argentina respalda el Informe que está siendo presentado, pero compartimos el criterio que ha expresado el Grupo Africano en el sentido que, de acuerdo a los procedimientos que correspondan, las Oficinas Descentralizadas deben recibir todo el apoyo que requieran para poder llevar adelante la Reforma. Esto incluye tanto lo que se refiere a recursos humanos, como a materias presupuestarias.

Vemos esta necesidad porque se trata de un reforma estructural que, de llevarse a cabo con el apoyo que corresponde, va a contribuir a que todo el resto de los objetivos de la Organización sean cumplidos en una manera más eficiente.

Sr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas IZQUIERDO (México)

Queremos agradecer a la Sra. Cecilia Nordine Van Gansberghe y al Sr. Medí Mongui, Presidentes del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanzas, por los excelentes labores al frente de estos Comités. Dos breves puntos:

En primer lugar, sobre la Descentralización quisiéramos resaltar la importancia de fortalecer el papel de las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales de la FAO, pensamos que estas Oficinas tienen que contar con todos los recursos para poder desarrollar adecuadamente su labor. También creemos que las Conferencias Regionales tienen un papel muy importante en el desarrollo del programa. En coordinación con estas Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales, saludamos con entusiasmo el mayor énfasis en la planeación del trabajo a nivel de países y a nivel regional. Quisiéramos también insistir en el enfoque sub-regional, dadas las diferencias que existen dentro de las regiones en las que actúa la FAO, teniendo en mente que el enfoque sub-regional es sumamente útil para incrementar la eficacia de los programas de la Organización.

En segundo lugar, respecto a la cooperación con el sector privado, pensamos que es una estrategia fundamental, y cada vez más importante para la Organización, siempre y cuando se sujete esta cooperación al Marco Estratégico de acción de la FAO.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I make this statement on behalf of the Near East Region.

On Decentralization, we wish to stress the following four points:

First, a more robust Country Programming Framework and an inclusive process for setting Sub-regional and Regional priorities.

Second, the need for an increase in the share of Regional and Sub-regional Offices in core voluntary contributions.

Third, a rise in the share of Country Offices and AOS resources and Sub-regional and Regional Offices in TSS resources.

Fourth, clarifying the role and responsibilities of the FAOR in emergency operations at country level.

On Resource mobilization, we are very pleased to see that South-South Cooperation will receive greater attention and suggest that possibly Nutrition could be considered as an additional impact focus area.

We welcome the initiative and the consultative process for the review of the Strategic Framework 2010-19 and the preparation of the Medium-Term plan 2014-17. We think that there is merit in having a fresh look at the Strategic Framework and its implications on the format of the MTP, taking the experience of the last year-and-a-half.

In this connection, we endorse the five guiding principles that were presented to the Joint Session, as well as the proposed timeline. We look forward to the Zero Draft of the Revised Strategic Framework, and a new MTP to be followed by an informal consultation with the Membership in 2012.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to join the comments made by our Council colleagues regarding the appreciation for the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees for their dedication to the work, and for their genius ability to create a friendly environment for the frank discussion during the Committees.

Japan just would like to make one comment regarding IPA. We think that the implementation of IPA is a top priority for FAO during the next biennium as is described in the document prepared by the Secretariat. We must recognize that 40 percent of effort, time and cost of the planned activities are to be spent in the next biennium, which means that we face the most important and the most difficult stage in the next biennium.

It is the staff of FAO who bear the actual activities of IPA, so we hope that the new Director-General will have a close communication with them, and encourage them to work towards the final and the most difficult stage of the Plan of Action. We, Member Nations, are pleased to work with the Secretariat.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

We would also like to thank and comment on both Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committee for their work, and it's just the beginning. We are here to work with you and under your leadership during the two years. We just have one comment, and we would like to support the comments made by the other delegations and, in particular, those of Argentina and Mexico regarding the Regional Offices and the Sub-regional Offices. It is very pertinent. This whole concern is very pertinent and it is very important that those Regional and Sub-regional Offices will be fully equipped with technical people, who are the experts in the local requirements and the local needs.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je n'ai plus d'intervenants inscrits. Si tel n'est pas le cas, les deux Présidents et le Secrétariat si nécessaire, vous avez la parole. Pardon, la Tanzanie.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I will be very short because Uganda has already spoken on behalf of Africa, which is the stand of Africa. I want to thank the two Chairs for their good summary. I think this is the way we should be performing our responsibilities, because this is a very, very good summary.

I want to reiterate on the issue of Decentralization and on resource transfers. I think it is very, very important that the resource transfers to the Decentralized Offices should not be delayed because we already know what we are supposed to be doing for Decentralization. As mentioned by Argentina, Mexico and Uganda, it is very important that this is the right time to start thinking of these Decentralized Offices. Otherwise, any delays in Decentralization would have no meaning.

As far as the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan are concerned, I think the issue of prioritization is very important, and this will have some meaning, in particular, when it comes to discussing the Strategic Objectives. The Regional Conferences must take a real lead in the discussion on these Strategic Objectives. Otherwise, we will come here and we will continue to discuss Strategic Objectives and the two Functional Objectives.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

I would just like to start out by thanking very much both the Chairs of the Programme and the Finance Committees, who we have had the pleasure to work with in the Joint Meetings. Australia has been indeed very lucky to sit under their Chairpersonship.

I would just like to make a quick intervention with regards to some of the statements which my colleagues have made previously in regard to the Decentralization, but I hope that we will be able to go back to this under future agenda items during this Council Session.

Essentially, we fully agree that there needs to be an exercise whereby resources do go to the Decentralized Offices, but we see that this is something that should be part of a greater process of full prioritization of activities of the Organization. We think that the Decentralized Offices do indeed play a very important role in the work of FAO at the country level, but that in terms of the way that we allocate resources and efforts of the Organization, we need to essentially undergo a full prioritization exercise. That includes both Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Just very briefly to say, thank you very much. I do appreciate the warmth I feel coming to greet me, and I will try to do my best to keep up the quite hard level of work during my mandate.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

C'est un devoir pour moi de remercier tous les Membres du Conseil qui ont positivement reçu nos rapports. Nous pensons que le travail que nous faisons dans ce contexte est le travail de notre Organisation et nous voyons que sa capacité à produire sur le terrain a augmenté. Je voudrais simplement parler à nouveau de la question du Plan stratégique et du Plan à moyen terme qui nous sont proposés.

Comme je le disais plus tôt, nous sommes encore au début du processus et les commentaires du Conseil nous donnent déjà une voie où avancer. Nous savons pertinemment que les Conférences régionales en 2012 s'impliqueront davantage. Nous savons que Mme Tutwiller a déjà fait une présentation lors de la Réunion conjointe du 3 novembre courant, et nous avons beaucoup apprécié le processus mis en place. C'est un processus inclusif, il l'est déjà maintenant au sein de ce Conseil et nous, de notre côté, au sein des deux Comités, nous nous appliquerons à ce que le processus continue à se faire dans le contexte décrit dans le document.

Je vous remercie tous pour le soutien que vous avez apporté à la présidence des Réunions conjointes.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

Nearly all Members of the Council intervened on the Joint Meeting item on actions arising from the vision for the structure and functioning of FAO's Decentralized Office network. Let me say that we do anticipate and look forward to the active engagement of the Membership, both here at Headquarters and in the Regional Offices through the Regional Conferences during 2012.

The next step is for us to prepare specific documentation for the Regional Conferences. We will seek to summarize the outcome of the Regional Conferences coherently, in order to guide the eventual discussions of the Council in 2012, bearing in mind any facilitation through you, the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We wish to also thank the Joint Meeting and the Council today for its useful guidance. Some very important areas of action for us concern the preparation of a comprehensive implementation plan and also description of the accountability and oversight framework. In this regard, I should mention that our internal oversight framework includes a well-established local audit programme, which is managed by the Office of the Inspector General.

I would also like to thank you for recognizing the complexity of successfully pursuing Decentralization and the strong links between this programme of action and all areas of the Immediate Plan of Action, particularly: your comments on prioritization which is linked to managing for results, the importance that you have underlined of an effective human resources reform, and functioning as

one to break geographic silos and silos between levels in the decentralized structures, as well as the reform of management systems, culture change and effective governance.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

As Mr Juneja mentioned, many delegates have spoken on items related to review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the new Medium-Term Plan. This is an opportunity for the Organization and for Members in particular, to bring together the experiences that we have had over the last two years in the initial implementation of the new Strategic Framework. We are looking forward to working with you in the seven process steps that we have put forward, and for which you have expressed support here. I would just like to underline that the next step, which is the second step in the process, is to work directly with the Regional Conferences. We are putting together a common framework around which the Regional Conferences can give advice on priorities for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees and Council when you come together in June next year.

The Decentralized Offices will be consulted throughout the process. We believe this should help to ensure that the work in the field is taken into account in setting priorities, as is envisaged in the programme planning process endorsed in the Immediate Plan of Action.

On a final note, setting priorities is never easy and the Secretariat will be counting on the collective guidance of the Members in prioritizing the work that the Organization should pursue in the future.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de tirer quelques conclusions, je voudrais vous dire que j'ai bien entendu le rôle que le Président indépendant du Conseil joue sur la coordination pour faire en sorte qu'il y ait unité de réflexion et d'action dans le cadre des Conférences régionales. Nous avons déjà commencé à le faire et nous continuerons bien sûr à le faire, en relation avec les Présidents des différents Comités.

Pour le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe, je vous propose quelques conclusions:

Le Conseil a approuvé les Rapports de la Réunion conjointe à ses sessions, du 12 octobre et du 3 novembre, selon l'avis unanime de tout le monde et trois points complémentaires: le Conseil a souligné, en particulier, l'importance des mesures découlant de la vision de la structure et du fonctionnement des Bureaux décentralisés et l'urgence de mener à bien le processus de Décentralisation à la lumière des orientations fournies par les Organes directeurs en la matière, y compris les Conférences régionales.

Le Conseil a, en outre, endossé les Recommandations se rapportant à la stratégie de gestion des ressources, la stratégie relative au partenariat avec le secteur privé ainsi que l'exécution du Programme de coopération technique.

Le Conseil a également mis en relief les recommandations et observations portant sur la Cadre stratégique et la préparation du Plan à moyen terme 2014-17, y compris les cinq principes directeurs et le calendrier proposé, ainsi que les méthodes de travail des deux Comités et de leurs réunions conjointes.

Voilà ce que nous pouvons dire en plus de l'acceptation des Rapports et, bien sûr, en omettant les points que nous avons reportés pour une future discussion. Je clos la discussion sur ce Point là.

5. Reports of the 107th (16-17 May 2011), 108th (10-14 October 2011) and 109th (2-4 November 2011) Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 143/5; CL 143/7; CL 143/11)

5. Rapports des cent septième, cent huitième et cent neuvième sessions du Comité du Programme (16-17 mai, 10-14 octobre et 2-4 novembre 2011) (CL 143/5; CL 143/7; CL 143/11)

5. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 107.º (16 y 17 de mayo de 2011), 108.º (10-14 de octubre de 2011) y 109.º (2-4 de noviembre de 2011) del Comité del Programa (CL 143/5; CL 143/7; CL 143/11)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous traitons le point 5 «Rapports des Cent-septième, Cent-huitième et Cent-neuvième sessions du Comité des programmes». Je propose que les paragraphes 5 et 6 du Rapport de la Session de novembre soient examinés sous le Point 3, le paragraphe 9 de ce même Rapport sur l'Etat d'avancement de la mise en place du PAI soit examiné sous le Point 10, le paragraphe 15 de l'Annexe du Rapport de mai et les paragraphes 29 et 30 du Rapport d'octobre sous le point 11.

C'est un peu compliqué mais les Présidents sont au courant. C'est dans la conclusion qu'il ne faut rien oublier. C'est aussi dans l'Ordre du jour, mais il est vrai que l'essentiel sera quand nous tirerons la dernière conclusion. Je vous prie de vous abstenir de faire référence, si possible, à ces points-là et je donne la parole à Mme Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Yes, as stated I will limit my comments to what will not be discussed under Item 3, Programme of Work and Budget, Item 10, IPA, Item 11.2 which is the Multi-year Programme of Work and Budget. But I will come back to these points so the whole Report will, indeed, be discussed in Council. We are talking about three reports CL 143/5, CL 143/7 and CL 143/11 but first I would like to comment on the Report from the 107th Special Session of the Programme Committee which took place on May 16 and 17 of this year. I would like to pay tribute to the previous Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Mrs Rikka Latu from Finland, who guided the Programme Committee into working along the IPA spirit and rules. I think, I hope that we have learned a lot from her.

In the report from May, we have clear recommendations from two important evaluations. One evaluation of FAO interventions funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund, the CERF and the management report and FAO's effectiveness at country level: a synthesis of evaluations in large, rapidly-developing countries, India and Brazil, and the Management Response.

To put it together, the Programme Committee said that it was important to ensure that the findings will be used even for the future, both horizontally and vertically, and that knowledge will be shared also along those lines. The Programme Committee underlines the importance of complementarity between emergency and development activity which is always a difficult nexus, but that should not stop us from trying. And also the Committee underlines that South-South Cooperation experiences should be used, since it would be enriching the scope and quality of these evaluations. There was also a question regarding the Director of Evaluation, and the Programme Committee was happy that the Director of Evaluation got an exemption so that he could serve his full mandate in these very challenging times for FAO. We will get back to the money part later, as I said.

And now we go to the regular 108th Session, which took place on 10-14 October. We had several extremely interesting items. We started with the Country Programming Guidelines. It was a good, logical document but unfortunately it came in late and was not available in all languages, and we would like to hope that this will not happen again. The document complemented a more in-depth section on the One UN work, cooperation with Rome-based Agencies, and inclusion of the Paris and Accra Declarations while looking at FAO's comparative advantage in country programming. As we

have also heard in the previous points, we underline that links with the Regional Conferences were important. The items on flexibility of the country programme, the climate adaptation and biodiversity loss should also be expanded, and we would also like to see a management of expectations because these documents always sound very good but as we have seen, especially on our trip to Egypt and Lebanon, reality has a way of coming into our work.

The Decentralized Offices have a central role, which is why capacity-building is key. Training means that the Organization has to be flexible enough so that people can actually have time to go on training. The engagement of Member Nations is obviously key because they are the drivers, and FAO can only assist. We need to work on the impact. Impact is long-term and we need to identify how to report, evaluate and monitor this. And we thought these Guidelines should be used for all FAO staff working in country, not just the TCP staff. We encourage the FAORs to do outreach on the basis of the Guidelines.

Next question, which I personally found very interesting is the one Applying lessons learned from the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks. We know how the searchlight is on one area and then the crisis dies down and the searchlight moves, but it can come back. The Avian Influenza is a pandemic so the Programme Committee was very grateful for this information. We thought it was essential to enhance the capacity that had been built. This must be an ongoing effort. We hope that FAO can further improve complementarity and synergy, and we would like to see prioritization from resources when or if they come in. We needed some clarifications on partnerships in the framework on the One Health project, and we look forward to having this updated information for the Session in May 2012.

Then we dealt with the indicative rolling workplan of strategic and programme evaluations. We strongly recommended that all regions should be evaluated as the Near East already was. And that they should follow the same methodology to be able to compare the results. We would like to see an evaluation of integration into FAO total of the region, as well as the One UN. The Secretariat will develop a methodology for following up on evaluations. Evaluation costs must be transparent and the experts should be chosen for competency, while respecting geographical and gender balance. And gender included in all evaluations. I know we have said this before, but it needs to be said one more time. Figures need to be gender-disaggregated. We have 100 percent of people that we want to assist. We cannot just look at figures for half of them.

So we have put together, as you can see in the document, a very ambitious programme of evaluations, where the regional evaluations are prioritized.

Then we come to number six. I hope you have all looked at the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to gender and development, and the Management Response. If not, please do so, because it is extremely interesting. For years, for decades, we have been saying the right things, FAO has been saying the right things. I do not know if you remember the presentation of the State of Food and Agriculture which was dedicated to women. In 1984, the SOFA was also dedicated to women, and the development since 1984 does not seem to have been staggering. So political will and commitment is essential. Accountability is a key issue, as is the question of what can we do to see that this knowledge that we have is transferred into action. FAO must focus on its core mandate and normative work. We support, of course, work on the gender policy. We would like to see a Report on the Inclusion of Gender Objectives in all PEMS, you know, the personal goals that everybody has to set at FAO at the top level. And we want to see indicators, result-based management outputs, and we would like to have a baseline study to refer to in our gender reports. And one thing again, supported by experience from our field trip, that work cannot rest on the gender experts. All too often, if you don't have a gender expert, no gender work takes place. It should be a normal question for all our work. In this evaluation, I think it says that 40 percent of FAO projects which are relevant to gender do not have a gender component. And we welcome the relocation to further focus FAO's work on gender. We look forward to the discussion on the cost implications regarding gender focal points because they must have time to do their gender work. It must be in their PEMS, and they must have incentives.

From that interesting evaluation, we move to another one, which was the Evaluation of FAO's Role and work in Nutrition and the Management Response. We found that the evaluation was of good

quality, the standard methodology was used, but there was a regret that no country in the Near East Region had been included. It was the same for the gender. We also said that the Secretariat should remember that we already in May said that each evaluation should have cost implications clearly spelled out for prioritization purposes. And the results were not so good. So we would like to see a quick turnaround, and we are in agreement with FAO to have a strategic role in nutrition. We highlighted again the importance of gender in nutrition. FAO should focus on stewardship and normative work supported by field work. As an example, FAO should mention nutritional outcomes and updated food balance sheets and, yes, the length of the project cycle for nutrition efforts should be carefully considered as it takes time to change dietary habits. It takes a lot of time. And of course FAO must further their partnerships with WHO, IFAD, WFP and others and make special efforts to establish links with NGOs. We approve the management step by step approach. Then we looked at funding of evaluations and we thought that implementation of the 2007 Council decision was essential in seeing results and learning lessons and Member Nations should look at their structure and our structures in order to implement the Council's decisions. FAO staff should also be informed so that they are able to implement the decisions.

In each project, there should always be a systematic provision for evaluation. And we encourage the field to find the formula to ensure that FAO and its Member Nations have access to evaluations not performed by FAO. We would like to continue to receive updates on the implementation of the 2007 Council decision.

We then took two items together mindful of trying to be a bit more efficient. It was the Follow-up of the Evaluation of FAO's work on international instruments and Preliminary review of Statutory Bodies, with particular reference to Article XIV Bodies and their relationship with FAO. We commended the Legal Office for its work on this complex issue. It is very complex, because there are about 80 different Bodies of varying sizes and mandates, and so we would like these Bodies to find administrative autonomy while assuring FAO's integrity. Every effort must be made to remove administrative obstacles for efficiency and effectiveness. Observer status should be in line with UN rules, and we thought that since they are very different Bodies, they can proceed at different speeds. And we recommended that these matters must be further reviewed as appropriate by the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

And in reference to Item 10 on our agenda for the October meeting, specifically Access to TCP on a Grant Basis and Eligibility Criteria, there was no consensus in the Programme Committee unfortunately.

I think that concludes the October meeting, and now we will go to the special meeting that we had in November where we discussed the PWB. We have already discussed the Strategic Framework here since it was already discussed in the Joint Meeting. I think we had pretty much the same views. Then we had the FAO/WFP Joint Strategy on Information Systems on Food and Nutrition Security. We had a comprehensive document and we were very happy to note that it had taken into account the Evaluation. The timing and implementation of the funding strategy needed to be added. We thought the document needed to further spell out the important role for national ownership. We commended the Secretariat for the partnership with WFP, and we hope that they could try to see if IFAD could also be included, as Institutions in developing countries must also continue to be included.

Pillar one which is capacity-development is a key factor which needs to be tailored to each country. And provisions must be made for the strategy to be evaluated after the six-year period, which is why there have to be numeric targets so that you can evaluate it. Pending the discussions on CFS on food and nutrition security, we suggested that this language should be taken out.

Finally, as many said, the support from the Secretariat both before and during our meetings has been both consistent and extremely valuable. I think our debates have been much the richer for it. With a full regional balance and constructive debates, we have worked in an excellent spirit of cooperation, I must say. I hope that Council can endorse the recommendations of the Programme Committee.

Ms Evelyn Anita STOKES-HAYFORD (Ghana)

I thank the Programme Committee for their insightful reports on the 107th and 108th Sessions. We are aware of the constructive exchanges that accompanied the deliberations of the Committee. We therefore acknowledge their thoroughness in coming out with these reports.

The Ghana Delegation takes the floor on this occasion, on behalf of the Africa Group, and we would like to make the following comments on the reports.

The Africa Group welcomes the recommendation of the Committee on the evaluation of FAO's intervention that are funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The Secretariat further strengthens its partnerships and gives more visibility to implementing partners in project completion reports, as contained in the Report of their 107th Session. This way, the individuals and institutions involved with the implementation of these programmes, especially at country level, will know that their efforts are very much being appreciated.

We further welcome the recommendation that FAO continue with its efforts to ensure that emergency activities and development work at country level are complimentary. We believe that this is important to ensure that the two tracks complement each other, and that the Organization obtains the much-needed synergies in the outcome of carrying out these important activities.

In relation to the report on the synthesis of evaluation in large, rapidly developing countries conducted in India and Brazil to determine FAO's effectiveness at country level, as contained in the Report of the 107th Session of the Committee, the Africa Group welcomes this Report and its findings and further adds its voice that the recommendations contained therein be considered for use by other countries, where applicable. This we believe will be a way of enriching the scope, the quality and the modality of South-South Cooperation. We also believe if this is done, it would respond to the recommendation of the Committee to improve knowledge-sharing within and between countries.

In relation to the Report of the 108th Session of the Committee, the Africa Group endorses the country programming framework, and joins the Committee in stressing its importance in guiding FAO's work at country level.

The Africa Group further wishes to endorse the specific recommendations of the Committee for finalizing the Guidelines.

We also appreciate the steps taken to apply the lessons learned from the handling of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in the prevention and containment of major animal diseases in related human health risks. The Africa Group recognizes the importance of this action as a bold step towards containing zoonotic disease across the world, and therefore welcomes it.

We consider the concept of gender and its role in the work of FAO as extremely important and therefore welcome the evaluation of FAO's role and work relating to gender and development. We join the Committee in endorsing the implementation of the 16 point recommendations of the Evaluation accepted by Management, and request immediate action in this regard.

The Group also welcomes the re-allocation of resources in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 to Gender and Development, and we look forward to seeing the adjustment in this document to reflect this.

In relation to the evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition, the Africa Group welcomes the Report and joins the Committee in expressing our concern of the findings that are clearly dissatisfying. Hence, the urgent need for action.

The Africa Group is concerned that the important aspect of food, which is the nutrition it provides, does not feature prominently in the current status of FAO's work. We therefore reaffirm, in conjunction with the Committee, that nutrition is an important cross-cutting issue requiring mainstreaming, as well as a strong hub is ensuring the stability and leadership of FAO in this field. We know that this will call for re-adjustment of priorities and its intended financial implications, but we know also that FAO will be up to this.

Again, the Africa Group welcomes the Report of the Committee.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término por ser ésta nuestra primera intervención, nos unimos a las saluciones expresadas por diferentes países a la presencia del Director General Electo, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, en esta reunión, así como a los merecidos agradecimientos manifestados al Doctor Jacques Diouf, Director General en funciones, por sus incasables esfuerzos al frente de esta Organización y en servicio a todos los Países Miembros.

En cuanto al punto de agenda que estamos tratando, mi delegación agradece las excelentes presentaciones realizadas sobre el Tema 5 y sobre el Tema 4 que ha precedido el actual debate y felicita de una manera muy especial a los presidentes de los Comités de Finanzas y de Programa, quienes están ayudándonos de esta manera tan importante en su trabajo.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea focalizar sus comentarios a la presentación que ha hecho la Embajadora Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe, referido a los Informes de los Períodos de Sesiones 107° y 108° del Comité de Programa celebrado en octubre pasado, del cual respaldamos con satisfacción las recomendaciones contenidas en los párrafos 13° y 14° del documento CL 143/7 relativas a la evaluación de la fusión y la labor de la FAO en relación con el género y el desarrollo y las respuesta de la Administración.

Como es conocido por todos, en el contexto de la agricultura y la alimentación el rol de la mujer como jefa de familia y trabajadora rural es vital. Los datos aportados en el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación SOFA 2011 dedicado a la función vital de la mujer dan fe de ello. El SOFA 2011 resalta como factor determinante la sinergia existente entre el Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio 1 de erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre - y el Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio 3 de promover la igualdad entre los sexos y el empoderamiento de la mujer, para el apalancamiento de la agricultura como actividad socio-económica y la implementación de modelos participativos que promuevan la igualdad de géneros. Por tanto, Señor Presidente, ratificamos la conclusión alcanzada por el Comité de Programa sobre la necesidad urgente de aplicar en la estructura de la Organización las 16 recomendaciones derivadas de la evaluación sobre la labor de la FAO en materia de género.

Igualmente acogemos con agrado la reasignación de recursos al área de género y el desarrollo en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-13, y a su vez consideramos oportuno que las economías alcanzadas como consecuencia de la aplicación de las recomendaciones aceptadas se reflejen en el incremento de la asignación para el Objetivo Estratégico K (Género) en los ajustes al PTP. En este aspecto, también creemos importante la incidencia que puede tener el Cambio de Cultura como herramienta para incorporar eficazmente la dimensión de género al trabajo de la FAO.

Apoyamos la restauración de los puestos de Oficial Superior de Cuestiones de Género en las oficinas regionales, para que se una al fomento de las capacidades para llevar adelante este proceso y apoyar adecuadamente a los Países Miembros, que se incremente la evaluación y rendición de cuentas de los resultados relacionados con el género. Sin embargo, no podemos perder de vista que la incorporación global de la perspectiva de género es responsabilidad de todos los funcionarios de ésta Organización. Más aún, cuando la realidad indica la inaceptable condición de las mujeres productoras agrícolas hoy día en muchas partes del mundo, quienes tienen menos acceso a recursos y a servicios productivos necesarios para la producción en comparación con los hombres, siendo el acceso a la tierra uno de los principales ámbitos que evidencian esta brecha. Estas consideraciones son incluso más reveladoras cuando analizamos el criterio ampliamente compartido por la comunidad internacional del importante vínculo existente entre género y la nutrición como se indica en el párrafo 16° del Informe presentado.

Finalmente, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en su condición de Miembro del Consejo y como Estado parte de diferentes acuerdos internacionales para el adelanto en las políticas de la mujer, como la Convención para la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación hacia la mujer, la Convención Interamericana para prevenir, sancionar y erradicar la violencia contra la mujer y el Plan de Acción de la IV Conferencia Mundial de la Mujer, los cuales representan base importante para el diseño de las políticas nacionales, apoyamos las recomendaciones de este Informe y deseamos el mayor de los éxitos a la administración en la aplicación de las mismas.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

The EU would like to endorse the recommendations of the Programme Committee and will focus its comments on the evaluations.

First, with regards to the evaluation of the FAO's role and work related to gender, the EU expresses its concern about the findings of this evaluation which shows that the accomplishment of FAO in gender mainstreaming are below planet level.

The EU believes that the political will of the Member States, as well as the high-level representatives of the FAO Secretariat and change in attitude within the whole Organization is crucial to achieve positive results.

The EU shares the recommendation that the accountability of the Organization's work in terms of gender in Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices is fundamental.

The EU supports the recommendations to prepare an Annual Report on Progress towards Gender Results.

Second, concerning the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to nutrition, the EU is concerned with findings and notices the urgent need for action.

The EU acknowledges the importance of nutrition as a cross-cutting issue which requires mainstreaming and a strong center to ensure the visibility and stewardship role of FAO in this field. It therefore encourages FAO Management to also look at this issue from a managerial point of view.

The EU encourages the new strategy and vision for FAO in nutrition to be developed in partnership with the relevant international organizations and initiatives.

Finally, the EU would like to reiterate an important point dealt under the Agenda Item 3, that means Adjustments to the PWB. In line with recommendations from the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting in their sessions of October and November, the EU is not able to agree with an automatic allocation of possible further savings.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial interviene sobre este punto del Orden del Día, siguiendo muy de cerca la línea de intervención y el espíritu de la intervención hecha por la Distinguida Embajadora de Ghana en nombre del Grupo Africano. En base a ello, nuestra Delegación quiere hacer unos breves comentarios generales sobre el Informe del 109.º Período (Extraordinario) de Sesiones del Comité del Programa.

La Región de África, como siempre lo ha manifestado, considera que la asignación de recursos para que la FAO realice sus actividades es una cuestión esencial y sobre todo crucial para el crecimiento de la Organización y el éxito de su labor. En ese sentido, el Grupo Africano está de acuerdo con el Comité en su evaluación de que los ajustes se deben hacer al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-13 y que los mismos deben ser tratados de conformidad con los acordados procedimientos de ajustes.

El Grupo Africano reconoce, por su parte, el trabajo realizado por la FAO sobre la cuestión de género y puntualiza la necesidad de seguir concentrando esfuerzos en el Cambio de Cultura para la consideración global de dicha cuestión y garantizar que sea incorporada de manera plena en el trabajo de toda la Organización.

Nuestro Grupo aprecia igualmente las discusiones emprendidas sobre la organización y estructura de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y, sobre todo, sobre la manera de forjar dichas oficinas para garantizar un apoyo efectivo de la FAO a los Estados Miembros como ya fue manifestado por Uganda y Tanzania en el punto anterior.

Sobre el proceso de revisión del Marco Estratégico y preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio, el Grupo Africano valora ampliamente el trabajo realizado por la Directora General Adjunta y la Secretaría de la FAO, y manifiesta el interés de que se prosiga con las consultas sobre ese tema.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, el Grupo de África también reconoce y aprecia la estrategia conjunta de la FAO y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos sobre sistemas de información para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional como contenido del Informe, y espera con impaciencia ver su puesta en práctica inmediata. Reconocemos y apreciamos el contenido de este documento y la estrategia y elogiamos el esfuerzo conjunto de la FAO y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos por este trabajo excelente y que tiende a alcanzar un objetivo común. Animamos igualmente a la inclusión del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) en esta tarea, para que las tres Organizaciones de Roma prosigan jugando juntas el papel central en esta tarea común de luchar contra el hambre y mejorar la nutrición en el mundo.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Monsieur le Président, je prends la parole brièvement pour insister sur ce que l'Union européenne a dit lors de son intervention à propos du rôle et du travail de la FAO sur les questions de parité homme/femme.

La FAO a tous les éléments pour agir maintenant. Nous avons cette évaluation, nous avons un audit, nous avons le SOFA 2010-11 sur le rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture, nous avons eu une discussion en Conférence et au CSA, nous avons un budget renforcé sur l'Objectif K, nous savons maintenant que c'est une question de volonté politique et de changement de culture. Nous souhaitons donc appuyer la recommandation qui est faite d'avoir un Rapport annuel sur les progrès accomplis sur l'intégration de la parité homme/femme, non seulement dans la gestion du personnel mais aussi dans la programmation de la FAO, et nous rappelons la demande d'un rapport sur l'intégration de la question homme/femme dans le système de gestion et d'évaluation du personnel, ainsi que la demande que Madame Nordin a rappelé, faite par le Comité du programme, que la question de la parité homme/femme soit évoquée dans toutes les évaluations.

Je voudrais faire un dernier point, Monsieur le Président, pour encourager la FAO à se consulter avec les autres organisations internationales et les autres initiatives, lorsqu'elle élabore sa nouvelle stratégie et vision sur la nutrition. Je voudrais insister sur le fait que le Programme alimentaire mondial est entrain de faire exactement le même exercice et va soumettre aux États Membres un document de Stratégie sur la nutrition. Donc je ne saurais que trop insister sur le besoin de consultation entre la FAO et le PAM pour l'élaboration de leurs documents de stratégie.

Mr Hamim HAMIM (Indonesia)

We would like to give some comments, especially on a some particular points.

Firstly, echoing our colleagues from Ghana, in the prevention of Avian Influenza, my delegation wishes to point out Indonesia's experience on the importance of timely distribution of much-needed vaccines and technical assistance. FAO's role in this matter in cooperation with Member Nations and other Specialized Agencies is to develop a SOP (Standard of Personal Procedure) which gives guidance to Member Nations on immediate prevention steps, including the management of vaccine distribution and proper technical assistance.

The second regards the FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Trust Fund. My delegation is of the view that further elaboration is needed in order to closely indicate the time and place of annual natural disasters occurring in several countries. This will assist FAO's timely budget allocation and cooperation with Specialized Agencies and institutions. A close estimation made on annual natural disasters occurring in several parts of the world will further assist countries in implementing their recovery strategy.

Furthermore, on FAO's funding support to Subsidiary Bodies, my delegation agrees with the Committee, that requested the Secretariat to provide financial information on FAO's funding commitments to Conventions and Treaty Bodies. We acknowledge the need to proportionalize this funding in accordance to their scope and mandate.

My delegation takes note that there are still big disparities in funding proportions among FAO's Subsidiary Bodies.

Mr Friedrich-Carl BRUNS (Germany)

Let me as other delegations commend the two Chairpersons for their excellent work and reports, and for their guidance of our members in the different Committees.

Germany fully supports the statement by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and we certainly support and echo the comments of France in this respect to seize the opportunity to stress the urgent need for improvement of FAO's work on gender and gender mainstreaming. For this, the political rule from us, the Members States, as well as from FAO's top Management is crucial. We are looking forward to improved accountability of FAO's work in this regard, both at Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices.

Germany very much hopes that the new Director-General will make gender one of his top priorities in terms of substance and, of course, with regard to Senior Management decisions. We also look forward to adequately establishing gender within the Strategic Framework of FAO that is presently being prepared.

Sra. Carina Milagros SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Quisiéramos comenzar nuestra intervención reconociendo el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Programa en sus diferentes Períodos de Sesiones, tanto para los temas específicos de cada Sesión como para los asuntos de permanente atención. Con el objetivo de ser breve, me referiré a algunos puntos específicos que nos interesa resaltar sobre los documentos presentados.

Nos complace que se haya reconocido que la Organización está haciendo un buen trabajo de acuerdo a su mandato en situaciones de emergencia.

Apoyamos la preocupación del Comité en cuanto a la viabilidad de aplicar la recomendación de que se elaboren, con cada institución financiera internacional, protocolos para la administración, la financiación y la auditoria de proyectos, así como para la presentación de informes al respecto que sean aplicables a cualquier iniciativa financiada por cada institución y ejecutada o aplicada por la FAO.

Tomamos debida nota de las observaciones del Comité sobre cómo racionalizar su labor para el siguiente ciclo de programación con la definición de propuestas concretas aportadas por las Conferencias Regionales sobre la base de sus prioridades, así como con propuestas con prioridades específicas aportadas por los Comités Técnicos.

Nos complace la recomendación que se hace sobre la implementación de la estrategia común con el PMA para el desarrollo de capacidades adaptado a las necesidades específicas de cada país.

Por último, sobre las directrices para la programación por países, son muy válidas las recomendaciones hechas para que en su terminación se tengan en cuenta las políticas y prioridades gubernamentales. Así como para la adaptación al cambio climático, es necesario que se esclarezcan los vínculos existentes entre el establecimiento de prioridades en el ámbito regional y las Conferencias Regionales, que se haga referencia al fomento de la capacidad como parte integral de la programación por países, y que se incluyan aspectos relativos al seguimiento y la evaluación.

Sin embargo, considero oportuno decir que mi Delegación no aprecia en igual medida que el Comité, la necesidad de que en las directrices se haga una referencia más explícita a la Declaración de París sobre la eficacia de la ayuda y al Programa de Acción de Accra. Esta recomendación está recogida en el documento CL 143/7, y además fue subrayada en la presentación que hizo la Presidenta del Comité, la distinguida Embajadora Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe.

Si como bien se reconoce por el Comité, el marco de programación por países es importante para orientar la labor de la FAO en el ámbito nacional. Entonces el marco de programación debe tener en cuenta las orientaciones emanadas de los foros inter-gubernamentales previstos para ello, y no de otro tipo de espacios que ofrecen resultados que no son de consenso internacional y que no representan los intereses de todos los países en desarrollo.

En este punto no es ocioso recordar que las actividades de planificación y establecimiento de prioridades deben estar guiadas por las orientaciones emanadas de la Asamblea General sobre la base

de las decisiones adoptadas en el ejercicio de revisión trienal, a partir de ahora cuadrinial, de las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Habiendo dicho esto, Sr. Presidente, mi país endosa los informes presentados y recomienda que se tengan en cuenta nuestras observaciones sobre las recomendaciones hechas por el Comité.

Mr GUO Handi (CHINA) (Original language Chinese)

At the outset, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for her Report. I would like to make three comments in this regard.

Regarding FAO's evaluation work and a rolling programme from 2012, we noted that FAO's Conference has already authorized the budget increase for the Evaluation Office. This delegation suggests that the Secretariat pay much attention to the Decentralization and its evaluation at the regional level, and make an early evaluation of regional, sub-regional and Professional work. We also recommend that the Secretariat undertake a thorough planning so there will not be too many evaluations per year to be carried out.

This delegation appraises FAO's huge amount of work in the field of nutrition. We hope that FAO develops, as soon as possible, a strategy and a vision in this regard, at the same time that FAO enhances its cooperation and coordination with WHO, UNICEF and the other two Rome-based Agencies. At the same time, we would like to stress that nutrition criteria centres should not be linked to trade, so there will not be a new trade barrier.

Regarding Statutory Bodies, for a long time FAO has played its comparative advantage to coordinate international treaties, conventions, centres, norms and guidelines. However, we must reconcile how to play a very large role in the international instruments and treat in a balanced manner all these treaties. There are still issues to be dealt with. The delegation of China would like that FAO, while ensuring international instruments and Statutory Bodies play their full role, should uphold the sovereignty of Member Nations. While FAO gives more financial and administrative power to international instruments and Statutory Bodies, they should also take into consideration Member Nations' particular concerns so these instruments can be kept within FAO's framework.

Stress should be put on rules and procedures regarding observers, in line with the UN rules.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous me permettez de saluer la présence de deux Ministres avec nous: le Ministre de l'Agriculture, de la pêche, de l'élevage et de l'aménagement rural du Gabon. Merci, Monsieur le Ministre, d'être avec nous. Je voudrais aussi saluer le Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'irrigation du Tchad. Merci de passer votre après-midi avec nous. C'est un honneur pour nous que vous soyez présents, et l'intérêt que vous portez à nos travaux, surtout sur les aspects de Programme.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

We would like to offer our great thanks to the Chairpersons and members of the Programme Committee for their hard work and for these excellent reports.

Australia would just like to briefly support the comments made by our colleagues from Africa, France and the European Union on the importance of gender and gender mainstreaming in the work of the Organization.

We would very much like to encourage the greater accountability of the Organization and its work on gender, both at the Headquarters level and also within the decentralized structure.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

We, as other colleagues have mentioned, would like to thank our distinguished Programme Committee Chairperson for her effective reporting. In particular, I would also like to highlight to various Council Members in the room how the Programme Committee has very much improved its workings over the last two years. I think this is due to full engagement by Programme Committee members, as well as an effective and strong Programme Committee Chairperson willing to listen and to provide effective direction.

While we have discussed many important issues and items during these last three Programme Committee sessions, Canada would like to focus its intervention on five specific issues.

One, country programme guidelines. Canada certainly supports the establishment of these guidelines, but the ambitious plan must be tempered with realistic implementation modalities and must be strongly linked to FAO's priority-setting process, of course also including from a Decentralized Office perspective. Country level, national ownership must be seen as a critical success factor, and therefore should be adequately addressed in the preparation of the national strategies.

Two, with respect to the evaluation rolling workplan, the Canadian delegation would like to express its support for the evaluations identified in the 2012-14 workplan and highlighted in the Programme Committee Report. However, Canada would like to register the point that there are no proposed evaluations of FAO's work concerning trade facilitation and support for the agri-food business. Recognizing that over 100 countries are net food-importers, trade is vital to global food security, and therefore we believe that this area merits further work.

On the gender issue, we are sincerely supportive and welcome comments made. We agree with the comments made by our French Ambassador, and fully support them. We look forward to FAO's active engagement in promoting an enabling environment for gender mainstreaming and in strengthening the results focus in the wider FAO operations, in particular, through several different channels such as through training and capacity-development of staff, through strengthened project effectiveness for gender equality results, both at headquarters and in the field operations and through strengthened external partnerships and improved gender sensitive communication within FAO and externally.

On nutrition, we certainly agree with the recommendations highlighted in the Programme Committee Report and the evaluation findings. We believe that FAO could play a more significant and key role in monitoring nutrition outcomes as part of its support to agriculture, including the development of normative products and tools that can be used by national governments and other stakeholders.

FAO has the distinct advantage as a trusted knowledge organization, able to contribute to a better understanding of nutrition through scientific advice, assessments, information systems and statistics. However, it must link its food and agriculture activities to nutrition outcomes, and this is an area which requires much improvement.

Five, with respect to the FAO/WFP joint strategy on information systems for food and nutrition security, we support it with the strong caveat that three key conditions are further developed:

- the principle of national ownership needs to be further defined and FAO and WFP need to illustrate how they plan to ensure this ownership in the development of the information systems.
- institutions in developing countries must be engaged as partners and must be supportive of national ownership, including within the context of capacity-development activities, and
- the role and the need to focus on nutrition within the strategy needs to be reinforced to ensure engagement. I know we talk about IFAD, but we also need to ensure engagement with WHO in the context of nutrition.

My final comment, as I mentioned earlier, is that we reserve the right to further comments under Item 3 on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

We thank the two Committee Chairpersons for their outstanding leadership.

The United States of America fully supports and endorses these Reports, as well as the recommendations and suggestions made by the Programme Committee.

We strongly agree with the Committee's suggestion on the process of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

We would like to reiterate the importance of prioritizing the technical work of the Organization through the measures previously recommended by the Programme Committee and Council, also taking into account recommendations from Strategic Evaluations and lessons learned from programme

implementation, as noted in the Mid-Term Review Synthesis report of the Programme Implementation Report as well as in global and sub-regional initiatives.

We also concur with the Committee's conclusion that as we review the Medium-Term Plan, we need to formulate a limited number of concrete and measurable indicators of results.

Finally, we strongly believe that identifying fewer and more focused Strategic Objectives will lead to fuller achievement of FAO's goals, especially those related to gender equity.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I speak to you on behalf of the Near East region. First of all, I would like to thank the Chairpersons of the two Committees, in particular the Chairperson of the Programme Committee on behalf of our Group. I would also like to endorse the content of this Report, expressing our endorsement of the comments made by the Representatives of Africa.

First of all, we endorse the need of Cultural Change, especially regarding gender issues. There is also a need for an evaluation within a clear timeframe, so we know what the sources of the problem may be.

Secondly, with regards to the paragraphs pertaining to programming and priority-setting, we think attention should be paid to the results of the Regional Conferences and the priorities they have set according to the sequence laid down by them. We also need to take into account the proposals of the Country Offices. The Regional Conferences have become the principal tools of this Organization, and they are the ones best placed to determine the needs of regions.

Thirdly, greater importance should be attached to Decentralisation. Decentralisation should be enhanced. The Strategic and Functional Objectives should also be vested with the necessary financial resources in order to achieve the expected results.

Fourthly, there is a need to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme and the resources allocated there too, especially in respect to our region. We note that what has been earmarked for our region is much lower than that for other regions. There is also a need to underscore the importance of evaluation and monitoring in the Country Offices. These evaluation reports should be provided or scheduled and should indeed stress the real problems by looking at the sources and causes, and taking into account the specifics for each region.

I think there is a need for us to have a clear-cut framework for cooperation between our Organization and other Rome-based Agencies their individual roles in dealing with nutrition. We also need to take into account the roles played by WHO and UNICEF, while preventing these two organizations from taking the lead role on food issues.

Sr. Elías José GUÍA LÓPEZ (España)

Deseamos agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Programas y al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por el excelente trabajo que han realizado.

Muy brevemente y en línea con la declaración de la Unión Europea, desearíamos simplemente insistir en la inclusión de la dimensión de género en las diferentes evaluaciones de la FAO y en la gestión del personal sin limitarnos a un mero informe anual.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (KNOWLEDGE)

If I could just make a couple of comments in response to the many observations on gender and nutrition.

First of all, we appreciate Membership's strong support for our enhanced engagement in the gender arena and for implementing the evaluation report. I think we feel that these evaluation reports are extremely useful in continuing to hold the Secretariat's feet to the fire on very important issues. This one is certainly in that group.

We are already moving forward in implementing a number of the recommendations that were in the evaluation, including creating a Gender Group in my office which was one of the recommendations. We have a designated consultant in the Office of Strategic Planning who is working to address gender and mainstreaming the results-based management into our strategic planning.

We have a new Gender Human Resource Policy under preparation which will address some of the internal gender issues that have been raised. We are also very actively working with United Nations Action Plan on Gender, and making sure that we meet the new criteria that had been developed by the Secretary-General as a UN Organization in the area of gender, both in terms of our Human Resources policies, but also in terms of our technical work.

We also are in the process of finalizing a draft gender equality policy referencing our technical work and there will be a Town Hall meeting on 2 December to discuss this policy with staff.

In terms of the nutrition work, we have already begun detailed discussions within the Nutrition Division about their reflections on the evaluation, and what they view as their specific capabilities and priorities. We will expand that conversation to the other Departments that are engaged in nutrition work including, ES and TC.

We appreciate the suggestions on consulting with the World Food Programme and take those very much to heart. I have also had a very informal conversation with our new head of the Standing Committee on Nutrition who is from World Food Programme about having the four agencies that are members of that Organization which are as our Representative from Syria mentioned WFP, UNICEF, WHO and FAO, about identifying our common goals in the area of nutrition and discussing the role that each of these organization can play in terms of furthering it so that we are working in alignment with these four organizations, not just the WFP.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

I wanted to thank the Programme Committee and Members of the Council for their appreciation of the Country Programming Guidelines, as well as the recommendations that they have made. These recommendations will help us in finalizing the Guidelines, building also on the lessons learned from the Independent Strategic Evaluation on FAO Country Programming. In terms of timeline, we are aiming to finalize the Country Programming Guidelines by the end of 2011. The Decentralization document, which we discussed under the previous item, indicated that the Country Programming Guidelines will be supported by a comprehensive training programme and that by the end of 2012, all countries should have at least a preliminary country programming framework.

With regard to some of the specific interventions made, we agree that government co-ownership of the Country Programming Framework is fundamental, and will engage with national authorities to ensure that FAO programmes are driven by country needs. This, in fact, is in line with the first principle of the Country Programming Guidelines. We also agree that the Country Programming Framework optimize the use of FAO's operational capacities, in line with one of the other principles, namely Strategic Focus, that has been laid out in the Guidelines. In fact, the Guidelines state that FAO may not be a player in all issues regarding food security and agriculture in a given country.

So, we therefore expect the Country Programme Framework to greatly contribute to bringing greater focus in FAO's in-country work, and better integration of emergency response and development activities, as well as bringing more focus in our in-country resource mobilization efforts.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais vous lire les propositions qui pourront être traités pour les conclusions du Comité du Programme:

Le Conseil a approuvé les Rapports de la cent-septième, cent-huitième et cent-neuvième sessions du Comité et les différentes recommandations formulées, y compris celles se rapportant aux évaluations examinées par le Comité, notamment l'évaluation des Bureaux régionaux qui devraient être effectuées sur le modèle de l'évaluation du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient.

Le Conseil a relevé l'importance particulière accordée à l'évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de parité homme femme et souligné le besoin d'intégrer cette dimension clé dans toutes les évaluations et de faire un rapport annuel en la matière.

Le Conseil a, en outre, souligné l'importance de mettre en œuvre des financements adéquats pour toutes les évaluations, y compris pour les activités financées par des ressources extra-budgétaires.

Le Conseil a aussi relevé les recommandations du Comité concernant le Cadre stratégique et la préparation du Plan à moyen terme, la Stratégie de la FAO et du PAM relative au système d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition ainsi que l'examen des Instruments internationaux et des Organes statutaires notant que sur différents points, des actions de suivi seront prises en vue de la prochaine session du Comité en 2012.

Enfin un paragraphe qui n'a pas été soulevé dans vos interventions, mais pour une question formelle, je dois le mettre puisqu'il était dans les rapports. Je lis: «enfin le Conseil a entériné un amendement du paragraphe 43 de la charte du Bureau de l'évaluation concernant la durée du mandat du Directeur de l'évaluation. C'est dans le Rapport mais personne n'en a parlé. Il est important, de façon formelle, de le dire.

Voici les cinq points qui seront transmis pour être intégrés comme propositions dans le Rapport.

Je vous remercie et je remercie particulièrement la Présidente pour cette bonne présentation et pour le travail réalisé.

6. Reports of the 139th (30 May-1 June 2011), 140th (10-14 October 2011), 141st (2-4 November 2011) and 142nd (7-8 November) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 143/6; CL 143/8; CL 143/12; CL 143/19; CL 143/LIM/1)

6. Rapports des cent trente-neuvième, cent quarantième, cent quarante et unième et cent quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier (30 mai-1er juin, 10-14 octobre, 2-4 novembre et 7-8 novembre 2011) (CL 143/6; CL 143/8; CL 143/12; CL 143/19; CL 143/LIM/1)

6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 139.º (30 de mayo a 1.º de junio de 2011), 140.º (10-14 de octubre de 2011), 141.º (2-4 de noviembre de 2011) y 142.º (7-8 de noviembre de 2011) del Comité de Finanzas (CL 143/6; CL 143/8; CL 143/12; CL 143/19; CL 143/LIM/1)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Point 6 présenté par le Président du Comité financier. Il y a donc quatre Rapports, le cent-trente neuvième, les cent-quarantième, cent-quarante et unième et cent-quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier. Je passe sur les chiffres et les dates. Il est convenu que, comme précédemment, les paragraphes 15 et 17 du Rapport de la Cent-quarante et unième session est reporté au Point 3 suivant, les paragraphes 18 et 25 au Rapport sur le PAI pour demain après-midi, et les paragraphes 38 et 40 seront aussi abordés demain après-midi.

Comme d'habitude à cette occasion, je vous rappelle ce qui a été dit concernant la situation des cotisations. Dans le document CL 143/LIM/1, le Secrétariat présente au Conseil une mise à jour de la situation des contributions et des arriérés au 21 novembre 2011. A cette date, l'Organisation avait reçu plus de cent quatre-vingt quatorze millions de dollars et plus de cent cinquante quatre millions d'Euros au titre des contributions dues pour 2011. Cela représente 89 pour cent des sommes dues en dollars et 74 pour cent des sommes dues en Euros. En 2011, plus de sept millions de dollars ont été versés par les Membres en règlement intégral des soldes d'arriérés, tandis que vingt sept millions de dollars supplémentaires étaient reçus en règlement partiel d'arriérés, et quatre millions de dollars supplémentaires en règlement anticipé pour les années à venir.

Ces recettes ont sensiblement amélioré la situation de trésorerie de l'Organisation pour 2011 par rapport aux années précédentes à la même période. Ainsi, au 21 novembre, 39 Membres, soit 20 pour cent des Membres de l'Organisation n'ont pas encore versé leur contribution pour l'année 2011 alors que le règlement des contributions par les États Membres avait connu une amélioration en 2011. A la date du présent Rapport, 40 États Membres ont encore des arriérés de contribution pour 2010 et pour

les années précédentes et 11 États Membres risquent de perdre leur droit de vote à la prochaine session de la Conférence en vertu de l'Article III.4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Il n'y a pas de décision à prendre sur ce point mais le Conseil est invité à souligner dans le Rapport de la session qu'il importe que tous les États Membres, sans distinction, s'acquittent de leurs obligations financières envers l'Organisation afin de lui permettre de continuer à remplir son mandat. Voilà mon travail de rappel sur les cotisations. Il n'y a pas de décision mais un engagement de chacun.

M. Médi MOUNGUI, (Président Comité financier)

Je pense que je devrais clore rapidement le débat là-dessus. Je crois que dès le début, j'ai dit que la plupart de mes rapports seront faits en anglais ou sinon tous parce que c'est ainsi que je les aies préparés. Donc, je pense que pour cette session, je me suis donné cette tâche personnelle.

continues in English

Since our last meeting in April 2011, we held four sessions – the Hundred and Thirty-ninth, Hundred and Fortieth, Hundred and Forty-first and Hundred and Forty-second – four sessions of the Finance Committee. The Reports of these sessions are presented to the Council in document CL 143/6, CL 143/8, CL 143/12 and CL 143/19. In addition, document CL 143/LIM/1 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the Status of Contributions and Arrears at November 2011, and that is what the Chairperson of the Council just presented to you – an update.

While the 141st Session dealt exclusively with FAO's issues, the 133rd and 134th Sessions were special sessions convened to deal with WFP matters. Our Reports to the WFP matters have been considered by the Second Session of the WFP Board in November 2011.

At its 140th Session, the Finance Committee elected Mr Ronald Elkhuisen of the Netherlands as the Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the remainder of the period, that is, till the next ordinary session in 2012.

Let me also seize this opportunity to thank all the members of the Finance Committee for their involvement in the work of the Committee. I think the output was excellent from every member and, as agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present you selected highlights of the Report of the Finance Committee meeting except, as he mentioned, all matters that will be considered under Items 3, 8, 10 and 11 of the Agenda of this Session.

The Report that I am going to present now will cover six areas which are considered under the remit of the Finance Committee. These areas are: financial position, budgetary matters, human resources, administrative and information systems framework, improved methods of work and efficiency of the Finance Committee and any other business.

Coming to the financial position, in reviewing the Status of Arrears and Contributions, the Committee welcomed the improvement in timeliness of payment of contributions by Members and the Organization's improved liquidity position and low level of arrears, which was at its lowest level in recent decades. At the same time, the Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of their respective Assessed Contributions to ensure the Organization could meet the operational cash requirement for the adequate delivery of its programme of work. The Committee also agreed that a discount rate provided for in the Incentive Scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions to be used to apply credit for eligible Members towards 2012 contributions should be set at 0.4 percent for dollar contributions, and 0.21 percent for Euros.

The Committee noted with concern the projected rising level of the General Fund deficit due principally to unbudgeted charges for staff-related schemes, and looked forward to receiving the latest Actuarial Valuation of, and alternative long-term strategies and options, for funding staff-related liabilities at its May 2012 Session.

The Committee reviewed and approved the accounts of the FAO Commissary for the year ending 31 December 2010.

Budgetary matters – point two. In reviewing programme and budgetary transfer in the 2010-11 biennium, the Committee appreciated a forecasted onus pending of USD 6 million was within the one

percent of the 2010-11 biennial appropriation and that it would be carried over to 2012-13 as authorized by Conference Resolution 5/2011. The Committee also authorized the forecasted budgetary chapter transfers, and looked forward to the final 2010-11 Budgetary Performance Report at its May 2012 Session.

The Committee examined measures to improve implementation of Organization support costs. I must say here that we had to defer the examination of this Report at the 141st to the 142nd Session. Following specific guidance, and we mentioned this following the specific guidance of the 37th Session of the Conference, which in June/July 2011 had reaffirmed the policy of full cost recovery approved by the Conference in November 2000 and directed the Council to implement measures to improve such recoveries from extra-budgetary-funded activities, building on the experience of other UN Agencies.

The Committee unanimously supported the need for full cost recovery, and recognized that the measures proposed by the Director-General in document FC 140/8, which was reissued, were in line with the instruction of the Conference. The large majority of the core Committee supported a measure to build on the experience of other UN Agencies to use and uplift project staff costs and project consultant costs to cover indirect variable costs of services provided in connection with recruiting and managing project personnel, and to improve cost recovery for categories of variable indirect costs that had been largely excluded from the FAO Support Cost Policy but were normally recovered by other UN organizations, specifically related to information technology related costs, office occupancy charges and Headquarters security. I must, nevertheless, mention that one member of the Committee did not support the use of the proposed measures at the time of the discussion during the 141st Session of the Committee, and requested further consultation with the Secretariat. I think that consultation took place, and I presume to the satisfaction of that member.

In accordance with the Conference's instructions for the Council to implement before 2011 measures to improve recovery of support costs related to extra-budgetary-funded activities, the proposal of the Director-General is presented for your endorsement today, with support of the large majority of the Finance Committee.

It should, anyhow, be mentioned that further consultations will take place to seek the most cost-effective and efficient means of providing administrative and operational support costs.

The Committee also considered the Annual Report of the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activity (SFERA), appreciating its key role in enabling FAO to respond rapidly in the critical stages of emergencies, acknowledge its governance and management architecture and enable the Fund to be an efficient and effective instrument in support of the Organization's emergency and rehabilitation activities.

The third point - Human Resources. The Committee recognized the fundamental role of human resources management, and urged that the ongoing Human Resources initiative aligned in the Human Resources Strategic Framework be completed in a timely manner. In this context, the Committee recommended implementation of an effective and more mandatory mobility scheme, and underscored the need to reduce further the timeframe for recruitment with a view to achieving gender and geographic balance among the Organization's workforce, while recognizing that merit was a primary consideration in the selection criteria.

Number four - administrative and information systems framework. The Committee reviewed the progress on the implementation of the consolidated programme to upgrade the Organization's Enterprise Resource Planning system to Oracle release 12 and the project for introduction for International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and emphasized that core objective be delivered by the planned target dates and within the reported budget estimate. The Committee requested more information on the benefits of the programmes, and how these contributed to the Strategic Objectives of the Organization in the next progress report, as well as the provision of details of cost efficiency to be delivered by the programmes.

Next, improvement to the work and efficiency of the Finance Committee. The Committee requested the Secretariat to arrange an annual informal seminar on key topics under the mandate of the

Committee, and agreed to consider tools and mechanisms for informal inter-sessional communication among members of the Committee.

The Committee endorsed in principal the proposal for either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson to attend Regional Conferences of FAO, and also supported the idea for members of the Committee to participate in field visits. In this regard, the Committee requested the Secretariat's comments on optional modalities and cost implications of implementing these proposals.

Other Matters - the Committee considered matters under its remit contained in the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for the Near East and Management Response. The Committee underlined the importance of ensuring that well-qualified technical staff were available to countries in the Region, and noted that the recommendation of the evaluation addressed some issues which were applicable to other Regions. The Committee endorsed the preparation of a paper on the harmonization of Regional Conferences and the Regional Office to be submitted to the next Regional Conference for the Near East, and requested that the Secretariat share the status of follow-up action on the implementation of the recommendations of the evaluation which fall under its purview at its future session.

