

December 2012



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

T

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session - Cent quarante-cinquième session -
145.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 3-7 December 2012

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012

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

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session - Cent quarante-cinquième session -
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012

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

Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA (3 December 2012)

Page

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable(CL 145/1; CL 145/INF/1 Rev.1; CL 145/INF/7)	
1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier	6
1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario	
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	7
25. Any Other Matters	
25. Autres questions	
25. Asuntos varios	8
25.2 <i>Appointment of the Deputy Director-General (Operations)</i> (CL 145/LIM/5)	
25.2 <i>Nomination du Directeur général adjoint (Opérations)</i>	
25.2 <i>Nombramiento del Director General Adjunto (Operaciones)</i>	8
12. Report of the 39 th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (15-20 October 2012).....(C 2013/21)	
12. Rapport de la trente-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (15-20 octobre 2012)	
12. Informe del 39.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (15-20 de octubre de 2012)	12

SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA (3 DECEMBER 2012)

8. Technical Committees: Programme and Budget Matters arising from:	
8. Comités techniques: Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant des rapports techniques:	33
8. Comités técnicos: Asuntos del programa y presupuestarios planteados en los siguientes informes:	
8.2 <i>Report of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems</i> (28-30 May 2012)..... (C 2013/23)	
8.2 <i>Rapport de la soixante-neuvième session du Comité des produits</i> (28-30 mai 2012)	
8.2 <i>Informe del 69.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos</i> (28-30 de mayo de 2012)	33

8.1 Report of the 23 rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (21-25 May 2012)..... (C 2013/22; CL 145/LIM/7)	
8.1 Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité de l’agriculture (21-25 mai 2012)	
8.1 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (21-25 de mayo de 2012)	38
(a) International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides(CL 145/LIM/6 Rev.1)	
(a) Code de conduite internationale sur la distribution et l’utilisation des pesticides	
(a) Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas	38
8.3 Report of the 30 th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2012)..... (C 2013/24)	
8.3 Rapport de la trentième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juillet 2012)	
8.3 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de julio de 2012)	48
8.4 Report of the 21 st Session of the Committee on Forestry (24-28 September 2012) (C 2013/25)	
8.4 Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité des forêts (24-28 septembre 2012)	
8.4. Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (24-28 de septiembre de 2012)	59
3. Programme Implementation Report 2010-11..... (C 2013/8; C 2013/8 Corr.1; C 2013/8 Corr.2)	
3. Rapport sur l’exécution du Programme 2010-2011	
3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2010-11	67
4. Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action..... (CL 145/10; CL 145/10 Supp.1; CL 145/INF/3)	
4. Rapport sur l’état d’avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d’action immédiate	
4. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción	75
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA (4 DECEMBER 2012)	
5. Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 Biennium (CL 145/3; CL 145/3 Corr.1)	
5. Changements transformationnels de l’exercice biennal 2012-2013	
5. Cambios para la transformación en el bienio 2012-13	87
6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (CL 145/4; CL 145/4 Corr.1)	
6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017	
6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17	102

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(4 DECEMBER 2012)**

6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (continued)..... (CL 145/4; CL 145/4 Corr.1)	
6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 (suite)	
6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 (continuación)	119
7. Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme (CL 145/8)	
7. Amélioration du Programme de coopération technique	
7. Mejora del Programa de cooperación técnica	128
9. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 112 th Session of the Programme Committee and the 147 th Session of the Finance Committee (7 November 2012)..... (CL 145/5; CL 145/LIM/9)	
9. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 112 ^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et de la 147 ^{ème} session du Comité financier (7 novembre 2012)	
9. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 112.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 147.º período de sesiones (7 de noviembre de 2012)	137
10. Report of the 112 th Session of the Programme Committee (5-9 November 2012) (CL 145/6)	
10. Rapport de la 112 ^{ème} session du Comité du Programme (5-9 novembre 2012)	
10. Informe del 112.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (5-9 de noviembre de 2012)	148
11. Reports of the 146 th (29-30 October 2012) and 147 th (5-9 November 2012) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 145/7; CL 145/13; CL 145/LIM/2; CL 145/LIM/10)	
11. Rapports des 146 ^{ème} (29-30 octobre 2012) et 147 ^{ème} (5-9 novembre 2012) sessions du Comité financier	
11. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 146.º (29-30 de octubre de 2012) y 147.º (5-9 de noviembre de 2012) del Comité de Finanzas	155
15. Arrangements for the 38 th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the general debate at Conference) (continued)..... (CL 145/12)	
15. Organisation de la 38 ^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du débat général de la Conférence) (suite)	
15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el debate general en la Conferencia) (continuación)	161

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(5 DECEMBER 2012)**

18. Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board..... (CL 145/9; CL 145/LIM/3)	
18. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM	
18. Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA	165
13. Report of the 95 th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (8-11 October 2012)..... (CL 145/2)	
13. Rapport de la 95 ^{ème} session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (8-11 octobre 2012)	
13. Informe del 95.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (8-11 de octubre de 2012)	165
19. Margarita Lizárraga Medal..... (CL 145/INF/4)	
19. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga	
19. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga	174
23. Observance of World Soil Day..... (CL 145/11 Rev.1)	
23. Célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols	
23. Celebración del Día Mundial del Suelo	177
15. Arrangements for the 38 th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the general debate at Conference)..... (CL 145/12)	
15. Organisation de la 38 ^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du débat général de la Conférence)	
15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el debate general en la Conferencia)	182

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(5 DECEMBER 2012)**

15. Arrangements for the 38 th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the General Debate at Conference) (continued)..... (CL 145/12)	
15. Organisation de la 38 ^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du débat général de la Conférence) (suite)	
15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el debate general en la Conferencia) (continuación)	195

6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (continued)..... (CL 145/4; CL 145/4 Corr.1)	
6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 (suite)	
6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 (continuación)	196
8. Technical Committees	
8. Comités techniques	
8. Comités técnicos	196
8.1 Report of the 23 rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (21-25 May 2012)..... (C 2013/22; CL 145/LIM/7)	
8.1 Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité de l'agriculture (21-25 mai 2012)	
8.1 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (21-25 de mayo de 2012)	
(b) Terms of Reference of the Global Soil Partnership..... (CL 145/LIM/7 Rev. 1)	
(b) Mandat du Partenariat mondial sur les sols	
(b) Mandato de la Alianza mundial sobre los suelos	196
16. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2013-16..... (CL 145/14)	
16. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2013-2016	
16. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2013-16	201
17. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 144 th Session of the Council..... (CL 145/LIM/4)	
17. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 144 ^{ème} session	
17. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 144.º período de sesiones	204
20. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2012-14..... (CL 145/LIM/1 Rev.1)	
20. Calendrier 2012-14 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales	
20. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2012-14	205
21. Provisional Agenda for the 146 th Session of the Council (2013)..... (CL 145/INF/2)	
21. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 146 ^{ème} session du Conseil (2013)	
21. Programa provisional del 146.º período de sesiones del Consejo (2013)	206
24. Working Methods of the Council	
24. Méthodes de travail du Conseil	
24. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo	210
25. Any Other Matters	
25. Autres questions	
25. Asuntos varios	212

25.3 <i>Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee</i> (CL 145/LIM/8)	
25.3 <i>Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel</i>	
25.3 <i>Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal</i>	212
22. <i>Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO</i> (CL 145/INF/6)	
22. <i>Évolution des débats au sein d’autres instances intéressant la FAO</i>	
22. <i>Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO</i>	215
 SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA (7 DECEMBER 2012) 	
25. Any Other Matters	
25. Autres questions	
25. Asuntos varios	235
25.1 <i>Debriefing on 2012 Field Visits by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations</i>	
25.1 <i>Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en 2012 par des hauts fonctionnaires des représentations permanentes basées à Rome</i>	
25.1 <i>Reunión informativa acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas en 2012 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma</i>	235
ADOPTION OF REPORT ADOPTION DU RAPPORT APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME	 244

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fifth Session Cent quarante-cinquième Session 145.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-7 December 2012 Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012 Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2012

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.34 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 34
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.34
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la 145^{ème} Session du Conseil de la FAO et souhaite la bienvenue aux Membres du Conseil et aux Observateurs de cette Session, en particulier aux nouveaux Membres: le Bangladesh, le Chili, le Congo, El Salvador, l'Érythrée, le Gabon, la Jordanie, le Portugal et le Royaume-Uni.

Avant de commencer nos travaux, je donne la parole à Monsieur Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général de la Conférence et 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 145/INF/7, est portée à l'attention des Membres.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'ai le regret de vous annoncer la triste nouvelle du décès, samedi 1^{er} décembre 2012, à Beyrouth, au Liban, de Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui fut Directeur général de 1976 à 1993, et qui a servi la FAO pendant 31 ans, en tant que Représentant régional adjoint de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Proche-Orient de 1962 à 1965, puis comme Directeur de la Division pour le développement de la terre et de l'eau de 1965 à 1975.