To conclude, overall, it is difficult to summarize four meetings, but this is what we came up with. The Sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization. On the behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation again to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us with the opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanations on these very technical issues, if you request them.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président, pour cette présentation pas très facile puisque quatre Comités donne beaucoup de travail. Avant de vous donner la parole, je voudrais vous dire comment nous allons terminer notre après-midi. Nous avons l'interprétariat jusqu'à 18h15, donc si chacun respecte bien les horaires, nous devons pouvoir clore ce sujet avant 18h15. Bien sûr, je ne veux pas réduire votre temps de parole, vous devez pouvoir vous exprimer et nous parlerons du PTB demain matin. Maintenant, je vous donne la parole, il suffit d'appuyer sur le bouton rouge. Le Gabon, vous avez la parole.

M. Raymond NDONGA SIMA (Gabon)

Tout d'abord, merci pour les mots aimables que vous avez prononcés à mon égard en annonçant ma présence à cette réunion. Les présents travaux sont importants. Je crois aussi que ce sont les derniers auxquels participait M. Jacques Diouf qui a dirigé notre Organisation pendant de très nombreuses années et il me semble que c'était une façon particulière de lui témoigner une certaine affection et reconnaissance pour le travail qu'il a accompli pendant de nombreuses années.

Ma délégation intervient sur ce Point 6 de l'Ordre du jour, au nom de la Région Afrique. Cette intervention porte principalement sur le document CL 143/8, c'est-à-dire sur les travaux du Comité financier relatifs aux questions concernant directement la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, nous tenons à saluer la clarté de la présentation des conclusions des travaux des sessions du Comité financier par le Président, et le féliciter puisqu'il s'agissait de plusieurs rapports conjoints. Face à l'ampleur des défis auxquels est confrontée en permanence l'humanité toute entière, les États membres de notre Organisation ont besoin d'une FAO forte et solide sur le plan financier qui soutient avec vigueur à travers ses différentes activités dans leur quête quotidienne d'un mieux être pour leur population. C'est pourquoi la Région Afrique a toujours exhorté les États Membres à s'acquitter de leurs obligations financières dans les meilleurs délais afin de permettre la bonne exécution du Programme de travail de l'Organisation.

Le niveau élevé des obligations de dépenses au titre des quatre plans de prestation en faveur du personnel constitue une source permanente d'inquiétude. D'autant que le sur-financement de certaines de ces obligations, notamment l'assurance maladie, après cessation de service, contribue lourdement

au déficit structurel du Fond général. Aussi encouragerons nous toute décision tendant au financement sur le long terme de ces obligations.

Monsieur le Président, au regard des résultats obtenus au cours de la période entre juillet 2010 et juin 2011, les conclusions du Comité financier relatif au Rapport annuel sur le Fond spécial pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement SFERA nous satisfont pleinement. L'avantage comparatif de ce Fond, au travers de ses trois volets d'intervention et de son dispositif de gouvernance et de gestion pour apporter une réponse immédiate à une crise par le biais de la protection des moyens de subsistance et de relance des activités de production, est incontestable. Il convient, à ce propos, d'encourager les pays à utiliser le mécanisme d'abandon au profit du Fond des soldes non utilisés des projets d'intervention d'urgence.

Le Groupe africain fait siennes, Monsieur le Président, les conclusions du Comité financier sur la question des virements entre programmes et chapitres budgétaires pendant l'exercice 2010-11. Le solde non utilisé au regard des prévisions établies et qui résulte selon la direction de la redéfinition des priorités se situera à 6 millions de dollars de là. Il faut rappeler que le budget de l'exercice 2010-11 comporte 18 chapitres au lieu de huit comme auparavant. Comme le souligne si bien la Direction, cet éclatement permet une meilleure visibilité des budgets et des dépenses par rapport au cadre des résultats, mais il augmente aussi la probabilité de non concordance entre les prévisions et les virements effectifs.

Nous reconnaissons la grande attention portée par l'Organisation aux ressources humaines, le Cadre stratégique et Plan d'action pour la gestion des ressources humaines qui définit une vision, une Orientation stratégique et des objectifs, et qui est le garant de leur alignement sur les objectifs de l'Organisation, est la preuve manifeste de l'importance accordée à cette ressource. Le Groupe Africain exhorte donc la Direction à poursuivre sur cette voie, notamment au regard des priorités majeures, la division de la gestion des ressources humaines au cours du prochain biennium. Nous saluons l'effort d'information de la Direction sur le processus de mise en œuvre de ce projet complexe, l'adoption des normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public IPSAS, le remplacement du système de comptabilité de terrain, le passage à la Version 12 Oracle ainsi que les énormes progrès accomplis dans la gestion de ce programme au cours des six derniers mois, tout en gardant constant à l'esprit l'objectif de disposer des premiers États financiers normalisés IPSAS dès 2013.

Le Groupe Africain exhorte la Direction à poursuivre ce projet conformément au calendrier fixé et à prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires à l'atténuation des risques éventuels, risques déjà répertoriés par l'Organisation qui pourraient retarder le démarrage de ce Programme.

Ms Monika DULIAN (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU would like to focus its comments on the support cost recovery policies. The EU would like to make three main points:

First, the EU fully supports the principle of full cost recovery for extra-budgetary contributions. However, it is clear that FAO needs an improved cost accounting system for collecting full support costs under the existing categories.

Second, we are concerned that, as there is a need for a proper and transparent cost accounting system, the proposed uplifting formula does not address the basic administrative difficulties for collecting support costs. While this uplifting may be less labour-intensive and easier to manage for FAO, it does not provide a clear indication on whether these costs are correct, actually incurred, and by whom, or the actual amount. We would encourage greater transparency in this proposed policy, as it seems that it is not first and foremost a cost recovery methodology but rather a tool to produce income.

Third, keeping in mind the EU's support for the principle of full cost recovery for extra-budgetary contributions, the EU strongly urges FAO to revisit and review the policy in order to address the main administrative and accounting problems and to provide the necessary information.

Finally, the EU would like to reiterate an important point dealt under Agenda Item 3, in line with the recommendations from the Finance Committee, Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting Sessions both in October and November, the EU is not able to agree with an automatic allocation of possible further savings.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic)

Speaking on behalf of the Near East Group, I would first of all like to thank my friend Dr Médi Moungui for his excellent presentation on the Finance Committee and all the members.

First of all, we would like to welcome the report of the Finance Committee, then I would like to support the presentation which came from the Africa Group and all its details.

As regards human resources, I would like to emphasize on the criteria you mentioned in your Report as it relates to the geographical distribution and culture change, and if it would be possible to take this into consideration, especially in our region.

I would like to welcome the Evaluation Report which is mentioned in your Report regarding the Near East Region. I would like to raise the comment to take this matter into consideration, especially regarding efforts required to finance these evaluations.

Sr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas IZQUIERDO (México)

En primer lugar, quiero agradecer y reconocer públicamente el excelente trabajo del Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, el Señor Médi Moungui. Su liderazgo fue esencial para que el Comité cubriera satisfactoriamente todos los temas incluidos en las agendas de sus dos reuniones celebradas en octubre y noviembre, y también en aquella anterior del mes de mayo.

Para mí fue una gran satisfacción participar en las labores de este Comité, y que quería simplemente subrayar el eficiente apoyo del Secretariado, que hizo posible llegar a buenas recomendaciones y buenos textos que espero puedan ser aprobados por los Miembros del Consejo.

Las decisiones que se tomaron eran necesarias a la luz de las decisiones aprobadas en la Conferencia General, de modo que el Comité cumplió satisfactoriamente su labor.

A continuación, quisiera manifestar solamente tres puntos muy concretos:

En primer lugar, quisiera enfatizar la importancia que le damos al puntual cumplimiento del pago de las Contribuciones por parte de todos los Países Miembros. Esta es una época de crisis presupuestarias y financieras que introduce un factor de incertidumbre en los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales. Sin embargo, es necesario que cada País Miembro haga esfuerzos adicionales para cumplir con esta obligación.

En segundo lugar, quisiera reiterar la importancia de que la Secretaría haga esfuerzos para la contratación del personal de países no representados o insuficientemente representados en el personal de la Organización.

Un tercer y último tema, se refiere a la recuperación de los costos administrativos en el desarrollo de los proyectos que lleva a cabo la Organización. Quisiera destacar para la atención de todos los Miembros del Consejo, la importancia del hecho de que en los últimos dos o tres años el presupuesto a las Contribuciones Voluntarias a la FAO es mayor que el presupuesto regular, de modo que incrementar la transparencia sobre los costos administrativos puede ser un factor muy importante en el futuro de estas contribuciones.

Quiero apoyar también los esfuerzos que está haciendo la Secretaría para incrementar la eficiencia de sus sistemas administrativos y de contabilidad, de modo que por un lado la Organización recupere plenamente estos costos en la aplicación de los proyectos y por otro, nos lleve a una total transparencia en este campo.

Es muy importante que la Organización fije criterios idénticos para todos sus proyectos, y en este aspecto, es muy importante que los Gobiernos de los Países Donantes se sientan confiados en la labor que se hace en este campo. Buena parte del futuro de las actividades de la Organización puede depender de cómo se resuelva este tema.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

In thanking the Chair of the Finance Committee for the excellent summary of our work, Japan endorses the Report before us.

At the same time, we echo the words of appreciation of the Finance Committee Chairperson to the Secretariat, especially to Mr Nelson. We think the Finance Committee covered a wide range of areas instructed by the Conference, but we believe that we have thoroughly considered them and have identified appropriate directions.

For the efficiency of time, we will focus on one point which is about increasing staff of Treasury Office. We would like to remind the Secretariat to report the implementation of the decision which allowed employing one more officer at the Treasury Office at a subsequent session of the Finance Committee. We recall that the Finance Committee members have raised concerns about increasing the number of staff, and that the Conference requested to streamline the structure of the Organization.

We hope that the future Report of the Secretariat demonstrates that the new staff actually reinforces the Treasury function of FAO.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

We thank the Finance Committee for its thoughtful deliberations of the items covered in their last two sessions. The US endorses the financial proposals and recommendations set forth by the Secretariat, including the implementation of the proposed Support Cost Policy. We acknowledge that this is a short-term partial measure, and continue to urge the Secretariat to find a sustainable solution to the growing General Fund deficit.

We also concur with the recommendation for external members of the Ethics Committee.

We welcome the measures that the Secretariat is taking to reduce travel costs, and encourage them to continue on this path. We believe, however, that further efficiency savings are still to be found at the FAO, and we look forward to working with the Secretariat in a joint effort to ensure that the life-changing, and in some cases life-saving, work of FAO is delivered as efficiently as possible to all those who benefit from it.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

I would like to compliment the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for presenting the four Reports. We would like to endorse all four Reports. However, under staffing of the Treasury Function, we would like to concur with the proposal for the creation of one P-4 post charged to investment income. We would like to know whether the creation of this post has been taken into account while calculating the net reduction of the 47 non-IPA posts to be applied to the budgeted post establishment, as mentioned in another document, CL 143/3.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Gabon has spoken on behalf of Africa, and I do endorse what he has said. I have just only one comment I want to make, and this is regarding the services which are rendered by FAO towards the implementation of activities which are funded by extra-budgetary funds.

I recall what has been discussed. The amount which is not recovered seems to be big and we have to be serious about that. I think that was the spirit which come out of the Conference -- that the Secretariat of FAO should work on this area because it is a substantial amount and which other UN Organizations, like the World Health Organization, are already recovering. They are covering all the full costs on such activities. So I think we should encourage FAO to do the same, based on such already established principles in other UN Organizations, because we always argue very much on the level of the budget and we do see areas where we can make savings or where we can cut our costs. This is one of the areas, and therefore it is something that should be implemented as quickly as possible. I do very much endorse this proposal, and it has also been endorsed by the Africa Group that recovery of such costs should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I really welcome the positive comments by the Members of the Council on the work of the Finance Committee during this period. I think it was not easy, you can't understand it. First, because some of the Members just joined the Committee, and it was their first experience. They had to go through very, very technical issues, and they finally came up with the conclusions that we have before you, meaning that they worked very hard. This is an opportunity to thank everybody because of their inputs.

Let me also say something that I think has come up from this discussion on the issue of full cost recovery. I thank very much Tanzania for bringing up the interest that every Member has on this issue. You should understand that I do not think FAO wants to shoot its own legs. There is a lot of competition on extra-budgetary money outside there. For that competition, the Member Nations who are giving their money want to see some transparency. That was the work of the Finance Committee to see to it that the Secretariat reports in total transparency regarding full cost recovery. I think we will continue to do our work within the framework. We assure you that the guidance is entirely given by the Council to come up with a strong commitment to work with the Secretariat on full cost recovery. I think it is an issue that, we will continue to monitor on the Finance Committee, and we will report to you accordingly.

I think the issue of the staffing of the Treasury Function was an issue in the Finance Committee meeting, because people question why add staff. It is because of the accumulated deficit of staff liabilities, and so on. It was an issue, and it will continue to be an issue, but I think we came to a conclusion that my colleague from Japan understands very well. The conclusion that we reached was after a long debate on the issue. We approved that a P4 should be recruited and be paid through the income that will be generated by the work that he/she will be performing, the money that has been placed somewhere outside. I think we are still debating the issue, but some of the conclusions have been taken here, and I presume that the Council will approve this decision that we have proposed in our Report.

I think there was an issue that was raised by our colleague from Syria: that of human resources. It was clearly in our Report that competence is the first thing, followed by the other criteria of geographic representation and gender, but competence comes first. I think we will abide by that. If there are any other issues, we can continue to discuss them.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

I would like to focus my intervention on the proposals for improving recovery of the Organization's support cost policy.

Firstly, let me thank Members for again reaffirming the principle of full cost recovery of indirect variable support costs for activities funded by Voluntary Contributions.

I also thank the Finance Committee Chair for recalling the support of the implementation of this principle through an uplift of project personnel costs by all but one member of the Finance Committee.

Reducing the gap between cost and recovery of administrative and operational support services for activities funded by Voluntary Contributions is of critical importance, particularly in the present context where, as mentioned by the Representative of Mexico, Trust Fund activities finance the majority of FAO's Programme of Work.

Therefore, aside from recalling some background on the proposed measures, I wish to also address some of the issues raised during the discussion.

The Conference at its last Session in June-July 2011 reaffirmed the policy of full cost recovery that had been approved by the Council in November 2000. The 2011 Conference also expressed its concern about the persistent under-recovery of administrative and operational support costs. The Conference urged the Director-General to vigorously pursue improved support cost recovery, including in areas such as country-level costs, security and information systems and technology. This was, in fact, in line with the earlier recommendations of the Finance Committee at its 128th Session in July 2009. That session, I quote, "endorsed in principle the enlargement of FAO's support cost policy support to include these cost categories." End of quote.

The 2011 Conference also urged the Director-General to develop new mechanisms as appropriate, building on the experience of other United Nations Agencies. It introduced a sense of urgency in implementing mechanisms indicating that endorsement by the Council was needed before the end of 2011. It specifically identified as a possible methodology an uplift on project employee costs, which is the approach already followed by the World Health Organization.

The Finance Committee at its session earlier this month acknowledged that the proposed measures were in accord with the instructions of the 37th Session of the Conference. The Committee was also provided with further information on the rationale for using WHO as a comparator agency, namely, that FAO and WHO are both Specialized Technical Agencies undertaking normative and operational work, including through a substantial field presence. They have similar planning and reporting systems, and use the same information systems software for cost-accounting and financial accounting purposes. WHO has indicated that their post occupancy charge methodology has proven to be successful in its first biennium 2010-11, and that Governing Bodies' response has been positive and supportive. Such positive feedback clearly points to the similar measure put forward in FAO as being a robust and practical long-term approach, also for FAO.

The intervention from the European Union might tend to suggest that FAO should ideally have a cost accounting system where costs incurred in recruiting personnel, office occupancy, information and communication technology and security can be traced to individual projects. Some organizations that have only Voluntary Funds and have a few large programmes running into millions of dollars can do that. FAO's resources, however, are fragmented. FAO has a Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources. It implements thousands of extra-budgetary projects amounting to an average of a few hundred thousand dollars each. Developing a cost accounting system to trace such costs to projects in the name of transparency is not cost-effective. WHO came to the same conclusion. We need a system, however, that can collect costs through an aggregated mechanism.

This brings me to how to address the issue of transparency which we believe may need to be done by reporting on support cost expenditures and recoveries post factum. Regular reporting on the cost of field programme support has been provided since the 1990s in the biennial Programme Implementation Report. In the 2008-09 Programme Implementation Report, this information is provided in paragraphs 310 through 314 and includes a section on administrative and operational support costs and the extent of reimbursement.

Having heard the comments from the European Union, it is clear that this type of reporting should be expanded in future Programme Implementation Reports. It is therefore appropriate that in the next Programme Implementation Report we provide more comprehensive information, for discussion by the Finance Committee, on the methodology for estimating the gap in cost recovery to ensure better understanding.

Furthermore, in the 2010-11 Programme Implementation Report we would provide additional information on the aggregate recovery from the uplift of project personnel costs versus the aggregate cost of the various support services provided. This should respond to requests for more detail and more transparency on the methodology. We will, therefore, expand on the level of detail provided in the programme implementation report, in particular, related to the estimation of the recovery gap and the level of recoveries obtained from the uplift.

In other words, following our established reporting practices in this area, we would report more comprehensively post-factum in the Programme Implementation Report on support costs and recoveries, including the incremental recoveries from this proposed methodology.

I trust that this additional information addresses the observations made concerning transparency, and we look forward to moving ahead with this important step towards improving support costs recovery as urged by the Conference and as an agreed means of implementing adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. Members' endorsement of the Secretariat's proposal will help us close this gap between support cost expenditures and recoveries, as envisaged already by the Conference. To help close this gap, FAO will also continue to reduce support cost expenditures through efficiency savings measures, as noted by Mexico.

On the question of competition, I should also underline that other organizations are already recovering the costs that are the subject of this proposal. As mentioned, WHO is doing so through a post occupancy charge. Some funds and programmes, because of their different business model, are sometimes able to trace such costs as direct costs to projects; and the CGIAR has its own ways and means of collecting these costs.

Mr Nicholas NELSON (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

We do have a couple of pending questions regarding the staffing of the Treasury Function. The distinguished delegate from Japan mentioned his concern about his support but still accompanied by concern with the addition of one post in the current budgetary context, and the distinguished delegate from India asked a technical question on whether the additional post was counted within the adjustments to the PWB reduction posts.

On the first item, the Secretariat, when it came to the Finance Committee, was fully aware of the context of such a request appearing in a period of budgetary constraints. We are also all in this room aware that the financial market reality has completely transformed in the last three years. Indeed, we see risk factors on investments evolving on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

The Organization has about USD 1.4 billion in investments, roughly USD 1 billion entrusted by donors as we deliver on extra-budgetary projects, and nearly USD 400 million held aside and built up over decades to help fund After-Service liabilities. We felt that FAO's financial duties to protect the value of these funds are paramount, and did take the advice of an external body, the Advisory Committee on Investments that meets annually to advise our Director-General. Earlier this year they made a clear case on the need to reinforce risk management functions in FAO's Treasury Function, which, as you all know, is also responsible for worldwide currency and liquidity needs to provide to all the decentralized locations. These, of course, are monies that flow through the banking channels which themselves pose their own set of new risks requiring very high vigilance to protect FAO's funds.

I would also like to recall that the cost of this one P-4 position is fully covered by investment income, not budgetary appropriations. We are committed to reporting on the implementation of this additional post at the next Finance Committee Session.

Lastly, turning to whether the post was calculated within the adjustments to the PWB: no, this proposal has been kept completely separate from that calculation of post adjustments.

Ms Monika DULIAN (European Union)

The European Union would like to thank Management for understanding our concerns. In order to make progress on this issue, the EU proposes that a separate comprehensive report be prepared which could address all aspects of this support cost policy. This report could be presented to the Finance Committee and to the Council by the end of 2012 for decision. On this basis, the EU could accept the proposed uplifting on an interim basis.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'échange a eu lieu. Je vous propose, en conclusion de nos travaux, pour envoyer au rapport du Comité financier, les éléments suivants: le Conseil a approuvé les Rapports de la cent trente-neuvième, cent quarantième et cent quarante et unième session du Comité financier. Le Rapport de la cent quarante deuxième session, qui porte sur des questions concernant le PAM, a été examiné par le Conseil d'administration du PAM à sa Deuxième session ordinaire en novembre 2011.

En examinant les Rapports du Comité, le Conseil a souligné, en particulier, les commentaires et recommandations formulées au sujet de l'évaluation du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient. Les considérations concernant la définition des gains d'efficience dans le PTB 2012-13, du paiement des quotes-parts dans des délais rapides ainsi que les taux de remises destinés à inciter les Membres à verser leurs quotes-parts rapidement, des virements entre chapitres du budget, des comptes vérifiés du groupement d'achat du personnel, la structure et les effectifs des Services de trésorerie de l'Organisation, l'amélioration des méthodes de travail du Comité. S'agissant de la politique en matière

de dépenses d'appui, le Conseil a approuvé le mécanisme proposé pour améliorer le recouvrement intégral des dépenses d'appui en réaffirmant la politique qu'il a approuvé à cet égard en l'an 2000.

Le Conseil a noté, à ce sujet, le besoin de fournir des informations supplémentaires, en particulier sur la méthodologie servant à estimer le déficit de recouvrement des coûts et les remboursements totaux afférents à la majoration des coûts des Services d'appui.

Ces conclusions seront soumises au projet du Rapport et, bien sûr, elles seront adoptées par la suite en session. Le point six est donc conclu.

3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (CL 143/3)

3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 (CL 143/3)

3. Ajustes en el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (CL 143/3)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il nous reste 20 minutes. Monsieur Boyd et Cecilia, pensez-vous qu'en 20 minutes vous pouvez présenter le point trois? Monsieur Boyd, vous avez la parole, et successivement Médi et Cecilia. Nous présenterons les points qui ont été reportés et comme cela vous aurez toute la nuit pour y réfléchir et vous aigüisez pour demain matin pour la présentation à 9h30. M. Boyd, vous avez la parole.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

It is a pleasure to introduce the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 arising from the guidance and the decisions of the 37th Session of the FAO Conference.

I will touch on the context of the Programme of Work and Budget documentation, the decisions and guidance of the Conference and the resulting adjustments.

The Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 is the first to have been prepared and considered to the full two-year cycle of formal governance input under the results-based planning process.

The Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees provided inputs during 2010, and the proposed Programme of Work and Budget prepared by the Director-General was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council during February to April of this year.

The Conference in July decided a budget level of USD 1,005.6 million to fully implement the proposed programme of work, including the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal while requesting the Director-General to identify further efficiency gains, one-time savings and forecasted use of unspent 2010-11 balance amounting to USD 34.5 million.

The Conference provided specific guidance on adjustments to be made to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 prior to implementation for consideration by the Council.

These adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 were prepared by the Director-General in consultation with the Director-General Elect over the last four months. They were reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees earlier this month, and the Chairpersons of the Committees will report on their findings. The adjustments before you fully implement the decisions and guidance of the Conference.

First, four programmatic and structural adjustments have been made. The Evaluation Budget has been set at 0.7 percent of the net appropriation. The status quo of the Shared Services Centre has been maintained. The budgetary allocation for Strategic Objective K on Gender is being increased from 1.6 percent to 2.1 percent of the net appropriation by allocating USD 2.7 million for gender-related human resources in Decentralized Offices and at Headquarters, and by planning an additional USD 2.5 million for Gender Focal Points in all units of the Organization. These actions are in line with the Gender Audit and the Gender Evaluation on which many comments were made under the previous item.

Finally, as endorsed by the Conference in the Reports of the concerned Regional Conferences, the co-located Sub-regional Office in Budapest is merged with the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, and the co-located multi-disciplinary team in Santiago is merged with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. These two actions have no impact on resource level post counts.

Those are the four programmatic and structural adjustments that have been made in line with the Conference decisions.

Secondly, the proposed post establishment has been reviewed with a particular focus on Functional Objective X, which is collaboration with Member Nations and stakeholders, and Functional Objective Y, which is administration, as requested by Conference. The revised post establishment entails a net reduction of 9 non IPA posts in comparison with the 2010-11 biennium. These are 47 posts fewer than were in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, more than fully complying with the Conference guidance to keep any increase in non IPA posts to a minimum.

The third area of adjustments concerns how the USD 34.5 million in savings have been allocated. As you will see in the document, two thirds of these savings have been found under Functional Objectives X and Y. The savings are in two main areas. First, further efficiency gains in one-time savings of USD 16.5 million have been allocated. Of these, USD 5 million is for post abolitions, USD 3 million for lower-volume of travel, USD 2 million for better publication planning and USD 6.5 million from opportunities for further measures, efficiencies during implementation as set out in section 5 of the document.

The second main area of savings is recoveries and carryover of USD 18 million. This comprises USD 6 million in improved cost recovery measures for administrative and operational services, USD 6 million in improved cost recovery for technical support services provided to extra-budgetary projects, and the use of the unspent 2010-11 balance for 2012-13 IPA activities, as authorized by Conference, which is forecasted at USD 6 million.

These adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 result in a revised budgeted post establishment and structural changes as I have just mentioned, and a revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter, which appears in Table 7 of the document. Council is requested to approve these measures taking into account the review of the Programme and Finance Committees.

The Council is also requested to note that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of operational work planning, as well as from using the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation during the biennium. Budgetary transfers required to implement proposals during the biennium will be handled in accordance with agreed procedures including under Financial Regulation 4.5.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Yes, we did consider the document and the Programme Committee underlined that the gender measures undertaken are dependent on the overall success of the FAO Culture Change, as it has been said in this room today, and the way in which gender mainstreaming will be implemented.

We reaffirm the importance of our evaluation concurring with the allocation of 0.0 percent to this end, while awaiting measures to reach the IPA goal of 0.8 percent.

The Committee requested that future documentation adjustments to the PWB include resource distribution by Organizational Results, and also we wanted to see financial information on FAO's funding commitment to Convention and Treaty Bodies in order to be able to evaluate them.

We requested that the allocation of Junior Professional Programme posts be better-aligned with the priorities in the Programme of Work, and we reiterated the guidance of the Joint Meeting at its Session on 12 October 2011 which rejected the proposal to automatically allocate additional savings, if any, under Functional Objectives X and Y. We stressed that further adjustments should be addressed in accordance with agreed procedures, as just pointed out, and we underline the importance of the ongoing monitoring and review of a Programme of Work and Budget implementation. We look forward to reviewing the programmatic impact of further budgetary transfers at our next session, including the USD 6.5 million in unallocated savings that remain to be defined.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I will be reporting on two meetings on this topic, because we have the 141st Session, that there will be decision and the Joint Meeting, so I will be giving a report on the two.

Let me start with the 141st Session. The Committee at the 141st Session considered the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, noted that the proposal was in line with the guidance and decision of the 37th Session of the Conference, and concurred with the revised budgeted posts establishment and structural changes, as you have just heard from Boyd Haight. I won't go into the details of the post establishments and structural changes that Boyd Haight went through.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the Council approve the resulting revised distribution of net appropriation by budgetary chapter, and thus presented in document CL143/3. The Committee appreciated that the document that had been developed on the basis of consultation undertaken by the Director-General with the Director-General Elect, and noted that the amount of USD 6.5 million provided flexibility to the incoming Director-General to identify savings during the forthcoming biennium. The Committee considered that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning, as well as from using the most cost-effective, efficient modality of implementing during the biennium that was already said by Boyd Haight. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged that the activities could be further redefined in 2012 to provide flexibility to the incoming Director-General. In this regard, the Committee stressed that any further PWB adjustments during 2012-13 should be addressed in accordance with agreed procedures, including Financial Regulation 4.5. That was for the 141st Session of the Finance Committee.

Now for the Joint Meeting. The Joint Meeting was satisfied with the adjustment proposed in document CL 143/3, noting that the document incorporated the guidance and decision of the 37th Session of the Conference in July 2011. In appreciating the document, members considered that it complied with the general guidance of the Conference. Two issues were nevertheless flagged.

The first concerned the proposal to automatically allocate eventual additional savings, if any, on the Functional Objectives X and Y to the Decentralized Offices. Members did not agree with this proposal, and called that any transfer of funds between chapters should be done in accordance with existing regulations, notably Financial Regulation 4.5.

The second issue that was flagged was that of the cushion of USD 6.5 million of further efficiency savings still to be identified in 2012. The members felt that it is a cushion for the Director-General Elect, that gives him some flexibility in bringing some adjustments in the Programme of Work in 2012.

The Joint Meeting underlined that the gender measures being undertaken by FAO were satisfactory, and were dependent also on Culture Change efforts in gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization.

The Joint Meeting also requested that the recruitment of a second tranche of professionals under the Junior Professional Programme be undertaken expeditiously in alignment with priority in the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Joint Meeting considered that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning. It also noted that the ongoing discussion of the structure and functioning of Decentralized Offices could impact the resource allocation, as could any further efficiency savings.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de ces présentations qui nous permettront d'engager le débat demain matin. Nous aurons la matinée pour discuter de cet aménagement. Vous avez la nuit pour le préparer. Je vous donne rendez-vous demain matin à 9h30 précises puisque vous avez montré ce midi que vous pouviez respecter les horaires. Un petit conseil pour ceux qui ont toujours du mal à arriver à l'heure, considérez que la réunion est à 9h15 et vous serez ainsi à l'heure et nous pourrons commencer.

Je voudrais remercier plus particulièrement le service d'interprétariat qui, par une association des différentes réunions, nous a permis d'avoir trois quart d'heure de travaux supplémentaires en nous évitant de faire une séance complète.

The meeting rose at 18:10 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.10 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

29 November 2011

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.36 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième réunion plénière est ouverte à 09 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera reunión plenaria a las 9.36 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (CL 143/3) (continued)

3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 (CL 143/3) (suite)

3. Ajustes en el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (CL 143/3) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bienvenue et merci des efforts que vous avez accomplis pour être presque à l'heure mais comme je n'avais que 20 participants à 09h30, je ne pouvais pas commencer. Mais maintenant que nous avons le quorum, nous pouvons ouvrir la séance.

Nous avons un certain nombre de points importants à discuter et j'espère que dans le cadre du déroulement, cela se passera aussi bien qu'hier. Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole à Ali Mekouar, qui a quelques informations complémentaires à nous donner.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just two announcements. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee was announced to be Spain. The name of the Chair is António Lizcano Palomares.

The delegates who have not yet registered are kindly requested to do so, so that we have a complete List of Participants for the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme convenu hier soir, pour le Point 3 qui a été ouvert en fin de séance sur l'Ajustements au programme de travail par la présentation successive de Boyd Haight pour les évolutions, mais aussi les compléments par Cecilia et Médi concernant les points qui ont été reportés. Je vous donne sans plus attendre la parole. Pour que vous puissiez prendre la parole, vous appuyez sur votre bouton rouge et vous attendez d'avoir parlé pour qu'il s'éteigne. Le Zimbabwe, vous avez la parole.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

This intervention is made on behalf of the Africa Group.

As we examine the Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13, the Africa Group is mindful of the development in the Horn of Africa region which has seen its driest year since the early 1950s, causing a food crisis that has escalated into a famine affecting 12.4 million people.

In the affected areas, households face crop failure, substantial livestock mortalities, and marked increases in food prices and local markets, meaning that many families cannot afford to meet their basic needs.

The need for FAO and the international community to assist populations and governments to improve capacities in the face of shocks and to build longer-term resilience by strengthening the capacity of national governments and regions to prepare for and respond to food security and agricultural crisis cannot be emphasized enough.

It is in this context that the Africa Group notes with some satisfaction that the African Region has received slightly increased budget allocations to support the Strategic Objectives, I – Improved Preparedness and L – Increased and More Effective Public and Private Investments in Agriculture and Rural Development under the adjustments to the Programme and Budget for 2012-13.

With regards to another priority area for the Africa Region support to investments in agriculture, we are pleased to know that in 2012, FAO is committed to carrying out an evaluation of FAO support to

investments in agriculture, as we would like to see how FAO can better support the CAADP processes in African countries.

Given the challenges we have noted in the whole of Africa and elsewhere, where crop production has had a negative impact on food prices, we are concerned that Strategic Objective A, Sustained intensification of crop production and B, Increased Sustainable Livestock Production, have been allocated decreased resources under the adjustments to PWB for 2012-13, at a time when Member Nations need more technical support in order to increase food production.

We are mindful of the fact that FAO action in the Horn of Africa will be supported through consolidated appeals processes launched in Geneva. We are, however, concerned about the interface between such emergency programmes and the Regular Programme of FAO, and how staff time in Regional Offices is allocated in order to meet key Strategic Objectives. The issue was raised by the delegate of Ghana during her intervention yesterday but was not, in our view, adequately answered.

The Africa Group is also encouraged to see that the Technical Cooperation Programme has been protected, as TCP projects offer countries an invaluable opportunity to try new approaches with FAO technical support, programmes which can then be scaled up once they have proved to be successful. The Africa Group would ask Management to ensure that such projects have strong gender mainstreaming components which can serve as a basis for accelerating such approaches in other food security and nutrition-related programmes.

Decentralisation remains a priority for the Africa Region and while we fully subscribe to the notion that the process must be supported by a comprehensive implementation plan, as well as by accountability and oversight frameworks, as recommended by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We, however, call attention to the urgent need in the meantime to ensure that the Country Programme Frameworks, which will be the basis of better coordination at country level, are urgently supported by the requisite staff at country and regional levels.

We note the role that Regional Conferences will play in refining the policy documents of the Decentralisation, but we are concerned that insufficient groundwork has been undertaken to finalize discussions on this issue at forthcoming Regional Conferences.

The Africa Group requests the Secretariat to urgently provide background information and guidelines for the consultations and discussions of the Regional Conferences, based on regional and country realities and needs. Such documentation will ensure that the discussions on Decentralisation remain rational and based on sound principles, and that Decentralisation does not lead to fragmentation of the Organization.

The Africa Group is of the view that resources freed up from delivery of Functional Objectives X and Y be used to strengthen Decentralised Offices subject to FAO Financial Regulation 4.5. While we fully support the view that financial adjustments should be addressed in a transparent manner and in accordance with agreed financial procedures, we see no reason why Decentralisation cannot be designated as a priority area to benefit from additional savings and Functional Objectives X and Y. Some of the policy frameworks for rational Decentralisation are already in place. This must be supported by requisite staff and resources in order to move the processes forward.

Turning to the increase in allocation for Strategic Objective K, Gender Equity and access to resources, goods and services and decision-making in the rural areas, the Africa Group fully supports the observations and recommendations of the 108th Session of the Programme Committee on the Gender Audit, namely that in order for gender mainstreaming to be achieved, there is need for political will and Culture Change at all levels of FAO operations. But it is also requires that FAO makes this a priority issue as the Organization engages with Member Nations and regions. FAO must lead by example, ensuring that all FAO projects support gender mainstreaming and accountability by the leadership and staff of FAO.

In this regard, we fully support previous speakers on the Item. We have requested that FAO produce a yearly report on their actions in this regard and training of staff is, of course, is invaluable. For the Africa Group, the measure of success of Strategic Objective K is not only how well-integrated gender

mainstreaming is in FAO, but the impact that FAO has on the ground in ensuring that Member Nations mainstream the agenda in the food security and nutrition programmes, including CAADP.

The Africa Group is concerned that Strategic Objective H on nutrition is not receiving sufficient attention, given the high levels of malnutrition and the role that FAO continues to play in the Global Food Security Cluster with WFP, at regional and country level.

We support the recommendations of the Programme Committee for the Secretariat to urgently review the FAO nutrition strategy in consultation with partners, Member Nations and regions.

Lastly, the Africa Group would like to commend the Secretariat for the innovative ways in which they have continued to identify efficiency savings while protecting the core programmes of FAO. We would, however, like to sound a cautionary note, as not all recommendations can be implemented uniformly. For example, travel costs in some regions are high given the limitations of communication networks, but the need for face-to-face interaction is still important where internet penetration is relatively low. We would, however, like to encourage Management to look for more efficiency savings and reward the Departments and Regions that find ways of cutting costs.

We hope that staff complements at the country, regional and Headquarters levels will be rationalized on the basis of Strategic Objectives, IPA implementation and budgetary limits, and not subject to the type of horse-trading that we observed during the negotiations for the budget.

Finally, with this observation, the Africa Group approves the revised budget and establishment structures, and approves the distribution of net appropriation by budgetary chapter, as reflected in Table 7.

Ms Monika DULIAN (European Union)

The EU welcomes the adjustments of the PWB proposed by the Secretariat as requested by the Conference. We would like to make the following points:

First, we welcome the increase of the budgetary allocation for the Strategic Objective K (Gender). This is the first step in the right direction. The EU notes the gender measures undertaken are also dependent on the overall success of the FAO Culture Change and gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization.

Second, we welcome setting the evaluation budget at 0.7 percent of the net appropriation with a view to increase the evaluation budget to 0.8 percent in the future biennium. The EU also calls on all Member States to ensure all provisions will be foreseen for the evaluation of all extra-budgetary projects and programme activities.

Third, the EU awaits further information on the Secretariat's proposal for adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. We would particularly welcome a breakdown of information across the Strategic Objectives by budget chapter. This information on the technical work of FAO will allow informal deliberation ahead of the Programme Committee and Finance Committees in May 2012, and the Council Session shortly thereafter where key decisions will be taken.

Fourth, the EU looks forward as well to the promised identification of USD 6.5 million of additional savings. Finally, Mr Chairperson, the EU would like to recall that the Joint Meeting rejected the proposal to automatically allocate eventual savings, if any, under Functional Objectives X and Y for the Decentralized Offices, and reiterated the need to adhere to the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Thus, the EU cannot accept the last paragraph of the decision box of the document CL 143/3. The EU remains firmly committed to the Decentralization process. We believe that initially, there should be a consensus on a Vision for the Structure and Functioning of FAO's Decentralized Offices network, and then decision on this implementation.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

We appreciate the thorough review and assessment of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Joint Meeting earlier this month on the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget, 2012-13, as proposed by the Director General. We note that the adjustments to the Report are in accord with the guidance provided by Resolution 5/2011 of the FAO Conference in July of this year.

The Near East Group wishes to register the following follow-up evaluation on the adjustments proposed.

The Near East Group welcomes the additional resources of USD 2.7 million for Strategic Objective K, which will raise its share to 1.9 percent of the total net appropriation compared to 1.6 percent before the adjustment.

Work planning for 2012-13 will add another huge USD 2.5 million. We feel that this qualitative adjustment is consistent with the recommendations of the general evaluation. This being said, we wish to stress that while additional resources will help the key element in the success of mainstreaming, gender concerns in FAO work remain slow. The highest attention should be paid to this essential factor.

The Near East Group welcomes the addition to the net appropriation of the Office of Evaluation, which will amount to about USD 1 million for 2012-13, thereby bringing the total of this budget to 0.7 percent of the net appropriation as proposed in the IPA. The Programme Committee which oversees the work of the Evaluation Office, seems to be well-satisfied with the quality of output produced by the Evaluation Office. We are confident that the Evaluation Office can handle successfully two to three Strategic Evaluations every year, apart from its other evaluation activities.

The Near East Regional Group expects the efficiency savings of USD 34.5 million as requested by the Conference Resolution 5/2011. We note that two-thirds of these savings are expected from Functional Objectives X and Y, and one third from the eleven Strategic Objectives. We go along with this broad concurrence of the Programme and Finance Committees regarding this burden sharing, though our preference would be three quarters from the savings achieved through the Functional Objectives X and Y, and one quarter from the eleven Strategic Objectives.

The Near East Group fully endorses the rejection of the last two Joint Meetings of the two Committees on the automatic transfer of any savings from Functional Objective X and Y to Decentralized Offices. We feel such transfers must follow the established procedure. This doesn't mean that the Regional Offices do not need resources, they definitely do.

The Near East Group is happy about the implementation of the first tranche of the Junior Professional Officer Programme, and looks forward to the speedy implementation of the second tranche, with priority given to unrepresented countries, gender equality and preference for Decentralized Offices.

Finally, the Near East Group endorses the views expressed by the two Committees in the Joint Meeting on the adjustment in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, as mentioned in the respective report.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of the document CL 143/3. It is a clear and concise document which responds to the directions provided by the Conference, particularly with regard to the increase of the evaluation budget, the budgetary allocation for Strategic Objective K and the maintenance of the status quo of the Shared Services Centres. The adjustments of the PWB for further efficiency gains and one-time savings were duly taken into account.

The Brazilian delegation notes with satisfaction that the document was elaborated in consultation with the Director-General Elect. We regard such an initiative as an important and fundamental step in order to assure a smooth transition to the new cycle of management, which initiates in a few weeks' time.

This document was analyzed by the Finance and Programme Committees and their conclusions are presented in documents CL 143/12 and CL 143/13. Although they were considered under Agenda Items 5 and 6, we shall keep them in mind in our deliberations on this item.

We appreciate the proposal by the Secretariat that the efficiency gains and one-time savings will be reached without compromising the core activities of the Organizations.

Brazil also welcomes and supports the efforts in the direction of giving particular emphasis to the strengthening of the network of Decentralized Offices, as it was already stated by preceding delegates.

The Brazilian delegation understands that the statement in paragraph 11 of the document represents a mandate to the Director-General. There is no need to talk about the Director-General Elect. The command of the document is to the Director-General to present a review and adjustment to the implementation of its PWB and IPA during the 144th Session of the Council to be held in June 2012.

Finally, upon instructions from my capital, the Brazilian delegation wishes this body to consider in due time, the possibility of revising the appropriate Basic Texts of the Organization in order to introduce specific rules for the transition periods between two mandates of the Director-General, such as roles for the nomination of officers. As an example, the Brazilian legislation prevents the nomination of officers six months before the elections and after them in order to allow the incoming elected authorities to designate the appropriate persons according to their policies and views. We consider it a wise provision. We are ready to share our experience regarding this subject. Having said that, the Brazilian delegation gives its support to document CL 143/3.

Ms Carla Elisa Luis MUCAVI (Mozambique)

My delegation associates itself with the intervention made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group, and we thank the Secretariat for the clear presentation made. We also express appreciation for the quality of the document. We would also like to thank the Programme and Finance Committees for the good work done on the adjustment of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, as requested by the Conference. My delegation endorses the principle that resources that are freed through economies may be utilized to strengthen the Decentralized Offices. These principles go very much in line with the decision taken by the IPA, and also the Africa Regional Conference held in Luanda, whereby the need to reinforce FAO Regional and Sub-regional Offices was emphasized through capacity-building and human and financial resources allocation to better cope with the many challenges imposed on agriculture and food security through the scourge of climate change and the volatility of food prices to just name a few. We are of the opinion that savings directed to Decentralization should be allocated according to the Rules and Regulations of the Organization, taking into account the realities and priorities existing in each and every region.

We also commend the increase of USD 2.7 million to Strategic Objective K, Gender, to restore gender resources in the regions and provide additional resources in the offices and the related departments within Headquarters at all levels. We know that FAO is one of the UN Organizations lagging behind in terms of the 50 percent goal set by the UN on gender balance. We are guided by SOFA on gender published last March that clearly indicated that giving the necessary tools and instruments to women in agriculture would contribute significantly to increasing production and productivity and improve food security. We are also convinced that by acting in this direction we will be able to free a significant number of people still facing hunger and poverty in the world, particularly women and children. Therefore, it is our wish for FAO to identify, at country level, programmes and projects that can improve women's condition, as begun through by SOFA.

We also appreciate the attention given to Technical Cooperation Programmes aiming at building capacity at country level to ensure sustainability and long-term development. In this regard, we support the maintenance of status quo Option 1. We are of the position that full grant should be provided to countries that fall under special assistance and recently-graduated countries. We need to ensure that countries graduated to the category of middle-income are strong enough to sustain this trend in order to avoid setbacks.

In this connection, we also welcome the maintenance of the Shared Services Centre with hubs in Bangkok and Santiago in addition to Budapest, as recommended by the Conference. We are confident that the work of FAO in these regions will be further reinforced in producing better results.

In relation to the JPO Programme designed to promote and recruit targeted groups, particularly from countries that are underrepresented, we are interested in knowing the countries targeted by the 25 staff

recruited and serving the Organization. In this valuable exercise, Africa recommends that a balance in terms of gender and geographical representation be ensured. With regard to the staff recruitment, we are also of the opinion that additional savings can be made at the regional and sub-regional levels if we consider recruiting local professionals with less costs, particularly consultants, bearing in mind the advantage of local expertise required for these posts.

In conclusion, let me express our appreciation for the continuous efforts by management to identify savings and efficiency gains for the 2012-13 budget and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the bold work this Organization is undertaking in the fight against hunger and poverty in the world.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you to the Secretariat for the work they have done on this item, I know it is an important issue for us to consider. I would also like to pass on the thanks to the Programme and Finance Committees for their work on guiding us on this issue as well.

Australia notes that the guidance and direction provided by the Conference has been implemented. In particular, we appreciate the efforts of the Organization to find savings identified in the Conference decision. The Organization has worked hard to find the bulk of these savings, particularly in terms of posts, from within Functional Objectives X and Y, and we are very grateful for this outcome.

We also very much appreciate the efforts to find increased funding for Gender under Strategic Objective K, and to seek further opportunities for work on gender under other Strategic Objectives as outlined in paragraphs 19 and 20. On this basis, Australia supports the Revised Budgeted Post Establishment and Structural Changes, and notes the Revised Distribution of the Net Appropriation by Budget Chapter.

We are, however, unable to support all of the proposals made in this paper. As other delegations have outlined, Australia is not prepared to support a blanket approval of any additional savings found against Functional Objectives X and Y. It was only a few short months ago that we met to consider the budget, and we were told at that time that there were no further savings to be made. In fact, the well was beyond dry, I seem to recall. Yet only months later, we are now being asked to give endorsement to a blanket proposal to spend further savings that might be found.

Furthermore, we note that the USD 6.5 million of savings are yet to be found, and will be left for the incoming Director-General to identify. While we accept the postponement of a decision on this USD 6.5 million, we remain convinced that these savings must be found before any decision on the use of any additional savings can be taken. Furthermore, we expect that these savings should also predominantly be found in Functional Objectives X and Y.

Finally, we reject this proposal on the basis of procedure. Through the IEE and the IPA that followed, FAO Member Nations have sought to establish a viable and practical prioritization process. Such a process is crucial for the effective functioning of this Organization. Yet proposals such as this entirely by-pass those processes and this is not acceptable to my delegation. Any further savings identified should be handled consistently with the Financial Regulations of the Organization and considered by the Programme Committee against the needs and the capacity of the Organization to deliver results. On this basis, we firmly support the recommendations of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and Joint Meetings.

We also wish to take this opportunity to make 4 additional points regarding the PWB:

Firstly, we were disappointed at the need to convene a Special Session of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee to consider changes to the PWB. The consequence of this decision was that this paper has been unable to be revised to take into account the recommendations of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. This greatly undermines the role of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, makes the work of this Council much more difficult and wastes significant time and effort. We request that the Secretariat avoid such situations in the future. We should know of these needs well in advance and programme the work through the Multi-Programme of Work for both the Programme and Finance Committees.

Secondly, can the Secretariat explain in further detail the Broader Review and Adjustments to the PWB and IPA, as outlined in the final sentence of the Suggested Actions Box at the front of this document?

Thirdly, paragraph 50 notes that there will need to be a range of transfers between Chapters as was the case in 2010-11. We accept this need, but ask that these transfers be separately identified from other changes to the PWB, particularly those where the work is no longer needed, work is delayed or other such changes to the Programme.

Finally, Paragraph 51 talks about on-going review of posts, including the out-posted Information Officers. We suggested that these Officers, as well as the whole network of Liaison Officers, be carefully reviewed to ensure that such significant expenditure is, indeed, required, and is considered against the priorities in other parts of the Organization, particularly the on-ground work in countries. We suggest that consideration be given to an evaluation of the performance and efficacy of these posts.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for presenting us the document on Adjustments to the PWB 2012-13.

Firstly, we support the opinion expressed by the delegate from Africa on the adjustments. The Chinese delegation, in principle, supports the proposal from the Secretariat on the adjustments. We support the increase of budget on the Strategic Objective K. We also endorse that without compromising the implementation of IPA, we should reduce the number of budgeted posts. We support the Secretariat while keeping the relevant programmes, and we support the Secretariat in achieving more efficiency gains. In recent years, the Secretariat has been exploring ways and means for achieving these gains and certain results have been achieved. We hope that the Secretariat would, basing itself on the spirit of spending less, doing more, and to increase further efficiency in considering the necessity to step up the work of Decentralized Offices, our delegation endorses the Secretariat's proposal in using the efficiency gains at Headquarters in the Decentralized Offices.

Ms Su-jin PARK (Republic of Korea)

We appreciate the Secretariat for the adjustment of the PWB 2012-13 under the decisions of the 37th Session of the Conference. We support the increase in the Evaluation Budget up to 0.7 percent of net appropriation, increasing both the location for Strategic Objective K by USD 2.7 million and the maintenance of the Shared Services Centre. As for the request of the Conference to find further efficiency gains, one-time savings of USD 34.5 million, we appreciate the effort of the Secretariat in identifying the bulk of efficiency gains and one-time savings. However, we would like to see further identification of the remaining USD 6.5 million at the earliest possible opportunity.

As for the post adjustment, we appreciate the effort of the Secretariat to reduce the number of budgeted posts. As for the plan to recruit an additional 25 staff members under the Junior Professional Programme, we would like to see that it is implemented without delay, and women and nationals from non- or under-represented developing countries should be given priority in the selection. Regarding the decision of the Joint Meeting in rejecting the proposal to automatically allocate additional possible savings under Functional Objectives X and Y to the Decentralized Offices, we respect the decision of the Joint Meeting in pointing out the need to follow the appropriate Rules of Procedure.

However, in principle we believe the adequate resources should be allocated to Decentralized Offices. Taking this opportunity, as for the transfer of resources to Decentralized Offices we would like to emphasise the need for adequate financial resources to be provided to the Asia Region, commensurate with the challenges of achieving food security there, which is home to two-thirds of the world's poor and hungry. We would therefore like to call upon FAO to allocate resources accordingly.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

While Canada is generally supportive of the Secretariat's proposed adjustments to the PWB 2012-13, we must say that we are quite disappointed that the details behind the changes are almost non-existent beyond the Strategic Objective level. We have been told that there will be no programmatic impacts of

the adjustments. Unfortunately, it is difficult for us to assess that and I know we have been told that we will get further details at our May Programme Committee Session and probably, I believe, also at the Finance Committee Session, but this is six months into the new biennium. This timing and logical sequence must change to ensure increased Member Nations' engagement.

Canada surely hopes that the respective ADGs provide Members with increased comfort-level regarding these changes and that the Secretariat offer additional details on where the USD 6.5 million of still-to-be defined savings are going to be coming from.

As other Members have talked about this morning, Canada strongly objects to the last paragraph in the Executive Summary, and paragraphs 55 and 61 regarding the reallocation of efficiency savings to Decentralized Offices. This is not consistent with Programme Committee and Finance Committee decisions, where both Governing Bodies rejected FAO's intent that savings would be deemed available to Decentralized Offices without assessing all priorities of the Organization. On this note, Canada does associate itself with comments made by our colleague from Australia on the principle and spirit of IPA regarding the reallocations based on priorities.

It is essential that we, as FAO Members, receive a comprehensive action plan that illustrates an improved rationalized and streamlined regional architecture in conjunction with decisions on priorities when we actually debate the reallocation of future efficiency savings. These priorities should be discussed as a whole and, while I acknowledge the fact that in paragraph 11 of this document there are discussions regarding the budget transfers according to Financial Regulation 4.5, we actually think this is of a more fundamental nature and increased debate with the entire Membership would be important.

Finally, Canada is very pleased with the additional funding provided to the evaluation function and the gender activities. However, we strongly request further details on how the money is going to be spent, for example, in mainstreaming gender activities throughout FAO.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Compartimos y respaldamos las expresiones y la declaración que efectuó Brasil, a lo cual agregamos algunos puntos en particular.

Queremos hacer un reconocimiento a la Secretaría y a los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas por el esfuerzo que están haciendo para tratar de llevar adelante los ajustes siguiendo la recomendación de la Conferencia en el sentido de no comprometer los programas de la Organización.

También nos unimos a las otras delegaciones que han expresado su apoyo al refuerzo de recursos para cumplir con el Objetivo K.

Apoyamos también y reconocemos el mantenimiento de Centro de Servicios Compartidos.

Coincidimos con otras delegaciones en que es conveniente contar con la mayor cantidad de información técnica posible a fin de tener los elementos necesarios para hacer un seguimiento del plan de ajuste, y para poder dar constancia de que se están cumpliendo con los programas de la Organización.

Queremos remarcar nuevamente de que consideramos que el proceso de Descentralización y las Oficinas Descentralizadas necesitan todo el apoyo posible en materia de recursos humanos y de recursos financieros. Esperamos que todos podamos seguir trabajando para poder otorgar ese respaldo de la manera más conveniente.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

While agreeing with my colleague from the Republic of Korea on the statement made by the Asia Group, the Delegation of India welcomes the proposal from the Director-General seeking adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 for further efficiency gains, one-time savings and forecasted use of the unspent balance in line with the guidelines provided by the Conference.

We especially welcome the budgetary allocation for Strategic Objective K on gender and the allocation of USD 2.7 million for this purpose.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the hike in the budget evaluation office and the maintenance of the status quo of the Shared Services Centre.

On the issue of Decentralization, we discussed this topic yesterday. We endorse the proposal to strengthen the Decentralization Process, and this has been very well-emphasized in the Joint Meeting Report. Significant guidance was provided and emphasis was placed to accelerate the implementation of the Decentralization. In that proposal also, reference was made to even review the functioning of the Liaison Offices as part of the process of Decentralization. It is time that resources identified are located so that the process is not further delayed. The process of Decentralization is one of the priority areas identified under the IPA. In fact, when you come to the topic of discussion under IPA, one of the areas which has witnessed major delays is that of Decentralization. Hence, this is a priority area, and it is time that we allocate resources to it. Of course, we have to follow the procedures regarding the Financial Regulations, but having said that, the process of Decentralization will only take place if the Decentralization Process is complete. I would therefore like to endorse the view that it is time that we not only identify the resources, but also find the way to reach these countries.

Mr Agus Prithatin SAPTONO (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the work and for presenting the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, which was requested by the 37th Session of the Conference.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the delegation of Korea, on behalf of the Asia Group.

My delegation is of the view that the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 have been considerably satisfied, again as provided by the Conference which covers, among others, the budgetary allocation for Strategic Objectives, the overall increase in Regular Programme-funded posts beyond a new post related to the implementation of the IPA and the maintenance of the status quo in the Shared Services Centre to be kept to the absolute minimum. We, therefore, take note that the guidance and decision of the Conference have been implemented.

My delegation welcomes the revised post establishment which leads to the net reduction of 9 non-IPA posts in comparison to 2010-11, which is 47 posts fewer than in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. We take note and welcome the efficiency gains amounting to USD 34.5 million through adjustments to the post establishment reduction in volume of travel, better planning of publications, improved cost recoveries, administrative and other measures.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

I was very happy to see that we started on time at 9.30 this morning, so it looks like a clever proposal last evening to say 9:15 because it worked. So, congratulations.

The United States of America thanks the Secretariat for identifying additional efficiencies and one-time savings, as requested by the Member Nations at the last Conference.

The United States endorses the PWB adjustments as proposed by the Secretariat, particularly the increase to gender allocations. We note that USD 6.5 million of the USD 34.5 million total savings requested at Conference remain to be found, and we support providing the new Director-General a degree of flexibility and time in order to find this and any additional savings. We look forward to hearing early next year about these further efficiencies.

Finally, in line with comments made by numerous other speakers, the United States rejects the concept of automatic transfers within the budget. We are fully prepared to carry out our responsibilities as a Member Nation in this regard, including to ensure that programmes are prioritized.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thailand appreciates the work done by the Secretariat in response to the guidance and decisions of the last Conference on adjustments to the PWB 2012-13.

We are happy to learn that the additional USD 2.7 million will be allocated to Strategic Objective K for gender, and concur with it.

We look forward to receiving reports on the recruitment of a new tranche of 25 Junior Professional Officers in 2012, with details on nationalities and working stations of this group as well as of the previously recruited group. We hope that the Junior Professional Programme will help improve the gender balance and under-representation status of several developing countries. However, working stations for these JPOs should be identified, based on the Organization's missing technical skills, and publicized. Working stations should not be limited only to Headquarters, as Decentralized Offices need to be rejuvenated as well. We believe that this new generation can partly refresh and re-energize the spirit of Culture Change in the Organization.

As for the proposed automatic transfer of savings for Functional Objectives X and Y to Decentralized Offices, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the Asia Group. Although we all wish to strengthen the Decentralized Offices, we agree with the Joint Meeting that the Finance Committee should be involved in the transfer process for the sake of transparency and effectiveness, as specified in the Financial Regulations.

What my delegation would like to underline is that in transferring savings, the Finance Committee should take into consideration the magnitude of undernourishment in Asia as a specific requirement due to its current decentralized office structure.

In strengthening Human Resources in the Decentralized Offices, we do associate ourselves with the statement made by the Africa Group that more national professionals staff or national consultants should be recruited.

With this, Mr Chairperson, we approve all the proposed adjustments to the PWB 2012-13.

Mr Tetsuji IWAMA (Japan)

Japan appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the proposal for the budget adjustments. We commit ourselves to the new PWB, which was unanimously supported at the Conference in July, and we support the proposal of adjustment before us, recognizing that the adjustment is in accordance with the decision of the Conference. We hope that the new PWB is effectively implemented for eradicating the world's hunger under the leadership of the new Director-General.

First, we would like to make two comments on this occasion. We request that the Secretariat follow the recommendations made by the Conference, including the implementation of the IPA and improvement in the recovery of support costs. With respect to the support costs policy, it is not adequate that unrecovered cost is charged to extra-budgetary projects. It is also necessary to minimize the costs, so that we can achieve the efficiency in real terms.

Second, we recognize that the Secretariat will voluntarily make efforts for identifying additional savings. The effort itself is preferable and Decentralized Offices should be strengthened. However, we cannot agree with the proposal to automatically allocate freed up resources, if any, to the Decentralized Offices. We support the Australian view that the resources of USD 6.5 million savings should be identified before trying to find further savings, and we request that the Secretariat consult the relevant Governing Bodies on the allocation of the additional savings in accordance with the Financial Regulations, so that the Member Nations feel certain that the allocation and priority setting are appropriate.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

We agree with the proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. In doing so, we also note and support the comments made by the Programme and Finance Committees on this subject in the Report of the Joint Meeting on 3 November.

In particular, we welcome the increase in resources for FAO's work on Strategic Objective K - Gender. We underline, as the Programme and Finance Committees have also done, that these measures are also dependent on the overall success of the FAO Culture Change efforts and gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization.

Indeed, the adjustments represent only reinstating a minimum of organizational capacity to allow FAO to work adequately with gender-related challenges and tasks. We look forward to further information on utilization, and the results of these additional allocations.

We also welcome the follow-up to the request from the FAO Conference with regard to improved support costs recovery.

Lastly, we agree with the comments made by the EU and others with regard to the last paragraph of the suggested action by the Council with regard to the principle of utilizing freed up resources in the Decentralized Offices.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

La delegación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, desea agradecer la exhaustiva presentación realizada el día de ayer, por la funcionaria de la Oficina de estrategia y planificación de gestión de recursos de la FAO, y por los presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Luego de revisar la documentación presentada y en conocimientos de los esfuerzos cumplidos por los Países Miembros, en las discusiones sustantivas que tuvieron lugar en las reuniones de los Comité del Programa y de Finanzas realizadas después de la Conferencia, respaldamos los ajustes propuestos al PTP para el 2012-13 en relación con nuevos aumentos de eficiencia, ahorros no recurrentes y el uso previsto del saldo no utilizado de 2010-11 para actividades relacionadas con el PIA en 2012-13, así como el mantenimiento del estatus del Centro de Servicios Compartidos como ha sido solicitado por la Conferencia, y como insistentemente expresábamos los Países Miembros de la inconveniencia de reemplazar la condición actual de estos servicios.

Nos complace que los aumentos de eficiencia se hayan obtenido principalmente de los ajustes en los Objetivos Funcionales X e Y, 66 por ciento en total para proteger la ejecución de los programas.

Igualmente, estamos satisfechos con la fusión del equipo multidisciplinario para América del Sur con la Oficina Regional para América latina y el Caribe y con los cambios de la Oficina Sub-Regional para América Central, la cual pasara a denominarse oficina Sub-Regional para Mesoamérica como ha sido solicitado por la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, realizada en Panamá en el 2010.

En este sentido, hacemos un llamado a la administración a que continúe estudiando opciones para obtener economías en la consecución de los Objetivos Funcionales X e Y durante 2012-13, después de lograr los ahorros necesarios de tal manera que los mismos puedan ser utilizados para fortalecer y acelerar el Proceso de Descentralización tal como lo ha establecido el PIA, ya que es una aspiración de todos los Países Miembros. Ya en el día de ayer, saludábamos la asignación de recursos por esta misma vía para el desarrollo de estas estrategias referidas al tema de género.

Consideramos importante que la plenaria del Consejo y sus Órganos Rectores hagan seguimientos de estos temas durante la ejecución del PTP y en particular el 144º período de sesiones del Consejo, que tendrá lugar en junio de 2012.

Respaldamos lo expuesto por la Representación de Brasil y muy especialmente lo referente a la posibilidad que sea revisado y se trabaje en la revisión del marco normativo para complementar los Textos Fundamentales que facilite las gestiones en estos procesos de cambio, porque estamos viviendo precisamente un proceso inédito para el traspaso de funciones en la dirección general de la FAO y, debe esta lección aprendida servir para que se diseñe un marco adecuado para regir este tipo de procesos.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Muy brevemente siguiendo con sus indicaciones quisiéramos agradecer el documento presentado el cual refleja en gran parte las solicitudes que hiciera la pasada conferencia en su 37º período de sesiones con relación al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto (PTP) para el próximo bienio 2012-13, el cual apoyamos plenamente.

Como los señalamos durante la Conferencia, nuestra delegación consideraba que los recursos destinados al objetivo de Género eran realmente insuficientes, por lo que compartimos plenamente el

incremento propuesto para el mismo, y queremos recordar que es fundamental para este asunto el Cambio de Cultura de la FAO.

Por otra parte, como lo han indicado otras delegaciones, estimamos que la Descentralización es un Objetivo Fundamental de la Reforma de la FAO, por lo que es necesario que se incremente el respaldo a la misma. Nos permitimos señalar la satisfacción por la ampliación de la Oficina Sub-regional para América Central, ampliándola a Mesoamérica. Respal damos al ajuste presentado e instamos a realizar esfuerzos para su efectiva aplicación.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I align myself with the intervention which was made by Zimbabwe on the behalf of the Africa Regional Group. I also appreciate the adjustments which have been made by the Secretariat. I think that the equation on the level of the budget is now sorted out.

My delegation has two issues which I would like to raise.

One is in regard to one-time savings. This seems now to have become a habit because the previous year or the year we are ending, we had one-time savings. This year, we are having one-time savings and as far as I understand and I stand to be corrected by the Secretariat, one-time savings means postponing an activity or activities, to be reinstated maybe the following biennium. Sometimes when you postpone the activity or activities, some of the activities are either interconnected or integrated to other activities which means you are taking the full action. Therefore, I would like to recommend that as far as possible, let us stop this habit of having one-time savings because it is very much counter-productive in the operation of the programmes. It seems that when we come to a point whereby we are trying to balance the equation, that is, having the level of the budget, we rush to tell the Management to find one-time savings which I do not see as appropriate because we have to promote the habit where we negotiate the level of the budget that the Secretariat can realistically implement. I would like to say that all the areas which we have agreed to during negotiations should be taken seriously. In fact, the teams who work on the budget should use them as a frame of reference to guide them accordingly when they are proposing another budget for the coming biennium.

The second point is in regard to the reallocation of the savings which will be forthcoming. I fully agree that we have to follow the Financial Regulations regarding the USD 6.5 million. However, we cannot ignore what was proposed by the Secretariat because it is really an indicator of the importance of Decentralization, and many speakers here have indicated that Decentralization remains one of our very important priority areas in this Organization.

M. Hubert POFRET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Je voudrais rapidement faire cinq remarques. La Suisse accueille avec satisfaction l'augmentation du budget de 2,7 millions de dollars alloués à l'Objectif stratégique K. La deuxième remarque, nous sommes opposés comme d'autres délégations à la proposition d'allouer automatiquement aux Bureaux décentralisés, les économies supplémentaires qui seraient éventuellement réalisées au titre des Objectifs fonctionnels X et Y. La troisième remarque est que nous estimons que tout nouvel ajustement apporté au Programme de travail et budget devrait être effectué selon des procédures établies. Quatrièmement, nous invitons la FAO à poursuivre la recherche de gains d'efficacité et, notamment, de réexaminer la possibilité d'établir un Centre des services communs à Budapest. La cinquième remarque finalement, s'agit d'un point qui est important pour mon pays, c'est le processus de Décentralisation qu'il convient selon nous de mener rapidement à son terme avec une claire formulation des priorités et en favorisant aussi une participation plus active des pays et des régions à leur établissement.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

Merci à tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole dans le cadre de ce point de l'Ordre du jour, et surtout pour les félicitations que nous avons reçues pour le travail que nous avons fait au sein de notre Comité. Nous notons qu'il y a un certain nombre de questions qui ont été posées, mais je voudrais revenir sur certains points, sur lesquels je pense qu'au moment où nous allons prendre une décision, il faudrait apporter un éclairage supplémentaire de la part du Comité financier.

Par rapport au budget de l'évaluation, c'est une augmentation qui avait été sollicitée, les discussions au sein du Comité financier sur cette question ont été très positives. Dans l'ensemble, les Membres n'ont pas été réticents par rapport à l'augmentation budgétaire demandée et nous avons pensé que 0,7 pour cent d'augmentation de budget en ce moment pourrait être suffisant alors que le PAI demande qu'on aille jusqu'à un pour cent. Je pense que 0,7 pour cent est un niveau acceptable. C'est pour cela que la recommandation de l'Afghanistan tout à l'heure demandant que le Bureau de l'évaluation puisse faire des évaluations stratégiques, deux à trois évaluations stratégiques par biennium est une recommandation qui mérite d'être prise en considération par le Bureau de l'évaluation parce que cette augmentation budgétaire tient compte de cette donne.

L'autre question qui a également été débattue était celle du transfert automatique des gains d'efficacité supplémentaires qui seraient collectés entre temps. Ce qui est dit dans le carré de décisions n'est pas exactement la décision définitive qui a été proposée par les deux Comités. Le document ayant été préparé avant le Comité, un certain nombre de personnes avait demandé à ce que nous corrigions le document du Secrétariat. De notre point de vue, nous avons pensé que ce ne serait pas une bonne chose de corriger un document qui est préparé par le Directeur général, mais qu'il convenait de prendre une décision qui allait dans notre sens.

C'est pour cela que dans le Rapport du Comité financier, vous voyez très bien que la position du Comité financier est claire sur cette question. Le document qui avait été préparé par le Directeur général reste en l'état mais la proposition y référant qui est intégrée dans le Rapport du Comité financier fait état de notre décision et nous pensons que c'est dans ce sens que cette décision pourrait être mise en œuvre.

Par ailleurs, nous notons que deux Régions ont insisté pour qu'on envisage que lorsqu'il y a, même si on applique la Règle financière 4,5 des transferts, que l'on considère que les éléments de la Décentralisation restent prioritaires dans ce transfert. Je crois que c'est une idée qui a été évoquée et est justifiée. Il y a autre chose que nous devons soulever également. La Conférence a demandé qu'il y ait des gains d'efficacité de 34,5 millions de dollars. Le travail du Secrétariat dans ce sens doit être reconnu parce que ce n'était pas une chose tout à fait évidente d'aller dans les chapitres administratifs pour trouver 34,5 millions de dollars. Nous pensons que, en amont, il y a eu des consultations informelles entre les Membres du Comité financier, les Membres du Comité du programme et le Secrétariat pour arriver à un consensus. Le travail qui a été fait reflète ces consultations qui se sont tenues par ailleurs.

Il reste les 6,5 millions de dollars qu'il faudrait retrouver et nous notons que le Conseil demande que cela soit le plus rapidement. Je crois que le travail sera fait en consultation avec le Directeur Général élu dès le 1er janvier 2012. Ce travail sera donc fait en consultation avec lui. Pendant nos discussions, l'emphase a été mise sur le fait que le Directeur général élu a eu sa plume dans la préparation des ajustements du budget. C'est en connaissance de cause qu'il commencera son travail et proposera de nouvelles choses. La discussion a été longue sur le Programme des jeunes professionnels sur le choix des candidats, la répartition géographique et le genre convenable. Toute ces discussions ont eu lieu au sein du Comité et c'est pour cela que la résolution la plus importante est que l'on reconnaisse que c'est un programme qui est en marche. Pour cette raison, nous avons demandé que la deuxième tranche pour le biennium soit immédiatement mise en œuvre et que l'on fasse face rapidement au recrutement de la deuxième vague de ces Jeunes professionnels. La question du maintien du status quo du Centre des services commun a également été beaucoup discutée, mais je pense que c'est une décision sage pour le moment de garder ce status quo. Les Membres du Comité ont eux-mêmes examiné d'une manière profonde toutes les alternatives qui s'offrent à l'instant dans le cadre de la question de la Décentralisation. Le maintien du status quo a été perçu comme l'élément essentiel dans ce cadre.

Sur les détails, je sais que le Canada a exprimé un certain inconfort par rapport aux chiffres qui sont donnés parce les détails n'ont pas été donnés. Nous nous sommes refusés d'entrer dans le «micro-management» et je pense que les éléments essentiels qui nous ont été proposés par le Secrétariat nous ont aidés à prendre une décision en connaissance de cause. C'est pour cela que nous ne nous sommes pas penchés sur les questions de «combien on prendra de quel chapitre pour mettre dans tel autre chapitre». Nous avons l'enveloppe globale.

Au courant de l'année 2012, nous pourrions assainir un certain nombre de malentendus ou d'incompréhensions qui se dégageront.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, certaines remarques que je voulais soumettre à l'attention du Conseil pour que la décision tout à l'heure tienne compte de tous ces éléments qu'il y a eu lors de nos discussions. Je vous remercie.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just wanted to add a few details regarding the evaluation. We all know that he who does not know his history is doomed to repeat its mistakes. Evaluations are one important part of FAO's work to lay down a baseline and also to be able to see the development that has occurred in the Organization. For instance, when it comes to the Gender Evaluation, we really do hope that the next time we have such an evaluation, there will be substantial results. I would just like to remind us that the Programme Committee reaffirms the importance of evaluation. We concurred the 0.7 allocation, and are awaiting to reach the IPA goal of 0.8 percent.

I would also like to remind ourselves that we are now in an extraordinary period which should not arise in the future. That might explain why we have some problems in getting clear figures in time for our work to be more comprehensive Member Nations, on the other hand, are very willing to undertake this work and as Canada pointed out there is some information that we would like to have to be able to look closer at the programmatic issues. But I am sure that we will get this in future, well in advance.

As the Programme and Finance Committees are preparatory bodies, it would be good if there could be a development from the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee meetings to the Council, that is, the documents that are prepared for the Council would take into account the work that has been done leading up to the Council.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

I would like to sincerely thank all delegates for their very positive and constructive interventions in endorsing this document. I would like to say at the outset that the preparation of the adjustments to the PWB has been greatly facilitated by the very clear decisions and guidance provided by the Conference. This document is intended to only respond to those decisions and guidance. This is also our first experience with the new process of adjusting the Programme of Work and Budget after the Conference going through the Council, before the implementation of the PWB, and we have several lessons to learn from this. We have heard several delegates pointing out the need for additional or different types of information that could facilitate the review and approval of adjustments in the future. We need to learn from this experience in this round. We are now ready to start implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget on 1 January.

As I mentioned in my introduction, it is important to underline that these adjustments do not contain any programmatic changes, other than those related to Strategic Objective K, where the Conference did request that we allocate more resources, which we have done, to provide the basis for embarking on Gender Mainstreaming of gender and the Culture Change process. As has been said numerous times, particularly in the Programme Committee and by others, by Mr Ghanem and Ms Villarreal, who are leading the Gender Mainstreaming process: it is about people, it is not about resources. The allocation of these resources provides only the basis for moving forward. The Organization takes seriously the need to mainstream and change the culture in order to take the best advantage of women's role in agriculture. As you heard yesterday, we will be providing an annual report from the two Deputy Director-Generals on the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming, and we would hope this would meet the concerns that have been expressed by several Members on receiving additional information on implementation.

Now if I could touch briefly on further adjustments. As I said in my opening remarks, any further adjustments to the PWB will be handled in accordance with the agreed procedures, including Financial Regulation 4.5. As we implement the PWB, we go through a process of work planning, and during implementation there are always going to be some changes made to reflect changing circumstances and the modes of implementation. These changes are always brought back to the Programme and Finance Committees for review. We are now, just this week, finishing, for example, the detailed work

planning process which is the final step in preparing for implementation under the agreed programme, planning and budgeting process. Any resulting shifts in budget allocations that arise from work planning together with any other shifts that may occur during the first few months of implementation will, as usual, be put before the Programme and Finance Committees. They are meeting in May and in June. This will also include the proposals on how to achieve the remaining USD 6.5 million in efficiency savings. The document before you, paragraphs 51 to 57, outlines several measures that we intend to pursue to find these savings and any other savings that we can find.

There have been several comments made about the share of the savings between the Functional Objectives and the Strategic Objectives; we are now at about two-thirds in the Functional Objectives X and Y and one-third in the Strategic Objectives. That ratio could shift, depending on where we find the additional USD 6.5 million in savings, but I think that it is important to underline that efficiencies are not just in the Functional Objectives. There are staff and resources under the Strategic Objectives that are carrying out support and administrative work that can be streamlined. Already in this document, several of the posts that have been removed from the budget under the Strategic Objectives, in fact, relate to those type of support services. So it is important to bear in mind that efficiencies cut across all the work of the Organization, not just those of administration and support to Members.

A question was asked about the broader review and adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget referred to in the document. As we embark on implementation, and as you will hear also the Director-General Elect speak later in the session, any further proposed adjustments will be brought back through the normal governance process for consideration by the Council. I would also like to recall that in terms of implementation, we have in place a two-stage process of reporting on implementation of the PWB: we provide at the end of the first year the mid-term review, which assesses our progress against our organizational outputs, as well as the budgetary performance. Then at the end of the biennium, we undertake an assessment of performance against the indicators. We will continue to refine this process, to be able to report on the implementation of this Programme of Work and Budget and take into account the lessons learned in preparing the next Medium-Term Plan, which you will also be considering during the course of the next 18-20 months.

There were a few other questions relating to Decentralization, and the Junior Professionals Programme, for others to provide comments.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

Following the observations from Members, I should like to comment on three matters: unidentified savings, Decentralization and the Junior Professional Programme.

On the question of savings, the Conference in its budget Resolution requires that Management find further efficiency gains, one-time savings and unspent 2010-11 balance to an amount of USD 34.5 million. As noted in the adjustments to the PWB document, USD 6.5 million of additional savings have yet to be identified. Clearly, in terms of pecking order, savings required to comply with the Conference Resolution take precedence over other actions. Functional Objectives X and Y were highlighted by the Conference as an area of savings. Now regarding the use of savings in Functional Objectives X and Y, document CL 143/3 refers to "the principle". It requested the Council to endorse "the principle that resources freed out through economies in the delivery of Functional Objectives X and Y, if any, will be utilized to strengthen Decentralized Offices". There is not a reference to automatic transfers in this document or, indeed, in the Decentralization document where, for example, in paragraph 22 there was a similar request. I would, therefore, like to underline what Mr Haight has said, that there is no intention - and there was no intention - to set aside the process of review as required under Financial Regulation 4.5. The intention was, and is, to simply recognize the high priority that is accorded to strengthening Decentralization. The question of automaticity in a sense took a life of its own.

Turning to Decentralization more specifically, we discussed yesterday the importance of the Country Programming Framework and, indeed, the importance of the Country Programming Framework to contribute to bringing greater focus in FAO's in-country work, better integration of emergency and development activities and also in our resource mobilization efforts.

In response to questions raised by Zimbabwe, the preparation of Country Programming Frameworks will require support from various quarters, depending also upon the presence and the capacity of FAO's staff at country, sub-regional and regional level. For example, in the region of Europe and Central Asia, we have very limited country presence, and therefore effective support in preparing the Country Programming Frameworks in 2012 may well require the active input from Headquarters colleagues as well.

We have also started the internal process of preparing the document on the Vision of Decentralization for each of the Regional Conferences. We anticipate that the document for each Regional Conference will include text and elements that are common across all regions. At the same time, we also anticipate that it will highlight separate and specific issues of interest to each of the regions. From early 2012, there will be opportunities for consultation on arrangements for review with the Regional Groups.

Finally, turning to the question raised by Thailand and others on the Junior Professional Programme. I should advise that the first cohort of 18 Junior Professionals were all recruited to technical functions, with a focus on capacity-building at the country level. In terms of numbers, 13 Junior Professionals have been assigned to Decentralized Offices and five to Headquarters Technical Departments. Therefore, no Junior Professionals have been assigned to administrative functions. In terms of the profile of the Junior Professionals, out of the 18 recruited earlier this year, 11 are female, 11 are from non- or under-represented countries, and 11 are from developing countries. We will continue to give emphasis to technical functions and decentralized postings in 2012. We will also give emphasis to gender and geographical balance in recruiting the new cohort of 25 Junior Professionals in 2012.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant que je tire les propositions et les conclusions, y a-t-il une autre demande d'information, d'échange ou de prise de position. Je pense que chacun a pu s'exprimer et, si je peux me permettre une réflexion personnelle, je trouve que cette démarche de préparation du budget avant la Conférence, de discussions par la suite, augure bien pour la préparation du budget suivant vu l'engagement que vous avez pris les uns ou les autres. J'ai cru comprendre que l'Afghanistan souhaitait prendre la parole.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I just want to raise that no one replied to the very fundamental question that was asked by the Ambassador of Tanzania about these one-time savings. The Conference passes a budget, the Conference also passes fund savings in this budget and then try to come up again to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee and the Council about the use of those savings. So that means the original planning was deficient. If it wasn't deficient, then why should the Conference ask for savings? This fundamental issue must be solved. There has to be an end to these one-time savings? I think no-one answered his question.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

Of course, the guidance of the Conference is what it is; while it allows for one-time savings, I can say that there are no one-time savings among the currently-identified efficiency savings and gains in the adjustments to the PWB. Of the remaining USD 6.5 million in savings to be found, we are coming back to you next year. As noted by the delegates, one-time savings do create issues in terms of how those savings are then reinstated in the future.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for answering one of my questions. What I wanted to know, or what I suggested, was that we should stop this habit of having one-time savings. My question was that when we have a one-time saving, as introduced in this current biennium, it meant that we were postponing activities with rare impacts on other inter-connected programme activities. So my proposal was that we should have a budget which is well worked out by Management and the Membership. So that when we get to a level of the budget, we should not surrender and tell Management to please go and find one-time savings. Savings can be found in efficiencies and other things, but when you go and find one-time savings, that means a lot to me.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Cette demande fait appel à notre futur budget. Comme nous l'avons dit à plusieurs reprises, nous devons anticiper le plus loin possible, y compris d'ailleurs la réunion sur les financements extra budgétaires, et je le rappelle, pour que le Conseil au mois d'avril 2013 puisse prendre des décisions définitives pour proposer à la Conférence. Votre appel est en amont de faire en sorte que nous puissions en discuter et avoir des prévisions les plus précises possibles et que le Comité financier puisse intégrer tout cela dans la remarque.

Je rappelle, malgré tout, que ce sont les États Membres qui définissent le niveau de budget et donc ce ne sont peut être pas des économies ponctuelles mais ce sont des économies qu'il faudra pouvoir faire et nous avons bien entendu cette démarche de proposition.

Je vous propose, donc, comme conclusion à l'ajustement du Programme de travail 2013 pour le point 3: «Ayant examiné les ajustements proposés au Programme de travail et Budget 2012-13 qui ont été préparés en consultation avec le Directeur général élu, le Conseil a noté: qu'ils sont conformes aux orientations et décisions de la trente septième session de la Conférence, notamment en ce qui concerne:

- Point 1. Le budget de l'évaluation fixé à 0,7 pour cent du montant net des crédits ouverts.
- Point 2. Le budget alloué à l'objectif stratégique K, équité homme/femme.
- Point 3. Le troisième point, le maintien du status quo pour le Centre de service commun.
- Point 4. Le maintien au strict minimum de l'augmentation du nombre des postes financés par le Programme ordinaire à part les nouveaux postes liés à la mise en œuvre du PAI.
- Point 5. Les gains d'efficacité trouvés principalement dans les Objectifs fonctionnels X et Y, et
- Point 6. Les changements structurels concernant les bureaux régionaux pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale et pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes».

Selon les avis formulés par les deux Comités et leurs réunions conjointes, le Conseil a approuvé les changements structurels et le budget révisé pour les créations de postes et la nouvelle répartition des crédits ouverts par chapitre budgétaire.

Enfin, le Conseil a noté que d'autres virements budgétaires pourraient être effectués lors de la planification du travail et par l'utilisation des modalités de mise en œuvre plus efficace et efficiente pendant l'exercice biennal soulignant que tout ajustement ultérieur au PTB y compris d'éventuels transferts budgétaires, et l'affectation d'économies supplémentaires se feraient conformément aux procédures en vigueur, en particulier, l'Article 4.5 du Règlement financier et en fonction des priorités. Voilà les éléments qui seront soumis pour le Comité de rédaction.

Merci à chacun d'entre vous, merci aux deux Présidents, merci au Secrétariat pour la présentation et la réponse aux questions. Le Point 3 est donc clos.

10. Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation (CL 143/10)

10. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (CL 143/10)

10. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 143/10)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au point dix: le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate. Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole à Monsieur David Benfield. Monsieur Juneja auparavant, et ensuite Monsieur David Benfield. Monsieur Juneja, vous avez la parole.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

Document CL 143/10 updates the information presented to Conference in July, and reports on progress in IPA implementation during the second half of 2011.

The progress report has been considered by the Finance and Programme Committees and their Joint Session on 2-4 November 2011. At these meetings, Members “acknowledged that IPA implementation has reached a critical stage with some of the most difficult IPA actions in terms of complexity, risk and inter-dependencies carrying forward to 2012-13”.

In quantitative terms, further good progress achieved during the second half of 2011 is described by the number of IPA actions completed. By end-December 2011, approximately 80 percent of the total number of IPA actions will be completed, leaving approximately 20 percent to carry forward to 2012-13. As rightly noted by the Programme and Finance Committees, these 20 percent of actions include the most complex IPA actions. In the months ahead, Management will be concentrating its efforts on the measures required to ensure timely and successful closure of IPA implementation during 2012-13.

The overriding measure of success of the FAO renewal is benefits’ realization. FAO renewal provides a quantifiable return on investment as well as qualitative improvements.

An action that has led to quantifiable recurring savings includes the tenders awarded through the Rome-based Common Procurement Team with WFP and IFAD. Also by way of example, recurring savings will be realized through the revamped arrangements for corporate records management.

Qualitative benefits derive from many fronts. The IPA focuses broadly on how FAO fulfils its mission, not about what FAO does. The successful completion of the IPA will therefore establish an improved enabling environment for delivering FAO’s programme. The enabling environment would come not just through new frameworks, strategies, structures, policies, systems and processes, but also through individual and collective behaviours of employees and members.

The document in front of you today reports key achievements in IPA implementation in the context of the Vision and anticipated benefits of the overall renewal, as reported to Council in November 2010. Each element of this Vision is linked through the thematic areas to the benefits to be delivered by the major IPA actions, and this report indicates the progress and achievements in each of these major actions. Looking at measures to ensure delivery of benefits in the future, Management has drawn the distinction in previous reports between completing an IPA action (ticking the box) and ensuring full realization of benefits.

Benefits realization will be the focus of management attention in 2012 and 2013. In this regard, a Corporate Change Management Review has been commissioned through the Office of the Inspector General to advise Management on the steps necessary to maximise the benefits of the FAO renewal. The assignment started in October 2011, and will complete by December 2011.

Realising benefits requires active identification and judicious management of risks facing IPA implementation. In Annex 2 of the Report, Management has identified 27 key IPA actions that will deliver major benefits of the FAO renewal, but which also carry many of the major risks. These 27 actions are currently being subject to a risk re-basing. This means that the existing identified risks are not simply taken as given and updated, but the process of risk identification is repeated. This will produce a comprehensive up-to-date set of risks against which mitigating actions are developed. The results of this initiative will set the basis for Management to undertake its own assessment of the risks facing successful completion of IPA implementation, and take a corporate and prioritized view of the mitigating actions required to ensure delivery of the most significant tangible benefits expected from the FAO renewal. The results of the risk re-basing initiative will be reported back to the Governing Bodies in the next progress report on IPA implementation.

FAO renewal is widely considered the most comprehensive change programme in the UN System. Successful organizational change management implies also active and proactive communication and engagement measures. The report before you provides the results of the first ever FAO Employee Survey. These results have been communicated to all employees, and Management has identified a set of corporate actions as immediate follow-up measures to the views of employees. Those actions draw

from suggestions of a Working Group of employees. Additional actions at the departmental and regional office level are currently in the process of being identified.

Turning to financial matters, document CL 143/10 reports that IPA project leaders foresee that approximately one third of the 2011 allocated budgets will be spent during the last quarter. It is foreseen that approximately USD 3.5 million will remain to be spent as at December 2011 and this 2010-11 unspent balance will be carried forward to the 2012-13 biennium in accordance with the resolutions taken in July 2011.

In summary, positive progress has been achieved in IPA implementation during 2011 to date. Management's focus of attention is on realising the benefits from renewal, where FAO and its Members have the optimal internal enabling environment to fulfil FAO's programmes. Early in 2012, Management will produce its 2011 Annual Report through which it will report to Governing Bodies on all aspects of IPA implementation: quantitative progress on a detailed, action-by-action basis, updates on achievements and benefits and change management measures, including risks and communications as well as full financial performance during 2010-11. Management looks forward to a continuing active and participative partnership with Members as IPA implementation continues.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think I can speak for the Membership, saying that we also look forward to continuing our discussion on this most important item for FAO. The Programme Committee reviewed the paragraphs of document CL 143/10, within its remit. We realized that this is just an interim report, giving us the events since the Conference in June 2011, and we look forward to the comprehensive report that we will have in 2012.

We stress the need for a managerial perspective on how to break down the functional silos i.e. the obstacles for working across divisions and across geographical boundaries and ask Management to holistically address the structural and financial aspects of the cross-cutting work.

As we all know, prioritization is still a work in process. We underline the importance of using FAO's comparative advantage when prioritizing.

We underlined also the importance of engagement of national stakeholders in the country planning process and the link to regional priorities, which I think we have heard this morning as well.

We noted the lead role of Decentralization within the IPA and the importance of developing a comprehensive implementation plan.

As Manoj Juneja stated the IP Actions that remain open include complex, high-risk actions with inter-dependencies, because nothing is gained until all is gained. We all remember the circles that all overlap each other, so even if you can note success in one area, it will all come to nothing unless you can have success all over.

We underline that Human Resources are a critical part of FAO Reform. We have looked at the results of the Staff Survey, which we think can serve as a base line, because Manoj Juneja also informed us that there will be another survey within a couple of years, and we do hope that there are some strong improvements there.

We underlined as well that mainstreaming Culture Change in the Organization is imperative. It is the underlying basis, and that it also will carry with it the possibility of doing gender work as a key element of Culture Change.

When looking at these 27 very complex IPA actions, with a rebasing of risk, as mentioned by Manoj Juneja as well, we ask that Management take into account human, financial and programmatic risks.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I will be reporting on two sessions: the 140th Session of the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting.

I will start with the 140th Session, with this also examining the HR strategy, the Membership of the IT Committee and Oracle R12/ IPSAS Programme. In considering the progressive report on the IPA implementation at this Session, the Committee emphasizes the need to keep the implementation of the

IPA on track because it is a high-priority area and it is a package which needs to be fully implemented. The Committee noted that the IPA expenditures between January and September 2011 amounted to USD 18.76 million, leaving USD 10.7 million of the 2011 budget for spending in the final three months of the year. It also noted that the projected unspent balance of USD 3.5 million of savings and deferral for carry-over into the 2012-13 biennium, as authorized by the Conference within the context of the adjustment programme, is still there. The Committee acknowledged that implementation has reached a critical stage, with some of the most difficult IPA actions in terms of complexity, risk and inter-dependency carrying forward to 2012-13, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to place emphasis on Risk Management and Change Management to ensure the expected impact and benefit of FAO Reform. This is the Report of the Finance Committee which was discussed and now let me, probably when I will be reporting on the Joint Meeting that could be some repetition that we cannot avoid, because these are two different Committees.

I am pleased to report the outcome of the discussion of the Joint Meeting of the 109th Session of the Programme Committee, I am sorry I have to correct here because I mentioned earlier that it was 140th Session, but 141st Session of the Finance Committee that took place on 3 November 2011. The Joint Meeting acknowledged that the IPA implementation has reached a critical stage, with some of the most difficult actions carried forward to the 2012-13 biennium. So, it encouraged the Secretariat to continue to place emphasis on IPA risk management. The Joint Meeting recognized that much has been achieved with regard to Culture Change and Gender, and stressed the need to further pursue these aspect, but I must also acknowledge that the Joint Meeting recognized that when implementing this next phase, which is very critical with 30 percent of action, therefore comprising 40 percent of the budget, it was imperative for the Secretariat to be very attentive in terms of Risk Management.

Finally, the Joint Meeting reiterated the importance of Human Resources Reform, and stressed the importance of breaking down the silos across organizational units and geographic locations; this was also mentioned by Cecilia because it was also heartedly debated in the Programme Committee as we are made to understand.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

We appreciate very much that this is a progress update, with more comprehensive reporting, including a reform-by-reform assessment to be provided in early 2012. We very much look forward to this more comprehensive assessment.

One thing we would like to see in this comprehensive assessment is outcomes. We talk a lot about outputs in these kinds of documents, we list out all the things we have done, the number of posts, things like that. Not often do we actually talk about outcomes. And I actually went through this document to try and pick outcomes that I could report back to my Capital on, the tangible things that people on the ground would see different about FAO as a result of these IPA Reforms. The only two things I could find in this document would be faster approval of TCP and some savings from mailing and printing. While I understand that is not the aim of this document, I think this is something we would very much like to see next time. The very clear enunciation of what the tangible benefits would be and one good example would be when we talk about establishing IT networks, are we able to quantify or give some assessment of the cost savings that improved IT networks could deliver?

Certainly the IPA remains a top priority for Australia, and we are very keen to see its full, rapid and effective implementation. These Reforms are absolutely critical in our view to the future viability of this Organization.

We appreciate, in particular, the web Annex for the paper, as this gives the most up-to-date assessment and we note that 222, or 81 percent, of the IPA reforms are scheduled to be completed by end 2011, and we certainly want to commend the Organization for their efforts here.

We also actually very much appreciate the frank admission of the Secretariat that, while 20 percent of Reforms by number remain outstanding, the most complex and difficult Reforms, which account for 40 percent of the work, time and cost, remain outstanding. We urge the Secretariat to continue to pursue these Reforms with vigour and determination, as they will of course deliver the greatest returns.

We are, however, concerned that of the many of the reforms still outstanding, relate to failure of Member Nations and of this Council to actually deliver. Just as we expect the Management to deliver on its responsibilities, and we hold them acutely to account for that, we too must deliver on our responsibilities. The current situation is not acceptable.

I want to take this opportunity to urge this Council to take up the challenge. We appreciate the efforts of the Chairperson to lead this group during the last biennium on these issues, but request further effort from him and further effort from our Members to meet our objectives. For example, regarding progress on budget issues among Member Nations, the discussion must start earlier and we must all bring to that a commitment to reach agreement prior to the Conference. In addition, work on the desirable qualifications for a Director-General can and should start immediately so we are well in place before the next Conference to endorse such criteria or qualifications.

Finally, Australia commends the FAO for its first Staff Survey, and acknowledges that results of such Surveys can be confronting. The high response rate to this survey is very positive, as is the strong majority that indicated their pride in working for the Organization. That is an important statistic.

We note that many of the areas found to be ‘relative strengths’ in this Survey actually relate directly back to many of the IPA Reforms. For example, clear and promising direction, performance management, etc.

We note with some concern the findings such as the knowledge of Reform, communication regarding the Reform, avoiding waste and duplication, and we urge Management to work on these issues very quickly.

We suggest that this Survey be regularly repeated, in a consistent manner, to enable tracking of progress over time.

Ms Monika DULIAN (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU realizes that the time covered by the present document is relatively short, and therefore looks forward to the in-depth assessment of IPA implementation including financial and programmatic aspects, which will be provided in the beginning of 2012. However, the EU would like to make the following four points.

Firstly, the EU believes that the success of the IPA is at a critical stage, as the simpler actions have been carried out and attention is now focused on the interdependent key IPA actions in Annex 2. Risk Assessment and Mitigation are essential to ensure success. In this context, we would emphasize that risks are not only human and financial, but also programmatic.

Secondly, Human Resources remain critical to the overall success of the IPA. While new posts should be kept to a minimum, newly-established posts, e.g. in the framework of the Young Professionals Programme, should be better-aligned with defined priority areas. Successful mainstreaming of Culture Change is vital. It goes without saying that Gender is a large and pivotal part of Culture Change.

Thirdly, the EU notices that the results of the Employee Survey scored low on culture of trust and fairness as well as renewal understanding. We would expect to see real results in the next Survey which Management will undertake before 2015.

Finally, there is a need for a systematic approach to ‘breaking down the silos’, in other words, removing barriers to working across organizational units and geographical locations.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, and we would like to start by associating ourselves with the statement just made by the European Union.

We welcome the update on the status of implementation of the IPA contained in document CL 143/10, and that a more in-depth assessment will be provided in early 2012.

We note the assessment in the document that while about 20 percent of the tasks contained in the IPA remain to be completed, these represent some of the most complex issues, so that in effect they represent 40 percent of outstanding efforts.

It is encouraging that FAO's Management clearly recognizes this, and is prepared to give this important work priority. Full implementation, including on results-based management, will be demanding.

The Nordic Countries agree that FAO's normative activities are crucial. In our opinion, it is urgent to consider the Decentralized Structure in order to enhance the impact of FAO at country level.

At an informal meeting last week, the Draft Report of the 2011 Assessment carried out by the 16 countries participating in the Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network or MOPAN was presented and discussed. This Report confirms that the benefits of last year's reform efforts have started to become visible in the field. The Report concludes that FAO is highly valued by its direct partners, is committed to Reform and has acted upon the recommendations of the 2007 Independent External Evaluation, but also that FAO needs to bridge the gap between strategy and implementation, that the Organization faces challenges in implementing results-based management and that it needs to accompany changes in systems and policies by a shifting culture, and has developed its approaches at the country-level but the full effect of Reform is not yet evident.

We are greatly encouraged that the investments made in Reform are clearly becoming visible at the field level. This should be taken as an incentive to reinvigorate our determination to fully implement the IPA, and we must look beyond the IPA. We need to make sure that the outcomes of FAO's work is effectively-assessed and reported. This is essential both to ensure recognition of the results achieved, and in order to make necessary continued adaptations and improvements on how FAO achieves its mandate.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan appreciates the progress report prepared by the Secretariat and also appreciates that the IPAs are implemented with great emphasis. The IPAs are the key to make the most of the finite resources and to reform FAO a more vital and results-oriented organization.

As the Secretariat said yesterday, advocating or saying is easy but carrying it out or doing is not easy. We can change the system, but it takes time to change the culture. We made a general comment under Item 4 yesterday, and we would like to make two specific comments today.

First, we recommend the Director-General Elect and the Management to check on the results of the Employee Survey again, and to communicate closely with the Staff including those in Decentralized Offices and explain as appropriate how the Reform benefits them. Reform is a continuing activity, even after the IPAs are completed. So conducting this kind of Survey on a regular basis as suggested by Australia should be considered.

Second, we should keep in mind all six thematic areas shown in the document, and proceed in a balanced manner towards the final stage of our plan. In this connection, we request the Secretariat to highlight the delayed actions in the next Report as an alert to Members, so that they are well aware of the situation and consider necessary actions. Some of those delayed actions are currently summarized in the Web Annex, but we would like to see them in the main document.

Having said that, we thank the Secretariat again and look forward to the full and comprehensive Progress Report of this year at the next occasion.

Mr José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

I would like to express the sincere thanks of the Africa Regional Group for the Progress Report presented to the Council, in document CL 143/10, on the work done by FAO during the last semester in the field of the implementation of the IPA. We find that this Report, despite the fact that it encompasses a very short time, gives a very clear-cut and exhaustive assessment on accomplishments

and benefits, quantitative progress, change management and financial performance. Therefore, we present our appreciation to the Secretariat and especially to David Benfield's Team.

However, there is a need to continue and intensify our efforts, since there is still a great deal of work to be done. The Report renders it clear that the actions that lie ahead of us, although much fewer in number than those already implemented, represent indeed the greatest chunk of the job that still must be done to carry out FAO's work in this field and, as we all agreed, in a timely fashion. As a matter of fact, outstanding actions must be carried out during the biennium that will soon begin, and they represent a very large percentage of the work that still has to be done.

Having said this, we would like, however, to appreciate, once again, the work done by the Secretariat and staff, both in Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices. In this respect, we reiterate our firm belief, that progress cannot be measured just quantitatively, by tipping the boxes, as we say, but also, and above all, by the quality of the results we achieve. They have to be checked against the background of the real impacts, in the lives of those who are the main and more direct beneficiaries of FAO's action, aimed at promoting agriculture and food security in a world facing enormous difficulties and in a time in which the number of hungry people have reached levels that nobody could imagine before.

In this context, and mindful of what apparently transpired from the Staff Survey, as was rightly pointed out by Japan, we look forward to receiving, as stated in the Progress Report, a more in-depth assessment on the Implementation and Benefits of IPA Actions aimed at contributing to the Vision of the Reform Process, as well as on the means of minimizing the risks associated with them. We understand they will be provided in the beginning of next year.

Having participated in the Luanda Africa Regional Conference of FAO, you witnessed the importance that we attach to Decentralization as one of the key issues for FAO action. As you also know, this position represented a culmination of the line that my Regional Group proposed throughout the whole IE-COC process. Therefore, I would like to stress, once again, Africa's strong view and expectations that whatever savings may result from the implementation of the Regular Programme Budget, should be applied to the real needs of the developing countries, especially in Africa. This is for the reasons we all know first and foremost in the process of Decentralization, if we really want that the Reform to have an impact on regional programmes, especially at country level.

Of course, the Africa Regional Group understands very well that this has to be done following adequate and agreed organizational rules and procedures. However, we also strongly believe that rules and procedures will only do good if they serve a purpose, instead of becoming themselves the ultimate goal, the end for which we so work hard together to promote agriculture and food security in the world.

Having said this, the Africa Regional Group, takes note of the progress report contained in document CL 143/10, and hopes that the same will be done by the other groups. I also assure you for continued and confirmed commitment to the adequate and full implementation of the IPA in cooperation with all other partners in this journey. In this context, we are already fully engaged in the preparation of the next Africa Regional Conference to be held in the capital of the Republic of Congo in the beginning of 2012, which we expect will continue bringing its precious contribution and guidance for the work lying ahead.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

The United States of America remains dedicated to ensuring that the IPA Reform Programme is fully implemented by the end of next year. We look forward to working with DG Elect Graziano da Silva beginning in January in order to see this programme through successful and timely completion.

The US pledges its full support and sincerely thanks the Secretary and all FAO staff who have contributed to the IPA. As our Australian colleague pointed out, we Member Nations, also have responsibilities related to implementing the IPA, and I join in urging us to take action in that regard.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela en primer término agradece la presentación del documento CL 143/10 que muestra el Informe sobre los Progresos Realizados en la Ejecución del Plan inmediato de Acción (PIA). Como indica este documento, el programa integrado del PIA consta de 272 medidas, de las cuales 143 ya se habían puesto en práctica a finales de 2010, por lo que en este año están en curso 129 medidas.

En el Informe de 2011 presentado a la Conferencia se indicaba que 25 de las 154 medidas pendientes se concluyeron en el 2010 por lo que a comienzos de 2011 quedaban pendientes 129 medidas. De estas, 112 ya van en marcha y previsiblemente terminarían de ejecutarse en el plazo previsto y se indicó que 74 se finalizarían antes de 2011.

Observamos entonces que el 66 por ciento de las medidas previstas, se encuentran en ejecución por lo que hacemos un llamado a la administración a incrementar todos los esfuerzos para cumplir con los plazos previstos. El PIA es uno de los programas más importantes de la Organización concebido para mejorar los mecanismos de gestión interna y para elevar el perfil de las actividades de la Organización.

En cuanto a la Reforma del programa, los métodos presupuestarios y la gestión basada en los resultados, respaldamos las medidas tomadas por la Administración para la elaboración de los planes de trabajo de las áreas técnicas, la vinculación del personal con los resultados de la Organización y el proceso de priorización que realizan los distintos Órganos Rectores para la elaboración del Marco Estratégico y del Programa de trabajo y presupuesto.

Como acciones importantes, nos complace la publicación de los resultados de las primeras encuestas realizadas a los empleados y las medidas adoptadas por la Administración en respuesta a los resultados de la misma. Consideramos favorable que el 88 por ciento de los empleados de la FAO creen que el Proceso de Reforma es necesario. Aproximadamente tres de cada cuatro están de acuerdo en que la renovación ayudara a la FAO a ofrecer resultados y servicios mejores a sus miembros.

Tomamos nota de la información facilitada en el documento CL 143/10 y deseamos participar como País Miembro conjuntamente con la Organización en la ejecución de esta Reforma con éxito.

Deseo finalizar no sin antes indicar que compartimos plenamente lo expresado en su exposición por el Representante del grupo de África.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

In keeping with the focus on efficiency in the IPA, including that of Governing Bodies, we will confine ourselves today to simply noting that we fully share the points made earlier by Australia regarding the responsibilities of Member Nations and echoed by the United States, in particular, with regard to the exercise of our responsibility on the budget. We also support the statements made by Australia and Norway on behalf of the Nordic Group on the importance of reporting of outcomes, impacts as they are also known, as being essential to our assessment of the IPA.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

I would like to express my approval to what has been said by the representative of the Africa Group, and I would also like to express my satisfaction for the Report, particularly on what it says about Reform and Evaluation. We are awaiting the Final Report with great anticipation because we hope it will provide further information on the various financial and management aspects of what is being done, particularly on the issue of results-based management. I would like to express my thanks for the efforts that have been put into the drafting of this Report. There are, however, some questions which are of importance to our Group, and I would like to highlight them.

Firstly, the importance of human resources which is a major issue for us and, indeed, in the Report. We believe it is important that Surveys and Studies be carried out, that regular ongoing evaluations be made and that as we proceed with decentralization, we continue to recruit skilled young Professionals. We would also like to streamline administrative functions as far as possible. We urge the Organization

and its Member Nations to follow the implementation of the six basic objectives dealt with within this Report as closely as possible. When it comes to the IPA, we would particularly like to see a continued Reform as our client in the Report.

I would like, if I might, to seek a slight clarification on one point. Mr Juneja, I think the 27 actions were that will be implemented under the IPA, and which we will look at a little bit later when we come to carrying out the basic evaluation. What, I wonder, is your opinion about the scale of the results concerning the impact achieved? Are there obstacles in the way of implementing the IPA? Are there risks, and what are the relative rules of the Organization and the Member Nations when it comes to dealing with them?

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

Quisiera comenzar mi intervención agradeciendo a la Secretaría por la presentación del Informe sobre los Progresos Realizados en el contexto de la Visión de la Reforma, los Beneficios Previstos y la Situación Financiera de la Ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Habiendo realizado los progresos reportados, hemos tomado nota de la complejidad de las medidas que restan por ejecutar y la percepción de que son las que más pueden aportar a la visión y beneficios derivados de la Reforma de la Organización. Alentamos a la Secretaría a continuar trabajando en la atención a los riesgos y medidas de mitigación correspondientes a estas. Estaremos expectantes ante la información que pueda presentar la Secretaría tras concluir el examen sobre este asunto, que se debe concluir a finales de este año.

Nos parece aceptado el trabajo que realiza la Secretaría por garantizar no solo el completamiento de una medida sino la verificación de los beneficios alcanzados. En este sentido en el futuro desearíamos recibir información más amplia sobre el tipo de avances que se han alcanzado en la Medida 3.8 sobre Compras y las Contrataciones, marcada como finalizada. Por otra parte, también consideramos oportuno que más adelante se nos presente a los Países Miembros, informaciones adicionales de los avances sobre la aplicación de los nuevos procesos y procedimientos relativos a la Descentralización, de la gestión del Programa de Cooperación Técnica por parte de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y, sobre todo, los obstáculos que se presenten, que pudieran afectar la efectividad de la aplicación de estos procesos y procedimientos, que consideramos de vital importancia para la asistencia que brinda la FAO en el terreno.

Tomamos nota sobre la evaluación más detallada que se presentará a inicios del próximo año sobre los aportes que realizarán las medidas fundamentales del Plan Inmediato de Acción a la Visión de la Reforma, los riesgos identificados y los avances realizados de ahora en adelante.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat dans son rapport sur l'État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate. Pour mon pays, la Réforme de la FAO est une priorité, et nous aimerions souligner la nécessité de la mener à bien durant le prochain exercice biennal.

Nous sommes confiants à cet égard que le nouveau Directeur général va s'atteler à cette tâche de manière prioritaire. Parmi les actions majeures du PAI encore à mener, j'aimerais particulièrement relever l'importance pour nous de la Décentralisation avec la nécessité d'un plan de mise en œuvre visant à augmenter l'efficacité des Bureaux décentralisés, la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie des partenariats renouvelés avec la société civile et de partenariat avec le secteur privé, c'est un point très important pour mon pays. Troisième point important, celui de la Réforme des Ressources humaines avec, notamment, l'introduction d'un Système objectif d'évaluation et un Système de rotation du personnel, et quatrième point c'est celui de la mise en œuvre d'un changement de culture.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think I am very encouraged by this reaffirmation of commitment to the IPA for us to have a modern, flexible, efficient FAO and also that we are reminded that FAO is actually nothing on its own as pointed out by Cape Verde, the United States of America and others. National stakeholders and governments are key to success, so it is doubly good to hear the commitment from Member Nations.

Without us, actually, FAO cannot be a success, and I do continue to look forward to having a close working relationship with the Secretariat among all the Member Nations which if successful can be a trail blazer in the UN System and not only give us an efficient FAO, but also an efficient UN System.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

Je crois que nous aussi nous approuvons ou bien nous nous félicitons des commentaires du Conseil et du renouvellement de l'engagement, pour la mise effective de toutes les actions contenues dans le PAI. Je voudrais de ce point de vue revenir sur trois points qui ont été soulevés par les Membres du Conseil.

Le premier point est celui de notre responsabilité de Membres. Je crois que c'est une question qui a été largement débattue au sein de notre Comité lors de la Cent-quarante-et-unième Session. Sur la mise en œuvre des actions du PAI qui concerne les Membres notamment, on les connaît tous, toutes ces questions qui restent difficiles, à mettre en œuvre les questions d'augmentation du nombre des Membres du Conseil et d'autres actions. Ceux-ci sont des points sur lesquels les Membres devraient réfléchir d'avantage pour que la mise en œuvre du PAI soit complète. Si nous n'arrivons pas nous même à nous mettre d'accord sur ces questions qui, il est vrai, sont difficiles, si on arrive pas à se mettre d'accord, le PAI qui est un package ne peut pas être entièrement mis en œuvre. C'est une question qui a connu un long débat au sein du Comité et qui mérite également d'être prise en compte par tous les Membres, non seulement par les Membres du Conseil, mais aussi par tous les Membres de l'Organisation.

Ensuite, il y a eu la question des Ressources humaines, une enquête a été conduite auprès du personnel pour voir un peu quel serait le sentiment vis-à-vis de la Réforme de manière générale. Au sein du Comité, cette information qui est contenue dans le Rapport n'a pas satisfait tous les Membres du Comité qui ont pensé que le personnel, dans une large majorité, n'avait pas confiance dans les efforts faits dans le cadre de la Réforme. Sur ce plan précis, je pense, et c'est pour cela que beaucoup sont revenus là dessus, à la possibilité de conduire davantage d'enquêtes de ce genre, et de communiquer. C'est le message essentiel qui a été envoyé auprès du Secrétariat, de communiquer d'avantage avec les Membres du personnel pour que chacun puisse faire partie intégrante du système de la Réforme mis en place.

Le troisième point, je crois que c'est celui qui a été soulevé par l'Australie, sur les bénéfices attendus et il faudrait plutôt rendre compte des bénéfices qui sont attendus de la Réforme. Je crois que c'est un point important et qui doit être pris en compte par le Secrétariat parce que au-delà de ce que nous pouvons nous-mêmes rendre compte tous les jours des actions journalières que nous avons prises, quel est l'impact de cette action sur le travail de l'ensemble? Je crois qu'il faudrait également que le Secrétariat puisse rendre compte de l'impact des actions du PAI sur le travail de la FAO et sur les Membres d'une manière générale. Voilà les quelques commentaires sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (OPERATIONS)

I would like to make seven comments. At the outset, let me recognize the priority that Members have unanimously given to the complete and successful implementation of the IPA. This support certainly helps us proceed with vigour and determination, in what is now the most critical phase towards the completion of the IPA.

We are particularly pleased to hear the intervention from Norway on behalf of the Nordic Group that the MOPAN assessment has shown that there are already some tangible benefits from the IPA actions that have been initiated since 2008.

We also recognize that the full positive effects of the renewal of FAO would only be realized at the end of the IPA, particularly in light of the very strong inter-relationships between the IPA actions.

My second point relates to the intervention from Venezuela among others to, step up the efforts for timely completion of the outstanding actions. Indeed, timely and effective completion of the IPA is one of the highest priorities of Management and in this regard. We would hope that the Director-General Elect will also be given some latitude in reviewing the timeframe for IPA implementation.

Thirdly, I wanted to comment on several interventions regarding the 2011 Annual Report which Management will produce in early 2012. The Report, as I mentioned earlier, will cover quantitative progress but also update achievements and benefits. In this connection, we take note of the interventions made, for example, by Australia to highlight more clearly the outcomes from the actions that have already been completed, and interventions made regarding the need to highlight delayed actions more clearly. We will take these comments into account in preparing the 2011 Annual Report.

Fourth, I wanted to comment on the dependencies between Management and the Membership in successfully completing the Immediate Plan of Action. Indeed, there are a number of decisions where the Management is dependent on Member Nations for timely and effective action. We have already discussed during this Council the role of the FAO Membership in clearly articulating the priorities of the Organization. This has been mentioned as an area of work-in-progress in previous interventions. Timely decision-making on the biennium budget was mentioned under the last item where, again, we are largely dependent on the Membership, and, of course, Decentralization as well where, through the Regional Conferences and the Council, there will be no doubt in 2012 a number of areas for decision.

My fifth point is in connection with the Staff Survey. The Staff Survey provides a wealth of information and what Management has done so far is to try to identify, based on this wealth of information, corporate actions and departmental and regional office actions to specifically address some of the areas of weaknesses in Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. In the case of the Decentralized Offices, their actions are expected to be tailored to their needs.

This Staff Survey, of course, provides us with a baseline of information against which to measure progress in the future and I do reiterate our intention to repeat the Staff Survey so that we can measure progress and keep up this dialogue with employees at large.

My sixth point relates to communications with regions. We have already made great efforts in trying to improve communication with regions through video conferences and greater interaction with the Regional Representatives. More recently, we initiated a newsletter aimed at the entire decentralized offices network. This was, in fact, in response to a recommendation that was made by the Inspector General.

At the same time, we recognize that more progress needs to be made on communications, not just at Headquarters but in particular with the Decentralized Offices, and most specifically with our decentralized FAOR network. In this connection, we also recognize the need to communicate more effectively with members on IPA implementation and have recently developed a Communication Strategy in this regard.

My final point relates to the participation of Member Nations for successful completion of the IPA. I have mentioned earlier some areas where we are dependent on your action. But what I would like to say in closing is that the IPA has created a partnership and co-ownership of renewal, the benefits of which are not easily quantifiable but are indeed immeasurable. We look forward to your continued interest in the FAO Renewal.

There were a couple of points which I have not addressed, particularly with regard to the obstacles and risks, as raised by Cuba and Syria, and I am sure that in the few minutes we have available, Mr Benfield may also want to address this and some other points.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, IPA Programme Management Branch)

I would like to just cover three points. Adding a little to what Mr Manoj Juneja has said about the Employee Survey. First of all, as has been identified by some delegates, there are areas that the Survey indicated Management needed to pay some attention to, including communications, including Culture Change and also the culture of trust and fairness.

There are responses to this at two levels, corporate responses and local responses. Management has identified, through the use of a separate working group, four corporate responses. These are not solutions to these issues, these are some short, tangible measures that Management can put in to place as an immediate response to staff and to employees, so that they will feel that their inputs have been considered and that some action has been taken on board as a result of those. The four actions relating

to building successful teams, avoiding waste and duplication, and ensuring learning time for all, respond to some of these areas where Management does need to do work.

The fourth area, which received also a response from Management, was on communications and staff felt not totally engaged in the process of Reform, engaged in the sense of a wider body of staff, so in developing the local actions, the corporate action was for the Heads of Offices and the Assistant Director-Generals to actually engage with all of the staff in their offices in developing those local actions. Although this process is not yet complete, many of the local actions that are coming in are actually actions about improving communications within the Department or within the Office, and it is very encouraging to see that this has an ongoing impact.

The other thing that I would like to say is that, while Management has initiated some corporate actions and some local actions, the results of the Employee Survey are very much on the minds of Management, and in many Senior Management meetings, the Employee Survey is discussed as an input to the decisions that are being taken. It really is having an impact, not just in terms of our response to staff and to other employees, but also in the Management meetings and the decisions that are taken.

I wanted to add a word or two about the MOPAN Survey. It is encouraging to see that the Reform is starting to have an impact on external views of FAO, but we do realize that to a certain extent the jury is out. We have completed a lot of the progress in terms of the IPA but we now have to deliver many of the benefits and the way to deliver those benefits is two-fold -- firstly, to manage the significant risks to these few, but difficult, projects that remain, and secondly, not to wait for the benefits to arrive, but actually to start pro-actively to ensure that we have a Benefits Realization Programme that digs beneath each of the IPA Actions and ensures that tangible benefits, in the way of outcomes, are delivered from the Reform.

The third point I would make relates to the questions about the risks that we face on these 27 IPA Actions. We have approximately 50 IPA Actions moving forward into 2012-13, of which we have identified 27 as being particularly difficult, having a particularly high level of risk, being particularly complex, but at the same time, contributing in a major way to the benefits. We are undertaking a separate Risk Assessment at this point in time, and we will be reporting on those 27 IPA Actions, and the full range of risks and mitigating actions in our next progress report, which will be the Annual Report for 2011. I would emphasise that is a action that is currently in progress. We are currently rebasing all of the risks for those 27 IPA Actions, and it would be much better to give you a comprehensive response on those risks when we produce the Annual Report for 2011.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci aux deux Présidents, au Directeur général adjoint et à M. Benfield pour ces éclaircissements et je pense que nous avons eu un bon échange. Je vous propose de soumettre les conclusions suivantes:

«Le Conseil s'est félicité des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du PAI pendant le deuxième semestre 2011 depuis l'examen du précédent Rapport soumis à la Conférence en juin dernier.