Je vous propose d'observer en sa mémoire une minute de silence.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie.

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs:

Je vous souhaite à tous la bienvenue à cette 145^{ème} Session du Conseil qui, comme les précédentes, aura à cœur de renforcer la participation des Membres au processus de gouvernance et d'unir leurs forces à celles du Secrétariat et du Directeur général pour nous rapprocher de notre objectif commun: « Eradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition.

Sachez, Monsieur le Directeur général, que le Conseil sera particulièrement attentif au message que vous allez lui délivrer et fera le maximum pour faciliter la mission qui vous a été confiée par les Membres. Vous pouvez compter sur nous pour aborder de la manière la plus constructive les différentes propositions qui sont soumises à nos débats cette semaine, et pour formuler des orientations et recommandations précises pour soutenir votre engagement.

Nous allons examiner notamment les rapports des Comités techniques du Conseil, pour l'agriculture (le COAG), les produits (le CCP), la forêt (le COFO) et la pêche (le COFI), ainsi que celui du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (le CFS). Après l'examen des rapports des Conférences régionales lors de notre Session de juin, cette étape vient compléter le cycle de préparation du Programme de travail et du budget du biennium à venir, 2014-2015. Cette analyse par le Conseil des priorités régionales et sectorielles, et de leur impact sur les actions qui seront mises en œuvre par la FAO au cours de ces deux années, constitue un élément essentiel du Plan de réforme, le Plan d'action immédiate. Je saisis cette occasion, alors que le PAI - adopté en 2008 - sera bientôt terminé, pour en souligner toute la pertinence et les bénéfices pour l'Organisation, fruits d'un travail considérable effectué par les Membres et le Secrétariat, unis dans le même élan.

D'autres réformes et d'autres évolutions vont succéder au PAI, à la suite de la mise en place en début d'année du processus de réflexion stratégique. On ne peut que s'en féliciter. J'y vois le témoignage

d'une FAO vivante, capable de s'adapter à un environnement qui change en permanence - une FAO plus forte pour affronter les défis qui se présentent aujourd'hui, et ceux qui surgiront demain.

A cet égard, une présence renforcée sur le terrain par une Décentralisation accrue, au plus près de ceux qui souffrent, et une approche associant l'ensemble des acteurs – États Membres, FAO, société civile et secteur privé - tout en respectant les principes fondamentaux d'une organisation intergouvernementale, sont deux axes majeurs des orientations proposées.

Nous en débattons cette semaine, avec de nombreux autres sujets. Pour améliorer encore les performances du Conseil, j'appelle votre attention sur deux éléments essentiels: Premièrement la ponctualité et le respect de l'horaire de démarrage des Sessions, à la fois par courtoisie – notamment vis-à-vis des interprètes – mais aussi pour gérer au mieux le temps disponible et le coût; et deuxièmement, la concision et la clarté de vos interventions. Il convient d'éviter les redites et de souligner, pour chaque point, quelles sont les recommandations proposées. Le travail du Comité de rédaction en sera ainsi facilité et la qualité du rapport du Conseil sera renforcée. Plus les orientations qui figureront dans ce rapport seront claires, et plus le travail du Secrétariat sera facilité. A l'image des réunions Informelles des Présidents de Groupes régionaux que j'organise régulièrement entre les Sessions, nous devons être dynamiques, flexibles et soucieux de produire des conclusions claires pour avancer plus vite.

Venant d'appeler à la concision, je vais m'arrêter là. Permettez-moi toutefois, de rendre hommage au deux Directeurs généraux adjoints qui ont quitté leurs fonctions, Mme Ann Tutwiler et Monsieur Manoj Juneja. Je tiens ici à saluer leur action et à leur souhaiter le meilleur succès dans leurs nouvelles missions, d'autant plus qu'elles les conserveront proches de nous et de notre action. Ces mouvements sont naturels dans une organisation comme le nôtre. Je suis bien certain que le Conseil, dans sa sagesse, aura à cœur, sur ce point là aussi, de faciliter au Directeur général l'installation de sa nouvelle équipe.

Il est temps maintenant de se mettre au travail. J'espère que cette Session sera la plus riche possible en réflexions et conclusions, et je vous remercie pour votre attention.

J'ai le plaisir maintenant d'inviter le Directeur général à prendre la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Luc Guyau,

Distinguished Ministers and Deputy Ministers,

Members of the Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to FAO for this Session of the Council. I would like also to express my sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Edouard Saouma.

This meeting has a special significance for me. Just one year ago, I shared with you the priorities on which I proposed to focus my work in my mandate. Today, I will start by offering you an overview of what has been done. I will also address some issues from the Agenda of this Session of Council.

I want to start off with how I ended previous speeches to Council: "I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together". I am pleased to say that together we are taking important steps in the direction that we all want.

One fundamental reason of our success together is that we are trying to overcome the legacy of mistrust that existed in the past. We are building trust and respect based on the understanding that we have a common goal, and complementary and distinct responsibilities.

At this Session, you will consider transformational changes in the 2012-13 biennium. We are implementing changes already approved by the Council in June. You will also be presented with further initiatives for institutional strengthening that have already been reviewed and supported by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I would like to reassure you that while we are implementing significant transformational changes, we are ensuring the full delivery of the approved Programme of Work and Budget. In line with established practice, in April 2013 you will receive the Mid-Term Review outlining progress of delivery of the PWB.

In the meantime, based on interim data, I am pleased to inform you that delivery in 2012 is on course and budgetary spending is on target.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our efforts to build together a new FAO, we need to know that our programmes are also delivering the expected results. Internal programme evaluation is an important tool for Management to get updated feedback on the ongoing programme. In this context, I have launched a review that will propose how to strengthen our internal evaluation capacity, help us better understand how to improve the evaluation function of FAO and address the overlaps between different oversight offices.

I want to be as clear as possible when discussing evaluations to avoid any misunderstanding: I do not question the dual reporting line to Governing Bodies and Management or the existing functional independence of the Office of External Evaluation. If an evaluation is not independent, it has no value for me.

However, this Office, like all others, needs to work within the rules and administrative regulations of FAO with regard to the payment of honoraria and travel arrangements for example. Let me add that the vacancy for the Director of OED was already announced on November 26.

Ladies and Gentlemen, during this Council Session you will discuss the Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 that are built around the five proposed Strategic Objectives. Your endorsement of these Objectives will allow us in the next biennium to focus our resources in a strategic and goal-oriented manner and will change fundamentally the way we work in FAO.

That is why, in 2013, we will already start piloting a cross-cutting approach to work by using savings reallocated to the Multidisciplinary Fund under the leadership of the five Strategic Objective leaders that will be appointed soon.

I realize that at this stage, you will not discuss the budget level for the next PWB but I would like to reiterate what I said at the last Joint Meeting: the budget level for the next PWB must enable us to achieve our common objectives.

You have welcomed the fact that I found over USD 26 million in savings and efficiencies this year and the Council in June approved my proposal to reallocate over USD 19 million in savings from administrative areas to technical areas. I thank you for recognizing that I am serious about pursuing continuously more efficiency and value for money at FAO.

These are values I share and that the new FAO is committed to. They are not values that belong to one country alone, but to all of us. Even a small, real increase in the next budget level will help ensure that the new cross-cutting Strategic Objectives may be achieved, in addition to acting as a catalyst for mobilizing further extra-budgetary resources.

And just like I have done in this biennium, I can assure all of you that I will not use such an increase in resources on administrative areas nor on Human Resources processing. Let me take this opportunity to raise a proposal to be considered in the next meeting of the Finance Committee: freeze the actual total staff resources in the next biennium.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to recall that I took up office with a Senior Management entirely set up by the previous administration. This made it more difficult to start moving FAO in the necessary direction of change. Now we are back on track.

You will also recall the concern I voiced to you last December on the lack of clear procedures to assure a formal and smooth transition between Directors-General. At my request, the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters and the Finance Committee have addressed this issue.

I trust this Council will endorse the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and related budgetary arrangements to ensure that incoming Directors-General are not faced with the same situation that I had when I took up office.

I want to stress that I am voluntarily pursuing a course that will, in effect, mean giving up part of my own powers to introduce the concept of an orderly transition in FAO. This is something that, up to now, has been absent from the Organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, at the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, Members discussed draft Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society and with the Private Sector. I want to thank you for the support expressed to these Strategies.

We will be revising the draft Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector to ensure, among other things, that FAO's independence and neutrality are safeguarded. We will come back to you at the next Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on this matter.

With regard to the draft Strategy for Civil Society, we have been able to incorporate your comments after intensive informal consultations with Members individually, in regional groups, and at the Informal Seminar with Permanent Representatives. I am confident that we have addressed all the issues raised and considered for the Revised FAO Strategy for Partnership with Civil Society to be ready to be examined by this Council.

I want to thank all of you for the time and attention you have dedicated to this matter and that has made this possible. I know that this has been difficult for some of you and I truly appreciate your efforts and support.