Le Conseil a noté qu'environ 20 pour cent des actions du PAI seront reportés sur 2012-13, soit près de 40 pour cent de l'effort restant à fournir en termes de travail, de temps et de coûts représentant une phase critique du processus en raison de l'envergure, la complexité et l'interdépendance de ces actions, au cours de laquelle des efforts accrus devront être déployés par la Direction et les Membres pour assurer le succès du renouveau de la FAO; et

Le Conseil a aussi noté qu'un Rapport complet relatant dans le détail l'état d'avancement de l'exécution du PAI durant toute l'année 2011 sera présenté aux Organes directeurs en 2012. Ce Rapport contiendra une évaluation plus approfondie des contributions que les principales actions du PAI doivent apporter ainsi que les risques liés à ces actions importantes et aussi des progrès effectués dans la réalisation des avantages qui en découlent en termes à la fois qualitatifs et quantitatifs. Et enfin, ce Rapport comportera également un compte-rendu financier exhaustif couvrant la période 2010-11 ainsi que les résultats de la réévaluation des risques liés aux actions majeures porteuses des avantages les plus marquants pour la réforme de la FAO avec l'énoncé des mesures prises en vue de leur atténuation.

Voilà les éléments que j'ai retenus pour pouvoir en tirer des conclusions. Je vous remercie de ces échanges. L'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I agree entirely with your summation. I just wanted to make two very minor points and perhaps this is more a translation issue than anything.

I just wanted to see that the word "impacts" or something like that appears in the text. I think that was a point that was very consistent; I think even Mr Juneja agreed on that. I just wanted to make sure that particular emphasis was given to that kind of terminology in terms of the Report that we would see next year.

I guess I would also like to flag whether we can perhaps seek to have slightly more ambitious language than enhance effort by Member Nations. It just seems a little bit passive and a little bit normal course of business. I like to see us try and give increase emphasis on own our efforts to and leave out to where our requirements and our commitments under the IPA, so I leave those two points for your consideration.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme l'objectif n'est pas d'amender, je prends note de vos deux interventions concernant les impacts et la notion d'effort supplémentaire, et j'essaierais de voir comment il est transmis puis nous verrons par la suite.

En tant que Président, je suis satisfait de cet échange, premièrement parce que la Direction a pris conscience de ce qui est en cours mais aussi de ce qui reste encore à faire et deuxièmement nous sommes tous engagés, ce n'est pas qu'une question du Secrétariat mais c'est aussi une question de la gouvernance et des États, et je pense que ce débat était tout à fait positif.

Je clos donc ce point à l'Ordre du jour, je lève la séance et pour ne pas perdre les bonnes habitudes, nous commencerons à 14h30 précises avec les 25 Membres présents sur les affaires constitutionnelles.

The meeting rose at 12:40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:40 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

29 November 2011

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta reunión plenaria a las 14.35 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

8. Report of the 93rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 September 2011) (CL 143/4)**8. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 septembre 2011) (CL 143/4)****8. Informe del 93.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de septiembre de 2011) (CL 143/4)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons le quorum et nous pouvons donc commencer. Avec quelques minutes de retard mais nous sommes encore dans les temps. Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la quatrième séance de la cent quarante-troisième Session du Conseil.

Je vous rappelle, avant de commencer, aux Membres particulièrement, qui ne l'ont pas encore fait qu'ils doivent s'inscrire au Centre de la Turquie situé à l'Entrée du bâtiment A.

Nous allons donc commencer notre Point 8; Rapport de la Quatre-vingt-treizième Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et comme prévu, nous allons examiner le Rapport à l'exclusion des paragraphes 11 et 15, qui concerne le Programme de travail pluriannuel qui sera considéré au Point 11 cet après-midi après celui-ci.

Avant de donner la parole à Monsieur Janabi, le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ), j'attire votre attention sur les recommandations du CQCJ concernant la «Nomination des membres extérieurs du Comité de l'éthique» que vous trouverez aux paragraphes 16 et 19 du Rapport, ainsi qu'aux paragraphes 29, 30 et 31 du Rapport de la Cent-quarantième session du Comité financier.

Monsieur Janabi, je vous invite à présenter votre rapport et ensuite Monsieur Médi introduira la section du Rapport du Comité financier traitant de l'éthique.

Monsieur Janabi, vous avez la parole.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters) (Original language Arabic)

I wish to greet the distinguished members of the Council as well as the Permanent Representatives of the Member Nations. I am very happy that this item is the first one for this afternoon's session, and I am sure that everyone is full of energy and enthusiasm as you were this morning.

With respect to the report of the 93rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which was held in Rome on 21-23 September 2011, the relevant document is CL 143/4 which contains the Report of that Session. That Session saw all members of the Committee attending with the exception of the Representative of Pakistan, our great friend, Mr Khalid Mehboob, who unfortunately was ill and I, unfortunately, do not see him in this Session of the Council. I, therefore, wish him good health and a speedy recovery.

What I also wish to point out, at this juncture, is that during that Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Mr Jarlath O'Connor, Representative of Ireland, was elected Vice Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee also paid tribute and expressed great thanks to Mr Antonio Tavares, the former Secretary of the Committee, who served the Council and the Committee and FAO for a very long period of time. I would like to take this opportunity, on my own behalf and also on behalf of the members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, to thank him for his professionalism and his very serious hard work. We wish him every success in his new duties.

I would also like to mention the fact that the Agenda of the previous session was a light one, if I can express it in those terms, given that there were very few items on the Agenda. That is part and parcel

of the activities of the CCLM, which is often called upon to provide an opinion on many different items, but other times there are fewer items. It depends on the activities of the Organization, and the workload entrusted by the Director-General or by the other Governing Bodies of the Organization to the CCLM.

We dealt with an item pertaining to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Another item pertained to the External Members of the Ethics Committee. And there was an item pertaining to the Multi-year Programme of Work for the forthcoming four years.

With regard to the first Item, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, we discussed the mediation rules for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedure and, in fact, this subject was raised and considered in the past on several occasions in an in-depth manner and there was a presentation to the Committee of a basically definitive version. That is why the debate on this document was relatively short.

The Committee of Legal Experts and one also involved in the Secretariat of the International Treaty was again entrusted with a discussion of this. It was discussed at a previous session as well as at the CCLM and, therefore, the Committee decided or considered that this document was complete and the Committee thus approved its presentation to the Council session for approval. The Report features in the document.

The second Item, in practical terms, pertains to the Immediate Plan of Action, which required the appointment of External Members of the Ethics Committee. This issue was examined in depth in the course of the Session. The Ethics Committee has a four-year term, beginning as of January 2012, and it consists of two internal members and three external members who are appointed by the Director-General. The Council is to approve their appointment upon recommendation of the CCLM and the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee received the names and curricula of six candidates. Before the meeting, the situation appeared to be somewhat confusing and difficult in that the Committee had not received sufficient information and was unable to meet the candidates and also was unable to have personal interviews with the candidates. Therefore, the Committee had to choose three members from the six candidates. All of them were highly-qualified; the problem was that the agreement on the criteria for the selection of three members from six candidates, without us really knowing them, was difficult. I would like to say that the level of debate in the Committee was very high. The debate was highly responsible and very frank, and I believe that the nature of the debate and the agreement that was reached by the Committee and the professionalism of the contributions to the debate meant that our colleagues from the Finance Committee under the Chair of our dear friend, Mr Médi, with whom we have cooperated extremely well, before the session as well as after it, indicated that our views converged completely on this particular matter. The Committee put forward three names from the six candidates that were put forward - Mr Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol from Chad, Ms Anne Marie Taylor from Canada, she also has French and US nationality, and Mr José Zalaquett from Chile.

You will find the details of the debate on this item in the Report, but I would like to say that my dear friend, Mr Médi, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, will also be speaking on this particular subject. I would like to recall that the Committee, and given that this will be the first session of the Ethics Committee, proposed that the procedure for appointments be amended, and we could maybe agree on a certain number of criteria for the nomination of external candidates.

I am going to also put forward certain criteria including, for example the number of candidates. This time, the number of candidates was six, but we work on a regional basis, and there are seven regions, I propose that in the future there be at least seven candidates to cover all the geographic regions. There was also the issue of gender equality, which is important, with respect to appointments and also the undertaking that the candidate should only have one nationality, whereas we have one candidate that has three. If we take into account the geographical aspects, then maybe there is a small problem there. At any rate, all the members of the Committee, as well as the Legal Counsel, and the Finance Committee as Chairperson, and members agreed and welcomed the applications that were selected.

I think that the last part of our Report will be discussed under a different Item of the Agenda. Therefore, I think, that as far as the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is concerned, I shall stop at this juncture in our Report and maybe the Chairperson of the Finance Committee will have something to add.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sans plus attendre, je passe la parole à Monsieur Médi pour qu'il donne son avis aussi concernant, en particulier, le Comité d'éthique.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

Thank you, Ambassador Janabi for your Report. I think it covered everything that you discussed in the CCLM, so at this point I am also pleased, Mr Chairperson, to report on the discussion of the Finance Committee on the matter of the membership of the Ethics Committee.

You can find the proposal of the Finance Committee in document CL 143/8. At the outset, let me to sincerely thank Ambassador Janabi and then the entire membership of the CCLM for the work done, because they held their session before the session of the Finance Committee, and they did the job that we were expected to do. What I learned from that was that the suggested Terms of Reference that they prepared were used by the Finance Committee. I want to say openly how the Finance Committee was grateful to work of the CCLM, because this greatly assisted our work.

This was like a very new ground on which all of us were trying to walk on, and the walk was not that easy. I must assure you that if there was no consultation done prior to the two Committee meetings, I am not sure that the result that you have before you today would have been the expectation that you put in the work of those Committees.

So, in reviewing the membership of the Ethics Committee, the Finance Committee recommended examining the six candidates that were proposed by the Director-General as per the provision of the regulations. It is the Director-General who proposes the candidates. The candidates were to be reviewed by the CCLM and the Finance Committee. That is what we did. At the Finance Committee, we recommended for approval the same candidates that the Ambassador Janabi told you. The same candidates, one from Chad, Mr Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol, and then Ms Anne Marie Taylor with three nationalities, French, Canadian and USA, and also a Chilean, Mr José Zalaquett.

So these are the three new candidates we are putting to you for approval before final appointment by the Director-General. I hope that this Council will go along with the proposal of the CCLM and the Finance Committee, because these proposals are going in the same direction. I must also stress that we wanted to avoid too much discussion in the Council, because we knew that if we opened discussions in the Council, it would be endless. So we wish that you approve what we worked on, because we are still working on new ground, but we think we performed a task with a result that could be accepted.

The Committee noted, nevertheless, that the nomination procedure was still questionable, as it is still odd, for us, to request two Committees which are not meeting at the same time to take a position. Certainly, one Committee will do the work or the two Committees might oppose themselves. I think this is not the best way to go about it. The Committee also noted that the establishment of the Ethics Committee was very recent, and agreed that the selection progress criteria for fulfilment of the external candidates should be revisited as part of a joint exercise with the CCLM.

It is requested, therefore, that the two Chairpersons of the CCLM and the Finance Committee consult with each other, with a view to agreeing on the division of labour and report thereon to the Council in June 2012. This is also an exercise that we wish the Council to approve because we have not just started deliberating on this matter, Ambassador Janabi and myself. We wish that first the Council approves this proposal and then we will begin working and report to you in June.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Messieurs les Présidents pour cette présentation, à la fois du Rapport du CQCJ mais aussi du travail en commun pour le Comité d'éthique. Je vous donne la parole. L'île Maurice, vous avez la parole.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

The Africa Group welcomes and gives support to the report of the CCLM and considering that the Mediation Rules reinforced the flexibility and efficiency of the overall system. The Africa Group endorses the Mediation Rules, as well as the consequential amendments to the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures set out in Appendix I and II in the Report.

The Africa Group further approves the nominations of the three candidates recommended by the CCLM for the external positions in the Ethics Committee, as well as the recommendation of the CCLM in paragraph 19 regarding the improvement of procedures for the nomination of candidates for the next renewal of the external membership of the Committee.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group. At the outset, I would like to give thanks to Ambassador Janabi for his excellent presentation of the work and discussions of the CCLM. I also thank Mr Médi MOUNGUI, the Chairpersons of the Finance Committee, and in this regard I also thank Mr TAVARES, the previous Secretary of the Committee, and wish him all success in his new position. We wish all success, as well, to the new Secretary.

I would like to welcome the report in document CL 143/4, and here I have a few observations. First, we do not have any objection to the first point regarding the International Treaty for Genetic Resources, regarding the Mediation Rules and the consequential amendments to the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures. Mr Janabi has indicated that this has been exhaustively covered in the debate in the meeting of the Committee. We understand the nature of this Committee, and we understand that it is difficult to have a MYPOW for such a Committee.

However, regarding the appointment of external members in the Ethics Committee, I do have a few observations. First of all, we commend the efforts of Mr Janabi and the consensus in this regard, and for the record time during which this has been undertaken. Secondly, regarding the criteria of appointing such candidatures, we believe that the criteria in place are not exhaustive. In other words, in the future we can agree on other sets of criteria. I would like to stress the importance of gender balance in that regard, and I should like to stress the importance of having one candidate from every Regional Group.

I should like to emphasize as well, the need to have clear boundaries between the CCLM and the Finance Committee in dealing with this Committee, and the appointments of its members in the future.

In the past, I suggested to put in place a mechanism to enable the members of the CCLM to attend the other meetings like the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, not as observers, but through mechanism that would allow them to be part of the meeting, to have a prior knowledge of all matters discussed, and to be able to state their opinion in due time before these questions were referred to the CCLM through the procedural arrangements in the Organization. As Mr Janabi has said, the time was very short and tight, and this did not allow the Committee to take adequate measures to appoint the candidates for this Committee.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

The Indian delegation endorses the Report of the 93rd Session of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters. We also endorse the recommendation of the three candidates for the external positions in the Ethics Committee. Having said that, on the issue of the appointment of the External Members of the Ethics Committee, we would like to compliment the Chairperson of the CCLM and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for arriving at an understanding to get the approval of the Committees for the selection of the members. However, there could have been a crisis, and this was avoided. That's because of the overlapping mandate between the two Committees, and the time has come to revisit them as rightly pointed out by both the CCLM and the Finance Committee.

Apart from that, it is much more important to know as to how you really select or identify the potential candidates. Under the existing rules, it is for the Director-General to name a few of them, but even that very process is shrouded in mystery. There should be a much more transparent process even in sending out this intimation to the Member Nations and then only the Director-General should be

selecting and proposing the names to these Committees. Therefore, it would have an issue on need and separate debate to revise these procedures. Though I am certain that the two Chairs will arrive at a conclusion, it should be much more inclusive and ensure that we have very clear-cut rules and regulations in place so that we can avoid this situation.

With these remarks I would like to endorse the recommendations of the CCLM.

Ms Monika DULIAN (European Union)

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU would like to make two main points. Firstly, Mediation Rules are an important safeguard for FAO in respect of legal and financial liability arising out of the exercise of the FAO's role as a Third Party Beneficiary (TPB) under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Therefore, the EU supports the endorsement of the Mediation Rules, as well as consequential amendments to the TPB procedures set out in Appendices I and II of the Report of the CCLM session.

Secondly, with respect to the Ethics Committee, the EU supports the three candidates recommended by the CCLM for the external positions in the Ethics Committee. As already pointed out by other speakers, we would also like to support the CCLM recommendation that, in the future, the Director-General should propose at least seven candidates for the three positions (one candidate from each regional group), and that the proposals should be gender-balanced. The EU further suggests that the Director-General should take into account the criteria for appointment for the external candidates as outlined in paragraph 19 of the CCLM Report.

Mr Olynthus VIEIRA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation thanks the Chairpersons of the CCLM and of the Finance Committee for their presentation, and supports documents CL 143/4 and the conclusions contained therein.

With regard to the Appointment of the External Members of the Ethics Committee, the Brazilian delegation supports the three names indicated by the Committee. Although recognizing that the criteria for accepting nominations shall be subject to further elaboration, some important points have already been made, particularly with regard to the concept that nominees shall not have any present or past functional relation with the Organization.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We would like to speak to the issue of the Appointment of the External Members of the Ethics Committee as a number of others have.

We thank the CCLM and FC Chairpersons and members for their work on this issue, and we fully recognize the difficult situation they found themselves in and the delicate decisions that were needed.

Just one point to make with regard to the criteria that they have identified for future nominations. While we appreciate the importance of achieving regional and gender balance, and would not wish to suggest those should be disregarded, nevertheless the primary criteria should be as a merit-based evaluation, therefore the professional qualification of the individuals proposed. This is captured in the recommendations in part by identifying the need for knowledge and experience in ethics, preferably in the UN System, but we look forward to further discussion on these points.

Mr Jorge SOLARES (United States of America)

I would like to thank the CCLM and the Finance Committee for their hard work in vetting the nominations of the External Members of the Ethics Committee. We realize that this was difficult work without clear guidelines.

The United States aligned itself with other countries saying that there should be at least one nomination from each Regional Group and also with a gender balance. Therefore, the United States fully endorses the nominations to the Ethics Committee.

Ms PARK Su-jin (Republic of Korea)

On behalf of Asia Group, we would like to endorse the Mediation Rules as well as consequential amendments to the Third Party Beneficiary procedures set out in the Appendices I and II of this Report.

We also would like to approve the three candidates to the External Members in the Ethics Committee. As with previous speakers, we would like to see the nomination procedure cleared, clarified, and would like to see that discussion follows on this issue.

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

Just a couple of very brief comments on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. First of all, my delegation would like to note that the recommendation of the Committee on establishing a mechanism allowing it to take part in Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees is quite legitimate.

Secondly, I want to endorse a view that has been expressed several times to support the recommendation on development of criteria for Appointment of External Members of the Ethics Committee. I would like to say that the Russian Federation considers it a good idea to develop a transparent procedure for electing members of the Ethics Committee.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

La delegación de Ecuador desea agradecer el Informe presentado al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales, así como también al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas y respalda el Informe presentado y lo que se propone en el mismo. Solamente quiero resaltar dos puntos del mismo.

El primero es referente al Reglamento de Mediación de la parte judicial del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (TIRFA). Consideramos muy importante y significativa la decisión de establecer costos y reglas claras para el mejor funcionamiento del tratado mismo y la protección de la condición jurídica de la FAO, especialmente su inmunidad respecto a cualquier forma de jurisdicción, como también cualquier obligación financiera resultante del ejercicio de su función.

Con relación a la recomendación de los trece candidatos para el Comité de Ética, Ecuador considera la necesidad de tener un procedimiento más transparente en la presentación de los candidatos y que exista la posibilidad de que haya al menos siete candidatos para que todas las regiones estén representadas. Quisiéramos también resaltar el criterio utilizado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales para la selección de los candidatos. Ecuador considera que son criterios bastante aceptables que podrían ser de utilidad de la base para las conversaciones y el establecimiento de criterios fijos. Resalta sobretodo el criterio de perspectiva de género y el hecho de que no se presenten candidatos que han sido funcionarios de otras agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas como el PMA y el FIDA, así como los funcionarios de la FAO. Ecuador considera que son criterios bastante adecuados según lo expresado aquí en la sala, y podrían ser la base para las conversaciones futuras.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters) (Original language Arabic)

I do not have much to add. There is very obvious support for the work done by the CCLM, as well as by the Finance Committee, in particular with regard to the issue of the External Members of the Ethics Committee. As mentioned by the distinguished delegate of India, had these discussions on negotiation not gone right, we probably could have ended up with an unpleasant situation or crisis as he put it. We also remember the extended discussions regarding the Steering Committee of the CFS, where this generated a lot of discussions which were very, very long and, at times, quite emotional. So I think we are lucky to have this particular item dealt with in a very professional and very ethical way within the CCLM, and of course, the Finance Committee built on our experiences and supported our nomination.

In regard to the proposal of the Joint Committee Meeting between the CCLM, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, on behalf of Iraq, I am, fully supportive of this. However, I think we need some guidance and some input from the Secretariat. There could be costs involved; a united

mechanism needs to be developed, and perhaps we can elaborate further on this, but I support this idea so that we do not work in silos. Perhaps we can manage to work together at a pre-determined time.

As for the CCLM and Finance Committee, in regard to the development of a criteria and a refined procedure for nomination for the future, I would be very happy to work with my friend, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and I think we also have already in our Report certain criteria to begin with. We can discuss this further, and hopefully come back to you in June next year with the help and assistance of the Legal Counsel and the Secretariat to discuss it further in the Council.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

On ne l'a pas dit assez, le Bureau du Conseil juridique nous a beaucoup appuyé dans l'examen de cette question, et je crois que c'est avec l'appui de ce bureau que certaines choses ont pu être faites facilement. Nous voulons ici, Monsieur le Président, témoigner notre gratitude sincère au Bureau du Conseil juridique pour le travail qu'ils ont fait à nos côtés pour pouvoir arriver à une conclusion heureuse.

Monsieur le Président, sur cette question, il faudrait peut-être dire que nous étions tenus par les délais parce que cette activité du PAI était déjà en retard. On avait déjà pris plus d'une année de retard dans la mise en œuvre de cette action du PAI. Est-ce qu'il fallait encore accumuler d'avantage de retard? Nous avons pensé que ce n'était pas nécessaire et qu'il fallait donc, dès maintenant aller de l'avant. Surtout, que nous nous engageons vers un nouveau cycle et le Comité, a un rôle essentiel à jouer dans le cadre de la gouvernance et autre, du fonctionnement de l'Organisation.

Nous remercions tous ceux qui ont travaillé ardemment. Malgré les petits manquements ou le départ difficile, nous avons pu nous mettre d'accord sur toutes ces questions. Comme je l'ai dit au début, merci à l'Ambassadeur Janabi d'accepter que nous puissions travailler ensemble.

Nous attendons la décision du Conseil à cet égard, et nous vous promettons que, comme on a travaillé, pour arriver à cette solution, nous allons également continuer le travail, certainement avec l'aide du Conseil juridique. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose les conclusions en deux temps. D'abord, le Rapport de la quatre-vingt-treizième session du Comité du CQCJ. Le Conseil a approuvé le Rapport de la Quatre-vingt treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, y compris les Règles de médiation et l'Amendement apportés aux procédures relatives à la tierce partie bénéficiaire conformément aux fonctions qu'exerce la FAO en cette qualité, dans le cadre du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

La deuxième partie est plus formelle, puisqu'il y a désignation et votre avis ferme est requis. À propos de la nomination des Membres extérieurs du Comité de l'éthique, le Conseil a approuvé les trois candidats recommandés par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et par le Comité financier pour les postes du Comité de l'éthique réservés à des Membres extérieurs à savoir, Monsieur Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol, Madame Anne Marie Taylor et Monsieur José Zalaquett. Le Conseil a pris note des recommandations formulées par les deux Comités concernant la définition des procédures et des critères de présélection des candidats pour la prochaine nomination des Membres extérieurs du Comité de l'éthique.

Y a-t-il des objections sur ce deuxième point concernant la nomination des Membres? Pas d'objections? Il en est ainsi décidé. Merci.

Sans plus attendre, je passe la parole au Ministre du Tchad qui a souhaité faire une courte intervention, encore une fois en le remerciant d'être avec nous.

M. Djimé ADOUM (Tchad)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Cela fait deux jours que je suis avec une attention particulière les travaux du Conseil. Je me félicite de la qualité et du sérieux avec lequel tous les participants ont contribué à ces travaux. J'ai retenu quatre points essentiels: «la parité homme/femme; la décentralisation; le suivi et l'évaluation; et l'emphase sur les petits exploitants».

Vous êtes sans ignorer que ces jours-ci le monde traverse quand même une situation assez difficile surtout par rapport aux petits exploitants. Et, le sérieux avec lequel cette auguste assemblée a traité ce problème, m'enchanté à plus d'un titre.

Je félicite aussi le Comité pour le travail effectué, et je me joins aux autres pour approuver les recommandations et la désignation des trois candidats retenus dont mon compatriote, le tchadien.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Sr. Rodrigo GUZMÁN (Chile)

Solamente una breve intervención para agradecer a nombre de la delegación de Chile, la elección de los tres candidatos dentro de los cuales hay un digno representante y destacado hombre público de Chile.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le troisième candidat est, bien sûr, soutenu par les trois pays dont il est originaire.

11. Progress Reports on the Multi-year Programmes of Work

11. Rapports sur l'état d'avancement des programmes de travail pluriannuels

11. Informes sobre los progresos relativos a los programas de trabajo plurianuales

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de passer au Point 11 «Rapport sur l'état d'avancement des programmes de travail pluriannuels». C'est pour le programme pluriannuel concernant le Comité financier dans un premier temps, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles, le Conseil, et nous terminerons par le Comité du Programme puisque Madame Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe a dû s'absenter quelques instants.

Je donne la parole au Président du Comité financier pour nous présenter le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement du Programme de travail pluriannuel pour le Comité financier.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

It has been routine work since the Reform started of every technical committee including other Governing Bodies to prepare their own Multi-year Programme of Work. The Finance Committee, as a technical committee, examine or review the first, but it was indeed the zero draft or first draft, of its Multi-year Programme of Work for the period 2010-13 at its 140th Session. It is in the Document FC 140/16.

After some discussion on the document, the Committee agreed on a number of measures to move forward, and these measures include enhancing the current version of the MYPOW through the addition of a road map containing topical matters, and related timelines relevant to the Committee's work.

I think especially we will be producing after this Council, because we are expecting some results from the Council, a road map for each session of the Finance Committee. We will describe the item that will be examined at that session. I think that is what we call a road map, and the timeline for examining some of the issues will be examined during one or two sessions, but we will come up with relevant timelines for each issue to be examined.

Second, is the consolidation of the Committees, FAO and WFP MYPOW into a single document. We have prepared, a MYPOW for the FAO work, but mind you, we also look into financial and budgetary matters concerning WFP. So we want to consolidate those two elements into one single document that we will bring before you in our next session. Then there is the linkage between the MYPOW and the status of the outstanding recommendations of the Committee because we have included a standard

item that every time we meet, we look at the status of implementation of our previous recommendations because the Committee should also review its work time and again.

So, the Committee now is in your hands, wishes to receive your guidance, and wishes to reconsider its final draft of the MYPOW in its Session in May 2012.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda was on the Finance Committee for two consecutive terms, until the most recent Council when it stepped aside to pave way for another African Member Nations to carry the function forward. We still have fresh memories of how the MYPOW, as a tool to improve efficiency, evolved and now appreciate how it has developed.

Allow me to make some comments on the Finance Committee MYPOW, on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We, firstly, congratulate the Chairperson and members of the Finance Committee for their hard work in general, and for developing the MYPOW in particular. This confirms the Committee's determination to continue improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

Secondly, we welcome the merger of the FAO MYPOW with that of WFP into a single document for ease of reference, instead of keeping them separate.

Thirdly, we encourage the Finance Committee to continue appraising Council on the implementation progress of the MYPOW, and especially where there may be changes along the way.

Fourth, we consider it important and appropriate that members of the Finance Committee participate in field visits to acquaint themselves with the realities on the ground, and to participate in Regional Conferences in order to appreciate the rationale for regional priorities.

Finally, we endorse the Finance Committee MYPOW as presented in paragraphs 38 to 40 of document CL 143/38.

Mr Jorge SOLARES (United States of America)

When we reviewed the MYPOW in October, the Finance Committee noted that while we provided a very thorough overview of the general responsibilities of the Committee, it notably lacked any information on specific issues that should be considered by the Committee in the period covered. We agreed that the plan of work would be a more useful document with this information. We look forward to reviewing the revised MYPOW at our May 2012 Session, and thank the Secretariat for agreeing to further refine this useful document. We also greatly appreciate the Secretariat willingness to provide an annual brief to Committee members, half of whom are new to the Committee each year. Without a doubt being provided with historical and technical information related to the key topics covered by the Committee will help ensure the Committee members are well informed, and enable them to quickly become contributing members.

Lastly, the Finance Committee also discussed the pros and cons of the Committee Chair or Vice-Chair attending Regional Conferences. There was consensus that this participation will be beneficial as long as the Committee Representative had a clearly-defined and formal role at the Conferences.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Président du Comité financier)

Je voudrais remercier ceux qui ont pris la parole pour apprécier le travail qui a été fait au niveau du Programme pluriannuel du Comité financier, et nous prenons note que cela va augmenter l'efficacité et l'efficience au sein du Comité et nous prenons également l'engagement de régulièrement rendre compte de la mise en œuvre ou du travail du Comité à ce niveau.

Au sujet du point soulevé aussi bien par l'Ouganda que par les États-Unis sur l'importance pour les membres, que le Président ou plutôt que le Vice-président participe aux Conférences régionales, je pense que l'information qui a été donnée par les États-Unis est exacte mais nous continuerons à travailler avec le Secrétariat pour que la présence du Président ou du Vice-président à une Conférence régionale ait une signification profonde aux côtés du Président du Conseil qui est un membre *ex officio* des Conférences régionales. Nous allons seulement appuyer le travail du Président indépendant du Conseil, en apportant la technicité qui est la notre en tant que membres du Comité financier.

Vous savez très bien que maintenant les Conférences régionales ont désormais un rôle de gouvernance accrue et pour que ce rôle soit bien utilisé, il faudrait que les Comités techniques apportent les éléments essentiels de discussion qui se déroulent ici à Rome. C'était, donc, l'essence de cette question qui a été examinée par le Comité financier, et je remercie le Conseil de considérer comme entérinée cette décision.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de projeter les conclusions suivantes pour le Comité financier.

Le Conseil a pris note du Rapport d'étape sur le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité financier, ainsi que les mesures convenues pour le renforcer et le fusionner avec le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité couvrant les matières relatives au PAM. En ce qui concerne ce Comité, Monsieur le Président, merci.

Nous passons au Comité suivant, au rapport sur l'état d'avancement du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Monsieur Hassan Janabi, vous avez la parole.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters) (Original language Arabic)

I am certain that all Member Nations know that the IPA is one of the pillars of the work of the Organization and that is why in this framework that the CCLM examined the document which is entitled the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters.

We know that the IPA requires that the Governing Bodies of the Organization develop Multi-Year Programmes of Work, which cover a period of four years, that is examined by the Council and when necessary by the Governing Bodies who can present reports pertaining to the progress made in implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

With regard to the presentation of such a programme for the CCLM, this is a matter which has given rise to the lengthy debates at the 91st Session of the CCLM in September 2010. The Committee, in its Report at the time, mentioned the fact that the Committee had held two meetings in order to examine the items which were referred to the CCLM either by the Council or by the Director-General pursuant to the requirements of the work being conducted, so there is no outstanding item on the CCLM Agenda for examination at dates which are established beforehand. The Council requested the opinion of the CCLM on this matter and noted that the CCLM wishes to continue consideration of this item at its next Session. The CCLM decided to present a Multi-Year Programme of Work which you find in Appendix III of the Report, document CL 143/4. In this Appendix, you will find that the CCLM examined the Multi-Year Programme taking into account the observations of the Council, of FAO and also the specific features of the Multi-Year Programme adopted by the other Committees, in particular the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee.

The CCLM thus informs the Council that the Methods of Work must take into account the specific nature and distinct features of the CCLM. The Committee also invites the Council to approve the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CCLM for 2012-15, which also features in Appendix III to this Report.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group reiterates its appreciation to the Ambassador of Iraq, Chairperson of the CCLM, and also to Mr Médi, Chairperson of the Finance Committee for their excellent coordination and the efforts that they made in working together in presenting this Report and the issues regarding the programme.

The Africa Group endorses fully paragraph 11 to 15 and, in particular, the Africa Group takes into consideration the special features involved in the work of the CCLM and, subsequently, approves its Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 set out in Appendix III to the Report in document CL 143/4.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU, noting discussions at previous Council sessions on the modus operandi of the CCLM, approves the MYPOW of the CCLM 2012-15.

The fact that CCLM does not have standing or recurrent agenda items, marks the CCLM apart from the MYPOW that may be expected from other FAO Committees. However, the EU is satisfied that the CCLM MYPOW will continue to be intermittently reviewed by the Committee at future sittings.

Mr Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like, on behalf of the Near East Group, to support the Report.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

There were no questions basically. They were comments and support to the flexible nature of the Programme of Work of the CCLM based on the need by other Governing Bodies and FAO. As I mentioned in my Report, the last session was somehow lighter but we expect very heavy sessions ahead relating to with the work of the CFS and perhaps even the proposal of a Joint Meeting of the CCLM, Finance Committee and Programme Committee. So this is the nature of the CCLM and as was said also by the European Union statement, we do not have recurrent standing issues ahead of us.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Voilà les conclusions proposées pour le MYPOW du CCLM.

Le Conseil s'est félicité de l'adoption par le CCLM de son Programme de travail pluriannuel pour la période 2012-15. Le Conseil a approuvé ledit Programme de travail, tel que figurant dans l'Annexe III du Rapport du CCLM.

Je vous propose de passer au Rapport sur l'État d'avancement du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil et je me donne la parole pour le présenter. Conformément aux actions 2.70 et 2.71 du PAI, le Conseil a établi son Programme de travail pluriannuel 2010-13 qu'il a adopté à la cent quarantième session en 2010 et que la Conférence a ensuite approuvé en juin-juillet 2011.

Le PAI prescrit la rédaction par le Conseil d'un Rapport intérimaire biennal portant sur son Programme de travail pluriannuel pour examen par la Conférence. Le premier Programme de travail pluriannuel a été adopté fin 2010, soit trop tôt pour élaborer un véritable Rapport intérimaire sur les activités menées par le Conseil pendant la seule Session qu'il a tenue en avril 2011. Des indications préliminaires ont été fournies à la dernière Conférence.

A cette occasion, la Conférence a convenu que le Programme de travail pluriannuel est un outil de planification utile et devrait constituer un point permanent de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil, ce que nous avons d'ailleurs établi. Elle a aussi invité la présente session à examiner les activités planifiées pour la période 2012-14 sur les bases des informations contenues dans le programme initial. Contrairement au CCLM, nous avons des questions préétablies mais, lors de la préparation, nous avons aussi convenu de la nécessité de rolling, c'est-à-dire, de passer d'un Conseil à l'autre avec des renvois pour s'assurer de la couverture, à la fois de l'ensemble des sujets et aussi liés à l'actualité dans le cadre de la FAO. Vous avez ce document CL 134/14, et je vous prie donc de prendre la parole si vous avez des remarques sur ce sujet.

Qui demande la parole? Vous m'inquiétez maintenant, c'est l'épuisement ou le sujet qui, il est vrai, a déjà été vu à un Conseil et revu à la Conférence? Aucun volontaire? S'il n'y a pas de volontaire, je vais donc dire: «le Conseil a pris note de la Proposition de Programme de travail annuel pour 2012-13 et il a approuvé le plan pour 2012-15 contenu dans le document CL 143/14».

La conclusion n'est pas tout à fait finie, on la changera si on nous le demande après les deux interventions qui viennent. L'Union européenne d'abord. Vous avez la parole.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU: Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU believes that the Progress Report of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Council and the draft work programme 2012-14 are useful steps towards a more strategic and long-term planning. In this regard, the EU would like to make the following five points:

First, the EU stresses the importance of securing the calendar of the biennium. The planned sequence of the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council will provide useful inputs to the priority-setting process, and the establishment of the next Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15.

Second, the EU would like to underline that prioritisation is key to strengthening FAO's strategic focus and delivery of results at all levels. We look forward to a clearly-defined proposal from the Secretariat on how to take forward discussions concerning priorities.

Third, we would like to be informed well in advance on the substantive issues to be addressed by Council sessions. The EU would appreciate information on how and when Decentralization will be addressed in the coming year. In our view, there are also other important issues related to the FAO Reform that need to be discussed in depth including: Human Resources management, transparency and efficiency; measuring results for and with performance indicators; independent evaluations and their reporting; resource management and mobilization.

Fourth, on working methods, we would like to see the Council become an effective forum for dialogue between Member Nations and the FAO Management, enhancing accountability and supporting the more focused approach on decision-making and results proposed.

Finally, the EU believes that the item dedicated to the Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO is very important. The preparation for the RIO+20 Meeting is a good example. The EU would appreciate that these topics and the background documents be communicated well in advance in order to prepare the discussion. In this regard, we welcome the Informal Seminar organized on 4 November 2011, presenting the process of preparation to RIO+20, and encourage FAO to work closely with partners on this, including IFAD and WFP.

Mme Sónia Cristina MARTINS (Cap-Vert)

Tout d'abord, nous aimerions vous féliciter pour la présentation de ce Rapport et, au nom du Groupe africain, nous voudrions vous remercier pour la proposition d'une version révisée du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour la période 2012-15. Nous voudrions également vous féliciter pour les progrès acquis en ce qui concerne ce Programme de travail qui reflète les engagements des États Membres de façon à contribuer à la réalisation des Objectifs stratégiques d'organisation.

Concernant la définition des stratégies des priorités, nous aimerions mettre un accent particulier sur la nécessité d'avoir des rapports ciblés sur l'examen des recommandations formulées par différents Comités, ainsi que sur le Cadre stratégique, le Plan à moyen terme et le PTB.

Nous aimerions aussi souligner l'importance de l'examen de l'évaluation des recommandations qui seront formulées par les différentes Conférences régionales, notamment pour la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain estime que le suivi régulier de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance est d'une importance cruciale et donne son avis favorable sur les méthodes de travail telles que proposées dans le PTB. Nous considérons que l'exercice de supervision qui sera réalisé permettra d'assurer que les actions de la FAO seront inscrites dans un cadre juridique, financier et administratif. Concernant le suivi de la mise en œuvre du PAI et les prochaines étapes de la Réforme, nous sommes conscients de l'importance des examens et des rapports réguliers par la Direction, et nous vous assurons de notre plein engagement dans le processus de la Réforme.

Nous reconnaissons également que les propositions et les Méthodes de travail telles que proposées par le Conseil permettront d'obtenir une meilleure structuration de ces travaux et la focalisation de ces délibérations à l'avenir.

Sur la planification des activités et des Méthodes de travail, nous voudrions aussi souligner l'importance d'avoir une approche proactive et que nous puissions avoir des rapports réguliers des activités du Conseil et le niveau d'implémentation de ces décisions.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain a pris bonne note des décisions prises sur la programmation de ce travail et nous sommes d'avis que des ajustements pourront être effectués pour tenir compte de l'évolution et des défis de l'Organisation ainsi que des États Membres. Nous mettons l'accent sur la nécessité du dialogue permanent avec tous les Comités et les Groupes régionaux de façon à contribuer à la réalisation de ces objectifs de manière à aider à combattre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Nous engageons vivement la poursuite des travaux pour la révision du Cadre stratégique 2010-19 et que ce point soit inscrit à l'Ordre du jour des Organes directeurs.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain approuve le Programme de travail pluriannuel tel qu'il a été proposé dans le document CL 143/14.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres questions, c'est sûr? Juste des commentaires aux deux interventions concernant l'inscription des thèmes à moyens termes. Lorsque nous avons préparé ce Rapport, la discussion a eu lieu et il a été dit qu'il était difficile de programmer quatre ou cinq Conseils avant les sujets.

Par contre, nous aurons demain un autre point à l'Ordre du jour qui définit l'Ordre du jour du Conseil prochain. S'il y a un sujet de fonds qui doit pouvoir s'intégrer, il faut le faire à ce moment là, en sachant que nous avons dans notre rythme de Conseils un certain nombre de questions incontournables, le Rapport bien sûr après les Conférences régionales et la préparation du Conseil. C'est plus un phénomène de rolling mais il est nécessaire de pouvoir définir et identifier tous les sujets qui pourraient être donnés.

A l'instar de ce qu'a dit l'Union européenne sur les Méthodes de travail et le dialogue, je dois dire que, si nous continuons comme cela jusqu'à la fin de notre Conseil, je suis assez satisfait de la dynamique qui est créée par la participation des Groupes régionaux qui peut justement nous laisser un peu d'espace pour avoir un peu plus de dialogue entre nous. J'espère qu'au prochain Conseil, malgré la charge qui sera forte avec les Conférences régionales, nous puissions établir, à la fois des interventions et un peu plus de dialogues. Mais déjà aujourd'hui, avec le temps que nous avons gagné, je pense que sur les sujets de fonds que nous verrons demain, nous aurons un peu plus de temps, je l'espère, pour dialoguer et j'en suis content. Si chacun fait un effort, comme vous l'avez fait, si chacun arrive à l'heure, on arrive à devenir tout à fait dynamique. Je vous en remercie.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, j'ai deux points complémentaires, si vous permettez. La remarque faite par l'Union européenne concernant le point sur les forums en dehors de la FAO qui présentent un intérêt pour le mandat de la FAO et le besoin de soumettre ces documents longtemps à l'avance avant la tenue du Conseil.

Effectivement, comme tous les autres documents, notre souci est de fournir les documents le plus tôt possible. Sur ce point en particulier, néanmoins, comme il s'agit des développements les plus récents, si on veut rendre compte des développements qui viennent de se dérouler deux ou trois semaines avant la tenue du Conseil, il est difficile de soumettre le document longtemps à l'avance.

Il s'agit de trouver un juste équilibre entre le souci d'informer longtemps à l'avance et le besoin de rendre compte des évolutions les plus récentes, mais, bien entendu, on peut aussi avoir deux documents. Un document qui est soumis longtemps à l'avance, et des mises à jour orales pendant la Session du Conseil, ce qui est fait de temps à autre.

S'agissant des commentaires qui ont été faits par le Cap-Vert au nom de l'Afrique, pour ce qui concerne les Rapports des Conférences régionales, évidemment, comme vous le savez, ces Rapports

sont soumis au Conseil à travers le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier. Donc, bien entendu, toute la documentation émanant des Conférences régionales est à l'ordre du jour du Conseil.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'en profite pour vous dire que dans le cadre du PAI, il y eu un planning «inter sessionnel» qui a été établi concernant le déroulement des Conférences régionales, le Rapport au Conseil des Comités techniques, de la réunion extra-budgétaire, et de la préparation budgétaire. Lors du dernier biennium qui a été raccourci, nous avons eu quand même de grosses difficultés pour arriver à passer en temps et en heure. Cette fois ci, nous avons 24 mois mais, ce n'est pas pour cela que nous ne devons pas essayer de respecter au mieux ces Règles, parce que comme l'a dit Monsieur Mekouar, si les Rapports ne sont pas faits, ils ne peuvent pas être présentés au Conseil et on reporte par la suite.

Nous avons quand même quelques exigences et, je le rappellerai encore demain, pour essayer de régler et de respecter au mieux les calendriers qui nous sont établis. Il peut y avoir en plus des activités qui n'étaient pas prévues et qui peuvent arrivées dans ce cadre là.

Je redis, y compris après ce qui vient d'être dit et qui conforte le travail que l'on avait établi, que le Conseil a noté la proposition du Programme de travail annuel pour 2012-13, et approuvé le plan pour 2012-14 contenu dans le document et les remarques que vous avez faites sur le fonctionnement qui font partie, bien sûr, du travail d'amélioration.

Je vous propose, puisque nous avons gagné un peu de temps, et que Cecilia n'est pas revenue de passer au sujet suivant. Cecilia interviendra après avec le Programme, si vous êtes d'accord. On suspend donc la partie du Rapport d'avancement du Programme de travail pour le Comité du Programme.

En remerciant les Présidents de leurs activités, je vous propose, puisque nous ne pouvons pas prendre le Point 15 et que le PAM qui doit venir n'est pas prévu pour cet après-midi, de présenter le Point 14: «Rapport de la Treizième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture».

Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole dans un premier temps à Monsieur Müller et ensuite les autres intervenants par la suite. Monsieur Müller, vous avez la parole.

14. Report of the 13th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (18-22 July 2011) (CL 143/17)

14. Rapport de la treizième session (session ordinaire) de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (18-22 juillet 2011) (CL 143/17)

14. Informe de la 13.^a reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (18-22 de julio de 2011) (CL 143/17)

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

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held its Thirteenth Regular Session at the end of July of this year. The fact that delegates from more than 100 countries and from many observer countries participated in this session showed the continued interest of our membership. I am very happy to say that also, in general, the public is very interested in the conversation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission with its broad scope covering all genetic resources for food and agriculture, and this includes plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, forest genetic resources, aquatic genetic resources, micro-organism or invertebrates, had a very successful session, and I would like to thank all Member Nations for having made this success possible. This Session had demonstrated the willingness of our Member Nations to put their act

together for a great cause: for the protection and sustainable use of one of the Earth's most important resources - all the genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Commission Chairperson, at this Session, made remarkable progress on a number of issues. Given the limited time, I would like to mention just five of these issues.

The first issue was that the Commission agreed on the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Some of you may remember the adoption of the First Global Plan of Action at the Leipzig Conference in 1996. The Commission revised and updated this action plan, and asked the Council to approve it, in line with the mandate given to it by the FAO Conference. My colleague, Mr Traoré, will provide you with more details on the Second Global Plan of Action. Allow me to say that this Action Plan is also an example of the good cooperation between our Departments, the Agriculture Department and the National Resources Management and Environment Department, and both of us have invested a lot of time to facilitate the Commission's work on this important global instrument.

The second issues I would like to present to you is that the Commission revised and expanded its Multi-Year Programme of Work, and it agreed on the need for a roadmap on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture. So climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture, a roadmap, will be developed for the next meeting of the Commission.

Item number 3, the Commission also agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which will meet in September of next year. This Working Group will hopefully pave the way forward for access and benefit-sharing approaches that accommodate the special features of genetic resources for food and agriculture and that facilitate access to and sustainable use of these resources without compromising the need for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from them.

Item number 4 is that the Commission also gave the green light for the first call for proposals for the use of funds received from Germany, Norway and Switzerland through a FAO Trust Account, established under the Commission's Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donor countries Switzerland, Norway and Germany, for this opportunity to really start this work on the Funding Strategy.

Finally, the Commission initiated consultations on the first ever report on The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and we are planning to launch this report in 2017. So you all are invited to come back in 2017 to participate in the launch of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

Mr Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

It is my pleasure to submit for your approval the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. As stated by my colleague, Alexander Müller, this plan was unanimously agreed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its Thirteenth Regular Session which was held here in Rome from 18 to 22 July 2011. The Commission welcomed the Second Global Plan of Action as a major achievement in the global efforts for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Council may recall that the first Global Plan of Action was developed in response to requests by the FAO Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It was adopted in 1996 through the Leipzig Declaration by the Fourth FAO International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. Since then, the rolling Global Plan of Action has been the strategic framework, catalyst and guide to the adoption of priorities and strategies for improving the management of plant genetic resources at community, national, regional and international levels. It set the stage for the negotiations of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture adopted in 2001, and is one of the Treaty's supporting components and a priority basis for its Funding Strategy.

There is a general agreement that a periodic review and update of the Global Plan of Action is necessary to ensure that it continues to best serve the Members' needs and address new challenges and opportunities. The update of the Global Plan of Action was undertaken at the request of the Commission, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Members for their generous support to the process. The Second Global Plan of Action is based on inputs from regional consultations as well as gaps and needs identified in the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

As highlighted in the Second Report, there is an urgent need to make available a genetically-diverse portfolio of improved crop varieties to cope with climate change and increase food security. However, the gradual loss of plant genetic diversity, especially at the local level, and the insufficient human and institutional capacities at the national level are reducing our options to face these challenges. Effective policies and partnerships, coupled with opportunities offered by scientific advances and information technologies, can substantially improve the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

The Second Global Plan of Action which is in front of you contains a set of inter-related Priority Activities for optimal harnessing of plant genetic resources and improved biodiversity management to promote sustainable agriculture and address the challenges of food security and climate change.

It provides a comprehensive and flexible framework for countries to adopt supportive policies and programmes for sustainable management of plant genetic resources, and calls for strengthening capacities and linkages among all stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels.

All countries are interdependent with regard to plant genetic diversity, and share a common interest in their conservation and use. The full implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action through adequate resources and close cooperation and mutual support among all stakeholders will be pivotal for the benefit of the global community.

By approving the Second Global Plan of Action, as agreed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO's Council will send a strong message; the message that there is global consensus and political will to address one of the major challenges of this century: the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations. It is my sincere hope that it will renew our commitment and investment in sustainable agricultural growth and development.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Traoré, pour cette présentation. Je vous propose donc de vous donner la parole et ensuite il y aura échange avec nos deux interlocuteurs, deux intervenants, sur ce sujet qui est un sujet de fonds et d'avenir. Qui demande la parole? L'Union européenne. L'Union européenne, vous avez la parole.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the Thirteenth Regular Session, and would like to state the following points.

Firstly, the EU supports the approval of the Second Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and looks forward to ensuring full implementation of its priority areas by stakeholders at national, regional and global level.

Secondly, we welcome the establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Thirdly, regarding the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, the EU appreciates the substantial progress made in its implementation; believes it is crucial to ensure funding for implementation of its Strategic Priority Areas; welcomes the decisions to announce the first call for

proposals for the use of funds received through the FAO Trust Account and believes that further development of the Funding Strategy is instrumental to enhance conservation and sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources.

Fourth, we recognize the need for providing sufficient regular funding and other resources to support the preparation of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, and to develop a synthesis paper on priority areas for action, based on Country Reports for regional consultations.

Fifth, we agree with the need for a roadmap or work programme on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture, and propose that this will be updated to reflect possible opportunities to interact with FAO and other international processes i.e. any future initiatives under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services and other relevant bodies. The EU considers that an overview of the financial implications of the implementation of the roadmap or work programme needs to be prepared.

Sixth, the EU supports the view that the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has to take a lead role in the reviewing, development and use of targets and indicators, including higher-order or genetic indicators, for biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Finally, the EU expresses satisfaction with progress made in the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Commission, and supports the revised MYPOW.

Mr Deo RWABITA (Uganda)

I would like to speak on behalf of Africa, and I would like to thank the two people who have given us an exposé of our resources on agriculture. Genetic resources in agriculture is very important in Africa because 80 percent of our people depend on agriculture. However, the mother earth of Africa is exhausted. In some areas, we need to make sure that the soils are revitalized by giving them fertilizers. This is an area where FAO could help in identifying areas and even invest in promoting fertilizers in Africa. We have a lot of deposits of lime and phosphorus, but they are still just dug in the ground; they need to be developed.

We must stop paying lip service to climate change. Climate change has come and is going to stay with us for many years, if not centuries. Therefore, FAO as the mother of technical knowledge of agriculture, must plan very early. It must be proactive in getting new systems that can mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, when we talk of agriculture and climate change especially the prolonged droughts in many countries, including the Horn of Africa, we need to make sure that new seeds can be developed that are drought-resistant. This will be very, very important for areas like the Horn of Africa and other drought-stricken countries.

The population of Africa is increasing every year. Soon, we will be becoming 1 billion people, but the area of forestry is not improving at all. Instead, most of the natural forests are being depleted every day because our people definitely need firewood, need to build their houses, need carpentry, so the forests are being destroyed but very little is being planted. Therefore, FAO should help the Country Offices to make sure that we promote forestry in most of these countries in Africa. Some of you have been to Africa. You will find a lot of hills are bare, full of rocks and eroded areas. Why? Because there is not green cover, so that is an area to be visited by FAO, especially in helping the Country Offices to make sure that a forestation is implemented in Africa.

There is a problem of depleting seas, lakes and rivers. Lake Victoria has lost most of its fish. Why? Because there is no replenishment. Why? Because everyone goes into that lake to get the little fish. FAO can help us by promoting aquaculture, by making sure that people or areas that are flat and are a good source of water can develop fish ponds so that the fish, from the ponds are available for consumption for the population. What will happen when the lakes are empty? Does that mean that the people will never get fish? So we need to develop new systems like cay fishing so that more fish can be available in these lakes.

Lastly I would like to talk about irrigation.

With this climate change and having a lots of drought everywhere, areas having good water could be assisted to implement simple methods of irrigation. So instead of depending on rain water, people can have this water, then can irrigate their crops and get extra crop production. Now, when there is rain, we can catch it, but when the rain is not there, there is starvation, there is hunger, there is crisis everywhere. So all these farmers must be proactive and must not let climate change overtake our resources. We must make sure that we fight the climate change by introducing new systems, new methods of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

Mr Espen GULLIKSTAD (Norway)

We support the adoption of the Report of the CGRFA meeting.

The Conference mandated this Council meeting with the responsibility to adopt this Report and, in particular, the Resolution given in Appendix B of the document calling for Member Nation agreement to the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources.

Norway supports the adoption of the Second Global Plan of Action, and we recommend FAO and its Member Nations to adequately and immediately communicate its importance as a vital tool in meeting global challenges such as climate change and food security, and urge countries to facilitate its implementation.

We further recognize that the Second Global Plan of Action also aims to contribute significantly to the achievement of several of the 20 targets in the ten-year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2012-20.

These targets were adopted by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in 2010.

Finally, we wish to emphasize that this Second Global Plan of Action will also be an important resource for the implementation of the core provisions of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and especially in identifying future priorities for its benefit-sharing fund as well as its significance to their priority-setting for other funding of the sustainable use and conservation of PGRFA.

M. Abderrahmane CHAFFAI (Tunisie)

J'ai l'honneur de présenter, au nom des pays du Groupe africain, quelques remarques et observations sur le Rapport de la Treizième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Je voudrais féliciter, tout d'abord, le Président de la Commission pour la clarté du résumé présenté et remercier le Président de la Commission, le Secrétariat ainsi que tous les Membres de la Commission pour leur excellent travail, la tâche n'était pas facile.

La question des ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est d'une grande complexité, d'ailleurs le Rapport de la Commission a été exhaustif. Il a couvert, à la fois, les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et les ressources génétiques forestières, zootechniques et aquatiques. Il a même mis en relief l'interaction de la question du changement climatique avec les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et la nécessité de mettre en place des indicateurs relatifs à la biodiversité et un code de conduite pour le partage et l'utilisation de ces ressources, ainsi que le rôle que peut jouer la biotechnologie dans la conservation et l'utilisation de ces ressources.

C'est pour dire, autant de sujets complexes, nécessitant des moyens et des compétences, hors nos pays sont souvent démunis de moyens, ce qui les a empêché de prendre part, de façon intense aux travaux de la Commission, il y a lieu de trouver des moyens pour faire participer les pays africains de façon plus intense aux sessions de la Commission.

Nous tenons à rappeler que la question du changement climatique, par exemple, représente un défi majeur pour tous les pays et, particulièrement, ceux en développement qui, dans leur majorité, sont dépourvus des capacités nécessaires de ripostes et d'adaptation. Je signale que les travaux du Groupe intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat ont démontré que l'Afrique et aussi la région

méditerranéenne sont parmi les régions les plus vulnérables et les plus menacées par les sévères impacts des changements climatiques.

On se félicite que le travail de la Commission ait permis la poursuite du débat sur l'ensemble des questions relatives aux ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, ce qui a donné des orientations concrètes aux pays et à la définition d'un Deuxième Plan d'action mondial pour relever de nouveaux défis et saisir de nouvelles opportunités. Nous adhérons complètement à ce Plan, tout en signalant la nécessité d'appui supplémentaire aux pays africains, pour leur permettre de renforcer leurs capacités institutionnelles et humaines en matière de gestion des ressources phylogénétiques, et surtout que le Plan d'action recommande le recours aux outils modernes de communication et d'information ainsi que les avancées dans le domaine des biotechnologies. Dans ces domaines, la coopération internationale est appelée à jouer un rôle de plus en plus dynamique, permettant un transfert de connaissance et de technologie.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As a long-time member on the Commission on Genetic Resources, Canada is very pleased with the progress described in the Report of its Thirteenth Regular Session. We hope that the Commission will report its main results regularly to the FAO Conference. Canada has found the Commission to be a valuable intergovernmental forum for countries to take decisions on issues related to agriculture and biodiversity. We must remember that genetic resources are the raw material for innovation in all bio-based food sectors. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture examines all aspects of their conservation and sustainable use, including the use of bio-technology which underpins food security and a competitive agriculture.

Canada actively participated in the development and finalization of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It is indeed a major achievement and global effort towards a conservation and sustainable use of these genetic resources. We are pleased, actually very pleased, to support its approval by Council.

We wish to thank the Member Nations of the Commission for electing a Canadian, Dr Brad Farley, to the Chair to the Commission during the current biennium, and we certainly look forward to future progress of the Commission in all areas of agriculture and biodiversity under its current purview.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

La delegación cubana agradece las informaciones provistas por la Secretaría con su presentación ante el Consejo y el Informe contenido en el documento CL 143/17. Apoyamos la aprobación del Segundo Plan de Acción Mundial para Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Los recursos fitogenéticos, entendiendo la implementación del Tratado Internacional, tiene una gran importancia para la producción agrícola sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria en la adaptación de los cultivos a condiciones siempre cambiantes y el enfrentamiento a las plagas y las enfermedades.

Este Tratado va a constituir un documento de referencia para las actividades a nivel de país, regional y mundial que apoyan los esfuerzos que se realizan en la conservación y en la utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos y que puede contribuir a la reorientación y el establecimiento de prioridades en los programas de investigación y desarrollo de las organizaciones internacionales.

Por último, quisiera expresar nuestro apoyo a lo manifestado por el distinguido Representante de Uganda.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I am very pleased to be here discussing this issue today. Australia, along with a very strong presence from our Region in the Pacific, participated actively in the last meeting, and we were very pleased to do so.

The CGRFA is for our Region one the most important activities undertaken in the FAO. We certainly and enthusiastically support the adoption of the Report of the CGRFA and, in particular, we support the adoption of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources. We think this Global Plan of Action was developed in a very consensual manner. It was a big task made much easier by the

hard work and dedication of the Secretariat, so we would like to express our deep appreciation for their hard work on that document.

We note one aspect is very important, which is the links between the CGRFA and particularly the GPA with the International Treaty and Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and note in particular that the Funding Strategy for the International Treaty deals very much with the funding of a range of activities including that of the GPA. We would like to take this opportunity to call on all donors and all countries to consider deeply the potential to make a contribution to the Benefit-Sharing Fund of the International Treaty to help it finance this most vital work on plant genetic resources throughout the world.

As many delegations have said before me, plant genetic resources are the backbone of productivity and increasing productivity. As we heard yesterday in the State of Land and Water presentation from Mr Müller, increasing productivity on the existing land with the existing resources is going to be one of the major challenges of the next 50 years, and plant genetic resources has to be one of the major keys to that activity.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

The Indian delegation would like to welcome the Report of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We would like to endorse the action proposed for the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources. Having said that, I would like to join the chorus in stressing the fact that genetic resources constitute the backbone of agriculture. In that sense, it also constitutes the backbone of food security. Therefore it is our duty to protect it properly. As my colleagues from Africa said, we should not be playing lip service. In order to protect genetic resources, we must allocate financial resources. It is not enough say that we need to protect. There are a serious of actions proposed, and in fact the Report speaks about the revised general gene bank standards, the facilitating mechanism, the national information sharing mechanism, the strengthening of plant breeding and seed systems, the on farm management, in situ conservation, and a host of other issues. Now to do this, I think very few countries in the world can do this with their own resources, and therefore our attention should be focused completely on it. Just to take the example, I can illustrate the point that climate change is today the modern buzzword, but in the past, many countries have witnessed drought, floods, tsunamis, and yet those people have preserved the grains, protected it and combated it effectively. Today we have the FAO, today we have the modern world where we can interact with different countries, but let us look at hundred years back, two hundred years back. What was the protection mechanism available? It was the poor farmers who protected these seeds by themselves and there was no technology, and yet they carried on and this is why genetic resources are in our hands today. It is not too late in the day to protect this, and therefore we need to think about it. The poor farmer is today just worried about how to have a secure income to feed himself. There are no resources for him to protect. When you speak about on-farm management and in situ conservation in paragraph 41, how does the poor farmer manage? He has the produce, but he eats it. He cannot preserve it for next year, so you must think much more seriously about this.

Coming to another issue relating to plant breeding. Today the plant breeding procedure is very lengthy. In fact, the scientists have taken it upon themselves and made it so cumbersome that to get certified seeds in some of the developing countries has become very very difficult. We have been speaking about participatory plant-breeding activities and it is referred to in paragraph 39 of this document. Why can't FAO evolve these standards? Because first and foremost the scientists have to themselves agree that there will be participatory breeding activities by which the seed produced is having true-to-type characteristics, and that it can be sold in the market. Today, unless the seed is certified, it cannot be sold in the market and therefore many of the poor farmers in developing countries lose out on the mechanisms that exist.

I think this is the right forum for dialogue, especially regarding and extra-budgetary resources. Therefore, I would appeal to my colleagues from different countries to not only, as Australia said, contribute to the Benefit-Sharing Fund, but also to a whole lot of other activities as it has been indicated in this Report. This Report is very valuable. It not only confines itself to plant genetic

resources, but also to forest equity, animal resources, and even micro-organisms. I think this is a fantastic Report. We are not technical people, but I will send this Report to the capital so that the technical people study it and so that the national governments, including my own, are convinced to proceed. Because in order to be food secure in the future we must support this in a very big way.

Before I end, I would like to also point out that in the minutes of the proceedings of the 108th Session of the Programme Committee, it is written in paragraph 23 that ITPGRFA could exercise greater autonomy within the framework of FAO. This recommendation of the Programme Committee should be followed-up seriously. With this, I would like to end my address.

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

My delegation would like to express its satisfaction for the Commission's approval of a renewed Second Global Plan of Action. Now the decisions of the Commission are very important. Genetic resources are the basis for ensuring food security and a stable source of income for farmers and they play an important role in adapting to climate change. They are also a source of resources for the future development of biotechnology and genetic selection of plants.

Now we would in particular like to support the work begun in preparing a Report on the State of Forestry Genetic Resources around the world.

Russia is a member of the Inter-governmental Technical Working Group on Forestry Genetic Resources. In that connection, we would like to endorse the appeal of the Commission to provide financial resources from the Regular Programme of the FAO to complete the work on a Global Report on the State of Forestry Genetic Resources.

Mr Jorge SOLARES (United States of America)

The United States of America endorses the Report, and supports the approval of the Second Global Plan of Action.

In addition, the United States of America aligns itself with the statements made by the Canadian and Australian delegations.

Furthermore, the United States Government will verify the Treaty in the near future, since the Treaty has been on the list of treaties to be verified by the United States Senate without any opposition.

Mr Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran, like Canada as a long-time member of the Commission of Genetic Resources, has actively worked with this Commission so far. I am talking on this issue on behalf of the Near East Group. Listening to debates so far, and to be brief in order not to repeat what the others have said so far regarding a very important issue, we fully support the intervention made by the Indian representative regarding the issue. We also support the European Union intervention, particularly regarding the funding strategy.

In addition to that, I would like to remind you that it is very obvious that genetic resources is the raw material for food security. If there is any intention, any will to guarantee food for all, which is the one mandate of this Organization, all Members should take responsibility to do their best in this respect, to try to identify, preserve, improve and exchange those materials through an appropriate manner to guarantee food for all in the world.

Having said that, we fully support the adoption of the Report.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Solamente para decir que mi país desde hace años ha ratificado el Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Además, quiero felicitar al Señor Alexander Müller por el excelente trabajo realizado en la Comisión, y por el buen Informe realizado.

Por lo mismo quiero hacer coro con India, Canadá, Australia, Estados Unidos de América y la Unión Europea en todo lo que han dicho, puesto que este Informe es un buen documento. Nosotros no somos técnicos, pero vemos la calidad.

Gracias también a los Miembros del Consejo que según parece han aprobado el Segundo Plan de Acción Mundial para los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura como fue propuesto por la Comisión.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Ecuador desea agradecer y felicitar por la calidad del Informe presentado y suscribir lo dicho por el delegado de la India de lo cual queremos enfatizar el hecho de que se analice la posibilidad de dar una mayor autonomía funcional al Tratado de Recursos Fitogenéticos, una autonomía de tipo financiera y administrativa que es muy importante en esta fase de implementación.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais également remercier pour l'excellente qualité du Rapport qui nous a été soumis et j'aimerais relever que mon pays est favorable à l'approbation du Deuxième Plan d'action mondial pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Je tiens aussi à souligner que la Suisse va continuer son engagement en faveur des ressources phytogénétiques.

Par ailleurs, nous souhaiterions qu'un véritable partenariat soit établi entre tous les Plans d'action pour les ressources génétiques et le Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques afin de développer une stratégie commune en matière de financement.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Nosotros también desde hace muchos años ratificamos este importante tratado y queremos unir nuestra voz a las delegaciones latinoamericanas como Guatemala, Ecuador y Cuba, que han expresado su respaldo a este Informe y sobre todo su apoyo a la aprobación del Segundo Plan de Acción Mundial para los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, confiando en que tendrá los recursos y los medios para poder funcionar adecuadamente.

Mr Hamim HAMIM (Indonesia)

We recognize the importance of Plant Genetic Resources for food security and their resilience to climate change. We also welcome the Second Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for goods and agriculture. Regarding the GPA, we recognize the importance of human resource improvement, especially in plant conservation and management. In line with this, we recognize the importance of improvement of human resources, especially for developing countries and the characterization, conservation and sustainable authorization of plant genetic resources through collaboration with institutions or by utilizing the North-North as well as South-South Cooperation Programmes. We also support the Commission in welcoming the inclusion of micro-organisms and bio-diversity for food and agriculture because these are important in sustainable agriculture and adoption to mitigation of climate change. Therefore we endorse the establishment of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Micro-organisms and Plant Genetic Resources.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas d'autres commentaires? M. Müller ou M. Traoré, vous avez quelques commentaires à faire, prenez votre temps, nous avons encore une demi-heure et n'avons plus que le Comité du Programme.

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

First of all, I would like to thank you for the very strong support expressed in all contributions of the delegations.

I think this is exactly what the European Union meant when the spokesperson expressed that Council should send a very strong signal to the world that plant genetic resources, the genetic resources for food and agriculture, in general, are absolutely important. I would like to use a word from India, which I like very much because India said: genetic resources are the backbone of food security. Maybe we should use it also as a slogan for our funding strategy in order to get some more financial resources.

I would like to also use this opportunity to thank the members of the Bureau of the Commission, the Chairperson, the former Chairperson and all the members of the Commission, because it was a really hard piece of work to prepare the Commission meeting. We have now the meeting of the Bureau of the Commission in the last weeks and really we can see the spirit of collaboration. We all know that genetic resources was not an easy discussion. So the fact that we got an agreement, the fact that we are really working together, is a very strong signal and I would like to thank the members of the Bureau for that.

Coming to some of the questions being put on the table, I would like first to answer the question, do we have enough funds? For example, for the assessment on Forest Genetic Resources.

You all know that the Commission has asked for Regular Programme funds and extra-budgetary funding, and we can only deliver this Report if you really combine both of them. So I will talk to my colleagues in the Forestry Department on how they can support this Report, and we also have to come back to donor countries in order to get additional extra-budgetary funding.

One of the most important issues in the next years will be to provide a link between climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture, and here I can support everything which was said by the representatives of Africa: that climate change is absolutely important, not only for Africa but for the question on how we are dealing with genetic resources.

We have to avoid the situation that we are coming into a vicious circle. Climate change will destroy genetic resources, but without genetic resources we cannot adapt to climate change. Therefore, it is absolutely important that we protect the genetic resources today in order to adapt to climate change tomorrow. This is one of the key issues, and I will be happy to bring this message also to the climate change negotiations which have started in Durban. I would like to inform you that we have prepared a small leaflet, and I am participating in many, many Side Events, and this will be one of our key messages. Do not forget genetic resources for adaptation to climate change.

I am also convinced that no country can act alone. We are entering a phase where the exchange of genetic resources will be absolutely crucial for climate change adaptation, and therefore the international community has to work together. Again, I am really happy that this Council sends a very, very strong signal to those negotiations.

The representatives of Africa made a very strong case that we have to go far beyond genetic resources in terms of soil fertility, for example, by also protecting forests, and I am happy to say that the UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership between UNEP, FAO and UNDP has approved four national programmes to support African countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and in the last session, also Nigeria, because we know that it is important to support capacity-development especially in African countries to be prepared for the REDD process. So we are doing a lot of work in order to support the countries, and I would like to thank Norway for the financial support provided, because without this financial support, we could not have worked together in UN-REDD.

It was a strong case made by Canada and other countries that genetic resources are the basis for innovation. Here again, I would like to come back to what I said under the headline of climate change. We have to use the Treaty, but also the Crop Diversity Trust and other mechanisms and also the undergoing debate on the international platform of biodiversity and ecosystem services to protect and sustainably use all genetic resources relevant for food and agriculture. If you miss this opportunity now, there is no adaptation to climate change, and the basis for innovation will be lost.

The main question is: how can we support farmers so that they get some, let me use this word, payment for environmental services when they are protecting the genetic resources? Farmers, especially small-scale farmers in developing countries, are the stewards for genetic resources. All of us use these genetic resources but we do not provide enough funding for these farmers so that they receive payments for the work they are doing. This goes far beyond what we have discussed until now.

I would like to also support what was said by many countries that they need a stronger resource base for the work on genetic resources for both the country level and the international level. Because every dollar we are investing today will generate a lot of profit, but the problem is only after tomorrow. So,

we have to have an upfront investment in the genetic resources in order to be able to earn this profit and get the return on investment in the years to come. I am really grateful for all the comments you have provided on the funding strategy.

Overall, the question of plant breeding and the question of participatory plant breeding has to be seen in this regard, and we have to work in an inter-departmental way, and also together with our colleagues in other organizations and especially with the farmers at the country level, otherwise we will not be able to achieve what we have to achieve.

Mr Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I want to also thank you for your support. I think this is a big encouragement to the work done by the Commission and by our technical teams. It is very important to note that this work is, in fact, that the conservation and use of plant genetic resources needs to be addressed at different levels. I think the most important level is the national level. What we are trying to do at this level, FAO level, is to make sure that the membership has the appropriate and right methodologies, that they are in a position to implement in a proper way what needs to be done.

What we are trying to do here is to coordinate the effort in different countries in different regions. I think this also is something very important and, of course, in some specific cases our teams, be they the team of International Treaty Plant Genetic Resources, or the Global Crop diversity Trust or the Commission itself, we try to support and to pilot some of the models in different places in the world. But, of course, the resources available to this unit to these mechanisms need to be strengthened. I am sure that you are all aware that Global Crop Diversity Trust and government funds are far below what is required to really implement the programmes. What they are doing now just contributing less than 20 percent to the functioning of the international gene banks from the CG system. This is, of course, very very small. As regards the benefit-sharing of the Treaty itself, we were able to implement 11 small projects last year in different places. Of course, this is not enough, and really the main responsibility regarding plant genetic resources conservation and use lies with the countries. We would like to really appeal to the different Members of this organization to allocate additional resources to the teams at national level to do the job.

We would be happy, of course, to have the additional resources to coordinate and to support what these people are doing. I think this is very important and, of course, it is team work between , FAO, CG people and CGIAR people. We are also working with other organizations and institutions including NGOs and International organizations. I think that it is very important for our Membership to understand that they have an important responsibility in ensuring the proper conservation of plant genetic resources. This is what I wanted to add, but I am sure that there is one question about the autonomy of the Treaty, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. As you know, the Treaty is part of what we call here, the Article XIV unit. This is a specific mechanism put in place by FAO Membership and, of course, within this status the Treaty enjoys full autonomy, completely full autonomy and the ongoing debate is about the Article XIV itself and how to make sure that Article XIV provides more resources, human resources, and financial resources to these different mechanisms. As you know, the Treaty has got its own Governing Body, comprising Members of FAO and other people who are not necessarily sitting here in the Council but are Members of FAO. That is why I think the issue of autonomy is important, but more important is how to ensure that the Treaty within the current Article XIV framework can deliver, and this is not because of administrative burden. It is because of the limitation of the financial resources available to the Treaty.

I think this is very important and our teams within the technical divisions and, in particular, the division in AGP and also the Commission, are supporting the Treaty in preventing that. I think this needs to be understood, and the autonomy will be an additional plus to the Treaty. The real problem of the Treaty today is not about the autonomy, but the resources, I don't know exactly to date how much we have in the Benefit-Sharing Fund but for more than 135 countries, it is less than USD 12 million, to support all the activities throughout the world. I think we need to focus on the real problems, and to

see how we can address them, and help these mechanisms to be fully operational and to assist more farmers in developing countries.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous pour le débat et votre contribution au débat. Je vous propose d'adopter et d'approuver le Deuxième Plan d'action mondial puisque, de façon plus formelle, je crois qu'il est important, vous l'avez dit clairement, de l'adopter, soit par applaudissement, soit de façon formelle mais puisque personne ne se manifeste, je considère donc qu'il est adopté.

En conclusion de ce point, je vous propose de proposer pour la rédaction du Rapport:

"Le Conseil s'est félicité de l'adoption du deuxième Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Le Conseil a approuvé ledit Plan d'action mondial tel que reproduit en Annexe B du Rapport de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, le document CL 143/17"

Permettez-moi de vous féliciter du travail accompli en commun puisque c'est aussi très important de voir comment l'environnement, les ressources naturelles, l'agriculture et la protection des consommateurs peuvent travailler ensemble. Mes félicitations car ce n'est pas toujours courant sur ce genre de sujet. Je voudrais vous dire aussi que ce débat, avec le débat que nous avons eu hier midi, génétique, biodiversité, question d'eau, de terre, climat, tout cela est un tout, sur lequel il nous faut bien prendre conscience que nous avons un rôle à la FAO de chef de file. Sachons le mettre en valeur.

De plus, puisque vous allez à Durban, vous avez des travaux pratiques et comme dans toutes ces instances bien souvent, on cause, quand on peut apporter des choses concrètes et pratiques, c'est aussi important. Et après ce qui a été dit sur les moyens financiers, je voudrais dire que pour avoir des moyens budgétaires financiers, ce n'est jamais facile, mais c'est plus facile si l'on sait ce que l'on veut et si on a une feuille de route. Je pense que vous l'avez et cela doit nous mobiliser les uns et les autres. Bonne chance et bon courage.

11. Progress Reports on the Multi-year Programmes of Work (continued)

11. Rapports sur l'état d'avancement des programmes de travail pluriannuels (suite)

11. Informes sobre los progresos relativos a los programas de trabajo plurianuales (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous me permettez de revenir au point précédent avec Cecilia qui va nous présenter le Rapport de l'état d'avancement du Programme de travail pour le Comité du Programme et nous pourrons clore notre après-midi.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

This is Item 11.2, and as you have seen in document CL 143/5, the previous Committee reported on their work. We discussed the Programme of Work for the Programme Committee, and you can see the result in document CL 143/7.

We found the previous Report very useful, and we will endeavour to follow up on that one. We will underline that programme planning and priority-setting is obviously a priority of the Programme Committee. Improved follow-up and impact of evaluations, to learn the lessons to apply for the future and the IPA implementation and integration into the Programme of Work and Budget are also important. We also learn there from what the previous Committee has said.

Concerning the methods of work and efficiency for the Committee, we are trying to find more flexible ways of working, while at the same time the language requirement of different Members must be respected.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement. The EU would like to make two main points.

First, for the EU programme-planning and priority-setting are of utmost importance. The EU believes it is crucial to ensure standardised reporting from Regional Conferences and Technical Committees to facilitate priority-setting. In this regard, the EU stresses the need to develop a proposal on the best approach to handle the discussion on priorities, not only within the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences, but also between them, as well as in the Programme Committee and Council. This will allow for a proper coordination of the prioritization process, and will ensure an efficient multi-disciplinary work within FAO, under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and Chairpersons of the respective Committees. We are expecting a technical proposal from the Secretariat on this issue to be submitted to the Programme Committee.

Second, the EU supports the attempt to improve the follow-up to and to increase the impact of evaluations. The EU welcomes the development of the new methodology by the Office of Evaluation, and more frequent review of the state of implementation of the evaluation's recommendations for better delivery and a more coherent approach.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Programme Committee's progress report on its Multi-year Programme of Work represents a step forward in governance and does thorough job of reporting against stated objectives, in line with its responsibilities.

It provides the vehicle for Programme Committee to debate and take charge of its forward agenda as well and allows Member Nations to think strategically about how this governance function should use its time to best effect.

We fully support the views expressed on this progress report and would like to highlight 3 quick points:

The Programme Committee must do a better job, with full engagement and leadership of the FAO Management in ensuring an improved priority-setting process. Canada would be remiss in not raising concerns with the lack of transparency in how the budget has been established and the linkage between priorities raised by Member Nations, including the North America Region. We stand ready to assist with improving this crucial area of FAO's planning cycle.

The Programme Committee should not forget one of its core mandates and that is to offer advice to Council on the Organization's programmatic activities. Canada has raised a concern in the last few Programme Committee meetings that increased emphasis should be placed on assessing programmes in close consultation with FAO Management.

We are focused too heavily on evaluations which are, of course, important. However, this has been to the detriment to full and intense debate on individual programmes across the Organization. I hope all Programme Committee colleagues can reflect on this point, and offer additional suggestions on how we can improve.

Finally, we would like to agree with the European Union's point regarding the need for more effective and efficient follow-up on evaluations, especially in regards to assessing impact on implementation of Management's Action Plan.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

El Grupo Africano acoge con entusiasmo los Informes presentados por la Presidenta del Comité del Programa, y agradece a la Señora Embajadora Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe y a todos los miembros de dicho Comité por el trabajo realizado. El Grupo Africano considera que ese trabajo ofrece progresos significativos.

En cuanto a la planificación del programa y establecimiento de prioridades, el Grupo Africano apuesta sobre la necesidad de proseguir con el trabajo de definición de prioridades que haga más efectivo el trabajo de la FAO sobre el terreno, y desea que los elementos de la Descentralización sean tenidos en cuenta como prioritarios, siguiendo las normas de financiación. El Grupo Africano apoya igualmente la necesidad de seguir racionalizando la labor del Comité en relación con la planificación y el establecimiento de las prioridades, alentando la definición de propuestas concretas de las Conferencias Regionales y su toma en consideración.

Creemos igualmente en la necesidad y la importancia de los encuentros previos que el Presidente Independiente del Consejo mantenga en ejercicio para organizar una buena coordinación de los trabajos antes de las Conferencias Regionales y de los Comités Técnicos.

El Grupo Africano es partidario del reconocimiento de la importancia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO, sobre todo para los países en vías de desarrollo y señala la necesidad de seguir dedicando recursos eficientes para que sea integrado en un enfoque global de la FAO, asociándolo con todos los programas de esta Organización como el de Género, la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Seguridad Nutricional.

Señor Presidente: la cuestión de la asistencia técnica de la FAO es fundamental para el PIA, pero parece que, a pesar de su coherencia con los principios técnicos e importancia para los países de menores conocimientos técnicos, basándonos en la aplicación del status quo de los criterios de idoneidad, el tema conoce pocos avances en las negociaciones y se queda en último lugar permanente e innecesariamente.

En todos los países en desarrollo, el margen del nivel de sus ingresos, padecen deficiencias técnicas para poder implementar sus políticas agrícolas de manera correcta, razón para la cual a pesar los de los ingresos, el número de personas que pasan hambre aumenta cada vez más. Los ingresos monetarios no tienen relación directa con la capacidad técnica de una nación, hablamos de naciones con ingresos altos, básicamente por la exportación de sus recursos naturales. Por ello, en parte, se justifica la pertenencia de ciertos países a la FAO con el fin de recibir apoyo técnico necesario de esta institución para el desarrollar la agricultura.

Creeremos que debido a las dificultades permanentes aquí en la FAO, quizás sea mejor definir un Grupo de Trabajo específico que pueda analizar la situación de los cinco países que encuentran en la posición de la incoherencia permanente o analizar sobre el terreno el nivel de dificultades de dichos países en materializar sus programas de desarrollo agrícola.

Y es preciso indicar que son pequeños países en extensión y en número de habitantes. No parece que el presupuesto dedicado a esos países en base al criterio uno sobrepase el 0,1% del presupuesto de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO. Mantener bloqueado ese tema es poco cooperativo, Señor Presidente.

El Grupo Africano cree en la necesidad de definir indicadores básicos que permitan dar un seguimiento correcto de los resultados de las Conferencias Regionales. Los Países Miembros que asisten a las Conferencias Regionales se lamentan a veces de no disponer de elementos de verificación de los avances entre las diferentes Conferencias. Por ejemplo, los Miembros que no viven con nosotros aquí en Roma, que vienen de las capitales, desearían tener indicadores claros que les permitan evaluar los pasos que hemos dado desde las antecedentes Conferencias. Por ejemplo, los pasos que hemos dado desde Luanda. Ahora nos preparamos para ir a Brazzaville, pero nos preguntaran pues desearán conocer qué indicadores claros les presentamos de los avances que hemos dado entre Luanda y Brazzaville.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, por todas estas razones, el Grupo Africano suscribe la necesidad de limitar el número de evaluaciones por ejercicio, y que su orientación sea más estratégica, como indica el Informe.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson Programme Committee)

I think is very valuable to have your input, and we will continue to listen to you in the Programme Committee, especially, of course, the members of the Programme Committee. I do take the advice that there has to be balance between evaluating what has been done, and to evaluate its effectiveness, and we will try to take that to heart. Also we shall continue to assess the very difficult questions of both

prioritization and impact - how to measure impact, what is the real effect of what FAO does and how can we assist the Organization accordingly. I think we will note that and we will continue to apply it in our work.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose, comme proposition de conclusion: «le Conseil a pris note du Rapport d'étape sur le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité du Programme, ainsi que les mesures préconisées visant à renforcer certains aspects du Programme de travail et à améliorer les méthodes de travail du Comité».

Voilà ce qui sera transmis et je considère que les points 11 et 15 sont clos, et que notre séance de l'après-midi est presque close. Je vous convoque demain matin à 9h30 comme ce matin et pour ceux qui ont peur d'être en retard, prévoyez de venir à 9h15 et en vous rappelant que demain, au cours de la matinée, nous aurons une petite cérémonie, hors Conseil, pour dévoiler le portrait du Directeur général. Je pense que nous le ferons après le point concernant les contributions de la FAO pour les Conférences des Nations Unies sur le développement durable donc entre 10h30 et 11h.

Cela nous donnera aussi un peu de temps demain après-midi pour avoir un vrai dialogue sur les différentes questions d'actualité qui sont prévues au programme, c'est-à-dire, ce qui se passe avec les autres instances de la FAO.

Je vous remercie de votre assiduité, de votre travail et de la ponctualité pour l'arrivée et pour la sortie.

The meeting rose at 17.33 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.33 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-third Session Cent quarante-troisième session 143.º período de sesiones
Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011 Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011 Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
30 November 2011

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.36 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième réunion plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta reunión plenaria a las 9.36 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**15. Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board (CL 143/16;
CL 143/LIM/3)****15. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM (CL 143/16;
CL 143/LIM/3)****15. Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (CL 143/16;
CL 143/LIM/3)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Bonjour à tous. Je fais un peu de pression parce qu'à 9h00 exactes, les 25 étaient présents mais nous avons différé de quelques minutes car nos amis du Programme alimentaire mondial n'étaient pas encore arrivés. Soit ils n'ont pas été informés ou ont gardé de mauvaises habitudes, mais nous commençons à l'heure. Comme nous avons tous les éléments, nous allons commencer par le premier point à l'Ordre du jour. Je vous signale qu'à 10h30 nous aurons le Dévoilement du portrait du Directeur général, et je vous en informe, nous demanderons aux trois Vice-présidents du Conseil et aux Présidents des Groupes régionaux de bien vouloir se mettre à disposition sur le côté pour accompagner le Dévoilement de ce portrait. Je vous indique aussi que ce soir, à 18h00, les Chefs de délégations sont conviés à une Réception offerte par le Directeur général à la Cafétéria de la salle Aventino au Huitième étage du bâtiment B.

Nous commençons donc par l'élection des six Membres du Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial. Vous avez les documents CL 143/16 et 143/LIM/3. Sans plus attendre, nous allons procéder à l'élection des six Membres et au remplacement de ceux dont le mandat prend fin le 31 décembre 2011. J'invite le Secrétaire général à donner lecture de la Liste des candidats.

M. Mekouar, vous avez la parole.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les candidats sont les suivants: pour la Liste A, il y a deux candidats: le Ghana et la Tunisie pour deux sièges à pourvoir. À ce sujet, conformément à la Résolution VII-2011 qui a été adoptée par la Conférence en juillet dernier, le Ghana occupera le siège supplémentaire à compter du 1er janvier 2012. Pour la Liste C, il y a un candidat: le Brésil, pour un siège à pourvoir. Pour la Liste D, il y a deux candidats: la Belgique et la Suède pour deux sièges à pourvoir, enfin pour la Liste E, il y a un candidat: la Slovaquie, pour un siège à pourvoir.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour toutes les listes, nous avons le même nombre de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir. Avez-vous des remarques? Des objections? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je vous demande par applaudissements de ratifier cette élection. Pas d'objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il en est ainsi décidé. Avec mes félicitations, mes encouragements pour le travail à réaliser au PAM, mais comme nous l'entendons, bien sûr et comme j'ai eu l'occasion d'en parler avec le Président du PAM actuel, en pleine collaboration que nous devons là aussi encore améliorer, y compris au niveau de la gouvernance. Nous avons eu l'occasion avec Jim d'en parler la semaine dernière.

Comme indiqué dans le document CL 143/LIM/3, le coordonateur de la Liste D a informé le Secrétaire général du Conseil que les Pays-Bas, élu en novembre 2009 seront remplacés par la Finlande du 1er janvier au 31 décembre 2012.

Avez-vous des commentaires à faire sur cette proposition? Si cela n'est pas le cas, je considère que cette proposition comme acceptée et la Finlande siègera à partir du 1er janvier 2012 au Conseil du PAM. Félicitations à la Finlande.

Pas de remarques particulières? Pas d'avis? Ce point est clos.

13. Status of preparation of FAO contributions to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on "Governance for Greening the Economy with Agriculture" (CL 143/18)

13. État d'avancement de la préparation des contributions de la FAO pour la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable (2012) sur le thème «Gouvernance, économie plus verte et agriculture» (CL 143/18)

13. Estado de la preparación de las contribuciones de la FAO a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible de 2012, relativa a la "Gobernanza para reverdecer la economía mediante la agricultura" (CL 143/18)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons tout de suite au Point 13: «État d'avancement de la préparation des contributions de la FAO pour la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable en 2012» sur le thème «Gouvernance, économie plus verte et agriculture». J'invite M. Müller à prendre la parole et à introduire ce point, après quoi, nous aurons des débats entre nous et nous formulerons quelques suggestions.

Nous n'avons pas à prendre une position officielle dans ce débat qui concerne les États, mais nous avons quand même le droit et le devoir de faire quelques suggestions pour bien intégrer l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans ce débat. Monsieur Müller, vous avez la parole.

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

I would like to briefly introduce FAO's work towards Rio+20, let me please start with my main message to you right at the beginning. It is absolutely important that the Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Development at the national level are involved in the preparations of Rio+20.

Rio+20 will take place between the 20-22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and it has two main themes. The first theme is a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the second theme is to discuss and find a solution for an institutional framework for sustainable development. Both themes are of utmost importance for the food and agriculture sector, and therefore, FAO has been very active since the General Assembly decided in December 2009 that this Conference would be held. We are contributing our inputs under the slogan "No Green Economy without Agriculture".

Agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, is of central importance for achieving a green economy. As the single largest sector using natural resources and providing livelihoods for 2.6 billion people, the food and agriculture sector is critical to achieving a green economy. That is also the reason why it is so important that the negotiations, currently taking place in New York, on the outcome document of the Rio+20, will be influenced by the agriculture sector, by the Ministers for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Development. FAO, together with partners, has launched an initiative called "Greening the Economy with Agriculture." This initiative aims to contribute to the definition and implementation of the green economy in the context of sustainable development and we want to add food security and poverty eradication.

I have to tell you that UN Member Nations have not yet agreed on a definition of a green economy, and therefore, it is important to bring in all aspects related to food security in this debate. We have worked on the four dimensions of food and nutrition security, on availability and here we have to come from scarcities to equity. We have worked on access to food, and here we have to come from conflict and marginalization to rights, the rights-based abroad. We have worked on dimension number three, stability, we have to come from shocks to safety nets. In utilization, our slogan is that we have to come from waste to sustainable diets. A very ambitious programme, but so far I have to say that the Rome-based Agencies together, including Bioversity, World Food Programme, and IFAD, have been very successful in placing these concepts on the agenda in the negotiations in New York. Agriculture has to offer a lot in the green economy from an environmental prospective. We have to go to sustainable intensification for low footprint systems. From a social perspective we have to improve rural livelihoods, and we need healthy food systems. From an economic perspective, we have to make markets work and we need resilience for small-holders, and this will result in the question as to what the best governance system is in achieving a green economy. Therefore, agriculture is of central importance, as I have already said, for the discussions on the green economy. I am really happy, as among the seven focus areas to be discussed on Rio de Janeiro, sustainable agriculture and food security is number two on the list.

I would like to give you an overview of the priority themes identified so far in New York. They are: energy, sustainable agriculture and food security, water, oceans, sustainable cities, disaster recovery, green shops and social inclusion. There will also be a debate on one very cross-cutting issue regarding sustainable consumption and production, and therefore, I think the agriculture sector is very well placed in the ongoing negotiations.

Please allow me to come very briefly to the second theme of the Conference. There is ongoing debate on what are the options for an institutional framework for sustainable development. The Secretary General has put for discussion to the countries five different options for a framework for sustainable development. Option number one is to enhance UNEP, the United Nations Environmental Programme. UNEP could have universal membership. Option number two is to establish a new umbrella organization for sustainable development. Option number three is to establish a new Specialized Agency which could mean to upgrade UNEP towards a world environmental organization. Option number four is to reform ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the UN, and upgrade CSD, the Commission on Sustainable Development to the level of a sustainable development council. Option number five is to enhance already-existing institutional settings and make them work better for sustainable development.

These five options are under discussion, and you the Member Nations will decide, in New York, between now and the Conference in Rio, which is the best institutional setting. Therefore, we have prepared this document for you to achieve two things: first to inform you all on the process, especially on the process of institutional reform, where countries will decide in New York, since it is a country-based process.

There is a Bureau established in New York, and the first meeting of the Bureau is on 15-16 December 2011. Then they will meet on a monthly basis to discuss this institutional reform, and as you know, this will have an impact on FAO.

The second issue is that, from our perspective, food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries have to play a central role in the preparation of Rio, and so far, and here I am very frank, I have not seen enough participation of Ministers for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the negotiations. The negotiations in New York are at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Environment. Therefore my main message, and this is also my closing remark, is that it would be good if we can support Ministers for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at the national level to be part of the national debate in influencing the international discussions in New York.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Müller de cette présentation et de cet engagement en direction du Rio+20, y compris la description des évolutions potentielles et je le rappelle, on le redira aussi, faites votre travail et

insister auprès des Ministres pour qu'ils soient très présents pour donner de la valeur aux orientations prises.

Je vous donne maintenant la parole. Nous avons le temps de faire des échanges sur ce point là. La Côte d'Ivoire, vous avez la parole.

M. Lida Lambert BALLOU (Côte d'Ivoire)

Monsieur le Président, la Côte d'Ivoire voudrait prendre la parole au nom du Groupe africain pour intervenir sur l'État d'avancement de la préparation des contributions de la FAO à la Conférence des Nations Unies de 2012 sur le Développement, durable, également appelée Rio+20, prévue à Rio de Janeiro, du 3 au 6 juin 2012.

Le Groupe africain note avec satisfaction la contribution active que la FAO a apporté au processus préparatoire de la Conférence, et qui a permis d'inscrire la sécurité alimentaire parmi les domaines prioritaires de la Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, la population mondiale continue à augmenter. Aujourd'hui, évaluée à 7 milliards de personnes environ, elle est estimée à 9 milliards en 2050. Il est aussi annoncé que la majorité de cette augmentation aura lieu dans les pays en voie de développement, et notamment en Afrique. Le monde aura à produire 60 pour cent de nourriture en plus qu'à l'heure actuelle, alors que l'Afrique devra en produire 100 pour cent pour nourrir sa population de plus en plus nombreuse. Comment l'Afrique pourrait-elle couvrir convenablement ses besoins alimentaires si elle est confrontée à d'autres défis importants que sont le changement climatique, le développement du biocarburant et la crise alimentaire? Les pays africains ces dernières années ont certes mis en place des politiques pour augmenter leur production alimentaire, mais cela devra se faire en intensifiant leur agriculture. Mais l'intensification tout azimut peut constituer un danger pour l'agriculture si elle ne s'inscrit pas dans la durabilité, c'est-à-dire, en adoptant des pratiques culturales qui conservent la biodiversité, et les services de l'éco-système avec la gestion judicieuse des terres et de l'eau.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, le Groupe africain se félicite du fait que la Conférence couvrira la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, surtout dans les domaines prioritaires pour l'Afrique que sont l'agriculture, la foresterie, la pêche et la nutrition. Le Groupe africain pense que l'aspect sécurité alimentaire est très important pour l'Afrique dans la mesure où elle participe à l'élimination de la pauvreté. Ceci devra se faire tout en conservant les ressources naturelles de façon durable. Cela aussi suppose que les capacités des pays sont en place et que les politiques et institutions nationales et régionales sont renforcées pour que les pays puissent s'y impliquer.

Enfin, pour un développement durable de l'agriculture, le Groupe africain propose que l'accent soit mis sur la diversification agricole, la mise à disposition de façon durable des semences améliorées, ainsi que l'augmentation des investissements dans le milieu rural, et l'amélioration de l'accès aux marchés pour les petits producteurs.

Concernant l'aspect institutionnel, le Groupe africain voudrait insister sur le fait que les Nations Unies ont déjà beaucoup d'institutions et qu'il n'est plus opportun d'en créer. Nous pensons qu'il faut renforcer celles qui existent et mettre en place des mécanismes appropriés de coordination efficaces. Pour finir, le Groupe africain voudrait que, dans un tel scénario, les pays aient un rôle important à jouer et, pour cela, ils devront être appuyés en vue de mettre en place des capacités et des politiques leur permettant de gérer de façon durable leurs ressources naturelles.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretariat of the FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity for their joint and fruitful efforts to present the relevant, concrete and concise contributions to Rio+20. We are also pleased to note that the FAO has joined with other relevant international organizations in putting forward proposals for ocean and coastal sustainability, presented at the 36th Session of the UNESCO Conference earlier this month.

As a regional proponent and host of the Rio+20 Conference, we are also pleased to see that the Rome-based organizations are fully committed to contributing to the success of the Conference. Given the

objectives and issues ascribed by the United Nations General Assembly to the Conference, it will be too much of a relevant appointment to miss.

Some say the Conference can be overshadowed by the current financial and economic crisis.

On the contrary we believe that Rio+20 becomes more relevant in such a context. After all, we agreed in 1992 that sustainable development encompasses three equally essential pillars: social, economic and environmental, and that one of the root causes of the difficult situation we are in is generated by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. Let us make no mistake: Rio+20 is a revision and a renewed commitment 20 years on – and yes we need to recognize that much progress was made, but, also, that there is still a lot more to be done, at a faster pace.

Thus, the central question that Rio+20 will have to tackle refers to the type of development we seek.

Although one of the expected outcomes of the Conference is a review of the lessons learned and the gaps in the promotion of sustainable development, the discussion in Rio will actually be about the future, not the past. It will all be about the future we want, in the words of United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon.

Let me then highlight the considerations we, Brazil, submitted to the Conference Secretariat in areas that are of relevance to the FAO work.

We understand that the primary cause of food and nutrition insecurity is lack of income to ensure access to food, and not insufficient food production which is, in fact, enough to feed all mankind. Now, we believe it is possible to ensure food and nutrition security, and at the same time promote mitigation of emissions and increased agricultural productivity, reduce production costs, improve natural resource efficiency, especially water, strengthen the resilience of productive systems, promote the sustainable development of rural communities, and foster the adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate change, while conserving and sustainably using genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Although this might seem quite an ambitious listing, the good news is that we, especially here in FAO, know that these are achievable goals. To this end, a number of measures are required, including investments in agricultural research and support, and incentives for the adoption of technologies that sustainably increase production. We commend FAO for its recent work in this particular area.

Those actions can be further undertaken in the various productive segments, ranging from large-scale producers to small farmers.

Allow me to make some brief comments on the very informative paper prepared for Council, CL 143/18. In the future, when we will have the opportunity to take into consideration the outcomes of Rio+20 and discuss more thoroughly the concepts presented in this background document, we would like to see a more detailed approach to social technologies as a means of greening the economy with agriculture.

Since, however, these discussions have not yet been held, we are very pleased to agree with the suggestion that the Council take note of and praises the Secretariat for the inputs to the Rio+20 preparatory process.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Member Nations that supported the FAO activities in this area, and say that we are willing to continue this dialogue in Technical Committees and other appropriate fora in FAO, and other Rome-based Agencies, before and after Rio+20.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group appreciates the brief document on the State of FAO's Contribution to Rio+20. It makes a convincing case in support of the following six essential points.

First, there can be no greening of the economy, no matter how you define it, without a viable and sustainable agriculture, with focus on poverty and education.

Secondly, food and nutrition security must remain a major objective for the green economy.

Third, greening of the economy with agriculture, GEA, must be eco-system-based, including the blue oceans, be sensitive to environmental, economic and social factors and remain resilient to shocks. It must also address other challenges such as rural energy, water scarcity, disaster management and bio-diversity. For example, yesterday the Council was apprised about the importance of preserving genetic resources for national adaptation programmes in response to climate change.

Fourth, the Greening of the Economy calls for a change in attitude and behaviour by all stakeholders. Adopting a bottom-up approach to priority-setting, making every effort to reduce transition costs and putting in place a strong institutional framework at different levels that can address all the three pillars of the green economy, namely economic, social and environmental, are necessary.

Fifth, the GEA must be grassroots-based and receive an adequate share of total national investment.

Sixth, robust international support for GEA is necessary, especially for the least developed countries, with complimentary policy advice, particularly under the South-South Cooperation mechanism. With respect to the International Environmental Governance of the Green Economy, paragraph 17 lists five possible options, and it is expected that the study commissioned by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs will come up with a proposal that could be acceptable to all Member Nations.

As suggested by Mr Alexander Müller just now, the participation of Ministers of Agriculture in the Rio+20 in June 2012 is highly desirable, and the Near East Group wishes to propose that the need for such participation be reflected in the Council's Report.

The Near East Group is also happy that the three Rome-based Agencies are planning a joint communication campaign for Rio+20, and that other events are also taking place in support of Rio+20, such as the Bonn 2011 Conference on the nexus between Water, Energy and Food, the so called "Nexus Conference".

Ms Magdalena KROPIWNICKA (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EU reiterates the importance of the Rio+20 meeting and its aim to foster favourable framework conditions for sustainable development. We will need to reaffirm commitments in key areas such as food security and nutrition, agriculture, land use, fisheries and forestry as well as water, energy, marine environment and chemicals. This will be critical to green growth and poverty eradication. The FAO has a key role to play in all these domains. The EU generally supports an integrated food and eco-system approach based on collaboration with relevant stakeholders as proposed by the FAO.

We should focus on areas related to eco-system services such as improved waste management, reduction of post-harvest losses, climate-change mitigation and adaptation processes, as well as promotion of sustainable production and consumption of food. FAO has a key role to play in encouraging the development of sustainable, productive and climate-smart agriculture and food systems.

The EU promotes international initiatives and partnerships to better address the water/energy/food security nexus, and supports the creation of synergies with the Sustainable Energy for All and Global Soil Partnership. The EU would like to request that the FAO Secretariat prepare terms of reference for the Global Soil Partnership, stressing the need for coordination with relevant organizations, in particular the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

The EU supports and welcomes FAO's contribution to the preparation of Rio+20, and acknowledges the essential inputs of FAO into discussions, especially the initiative 'Greening the Economy with Agriculture' and the Workshop held together with OECD in Paris. The EU acknowledges the importance of nutrition and food systems in both developing and developed countries as core elements of sustainable development.

We believe that a fully-developed, integrated vision for FAO should go beyond Rio+20 and also provide the base for FAO's own policies on food security and nutrition. Therefore, the issue should also be included on the Agenda of the Committee of Agriculture.

The EU supports constructive and swift finalization of the negotiations and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Some form of presentation of the Voluntary Guidelines should be envisaged in the Rio+20 Conference.

The sustainable management of forests, including conservation, has been a priority for the Rio process from its inception. The EU underlines the need for international, regional and national work on forestry to be recognized by the Rio+20 Conference. In particular, the EU supports the work of FAO in chairing the Collaborative Partnerships for Forests and its submission for the preparatory process of Rio+20. The EU welcomes this submission, and urges FAO to include forests, forestry and the entire forest sector as an important part of its contribution to the green economy and food security.

The EU is concerned that the status of global fish stocks continues to deteriorate despite the commitments undertaken in Johannesburg in 2002. According to FAO, the proportion of over-exploited, depleted or recovering stocks has increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 32 percent in 2008. Consequently, the EU would like to see that achievement of sustainable fisheries form part of the Rio+20 Agenda, and that FAO continue its work in monitoring and analyzing the situation. With regard to the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD), we need to ensure that the economic, social and environmental dimensions are being equally considered. The EU is also convinced that an ambitious and broader reform is necessary to focus on and respond to the fundamental problems. The Rio+20 Conference provides a unique opportunity for forward-looking IFSD discussions.

In conclusion, the EU supports the joint efforts and the joint submission of the Rome-based UN Agencies in preparation for Rio+20, and welcomes FAO's contribution.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

We welcome the status report on FAO contributions to Rio+20. The Rio+20 Conference provides a unique opportunity to take a renewed integrated approach to sustainable development. Agriculture, food security and nutrition are key issues when the Conference is to consider green economy.

We would like to make the following comments:

First, the agriculture sector can be an engine for economic development and the creation of decent green jobs. The contribution of both men and women to sustainable development must be acknowledged. High female participation in the formal workforce enhances a country's competitive edge.

Secondly, energy consumption has increased by 40 percent. We still rely too heavily on fossil fuels. Food supply currently consumes around 30 percent of the world's total final energy demand. Norway has recently launched an energy and climate initiative known as Energy+. The essence of that is to incentivize countries and other stakeholders to increase energy access, accelerate development and use of technology, and change and promote renewable energy. The linkages between the energy sector and the agricultural sector are obvious in this context.

Thirdly, preventing deforestation and land degradation is among the most cost-effective measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Norway advocates and contributes to the implementation of such methods and institutions, not least under the REDD+ Programme. We appreciate the cooperation with FAO, UNEP and UNDP through the UN REDD+ Programme.

Fourth, we encourage FAO and other UN Rome-based Agencies to be active as they head towards Rio+20. We welcome the common FAO, IFAD, WFP and Biodiversity documents submitted to the process, as well as work on the joint communication campaign.

The Rome-based Agencies could contribute with concrete suggestions on how to improve food security and nutrition in a sustainable manner, inter alia on how to increase food production from agriculture and fisheries without overloading the ecological resource base, how to cut post-harvest

losses and minimize waste of food, how to strengthen small-holder agriculture and empower female farmers, and how to make agriculture more sustainable and energy-efficient. The same also holds true, of course, for the Fisheries and Forestry sectors.

Fifth, Norway is in favour of the proposal put forward during the preparations for Rio+20 to develop sustainable development goals. Such goals should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental pillars as mentioned in the statement by Brazil. The sustainable development goals should be supplementary to the MDGs and the Post-2015 Agenda.

Lastly, the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability, co-chaired by the Presidents of Finland and South Africa, will issue their Final Report on 12 January next year. This Report will be an important input to the Rio+20 process.

We would like to inform the Council that we are, in cooperation with FAO, planning a launch of the Panel's report in Rome in mid-January, and we are hopeful that a member of the panel, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, who many of you will remember as the Chair on Commission on Sustainable Development which was one of the main inputs to the Rio Conference in 1992, she will be available to present this Report here in Rome.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Argentina toma nota del documento en consideración, CL 143/18, que se trata de un documento preparado por la Secretaría de la FAO y que sido elaborado y presentado bajo su responsabilidad.

Argentina ha presentado su posición nacional respecto a este tema en el marco de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible Rio+20, y ha realizado aportes para la preparación del borrador del documento a ser considerado en la misma.

Argentina quiere recordar que el concepto de economía verde no posee aún una definición consensuada a nivel internacional. En todo caso, se considera que el concepto no debería sustituir al paradigma de desarrollo sostenible, sino agregarle valor tal como fuera acordado en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo y en la Cumbre Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible. En este contexto, la propuesta de una economía verde debería prestar debida atención para lograr un equilibrio entre los tres pilares del desarrollo sostenible, es decir: el desarrollo económico, el desarrollo social y la protección del medio ambiente. Por ello el debate no debería centrarse sobre uno de estos elementos, sino que debería tratar a estos tres componentes de manera simultánea. Cualquier estrategia de economía verde debería considerar las diferencias en términos de contribuciones y responsabilidades históricas de los países en desarrollo y desarrollados en relación con la degradación medio ambiental, y basarse en la equidad y en el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, reconocido por el Principio 7 de la Declaración de Rio sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo y el Artículo 3.1 de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático.

En síntesis, existe la necesidad de evaluar las políticas de economía verde en un contexto global, teniendo en cuenta sus relaciones y efectos sobre el medio ambiente, el desarrollo económica y social, el comercio internacional, los flujos de las inversiones y el desarrollo y la transferencia de tecnologías y recursos financieros por parte de los países desarrollados hacia los países en desarrollo. En ese contexto, las medidas ambientales promovidas por una economía verde deberán ser el resultado de un proceso multilateral transparente, tener debidamente en cuentas las capacidades y necesidades especiales de los países en desarrollo y no derivar en políticas que sean inconsistentes con la regla de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

En este contexto, reitero que la Argentina toma nota de este documento y, si bien tenemos presente que este no es un Comité de Redacción, sugerimos que en el documento CL 143/18, en el recuadro donde se indica "medidas que se propone el Congreso", dijera: "se invita al Congreso a tomar nota del proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible Rio+20 y de las contribuciones fundamentales de la FAO al mismo."

Mr Guo HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for having submitted this Report. We also thank Mr Müller for his presentation.

The Chinese Delegation commends the efforts made by the Secretariat of FAO to prepare for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. It is our opinion that agriculture is the foundation stone of the green economy. The Chinese Delegation agrees to the inclusion of food and agriculture among the priority areas of the United Nations and endeavours to report on sustainable development. At the same time, the Chinese Delegation feels that at this UN Conference on Sustainable Development, there is the need for a balance to be struck among the three pillars, that is, economic development, social development and environmental protection. We need to maintain the share of differentiated responsibilities, and the principle of consensus should prevail in any decision-making. We should be advocating diversification of development models.

There is also a need to stress the essential role of Governments while encouraging the participation of all stakeholders. We think that the eradication of poverty should be viewed as the paramount objective of the development of the green economy. We need to improve the external environment for developing countries.

Sra. Carina Milagros SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por el documento que se nos ha presentado acerca del proceso preparatorio para la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible. Este es un tema de mayor importancia, y la FAO debe participar activamente en él con sus aportes.

Nuestro punto de vista es que debemos analizar este tema con objetividad. No se plantea el tema de la falta de acuerdos y compromisos al reto de lograr el desarrollo sostenible, sino el incumplimiento de la implementación de esos compromisos internacionales.

Como se reconoce en el documento que nos ha presentado la Secretaría, los Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas aun no han definido el término “economía verde”. En cualquier caso, las consideraciones para una definición sobre la economía verde en el contexto de desarrollo sostenible y erradicación de la pobreza deberán hacerse en correspondencia con los principios contenidos en la Declaración de Río sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo, la Agenda 21 y los instrumentos posteriores adoptados para su implementación.

Por otra parte, los aportes de la FAO a este proceso deberán enmarcarse en los aspectos que cuentan con el consenso de los Miembros de la Organización y los que han sido acordados por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, como son el derecho a la alimentación y otros enfoques que hemos abordado con anterioridad en relación con los medios de vida rurales, los recursos naturales y su uso en la agricultura y los que tienen que ver con la ordenación agrícola, forestal y pesquera. Es en este sentido que mi delegación toma nota del documento.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Australia would like to thank very much Mr Müller and the Secretariat for the presentation of the document. Australia supports finding ways to place agriculture on a more sustainable footing, while addressing the challenge of global food security in a changing climate.

Australia recognizes that the global growth trajectory for food and agriculture has not always been smooth, although the rate of growth in total agricultural productivity has often exceeded the population growth and demand in some countries, while have been faced with low productivity and periods of crisis and famine. Any strategy to promote green growth should be consistent with the WTO obligations and should discourage measures that are potentially trade-distorting or similar. We very much promote good policies and programmes, and we think that green growth should be targeted to specific and tangible outcomes and subject to rigorous criteria.

Australia supports a flexible approach for implementing green growth strategies, recognizing that there is no one size fits all approach. We see that we need a range of sustainable farm management practices which are used across countries to reduce environmental pressures, to suit the economic,

social and environmental situations. Therefore, a green growth strategy should avoid prescribing specific agricultural practices as it may not be an effective or appropriate practice for all countries.

Rio+20 is an opportunity for us to provide clear policy guidance that supports strategies for sustainable growth, which will provide both environmental and economic benefits. We see that green strategy should include options for market participation to reward innovation and promote growth, and will give an example that Australia's carbon farming initiative and Australian domestic carbon offset scheme, which allows farmers and land managers to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. We consider that effective implementation of green strategies by all countries, both developed and developing, is important to achieve sustainable development outcomes. We further recognize the variability in country circumstances to adequately address developing country needs.

Australia further sees as a fundamental requirement for green growth in agriculture, is that farmers have to have suitable access to technology and that they have the knowledge and skills to use these. As such, Australia sees that an important part of this process should be knowledge, skills and technology transfer programme.

That being said, Australia very much looks forward to welcoming the outcomes of the negotiations in New York, and we very much commend FAO for this document, which we welcome.

Our final comment would be that we call on FAO to recognize the dual roles and the mandates of both the Council and the process under New York, that we very much respect the dichotomy of these two processes and that we respect our role and our mandate as the FAO Council.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation takes note with appreciation of FAO's active participation in cooperation with other Rome-based Agencies and Bioversity in the preparation of the Rio+20, and for introducing the green economy with agriculture initiative in underlining the critical role of agriculture and food production in enhancing food security and sustainable development at the same time.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group. On institutional reform, our preliminary view is in line with some previous speakers that there are already so many specialized organizations, so the option of creating a new Specialized UN agency may not be a good one. We would prefer strengthening or expanding the scope of work of existing organizations like UNEP or ECOSOC. The main idea is to have as much as possible active participation of Member Nations and other stakeholders because enhancing food security and sustainable agriculture in food production needs joint efforts of all parties concerned.

We very much hope that all participants at the Rio+20 will collectively take necessary actions in line with their renewed political commitments to be reflected in the foreseen Declaration.

We wish to encourage FAO to make good use of the roadmap to the green economy, the goals of sustainable development and the monitoring of progress while incorporating them in its policy advice and technical assistance to Member Nations to prove that agriculture can really play an important role as a prime mover towards a greener economy, and that we need to set a good example of translating works and commitments into actions.

Unveiling of the portrait of the Director-General Ceremony

Cérémonie de dévoilement du portrait du Directeur général

Acto de descubrimiento del retrato del Director General

LE PRÉSIDENT

N'ayant plus d'autres demandes des Membres du Conseil, je suspends la séance pour l'opération de dévoilement du portrait et nous reprenons aussitôt avec les intervenants et observateurs qui sont inscrits puisque que j'en ai quatre d'inscrits. La séance est suspendue quelques instants. Je demande aux trois Vice-présidents du Conseil ainsi que les Présidents ou en leur absence, les Vice-présidents des Groupes régionaux, de bien vouloir se positionner debout sur la gauche de l'horloge. Merci.

Nous sommes réunis quelques instants pour découvrir le portrait de notre Directeur général, Jacques Diouf. En effet, à l'issue du mandat du Directeur général, un portrait est tiré pour rejoindre dans la continuité, dans la postérité, les autres Directeurs généraux et ainsi, marquer la reconnaissance pour chacun d'eux dans le temps. Ce portrait complète la décision des Membres de la Conférence, ici même en juin, qui a institué le Prix Jacques Diouf.

Un portrait, c'est une image, un moment de la vie, qui personnalise pour le futur, le lien avec le passé. C'est un souvenir indélébile de votre action et de votre passage à la FAO. C'est aussi l'expression de la continuité de l'histoire, un avant et un après. La vie d'une Organisation comme la FAO est un ensemble d'hommes et de femmes dans le temps et dans l'espace qui œuvrent pour le bien des autres, pour le bien de l'humanité, pour un monde meilleur et dans le cas de la FAO, pour donner du pain à tous, Fiat Panis, comme le dit notre logo.

Monsieur le Directeur général, cher Jacques, au nom de tous mes collègues et de ce qu'ils représentent, je veux vous remercier pour le temps donné à cette œuvre importante. Soyez aussi notre interprète auprès de votre famille pour les associer en ce merci en vous ayant permis de vous rendre disponible pour la FAO. Après les nombreux hommages qui vous ont été adressés durant la Conférence ou à d'autres occasions, vous n'avez pas souhaité une autre série de remerciements. C'est donc au nom de tous et assisté des Vice-présidents du Conseil et des Présidents de Groupes régionaux, que je vous adresse ce grand merci. Le souvenir de votre action et votre personnalité seront gravés à tout jamais dans nos mémoires personnelles et collectives. Je vous souhaite, au nom de tous, une bonne continuité dans votre vie qui sera, nul n'en doute, toujours au service des autres. Merci, Jacques.

Unveiling

Inauguration

Decubrimiento

13. Status of preparation of FAO contributions to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on "Governance for Greening the Economy with Agriculture" (CL 143/18) (continued)

13. État d'avancement de la préparation des contributions de la FAO pour la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable (2012) sur le thème «Gouvernance, économie plus verte et agriculture» (CL 143/18) (suite)

13. Estado de la preparación de las contribuciones de la FAO a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible de 2012, relativa a la "Gobernanza para reverdecer la economía mediante la agricultura" (CL 143/18) (continuación)

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian Delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the Africa Region. We would also like to express our appreciation to FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity for their hard work in the preparation for Rio+20 and for succeeding in placing Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security as a second item on the Rio Agenda. We hope that small-holder agriculture will be one of the items at center stage during the negotiations at the Rio+20.

We also appreciate Assistant Director General, Mr Alexander Müller and his team, for their hard work in this regard. We look forward to a successful outcome of the Rio+20 negotiations.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Observador de Guatemala)

Mi delegación quiere alinearse totalmente con la declaración de Argentina, y apoyamos de agregar la frase al resumen propuesto al documento.

Quiero felicitar al Sr. Alexandre Müller por el óptimo documento, y deseamos que la FAO logre mantener la bandera de la agricultura sostenible en Rio+20.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, mon pays a apporté, dès le départ, un soutien financier à l'initiative de la FAO «économie verte et agriculture» car nous sommes d'avis qu'il n'y a pas d'économie verte sans agriculture durable.

Selon nous, une agriculture durable a trois fonctions à remplir: la première, la production de denrées alimentaires, la deuxième étant la gestion à long terme des ressources naturelles et la troisième, le développement économique des zones rurales. Elle a donc un rôle clé à jouer dans la lutte contre la faim, le changement climatique et la pauvreté rurale.

Nous pensons qu'il est également temps de passer d'une approche basée uniquement sur l'agriculture à une approche plus globale intégrée qui comprend l'ensemble du système d'approvisionnement alimentaire.

Mon pays se félicite de la contribution active que la FAO a apporté au processus préparatoire de la Conférence de Rio, qui a permis d'inscrire l'agriculture durable et la sécurité alimentaire parmi les domaines prioritaires. Cet objectif a été atteint et la Suisse se félicite aussi de la remise d'une soumission commune par les agences romaines le premier novembre dernier.

Selon nous, il s'agit maintenant d'aller de l'avant et de fixer les objectifs précis et pertinents aussi bien pour les pays en développement que pour les pays développés. Il faut également élaborer les propositions d'actions concrètes en vue de la Conférence de Rio, mais aussi du suivi de celle-ci, et cela aussi, afin de permettre à la FAO de renforcer son rôle de leader dans le domaine de gouvernance internationale en matière d'agriculture et de sécurité alimentaire.

Dans l'élaboration de ces propositions, il importe que la FAO consulte toutes les Parties intéressées et notamment le secteur privé. La participation du secteur privé est un élément important pour nous.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais relever aussi que nous partageons l'avis qu'il est important que les Ministres et les Ministères de l'agriculture et du développement rural soient pleinement impliqués dans la Conférence de Rio.

J'aimerais également remercier Monsieur Müller et son équipe pour son action.