The revised strategy for Civil Society will be presented to you under Agenda Item 9. I ask you to endorse it. Why the rush, you might ask me? I will give you my reasons.

First, strengthening partnerships in general, and with Civil Society in particular, is a central element of my vision for FAO that I already presented to you.

Second, your endorsement will send a strong signal that we are truly committed to opening up FAO to partnerships. After nearly one year in office, I have started to receive comments questioning this intention. If we do not deliver, we risk public political criticism. I do not want to expose the Organization or any of the Members to this.

Third, transparency. This Strategy gives us a solid and transparent foundation to support and build on the collaboration that already exists.

Fourth, our Decentralized Offices need clear guidance on how to engage with Civil Society organizations as soon as possible.

And fifth, it's also a question of time. I do not have 18 years ahead of me and, after almost one year in office, I cannot ask Civil Society partners to wait four more months and at the same time push them to start the negotiations in the Committee on World Food Security on the principles for responsible investments on agriculture that we all need to agree on.

I want to stress that in no way is this an attempt to bypass the recommendations of the Joint Meeting. On the contrary, not only did we take your guidance seriously, but we immediately started addressing your comments.

I have explained this personally to the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. I would like to publicly express my gratitude for their understanding. Thank you, Cecilia and Medi, for your cooperation.

The procedure that we are adopting in this case, that has been occasionally followed in the past in particular circumstances, will not set any precedent for the future.

Finally, I would invite you to consider the Strategy for Partnerships as a living document that can and should be reviewed in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, FAO needs to adapt to face the multidimensional challenges of today. We are now starting to move from a project approach to a programme approach. Let me repeat. We are moving from a project approach to a programme approach.

We are breaking down institutional silos and promoting synergies across the Organization.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

We are breaking down the separation between FAO's work on Knowledge and Operations. We are doing away with the artificial separation between emergency, rehabilitation and development. And we are opening up FAO to work better with partners.

For example, in November, the African Union Commission and FAO, with the support of Instituto Lula, announced they were joining forces to end hunger in Africa. For FAO, this partnership embodies the spirit of the changes we are making and it reflects the commitment I made last December to improve the Organization's support to national efforts to promote food security.

It is about supporting national Governments to find and implement their own paths towards food security, and not imposing ready-made solutions. It is about scaling up successful programmes, linking different actions and working with partners to achieve better results. It is about FAO Working as One: breaking the divide between emergency and development; technical knowledge and operations; Headquarters and Field. I hope we can become one Organization with its feet on the ground.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am confident that FAO is moving in a new direction. The changes we are making are not easy, but they are absolutely necessary. I urge us, together, to keep on working to transform FAO into the Organization that truly contributes to reach the goal of a sustainable hunger-free world. I am confident we will get there.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Au nom du Conseil, Monsieur le Directeur, je vous remercie.

Comme vient de le dire le Directeur général, le document sur la Stratégie de la FAO en matière de partenariats avec la société civile est disponible dans toutes les langues sur la page web du Conseil avec la cote CL 145/LIM/9, et sera examiné au titre du Point 9 qui concerne le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme et de la 147^{ème} Session du Comité financier du 7 novembre.

Je rappelle aux délégués que pour demander la parole, il leur suffira d'appuyer sur le bouton rouge qui se trouve sous le microphone. Le voyant clignotera jusqu'au moment où le délégué prendra la parole. L'ordre des orateurs sera automatiquement enregistré et affiché sur l'écran au-dessus du podium.

J'invite à présent le Secrétaire général à donner un bref compte rendu de la documentation de cette Session du Conseil.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

La documentation de cette Session du Conseil comprend 20 documents principaux, dont la majorité, c'est-à-dire, 15 sur 20, ont pu être publiés avant ou à la date limite de distribution du 5 novembre.

Dans le cas des 5 rapports de réunions qui se sont achevées fin octobre-début novembre, ils étaient tous disponibles deux semaines avant l'ouverture de la Session, soit le 19 novembre.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous commençons, au premier point, avec l'Adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du calendrier de la Session, présentés respectivement dans les documents CL 145/1 et CL 145/INF/1 Rev.1.

L'Ordre du jour provisoire a été communiqué aux Membres du Conseil le 3 octobre 2012, en même temps que l'invitation à la présente Session.

Je propose l'élimination du Sous-point 14.1, Invitations à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des États non-Membres, dans la mesure où aucune invitation n'a été adressée à des États non Membres.

En ce qui concerne le Sous-point 14.2, Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation, je propose également l'élimination de ce Sous-point puisqu'aucune demande conforme à l'Article II, paragraphe 3, de la Constitution de la FAO, n'a été reçue depuis la dernière Session du Conseil.

En revanche, au titre du Point 8.1, Rapport de la 23^{ème} Session du Comité de l'agriculture, il est proposé d'ajouter un sous-point intitulé: *b) Mandat du Partenariat mondial des sols*. Je note qu'un document a été préparé en vue d'une décision du Conseil à ce sujet portant la cote CL 145/LIM/7.

Au titre du Point 25, Questions diverses, je propose d'inclure un Sous-point 25.3, Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel puisque deux sièges sont à pourvoir en raison de la fin du mandat de deux de ses membres.

Le Conseil est-il d'accord avec l'Ordre du jour provisoire et les amendements proposés?

Pas de commentaires. Merci. L'Ordre du jour est adopté.

En ce qui concerne le Calendrier de la Session, qui figure dans le document CL 145/INF/1-Rev.1, j'attire votre attention sur l'encadré destiné à nous aider à bien gérer le temps et structurer les discussions sur des points particuliers. Ainsi, certains thèmes ne seront pas abordés aux points traitant des rapports des Comités techniques et du Conseil, à savoir les Comités du Programme et financier et leur réunion conjointe, mais ils seront examinés dans le cadre des points spécifiques suivants:

Point 3 – Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11;

Point 4 – Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate;

Point 5 – Changements transformationnels de l'exercice biennal 2012-2013;

Point 6 – Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017;

Point 7 – Amélioration du Programme de coopération technique

Les références aux paragraphes concernés sont indiquées en italique dans le Calendrier. Nous en parlerons dans le détail lorsque nous aborderons ces points.

Le Conseil est-il d'accord avec l'ensemble du Calendrier, qui comportera bien entendu les amendements faits à l'ordre du jour?

Merci, le Calendrier de la Session est adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

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 pour l'Élection des trois Vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Après consultation entre les groupes régionaux, les trois Vice-présidents proposés sont: Son Excellence Monsieur Thomas Wriessnig, de l'Allemagne; Son Excellence Madame Janine Tagliante Saracino, de la Côte d'Ivoire, et Son Excellence Monsieur Seyed Aminollah Taghavi Motlagh, de la République islamique d'Iran.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, je félicite les trois Vice-présidents.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, pour la présidence les Groupes régionaux ont proposé la France, en la personne de Son Excellence Madame Bérengère Quincy, ainsi que les délégations des pays suivants comme membres: l'Afghanistan, l'Arabie saoudite, l'Argentine, l'Australie, le Bangladesh, le Canada, le Chili, la Chine, la Guinée Équatoriale, la Fédération de Russie, la France, l'Indonésie, le Japon, la Pologne et le Togo.

Y a-t-il des objections?

Merci, il en est ainsi décidé.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Comme je l'ai dit dans ma lettre du 15 novembre dernier 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, ce qui permettra d'éviter des répétitions.

Je tirerai les conclusions des débats afin de faciliter la rédaction du rapport de la Session, qui, comme convenu, consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations. Je vous invite donc à signaler, lors de la clôture d'un point de l'Ordre du jour, une possible omission d'un élément devant être consigné au rapport, plutôt que d'attendre la réunion du Comité de rédaction. La tâche du Comité de rédaction sera ainsi facilitée, et lui permettant d'achever ses travaux plus rapidement. J'ajoute que les débats figureront intégralement dans les Procès-verbaux de la Session.

Je vous demande également de bien vouloir 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. De même, la qualité de l'interprétation sera améliorée si les interventions orales se font à un rythme raisonnable.

Enfin, je rappelle que vous pouvez remettre la 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.

25. Any Other Matters**25. Autres questions****25. Asuntos varios**

25.2 Appointment of the Deputy Director-General (Operations)

25.2 Nomination du Directeur général adjoint (Opérations)

25.2 Nombramiento del Director General Adjunto (Operaciones)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 25.2 avec la « Nomination du Directeur général adjoint (Operations) ». Vous trouverez le curriculum vitae de Monsieur Daniel Gustafson dans le document de référence CL 145/LIM/5.

J'invite le Directeur général à prendre la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have great pleasure in informing you that I intend to appoint Mr Daniel Gustafson to the position of Deputy Director-General Operations. The position was advertised for a thirty-day period starting on 25 September 2012. It attracted 90 candidates, 73 men, and 17 women.