Mr Aksel NAERSTAD (Observer for More and Better Campaign for Food and Agriculture, and Rural and Development to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty)

I thank the national network of farmers organizations and NGOs on global level and also members of 50 countries. I also would like to thank Mr Müller and his team for the excellent work and the input that FAO has provided together with the WFP and IFAD and Bioversity to the Rio+20 process.

If you have not read the document, I encourage you to read it. It is a very good paper that FAO has provided for the Rio+20, the input, and I think it is very important that it highlights the need for change and the need for supporting the small-scale sustainable farming.

Many organizations are very engaged in representing civil society and they are very pleased, together with FAO and others, that we have managed to get agriculture high up on the agenda. Now the question is the content of this. More than a hundred organizations have signed the documentary that you will find outside called Rio+20. Business as usual is not an option, and it is time to act. Rio+20 will be a crucial moment for how to move on in agriculture, and I think it is very important to underline that agriculture, is both a problem and a solution when it comes to local environment problems and to eradicating poverty. All of you know that, but you also know that there are solutions; there are ways of farming that can contribute in eradicating hunger and poverty and maintaining the environment. But we are now very worried about the influence on agro-industry. FAO together with OECD organized an expert meeting in Paris at the beginning of September. I was there invited by FAO, and I was very pleased when I saw the four background documents that Mr Müller mentioned, and I looked forward to seeing them. They were excellent background documents.

The Paris expert meeting was very diverse, with representatives from different sectors, farmers, scientists and others. But we know that the agro-industry, the fertilizer industry and others have complained that these documents were biased, and that the meeting was biased, etc. We are worried that this year we are seeing an offensive from agro-industry, saying that they have the solutions. They have also toned down the environmental problems that this agro-industrial high input has caused.

So, I encourage all the Governments and also FAO to continue on track in really promoting sustainable agriculture and small-scale farmers. We look forward to working with Governments; we look forward to working with FAO and all the Agencies and, for sure, there will be tens of thousands of activists in Rio who will follow you very closely and really will work with you on these issues. But there will also be strong protests against trying to promote unsustainable agriculture in the agro-industry.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il d'autres demandes d'interventions. Je n'en ai pas d'autres actuellement, si ce n'est pas le cas, je demande à Monsieur Müller de faire peut-être quelques commentaires sur des questions posées ou des remarques qui ont été faites par les délégations. Monsieur Müller, vous avez la parole.

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

First of all I would like to thank all the delegations for this extremely valuable discussion and all the inputs provided, and before I go into some of the details I would like to start with two remarks.

I would like to reiterate what I have said in the beginning. The date of the Rio+20 Conference has been changed. Between the drafting of the document and now, the date has changed from 3 to 6 June – this is no longer the date – to 20 to 22 June. So the date has changed, and please correct it in the document, and I think we can also put it in the Report.

I would be happy to convey to our colleagues in World Food Programme, IFAD and Bioversity, all the support we have received, because we will continue to work together. The debate held here in FAO is also of support to our colleagues.

It is a real pleasure, and I would like to follow the announcement made by Norway that the Secretary General has established a High-Level Advisory Group. I know that this High-Level Advisory Group will also address food security in their Report, and it would be really excellent to have Gro Halem Brundtland here in FAO in mid-January. We will do our best to organize it so the Member Nations can really be informed on a first hand basis the work of the High-Level Advisory Group established by the Secretary General.

Let me go to some of the comments you have made, and it is not possible to address all of them, so I would like to concentrate on the main comments. I would like to start with Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the Africa Group, and I think it is a very important contribution that we have to look at agricultural diversification to increase resilience of the systems so that, especially in Africa, agricultural systems can deal with the many challenges – increased food production, coping with climate change, biofuels, but also sustainable intensifications. So we will really address it in this way: all of these efforts have to be based on eco-system services, using the eco-system approach, and there we would need more investments.

I agree with Brazil that in times of financial crisis, the discussion on a green economy is more relevant than ever because the green economy can contribute to a solution to the financial crisis and, therefore, it is absolutely important that we are talking about the future we want, and this will be the main issue in Brazil.

I also agree with the analysis that currently we are producing enough food for everybody in the world, but despite this fact we have more than 900 million people hungry and, therefore, you have question of access to food through a rights-based approach and of poverty eradication, in conjunction with producing more food with lower greenhouse gas emissions. Ensuring a better sustainable basis for this is one of the key issues to be addressed in Rio+20, and I would be very interested in learning more about what Brazil has called the social technologies, because I agree with everything that everybody

has mentioned that we have to address the three pillars of sustainability in an equal and balanced way – economic and environmental, but also social issues – and, therefore, I know that Brazil is very much looking forward to the participation of civil society in the Rio event, and I know that about 50 000 people are expected to come to the Rio meeting.

I would like to highlight two issues mentioned by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group. The first is that, and I like it a lot, all our efforts have to be grassroots-based. We have to have the farmers in the centre, and therefore, I would like to announce that we have started talking to IFAD regarding the next Farmers Forum to be organized early next year by them. If they could also concentrate on the Rio+20 process so that we receive direct input from the farmers, because all these high-level meetings have to be implemented on the ground and, therefore we shall go a long way in supporting the comment of Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group that the process should be grassroots-based.

We are also considering, as FAO, to support participation of some farmers' groups, especially from developing countries, so that we have a really broad participation in this Rio process.

I would like to highlight here that we have to deal with food security and other challenges in conjunction. We have to go out of the silo and we have to achieve food security and poverty eradication, and we have to deal with rural infrastructure in supporting biodiversity and things in a coherent manner.

The European Union request to base the green economy on the eco-system approach was already mentioned, and we have to link food and nutrition security together because in the end what counts is what is happening on the ground with the people. Therefore, I totally agree that we have to go beyond Rio+20. Rio+20 is another start and the real work will begin after Rio. We are considering, as FAO, to present in the Rio Conference some of our initiatives that go beyond Rio+20. For example, I have discussed with the Executive Secretary of UNCCD that we have a Joint Side Event on Soils in Rio de Janeiro, so that we try to bring together all activities related to future important developments and make a strong case of collaboration in Rio. Soils could be one, climate is one, agriculture another one, the debate we had yesterday on genetic resources could be another example, so our idea is to make things very concrete in Rio de Janeiro.

I have already commented on the proposal of Norway to get information first-hand from the Secretary General's High-Level Advisory Group. This is an excellent initiative also with regard to the sustainable development goals, because under discussion in New York is the question of how to agree among you, the Member Nations, on sustainable development goals which could be additional internationally-agreed goals to the MDG goals. Here FAO has nothing to comment because you, the Member Nations are negotiating it. It is very clear, however, that all energy and climate-related questions will have to play an important role.

Argentina made the case for ensuring that we have the right balance between all the three pillars of the discussions we had in Rio in 1992 – the social, economic and environmental pillars – and that we should base the negotiations on the shared, but differentiated responsibilities. I think this is one of the key issues to be addressed in New York, because we have to avoid any discussion that there is a confrontation between development and the green economy. We have to ensure that the green economy is supporting development. I agree with all your comments that we have different models of development and that these development models should, of course, take into account the multilateral agreements, including WTO, but I think you, the Member Nations, will ensure that this takes place.

China made it again very clear that the three pillars are very important and that eradication of poverty has to be in the centre. This is fully in line with what Brazil and others have said, and we are also making a strong case that the question of poverty eradication and sustainable development has to be seen as very closely linked. There is no sustainable development if you do not eradicate poverty. So it has to go hand-in-hand.

Cuba made reference to an ongoing work, specifically regarding identification of gaps, because we know that in Rio 1992 a lot of commitments were made. I know that you are currently trying to identify the gaps between the commitments made and what has been achieved. This is a major undertaking to inform you, the Member Nations, on what was promised and which promises have be

kept and how we can ensure that after Rio we can have a renewed commitment to sustainable development.

Australia again highlighted the three pillars of sustainable development, but a very important issue was raised that we do not have one size that fits all for this sustainable development to take place. We have to look at the concrete situation in the individual countries and the status of development there, and as far as I know, this is one of the key discussions taking place in New York.

Thailand supported the development of a roadmap towards sustainable development goals and I think this is an important issue for FAO. The European Union also wanted us to look not only towards Rio, but to have the next COAG meeting after the next develop a clear roadmap on how we can achieve what was discussed in Rio de Janeiro so that we do not have to go to another Rio Conference in another twenty years' time to identify gaps. We have to have a clear roadmap in order to achieve this, and we will forward it also to Rio.

The comments made by the Observers from Ethiopia, Guatemala and Switzerland were fully in line with what I have already expressed. I would like to highlight three issues – the important role of small-holders producing the large bulk of food, but we should not forget that also large-scale farmers have to produce in a sustainable way. Switzerland made it very clear that beyond Rio, we have to address some critical questions, especially water. I have learned in the last two days that Brazil is planning to organize a special Day on Water in Rio de Janeiro. We could also link a lot of the work we have done in the State of the World's Land and Water Resources to this Water Day in Rio de Janeiro and we would be happy to provide input. Regarding the comment by Guatemala that sustainable agriculture is key, maybe I should rephrase my slogan from the beginning 'there will be no green economy without sustainable agriculture'. We should make it very clear that this is sustainable.

The representative of Civil Society Organization made it very clear that Civil Society will play a very important role towards the process in Rio de Janeiro. All stakeholders will be involved, and we are happy that we have received so many contributions to our documents, not only from industry, from private sector, but from civil society and from Governments. We are currently in the process of finalizing them. This is a major workstream, because we are receiving a lot of inputs and I am really happy that we get support from civil society in this workstream.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Müller. Vous avez montré votre compétence et votre engagement, ce qui est de bon augure pour pouvoir suivre ces travaux de très près. L'Iraq, vous avez la parole.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Observer for Iraq) (Original Language Arabic)

I am sorry, I always make sure to listen to what Mr Müller has to offer but I missed his presentation this morning for reasons beyond my control. My simple question may be very naive. I assume that negotiations are ongoing in New York or somewhere. Can we see the very first draft document that is being negotiated or whatever versions are available, version 0, 1, 2. Do we have to get this document through our delegation in New York, or is it available in FAO?

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

I will get directly to the point. I would be happy if I could share the first draft with you, but it does not exist.

There will be a meeting in New York on the 15-16 December, where Member Nations are discussing the Outline, and mid-January the Secretary-General and UNDESA are going to table the Zero Draft. When we receive it, we would be happy to share the information with you. We are all waiting for the Outline and the Zero Draft, in order to concretely start work on the document to be finalized in Rio.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme vous montrez beaucoup d'intérêt, j'insiste fortement, sur le fait que aussitôt que vous avez des documents qui peuvent être diffusés, vous nous les faites parvenir. Merci. Oui, Monsieur Mekouar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There is a dedicated website for Rio+20, and if you wish to receive the link to that website we can provide it easily.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose d'inscrire dans nos conclusions les éléments suivants: «le Conseil se félicite des contributions essentielles de la FAO au processus préparatoire de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable, notamment au regard du rôle majeur que l'agriculture est appelée à jouer dans la promotion d'une économie plus verte dans le cadre du développement durable, dans ses dimensions économiques, sociales et environnementales. À cet égard, le Conseil a souligné l'importance de l'implication des Ministres chargés de l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans les travaux de Rio+20».

Voilà le résumé de ce que nous pouvons dire dans le cadre de notre responsabilité, ce sont les Pays Membres qui, je le rappelle, négocient mais il est important que nous puissions le rappeler.

Merci à chacun, merci M. Müller, il y a du travail sur la planche! La parole à l'Australie.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

I would just like to reiterate that essentially our role as the Council is very much to make the recommendations towards the work and what is being produced by FAO, and I would very much stress that essentially it is up to every Government to create its own mandate and whether to involve one ministry in particular, or have a whole Government approach, whatever it may be. It is essentially something that is the national responsibility of the Member Nations themselves, and I think it may go a little bit beyond the mandate of the Council to make such direct recommendations to Governments. Essentially, it is up to us as Members to report on the outcomes of this discussion, make our conclusions and make our own recommendations to our Governments. I think the Council itself perhaps may be a little bit beyond its mandate regarding this recommendation.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Quisiera manifestar mi coincidencia con lo expresado por la Delegación de Australia y reiterar que, en nuestra interpretación, el Consejo debe tomar nota del documento que ha sido presentado y preparado por la Secretaría bajo su responsabilidad.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'avais cru prendre la précaution de bien indiquer, en début et en fin d'intervention, mais les éléments de conclusion que j'ai fourni, à mon sens, ne préjugent pas des différents pays puisqu'on se félicite des contributions essentielles de la FAO et on souligne l'importance de l'implication des Ministres. Chacun peut faire ce qu'il veut, on ne s'immisce pas dans la position de chacun des Gouvernements, je pense que ce point là est clair.

On avait mis: «l'implication des Ministres et chargés de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation», on va ajouter «notamment» pour laisser ainsi à chaque pays le soin de gérer cette position avec les Ministres concernés dans les pays.

Le Costa Rica souhaite la parole.

Sra. Tania LÓPEZ LEE (Observador de Costa Rica)

En nombre del Gobierno de Costa Rica, queremos agradecer toda la colaboración que hemos recibido de su persona y de la FAO para poder hoy poder presentar un Evento Paralelo sobre la contribución del Sector Agropecuario en la Estrategia Nacional del Cambio Climático, una nueva dimensión de las políticas públicas sectoriales al que invitamos cordialmente a todos Ustedes.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

We would just like to remind you that this is an information document, and is for information only. Essentially, the role of the Council is to take note of this. It is not the role of the Council to make recommendations, which is beyond its mandate. I would very much propose that we note the

document, as Argentina has recommended, and that would be the extent of what is reflected in the Report.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We support Australia's position on this.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande l'avis des autres Groupes étant donné que chacun s'est exprimé sur le Rapport convenu. Personnellement, je pense que les positions de conclusion n'engagent pas la responsabilité des Pays Membres, mais renforcent quand même la FAO dans le rôle qui est le sien de son travail préparé par le Secrétariat. Bien sur, le Conseil est souverain.

Si les autres Groupes de pays veulent s'exprimer sur ce point, cela serait préférable puisque j'ai eu deux interventions de représentants de deux Groupes: l'Amérique du Nord et le Sud Ouest Pacifique.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

The Near East has already made its statement. I suggested that the Minister for Agriculture should be included and some recommendations could be useful. It does not prohibit any country, a sovereign country, to appoint a delegation; some may, some may not, it is harmful, it is not harmful. It is just a useful suggestion.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

El documento que estamos examinando es un documento informativo, y en el mismo recuadro tenemos lo que se pide y se le propone al Consejo y nos dicen de tomar nota de esto. Nosotros compartimos y estamos de acuerdo con lo que había propuesto Argentina diciendo de reconocer las contribuciones y de tomar nota del documento, indicando la conveniencia de esto para que los Ministros estén más involucrados en el proceso. Este es un deseo del Consejo, y no una imposición.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I just wanted to clarify, that in addition to the points that Australia has made, we are concerned with the phrasing that you have proposed, as indicating that this is the sole recommendation from the Council.

I believe that there have been a number of recommendations and that if we cite one, we would have to cite a number. Therefore, we would strongly prefer simply to note the Report.

Ms Carla Elisa Luis MUCAVI (Mozambique)

The delegation of Mozambique would like to propose that apart from what you have said, maybe if we can really acknowledge or call upon Member Nations to get involved in the process, without specifying really if it will be the Minister of Agriculture, or another Minister. We all want to get involved because we have expressed that it is really an important fora, so this is our proposal.

M. Ould Dahi EL MOCTAR (Mauritanie) (Langue originale Arabe)

J'apprécie ce qui a été dit par le Mozambique, notamment pour ce qui est de la formule consensuelle pour ces conclusions. Je propose, donc, de dire que nous prenons note de ce Rapport, et que le Conseil demande à tous les pays Membres de la FAO de participer de manière efficace à la préparation de la Conférence de Rio, en conclusion donc, je répète ce qui a été dit par le Mozambique.

Mr Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I fully support the intervention by Afghanistan, because all the Members that you mentioned, more than fifty distinguished delegates, appreciated the work that has been done by the Secretariat and that the importance of the issue should be discussed in the future. While we fully support the proposal by Afghanistan to encourage all the Ministers to be involved for this compromising task, we can even live with the proposal by Mozambique.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Monsieur le Président, je ne prétends pas m'exprimer au nom d'un Groupe régional, mais uniquement en mon nom de Représentante permanente de la France. Je pense qu'un certain nombre de propositions intéressantes viennent d'être faites et que effectivement, seulement prendre note serait, peut être, un peu dommage.

J'ai vu que dans les autres Points de l'Ordre du jour, nous avons tiré les leçons du débat qui avait eu lieu, et je crois que nous pouvons aussi dans la conclusion soutenir les efforts communs des Agences basées à Rome, et qui, il faut le remarquer, ont fait un effort important pour présenter une contribution commune.

Je crois que cela serait utile de le noter parce que cela a été l'objet de consensus et de soutien de la part de l'ensemble de ceux qui se sont exprimés, en tous cas de beaucoup de ceux qui se sont exprimés. Nous pourrions soutenir, les efforts communs des Agences romaines en préparation de Rio+20, accueillir favorablement la contribution de la FAO et encourager une participation active de l'ensemble des Pays Membres, ou dire que tout ce travail est fait avec le soutien et la participation des Pays Membres. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

We agree with our colleagues who have said that the Council is entitled to look at all the documents and adopt recommendations regarding them, even if they are only for taking note. We could say the Council took note of the contents of the document, we would give the number of the document, then we could say 'encourages the Organization and the Member Nations to participate effectively in that meeting'.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

The Mauritius Delegation will support the proposal made by Mozambique and also by Mauritania.

I believe that the statement made by the Ambassador of France expresses clearly and very well the position of, we can say, I believe perhaps, the majority of the Members of the Council here. So my delegation could also support the statement made by the France.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après avoir entendu tout ce qui a été dit, je vous propose d'écrire dans le projet de propositions: le Conseil prend note du document et se félicite des contributions essentielles de la FAO au processus préparatoire de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable. On peut citer le document CL 143/18.

À cet égard, le Conseil a souligné l'importance de l'implication active des Pays Membres de la FAO en collaboration avec le FIDA et le PAM.

C'est ce que nous allons transmettre au Comité de rédaction. Je pense que le débat a été intéressant. Nous avons pris la précaution de bien dire que justement, nous n'allions pas nous impliquer, mais d'un autre côté, nous ne pouvions pas non plus échanger, dire des choses et ne pas le signifier lors de cette réunion du Conseil.

Merci à chacun de votre contribution.

Merci, Monsieur Müller, et bon courage pour tout.

16. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2011-13 (CL 143/LIM/2)

16. Calendrier 2011-13 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres principales réunions (CL 143/LIM/2)

16. Calendario para 2011-13 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de otras reuniones importantes (CL 143/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Point 16 de l'Ordre du jour «le Calendrier 2011-13 des Sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres principales réunions». Comme vous le savez, ce Calendrier est élaboré en collaboration avec le FIDA et le PAM pour bien coordonner les réunions et éviter qu'elles se chevauchent.

Le Conseil est donc appelé à approuver le Calendrier proposé pour 2012, et prendre note du Calendrier provisoire pour 2013. Cependant, il est possible que nous soyons amenés à revoir les dates de réunions de certains Organes directeurs dans les prochains mois. Si cela devait être le cas, nous le ferons à travers des consultations.

Je vous donne la parole sur ce sujet. C'est le document CL 143/LIM/ 2.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa Group welcomes the Provisional Calendar of Meetings in Appendix B. However, with respect to the 27th Session of the Africa Regional Conference, I have been directed by the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps to inform the Organization that the Africa Regional Conference has been rescheduled for 23-25 April 2012 in Brazzaville, in the Republic of Congo. The change of date is due to the recent decision of the African Union to hold the Summit of the Heads of State and Government from 30 January to 3 February 2012. That was the date scheduled first for the Africa Regional Conference, now rescheduled.

Now with this change of date, the Africa Group approves the Proposed Calendar for 2012, and takes note of the draft Calendar for 2013.

Mr Jiri MUCHKA (Observer for Czech Republic)

I am speaking in my capacity as the Chair of the European Regional Group because I wish to draw your attention to the meetings scheduled for April 2012 since we have here two meetings that overlap specifically the IFAD Executive Board and the 28th Session of the European Regional Conference.

As far as I know, the meeting at IFAD was originally scheduled from the 9-13 April and those dates were for some reason changed. So, I do not have any solution or any proposal to be made on the issue now, but I would like to just raise the matter and share with you the need to look at the Calendar again more carefully.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

On behalf of the North American Region, Canada would like to inform Council Members of our next informal Regional Conference, planned for April 3rd and 4th, 2012.

North America's intention is to discuss similar agenda items to those being discussed at the other Regional Conferences, including priority-setting and Decentralization.

We look forward to sharing the results of our discussion, both informally with the various Regional Groups and formally at the next Council meeting in June.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to clarify something. All the Member Nations are familiar with the political talks that are underway in the Near East and the number of meetings and fora organized in which the Director-

General Elect has participated. He also met with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, to discuss such issues as the political interaction and political management of what is called the “Arab Spring”.

These circumstances are giving rise to many changes in the Region. As a result, the Secretary-General of the Arab League expressed a number of views which are, of course, not binding, but they are of crucial importance for a Region as large as the Near East. I was saying, then, that the Secretary-General of the Arab League had expressed his wish to see the Regional Conference taking place in a period of greater economic and political stability in the Region. He was as anxious as the Member Nations of the Arab League to ensure that there was the highest possible participation at this Regional Conference next year. Now, for all of these reasons a request was made to wait for the situation to become more stable.

The Regional Conference is not just a formal routine event, and what is happening in the Region is conducive to major changes for which we already had some sense as a result of the resolutions emanating from the last Regional Conference. Given that the agenda was laid down by the Governments that no longer exist with many policies falling along the wayside, it is quite possible, indeed quite conceivable, that this Agenda may need to be revised. But without stability in our Region, this cannot be done at all. So this question was discussed with our Regional Office in Cairo, as well as with the Management of the FAO, represented by the Director-General, Jacques Diouf. We have looked at all these issues, and we have also addressed them with the Director-General Elect, Mr Graziano da Silva.

With your permission, I would also like to add that this issue was also discussed with the Iraqi Government, so that we could come up with a common position. All the parties involved thus agreed to defer the Near East Regional Conference. This is something which matters greatly to us. Yesterday, I discussed this issue with the Director-General Elect, and we agreed that as soon as he officially takes office, he will examine this issue and will be able to find a solution regarding a possible deferment of the Near East Regional Conference. The new date which had been set for this Regional Conference was September 2012, so this proposed date change, as I said, has been discussed in the Near East Group and our Group agreed unanimously on this deferral.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres questions? Je voulais vous rappeler que le Président a la charge de veiller au bon déroulement entre les sessions du Calendrier qui se glissent l'une avec l'autre: les Conférences régionales, les différents Comités par rapport au Conseil et le Rapport. C'est un Calendrier qui a été adopté dans le cadre du PAI. Je vous rappelle que lors du dernier biennium, nous avons eu quelques difficultés pour faire tout cela et nous avons, donc, mis quelques règles. Je peux au moins donner quelques éléments de réponse de proposition du Conseil, puisque c'est aussi le Conseil qui donne son avis.

En ce qui concerne la demande de l'Afrique, compte tenu du Sommet des Chefs africains du fin janvier 2012, dans la mesure où cette Conférence se déroule avant fin avril, elle est acceptable dans le Calendrier qui est proposé.

En ce qui concerne la position de l'Europe en lien avec le FIDA, je demande à M. Mekouar de nous faire un commentaire sur comment on peut essayer de régler ce problème entre le FIDA et le Groupe Régional pour l'Europe.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Our colleagues from IFAD were supposed to join us today. I hope that they are with us and able to provide clarifications on this matter. I see that our colleague, Ms Andreina Mauro, is walking towards the podium, so just a few seconds and she will be with us.

Ms Andreina MAURO (IFAD)

We have consulted our Members, and we have found that there will be only some Members who will be participating in the meeting in Azerbaijan in Baku and only three from all the Board, so we found that there was a possibility to hold our Executive Board on the same date. However, I will inform the Management, and we will see if we can find another proposal and submit it to the next Board in December.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de cette indication, nous allons continuer les discussions pour faire en sorte pour que chacun s'y retrouve au mieux et que la participation soit maximum au FIDA et maximum aussi à Baku.

Pour la troisième question présentée par le Canada au nom de l'Amérique du nord concernant la Conférence régionale informelle, nous en avons pris note et la procédure sera pour l'instant la même que nous avons eue par le passé, puisque cela sera une conférence informelle. En attendant si cela est nécessaire et si la Région souhaite rentrer dans une procédure de reconnaissance de Conférence, mais seule la Conférence de la FAO peut décider différemment. Pour l'instant, nous considérons la réunion informelle et nous verrons, comme nous l'avons fait la dernière fois, comment cela s'intègre dans le cadre des conclusions que vous aurez tirées.

Donc, nous prenons note simplement de cela. Quant à la quatrième question présentée par l'Irak au nom du Proche Orient, je vous propose de continuer les discussions. On a bien entendu tout ce qui a été dit, et j'aurai l'occasion d'en rediscuter aussi, avec vous-mêmes, bien sûr, mais aussi avec le Directeur général. Donc nous ne prenons pas de position pour le changement de date. Nous prenons note de la demande et de l'interrogation.

Je vous propose d'accepter ce Calendrier avec le changement de l'Afrique. Je vais essayer de vous lire cela au mieux: « Le Conseil a approuvé le Calendrier des Sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales de 2012 et il a pris note du Calendrier 2013 figurant à l'Annexe B du document CL 143/LIM/2. Le Conseil est convenu de reporter les dates de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique du 23 au 27 avril 2012 et de procéder à d'autres ajustements, si nécessaire, à travers des consultations.

On prend une décision ferme pour l'Afrique, et pour le reste, nous continuons les consultations.

M. Denis CANGY (Maurice)

C'est le 25. Du 23 au 25 avril. C'est trois jours: 23, 24, 25.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

En général les Conférences régionales durent cinq jours.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

We appreciate the Council taking note of the informal conference. However, we would like Council to also note the date of the conference being planned is April 3 and 4.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Dans la semaine, on va vérifier tout cela et on ajustera pour que tout soit clair dans le compte-rendu, merci.

12. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 141st and 142nd Sessions of the Council (CL 143/15)

12. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à ses cent quarante et unième et cent quarante-deuxième sessions (CL 143/15)

12. Estado de la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en sus períodos de sesiones 141.º y 142.º (CL 143/15)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons donc au Point 12 «Suites données aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil» que vous avez dans le document CL 143/15, qui présente des informations sur les suites données aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil lors des deux précédentes sessions conformément au Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil.

Vous avez le document CL 143/15. Avez-vous des remarques à faire? Mozambique, vous avez la parole.

Ms Carla Elisa Luís MUCAVI (Mozambique)

On behalf of the African Group, the delegation of the Mozambique would like to welcome the Report on the Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at 141st and 142nd Sessions of the Council. We are satisfied to register that most of the actions decided by this Governing Body have been implemented, as reflected in different Council documents that this Session has just considered.

For those not yet been implemented, the Africa Regional Group would appreciate receiving progress reports on how far the implementation is underway. We are particularly interested to see further progress on the consultation in course regarding eligibility criteria for access to TCPs on a grant basis, bearing in mind the assistance that Africa still requires to complement the efforts being made at the national level to improve agriculture and ensure food security and nutrition.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate our position for Option 1 as the most appropriate for the reality of our continent, where a considerable number of its people are still facing the scourge of hunger and poverty, notwithstanding the efforts made to revert this situation.

We note that some of the actions have been recently taken, but their conclusions are not properly reflected in this document. Therefore, we request the Secretariat to report to this session on the outcome of the meeting convened on 23 September, regarding the criteria for access to TCPs. We would also appreciate if the conclusions of the discussion by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee of 2 October on the Decentralized Offices network would be reported.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our appreciation regarding the implementation of the decision to increase the budget allocation to Strategic Objective K-Gender, taking into account the argument advanced in the last two days which we will not repeat.

We also welcome the decision to set the evaluation budget at .07 percent net appropriation for the 2012-13 biennium. With regards to the evaluation, the Africa Group believes that results of this valuable exercise should not be confined to the Headquarters, but made known at regional, sub-regional and the country level so that lessons could be learned and best practices promoted.

With those comments, the Africa Group takes note of the Report.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you to the Chair and the Secretariat for this paper. Our comments actually relate more to structural, or perhaps, administrative details of this document rather than any of the particular content. I will send these comments in writing to Mr Mekouar, so he can perhaps consider this in more detail at a later point.

We note this document here, and of course we don't suggest changes to this, but we do think that there could be some improvements to this document, in order to improve its functionality.

This is, of course, a very significant element of the Council MYPOW, and I think it does require some attention to ensure its accuracy and effectiveness.

For example, it is not clear at times which Session of the Committee has made a decision on the present referencing system, and we note that a more systematic referencing system for these decisions would be really beneficial. Labelling each decision with the Governing Body prefix e.g. PC106 or something like that and a decision number for reference, for example, would allow easier tracking and discussion of these items. The paragraph referencing that you have there already should remain.

However, we need to be really careful when referencing paragraphs in reports to make sure that we get them correct, and make sure we know exactly which Report they are from. The continual referencing of paragraph 10 from the Hundred and Sixth Programme Committee, is incorrect I understand, and is a case in point in this regard.

We are also a little concerned that the Implementation Status column contains insufficient detail. For example, it often says things like: see proposals in paragraphs 12, 17 and 26 of document PC108/4.

For us, that is not really a sufficient record of implementation progress. This Status of Decision document should not rely on other documents, but should be a self contained document by itself. The 141st Session of the Council in CL 141/16, for example, contains a much better record, in our view, of the Implementation Status of Decisions. I am not quite sure why we have departed from this style.

Improvements could also be made by consolidating decisions by different Governing Bodies that are effectively the same. Obviously the Council takes a lot of its instructions and decisions directly from other Governing Bodies, and we could consolidate those.

The current Implementation Status of Decisions document, perhaps is not quite up-to-date. The decision regarding the strengthening of Decentralized Offices from the 30th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East, for example, relates to a discussion that occurred six weeks ago, but provides no updates.

Finally, any decisions from previous Council Sessions that are outstanding should be carried over to the present version of this document.

In conclusion, we are happy to note this document for the moment, but we think in future versions there could be some improvements to the style and functionality. I will send all of these details to the Secretariat, and I am happy to engage with them on a bilateral basis on some of these points.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres remarques ou suggestions?

Nous avons pris bonne note et nous vous saurions gré de nous envoyer par écrit, comme l'a dit l'Australie, les remarques supplémentaires dans le but d'améliorer mais aussi de rendre plus transparent le Rapport, comme vous l'avez dit. Chaque Rapport peut être amélioré, celui là aussi et cela peut être fait progressivement.

Monsieur Mekouar a peut-être justement des commentaires à faire, puisque le travail lui revient plus particulièrement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Australia, for very useful comments and suggestions. We are happy to take on board any improvements that can be made to the structure, style and presentation of the document. Perhaps a couple of comments on or responses to what you said. The document as presented now reflects recommendations made during the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on measures to improve efficiency in governance last year and partly also this year. Those recommendations were specifically made by the European Region Group to use a similar document produced by WFP as a model. We did have in the past a document which was much more detailed, and we were asked to cut it down and basically to have in the comments column only "completed" or "ongoing". As you can see, from time to time we put "completed" when it is quite straight forward. Sometimes we added some detail, but if we were to simply follow the guidance given, we would just have used "completed" or "ongoing", which I appreciate would not be very helpful. I suppose we will have to find a middle way between being too concise and not detailed enough, and provide information that is useful for the reader when they read the document.

Regarding the fact that some of the information is outdated, clearly this is linked to the fact that sessions of Governing Bodies tend to take place too frequently, one right after the other. As you know, we have to post Council documents in all languages four weeks before the session. This means that this document should be ready at least six weeks before the Session in English (or any other language) to be translated into the other languages, and therefore there is a gap between the moment in which the document is produced and the moment it is discussed here. That is a bit frustrating, but I think we have to realize that either we submit the document three or four days before the Council, and is updated, or we submit it on time – as was requested yesterday – and it is outdated.

Also referencing more precisely some documents in the "comments" column would be useful, and we will try to do that so that the document becomes self-contained and understandable on its own. But in this case, we will have a more detailed document. Therefore, it is up to you to guide us on this matter.

Regarding the point made by Mozambique on behalf of Africa, specifically on the criteria for eligibility to TCPs on a grant basis, indeed the information provided is incomplete because there is just a reference to the meeting held on 23 September. But as a result of that informal meeting, there was further consideration of the item by the Programme Committee when it met in October, and I understand there was no real progress on the subject either. To my knowledge, the question is still under review, and the Chairperson may comment on this, as he has convened that meeting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur ce sujet, puisque l'on m'avait confié le soin d'essayer de trouver une solution, j'ai fait rapport au Comité du Programme et, constatant que nous n'avions pas pu avoir de consensus sur ce sujet là, la question est toujours posée en particulier dans les Groupes régionaux concernés.

Pas d'autres questions posées? Pas d'autres remarques? On peut donc considérer ce point comme adopté.

Le Conseil a pris note des informations concernant la suite à donner aux décisions qu'il a prises aux cent quarante et unième et cent quarante-deuxième sessions, et tous les commentaires qui ont été faits, cela fait partie de l'évolution progressive que nous mettrons en place. Le Point 12 est clos.

18. Provisional Agenda for the 144th Session of the Council (June 2012) (CL 143/INF/4)

18. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante-quatrième session du Conseil (juin 2012) (CL 143/INF/4)

18. Programa provisional del 144.º período de sesiones del Consejo (junio de 2012) (CL 143/INF/4)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je passe au Point 18: ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante-quatrième session du Conseil en juin 2012. L'ordre du jour de la prochaine session est présenté au Conseil pour examen et, le cas échéant, pour ajouter des points découlant d'événements nouveaux si c'est nécessaire.

Avez-vous des commentaires? Pas de commentaires particuliers? Nous aurons, bien sûr, les comptes-rendus des Conférences régionales. La Tunisie, vous avez la parole.

Mme Hazar SASSI (Tunisie)

La Tunisie prend la parole au nom du Groupe africain et souhaite formuler la remarque suivante:

«Suite à l'intervention de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de l'Irak, concernant le Report de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche Orient, à une date ultérieure à celle de la cent quarante-quatrième session du Conseil, c'est-à-dire septembre 2012, nous pensons que le Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour n'a plus raison d'exister et il conviendrait par conséquent de l'éliminer, ou de le maintenir, si vous voulez, sous réserve de la tenue de ladite Conférence à une date précédente à celle de la Cent quarante-quatrième session du Conseil.»

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

As stated earlier, North America looks forward to sharing the results of our informal Regional Conference at the next Council meeting in June. Also, in reviewing the proposed agenda, it appears that the Committee on Agriculture scheduled from May 21 to 25 and the Committee on Commodity Problems scheduled for May 20 to 30 are not included. We are wondering how this will be addressed.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En ce qui concerne la première question de la Tunisie, nous la mettrons sous réserve. Il est vrai pour toutes les Conférences régionales, d'ici le prochain Conseil, il peut y avoir un changement. On ne va pas l'éliminer complètement pour bien garder le rythme. D'accord?

En ce qui concerne la question posée par le Canada sur le Comité des produits, je n'ai pas bien compris la question, excusez-moi. Je donne la parole à Monsieur Mekouar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have in May the meetings of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Commodity Problems, and we have later on the Committees on Forestry and Fisheries. The inputs of all these Committees will be taken together to feed into the programming process and we will have an opportunity at the following session of the Council to consider together the Reports of all the Committees. So, obviously, the Reports of all Committees will go to the Council, not at the next session – at the following, the 145th Session of Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je rappelle que pour les Comités, nous avons aussi mis la règle d'avoir terminé avant début octobre pour pouvoir affirmer les positions dans le cadre du Conseil de novembre, donc c'est le même système que pour les Conférences régionales.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I am sorry I had to leave the room to consult with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps regarding the Africa Regional Conference. I have talked with the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and he has, in fact, agreed that the Conference be extended to 27 April. So then to resume, the Africa Regional Conference will take place in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo from the 23 to 27 April, given the fact that, as you pointed out quite rightly, Regional Conferences usually take five days.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est enregistré. Nous restons sur le point que nous étions en train d'étudier concernant l'Ordre du jour de la Cent quarante-quatrième Session du Conseil. Ya-t-il d'autres remarques? Si tel n'est pas le cas, Monsieur Mekouar, vous avez la parole.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There are probably a couple of other items that might need to be added to the Draft Provisional Agenda for the next session of Council. One is possible additional Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. This question was mentioned when Item 3 on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget was discussed, and you can notice at the end of the summary box that Governing Bodies will have the opportunity to consider a broader review and adjustments to the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, including at the 144th Session of the Council in June – so this might require the addition of a specific Agenda Item.

Additionally, later in the day when we will discuss the Item on Developments in other Fora of interest to FAO's mandate, there is a Sub-item on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. This is the second Programme of Action that was approved recently by the United Nations General Assembly. The previous Programme of Action was endorsed by the Council ten years ago, when the first Programme of Action was approved. Recently the Director-General has received a letter to the effect that this new Programme of Action should be tabled for review and endorsement by Council. So we can foresee that this question will probably be submitted to the next Session of Council as well.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Je crois que ces deux propositions sont intéressantes. Celle du Budget, nous l'avons évoquée lorsque nous avons parlé dans le cadre du Budget, c'est dans le cadre des possibilités du Conseil et donc on peut toujours l'inscrire. Nous verrons au moment de l'adoption définitive de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil, si il est maintenu, mais je pense qu'il pourra être maintenu.

Quant à la deuxième question que vous évoquez, je pense que dans la mesure où le dossier est prêt à être présenté, il est tout à fait opportun de le présenter à ce Conseil.

Auriez-vous des inconvénients? Pas d'objections à cela? Nous ajusterons la proposition du Conseil en la matière. Il en est ainsi décidé.

19. Working Methods of the Council

19. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

19. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de prendre le Point 19: «Note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil» qui est une note qui n'est déjà pas tout à fait nouvelle puisqu'elle a été adoptée il y a très longtemps, mais elle a été aussi rajustée la dernière fois par le Conseil à sa cent quarante et unième session en avril 2011. Elle récapitule les fonctions et le travail du Conseil. Si vous avez des remarques ou des questions à poser en la matière, c'est le moment. Pas de questions en la matière? Bien, il en est ainsi décidé.

J'en profite, à l'issue de ce sujet, pour vous faire une petite communication un peu personnelle qui est en lien avec les Méthodes de travail du Conseil, que je souhaite évoquer brièvement. Suite à la note aux Représentations permanentes, que je vous ai envoyée le 3 novembre 2011, qui a été diffusée à tous les Membres de l'Organisation en annexe à ma lettre V du 7 novembre 2011. Je précise tout de suite que cette note n'est pas un document du Conseil. Elle ne fera, donc, pas l'objet d'un débat aujourd'hui. J'ai pris en considération les avis qui ont été exprimés notamment lors de la réunion informelle des Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour préparer ce Conseil, que j'ai organisée le 8 novembre. À cette occasion, un consensus s'est dégagé pour estimer qu'il était prématuré de présenter un tel document lors de la présente session du Conseil.

Dans les prochains mois, je poursuivrai mes entretiens avec l'ensemble des Membres, avec les Groupes régionaux et, bien sûr, le Secrétariat et le Directeur général. Il est souhaitable d'enrichir notre réflexion et de progresser sur la voie de la modernisation et de l'Organisation et j'attends, bien sûr, à partir de ce document, comme cela a déjà été fait par certains, le retour oral ou écrit. Je vous indique simplement que je structurai ces entretiens autour de quatre axes principaux comme dans la lettre: (i) la communication des Organes de gouvernance; (ii) l'appui au Président indépendant du Conseil pour l'accomplissement de sa mission; (iii) les relations entre les Organes de gouvernance des Institutions de Nation Unies; et (iv) les relations avec la Société civile.

En fonction de l'état d'avancement de ces réflexions et si les Groupes régionaux le jugent utile, une discussion pourrait avoir lieu lors de la prochaine session du Conseil.

Je vous remercie de votre attention, et nous aurons l'occasion d'en rediscuter. Ce point est clos.

Je vous propose cinq minutes pour passer ensuite à une partie des questions diverses puisque j'avais deux demandes d'intervention dans les questions diverses. Mais j'attends de m'assurer que les personnes qui devaient intervenir soient là en vous rappelant qu'une autre question diverse aura lieu demain matin à 9h30 puisque c'est sous cette rubrique que le Directeur général, ici même, dans cette salle, s'adressera à l'ensemble des Membres du Conseil et, bien sûr, des Observateurs, c'est-à-dire, à tout le monde.

Donc, si vous le permettez, nous attendons cinq minutes et nous aurons peut-être le temps de passer aux questions diverses, ce qui nous permettra, cet après-midi d'être relativement libres et souples pour pouvoir engager la discussion sur tous les sujets qui concernent les débats dans les autres organisations autres que la FAO. Nous avons, je crois, huit points et cela sera une belle occasion d'avoir un débat. Si nous avons fini un peu avant l'heure finale, cela sera tant mieux, puisque on m'a demandé d'essayer de vous libérer pour 17h00. Mais cela dépendra de l'intensité des discussions.

Monsieur Mekouar a quelques questions à indiquer sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil.

SECRETARY GENERAL

While waiting for colleagues to re-arrange the podium for the next item, I have a few communications to the Council on the Methods of Work. As you know, the Conference has adopted the Report of the Open-ended Working Group on Measures to Improve the Efficiency in Governance last July, and has guided the Secretariat to start implementing those measures which have no cost implications. I am going to read out some of the things that have been done in the meantime.

The conduct of debate has been improved, with the Council agreeing upstream of the session to focus on issues covered in more than one report under a single agenda item, thereby avoiding repetitive statements. This is something we have practiced intensively in the course of this Session with regard to four agenda items: Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, Progress in Implementation of the IPA, the external members of the Ethics Committee, as well as the Multi-year Programmes of Work of Council and of three Committees, all items which were covered under two or more reports, and were mainstreamed under one single Agenda Item.

Secondly, in keeping with IPA Action 2.22, the Council Report now consists only of conclusions, decisions and recommendations rather than reproducing the debate, which can be followed in the Verbatim Records of the Session. Furthermore, the List of Participants is no longer included in the printed Report, but as a web document which can be downloaded from the Council Website. This has been done at the last Council Session, as well as for the last Conference.

In June this year, the Permanent Representatives Website was used successfully by Council Members to make a decision on amendments to the WFP General Regulations in time for the 37th Session of Conference, which took place two weeks later. There was not enough time to have a formal meeting to approve those amendments. This was done through the Permanent Representatives Website online, and this allowed the Conference to take a decision on that basis.

Additionally, the Permanent Representatives Website will shortly include a new feature, a useful «send mail» function, which will enable Permanent Representatives to write to FAO staff and other Permanent Representatives using a drop down mailing list. The new feature is expected to be active early next year.

The launch of the Governing and Statutory Bodies Website, accessible through the «Governance» link recently added to the FAO Home page, has given rise to further innovations such as the Web posting of the CVs of replacement members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the CCLM. As you may have noticed, there is a new link on the FAO Home page on Governance matters to underline the importance of governance issues in this Organization.

At the last Council Session in April 2011, presentations by the six candidates for the post of Director-General were made for the first time, following agreement on the modalities in a pre-session meeting attended by representatives of the candidates to the post, and the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

Finally, I would like to mention the web streaming of the Conferences on the Horn of Africa held in July and August this year, and the deployment of «Twitter» at the FAO Conference earlier this year, as well as video-conferencing before and after field visits by Permanent Representatives, all of which, I believe, received positive feedback.

All of these actions were taken to implement the recommendations made by the Open-ended Working Group.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar, de ces différentes informations qui nous disent comment tout cela s'est déroulé.

20. Any Other Matters

20. Questions diverses

20. Asuntos varios

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de passer au Point 20 des questions diverses concernant la nomination du Président et d'un Président suppléant du Comité de recours. Monsieur Gagnon.

M. Louis GAGNON (Conseiller juridique)

Comme inscrit dans le document CL143/LIM/4, en novembre 2000, le Conseil avait nommé au poste de Président du Comité de recours l'Ambassadeur Francis Montanaro Mifsud, à l'époque Représentant permanent de Malte auprès de la FAO. Par la suite, en novembre 2003, le Conseil avait nommé au poste de Président suppléant, l'Ambassadeur Henri Fissore, Représentant permanent de Monaco, auprès de la FAO.

L'Ambassadeur Mifsud a récemment présenté sa démission du poste de Président du Comité de recours, alors que l'Ambassadeur Fissore avait démissionné de son poste de Président suppléant en 2006. Ces deux postes sont, donc, vacants et le Conseil est appelé à les pourvoir en nommant un Président et un premier Président suppléant.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme j'en ai informé les Présidents des Groupes régionaux, la semaine dernière, son Excellence, Madame Daniela Rotodaro, Ambassadrice de la République de Saint-Marin auprès de la FAO et son Excellence, Monsieur Rénovat Ndayirukiye, Ambassadeur du Burundi auprès de la FAO, ont été sollicités pour occuper respectivement le poste de Président du Comité de recours et le poste de Premier Président suppléant.

Avez-vous des commentaires? Le Conseil souhaite-il confirmer ses nominations?

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group has noted the legal competence of the Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino and Ambassador Rénovat Ndayirukiye of Burundi, and subsequently endorse their appointment, respectively, as Chairperson and First Alternate Chairperson of the Appeals Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres remarques? Le Conseil est-il d'accord pour confirmer ces nominations? Oui, nous applaudissons nos deux élus. Merci, Monsieur Gagnon.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Nous arrivons au terme de notre matinée. J'ai eu deux demandes concernant les questions diverses de courte communication. Je vous propose de commencer par cela à 14h30 précises, après quoi nous aurons les évolutions des débats au sein des autres instances intéressant la FAO.

Je vous rappelle que nous avons quand même dix sujets. J'ai demandé aux Membres du Secrétariat de faire des introductions brèves, et nous aurons ensuite l'échange entre vous et eux et entre nous sur ces sujets-là.

Ce sont des discussions sans prise de position du Conseil mais d'information et d'échanges et je pense que c'est très important pour le lien de la FAO, son Conseil avec les autres structures.

Je vous souhaite bon appétit! 14h30 précises. Merci.

The meeting rose at 12.22 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 22

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.22 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

30 November 2011

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.37 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta reunión plenaria a las 14.37 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

20. Any Other Matters (continued)

20. Questions diverses (suite)

20. Asuntos varios (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de continuer nos travaux pour cet après-midi et, comme je vous l'ai dit en fin de matinée, avant de commencer le Point 17, j'ai deux demandes d'interventions pour le Point 20, celle de la Jordanie et celle de la Bolivie et, sans plus attendre, je donne la parole au Représentant de la Jordanie.

Mr Basel AL KAYED (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to start by thanking the entire FAO Secretariat and His Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, for the excellent work which has gone into preparing for the work of this Session of the Council. I would also like to thank them for the work they have done to promote the development of food and agriculture worldwide in such a way as to improve food security and make it sustainable.

I should also like to thank the countries of the Middle East to have chosen the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to be a Member of Council. I should like to reiterate our intention to work with our colleagues who are also Members of Council to ensure that we achieve our common goals including, of course, ensuring food security for the world as a whole.

One sixth of the world's inhabitants still suffer from hunger and from malnutrition, and therefore there is no subject more important than this for the whole of the world than securing food security. For us, it is an essential goal which we should all strive to achieve. In Jordan, we have been working to formulate a strategic national agricultural policy which will enhance our food security and increase our self-reliance in food production. We have been able to achieve self-sufficiency in certain areas, including the production of poultry meat, eggs and food. However, because of scarce resources and lack of water, we suffer from a major shortfall in grain and fodder production which is the main source of our concern.

I mention these things to remind you all of us how interdependent we are. On a regional basis, to tackle this issue we should work together more to ensure that we can produce adequate food, safely for everybody. This should be one of the main priorities this Organization's work in our opinion through the Committee for Food Security and through other Bodies within the Organization. We also need to work in a cooperative and collaborative manner with other relevant international organizations.

We do not in the Near East, unfortunately, suffer only from a scarcity of resources. We are known unfortunately to be a region which is one affected by many conflicts, disputes and instability and resulting mass migratory flows contribute to pressure on our already scarce resources. This makes it difficult for us to implement our development programmes, achieve sustainable development and meet a growing demand for food, and that is without even mentioning the very serious emergency situations which have affected many of our development strategies.

The success of this Council's work will be a first step towards our succeeding in our fight against hunger and in increasing food production. We know how important Council's work, is and that is why we would like to reiterate our readiness to play our role in ensuring that this is done well to the full. In so doing, we can contribute to achieving the goals of this Organization, ensuring its good performance and making certain that it uses its resources properly. That will send the right signal to taxpayers across the world that this Organization's resources are being used as well and as sensibly as possible.

In conclusion, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and I would like to wish the Council a full success in doing its work at this session.

Sr. Grover TERÁN GAMBOA (Bolivia)

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia tiene el grato placer de informar y presentar la resolución AC266L19LB1 del 18 de noviembre de 2011 emitida por la Segunda Comisión de la Asamblea General Permanente de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Nueva York, que declara el 2013 como el Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Es un honor dirigirme a su autoridad y a todos los representantes de los países que componen la Membrecía de este prestigioso organismo para hacer extensivo el agradecimiento del Gobierno y del pueblo boliviano por las muestras de apoyo recibidas para la consideración de la quinua como alternativa de solución al hambre y la desnutrición en el planeta.

Quiero expresar la gratitud de los pueblos indígenas de la Región Andina que preservaron ancestralmente la quinua y que hoy ponen a disposición de los pueblos del mundo un cultivo estratégico, el de mayor potencial para contribuir con la seguridad alimentaria y para construir un nuevo mundo sin hambre.

No puedo dejar de reconocer la profunda sensibilidad y visión responsable de Países y Embajadores que de manera extraordinaria trabajaron para lograr mediante la Resolución 152011 del 37º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO que se apruebe y recomiende la realización del año internacional de la quinua.

Gracias a las hermanas y hermanos del GRULAC y del G-77. Gracias a todos lo que creyeron en la propuesta boliviana de la quinua para hacer extensiva a millones de personas en el mundo el beneficio de un alimento extraordinario, de excepcionales cualidad nutritivas y de grandísima adaptabilidad a diferentes suelos, climas y humedad, constituyendo el cultivo que puede hacer frente al cambio climático.

En ese sentido, exhorto a los diferentes Países Miembros de esta honorable Organización y a los organismos internacionales, personalidades y a las organizaciones no gubernamentales comprometidas en la loable y necesaria tarea de erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición en el planeta, a unir y coordinar esfuerzos para lograr que en el año 2013 se realice un productivo y eficiente Año Internacional de la Quinua.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de votre communication. Je saisis l'occasion au nom, je pense, d'un grand nombre d'entre nous pour vous remercier, lors de la Conférence du mois de juin, de nous avoir fait bénéficier de la palette extraordinaire de l'utilisation alimentaire du quinoa. En ce qui me concerne, j'ai découvert une palette beaucoup plus importante que ce que je ne le pensais et je voulais, à cette occasion, vous en remercier.

17. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 143/INF/6)**17. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (CL 143/INF/6)****17. Novedades en los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO (CL 143/INF/6)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je vous propose de clore le point relatif aux questions diverses et de passer au Point 17, qui traite de l'évolution des débats au sein des autres instances intéressant la FAO. Nous allons avoir dix points qui seront abordés par huit intervenants: Mme Lorraine William, M. Alexander Müller, Mme Marcela Villarreal, M. David Hallam, M. Kostas Stamoulis, M. Mark Smulders, M. Shakeel Bhatti et Mme Christine Fuell. Il est clair qu'ils vont intervenir successivement, de la façon la plus courte possible et nous aurons ensuite les questions et échanges entre nous. Mais nous n'aurons pas de débat après chaque intervention.

J'invite M. Shakeel Bhatti à nous rendre compte des progrès récemment accomplis dans le cadre de l'application du Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

It is a pleasure for me to report to you on the progress achieved in the context of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. During this year the implementation of the International Treaty has continued to progress at a rapid and dynamic pace. The Governing Body of the International Treaty held its Fourth Session in March of 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, together with a Ministerial Conference on the relevance of the International Treaty for Agro-biodiversity Conservation, Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation. At this Governing Body Session, 127 contracting parties adopted a number of resolutions which have quite far-reaching implications and promote far-reaching advances for the implementation of the Treaty. I would like to illustrate a few of these advances for you, touching also upon some of the policy implications that they might have for FAO in maintaining its leadership as the United Nations Agency responsible for agriculture and in representing agriculture in related policy areas such as environment, trade and development.

The first area is the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing of the International Treaty. In this area, we have further operationalized the system, which is at this point in time, the only global fully-functional access and benefit-sharing system for genetic resources that is operational on a global scale and within a binding legal framework.

The system creates a gene pool of 1.5 to 1.6 million samples of plant genetic material that we have compiled in the last four years, and in 2011 we facilitated more than six-hundred thousand transfers of genetic material within this access and benefit-sharing framework. We also saw the notification and inclusion of additional genetic material by a number of countries, which is a sign of, I believe, of the growing confidence and the legal certainty provided by the system, and the inclusion of the genetic material by the private sector, as well as indigenous and local farming communities.

At present, there are about 600 to 800 transfers of material per day worldwide, facilitated through the system. In order to facilitate and manage this operation, we have in this last year built two additional components of the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing that will address a number of legal, technical and administrative questions that result from the transfer of this genetic material.

The first is that we have completed the dispute resolution system which will settle disputes regarding private contracts under which this genetic material is transferred within the system. These contracts are called Standard Material Transfer Agreement or SMTA's. The dispute resolution system will make FAO the first United Nations Agency that will ensure dispute resolution for genetic resources, all the way to a binding arbitral ruling that can be enforced in a national court. The procedure foresees a four-stage escalating process of dispute resolution beginning with negotiation, then mediation and arbitration. You have just adopted yesterday the mediation part, the mediation guidelines of these procedures and, through your decision, FAO will now be facilitating mediation on genetic resources as the first UN Agency.

The second area that we are building is the information technology infrastructure for the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing, which we hope to complete and launch for the contracting parties and the users of the multilateral system early next year. This infrastructure will consist of a data store and a server of unique and permanent identifiers that will facilitate these transfers of genetic material online through direct ordering of material from the system on the Internet.

Since the Treaty, according to Article 3, covers all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, the data stored in the data store already in the course of this year amounts to multiple batches of thousands of contracts currently being compiled. At the session of the Governing Body in Bali, the Governing Body also welcomed another significant development which took place in the field of genetic resources in this period, and that is the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity or CBD. The Governing Body welcomed and commended a Memorandum of Understanding that we had signed with the CBD Secretariat in Nagoya, at the Tenth Conference of Parties. The decision of the Conference of Parties that was taken in Nagoya, in which the Nagoya

Protocol was adopted, recognises the International Treaty as the only other legal access and benefit-sharing instrument other than the CBD instruments themselves, which forms a recognized and explicitly-named pillar of the new international regime on access and benefit-sharing, created at Nagoya.

The CBD processes, through their inter-governmental inter-sessional bodies, have in the meantime been assessing the experience of the International Treaty on how it is possible to make a global access and benefit-sharing system fully functional by of implementing it from the level of public international law, directly down to the level of individual transfers of individual genetic resources and the sharing of individual benefits coming from the use of that genetic material.

These two forms of recognition of the International Treaty were in some ways a significant breakthrough for FAO and the agricultural sector which the public health community, the public health sector, for example, was not yet able to achieve, even though the public health area has been working on a similar standard material transfer agreement modelled upon that of the International Treaty through the World Health Organization, for virus-sharing and benefit-sharing.

So through the MOU and its implementation with the CBD, the International Treaty has been able so far to spearhead in this year the efforts of the agricultural sector, and for FAO to have the distinctiveness of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture recognized in the overall environmental policy-making processes.

In many way, the Governing Body has reflected this in a Resolution adopted in Bali, where it also states that now the challenge is to ensure that a 360-degree recognition of the fact that all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are covered by the Treaty and that these plant genetic resources for agriculture have distinctive features that are somewhat different from other plant genetic resources.

The work to ensure this recognition further in the ongoing implementation of the International Treaty and the CBD and, once it enters into force, the Nagoya Protocol has already begun under the Memorandum of Understanding with a series of joint events that are held in direct and close cooperation with the CBD.

The second area of progress that I would like to report to you is on the side of benefit-sharing. Here the International Treaty has made significant progress in implementing the benefit-sharing fund of the Treaty, which has as its objective to support projects and programmes that assist and support farmers in developing countries who conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this context, the Treaty had launched leading the field initiative, and the Bureau of the Governing Body of the Treaty this year approved the project portfolio resulting from the second call for proposals of the benefit-sharing fund, with USD 7 million for immediate disbursement to projects that will assist farmers to adapt their plant genetic resources to climate change through on-farm management and through sustainable use. The beneficiary fund will also next year then launch its next call for proposals.

The third area I would like to report on is the completion of extensive negotiations that have lasted for more than five years, since the first session of the Governing Body, on two major procedures in the Treaty. The first deal with the compliance procedures, which were adopted after intense negotiations in Bali, and they make the International Treaty the first multilateral agreement on genetic resources that has adopted compliance arrangements. Secondly, the Governing Body adopted the financial rules of both the Governing Body and of the International Treaty, since the Governing Body adopts the distinct work programme and budget of the International Treaty according to its own financial rules. Those were the main developments I wanted to report on.

Ms Christine FUELL (Senior Officer, Rotterdam Convention)

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you the achievements of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam or Prior Informed Consent Convention, and to highlight the Rotterdam Convention as a forum of importance for the mandate of FAO.

I will outline the potential of the Rotterdam Convention to address key challenges. Then, I will focus on the three key decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties in June this year. Finally, I will highlight the impacts of this Convention.

I said that the Rotterdam Convention can be a solution to key challenges. Now what are these key challenges? In recent decades, we have seen a dramatic growth in chemicals production. Just total global trade of chemicals, and that includes pesticides, has more than doubled, only during the last ten years.

This has raised serious concerns about the risks all these chemicals pose to human health and the environment while being manufactured, transported, used, and disposed. Countries without an adequate infrastructure to monitor the import and use of these chemicals are particularly vulnerable to these risks.

Now this is where the Rotterdam Convention comes into play. This Convention covers hazardous chemicals and pesticides that have been nationally banned or severely restricted, but that are still internationally-traded, and provides a tool to exchange information on these chemicals and to monitor their imports worldwide. The Convention itself does not constitute any ban, but enables Parties to make an informed decision as regards their ability to manage the risks associated to these chemicals. This contributes to the sound environmental use of chemicals, and ultimately to the protection of human health and the environment.

Now to some key decisions taken by the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. The Conference unanimously agreed in June this year to list the pesticides alachlor, aldicarb and endosulfan in the Convention, making them therefore subject to the Prior Informed Consent, or PIC, procedure. Endosulfan, for example, is an agricultural pesticide which has been used as a crop protection agent for over 40 years, and has also been known for many years to have serious adverse impacts on human health and the environment, especially on aquatic resources. The inclusion of endosulfan into the Rotterdam Convention constitutes an important step forward, enabling its Parties to get all available information on this pesticide, to assess its risk, to decide if this risk can be mitigated and managed in their own country, and finally to decide whether they will allow import of the pesticide into their country.

Endosulfan has also been listed under the Stockholm or POP Convention this year. For Parties to that Convention, this means that they have to take measures to eliminate the production and use of endosulfan. The Secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention are working closely together to assist countries in identifying cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to endosulfan in crop production.

The Conference of the Parties approved an operational budget of around USD 7.5 million for the next biennium. This is a decrease of around 6 percent compared to the 2011. Contributions are from the two host countries which are Italy and Switzerland, as well as assessed contributions from Parties according to the UN Scale of Assessments.

The Conference further approved a budget for the anticipated voluntary contribution of around USD 4 million for the next biennium, which is an increase of around 4 percent compared to 2011. The budget from voluntary contributions provides for travel of delegates from developing countries to attend the meeting of the Conference of Parties, as well as for the delivery of technical assistance activities.

FAO's contribution for the next biennium will be around USD 2 million.

The Conference of the Parties emphasized the importance of capacity-development for Parties. The Secretariat was very much commended on its work during the last three years, and was encouraged to continue its efforts to help develop this capacity, focusing primarily on those countries that express particular needs. Projects to monitor health and environmental impacts of pesticides have been and will further be initiated to identify those pesticide formulations that are severely hazardous under the conditions of use. This enables the parties to take action and actively contribute to the management of the risks of chemicals and pesticides, and create an improved livelihood.

During the last two years the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, three multilateral environmental agreements addressing chemicals management, have increased their cooperation and coordination, which resulted in a synergy omnibus decision that was adopted at their respective Conferences of the Parties this year. This decision includes provisions for joint activities, management, services, budgets, audit, evaluation and reporting.

So what are the impacts of the Rotterdam Convention in a nutshell? The Rotterdam Convention is the first line of defense because it provides the basis to help keep hazardous chemicals out of a country, and thereby prevents also unwanted stocks. The Rotterdam Convention ensures the exchange of information, helping to manage the risks of hazardous chemicals and pesticides. There is evidence that, in particular, developing countries and countries with an economy in transition benefit from the Rotterdam Convention as a tool to share responsibility between importing and exporting countries.

Mr Mark SMULDERS (FAO Staff)

There are three very good paragraphs in the Council document on what the Food Security Information Network is all about. I'll give you a bit of a brief history on its origins, and then go through its main objectives and linkages with other initiatives and also the outcome of the Consultative Conference that was held in September in Nairobi.

So what is the Food Security Information Network? It is first and foremost a community of practice (a network) for strengthened food security and nutrition information systems at country and regional levels. Our key objective is to, indeed, develop capacity at country level and at regional level. However it also brings together worldwide capacity in two types of communities. First of all, the UN Agencies, international NGOs, resource partners and others who have been very active in promoting information systems for food security and nutrition at country level, but also the existing capacities in the countries themselves and in the regions. There is substantive capacity already, and the objective is to make better use of this existing capacity and to further strengthen it.

It also seeks to better link information to decision-making. Obviously, for food security policy and programmes and actions and investments, one of the arguments made in the Council document is that it is really the first line of defence. I just heard my colleagues from the Rotterdam Convention also speak of a first line of defence, but this one is about information, how information really helps us prepare for food crises-but not only for food crises. Information also helps us in making key decisions addressing underlying concerns of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Another key principal of the network is that it promotes local ownership and is demand-driven, so while the network has come about through global consultation and consultation with regions and countries, we insisted the work of the network itself will be very much demand-driven.

Just five maybe key elements of its core objectives. First of all, maybe we can divide these into two main categories. One of facilitation through sharing of best practices and fund-raising and the other one of harmonization where we hope to set standards and streamline methods and tools for doing information systems work. So setting standards, harmonizing methods and tools, sharing best practices, not only through the traditional North-South collaboration but very much also through South-South collaboration. There are a lot of opportunities for countries to share their experience and lessons learned in information systems development, and to identify funding through small grants. We know that information obviously is often, in fact, highly-underfunded. One of the key objectives of the FSIN is to attract funding for support to regional and national information systems.

The final objective is also to provide easier access to global data sets and information. Many of these data sets are held by FAO, but not only. UNICEF, WHO, IFPRI, many UN agencies WorldBank and others hold global data sets that are relevant to assessing food security and nutrition at country level and to informing policy-making and programming.

So what are some of the linkages with the other initiatives? First of all, the FSIN is a community of practice, it is a network so it brings together a global group of professionals and practitioners in food security information. But it does have, of course, linkages with a number of, and builds on, existing information systems.

In many regions, we have regional early warning or food security information systems managed by regional institutions, such as the ASEAN, SADC, CILSS, IGAD, SICA and others regions in the world. There are many different types of national food security information systems individually focussing on everything from information systems dealing with early warning, market information, nutrition and others on integrated analysis of food security and nutrition at country level.

There are agency initiatives. There is the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System, and CountryStat and FAOStat, and IFPRI, which has an excessive food price variability early warning system. There is FAOLink to the agriculture market information system that the G20 has recently adopted, and the World Food Programme has a Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit in the Food Security Analysis Unit that deals with information. UNICEF, WHO, the USAID Famine Early Warning System Network have other systems.

There are also a number of inter-agency initiatives already in existence, such as the FAO/WFP Information System for Food and Nutrition Security Strategy which has just been endorsed. There is the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the Agriculture Market Information System that has come about this year, and I think my colleague David Hallam will give you more information on the AMIS. And there is also the recent discussion and endorsement of the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics.

Obviously, we cannot do anything in terms of information analysis and linking this analysis to decision-making without credible and viable data in the first place.

So what was the Consultative Conference in Nairobi all about? Basically I should take you back to the 2009 External Evaluation of both FAO's and WFP's work in food security information which was, in fact, a joint evaluation that took place in 2009. This evaluation actually recommended that both FAO and WFP, with other stakeholders, engage more forcefully in helping to develop capacity in countries and regions to strengthen food security information analysis. This then led to a stakeholders' symposium in Brussels hosted by the European Community, which in turn led to the establishment of an informal committee made up of FAO, IFPRI and WFP with support from the EU and USAID to prepare a roadmap on how to establish this information network and what would it do? This roadmap was then discussed and endorsed at a worldwide Consultative Conference in Nairobi. With the participation of six regional organizations and a number of UN Agencies, including UNICEF, FAO, IFPRI and WFP. Resource partners such as the European Union, France and the United States were there, and the whole idea was to review and validate this road map which was indeed, endorsed, and there was broad agreement that should move ahead with the Food Security Information Network as a facilitating initiative to further strengthen the work on food security information analysis at the global level.

I will just present you now with a quick overview of the components as we envisage it. The main aspect relates to the community of practice and network of countries, regions and global institutions working together. This network is supported by a technical working group and a secretariat that will help the coordination of different initiatives. The Global Data Sources and Grants Facility will assist in further developing capacity, particularly at country and regional level.

So that is just a very quick overview of the Food Security Information Network. I look forward to having maybe some discussion and questions on this particular initiative.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (FAO Staff)

I would like to talk very briefly about the International Year of Cooperatives which has just been launched on October 31 in New York at the General Assembly. Cooperatives are essential, not only in agriculture but because they provide a number of very crucial social and economic services to countries. We do not have data for all cooperatives, but I would like just to illustrate the importance of cooperative to the data presented here. The three hundred largest cooperatives generate USD 1.1 trillion per year, which is approximately equivalent to a tenth of the GDP of the United States. They employ approximately 100 million people, and they market up to 50 percent of global agricultural output, and this is only three hundred of the largest cooperatives in the world. But we know that there are many thousands of them, even if we do not have data for all of them. In agriculture, cooperatives are of crucial importance because they help to reduce poverty and generate employment. Therefore,

they contribute very significantly to food security. We know that there is an estimate of a billion members of agricultural cooperatives worldwide, and they are present in all countries, both developing and developed, and in all regions. Just to give you a couple of examples, in Brazil 37 percent of the agricultural GDP is produced by agricultural cooperatives employing approximately one million members. In Egypt, there are approximately four million farmers who earned income directly from their membership in agricultural cooperatives. In Kenya, the figure was approximately one million, and in India more than 60 million litres of milk are produced daily by cooperatives.

Cooperatives provide very essential services to their members and this is the crux of their importance for food security. These services are all the more important for the small-holders, for the small farmers. They provide access to productive inputs, to markets, management of natural resources and most important they afford in decision-making opportunities to smallholders and farmers because they are able to participate in the decisions and in the policies that will be affecting them. The International Year of Cooperatives was just launched with the objective of increasing awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development, to highlight the diversity and the resourcefulness of cooperatives, including their resilience against shocks which is quite important all the more so due to very high food prices and climate change and other issues. So this role is very important from the cooperatives perspective. We are also aiming this year at encouraging Governments to establish the enabling environment that is necessary for cooperatives to be formed and to thrive. This includes laws and regulations policies conducive for the effective functioning of cooperatives.

FAO is collaborating very very closely with the Rome-based Agencies and with the other UN entities in this Year of Cooperatives, and we want to provide enhanced support to Governments precisely in creating this enabling environment that will help form and support cooperatives, and provide capacity-development to these producer organizations so that become more equitable and more inclusive. Here, of course, the gender issues are of the utmost importance.

I just wanted to inform you about this year just launched, just hot of the press a couple of weeks ago. We will keep you informed of the developments during the year and also on the accomplishments to date.

Mr David HALLAM (FAO Staff)

Let me begin by talking a little bit about the G20 Heads of State Summit. As you all know FAO and other international organizations have been much involved in the G20 deliberations on issues such as price volatility and promotion of agriculture. So let me just summarize the end result of the French Presidency, and just hint at a few directions for the future.

The meeting in Cannes, a Communiqué and a Declaration, were issued summarizing the conclusions of the G20 process this year. Of course, given the backdrop of the concerns about the state of the global economy, a lot of issues concerning macro-economic stability and so on were discussed. There were also concerns for the multilateral trading system, the need to revive the Doha Development Agenda, concerns expressed about climate change, reform of global governance, development investment and then finally commodity price volatility and promotion of agriculture. It is particularly that area which is obviously of most concern to FAO but I should say that there were many relevant aspects of the other topics which are important for our work here, such as the trade aspects, climate change and so on.

On food price volatility, you will remember that FAO along with other international organizations produced a Report on Possible Responses to Food Price Volatility to try to limit this problem or to manage its negative impact on vulnerable populations. That Report was submitted to the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting back in June, and essentially the Heads of State Summit adopted or endorsed the Action Plan that the Agriculture Ministers came out with in June. The different elements of the Action Plan are listed here. So very high priority was accorded to improving agricultural production and productivity, in other words, building resilience to food price volatility problems. A focus on improving market information and transparency on the grounds that such developments would limit international price volatility was emphasized, and that was the origin of the new agricultural market information system which was hosted here in FAO, established in September of

this year, and is already producing outputs which will develop over the next few months. The Website, for example, should go live within the next few weeks.

There is also the focus on reducing the impacts of price volatility on the most vulnerable. This included reference to the need for risk management tools, and also for the use of small-scale strategic emergency reserves. Some of you will be familiar with the work that is been done on ECOWAS on that particular topic.

The need for strengthening international policy coordination which was fairly clearly illustrated in the 2007-2008 food crisis also was noted and associated with the creation of the Rapid Response Forum, another element, if you like, of the AMIS set-up where the idea is for Member Nations to be able to discuss policy priorities, and measures that are likely to impact on policy coordination.

Finally, one of the most controversial aspects of the G20 process this year has been the discussion on what is popularly referred to as speculation on food prices. Again, there was a reference to this issue in the Communiqué and the Declaration from the Summit.

Let me move to the second area of focus. Apart from food price volatility, there were a lot of concerns to enhance agricultural productivity and promote investment. Of course, the two are very closely interlinked. The G20 expressed their commitment to increasing agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable way and to enhance investment in agriculture, especially by targeting poorer countries and smallholders for small-scale agriculture, including through public and private investment and with support expressed for the principles for responsible agricultural investment currently under development by FAO and the World Bank, UNCTAD and IFAD.

The G20 also drew attention in their Communiqué and Declaration to a number of activities in this direction which have already taken place or which are ongoing. So, for example there is the Wheat Initiative launched in Paris on 15 September, there was the Seminar on Productivity organized by Australia and France in October, and then the Montpellier Conference on Research and Development in September. Related to that there is also the development of the Tropical Agriculture Platform.

The next steps are as follow. The Declaration and the Communiqué commended the joint work of the various international organizations in supporting the G20 process this year and requested those organizations to continue working closely together on relevant topics under the next Presidency. Obviously, there are a number of initiatives which have been taken by the G20 in this year which require implementation, AMIS, the Agricultural Market Information System, and its development, is obviously an important one. There is also this priority to be addressed on productivity improvement, investment in agriculture and, as a consequence of that, small-holder integration into markets. It does appear that those topics will be very much the priorities, at least as far as the agriculture and food security issues are concerned during the incoming Mexican Presidency.

Let me turn then to the second of the issues that I am asked to comment on, which is the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. As you well know, the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries took place in Istanbul earlier this year. Its objectives were to review progress over the last decade, the so-called Brussels Programme of Action, and to develop a new Programme of Action which came to be known as the Istanbul Programme of Action applying to current decade, beginning now.

The assessment of the Brussels Programme of Action was not entirely positive, although some progress had been made. It was clear that a number of issues remained to be addressed, the structural problems of LDCs, the limited employment impacts and so on of the Brussels Programme and the continuing vulnerability of LDCs to shocks whether from world markets or from the macro-economic environment more generally.

The new Istanbul Programme of Action is based on a set of interlinked commitments and partnerships between the LDCs and the development partners to undertake concrete actions. The idea here is that under this Plan of Action, each LDC will effectively mainstream the elements contained therein into its national policy and sectoral development strategies and plans. The same goes for the various international agencies that constitute the development partners, whereby the idea is that their work programmes and will make reference to and coordinate with elements of the Istanbul Programme of

Action. There is a roadmap for the implementation of this Plan of Action, that was drawn up by OHRLSS and that actually specifies activities to be undertaken and assigns responsibilities to different groups, including FAO. Now the areas of activity are eight which are listed here. As you see, many of these overlap significantly with the remit of FAO and its activities. Many of the specific activities under these eight headings are much the same as those that have been focused on by the G20 which I have just described under productive capacity. There is considerable emphasis on investment, food security, dealing with price volatility, improving productivity and so on. Under trade, there is emphasis on fair and equitable rules. So many of these things are pretty much the regular fare, and FAO can make a significant contribution.

The last points to make, as I mentioned, are that the Programme of Action invites the relevant international agencies to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to echo it in their workplans. FAO has been requested by the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of LDCs to fully endorse the Programme of Action, and to reflect that endorsement in its work programme. I understand that a Draft Resolution will be prepared for the FAO Council in the future.

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

I would like now to introduce briefly the partnership we have created to support Climate-smart Agriculture.

Very briefly, what do we want to achieve? The Climate-smart Agriculture Partnership wants to support countries in their efforts to achieve food security, and here the third line “Adaptation to climate change” is the critical input. At the same time, we want to avoid that climate change goes far beyond the targets which have been discussed at the international negotiations, so we want to link adaptation to mitigation.

A brief overview regarding the rationale. This is a table from IPCC on what will happen if the global temperature increases by 4 °C or 7 °F. I do not want to go into the details, but this is where we are currently heading. The greenhouse gas emissions of the world are currently heading towards an increase of 4 °C by the end of the century and, therefore, we have to be prepared. We consider Climate-smart Agriculture as one of the contributions to adapt to climate change, and also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are building this Climate-smart Agriculture on three pillars. The first pillar is to sustainably increase farm productivity and income. The second pillar is strengthening the resilience of the food systems of the farms to climate change and climate variability, and pillar number three is reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon storage on farmlands. From our perspective, it is absolutely important that we address all three of them in parallel. It does not make sense only to mitigate if the farmers cannot produce, and in order to increase productivity we have to adapt to climate change. So all three pillars are an integral part of our strategy and then these pillars are contributing to the MDGs and what we have discussed this morning regarding possible sustainable development goals to be addressed in Rio de Janeiro.

We are trying to build on already-existing good agricultural practices, so this is in the first step, nothing which takes place very high in the sky. It is very concrete at the farm level. I would like to give you only a few examples. There is an example of an excellent project on nutrient management in the field, on that increases carbon sequestration in the field from Bangladesh. Another one is a traditional way to harvest rainwater in order to keep more moisture in the soil, or conservation agriculture or an interesting drop livestock system in Tanzania, where we can learn the lessons on how to restore 500 000 hectares of degraded grasslands. The restoration of already degraded land is one of the key features. As far as agro-forestry is concerned, in the first step, we are using the already-existing good practices and, we want to share them in order to achieve all three pillars at the same time.

We have initiated this partnership in July this year, and we were positively surprised by the extent of participation. We had FAO and all departments from Headquarters and some participants from Regional Offices, World Bank, IFAD, World Food Programme, UNEP, the Global Mechanism, and

CCAFS, another important abbreviation (this is the climate change programme of the CGIAR Centres). So research was integrated right from the beginning. We have decided to start with three activities: first to develop a Source Book, and we will come back to it. We are going to establish a Web-based clearinghouse of experiences so that we can share knowledge, because what exists in one part of the world is not known in the next country, so we have to provide this web-based clearinghouse. We are organizing together events at major international summits, and in parallel to this meeting we have a meeting on climate in UNFCCC COP17 in Durban with all the partners.

The Source Book wants to make a strong case for Climate-smart Agriculture. It illustrates how it can be developed and implemented, and we are targeting the practitioners. We are targeting at the people who are planning projects and project managers, and we also want to inform country programme leaders. So this is very, very concrete work. Because the world is full of high-level reports, but when you ask people what to do tomorrow, you only find little information, and that is what we are trying to bring together here.

In this Source Book, there are three sections. First of all, why do we need Climate-smart Agriculture? Second, the introduction and presentation of already-existing success stories of sustainable Climate-smart Agriculture production systems. Then we also discuss the enabling framework. We hope that we can develop this Source Book by early 2012 or mid-2012, together with our partners. The World Bank has already promised to use it for the implementation of the agricultural programmes, so it will have an immediate impact.

We are bringing together agriculture, forestry and fisheries, so we are covering really all areas important for agriculture with the three major goals of increased productivity, increased resilience which means adaptation. (For me, resilience to climate change and climate variability are the key concepts and at the same time remove greenhouse gas emissions. We want to achieve what is now called multiple benefits, produce more, be more resilient, and reduce emissions, that is the main target of our Climate-smart Agriculture partnership.

Ms Lorraine WILLIAMS (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

It is a pleasure for me to report on this agenda item, and I will speak on two high-level intergovernmental events, notably the Fourth High-Level Conference on Delivering as One in Montevideo, Uruguay and the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. Both events provide further impetus for the UN System-wide Coherence Agenda, and an increased drive for FAO to continue participating in UN System collaboration for enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in programme delivery.

As you are aware, the High-Level Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering As One took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from 8-10 of November 2011. That Conference was attended by representatives of the governments of the eight DaO, pilot countries, the voluntary adopters, countries interested to learn about the DaO initiative, donor countries and the UN System Agencies. The outcome document entitled "Delivering as One, Going Beyond Pilot Phase" highlighted that there was no going back to the manner of doing business as prior to DaO, and recommended extending this approach beyond the increasing large group of pilot and self-starter countries on a "no one size fits all" basis.

Let me turn to FAO's contribution to the Montevideo Conference. FAO was actively involved in the preparations for Montevideo, including through dedicated inter-agency mechanisms, such as the United Nations Development Group, UNDG. The FAO Representative in Uruguay participated in that Conference. The Organization's input was based on lessons learned, collected through a survey of FAO Country and Sub-regional Offices, and fifteen DaO Pilot and self-starter countries. The results of this exercise were used as input into the UNDG Inter-agency Stocktaking on the DaO, and for the preparation of the UNDG Joint Statement delivered in Montevideo. We have noted that the UN Agencies decentralization and delegation of authority is recognized as an important driver of a more coherent, effective and efficient UN System at country level. I am very pleased to say that FAO's Decentralization Policy is facilitating our contribution to Delivering as One United Nations. The Conference also acknowledged issues of relevance to FAO, for instance the need to have predictable and un-earmarked funding, to be channelled through the One Fund. However, more flexibility is

needed in the implementation of that One Fund concept to ensure that Agencies may obtain opportunities to fundraise at the local level, according to country-specific needs. Of course, this approach is indeed in line with 2007 TCPR Principle of “no one size fits all”. The outcome document acknowledged efforts and results achieved, thanks to DaO, in South-South Cooperation and in the mainstreaming of normative work. And last but not least, participants reiterated that UN System representation at the country level should be tailored to the particular requirements and priorities of each country, and this should lead to even greater inclusiveness of UN Specialized Agencies and Non-Resident Agencies in the future.

The second high-level event is the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which is currently taken place in Busan, Korea. This event will conclude the OECD Development Assistance Committee-led Process on Aid Effectiveness, which was launched with the first High-Level Forum on Harmonization, followed by the adoption of the 2005 Paris Declaration and further developed in the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action. FAO is represented at this event by our Assistant Director-General and the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and assisted by FAO’s focal point to the UNDG Aid Effectiveness Task Team. To ensure that our views are reflected in the UN System’s contribution to Busan, a small FAO team was established to monitor and provide input into the activities of the UNDG Aid Effectiveness Task Team. Our active participation has ensured that UNDG joint messages, to be delivered in Busan, emphasize the need to invest and provide assistance that is targeted towards productive sectors such as agriculture, compared with social sectors, as well as the need to strengthen programme countries’ capacities to plan, programme and implement their own development agendas.

Consensus was reached today on the Busan Outcome Document, and I will try to summarize the highlights: One, there was the need to move from effective aid to cooperation for effective development. Aid should be seen only as a part of the solution, and it is time to broaden our focus and attention. Secondly, country-level focus remains a priority and the road ahead should in fact focus on country implementation. Development effectiveness should increasingly be country-driven, and external aid should strengthen and be better-aligned to national priorities and strategies. Thirdly, the development of appropriate frameworks based on national needs and priorities for monitoring progress, mutual accountability and the achievement of lasting development results is important. Let it be noted that UNDG participated in the negotiations of the Busan Outcome Document, ensuring that the review of such arrangements be completed in the context of the post-2015 MDG Framework, an issue that has become increasingly important in Intra-agency discussions.

We welcome the Busan Outcome Document, including the new deal developed by the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, which was endorsed by the UNDG for the UN System as a whole. For the post-Busan discussion, the draft outcome document proposed the establishment of an inclusive global partnership for effective development cooperation to oversee and support at the political level the implementation of the commitments agreed in Busan.

Finally, the UN System can, and should, play a significant role in the implementation of this global partnership. FAO will continue to play its part and work towards a UN development system that is more relevant to country priorities, and better equipped to deliver results in a coordinated, coherent and efficient way, maximizing its collective impact for achieving development results.

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

I would like to inform you on what is going to happen in Marseilles, between 12 and 17 March 2012 at the Sixth World Water Forum.

First of all, what is the World Water Forum? For the water community, the World Water Forum is the platform where all water community members and the policy and decision-makers from all over the world get together, debate, and try to find solutions to achieve water security across all water areas. This World Water Forum is organized every three years. It is really the largest international event on water. Three years ago, it was hosted by Turkey, in Istanbul, and between twenty-five thousand and thirty thousand people participated. FAO was invited to the Forum in 2009 in Istanbul and we made, I have to say, a lot of noise because they did not consider agriculture as an important water user. Now

we are only using 70 percent, so you can neglect it, but as a result of the presentation we made there, we were invited to organize a theme on Agriculture Food Security and Water. So in the Sixth World Water Forum, FAO is leading the priority thematic area of Water in Food Security. So we were quite successful in the Conference in Istanbul and I have to say we have received much support from the Turkish Government in the event in Istanbul, so that we really could make the case for agriculture.

The Forum in Marseilles will address technical, political, institutional, financial and other strategic solutions, so it is really very very broad and will cover all areas relating to water. FAO is currently leading this priority theme, Water and Food Security, and we are going to address in this Forum how to sustainably increase productivity of land and water. We have to bring together land and water and we going to address both systems, rainfed and irrigated agriculture.

Very often, the water community concentrates only on irrigation but it is absolutely important also to address problems and solutions related to rainfed agriculture. We are also going to discuss how to manage ground water, an area where increasingly problems are popping up. In this regard, we are also taking up the initiative on reducing post-harvest losses because post-harvest losses also mean losing water, losing inputs, and therefore we want to bring it to Marseille.

We are looking at the whole food supply chain efficiency because from farm to fork, from farmer to consumer, efficiency has to be increased. We are also taking up the initiative of sustainable diets developed by our colleagues in the Nutrition Division here in FAO. We are working together, of course, in FAO together with our colleagues in the Decentralized Offices and our plan is that The World Water Forum adopt an action plan and roadmap related to agriculture, food security and water. In preparation, we have initiated work with outreaching surveys and we are organizing back-to-back sessions of main events worldwide to bring food security and water together and mobilize key networks and stakeholders to achieve broad stakeholder involvement.

We are also going to use e-consultations in the preparatory process as part of our outreach. This World Water Forum will also provide a contribution to the World Water Day in 2012. Every year there is a World Water Day and it was decided that the 22 March World Water Day will have the theme of Water and Food Security. The same theme was also selected by the World Water Week in Stockholm in August.

So beginning with the World Water Forum, the World Water Day and the International Water Week, we have successfully managed to highlight the link between food security and water to all major international conferences. We hope that as a result of all these meetings, the water community has really realized that there will be no solution in the water sector without agriculture. If we increase efficiency in agriculture, there will be a lot more water available for the cities, for industries, for sanitation and everything. Therefore, we have been really happy that that The World Water Council, that is the Governing Board of the World Water Forum, convened its Forty-third Board of Governors here in FAO in November. We, of course, presented the work we are doing, but we also developed some strategies closely linking the water community and the food security Community. Here you see this new word which will be mentioned several times in the near future, specifically to strength the nexus between water and food security, between the water and energy, between water and sanitation. These points were discussed intensively during the meeting of the World Water Council here in Rome and, of course, we hope that World Water Forum will significantly increase the visibility of water and food security in the global and regional debate for many good reasons. One of these reasons is because of climate change and its negative impact on water availability. We really have to have this focus on water and food security.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, il n'est pas impossible que vous soyez obligé d'intervenir à nouveau si vous avez des questions ou des éclaircissements à apporter. Je vous laisse la parole et il est convenu que vous intervenez sur le ou les sujets qui vous importent dans n'importe quel ordre. Les responsables, à la tribune, sont chargés de repérer les interventions de chacun pour y répondre successivement. Le Ghana, vous avez la parole.

Mr Nii QUAYE-KUMAH (Ghana)

Thank you for giving me the floor, and I thank the presenters for taking us through the reports.

My delegation wishes to acknowledge the excellent work you have done during this session and the efficient and able way you have steered the affairs of Council. My delegation also wishes to offer our appreciation to the Secretariat for their tireless work in producing the various documents for the session.

The Ghana delegation takes the floor on this occasion on behalf of the Africa Region Group and bearing in mind that these reports are within the context of one of our action areas under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, would like to make the following comments on only 4 of the 9 reports, which we believe, are extremely important for Africa and which in some aspects, makes intervention in areas of other reports.

In recent times, plant and animal genetic resources have been central in the debate on food security. We recognize that the FAO has worked with partners, such as the Intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in the preparation of global assessments of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Africa Regional Group therefore welcomes the strides made and indeed the pace of progress in the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as outlined by the presenters. The Group welcomes the key achievements attained so far, in particular, the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty that targets various projects that focus on supporting smallholder farmers in developing countries, to enable to them stay ahead of climate change by adapting their food crops to climatic impact. The Africa Group welcomes this turn of events, noting that our agricultural system is dominated by such smallholder farmers and is prone to the adverse effects of climate change. We therefore welcome the institution of this Fund, and look forward to it supporting our efforts at regional and country level in contributing to global food security and in responding to the concept of Climate-smart Agriculture, as presented in the Report.

We take note of the Report on the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Setting Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. We appreciate that the Conference adopted 14 decisions and agreed by consensus to list identified pesticides to be subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure. We concede that at a time when Africa in its quest to improve its agricultural productivity uses a considerable quantity of agro-chemicals, this particular action by the Conference will trigger an exchange of information which will give countries the opportunity to decide whether they consent or decline to receive imports of these and other chemicals, bearing in mind the potential risk of such chemicals and pesticides on human health and the environment.

The Africa Group notes with satisfaction the Report on the Consultative Conference, held in September 2011, to discuss the formulation and implementation plans for the Global Food Security Information Network (FSIN) which our own FAO and sister organization WFP attended and assumed leadership roles. We endorse the operation of this Network that seeks to link information and decision-making to improve food security, and acknowledge that this fits into our recent discussions on information gathering along the agricultural production value chain and its sharing among Member Nations and allied institutions in our fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Lastly, as indicated earlier, the African agricultural production landscape is dominated by smallholders who face a myriad of socio-economic challenges. Bringing these smallholders together, we believe, will greatly benefit their members and contribute to their socio-economic development. Indeed, it has been the strategy of various Member Nations to aggregate these smallholder farmers into groups in the region in improving the extension delivery system.

In this regard, therefore, the Africa Region Group endorses the FAO's involvement in the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012. With the knowledge that this is aimed at increasing public awareness about the cooperatives system and, for the that matter, promoting strong farmer organizations. It is our additional recommendation that the FAO play a lead role in this initiative as the Rome-based agencies join forces to work closely to ensure that the significant contribution of agricultural cooperatives is reflected in nurturing collective action and inclusion in their activities. The Africa Group welcomes all the Reports.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Je souhaite d'abord remercier le Secrétariat de toutes ces présentations, instructives et utiles pour nous permettre d'acquérir une vision globale. La France est heureuse de contribuer au fonctionnement d'un certain nombre d'initiatives présentées. Je me réjouis aussi des nombreux partenariats qui nous ont été présentés, et qui montrent la manière dont la FAO coopère avec les autres Organisations internationales présentes dans le champ de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire.

Je voudrais évoquer deux de ces présentations. La première, et cela ne vous étonnera pas, dans le cadre de sa Présidence du G20, la France a voulu donner une visibilité accrue à l'enjeu stratégique global que représentent l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire et envoyer des messages forts à la communauté internationale. M. David Hallam nous a présenté les résultats acquis au Sommet du G20 à Cannes les 3 et 4 novembre derniers avec la Déclaration, l'endossement du Rapport du Groupe sur le développement et le Plan d'action sur la volatilité des prix et sur l'agriculture. À Cannes, les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement ont décidé d'agir en faveur de leur mise en œuvre.

Certaines des initiatives lancées par le Sommet font déjà l'objet d'une mise en œuvre. La FAO s'est fortement mobilisée à la fois par la préparation du Sommet, mais aussi pour son suivi. Elle a joué un rôle moteur au côté des autres Organisations internationales. Nous voudrions aussi la remercier, et je voudrais pour ma part citer quelques-uns de ses suivis qui ont cours actuellement. Le premier est le lancement du système d'information sur les marchés agricoles qu'on appelle «AMIS» qui vise à améliorer la transparence et l'information sur les marchés agricoles mondiaux et le lancement du Forum de réponses rapides aux crises sur les marchés internationaux. Deux outils ont été lancés les 15 et 16 septembre, et je souligne que la première note d'analyse commune des Organisations internationales œuvrant dans le cadre de «AMIS» a été publiée. C'est un fait remarquable que la FAO ait pu publier une note avec la Banque mondiale, l'OMC et le PAM. Je ne citerai pas l'ensemble des dix organisations qui concourent à cet exercice, mais c'est le cas pour la première fois. Nous remercions la FAO et nous la félicitons de cet effort.

Naturellement les liens entre le Forum de réponses rapides et le CSA devront faire l'objet d'un travail de clarification. Cela sera fait dans le courant de l'année 2012, nous l'espérons.

Deuxième exemple de suivi auquel concourt la FAO et nous la remercions, c'est le travail concernant l'élaboration d'une plateforme pour l'agriculture tropicale dont la FAO sera partie prenante. Dans le cas du renforcement de la recherche agricole pour le développement et du transfert de connaissance vers les agriculteurs.

Troisième exemple de suivi auquel la FAO va contribuer, et nous la remercions aussi, c'est l'élaboration du Code de conduite pour les réserves alimentaires humanitaires d'urgence que le CSA aussi a demandé, l'élaboration à laquelle la FAO devra contribuer. Le travail qui devrait être validé par le CSA (Comité de la sécurité alimentaire).

Autre exemple de suivi auquel nous attendons une contribution de la FAO, et de facto elle le fait en travaillant sur un document de stratégie qui est le renforcement de la coopération entre Organisations internationales et les États-Membres sur la nutrition, dans le cadre de l'initiative Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN).

L'enjeu est, donc, désormais de maintenir l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire en haut de l'agenda politique et de poursuivre la mise en œuvre des actions engagées. La France continuera à se mobiliser en ce sens. Nos amis mexicains, qui reprennent le flambeau de la Présidence du G20, ont dit lundi qu'ils plaçaient également la sécurité alimentaire parmi leurs priorités. Ils peuvent compter sur notre soutien avec la FAO.

Le deuxième sujet que je voulais évoquer est le Forum mondial de l'Eau qui se tiendra du 12 au 17 mars 2012 à Marseille. Comme l'a souligné M. Alexandre Müller, le lien entre l'eau et la sécurité alimentaire est un enjeu majeur à l'heure où l'on prépare pour 2012 de grandes échéances internationales sur des enjeux de développement durable comme, par exemple, la Conférence Rio+20, mais pas seulement.

Nous nous félicitons que le thème de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'eau aient été inscrits à l'Ordre du jour du Forum, et nous remercions la FAO de s'être mobilisée pour cette inscription et maintenant

pour en animer les travaux au sein du groupe thématique correspondant. La France se mobilise aux côtés de la FAO pour donner la meilleure visibilité à cette question à Marseille et pour obtenir une meilleure prise en compte des questions de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition dans les politiques de l'eau. Ainsi, mon pays a proposé d'inclure dans le Programme officiel du Forum de l'eau une Commission de haut niveau réunissant des personnalités éminentes sur cette question cruciale pour lancer un message fort à la communauté internationale et aux médias.

Enfin, nous comptons sur tous les acteurs intéressés pour s'impliquer dans la préparation de ce Forum, et nous sommes prêts à leur fournir davantage d'informations si nécessaire.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En primer lugar, agradecemos a la Secretaría de la FAO por las presentaciones de los temas que han hecho, sin duda relevantes para las labores de este Consejo. Como ya señalamos el lunes, el tema de la seguridad alimentaria seguirá siendo una prioridad de la Presidencia Mexicana del G-20. Reiteramos también que en la vigencia de los trabajos del G-20, los temas de producción y productividad serán impulsados por nuestro país.

Asimismo, estamos a favor y alentamos la cooperación entre instituciones y organismos en la producción de información. Estamos trabajando muy de cerca con la FAO, la OCD y el Banco Mundial para la preparación de insumos y de documentos.

En el mes de mayo, se llevará a cabo bajo la Presidencia Mexicana del G-20, la Reunión Ministerial sobre Agricultura.

Finalmente agradecemos a Francia y a la Embajadora Señora Bérengère Quincy por su disposición para seguir colaborando en este importante tema, en esta prioridad. Estoy segura de que su experiencia del año anterior será de muchísima utilidad para orientar mejor nuestros trabajos.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We are grateful for the briefing provided by our FAO colleagues on so many important topics of relevance to the work of FAO.

I wish to make a brief intervention on one item, namely the Istanbul Programme of Action 2011-20 for LDCs and also raise one query related to the Food Security Information Network. But let me first raise the query. It is understood that the Joint FAO/WFP Strategy on Information System for Food and Nutrition Security, that is ISFNS, automatically fits into the so called FSIN, but it is not clear if the same could be said about the G20-sponsored Agricultural Market Information System, AMIS. It would be appreciated if this issue is clarified.

The Istanbul Programme of Action, which has already been endorsed by the UN General Assembly Resolution 65/280, sets out a cooperative effort by all stakeholders to assist the 48 LDCs to overcome underdevelopment and eradicate poverty, and thus enable their graduation from the least developed category.

The Istanbul Programme of Action is, indeed, comprehensive, but with one missing link and that link is there is no research commitment for the LDCs over the period covered. In this connection, it should be underlined that out of the 48 LDCs, 25 are classified as fragile states and these countries are unlikely to graduate by 2020. The efforts, required by the UN Agencies and other stakeholders are highlighted in paragraph 153 of the Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. Mr Chairperson, it is surprising that among the five bullet points under paragraph 13 of the paper submitted to this Council, there is no mention of Priority Area B of the Istanbul Programme of Action, namely Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development.

Priority Area B has three important components. One, make substantial progress towards eradicating hunger by 2020. Two, make substantially increased investment in rural infrastructure. Three, ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all the LDC countries.

The Istanbul Programme of Action also assesses the role of the South-South Cooperation. This element is also missing from the document presented at Council. It is recognised that the linkage of the

LDCs with other more developed southern partners will enhance benefits to LDCs, and possibly even mitigate potential trade.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

My delegation wishes to commend all the speakers on their interesting briefings on Developments in Other Fora of Importance to FAO's Mandate.

My delegation fully supports the statement presented by Africa Group spelled out by Ghana. My delegation is interested in another issue, and it is about the contribution of immigrants to food security in their countries. We know that immigrants send important remittances to their countries. I know that IFAD has been conducting some very interesting research work on remittances of immigrants in the world and there were interesting findings, for example, that such remittances were even more in some countries than the Official Development Aid.

With regard to FAO, I believe that during the CFS, there was going to be a Side Event touching on the question of climate change and also on immigration and remittances, working together with the International Commission on Migration, but this Side Event could not take place because it was held on the same morning when there was the rainstorm in Rome so it was subsequently postponed, but it is an important issue. So I just want to know if the Organization is interested, and to what extent is FAO involved in research work regarding remittances of immigrants to food security in their countries.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos la presentación de todos los Informes, particularmente el presentado por el Secretario del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos, y se felicita por los importantes logros alcanzados. Al respecto, la Delegación de Ecuador quiere reiterar al Consejo lo señalado el día de ayer sobre la importancia y la necesidad de que, dentro del marco de las consultas que se llevan adelante y con los Órganos Estatutarios, se otorgue mayor autonomía funcional al Tratado a fin de facilitar y acelerar su implementación, en consideración de la naturaleza del Tratado y de su obligación de desarrollarse con armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

Finalmente, considerando que las presentaciones son de mucha utilidad, se solicita si se pudieran poner a disposición de los Países Miembros a través de la página del Consejo en Internet.

M. Papa Birima NDIAYE (Sénégal)

Je voudrais remercier les présentateurs des différents Rapports que nous venons d'écouter. Je voudrais aussi profiter de l'occasion pour m'associer aux félicitations et remerciements adressés à M. Jacques Diouf, notre compatriote, pour les services rendus à l'humanité tout au long de sa présence à la tête de la FAO. C'est un homme éminemment respecté au Sénégal pour les raisons que beaucoup d'entre vous ont évoquées.

Je voudrais m'associer d'abord à la position exprimée par le Groupe d'Afrique, autrement dit par le Ghana et souligner l'importance des statistiques agricoles et de leur fiabilité dans les systèmes d'alerte sur la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pour cela que le Sénégal utilise une méthodologie de production des statistiques unanimement appliquée par l'ensemble des pays du Comité Inter-États de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel, ce qui constitue à mon avis, une bonne pratique à soutenir et à encourager pour le renforcement des méthodes et de leur fiabilité.

Je voudrais savoir ce qui peut être fait pour aider ces différents pays à améliorer leur méthodologie de collecte des statistiques agricoles, et pour renforcer cette mutualisation afin d'accroître et de renforcer cette méthodologie.

Mr David HALLAM (FAO Staff)

I think on the French comment, there is not much to add really except perhaps to share the surprise at the level of collaboration between international organizations over the last year in producing these outputs so efficiently, and also to echo the concern that agriculture and food security should stay very firmly on the agenda, and which of course that seems very much the case, I think under the Mexican Presidency.

Regarding the comments made by Mexico, we have already just to inform you, we have already been having meetings with the one Representative of the Mexican Presidency, including over the last two days in Paris to plan work. So the international organizations have already been meeting to begin planning the drafting of documents and so on. So that is already in hand.

You mentioned the rather compressed timescale for leaving out to the next summit, which does put a lot of time pressure on the Organization to deliver very quickly.

Regarding the points raised by Afghanistan on the Istanbul LDC Conference, I hope that I made it clear in my presentation that food security is very much an issue to be addressed and, in particular under Priority Area B. I think I also did stress the point that partnerships between LDC, and between developing countries and development partners are very much a feature of the Plan of Action. I will stop there. I will leave to Mr Smulders the point on how AMIS fits with ISFNS.

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

Two very brief comments: The first, is in response to the comment provided by Ghana on behalf of the Africa Region on the importance of smallholders in our Climate-smart Agriculture partnership. This is one of the key features, but we have to acknowledge that it needs more. What we are doing is collecting best practices, sharing experiences, developing the Source Book, but we also need stronger extension systems. We need capacity development and we have to build strong links in the countries and among the countries, and this is what we are trying to address. From my perspective, the climate change arena needs to recognize that finding solutions to adapt to climate change means investing in small-scale farmers. I have to say that I am not very confident that the negotiations currently underway in Durban will really come to very good fruition. So we have to also do a lot of advocacy to make sure that the case of small-holders in climate change is very well-addressed. This includes also the question of the Green Climate Fund. You know that in Copenhagen a Green Climate Fund was supposed to be established by 2020 with USD 100 billion. We need a funding window for agriculture, and we need a funding window for small-scale farmers, because the current green development mechanisms and others are not targeted towards agriculture. It is impossible for small-scale farmers to have access to it. So there is a lot of work to be done, and here we really need your support.

The second comment is on the World Water Forum. I would like to underline what France has informed us about, that there will be a Special High-Level Panel on Water and Food Security, and it is also planned to have a Ministerial Roundtable there, so we really get the prominence for this issue that we need. In close collaboration with the French Government, I am sure that we can raise the profile to the extent that everybody recognizes the importance of Water and Food Security.

Ms Christine FUELL (Senior Officer, Rotterdam Convention)

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is very happy to hear that Ghana is speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, and welcomes very much the inclusion of three new pesticides into Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. The countries will really use this as a tool to make an informed decision on whether they consent to the import of these substances or not into their countries. The Conference of the Parties has adopted 14 decisions, but only three could be presented here due to the time.

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

Just to thank those delegations that have welcomed the progress made by the International Treaty, and we will certainly be intensifying our efforts to implement the process.

Mr Mark SMULDERS (FAO Staff)

First of all, thank you to Ghana and the Africa Group as a whole for the endorsement and importance of the Food Security Information Network. We are already working with many regional institutions on the African continent. However, much more work is needed in terms of investment and basic statistics data, as also pointed out by Senegal, but also in terms of analytical capacity to strengthen the linkages between the information and decision-making, and better target investment, etc. So thanks for that.

On Afghanistan's question, yes, indeed, the FSIN fits or improves on the ISFSN joint strategy between FAO and WFP in strengthening Information Systems for Food Security and Nutrition. It is very much a part of the FSIN and, in fact, promotes the FSIN itself.

As far as linkages with the AMIS are concerned, we see the Agricultural Market Information System, that is a very recent initiative of the G20, also fitting in the network. AMIS is focused on G20 countries, plus eight on a few key commodities. AMIS will not be able to function, however, without the receipt of good information from other countries. FSIN hopefully will also help to promote the collection of market data and information in other countries, and would have natural linkages with the AMIS initiative.

On Senegal's question in terms of the methods and approaches to strengthen data statistics at country level, I think the Global Strategy is probably the best reference document that has just been launched, that is, the Global Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Data and Statistics. It was launched some time ago, but there was a recent donor conference on the Global Strategy, and I could make the document available to Senegal.

On the query from Mauritius which is not related to the FSIN but to the work of the CFS here in my Division, the Agriculture and Economics Division, we have, indeed, worked on remittances. We have particularly looked at remittances in the context of the high food prices, and the impact they have had on access to food. Remittances have played a really important role in reducing, in fact, the impact of high food prices, and they have been analyzed to a large extent in *The State of Food Insecurity 2008*. Other studies along these lines have also been performed.

I would like to get back to you on the question of the Side Event of the CFS. I do not have the answer here, but I can report back on that later.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme vous aviez fait une petite remarque, tout à l'heure en commençant, en disant que la parité n'était pas assurée à cette tribune, je voudrais vous faire remarquer que nous avons fait un net progrès depuis le début de cette réunion puisque maintenant nous sommes presque à la parité à la tribune, c'est le fait du hasard. Mme Villarreal, vous avez la parole.

Mme Marcela VILLARREAL (Personnel de la FAO)

Il est vraiment important d'avoir une vraie parité en tout ce qui concerne le travail de la FAO.

Continues in English

I would just like to thank very much the Africa Group intervention regarding the importance of small-holder organizations, and very specifically cooperatives, as being essential to the rural livelihoods and to food security. We couldn't agree with you more.

Regarding the issue of remittances, just to complement what Marc Smulders has just said, yes we do have some work on remittances, specifically in collaboration with IFAD and the IOM. We noted how right after the high food price crisis, remittances were so very important for reducing the vulnerability caused by the food prices. We saw a huge decline in the world level of remittances because of the financial crisis that ensued right after the high food prices. So this is an issue, of course, of concern, and we are carrying out studies in collaboration with other organizations which we will make available to you.

Ms Lorraine WILLIAMS (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

I have nothing more to add to my presentation, but just to thank all the Distinguished Delegates for the very useful and encouraging comments made in relation to it.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie tous, de votre contribution, de votre participation, et de la présentation de vos travaux, mais aussi chaque jour avec vos équipes au travail à l'intérieur de la FAO et, comme cela a été souligné à plusieurs reprises, en partenariat de plus en plus important avec d'autres organisations.

Je crois qu'il faut le souligner, le cultiver, et le développer. C'est comme cela que l'on répondra aux défis qui sont devant nous.

Merci pour cette séquence et cette séance d'échanges entre nous sur ces différents sujets. Je clos le Point 17, et nous arrivons à l'issue de notre après-midi, les travaux de notre session étant terminés.

Je vous rappelle que les Chefs de délégations sont invités à la réception offerte par le Directeur général à 18h00 dans la Cafeteria, Salle de l'Aventino du Huitième étage, Bâtiment B.

Le Comité de rédaction se réunira demain après le discours de Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, le Directeur général élu qui commencera à 9h30 dans cette même salle. Nous nous retrouverons ensuite vendredi 2 décembre pour l'adoption du Rapport et, comme d'habitude, l'heure précise sera communiquée dans l'Ordre du jour de vendredi.

J'en profite aussi pour demander à tous ceux qui ont fait partie des visites de terrain en Egypte et au Liban s'ils veulent bien venir me retrouver à la tribune quelques minutes pour pouvoir discuter éventuellement de leur présentation du rapport vendredi après-midi. Si vous pouviez vous joindre à moi pendant quelques minutes, cela serait très bien.

Je vous remercie les uns et les autres de votre dynamisme dans vos interventions, du respect des horaires, et je vous dis donc à demain matin 9h30. Merci.

The meeting rose at 16:34 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.34 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

1 DECEMBER 2011

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième réunion plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima reunión plenaria a las 9.37 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Statement by the Director-General Elect

Allocution du Directeur général élu

Declaración del Director General electo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la septième séance de la cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil. Aujourd'hui, 1er décembre est une date particulière et vous avez très probablement reçu l'insigne marquant la journée internationale du SIDA. Je rappelle que la FAO, à l'instar de ses consœurs, est fermement engagée dans le combat pour empêcher l'expansion de l'épidémie et en minimiser les effets ravageurs qui affectent durement la sécurité alimentaire. Soyons donc solidaires.

Vous vous souviendrez qu'à sa dernière session en juillet dernier, le Conseil m'a demandé d'inviter le Directeur général élu à participer à cette session du Conseil, ce que j'ai fait volontiers. M. José Graziano da Silva a bien voulu répondre à cette invitation et ce matin, nous avons le plaisir d'écouter son allocution suivie d'éventuelles interventions des délégués, mais sans débat.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT

First of all, I wish to thank you for inviting me to speak at this Session of the Council. My presence here, in my capacity as Director-General Elect, confirms our mutual interest in working closely together.

Last April, I came before you as a candidate to present my proposals for FAO. I set out five pillars on which I considered we should focus: to eradicate hunger; to accelerate the shift towards truly sustainable food consumption and production systems; to promote greater fairness in the global management of food; to complete the agreed Reform Process improving Decentralization; and to expand South-South Cooperation in FAO.

When we look back at the platforms of all the candidates, we find a pleasant convergence between their views on these priorities for FAO. The fact that we all addressed more or less the same issues is highly significant. It means that we have a common vision for the Organization's future, inspired by the goals for which it was originally created.

Now the time has come to begin our work together.

Many countries are facing tremendous difficulties in their battle against hunger and malnutrition. If we do not focus on concrete actions, a large number of countries will fail to reach even the First Millennium Development Goal.

I will give a special focus in relation to this issue on two levels of action.

At the local level, I will scale up the support available to the low-income and food deficit countries, especially those facing protracted crises, guaranteeing FAO technical resources to a selected number of countries that ask for the Organization's assistance and commit themselves to eradicate hunger.

We also need to cut across the conventional divide between emergency interventions and development programmes, unifying their overall management under the responsibility of the FAO Representative; and ensuring that the fundamental problems that make populations vulnerable to hunger are addressed in ways that increase their capacity to gain resilience to future shocks.

To do so, I intend to create teams that draw together the Organization's skills in policy advice, investment planning, resource mobilization, emergency response and sustainable development. I will also take steps to deepen our collaboration at country level with other UN Agencies, development partners, regional organizations and civil society already working in these countries. I look also to strengthen links with private sector enterprises that share our goals, as well as to mobilize additional support through South-South Cooperation.

At the global level: national efforts to combat hunger need to be complemented by a more efficient global governance system for food security.

A strengthened Committee on World Food Security must be a key part of any reinforced global governance system, and I look forward to working closely with the CFS. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Yaya Olaniran for his election as Chairman of the CFS, and to thank Mr De Luna for his leadership in the last two years.

I listened carefully to the twenty-two interventions made by Member Nations at the opening of this Council Session, following the presentation of the CFS Report. I can say that I fully agree with the suggestions made in the sense that we should concentrate more our discussions and have more concrete indications for decision-making. In this context, I believe that a new instance of executive and strategic inter-agency coordination should be implemented, involving the Heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP, with a broad mandate to collaborate in the implementation of the decisions taken by CFS. The CFS Chairman should be invited to participate in these coordination meetings. A fluid dialogue between this new mechanism and the CFS Bureau needs to be envisaged.

I also agree with the need to complete as soon as possible the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests (VGLT). I hope that this issue can be finished in the first semester of 2012.

In just one month's time, I shall assume the management of an Organization whose needs have never been so great, but that has lost the trust of some of its Members.

One symptom of this lack of trust has been the increased time that Member Nations spend looking into many details that do not correspond to the role of guidance expected from Governing Bodies.

Rebuilding trust must be based on the recognition that we – the Member Nations and the Secretariat – have shared goals and complementary responsibilities, as clearly established in our Constitution. Trust requires that we work together with total transparency.

Concluding FAO Reform in a good way is necessary for the Organization to fulfil its mission efficiently and also to recover the trust of all Member Nations and, as I have said before, I am committed to bring the Reform to a satisfactory end.

The Immediate Plan of Action gives us the means to move quickly to complete the most important goals of the Reform, so that the Organization can put its full effort into better delivering and responding to the challenges we face.

Reform is an instrument for creating trust, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. But we cannot go on reforming forever!

Between 2009 and the end of the next biennium, the implementation of the Reform alone will have cost nearly USD 90 million. If we add the cost of staff time that we have spent on this issue, the opportunity cost could be more than double this amount.

Just to make a rough comparison: as part of its emergency response to the Horn of Africa crisis, FAO has included, with great success, cash-for-work programmes. We are paying more than 60 000 Somali households three US dollars a day for 72 working days yearly, and we hope to reach a total of 130 000 households this year. All this will represent a total investment of less than USD 30 million in Somalia, or about one third of the amount that is expected to be spent on the Reform Process!

But the financial cost is not my main concern: I fear that in some cases the Reform is making us look more and more inward, creating new bureaucracies, duplicating work and structures, making FAO bulkier instead of more efficient. What we really need is a fundamental change in the culture of the Organization so that we look outwards. We need to be motivated not so much by our immediate personal concerns, but by the imperative of addressing the real problems faced by 1 billion hungry people.

Reform has put in place important changes, but there is still a lot to be done. I shall refer to one crucial component on which progress is seriously lagging behind – Decentralization.

Having served in a Regional Office for five-and-a-half years, I consider Decentralization as one of the most crucial and strategic objectives of the Reform Process. We need to empower our Decentralized Offices, as the Governing bodies have urged us to do.

Strengthening FAO's worldwide presence is key to providing better services to Governments in technical cooperation and policy assistance. I also see fieldwork as a necessary and important complement to our normative analysis. While our normative work should guide our interventions in the field, the hands-on learning process provides a valuable input for policy discussions at the global level. Our Field Programme and our normative analysis need to go hand-in-hand, re-energizing each other to make FAO a knowledge institution with its feet on the ground.

I also want to stress the importance of a bottom-up approach in our planning system to assure that the priorities we set in the budget respond to the real needs of our Member Nations.

This bottom-up approach, starting from the elaboration of the Country Programme Framework and moving up to the definition of sub-regional and regional priorities will be discussed first at the Regional Conferences, and then considered by the FAO Conference. This will provide the Organization with a demand-driven process to define its work priorities and budget for the first time.

I also see that much more prioritization is needed in our work to assure that the Organization will not try to do all the things, but concentrate on those where it really can make a difference and bring added value to the resources that Member Nations entrust to it.

I am also aware of the need to rationalize the FAO representation network. It is my intention to put forward a proposal on the Decentralization aspects of the Reform Process to the next Regional Conferences and to ask Member Nations to start discussing the coverage issue.

I would also like to take that opportunity to request that some of the middle income countries of all regions consider changing the status of the FAO fully-fledged Representations that they already have into Liaison Offices, and increasing their support to maintain FAO's work in their territories. This can open up the opportunity to reallocate resources to the poorest countries in the same region. I would like to invite the Permanent Representatives of those countries to consult with their capitals about this idea.

Let me make it clear that I am not requesting additional funding from Member Nations for Decentralization or for expanding coverage, but merely leeway to work within the limits of the approved budget. I will also look for additional savings that could be used to reinforce our Decentralized Offices, especially the multi-disciplinary teams at sub-regional level that should be the first door on which countries should knock to request FAO assistance.

Let me refer now to some issues that I would like to have considered in future Sessions of the Council.

The recent election of the Director-General marked a shift in FAO procedures and timeframes, and exposed some flaws that need to be addressed. I think that we all agree that the length of the electoral period proved to be excessive, and the lack of rules posed some difficulties in achieving a smooth transition.

Let me also note that I will take up office leading a senior management team entirely set up during the current administration. Most countries and many international organizations have common rules governing transitional periods in order to leave room for the new administration to put in place a senior management team that shares its vision and goals.

Any new manager needs to have room to pick his own team, especially at higher-level positions, like Deputy Director-General (DDG) and Assistant Director-General (ADG) that are basically political appointments. These changes should be seen as natural in all organizations, inside and outside the UN System, and in respect of all democratic electoral processes such as the one we had in FAO.

Many countries feel under represented at the higher-levels of the Organization. We will need to rebalance the present distribution of high-level posts to express the new international reality, in which more and more countries are assuming relevant roles in international cooperation activities. In a consultative and transparent manner, I intend to address this issue during 2012.

In the interest of continuity between administrations, any staff-related adjustments that I will make at the beginning of my term in office will address only those positions that I consider to be very necessary; and this will be done as part of a smooth process bearing in mind the need to avoid disruption.

In line with these comments, I want to suggest that Member Nations define a clear set of procedures to assure a formal and smoother transition in the future, that would not rely only on the goodwill and the friendly relationship between the incumbent and the newly-elected Director-General, as was the case between Mr Diouf and myself.

In the current biennium, the Organization listed some ten thousand activities in its Programme of Work and Budget. It is hard to see where the real priorities lie within such a wide spread of actions. We need to streamline activities, emphasize our main areas of interest and better focus our work.

In response to the request of the Finance Committee, I will try to identify further efficiency savings. I believe we still have room to lower costs, by decreasing the weight of some of the bureaucratic structures and processes that hinder the effectiveness of our Organization.

A leaner and more efficient FAO is in all of our interests. Best value for money is not only a demand from donor countries, but from all Member Nations. And in my view, being more efficient is essential for FAO to achieve a better delivery.

I would like to reiterate that the FAO Staff, as the most valuable asset of this Organization, deserves more attention and a much improved human resources management.

It is my intention to pay personal attention to human resource issues, including training, mobility and performance evaluation, putting in place mechanisms and procedures to ensure implementation of transparent human resource policies. Management and staff must work together in a more collegiate and integrated manner to improve FAO's performance at all levels.