Following the established procedures, internal and external experts reviewed all the applications. Based on the Terms of Reference and the qualification requirements for the post, the Office of Human Resources submitted the names of four candidates for the interview process that included the support of internationally-recognized experts.

Based on educational background, professional experience, managerial skills and the unanimous results of the interview, I decided to appoint Mr Daniel Gustafson as the Deputy Director-General Operations of FAO.

Mr Gustafson has been with FAO for more than 18 years, serving in the field and at Headquarters at different professional and managerial levels. He was FAO Representative in Kenya and India, overseeing also programmes in Bhutan and Somalia. He has served as Head of our Liaison Office in Washington, and most recently as Director of the Office of Support to Decentralization and Officer in Charge of the Corporate Services Department. I would appreciate the confirmation of the Members of the Council to this appointment.

Sr. Miguel Oyono NDONG MIFUMU (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Hablo en nombre de los Estados Miembros de la Región de África, para destacar la disponibilidad y determinación del Grupo Africano de acompañar al Director General en todo su proceso y visión de transformación de la FAO para rendirla operativa. Por eso, el Grupo Africano siempre se muestra favorable a todas las iniciativas positivas que se incluyan en dicho proceso y, razón por la cual, apoyamos la propuesta del Director General de nombrar al Señor Daniel Gustafson para el puesto de Director General Adjunto de Operaciones, un puesto clave para operacionalizar en la FAO y transformarla en una organización eficaz y efectiva cara a la demanda de los Estados Miembros.

El Grupo Africano reconoce las cualidades profesionales que están detrás del candidato propuesto por el Director General, sus dotes y sus capacidades en desarrollo institucional y aplicación de políticas en agricultura y recursos naturales, campos muy importantes para nuestra Región y en los cuales se necesitan esfuerzos sustanciosos por parte de la FAO, para lo que el Director General ha sabido elegir.

Es igualmente importante destacar que el Señor Gustafson es un buen conocedor de la FAO y valoramos especialmente su candidatura porque conoce África, sus potencialidades, sus especificaciones y sus desafíos para hacer frente al desarrollo de su agricultura y lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre.

Hemos sentido el calor del Señor Gustafson en sus buenas intenciones como Director de la Oficina de apoyo a la Descentralización de la FAO en los últimos meses. Sobre todo, hemos sentidos sus

esfuerzos y su voluntad de fortalecer la capacidad de las Oficinas Nacionales y Regionales; que son claves para rendir operacional la labor de la FAO sobre el terreno.

Por lo tanto, el Grupo Africano apoya resueltamente la candidatura del Señor Gustafson propuesta por el Director General de la FAO, José Graziano Da Silva, para el puesto de Director General Adjunto de Operaciones.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Por ser la primera vez de mi intervención, desearía expresarle mis buenos augurios para que esta reunión se realice con todo el éxito. Le deseo éxito a la directiva que ha designado a todos los grupos regionales, que será la Mesa que conducirá nuestro trabajo. Igualmente desearle todo el éxito y eficiencia a los miembros que van a integrar el Comité de Redacción.

Asimismo, quiero saludar calurosamente al Director General de la FAO, quien nuevamente, haciendo uso de la claridad, de la sencillez y de la transparencia, nos ha indicado unas breves palabras introductorias y nos ha señalado algunos aspectos fundamentales que desea que atendamos todos los Miembros que integramos este Consejo, al igual que, por supuesto, los Observadores que tengan a bien participar en esos aspectos de interés fundamental para proseguir con el trabajo en esta Organización.

Yo quisiera indicarle específicamente sobre el punto que estamos atendiendo, que es el Punto de la Agenda 25.2 relativo al Nombramiento del Director General Adjunto. Le hablo en calidad de Presidenta del G77 y China. Este tema ha sido discutido en nuestras reuniones de la Mesa del G77 y China que la integran los Presidentes y los Vice-presidentes de los cuatro Grupos Regionales. En esa ocasión se acordó que en el 145.º período de sesiones del Consejo, dándole cumplimiento al Artículo 40.1 del Reglamento General de la Organización, el cual establece lo siguiente: “los nombramientos para los cargos de Director General Adjunto los hará el Director General a reserva de su confirmación por el Consejo”. En tal sentido, el G77 no requirió tener ninguna discusión más allá del Bureau porque entiende que, efectivamente, este Consejo debe acatar lo dispuesto en la Constitución que nos rige en esta materia.

Damos entonces todo el apoyo como Grupo G77 y China a la designación del distinguido Señor Daniel Gustafson para el cargo de Director General Adjunto de Operaciones.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

La misión Permanente de Chile, en su calidad de Miembro del Consejo y Vice-presidente protempo del Grupo de países de América Latina y del Caribe, saluda a los distinguidos Representantes permanentes presentes el día de hoy y quisiera expresar el endoso del GRULAC respecto al nombramiento del Director General Adjunto y recordar el Artículo 2 de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización referidos al personal, que se encuentra reglamentado en la Regla No 15, párrafo 1º de las Reglas Generales de la Organización que establece lo siguiente (abro comillas) “El nombramiento del cargo de Director General Adjunto lo hace el Director General sujeto al endoso del Consejo. Consecuentemente, el GRULAC endosa dicho nombramiento”.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, I would like to extend warm greetings to all of the Delegations attending this Session. The Delegation of India would like to compliment the Director-General of FAO for his foresight in appointing Mr Daniel Gustafson as the new Deputy Director-General Operations of FAO.

Dan's long experience at the field level in different regions of the world and different countries like Brazil in Latin America, India in Asia, Mozambique and Somalia in Africa, and his liaison skills in Washington with important donors like the United States and Canada and partnering with World Bank and different civil society groups will definitely stand him in good stead in handling the complexities faced at FAO Headquarters which is challenged by resource constraints and beset with rapidly increasing food insecurity situations in the world.

As the FAO Representative in India for five years from 2002 to 2007, Dan left an indelible mark where the cooperation between FAO and India reached new heights. He endeared himself not only to the Federal Government but also to the various states of provincial Governments and agriculture-related and farmer organizations due to his proactive stances.

Since Dan took over as Director of the Office of Support for Decentralization in February 2012, an unfinished agenda of the FAO Reform Process, that is, Decentralization, witnessed rapid progress and we are close to fulfilling this dream in the near future.

The Delegation of India would like to congratulate Mr Daniel Gustafson on his appointment as Deputy Director-General Operations and wish him the very best in his new assignment.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am talking on behalf of the Near East Group. We, as the Near East Group, fully support the 2012 programme of Director-General's transformational changes in FAO thus making it more effective and efficient for achieving its goal.

We support the appointment of the Mr Gustafson as the Deputy Director-General. I think FAO knows Mr Gustafson very well and I myself have had many contacts with him during this short time I've been here, and I've found him very proficient. I am sure that he can better serve FAO in this new capacity. Therefore, the Near East Group supports the decision of Director-General for the appointment of Mr Gustafson as Deputy Director-General Operations.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson, and good morning. Japan also welcomes that Dr. Gustafson assumes the post of Deputy Director-General. We expected that his outstanding contribution to FAO would push him onto a higher post sooner or later. So congratulations.

Dr. Gustafson's capabilities which have been reinforced through his experience both in the Headquarters and in the Field would surely be a precious treasure of the Organization. With regards to the Departments in the Knowledge arm, we have been Informed that Dr. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, is now the Coordinator of cross-cutting activities in the in the knowledge arm while that position is vacant.

We hope that Dr. Gustafson will closely cooperate with Dr. Mathiesen in addressing the challenges before us.

Mr David J. LANE (United States of America)

The United States fully endorses the appointment of Dan Gustafson for the position of Deputy Director-General for Operations. Mr Gustafson brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as exceptional leadership skills, to the position, having previously served as Director in the FAO Office of Support of Decentralization, as Office Director in Washington, D.C. for the Liaison Office in his country and Representative in India, among other things that have already been listed.

The United States looks forward to working with Dan in this position, and wishes him the very best.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to endorse and welcome the Reform embraced by the Director-General and we very much support the points stressed by the Director-General himself earlier on in his intervention.

We welcome them, and we also endorse the appointment of Mr Gustafson. According to the presentation of the Director-General, we've been able to observe that Mr Daniel Gustafson certainly has longstanding experience within FAO. He has undisputed capabilities and skills to be able to assist the Director-General in his work. We certainly do hope that Mr Gustafson, together with the Director-General, will be able to build a better FAO.

Ms Natasha DAULTANA (Pakistan)

On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to congratulate the Director General, an excellent recommendation of Mr Gustafson as the Deputy Director General of the Organization. Mr Gustafson has excellent credentials, and I am sure he will continue effectively to assisting especially developing countries and the programmes.

Mr David RITCHIE (Australia)

I would also like to express Australia's strong support on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Group for the appointment of Mr Daniel Gustafson to the position of Deputy Director-General of Operations. The Southwest Pacific Region has very warmly welcomed the work that Mr Gustafson has done so far, and it very much looks forward to continuing that work with him to increase the presence and the operational effectiveness of the FAO in our Region.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

En prenant la parole pour la première fois, nous voulons en ce moment précis adresser les condoléances de notre pays à toute la famille de Monsieur Edouard Saouma et souhaiter que son âme puisse reposer en paix.

Ma délégation partage la déclaration faite par Monsieur le Ministre de la Guinée équatoriale au nom du Groupe d'Afrique, et saisit l'occasion pour lui souhaiter la bienvenue. De même, nous souhaitons bonne chance à Monsieur Gustafson avec qui nous avons déjà travaillé dans le cadre du Comité financier, et lui assurons le soutien entier du Cameroun.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

First and foremost, let me congratulate the Director-General. I think his speech was like music to most of our ears.

Let me also congratulate Mr Gustafson. I would like to say on behalf of the Sri Lankan Delegation, as well as in my capacity as Chairman of the Asia Group, that we fully endorse his candidature and look forward to working with him. I will not repeat what some of the other Delegations have said, but I would like associate myself with the sentiments expressed by them.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Germany would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. The EU Presidency will deliver a statement on behalf of the EU's 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

The EU's 27 Member States would like to congratulate Mr Gustafson for his appointment as Deputy Director-General for Operations, and to wish him success in his duties. We would like to assure him that we are ready to cooperate closely with him for the implementation of FAO's Programme of Work.

We would also like to express our condolences to the family of the late Edouard Saouma who was Director-General of this Organization for eighteen years.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'interventions et compte tenu de ce que j'ai entendu Mesdames et Messieurs, puissent considérer que le Conseil confirme la nomination de monsieur Daniel Gustafson ?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Monsieur Gustafson, au travail. Mais vous y étiez déjà alors, continuez.

12. Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (15-20 October 2012)**12. Rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale
(15-20 octobre 2012)****12. Informe del 39.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(15-20 de octubre de 2012)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je passe donc tout de suite au point suivant, le point 12: Rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui s'est tenue du 15 au 20 octobre dernier. Le rapport se trouve dans le document de référence C 2013/21. Sans plus attendre j'invite le Président du CSA, Monsieur Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran à prendre la parole.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. This is another day that we all look forward to and I honestly believe we can thank the Lord for this third day of December. I really thank Him for the opportunity to be here after all the journeys and exercises.

I have the honor to present to you the Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, document C 2013/21.

As has been practice since CFS was reformed in 2009, the Committee's agenda for the 39th Session in October 2012 corresponded largely to the main roles, namely: one, promoting policy convergence and coordination of topics central to food security and nutrition; two, coordinating global and regional levels and providing support for national processes and three, supporting the ongoing implementation of CFS reform and functioning of the Committee.

I would like to highlight that the CFS 39th Session of the CFS had 1,200 members, participants and observers including, 24 Ministers. These compared to between 300-400 members and observers prior to the reform. In addition, over 3 Side Events took place during this period.

I wish to draw attention of the Council Members particularly to a number of key outputs from the 39th Session that will be central to the work of CFS over the next two years. This includes the endorsement of the 4th version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). All stakeholders are encouraged to promote and make use of this document when formulating strategies, policies and programmes on food security, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries and forests.

Secondly, the endorsement of an inclusive consultation process within the CFS to develop and ensure broad ownership of the principles of responsible agricultural investments. This will be a major task for CFS on the oversight of the Bureau and includes collaboration with Open Ended Working Groups (OEWG) of responsible agricultural investment partners under the leadership of Switzerland. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate actively in this process.

Thirdly, a second major activity will be a broadly consultative process to develop an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crisis, a consideration by the Committee, again on that day, and oversight of the CFS Bureau in consultation with the advisory group and the Joint Secretariat with the OEWG.

The High-Level Panel for Food Security and Nutrition successfully elaborated and published its third and fourth reports on food security and climate change and social protection for food security. Plans are on track for the preparation of the two next reports requested by CFS on constraints to small holder investments, and the vast wealth on food security has been initiated. Taking into account available resources, the HLPE will be requested to undertake the following two studies to be presented to Plenary in 2014.

Mr Chairperson, this will be the role of sustainable fisheries and agriculture for food security and nutrition and the losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems. In addition, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Committee endorsed the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work for 2012 and 2013, and called for further work to develop and clarify CFS's work on monitoring.

The Committee endorsed proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and to the CFS rules of procedures, agreed to the proposal to include a Session on a ten-year retrospective of progress made in the implementation of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security during Plenary in 2014.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Chairman, thank you all for listening to me, and God bless.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I am honored to make this intervention on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Regional Group acknowledges with appreciation the preparatory work of the Bureau and Advisory Group and the tasks accomplished by the Committee during its 39th Session.

We congratulate Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, the CFS Chair, for his extraordinary leadership and commitment to the Committee's work. We also note the great enthusiasm and interest that different stakeholders have shown in the work of the Committee as exemplified by the high level of registered participation, as well as the variety, and number of Side Events. The Africa Group was particularly gratified by the presence of African Regional bodies, charged with meeting the challenges of food and nutrition security on the continent. The Africa Group welcomes the planned multi-stakeholder review of the 39th Session which will allow for reflection on how to improve the work of the global world food security Sessions in achieving policy coherence in the area of food and nutrition security.

The Africa Group urges the CFS, as part of its broad mandate, to bring to the attention of the international community policy gaps which militate against the realization of global and food and nutrition security, while remaining cognizant of the need to ensure that identified policy gaps are brought to the attention of the competent authorities.

The Africa Group wishes to highlight a few aspects elucidated in the document as follows.

One: the two policy Round Tables bring out many fundamental concerns that merit further recapitulation. For the Social Protection Round Table, we share the same view that appropriate coordination should be maintained at national level to ensure that social protection is integrated with broader food security and nutrition programming. In addition, all country-level social protection portfolios and action plans should be sensitive to country differences in terms of policy, institutional, and financial capacity.

Two: as regards to the Round Table on Food Security and Climate Change, the Africa Regional Group acknowledges the call for different actors to: a) support and participate in developing national and local capacities to deal with challenges associated with food security-related climate change; b) support coordinated establishment and implementation of more efficient early warning systems; c) support development of integrated land policies for food security and adaptation to climate change in accordance with nationally-defined priorities that take into account the diversity of agricultural conditions and; d) promote efficiencies in the food chain and reduction of post-harvest losses in a sustainable manner while intensifying interactive technical collaboration between FAO and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Three: SOFI 2012 reveals important concerns that require more reflection. The Africa Regional Group is skeptical about the assertion in paragraph 13(d) which indicates that the target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger is within reach. We would ask, however,

a) Considering that the current reported number of the malnourished is still way above the 1996 level when the target was set, how possible is it to even halve this number within the only three remaining years?

b) What, in concrete terms, especially in the face of the current global economic difficulties, are the actions to be undertaken if this target is to be realized?

Four: regarding the new methodology for estimating hunger, we feel that there is need to enhance the capacities of Member Nations and Decentralized Offices in order to make use of the system.

Five: the food security and nutrition terminology, the Africa Regional Group supports the use of the combined term “food and nutrition security,” cognizant of the fact that food security concerns on the continent have not given adequate prominence to food quality and nutrition. In our own Region, we have countries which have improved food production but have made little or no dent on the number of children that are malnourished.

Six: in line with paragraph 16(c), the Africa Regional Group would propose that the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, should work towards presenting the results of the work to the CFS Plenary in October 2013.

Seven: Addressing policy gaps and emerging issues, conclusions, and the way forward, the Africa Regional Group: a) supports the two studies and their timelines: one on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and the other on Food Losses and Waste; b) notes the Committee’s agreement to include, on a ten-year retrospective on progress made in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food (VGGT) in the 2014 CFS Plenary. In this regard, the Africa Group is pleased to observe the way in which the UN Rome-based Agencies have put in place demand-driven mechanisms to assist countries with the implementation of land tenure programmes; and that land tenure has become a cross-cutting concern in all FAO programmes. We strongly believe that this will contribute to ensuring that the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure will not remain a document with little or no impact; c) welcomes the inclusion of the views of the regions in the work stream of the Committee.

Eight: while the Africa Regional Group supports the process to develop the Responsible Agriculture Investments (RAI) principles, our conviction is that guidelines would better serve our purpose as they are more implementable than principles. This, however, is a matter that requires further dialogue among Members and other stakeholders. We, however, note the timelines for the planned RAI actions, and hope that the time allocated for consultations will enable relevant stakeholders to participate, and that the process will lead to some further reflection on the ways of mobilizing local and foreign investments in order to improve food and nutrition security.

Nine: the Africa Group welcomes the endorsement of the Global Strategic Framework by the 39th Session of the CFS, and hopes that the document will be used to improve policy frameworks and coherence at all levels. As originally envisaged, we hope that the GSF document will remain a living document with new areas of policy agreement being added to it and policy gaps being systematically addressed in order to meet the challenge of food and nutrition security. We, however, suggest that the process of making additions to the document should be further elaborated by the CFS.

Lastly, the Africa Regional Group supports the view expressed in paragraph 45 which observes that the principles of regional balancing should be exercised during selection of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts. We are very confident that all Regions now have technocrats with ample capacity to ably contribute to that function.

The Africa Group welcomes the continued commitment of the three Rome-based Agencies to the work of the CFS, and hope that the Secretariat of the CFS will continue to be strengthened in order to meet its mandate and the expectations of the stakeholders.

With these comments, the Africa Group acknowledges the Report, endorses it for Conference consideration, and recommends that where appropriate, the decisions of the 39th Session of CFS be quickly transmitted to relevant Bodies for implementation.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

As I speak for the first time on behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I would like to congratulate Mr Daniel Gustafson as Deputy Director- General Operations. I would like to give my appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the good quality of documents provided to us on the Report of the Committee on World Food Security.

The Report of the 39th Session of CFS emphasized the need for joint efforts by Member Nations to reduce hunger in keeping with the goal of MDGs to halve the proportion of starving people by 2015. Therefore, the existence of CFS is very important as an inclusive forum for all stakeholders to cooperate and give policy recommendations to really provide food security and nutrition for all.

My Delegation wishes to acknowledge the decision and the recommendations of the 39th Session of CFS and congratulate the Bureau for the release of the new State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) methodology for estimating the number of hungry. We are hoping that FAO could disseminate this new methodology through capacity-building and information transfers to the related stakeholders for further implementation.

My Delegation also wishes to acknowledge and congratulate the CFS Bureau for the endorsement of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF). This document needs to be further elaborated before implementation, especially in formulating strategies, policies, and programmes on food security and nutrition.

Regarding to the request to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), we fully support the FAO recommendation to undertake the study on the role of sustainable fisheries in aquaculture for food security and nutrition, food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems, and for the results of these studies to be presented in 2014.

My Delegation is of the view that food waste issues should be taken seriously. This is due to the fact that there is a habit for food not to be completely consumed, resulting in excessive food waste around us. Meanwhile, at the same time, there are still millions of hungry people in our Region. In this regard, the result of this study could be used as a campaign tool in disseminating the importance of balanced food and nutrition, including the importance of reducing food waste.

In relation to fisheries and aquaculture studies, the study needs to address the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of fisheries, including artisanal fisheries, as well as the impact of aquaculture.

Lastly, regarding the Food Security and Nutrition Mapping System, we would like to share Indonesia's experience in developing the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Atlas. This Atlas was developed together as a partnership project of the Government of Indonesia and World Food Programme (WFP) in 2006. This Atlas has been widely appreciated and used intensively in the planning process for the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in Indonesia.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Pedimos disculpas, pero queremos hacer otra intervención que va a hacer referencia a la intervención anterior del Grupo Regional de América Latina y el Caribe. Le pedimos de colocarnos posteriormente, cuando le parezca más conveniente en la Lista de Oradores.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

I would like to ask you to give the floor to the European Union who will speak on behalf of the Union's 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

The European Union welcomes the increased level of participation in the 39th Session of the CFS by all stakeholders and by Ministers. This demonstrates the importance of the reformed CFS as a unique multi-stakeholder platform for the global governance on food security. We reiterate its continued support for the renewed CFS, as well as for the proper implementation of the decisions and recommendations arising from CFS Reports. Therefore, we encourage the Council to acknowledge the outcomes of its 39th Session, as proposed in the decision box.

We have been pleased with the work of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), and the quality of its Reports. Given the importance of the topics addressed, we would like to see more time devoted to discussion of HLPE Reports and their recommendations. We favor an improved discussion and negotiation format with an improved Round Table decision box process, and ask the Bureau and Advisory Group to suggest ways in which this could be achieved.

In the same way, we think addressing monitoring and evaluation are key to progress in the follow-up of CFS decisions. We support the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring in exploring further existing or innovative tools and mechanisms to monitor the achievements of food security and nutrition objectives at national or regional levels.

The CFS Multi-year Programme of Work gives a clear idea of the priorities and work streams for 2013. Further work needs to be done on future priorities and work streams beyond 2013 and on the links with the respective Programmes of Work and Budget of the three Rome-based institutions. We, therefore, encourage greater collaboration between the three Agencies and call on them to allocate sufficient human and budgetary resources to facilitate the implementation of the CFS decisions. Consequently, the Council should recommend that the FAO PWB for 2014-15 take duly into account the need to support CFS work and to facilitate the implementation of the CFS decisions. We wish that this issue will also be addressed in the same way by the Governing Bodies of WFP and IFAD.

The EU gives a high priority to the roadmap agreed at the 39th Session towards CFS shared principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI). We also support the development of an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crises, and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests.

We welcome the adoption of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework as an important reference for policy coordination and coherence for food security and nutrition. Nevertheless, we note that implementation of some decisions taken by the 37th Session of CFS in 2011 are lagging behind: for instance, the preparation of the Code of Conduct for Emergency Humanitarian Food Reserves and the Study on the Constraints and Effectiveness of Local, National, and Regional Food Reserves.

In a global context of high price volatility and recurrent humanitarian emergencies, this work should be done quickly by the relevant international organizations, including FAO, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. We expect these issues to be duly reflected in the next PWB.

We are pleased to note that documentation for the 39th Session of the CFS was generally made available in good time, thereby facilitating preparatory work by Delegates, and we encourage the CFS and FAO generally to pursue efforts to ensure timely availability of all meeting documents in the future. We thank the CFS Secretariat for its hard work, and favour its continuing support by FAO, WFP and IFAD on an equal footing. Terms of reference for a full time CFS Secretary should be finalized, and a selection procedure agreed on as soon as possible, with clear indication to the Bureau of the cost implications.

Finally, we encourage the CFS Secretariat to develop a strong and effective communication strategy. We all have a responsibility to deliver on the CFS decisions and recommendations: it is time that they find resonance in other UN fora and international organizations, as well as in the field, at national level, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Mr John SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

On behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, please permit me to express sincere thanks for allowing us the opportunity to participate in this Session of the Council. This is my first statement to this august body, and I look forward with enthusiasm to further participation as we seek to sustain world food security.

I wish to embrace the opportunity as well to extend congratulations to the new Deputy Director-General Operations.

With respect to the Report of the CFS, at present Trinidad and Tobago, in keeping with the Committee's endorsement of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, we are in the process of developing a national sector policy framework for food security and nutrition. In this regard, we are being assisted by the FAO and want to extend sincerest thanks as a result.

Accordingly, Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to endorse the Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security on 15-20 October 2012.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We would like to commend the Chairperson of CFS, Mr Yaya Olaniran, for his able stewardship in the conduct of the 39th Session of the CFS. Rightfully, he has earned the title as given by the Council as the man with the hat. Now I see the man with the hat and a flower.

We would like to endorse all of the recommendations made by the CFS. We are especially pleased with the adoption of the new methodology for estimating the number of hungry people which, of course, is entered in a downward revision of the absolute numbers.

We are also pleased to see that in the Plenary of 2014, two studies have been identified to be presented. One is on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition and, the other is on Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainable Food Production Systems.

Food losses and waste constitute a major depletion of our food resources in tropical countries. I can take a leaf out from the example of India where close to 25 percent of the food is lost during harvest and post-harvest. Therefore, this high level study will definitely identify ways and means as to how we can control this.

We are pleased to see that a comprehensive review will be made and especially that a progress report will be presented on the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. India is in an advanced stage for introducing a National Food Security Act which guarantees access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices for people to live a life with dignity.

We have also already implanted a scheme on providing a minimum one hundred days of work at minimum wage, so that there is a shift from food to work, to that of right to work. In other words, the poor and vulnerable have the means to afford food.

I am also pleased to see that there has been a proposed amendment to the CFS Rules of Procedure which enhances the transparency of the Office of the Chairperson, and he will not be eligible for election for two consecutive terms. This was a longstanding request, and it has been incorporated.

We also support the Bureau's decision to extend the tenure of the current members of the Steering Committee to October 2013. We welcome the first version of the GSF, and we entirely agree with the observation made by the European Union on how the recommendations of this august body can be translated into action and how they can be incorporated into the instruments of FAO, WFP, and IFAD. The time is right for us identify adequate human and budgetary resources in the PWB of these three organizations, rather than just making a recommendation to the other Bodies. So it is for all of us to find more means, more human and budgetary resources to identify the resources and implement the recommendations of the CFS.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We thank the Chairman of the CFS and the Secretariat for providing us with the high quality document. This Delegation has carefully studied the documents provided by the Committee. We believe that the Committee has undertaken large amounts of effective work in the past year, in particular, in analyzing the global food situation and nutrition in formulating the relevant policy frameworks and in proposing recommendations for global governance. Such work is highly significant for which we would like to express our appreciation.

We would like to put forward four proposals. Firstly, we hope that the work of the CFS will be more focused because only in doing so can we make full use of the resources. For instance, the agendas of the Round Tables should focus on food security and relevant issues like nutrition, and the Membership should be encouraged to take full part in the discussions so as to reach an excellent consensus.

Secondly, the recommendations of the meeting need to be implemented. Only in this way can our work be more effective. We have noted that many proposals were put forward during the Round Tables of the 39th Session, but measures should be taken to implement these recommendations so as to create the necessary impact.

Thirdly, we should also concentrate in the organization of the Sessions. We believe that there were too many Side Events during the 39th Session. This is not conducive for Member Nations to concentrate on discussion of the main themes. There is the possibility of dispersing our efforts.

Fourth point, we hope that more specific studies will be conducted. For example, the Report by the High Level Panel of Experts has put forward excellent points in analyzing the global food and nutrition situation. However, there's not enough depth in the analysis of certain issues so we will propose that concrete examples be provided as subjects of studies.

In the last High Level Panel of Experts on Climate Change, I have already stated that China is a typical success story of countries dealing with climate change and food security. As is well known in the past nine years, temperatures have been rising, the climate has been undergoing transformation and there are more natural disasters year-by-year. In China, however, we have been witnessing nine successive years of bumper harvests. There have been relevant factors affecting this. For example, the efforts by the Government authorities and technical support have been significant. I think this could serve as a proposal for further studies.

I think it is also conducive to the innovative work of the CFS.

Sra. Doña Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

En este punto, cedo la palabra a la Delegación del Perú en su calidad de Presidencia *Pro Tempore* del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe.

Sr. Don Alfredo AROSEMENA (Perú)

La Misión Permanente del Perú, en su calidad de Presidencia *Pro Tempore* del GRULAC, saluda a todas las Delegaciones presentes y hace alto aprecio del Informe del 39^o período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSAM).

Como es de conocimiento, nuestro Grupo Regional ha sido uno de los impulsores de la reforma de este Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y luego de tres años de sesiones, hemos tenido útiles y enriquecedoras experiencias, siendo la más reciente el 39^o período de sesiones. Estas experiencias nos han permitido iniciar un proceso de reflexión sobre el funcionamiento del Comité, y en esta oportunidad, quisiéramos compartir algunas inquietudes que han surgido en varios países de nuestra región:

- La agenda del Comité da preferencia a una gran cantidad de temas que, si bien reflejan la complejidad de los debates, se realiza incluso en detrimento de la profundización de los mismos.
- La cantidad y la naturaleza de los temas de la agenda contrasta con el manejo de los tiempos y metodología de trabajo dentro del Comité, dificultando que los países puedan realizar los necesarios procesos de reflexión y discusión, tanto a nivel interno en los Grupos Regionales como con sus respectivas capitales.
- A ello se suma el hecho de que haya una alta cantidad de eventos paralelos en la semana de sesiones del Comité, que excede la capacidad de asistencia de las representaciones.

Con la finalidad de brindar aportes concretos para perfeccionar los Métodos de Trabajo del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial renovado, el GRULAC, ha creado un Grupo de Trabajo que está compuesto por nuestros Representantes titulares y suplentes en la Mesa del Comité, así como de otros países de nuestra Región. Este Grupo de Trabajo tiene la mayor disposición de trabajar con otras Regiones en propuestas concretas. Invitamos a dichas regiones a iniciar un proceso de reflexión sobre los objetivos, funciones y resultados esperados de las Mesas Redondas y de los Informes del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos. El GRULAC está elaborando un documento sobre esos dos significativos componentes del Comité, que esperamos sea de utilidad para las conversaciones que se lleven a cabo en la Mesa del Comité en enero del próximo año 2013.

Al agradecer el presente Informe, Señor Presidente, expreso el reconocimiento del GRULAC a la valiosa labor que está desempeñando este Comité en la lucha contra el hambre y en garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en el mundo.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Luego de la aprobación por parte del Consejo de la designación del Director General Adjunto no me resta más que darle la felicitación al Sr. Daniel Gustafson y expresarle mi deseo para que desarrolle una labor con todo el éxito posible y decirle que tiene en los Miembros del G77 y China y en toda la Membresía de la FAO sus colaboradores para tratar de impulsar todos sus programas, sus acciones, sus ideas.

Yo quisiera indicar que esta propuesta del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe que acaba de leer su Presidente, el Embajador Alfredo Arosemena de la República del Perú, fue presentada a la última plenaria del G77 y China celebrada el pasado 27 de noviembre de 2012. En ese momento, los distintos Grupos Regionales presentes y Miembros del G77 recibieron con satisfacción y apertura esta iniciativa del GRULAC de iniciar un proceso de reflexión con el fin de producir una más adecuada evaluación de esta 39º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, siendo la tercera de las reuniones que se han producido después de la reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en donde, obviamente, todos los Miembros pudieron también tener conocimiento y fe y prueba del compromiso del GRULAC con ese proceso de reforma.

Sin embargo, creemos que, a estas alturas, para continuar contribuyendo a una mejora del desarrollo de las actividades de ese Comité, para que sea cada vez un Comité más eficiente y para que su labor pueda asegurar los objetivos que se propone de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de nuestras poblaciones, es necesario que se produzca un sano y participativo proceso de reflexión sobre esta reunión del 39º período de sesiones.

El GRULAC ha presentado la idea al G77 y China y ha creado ese Grupo de Trabajo para, de ser posible, en el Bureau del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial previsto para el próximo mes de enero de 2013, conformar las propuestas con un análisis más detallado de las indicaciones que ha dado el Presidente del GRULAC en su mensaje.

Repito, el G77 acogió este mensaje y estamos seguros de que los demás Grupos Regionales contribuirán a que ese Bureau del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial recoja estas inquietudes y mejoremos el trabajo y la eficiencia de este importante Comité.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Gustafson for his appointment to the position of Deputy Director-General. The European Regional Group has already expressed its position. On this point, the Russia Federation would like to congratulate Mr Gustafson separately for that appointment.

The Russian Federation would suggest that the Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security be approved, and we take note of the decisions. We support what the Report contains. We note that the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Yaya Olarinan, has been really excellent in his leadership. We also commend the Secretariat of the Committee with Kostas Stamoulis, who has been working very well in very complex conditions against the backdrop of the process of reform.

The Russian Federation welcomes the enhanced role of the Committee on World Food Security in the various Bodies of the UN System. We think that the changes underway within the CFS are going to strengthen the performance of the CFS and its productivity. At the same time, we believe that the unique quality of this CFS is that it is the most important negotiating platform while simultaneously serving as a discussion forum where a broad range of participants are able to express their views.

We consider that the Committee on World Food Security is an inter-Governmental mechanism, and we need to strengthen this aspect within the UN System. The Russian Federation is in favour of ensuring continued coordination in the various multilateral fora on the topic of food security. We're also in favour of coordinating these various initiatives, and to ensure that they are consistent with the work of the CFS.

We would like to highlight the importance of synchronizing the activity of the CFS with the work of the G20 and the G8 in the area of food security. We also thank the special group of the UN Secretary-General in that area. We welcome the activity of the Chairman of the CFS. We think that his participation in various meetings of multilateral Bodies is of benefit to the CFS and its work.

Russia is the future chair of the G20 in 2013, and will chair the G8 in 2014. We confirm our readiness to cooperate in the framework of the Russian Presidency in the area of food security. The Russian Federation has reiterated its adherence to the topic of food security on the global agenda. Russia will continue to support the work of the CFS and make its contribution to the work of the Committee, as well as continue providing support as a donor to the High Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition.

We think that the discussion on the question of terminology is very important. The result of that was a decision to continue to discuss this matter on which there is still a divergence of opinions. We think that a final decision on changing the official terminology can only be made based on the broadest possible consensus and agreement.

The Russian Federation would once again like to reiterate its support for the work of the Committee on World Food Security, and we would suggest that the Session adopt the Report of the 39th Session of the CFS.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to join the Delegations who spoke earlier in recommending the Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The 39th Session of the CFS has kept the same high standard of the previous Sessions in terms of openness, participation, and quality of debate. From an organizational point of view, we think it is moving in the right direction, in particular in the Members being able to avoid evening Sessions.

As for the working method of the CFS, we would like to share the concern expressed by Peru on behalf of GRULAC, recognizing the CFS as a dynamic institution with limited resources and also recognizing that the recommended actions of the Session need to be implemented. We move to support a more realistic approach to the CFS agenda, as well as its responsibilities. We, therefore, would like to encourage the Bureau to carefully consider and identify priorities as we prepare for the next Session.

Having said that, the Republic of Korea supports the Report of the 39th Session of the CFS, as well as the suggested actions by the Council. In particular, we are pleased to have the Terms of Reference for the process to develop principles for responsible agricultural investment. As the consideration on the principles of responsible agricultural investment begins, we expect the principles to be further discussed and finalized with a broader range of ownership.

Mr Lupino LAZARO Jr. (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to join other Delegations in expressing appreciation for the Report on the 39th Session of the CFS, for endorsement by the Council to the next Conference.

In general, we believe that the Report comprehensively reflects the various issues that were discussed and/or decided during the CFS Session. We also wish to thank GRULAC for its intervention regarding concerns on how the CFS functions, and the suggestions to improve the methods of work in the Committee.

Similar to GRULAC Members and other concerned countries, the Philippines attaches high importance to the CFS and is an active participant in the Committee's reform process. We share a number of concerns raised by GRULAC on the scope and manner by which the recent CFS Session has been managed and organized.

For instance, of particular interest to us is the apparent tendency to veer away from the Committee's core mandate in trying to cover a wide variety of issues to the detriment of providing ample opportunity for more in-depth discussions of priority issues. We, therefore, join others in welcoming GRULAC's initiative in forming a Working Group that intends to submit specific proposals on the

objectives, functions and expected outcomes of the Round Table discussions and the Reports of the High Level Panel of Experts. We look forward to learning more and possibly having an exchange about the proposals of the Working Group, including through our regional Representatives in the CFS Bureau in due course.

Finally, the Philippines reiterates its support in the spirit of enhancing and strengthening a reformed CFS.

Mr Md. Ashadul ISLAM (Bangladesh)

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be present in this august gathering of the 145th Session of the FAO Council. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Daniel Gustafson for his appointment as the Deputy Director-General Operations of FAO.

At the outset of my statement on the Report of the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, I would like to mention the status of food security in Bangladesh. We are very delighted to inform you that Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in the field of food production with the objective of attaining food security. The food supply has been steadily growing with the rise of rice production for the last consecutive three years.

The Government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to the progressive realization of the right to food as enshrined in our Constitution. The National Food Policy outlines a comprehensive strategy through increased food availability, food access and nutrition. Under this policy, the Government prepared a Plan of Action and a Five Year Country Investment plan. A Plan of Action is a set of prioritized actions and targets towards national food policy requirements in line with the Millennium Development Goals. The present Government is working hard under the leadership of the present Prime Minister to achieve food security in as short a time as possible.

The Government of Bangladesh has taken a lot of initiatives to increase food production. Among these, the timely distribution of fertilizers and seeds to irrigation is one of them. Moreover, the Government undertook different social safety programmes to ensure food security for poor people. Particularly, during price hiking periods, the Government started open market sales and fair price cards. But despite these achievements, we see climate change posing a new challenge to our food security and the achievements we have made over the years.

In our struggle to combat hunger and poverty, we always find FAO on our side. Therefore, we are very grateful to FAO and FAO is one of the most important development partners among all others. In this regard, let me take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of FAO for his quick response to emergency assistance to support a number of households affected by the recent late monsoon floods in Bangladesh.

FAO recently allocated USD 423,000 to the project emergency assistance to support the recovery of crop-based livelihood systems of landless and marginal farmers affected by late monsoon floods in the northwest districts of Bangladesh.

We thank and welcome the CFS's recommendations from Round Table debates on two topics including Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, Food Security and Climate Change. We also acknowledge the outcomes and endorse the recommendation of the 39th Session of the CFS. Among other issues, we deeply encourage the approval of the terms of reference of an inclusive consultation process within CFS to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investments. We hope that recommendations of the 39th Session of the CFS will contribute considerably to achieving the general hunger challenges of the world. We do endorse the recommendation of the 39th Session of the CFS.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am honored to be making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. Before doing so, the Near East Group wishes to thank the Chairperson of the CFS, our friend Yaya, for his introduction. We also wish to associate with the sentiments of the statement made by our friend from Peru on behalf of

GRULAC, which was endorsed by the Chairperson of the G77 and also by our friend from the Republic of Korea.

The Near East Group notes that the box on pages two and three of document C 2013/21 is seeking acknowledgement by the Council on the 19 items listed. We have no hesitation to acknowledge these items because of their endorsement by 116 of the 125 members of the CFS who attended the 39th Session.

Some important aspects of the 19 items were further elaborated by our colleagues from Uganda, EU, India, and others, and we agree with their interventions. The Near East Group is of the opinion that the Council should have received from the CFS Secretariat a short list of priority proposals with implications for FAO and also other partners with respect to policy and programmatic initiatives and their resource implications. For example, what is needed of FAO and its partners to promote the use of GSF; is what way and through what measures can the Zero Hunger initiatives be promoted in various Sub-regions of the world? In short, the Council should not be requested to acknowledge what the CFS Plenary has already endorsed, but to consider proposals emerging from the 39th Session of CFS and provide guidance for future initiatives.

Like GRULAC as well as the Republic of Korea, the Near East Group also wishes to reflect on a few points of the 39th Session of the CFS. In doing so, we wish to recall the Report of the 143rd Session of the Council which, in its paragraph 29, stated and I quote “The Council received suggestions from Members on the organization and the working methods of future CFS Sessions, in particular regarding the needs for a shorter agenda, better use of Plenary time, effective management of Round Tables, prioritization of the Committee’s proposed actions, and where feasible reflections on the impact of CFS’s major initiatives,” unquote.

Events have gone counter to what was underscored by the 143rd Session of the Council. The topics included in the agenda of CFS increased from 13 topics in CFS 37 to 14 topics in CFS 38 and 16 topics in CFS 39. Small Delegations are unable to cope with the large number of items and with the huge number of Side Events that take place in each Session of CFS.

The management of Round Tables in particular needs to be improved considerably to enable more time for Members to engage in the debate. Even the inclusion of Round Tables in the agenda needs to be re-examined on the basis of their value added to CFS Members and other stakeholders.

In this connection, the Near East Group is happy to note that the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group has initiated its own assessment which they call After Action Review of CFS 39. It is hoped that this self-evaluation will lead to a more manageable agenda for CFS 40, in which sufficient time will be allowed for debate among Members on major items on the agenda. In this connection, we wish to draw attention to the agenda of the 23rd Session of COAG which included only six main items for the entire week.

With these observations, Mr Chairperson, the Near East Group wishes to endorse the Report of the 39th Session of CFS, and looks forward to a shorter, but robust agenda for the 40th Session of CFS in 2013.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Merci Monsieur le Président, j’aurai voulu saluer la nomination de Monsieur Gustafson. Je suis sûre qu’il m’entend.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Président du CSA pour sa présentation et saluer l’intérêt des travaux de notre dernier CSA qui de notre point de vu n’a jamais été aussi riche que lors de sa précédente Session. Je souscris naturellement et je partage tous les points exprimés par la déclaration faite au nom de l’Union et de ses États membres, et je voudrais revenir sur un point d’intérêt pour notre Conseil et d’importance pour les travaux de la FAO, un point qui d’ailleurs a été relevé par d’autres délégations après la déclaration de l’Union Européenne. La déclaration dit que le Conseil devrait recommander que le Programme de travail et le budget pour 2014-2015 prenne en compte le besoin de soutenir le travail du CSA et de faciliter la mise en œuvre de ses décisions.

Je voudrais à cet égard appeler l'attention sur une décision en particulier mais ce n'est pas la seule naturellement, qui est la décision de lancement de la négociation sur les principes pour des investissements responsables en agriculture, décision qui devrait nous permettre d'aboutir en 2014 à l'adoption de ces principes et qui devrait aussi donner lieu aux mêmes retentissements que l'adoption que nous avons faite cette année des Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux forêts, et aux pêches.

A cet égard, la proposition qu'a fait l'Union européenne et la demande qu'ont exprimé d'autres délégations que le Conseil et la FAO insiste sur le soutien du travail du CSA et la facilitation de la mise en œuvre de ses décisions, cette proposition est particulièrement pertinente pour ces négociations. Nous souhaitons que la FAO, comme le FIDA d'ailleurs, apporte aux négociations sur les principes qu'on appelle RAI toutes les ressources humaines et financières nécessaires pour permettre le plein succès de cette négociation, non seulement d'ailleurs pour le Programme de travail et le budget 2014-2015, mais comme ces négociations démarrent dès le mois de janvier pour nos activités de l'année 2013.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to thank Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, the Chairperson of the CFS, for presenting the Report and we endorse it. It was memorable that we celebrated your birthday, as well as the birthday of Gustavo Infante of Argentina in the Committee.

Just after the CFS, I was asked by the wife of Kostas as to what he was doing during the week because he did not come home until after midnight. But we have an evidence. We have made a lot of achievements and progress, such as the adoption of the first version of the GSF and the ToR, Terms of Reference for Responsible Agricultural Investment.

We very much thank the Chairpersons of the Working Groups as well. In the Committee, we have agreed with the revised MYPOW, and identified priorities and major work streams. We have a lot of work before us, and based on the MYPOW, we have to renew our commitment and focus on the work we have prioritized as China and other Delegates have stated. We would like to continue our contribution.

With regard to RAI, which has been referred to by many Delegations, there are existing achievements. For example, the