I also attach great importance to the communication activities to be performed by FAO. I refer to both – internal and external communications – that are two faces of the same coin. An Organization without an adequate Corporate Communication Policy will face serious problems in transmitting the right messages regarding its mission and the impact of the work it carries out on a daily basis.

Other themes that I intend to address from the beginning of the year include reaffirming FAO's interest in working jointly with the UN family, especially the Rome-based Agencies (WFP and IFAD) and Bioversity International, as well as other important agencies and the Regional Economic Commissions.

Within FAO, I intend to give special attention to prepare for and participate in the Regional Conferences. I would like to reiterate the importance of a high-level participation in these meetings, especially of Ministers. In this context, I have invited the Independent Chairperson of the Council to participate in all Regional Conferences.

I would like to use this opportunity to brief Members on how I intend to translate the priorities of my programme into my agenda during the first months of 2012.

In January, I have accepted an invitation from the German Minister of Agriculture to take part in the country's Green Week, which brings an opportunity to start examining issues of sustainability that will be at the top of the agenda of the Rio+20 meeting.

Afterwards, I shall go to the World Economic Forum in Davos to reaffirm my commitment to strengthen interaction between FAO and the private sector. Immediately afterwards, I will attend the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre to underline the importance I attach to the role of civil society.

At the end of January, I shall attend the African Union Summit, where I will make it clear that Africa will continue to be the highest priority for FAO.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank Dr. Jacques Diouf, the incumbent Director-General, for all his support that started when I was preparing to launch the Zero Hunger Programme in December 2002, and to deeply acknowledge the invaluable contribution he has given during the past 18 years to

the cause of food security, positioning the fight against hunger at the top of the global agenda. I hope I can count on his advice in the future.

I would also like to thank all Members of FAO for the confidence placed in me, and remind them that I will have only 3-and-a-half years' mandate to achieve all the bold goals proposed. It is quite a short time, so I look forward to working with all of you in the coming years in a spirit of constructive partnership.

As my last remark, let me repeat what I already said to you last April: "I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together".

LE PRÉSIDENT

Les délégués souhaitent-ils prendre la parole? Pour ce faire, vous appuyez sur le bouton rouge pour vous signaler et je vous la donne. Il peut y avoir des interventions mais sans débat. Qui demande la parole? L'Égypte.

Mr Essam OSMAN FAYED (Egypt) (Original Language Arabic)

I would like to welcome Mr Graziano da Silva to the FAO, and congratulate you once again on your election as Director-General of the Organization.

Rest assured, Mr da Silva, that the FAO will continue to enjoy Egypt's full support. We share your vision on the future focus on the Organization, especially with regard to the further implementation of the Reform Process, enforcing Decentralization, focusing on low-income food deficit countries, and the promotion of South-South cooperation. May I add to this agenda, a request for FAO support to the development priorities of the countries of North Africa and the Middle East during the historic changes they are going through.

In this context, let me assure you that your recent visit to Egypt and the Near East Region was very much appreciated. While wishing you, Mr Graziano da Silva, a successful mandate, allow me to take this opportunity to express Egypt's appreciation and esteem for the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his hard work during his tenure, as well as his commitment to the cause of hunger and poverty.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Morocco)

I would, on behalf of the G77 plus China, give my warmest welcome to our good friend, Graziano da Silva in his important assignment and thank him for the words he delivered to us. I will not be very long, just to say we are ready to work together, ready to cooperate and ready to face the coming challenges we are all facing in this Organization.

We took due note of your proposals, of your visions, I am sure it will be subject to a lot of dialogues and discussions. Let us say at this moment that we consider with great optimism and a lot of willingness our involvement with you in maintaining the scope on fighting hunger, poverty and inequity in this complicated work.

M. Gourdigou KOLANI (Togo)

C'est un réel plaisir et un grand honneur pour moi de prendre la parole à l'occasion de la Cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil de la FAO, en tant que futur Membre du Conseil à partir de juin 2012.

De prime abord, je voudrais saisir l'opportunité qui m'est offerte pour exprimer, une fois encore, au nom du Président de la République togolaise, qui était présent à la Conférence de juin et au nom du peuple togolais pour réitérer nos félicitations au nouveau Directeur général élu à la dernière Conférence. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans l'exercice de son mandat qui débutera sous peu. Par ailleurs, nous remercions et félicitons M. Jacques Diouf et toute son équipe pour les actions engagées pour faire face aux diverses préoccupations de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Nous nous associons au Groupe africain et soutenons ses différentes déclarations depuis le début du Conseil. Le Togo prend acte du souhait du Conseil de voir une participation active des Ministres

impliqués dans le secteur de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche durant la Conférence de Rio+20 qui se tiendra du 20 au 22 juin 2012.

Enfin, au nom du Président et du peuple togolais, je voudrais remercier tous les Membres de la FAO et, en particulier, ceux du Groupe africain qui ont élu le Togo comme Membre du Conseil au cours de la Trente-septième Conférence de la FAO.

Mr José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, in this very solemn and joyous moment in which Dr José Graziano da Silva addresses, for the first time officially, this august body. I am also particularly grateful to him as I come from a country like Brazil, member of the Portuguese-speaking community, so I also speak on behalf of that community.

Dr Graziano da Silva gave us an important speech that reiterates the bold vision that he proposed during the campaign, and which I believe is the basis of the confidence that we placed on him. Of course, we know also of his great experience and knowledge, and also of the important actions he was able to implement which led to changing the face of the great country of Brazil, which is in itself almost a continent. Of course, as I speak in this moment, I can't but feel a little bit emotional since I also have had the honour to represent my country in Brazil, as the first Ambassador of Cape Verde to Brazil.

Dr Graziano, the proposals that you will be making in times to come will, of course, have the full engagement both of the Africa Group and the Portuguese-speaking countries, with the same attachment that we had during your campaign. I do appreciate very much your mention of the fact that your vision is not different from other visions of other candidates that we also appreciated very much. We did not elect you because we were against those candidates. All of them were precious to us. The fact that they participated in that context brought much importance to the election, and I believe was a great contribution to FAO's future and to the future of the process of Reform. We do agree very much with you that Reform cannot be an eternal process. If we do that, we will not do service to FAO, and most of all, we will not do service to those that we serve, that is, the almost one billion hungry people in the world.

So Reform is the most important tool for us to achieve our goals, to take forward this bold vision that you have. So we look forward to this and we wish you the utmost success. You can count on our cooperation. We also appreciate very much that you recognize and you are courageous enough to say that your mandate will continue the great work that Dr Jacques Diouf, a national of the closest neighbouring country of Cape Verde, a great African did for this Organization and for those that suffer hunger in the world. Thank you so much. We wish the best for you, for FAO and for the world.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

I take the floor as EU Presidency, and also on behalf of my country Poland. The European Union would like to warmly congratulate the Director-General Elect on his election, and thank him for his presentation.

We appreciate that you have noticed need for prioritization and strategic approach towards prioritization. We are ready to work closely with you, and wish you all success in your endeavour.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the Near East Group. Allow me at the outset to extend our congratulations to Mr Graziano Da Silva, the Director-General Elect of FAO. We should like to thank him as well for his valuable speech.

On behalf of the Near East, I wish to highlight the willingness of our Group to cooperate with the new Director-General and with the Organization in order to achieve all the goals to reduce the number of hungry in the world by half by 2015. We emphasize here the five pillars indicated by Mr Graziano Da Silva in his speech, especially regarding the continuation of the Reform Process at the internal and the external levels, the enhancement of Decentralization and the reinforcement of the role of the CFS.

Your proposals will be conveyed to the Member Nations of the Region in order to collaborate with you in achieving them in the future.

On this occasion I would also like to extend our deep thanks on behalf of the Near East Group to Dr Jacques Diouf for all he has achieved in this Organization during his term in office.

I wish you, Mr Graziano da Silva, all success in confronting and dealing with the challenges facing us all, and we commit to cooperating to achieve them all.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

The Indian delegation wishes to complement and congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva on being elected as the new Director-General.

We are moved by your inspiring speech, your vision. I am certain that this will take FAO to new heights in combating hunger, poverty and food insecurity in the world.

We are very much impressed with your five-pillar approach, the bottom-up approach in planning and the commitment to see that the trust deficit over the years between FAO and the Member Nations is going to be narrowed.

We are looking forward to working with you, and we wish you every success in your endeavour.

Mr Djimé ADOUM (Chad)

I take this opportunity to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General.

I am most particularly interested by the fact that you actually stated that at the top of your five pillars, eradicating hunger is the strategic goal for which we are all going to be looking forward by bringing together the human and financial resources needed to fight that hunger.

I took good notice of what you suggested is going to be the new approach in terms of scaling out the support available to low-income and resource-poor for countries. I also took good notice of the fact that you are going to cut across the conventional divide between emergencies and long-term development. To do so, you stated that you intend to create teams to deepen collaboration, establish links with the private sector, and enterprises, and develop more efficient governance systems and collaboration among agencies.

You can rest assured, Mr Director-General, that I will take back to Chad the full commitment and excitement that the fight against hunger is becoming more focused, and that you have very wisely stated that you cannot do anything unless we do it all together.

M. Ould-Dahi MOCTAR (Mauritanie) (Langue originale Arabe)

Nous remercions le Directeur général élu pour son discours.

En ce qui concerne l'avenir de la FAO, nous sommes sûrs du fait qu'il s'acquittera avec beaucoup de compétence de son mandat. Nous lui exprimons toutes nos félicitations, et nous formulons des vœux de succès.

Son discours nous donne des assurances en ce qui concerne l'avenir, et en surtout les objectifs dont doit s'acquitter la FAO notamment celui de l'éradication de la faim.

Je saisis cette occasion pour faire deux observations. D'abord la situation des pays du Sahel, connaissant donc la situation de la pluviométrie qui est très basse et qui va se refléter sur la population des affamés dans cette région et deuxièmement, le fait que la région Afrique du Nord et Proche-Orient connaît des développements politiques, qui sont associés aux troubles économiques et que cela va certainement mener à la détérioration de la situation économique de la région. Et donc, cette région méritera une attention spéciale de la part de la FAO.

De même que cela a été le cas au Brésil, nous avons pleine confiance dans l'expérience du nouveau Directeur général, et nous espérons qu'il considérera dûment notre région dans son action. Nous remercions également Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour les services rendus à l'humanité et à cette Organisation.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

Thank you, Director General Elect, for a very, very comprehensive and inspired presentation. I will be very brief. I don't have to stress how proud we in Brazil are to have a Latin American at the head of FAO. It has already been said. What's important to say, I think, is that in the presentation that Dr Graziano has made there was a list of very concrete measures, either short- or medium-term. I mean one year, and three-and-a-half years, which is the length of a mandate. He presented very concrete measures whereby the concepts of transparency, efficiency, inclusion and dialogue are very present all over his presentation. These are important concepts to keep the fight against hunger high in the priorities of the Organization and, above all, high in the priorities of the world agenda.

It has been said already, I think by Mr Graziano himself, there can be no real peace in the world where there is deprivation and hunger. We think that we in FAO are in good hands. As one of the 193 Representatives of Member Nations, I am very sure that we will have three-and-a-half years more of good work by this Organization and keeping the fight against hunger high in the world's priorities.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Hablo por los países de América Latina y del Caribe.

Las convenciones diplomáticas nos llevan a tomar la palabra a los líderes regionales y a los países que entienden que algo tienen que decir. ¿Qué más se puede decir de José Graziano da Silva que no haya sido dicho por mis colegas? ¿Qué más se puede decir que no hayamos sabido del Profesor Graziano antes y durante la campaña electoral?

Sabemos que el Profesor Graziano da Silva conoce la FAO desde dentro, tanto la Sede Central como las redes descentralizadas. Sabemos que conoce el mundo de la política, el mundo de la academia, que es el responsable operativo de haber sacado a 40 millones de personas de la pobreza de manera sostenible en su propio país y que, con estos atributos, estas virtudes, estas experiencias, estos conocimientos, esta energía y esta visión, el Profesor Graziano da Silva llega a la Dirección General de la FAO, posición que asumirá dentro de un mes.

El GRULAC comparte esta visión del Profesor Graziano como la comparten todos los Grupos Regionales y, si alguien tuviese alguna duda, el largo aplauso que recibió por parte de los Miembros de número y de los Observadores del Consejo, es prueba eficiente de ello.

El hambre es el escándalo y la vergüenza de nuestro tiempo. Un día se va escribir la historia del fin del hambre como se ha escrito la historia del fin de la esclavitud y del colonialismo. Cuando esa historia se escriba, vamos a tener en los libros de historia los nombres de personas como Sir John Boyd Orr, como Josué de Castro cuyo retrato está aquí, el tercero desde la izquierda, porque lo precede a usted, Señor Presidente, dirigiendo este Consejo. Se mencionará el nombre de Norman Borlaug, el padre de la Revolución Verde, se mencionaran los nombres de otros que han contribuido, como Jacques Diouf, y se mencionará también el nombre de José Graziano da Silva.

Mr David RITCHIE (Australia)

On behalf of the South-West Pacific Region, I would like to welcome and congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva. We were very interested in the practical programme you have outlined, and we want to work very closely with you during your Director-Generalship in the coming years. We very much appreciate the consultative way in which you have undertaken your preparations for the Director-General position, and look forward to that continuing. We particularly appreciate, in this regard, your interest in the needs of Small Island States, for us especially in the Pacific, and we hope you find the time to visit our Region. Thank you very much, and best wishes.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Felicitamos al Doctor Graziano da Silva por esta campaña que comienza como titular de la FAO. Hemos tomado nota de sus comentarios, y de su plan de trabajo para cuya ejecución reafirmamos nuestro apoyo y colaboración. Queremos hacer un reconocimiento a su claridad y a su entusiasmo, y debemos decir que no nos sorprende porque conocemos sus antecedentes y por eso mismo estamos

seguros de que con sus esfuerzos y los de los Miembros de la FAO, ese plan de trabajo tendrá resultados exitosos.

Todos estos temas van a estar presentes en la agenda que va a considerar la próxima Conferencia Regional que se va a celebrar en Buenos Aires. Quiero expresar en el nombre de Argentina, y estoy seguro que también a nombre de los países del GRULAC, que no sólo va a ser un gran honor que Usted participe, sino que va a ser una gran alegría para todos nosotros recibirlo en nuestra casa que, por supuesto, es también la suya.

Mr James FOX (Canada)

On behalf of the North America Group, I would like to extend a very warm welcome and congratulations to Dr Graziano da Silva, but also to thank you for presenting your vision so clearly. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring trust, transparency and a consultative partnership as you stated so eloquently. We look forward to working with you during your mandate.

Ms PARK Su-jin (Republic of Korea)

I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Group.

We warmly welcome and congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva. We also appreciate you for sharing your vision and plans so concretely today. We hope that during your term, the visibility and the real impact of FAO in the field will be enhanced.

For this, the Asia Group is willing to work with you.

Sr. Carlos BENTANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)

En primera instancia queremos decir al Doctor Graziano da Silva que le felicitamos y nos felicitamos por su próxima asunción en el cargo tan importante que le espera.

Acogemos con satisfacción sus pilares que no son desconocidos para quienes seguimos de cerca su postulación y sus intervenciones ante los órganos de la FAO, que significan una reafirmación.

También nos satisface su compromiso con la Reforma, y creemos con usted que es un proceso que debe tener una culminación en un futuro próximo. Es imposible seguir en una Reforma permanente.

Compartimos su visión en cuanto a la Descentralización como factor generador de eficiencias y no como se ha confundido alguna vez en ineficiencias. La Descentralización es un generador de eficiencias, y es una herramienta útil para la FAO en su cometido y al que se debe.

También consideramos que el mandato que nos ha dado la nueva gobernanza de la FAO hace que las Conferencias Regionales sean las mejor habilitadas para fijar las prioridades de esta Organización, y así veo que usted lo ha entendido.

Coincidimos con usted en la importancia de considerar como altísima prioridad la lucha contra el hambre. Como ha dicho muy bien el Presidente del GRULAC en su alocución, tiene todas las credenciales para saber que su compromiso es profundo. Es obvio que en esa tarea deberá Usted buscar medios y maneras para perseverar en ese combate contra este flagelo.

El camino propuesto por Usted con respecto de trabajar con todos los Países Miembros, cosa obvia y evidente. Usted ha dado también un matiz hablando de que se debe considerar los nuevos protagonistas globales; veo que hay nuevos actores y nuevos elementos en juego, todos ellos son factores que no deben desconocerse en su gestión.

Le deseamos, por su puesto, la mejor gestión. Afirmo el compromiso de mi país con el que Usted sabe que cuenta para colaborar, y obviamente sabemos que estamos en las mejores manos.

Mr Jirí MUCHKA (Czech Republic)

There is not too much to add on the behalf of European Regional Group, since a number of colleagues have already spoken before me.

However, allow me to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva for his election. We wish him every success in the exercise of his mandate. We have entrusted him with the responsibility of making a wider

contribution to hunger and, in this regard, he can rest assured of our full support to achieve such a mutual goal.

I wish to express our appreciation, especially, for his openness to share with us the first steps in office. This presentation was provided in a very transparent way, and we wish to highlight such an open and effective dialogue to be continued, we believe, in the future as well.

Once again, our Region looks forward to a close and effective cooperation with you, Mr Graziano da Silva, in times to come.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to underline the statement of the Republic of Korea as the Chairperson of the Asia Group, and please allow us to add some words.

Professor José Graziano da Silva, we appreciate you addressed your vision at this opportunity before starting your work. We must say that it is not an easy time for you to inaugurate your work as Director-General since, as you said, as many as one billion people are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition in the world. However, FAO is in the process of Reform to be more efficient and action-oriented organization to combat world's hunger, as you listened to the discussions of the Council this week.

We already have an ongoing agenda, the IPA. We have an excellent Management staff including those on the podium now and you have experience in the frontline of FAO's activities. So we are optimistic. We hope you have close communication with Member Nations and finally, we look forward to working with you as the Director-General in the coming years.

Sra. Carina Milagros SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Cuba quiere agradecer al Señor Jacques Diouf por su encomiable labor de estos años, y reiterar la felicitación al nuevo Director General, Señor Graziano da Silva, expresándole que puede contar con el apoyo de Cuba para trabajar en los cinco pilares en los que basará el desarrollo de las actividades de la Organización.

Coincidimos plenamente en cuanto a la necesidad que tenemos nosotros, la Organización, de concentrarnos más en nuestro objetivo fundamental, la eliminación del hambre a través de una definición mejor de prioridades y una mayor concreción de las decisiones de los Órganos Rectores.

Por último, cuente Usted con la reafirmación de la disposición de Cuba para fortalecer las actividades de Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Samoa)

Adding to Australia's congratulatory remarks, Australia is one of the Member Nations in our Pacific area of the globe. We want to offer our congratulatory remarks for your appointment, Dr Graziano da Silva. Listening to your speech outlining your vision for the FAO makes us so happy, and is heartening for your vision of this Organization. Samoa is the farthest member of this Organization geographically, but after listening to you this morning, we feel that we are so near to this Organization.

We want to support you, to give our support to you on your vision for the battle against hunger and malnutrition, and to create teams to work together not only with the Member Nations but with the Organization. We also support your vision for a bottom-up approach, to rationalizing the FAO network, and to streamlining its activities. We agree wholeheartedly with your visions. We want to stress to you the needs of the Pacific Island Countries as Members of this Organization. We are geographically the farthest country from this Organization geographically, and we welcome you to our Sub-regional Meeting in the future.

So, once again, on behalf of my country Samoa and its Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, please accept our congratulations. We wish you all the best and success in your tenure for the next few years.

Mr LUO Ming (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General Elect for his encouraging statement. In your statement, we felt the steps to be taken by FAO and the focus will be placed on Reform, Decentralization and South-South Cooperation. We believe that only Reform can promote the development of FAO, so FAO can become a highly-efficient Organization that provides better service to Member Nations and solves the problem of hunger and malnutrition. The Chinese Delegation will give full support to your work.

Finally, we express our sincere wish for success on your post.

Mr Zulfiqar Haider KHAN (Pakistan)

I would just like to very briefly take this opportunity on behalf of my country, Pakistan, to express our best wishes, congratulations and a very warm welcome to Mr Graziano da Silva for a very successful tenure as the new Director-General of this pioneering Organization.

It is also very heartening to learn that Mr Graziano da Silva is not only professional but also very forward-looking in his approach and outlook, which is imperative for an Organization like FAO in the face of a rapidly-changing work.

In the end, I would like to take this opportunity again to assure the Director General of Pakistan's continued support, commitment and cooperation in the years to come, and also look forward to a more meaningful and wholesome relationship between us in the future.

M. Clotaire Claver OCKOUYA (Congo)

Je m'appelle M. Ockouya, Conseiller à l'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche du Président de la République du Congo. L'Ambassadeur Mamadou Dekamo, doyen du Corps diplomatique africain, appelé en urgence au pays, m'a chargé de féliciter le nouveau Directeur général pour son importante communication.

Personnellement, j'ai noté l'intérêt que le Directeur général a accordé aux Conférences régionales et, comme la première Conférence aura lieu en avril à Brazzaville, je confirme la disponibilité du Congo à accueillir l'événement. C'est un privilège pour nous d'accueillir la première Conférence du nouveau Directeur général.

Je lui souhaite la bienvenue au nom du Congo. Merci.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

The Mauritius Delegation joins the previous speakers to congratulate and welcome the Director-General Elect, to thank him for his inspiring speech and to assure him of our full support and collaboration.

In this respect, the Mauritius Delegation aligns itself with the statements of G77 and the Africa Group. We hear every day of the economic crisis and the measures being taken by the various Governments to over commit. We have also heard yesterday the Strategic Plan of the G20 countries to face the recession. My delegation joins Australia and Samoa, and warmly invites the Director-General Elect to also give some attention during his mandate to the plight of the Small Island Developing States, all over the world, and they are numerous. As these are all food-deficit countries, net food-importing countries, with economic vulnerabilities and whose economy is highly-volatile, they subsequently need to be granted preferential treatment as part of a global strategy to ensure their economic security.

Mr Agus Prithatin SAPTONO (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to congratulate and offer a warm welcome to Dr. Graziano da Silva. We also thank him for his speech, assure him of our support and look forward to working with him.

Sr. Santiago MENÉNDEZ DE LUARCA (España)

En primer lugar me uno a las múltiples felicitaciones y congratulaciones que se han recibido hacia la presentación del Director General electo y, muy especialmente, a la hecha por el Presidente de nuestro Grupo Europeo.

Compartimos prácticamente de la alfa a la omega la visión que tiene el Profesor Graziano da Silva sobre el futuro de la FAO, y me permito centrar en tres puntos que han sido el eje de su discurso: agilidad, eficiencia y transparencia. Que así sea y que esto nos lleve efectivamente a mostrar un liderazgo de la FAO que no sea por el bien de FAO, que también es importante, sino porque la FAO, en el fondo, es un instrumento para luchar contra el hambre en el mundo, lo que debe ser nuestro objetivo.

Compartimos desde España la visión de la Reforma y, si me permiten, que no sea emular a lo que el Gattopardo decía: “que todo cambie para que todo siga igual”. Que no sea así porque si así fuera, no necesitaríamos Reforma. Yo creo que efectivamente hay cosas que deben cambiar.

En último lugar, desde la lealtad y la amistad que profeso por el Profesor Graziano de Silva en su candidatura, debo decirle que, donde todo ha sido felicitaciones, quizás le pondría un punto que echo en falta, porque además sé que él piensa igual en estos aspectos: en su discurso yo no he oído ninguna cita sobre las políticas de género y el papel de la mujer, que creo sean especialmente relevantes para luchar efectivamente contra el objetivo número uno de la lucha contra el hambre. Dicho esto, mis felicitaciones y, desde luego, puede contar con todo el apoyo de España.

Sr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas IZQUIERDO (México)

En nombre de la Delegación de México, queremos felicitar al Director General Electo, el Señor José Graziano da Silva, por su discurso y por compartir con este Consejo su visión para la renovación y la rehabilitación de nuestra Organización.

Sabemos de la gran capacidad de liderazgo de José Graziano da Silva, pues la demostró ampliamente como Director Regional en Santiago de Chile.

Sabemos que conoce muy bien México, y que sabe muy bien cuáles son nuestras prioridades, nuestra visión y sabe sobre todo que queremos trabajar con él. Sabe que el Gobierno de México respaldará firmemente su gestión al frente de esta gran Organización, pues compartimos con Usted los objetivos de sumar esfuerzos para eliminar el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, para trabajar por la Descentralización, concluir la Reforma de la FAO, impulsar la Cooperación Sur-Sur y, desde luego, trabajar todos los países y los estados representados en la FAO para estos fines.

México asume hoy la coordinación del Grupo de los 20. La próxima Cumbre de Economía de estos grupos se llevará a cabo el 18 y 19 de junio en Los Cabos, Baja California, México, y uno de los temas prioritarios seguirá siendo la seguridad alimentaria.

Ya he tenido oportunidad de comentar con el Director General Electo que deseamos contar con la experiencia y el conocimiento de la FAO para que lo que se acuerde en el G-20 sea plenamente concordante con el importante trabajo que la FAO desarrolla en este campo.

Sr. Antonio BAYAS (Chile)

Mi Delegación le da la bienvenida al Doctor José Graziano da Silva a un mes de asumir el cargo de Director General de la FAO. América Latina y el Caribe en general, y Chile en particular, pierden un grande Representante Regional pero todos vamos a ganar un gran Director General.

Felicitaciones por sus palabras que representan sin duda los grandes delineamientos de su programa de trabajo, del cual ya se ha hablado bastante en este Consejo.

Estimado Director General Electo y amigo, José Graziano da Silva, puede Usted contar con la plena cooperación de Chile en sus futuras labores a cargo de esta Organización.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Las palabras de nuestro Presidente, el Señor Embajador Mario Arvelo Caamaño, en nombre del GRULAC, ya indicaban algo que yo iba a señalar: el respaldo al pronunciamiento que Usted ha hecho como resumen de los lineamientos fundamentales que Usted piensa llevar adelante como programa de trabajo, demostrado a través del aplauso que le ha dado toda la Sala, los Miembros del Consejo, los Delegados y los Observadores, todos los invitados especiales y quienes se encuentran en esta Sala. Las palabras expresadas por algunos de los Miembros, entre ellos India, me indica que sobran las mías

sobre la opinión respecto a ese emotivo discurso en el cual encontramos condensadas las tareas fundamentales que Usted va a hacer, pero que está pidiendo que las hagamos de manera conjunta porque de lo contrario no serían efectivas.

También me motiva la utilización de un lenguaje transparente y que su gestión va a estar condicionada por una transparencia total. Ese lenguaje transparente, saben nuestros colegas que es lo que quizás nos puede hacer salir adelante con este gran esfuerzo que realizamos desde esta Organización.

Los colegas que han intervenido previamente me abrevian lo que quería indicar, pero sí quiero ser absolutamente solidaria con su idea de agilizar y terminar con el Proceso de Reforma, de recuperar la confianza en nuestros países para que ellos asuman de manera comprometida la consecución de estos Objetivos Estratégicos que Usted ha denominado cruciales y que están expuestos en el Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Cuando discutíamos sobre la Reforma, siempre insistimos que sería la Descentralización que nos podría permitir, como Usted lo ha dicho, mover esta institución de abajo hacia arriba y de adentro hacia afuera. Me parece que esto es lo que fue mayor y magistralmente expuesto por Usted a lo largo de su intervención.

Pienso que la recuperación de la confianza de los Países Miembros permitiría la elaboración de esos marcos de prioridades para que el PTP refleje. Además, como ahora las Conferencias Regionales son Órganos Rectores, la movilización que Usted va a hacer hacia esas Conferencias Regionales hará que se conviertan en activos y eficaces Órganos que permitan ese movimiento de abajo hacia arriba y de afuera hacia adentro de la institución.

Creemos que eso significaría reforzar el diálogo y, a través de ese diálogo, permitir que los Países Miembros de mediano ingreso que Usted ha mencionado y, específicamente en América Latina donde la mayoría de nuestros países son países de mediano ingreso, a través de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y a través de un apoyo a sus líneas de ejecución de su Plan de Trabajo, puedan ayudar a que las Oficinas Nacionales se puedan convertir en Oficinas de Enlace y cooperar a su vez, mediante la Cooperación Sur-Sur, a ser transmisores de esa cadena de refuerzo del trabajo de la FAO en los Países Miembros de la Región.

Quisiera decirle que Venezuela, como lo saben los Países Miembros a través de los Informes que la FAO y los distinguidos Organismos de las Naciones Unidas indican, ha colocado en el centro de sus políticas sociales la seguridad alimentaria, la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza y el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Debido a esto, creemos que vamos a continuar entonces a trabajar conjuntamente con la FAO. Cuento con Venezuela.

Además quisiera expresarle a todo este honorable cuerpo reunido hoy aquí en la FAO que el día de mañana se creará la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños en Venezuela. Todos los Países de América Latina y el Caribe se van a reunir en una comunidad de Países que de aquí en adelante se llamará CELAC y que tiene dentro de sus prioridades, como ya lo han previsto sus Comisiones Técnicas y sus Reuniones Ministeriales, la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en nuestras regiones dentro de su política social.

Cuento también con el CELAC y que ese CELAC permita transmitir en la Conferencia Regional apoyo para el trabajo y para el Programa de Acción que Usted nos ha venido señalando en la mañana de hoy.

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

The Russian Federation would once again like to congratulate José Graziano da Silva on his official entry into office as Director-General, and thank him for setting forth his conception for this high office. Russia shares this conception, and it was gratifying to hear that it is supported by all the Member Nations of the Organization.

We understand that Dr. Graziano da Silva is taking office at a very serious time in the Organization's history. The programme for the minimum of activities to be carried out by the Organization has been more or less concluded, setting forth the main priorities of its administrative Reform. But this is just the first step, as was rightly pointed out by our new Director-General, on the path towards

implementing the goals before the Organization. This is the most important task, of course. It does not all fit within the three-and-half-year term of the incoming Director-General, it will transcend that period in this important task of resolving hunger, but it is a key period in resolving this global task. We understand and approve the thrust of the programme and conception of the Director-General, and we consider that it is very important if we want to achieve success on this path for there to be a truly transparent process of work in the Organization which will bolster trust among the Member Nations. There is a need to develop its activities from the bottom up and to provide the necessary assistance to countries at the country level. That is a very key factor in enhancing the responsibility of the Member Nations themselves and the Organization in their endeavours along this direction. This will give credit to the process of increasing trust and heightening the importance of resolving the tasks facing the Organization globally.

We are ready to provide every possible support and assistance to Dr. Graziano da Silva in establishing a powerful effective team which will be called to the task of tapping to the fullest the potential of the Organization at all levels, and to the task of overcoming the gaps existing between emergencies and sustainable development of agriculture referred to by the Director-General Elect in the regions. We understand the fact that it is very important for there to be this trust among Member Nations and staff, as well as ensuring we have a real incentive to tap to the fullest the human potential in the staff of the Organization and in the countries themselves. Russia is ready to assist and support the Director-General in every possible way in achieving this aim.

We entered the Organization at a difficult time in its history, and we would like to express our thanks for the effective cooperation and assistance we had from the outgoing Director-General, Jacques Diouf in integrating Russia into the processes which are underway in the Organization. We now hope that the conception laid out by the Director-General Elect will be carried out effectively. We wish him success in this work, and you will enjoy every possible support in advancing your ideas. We hope that we can do our bit in making our contribution to these activities in a way which is equal to the potential which exists in our country.

Sr. César CASTILLO RAMÍREZ (Perú)

Señor Director-General Electo, deseo nuevamente felicitarlo por su reciente elección.

Deseo también felicitarlo por su excelente Declaración en la cual recoge los importantes lineamientos sobre los que hará su gestión en los próximos años.

Aplaudimos su firme voluntad por trabajar a favor de la seguridad alimentaria y en la erradicación del hambre en el mundo que, como bien ha dicho el Presidente Lula, constituye actualmente una de las mayores armas de destrucción masiva y lucha en la que Usted tiene un grande experiencia.

Complace a mi Delegación conocer que en enero próximo participará Usted en el Foro Económico Mundial en Davos, una inmejorable tribuna que dará a Usted la oportunidad de exponer ante dignatarios de muchos países y ante el empresariado mundial, lo que significa la FAO, cuáles son sus planes y programas, y también recoger el apoyo que se necesita de la comunidad internacional.

Finalmente, quiero asegurarle que contará con el apoyo de la Delegación del Perú en todo lo que Usted necesite.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

El Salvador desea unir su voz a la declaración hecha por el Embajador de República Dominicana, Señor Mario Arvelo Caamaño en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Felicitamos al Doctor José Graziano da Silva por su excelente presentación, que refleja fielmente cuál será el camino que piensa seguir.

Reiteramos nuestro total respaldo para su gestión al frente de esta importante Organización. Estamos seguros que estos primeros tres años y medio serán muy fructíferos para nuestra FAO y nuestros países.

Quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar nuestro especial agradecimiento al Doctor Jacques Diouf y por los años y esfuerzos dedicados a la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, y la búsqueda de un mayor bienestar para las poblaciones más necesitadas del planeta.

M. Abderrahmane CHAFFAI (Tunisie)

Je voudrais brièvement prendre la parole pour féliciter le Directeur général pour sa brillante élection à la tête de la FAO, et pour lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses missions futures.

La Tunisie voudrait se joindre aussi à tout ce qui a été dit, notamment au nom du Groupe 77 pour se féliciter du contenu du Programme, riche et enthousiaste, présenté en cinq piliers par M. Graziano da Silva.

Ce Programme cadre parfaitement avec nos préoccupations et nous vous assurons que nous sommes disposés à travailler dans le Cadre de ce Programme et de le soutenir vivement pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté dans nos pays.

Mr K.E. KARUNATHILAKE (Sri Lanka)

On behalf of my country, Sri Lanka, I am taking this opportunity to congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva for his appointment for the most prestigious post in the agriculture sector in the world. I wish to inform you, Dr Graziano da Silva, that we are ready to work with you also as we did in the past. I believe that your five approaches, which you clearly described in your speech, will be the new foundation for the future activities of FAO.

Once again, let me congratulate you for your appointment as the Director-General of FAO.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia wishes to join the previous speakers to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to the Director-General Elect, Dr José Graziano da Silva for his clear vision so eloquently shared with this august party. Liberia will give you every support you need in achieving the goals of eradicating hunger.

Dr Graziano da Silva, as you know, a hungry man, is an angry man. So in order to maintain peace and stability in the world, food security must be the way forward. Hunger must have no place under your leadership.

May we also take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, for a difficult job, well-done, under difficult circumstances.

We want to, again on behalf of Liberia, thank you, Dr Graziano da Silva.

Ms THI THU QUYNH NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

Vietnam would like to join previous speakers in congratulating Dr Graziano da Silva for his election as Director-General of FAO.

We firmly believe that with his regional approach and leadership so far, FAO will achieve new heights in the fight against hunger.

We assure him that he will receive our full support in discharging his mandate.

It is an honour for Viet Nam to host the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific Region, tentatively scheduled from 12-15 March 2012. On this occasion, we wish to extend our warmest invitation to Dr Graziano da Silva to attend this Regional Conference.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian Delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the G77 plus China, and Cape Verde on behalf of the Africa Group.

We would like to, once again, congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva for his election as Director-General of FAO. We thank him for his inspiring vision, and we assure him of our support in his future work.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Nuestra Delegación quiere sumarse a las demás delegaciones en felicitar al Doctor Graziano da Silva en su elección como nuevo Director General de la FAO.

Aprovechamos también para agradecer al Doctor Jacques Diouf por todo el trabajo realizado al frente de esta institución.

Queremos igualmente reiterar las felicitaciones que el Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques de Guinea Ecuatorial envía al nuevo Director de la FAO, el Señor Graziano da Silva.

Nos sentimos muy esperanzados por su elección, y mi Delegación apoya las líneas generales de su trabajo reflejado en los cinco pilares de su intervención y su visión para reformar y reforzar el marco general y la labor de la FAO.

Coincidimos con Usted, Sr. Graziano da Silva, en que no podemos pasar la vida reformando la Organización, pero la Reforma es necesaria para rendir una labor eficaz de la Organización frente a los nuevos desafíos globales y las demandas de los Países Miembros, en particular las demandas y las dificultades que atraviesan los países subdesarrollados para alimentar a sus habitantes. Por lo tanto, nos sentimos congratulados por reconocer el proceso de Descentralización como Objetivo Estratégico y crucial de Reforma de esta Organización.

Cerrando las intervenciones de los miembros del Grupo Africano y como representante del país que actualmente ostenta la Presidencia de la Unión Africana, nos sentimos agradecidos en saber que en sus primeros viajes, irá a África para tomar parte en la próxima Cumbre de la Unión Africana, donde Usted recibirá el calor y el apoyo de los Jefes de Estado del Continente Africano.

Señor Graziano da Silva: le deseamos muchos éxitos y prometemos todo nuestro apoyo en su servicio.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Group.

Allow us to once again congratulate Dr Graziano Da Silva on your election as the new Director-General. We are happy to learn that you have placed Decentralization as one of the top priorities of your work. As Thailand is one of the host countries of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and you yourself have been Assistant Director-General in the Regional Office for several years, we are confident that you can make the best use of your experience to enhance FAO's operations in better serving the needy people in the field.

We would like to assure you of Thailand's full support to join hands with FAO under your leadership in achieving the noble goals to eradicate poverty and hunger in the world.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

We also welcome the important address of the Director-General Elect, Mr Graziano da Silva. We particularly welcome the action-oriented approach in the presentation. Your emphasis on dialogue, transparency, prioritization, effectiveness for results and cross-sectorial approaches are very welcome.

We also welcome the focus on the need for FAO to be outward-looking and not inward-looking and we feel that continued adaptations, flexibility and improvements are required to achieve this. Like Spain, we are also certain that improved attention to gender issues is also a key element in meeting the goals of FAO.

We look forward to working closely with Mr Graziano da Silva, and will contribute what we can to ensure your success as Director-General of this Organization.

Ms Carla Elisa Luís MUCAVI (Mozambique)

The Delegation of Mozambique would like to associate itself with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the G77, and also by Cape Verde on behalf of Africa and the Portuguese-speaking countries. We congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva on his election. We really look forward to working with him in

fulfilling the important and challenging task entrusted upon him. Rest assured, Dr Graziano da Silva, of our full support.

We also share your vision which was very clear and inspiring, particularly because it addresses the challenges that the world is facing in fighting against hunger and poverty. As you mentioned, by working together we are confident that we will address those challenges and meet the high expectations of those who are in need.

M. Médi MOUNGUI (Cameroun)

Je voudrais dire deux choses:

La première, au nom du Cameroun, nous nous associons à la Déclaration faite par le Cap Vert au nom du Groupe africain et le Maroc au nom du G77 et les mots aimables qu'ils ont bien voulu adresser à M. Graziano da Silva en ce début de mandat. Il peut également compter sur le Cameroun dans l'exercice de ses fonctions.

La deuxième, je pensais que M. Graziano da Silva aurait aussi aimé entendre une voix venant d'un des Organes directeurs, je parle en tant que Président du Comité financier pour lui dire que dans le cadre de l'exercice de nos fonctions, nous allons travailler à deux mains avec le Secrétariat pour renforcer l'efficacité, l'efficience et la responsabilité redditionnelle de l'Organisation. Je vous remercie.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Quiero expresar al nuevo Director General Electo, Señor José Graziano da Silva, que mi Delegación y mi país van a estar muy contentos. Esto ya lo sabe él, que vamos a trabajar en conjunto todo lo que podamos.

Quiero agradecer al nuestro Presidente pro tempore del GRULAC por su alocución. Creo que las personas que han sido, por el destino, designadas a ser líderes de una Organización como la FAO, tienen una responsabilidad muy grande.

Mi Delegación quiere asimismo agradecer al Doctor Diouf por todos los años que apoyó a mi país, y también a América Latina.

Muchas gracias, y espero poder trabajar junto con este nuevo Director General que va a entrar en enero, y que tiene todo mi apoyo personal, igual que el de mi país y el de mi Gobierno.

Mme Aboubaker BAKAYOKO (Côte d'Ivoire)

Ma Délégation voudrait appuyer les propos du Groupe africain, et voudrait dire au Directeur général élu que la Côte d'Ivoire soutient entièrement sa nouvelle vision de la FAO et espère, qu'ensemble, nous allons relever le défi audacieux d'une "Faim Zero" pour le monde.

Sr. Claudio MISCIA (Italia)

Señor Director General Electo, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, tengo el honor de hablar en esta ocasión en nombre de Italia en el papel muy especial de país huésped de esta Organización, para asegurarle que Italia colaborará lealmente con Usted, y seguirá haciéndolo con la FAO.

Lo felicitamos nuevamente por su elección, y de todo corazón le deseamos un muy exitoso trabajo y una feliz estadía en Roma.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à tous de vos interventions très nombreuses qui montrent aussi tout l'intérêt de cette occasion. À mon tour, en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil, je voudrais exprimer tous mes vœux à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, et lui dire aussi que l'engagement du Conseil, des Organes directeurs, comme l'a dit Monsieur Médi tout à l'heure et aussi du Président indépendant du Conseil, cet engagement est un élément essentiel de la Réforme et de la mission de la FAO.

Monsieur le Directeur général élu, soyez sûr de notre totale disponibilité et aussi de toute notre énergie pour atteindre l'objectif qui est le nôtre et qui est commun à nous tous: «éradiquer la pauvreté et la faim».

Merci encore une fois et bonne chance. Vous voulez sans doute dire quelques mots après toutes ces interventions.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT

I just want to thank you all for this opportunity, and say I really look forward to working together with all of you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Comité de rdaction va se réunir tout de suite, dans la Salle du Liban, à 11h45 et nous nous retrouverons pour le Conseil, demain, dans la Salle Rouge à 16h00 pour d'abord une présentation, hors Conseil, du compte-rendu des visites de terrain effectuées cette année en Egypte et au Liban et qui sera suivi, bien sûr, par le dernier point de l'ordre du jour qui est l'adoption du rapport.

Cet horaire sera confirmé, mais vous pouvez considérer 16h00 comme une indication précise. En cas de changement, nous l'ajusterons dans notre Ordre du jour. Donc à demain 16h00.

Merci à tous d'avoir participé à cette séance qui était fort importante pour notre avenir.

The meeting rose at 11.32 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.32 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-third Session
Cent quarante-troisième session
143.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011
Rome, 28 novembre - 2 décembre 2011
Roma, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 2011**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA REUNIÓN PLENARIA**

2 DECEMBER 2011

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.43 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième réunion plénière est ouverte à 16 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava reunión plenaria a las 16.43 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT**ADOPTION DU RAPPORT****APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la huitième et dernière séance de la cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil. Nous allons procéder maintenant à l'adoption du rapport. Le document de référence porte le symbole CL 143/REP. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier le Secrétariat de ses constants efforts en vue de produire un rapport des plus concis et fidèle aux conclusions tirées au cours de la session.

Je donne la parole à M. Lizcano Palomares, Président du Comité de rédaction, pour nous présenter le projet de rapport. Monsieur Palomares, vous avez la parole.

Sr. Antonio LIZCANO PALOMARES (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Quisiera presentarle a Usted y al resto de la Asamblea para su consideración nuestra Propuesta de Informe para la Sesión número 143° del Consejo.

Este Informe ha sido preparado por un Comité de Redacción, cuyos miembros ya figuran en lista. Hay miembros de cada uno de los Grupos Regionales y es un documento consensuado por estos Representantes con los que he tenido el placer de trabajar y de una forma muy eficaz, con un espíritu cooperativo, y la verdad es que ha sido una experiencia muy agradable. Estuvimos trabajando durante nueve horas, pero fue tan ameno que se pasaron bastante rápido.

El Informe que se presenta y que Ustedes tendrán encima de su mesa, desde mi punto de vista refleja muy fielmente las conclusiones, decisiones y recomendaciones de cada uno de los puntos del Orden del Día de esta Sesión.

Tengo que decir que en los Métodos de Trabajo, nos hemos basado y quiero dar las gracias especialmente a la Secretaría del Consejo. En esta ocasión nos hemos basado, siguiendo el espíritu de Reforma de la FAO, en las conclusiones y comentarios finales que presentaba el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, al concluir cada uno de los Puntos, y para lo que se daba un turno de palabra para redacciones a las delegaciones.

En principio nos ha sido muy útil el trabajo de la Secretaría, pero tengo que decir que la redacción final ha sido elaborada y se ha trabajado bastante para tener muy en cuenta estas conclusiones finales.

Básicamente no tengo más que presentarles este Informe y sugerirles, si lo consideran Ustedes oportuno, que se apruebe en bloque, ya que es un texto que ha sido consensuado por vuestros propios Representantes.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Palomares.

J'adresse nos remerciements et nos félicitations aux Membres du Comité de rédaction pour cet excellent travail accompli après neuf heures. Ils ont mis du temps et l'ont bien peaufiné, mais ils ont mis neuf heures.

Quand au contenu, il me semble que le Projet de rapport devrait rencontrer l'agrément du Conseil. S'il y a des corrections à faire aux versions linguistiques, cela arrive de temps en temps, je vous prie de les communiquer par écrit au Secrétariat afin qu'elles soient prises en compte durant la finalisation du rapport.

Cela étant, le Conseil souhaite-t-il, comme proposé par le Président du Comité, adopter le rapport de session en bloc? Y-a-t-il des observations à ce sujet?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, vous m'avez fait gagner une phrase, c'est très bien comme cela. Je crois que c'est tout à fait conforme aux travaux de notre Conseil pendant lequel ont régné ambiance et efficacité. Vous savez combien j'ai essayé de faire en sorte que nous soyons un peu plus rapides, que nous soyons à l'heure et bien là, vous m'avez devancé. Je vois que vous avez pris de très bonnes habitudes, et j'espère que cela pourra continuer.

Le rapport est adopté. Nous avons donc achevé les travaux de la cent quarante-troisième session du Conseil, et je vous remercie de la collaboration active et de l'efficacité de chacun.

Mais avant de clore complètement le Conseil, le Représentant de l'Italie, le pays qui nous accueille si bien, souhaite aussi prendre la parole

Mr Claudio MISCIA (Italy)

I have the honour to speak on this occasion on behalf of Italy in its very special role as Host Country of this Organization, and on behalf of Ambassador Sebastiani, who was unable to come.

Mr Director-General, 60 years have passed since FAO moved to Rome and 18 years since you have taken this important charge here. During these 18 years, the world population has grown from five and a half, to seven billion people. At the same time, humanity experienced an extraordinary technological progress, increased the production of food, found new ways to transform, store and transport it, and eradicated diseases, including Rinderpest. These many results were obtained also thanks to the existence of this Organization, and to the efforts made by you and by FAO.

Mr Director-General, among your many merits during these 18 years, Italy wants to recall on this occasion that you have managed to bring the issue of food security and hunger to the top of the international political agenda, and that you managed and led the reform of the global institutional architecture that oversees such matters, and that you promoted collaboration and dialogue between the Member Nations of FAO and its Secretariat, and among Member Nations. We are confident that your successor will continue on these efforts, especially on efficient Reform of the Organization and strengthen the results.

Upon your leaving office, Mr Director-General, let me extend to you on behalf of Italy, a warm thanks for your dedication and for your genuine patience in leading FAO during these 18 years.

Director-General, accept our best wishes for your future.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (European Union)

The European Union and its 27 Member States certainly adopt the report en bloc, as was done before. But I would like to add a separate statement after the Adoption of the Report, and this statement is made also on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The European Union appreciates the smooth proceedings of the 143rd Session of the FAO Council. We believe that having more regional statements, as well as good time management, is a very positive development.

At the same time, we would like to reiterate that, as recommended by the IEE and indicated in the Note on the Methods of Work of the Council, reports should consist only of conclusions, decisions and recommendations of the Council. Therefore, it is essential that the Draft Report prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Drafting Committee should be based on the summary made by the Independent Chair of the Council at the end of every agenda item.

To conclude, we would like to warmly thank Spain for efficiently chairing the Drafting Committee, and all the participants for their hard work.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Following the comments made by Italy, I would like to express, on behalf of the Government of Egypt, our warmest regards and best wishes to Director-General Jacques Diouf. You have served this Organization, the developing countries and your home continent, Africa, in the best way possible. We thank you for all your efforts throughout your tenure, and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

We also wish to welcome the Director-General Elect, Mr Graziano da Silva. We hope and wish for you a successful tenure as the Director-General of FAO, and that you will keep all the Member Nations' values and interests at heart.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original Language Arabic)

Now I would like to say something on behalf of the Near East Group.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, for the excellent way in which you have led the work of this Session of the Council and the excellent outcome that we have achieved thanks to your efforts and the support of everyone. Thanks to the Chairperson and the members of the Drafting Group for the excellent Report that they have prepared for us.

I would like to take advantage of the presence of Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, to reiterate to him on behalf of the Near East Group our most sincere thanks for all his excellent work throughout his tenure as head of FAO. There is not much more to add, we just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General Elect, Mr Graziano da Silva for being here, and we wish every success to him in his future work in leading this Organization. We are committed to work and support him in the years to come.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais donner la parole à un certain nombre d'entre vous encore, mais nous avons eu une séance où chacun a pu s'exprimer. Il ne faut pas que nous recommencions toute la séance d'hier. Je vous remercie de faire court.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

Director-General Diouf, as this is your last Council Session after 18 years of dedicated service, the United States certainly wants to take this occasion to thank you for your service over these years. You have our warmest best wishes for health and continued happiness and success in all your future endeavours.

M. José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cap-Vert)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais m'associer à ceux qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de la façon extraordinaire dont vous avez su orienter nos travaux, et aussi profiter de l'occasion pour remercier tous les Membres de la FAO, qui ont coopéré avec les Membres du Groupe africain, dans le cadre de cette Cent quarante-troisième Session du Conseil.

Étant Membre du continent d'où vient le Directeur général qui, sous peu aura fini son mandat, nous aimerions en même temps dire que nos sentiments sont semblables à ceux qui ont été exprimés, d'abord par notre collègue de l'Italie et ceux qui sont intervenus ensuite. En tant qu'Africains, nous sommes très reconnaissants et nous n'allons pas répéter ce que nous avons dit hier de M. Jacques Diouf.

Nous sommes très contents, pas seulement en tant qu'Africains mais aussi en tant que Membre de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise, que les Membres de notre Organisation aient déjà bâti une confiance suffisante qui nous permettra dans le futur de coopérer avec le futur nouveau Directeur général pour faire aller de l'avant notre Organisation.

Je vous remercie et, étant donné que nous approchons de la fin de l'année, j'aimerais adresser, dès à présent, mes meilleurs vœux à tous les membres du Groupe régional africain et souhaiter de bonnes fêtes et une heureuse année à tous les Membres de notre Conseil et aussi aux fonctionnaires de notre Organisation. Je vous remercie.

Ms PARK Su-jin (Republic of Korea)

I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Group.

First, I would like to thank you, the Independent Chairperson of the Council for guiding us throughout this Council very efficiently. We would also like to thank Dr Graziano Da Silva for attending this Council, and communicating with the Members. Finally, we would like to thank Dr Jacques Diouf for your dedication to serve the most poor and vulnerable, as well as your efforts to put food security high on the international agenda. We wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your diligent efforts over the last few days, to guide us to this point. I would like to register that this is an excellent example of us, as Member Nations, becoming more efficient with our time. In fact, we finished on time or early every day this week, which is a record, I think.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Diouf for his dedication. I know, perhaps, he is too modest to want us to go through this at this point, but as his last Council meeting it is appropriate that we do recognize his tireless efforts regarding food security.

Few people would know that one of Mr Diouf's very first engagements as Director-General was coming to Australia to talk about food security at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. It is fitting that the last meeting of that same group also discussed food security. We have a long history with Mr Diouf, and we certainly appreciate his efforts and dedication. Thank you, Mr Diouf.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

Me uno a las consideraciones que hizo el delegado de Australia en cuanto a la eficacia y eficiencia con que se ha desarrollado este Consejo, lo cual es en gran medida su responsabilidad.

Mi intervención está dirigida a expresarle en nombre del GRULAC al Dr. Jacques Diouf nuestro agradecimiento. Lo hacemos en esta oportunidad, que es el último Consejo en el cual va a estar participando y es también su último mes como Director General. Es el último mes de un largo camino que ha sido recorrido con mucho éxito y del cual los numerosos agradecimientos que hemos escuchados son prueba suficiente. También estamos seguros que es su último mes como Director General, pero no va a ser la última vez que escuchemos de él, contribuyendo a combatir el hambre y a ayudar a los más necesitados.

También queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para saludar nuevamente al Doctor Graziano da Silva porque él inicia un camino en el cual enfrenta grandes desafíos y sabemos que lo va a llevar adelante con todo su compromiso, con toda su convicción y con todos sus esfuerzos en los que estamos seguros que será respaldado por los Miembros de la FAO.

Mr Jirí MUCHKA (Czech Republic)

In the interests of time and avoiding any repetition, I will be very brief in saying that the European Regional Group joins the previous speakers in expressing our best wishes for the future endeavours of Mr Jacques Diouf, and thank him for all work done by him.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous. En ce qui me concerne, la présidence a été facile parce que vous avez été, vous aussi, dynamiques et la dynamique du Conseil. C'est nous tous qui l'avons réalisée et je souhaite simplement que nous puissions continuer.

Monsieur le Directeur général, vous souhaitez prendre la parole?

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Permettez-moi d'abord, Monsieur le Président, d'exprimer ma gratitude à tous les délégués qui ont pris la parole en leurs nom et au nom de leurs Groupes, et qui m'ont adressé les meilleures vœux pour le futur. Je suis très touché par vos paroles et je voudrais vous en remercier.

Continues in English

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This closing ceremony of the Council gives me the opportunity of a last speech. There were a few over the 18 years.

I wish to thank most sincerely the Member Nations for the confidence they have shown by electing me three times as Director-General, and for their great and constant support to my programmes and initiatives.

This morning I had the pleasure to open the Side Event on the EU Food Facility. Through this mechanism, FAO has implemented in 28 countries, 31 projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America for an amount of USD 319 million.

For the 2010-11 biennium, the donors have committed a total of USD 1.4 billion in Voluntary Contributions, in addition to the approved Regular Programme budget of USD 1 billion adopted by the Conference.

Last but not least, the G20 countries led by France have shown their faith in FAO by asking the Organization to coordinate with the OECD, the preparation of the documents for the Paris meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in June 2011. The resulting Action Plan for concrete measures to fight hunger in the world was approved unanimously, and subsequently endorsed by the G20 Summit of Heads of State and Government in Cannes early last month. They also agreed that the new Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) and the Rapid Response Forum (RRF), created to fight food price volatility, should be located in FAO, next to the reformed Committee on World Food Security and its High-Level Panel of Experts, already operational.

I am most grateful for these concrete gestures of faith in the Organization and others.

I wish all the best to FAO, its highly-competent and dedicated staff, its Governing Bodies and the people of its Member Nations and the Director-General Elect, as they face the food and agriculture challenges of the years ahead.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Applause

facilité les choses à la tribune et aussi bien avant la tribune. Il a également joué un rôle important dans le cadre de la Réforme de la FAO et beaucoup d'entre nous, ici, n'ont pas vécu les heures sans fin de discussions dans le cadre du Comité du Conseil sur l'Évaluation externe indépendante et ensuite du Comité de la Conférence.

Moi-même, j'ai présidé les quelques dernières réunions du Comité de la Conférence qui a suivi l'Évaluation externe indépendante. Il a contribué à la promotion d'initiatives qui ont permis au Conseil de bénéficier de la modernisation du processus de gouvernance, même si, comme nous l'avons dit tout à l'heure, il y a encore des progrès à faire, par exemple, il a mis en place le site web des Représentants permanents.

Comme je disais, Ali est quelqu'un de discret et quand hier je l'ai prévenu que j'allais dire quelques mots, il m'a dit: «non, cela ne se fait pas» et je lui ai répondu: «vous êtes le Secrétaire général et moi je suis le Président, je fais comme je veux,» et il a accepté.

Nous aurons l'occasion, bien sûr, de travailler ensemble dans les quelques mois à venir et, avant son départ en avril, nous aurons la possibilité de le remercier à nouveau, mais je voulais marquer son dernier Conseil en tant que Secrétaire général. Il mérite bien des remerciements et pour cela, je lui fais cadeau d'un livre parce qu'Ali lit beaucoup de notes mais, de temps en temps, il faut aussi en sortir. J'espère que vous le ferez, et c'est avec plaisir que je vous offre ce petit cadeau. Ali, encore une fois merci.

Ali me demande s'il peut avoir la parole, je demande à l'assistante du Secrétaire général: «est-ce que je peux donner la parole au Secrétaire général?», il semble que oui, donc je vous donne la parole.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, je ne sais pas s'il est bienséant de répondre en public à vos aimables paroles, mais si vous le permettez, je dirai quelques mots. Au Secrétariat du Conseil, nous sommes une équipe soudée, de plus de cent personnes. Nous travaillons de concert pour fournir les services requis par le Conseil. Plus de cent personnes, cela veut dire que ma contribution est inférieure à un pour cent.

Si vous le permettez, je voudrais rendre hommage à l'équipe formidable qui assure le Secrétariat du Conseil. Ces collègues hommes et femmes font véritablement le travail du Conseil. Celle ou celui qui me remplacera dans quelques mois sera heureux de travailler avec une équipe aussi performante et aussi dévouée. Il sera heureux, comme moi-même j'ai eu le bonheur et l'honneur de servir le Conseil.

Qui travaille à la FAO a conscience d'être privilégié et il le fait avec passion. Il le fait avec d'autant plus d'enthousiasme lorsqu'il est au service des Organes de gouvernance, au contact quotidien des Représentants des Membres de l'Organisation. Je suis donc extrêmement reconnaissant de la chance qui m'a été donnée vous servir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si un pour cent des applaudissements vous vont droit au cœur, sachez bien, c'est vous avec toute l'équipe qui êtes remerciés de ce travail.

En levant la séance, je voudrais vous offrir tous mes vœux pour ces fêtes de fin d'année, de paix, de bonheur dans vos familles et avec le plaisir de nous retrouver l'année prochaine. Merci et bon retour dans vos foyers pour ceux qui retournent dans leurs capitales ou ici pour ceux qui sont là.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas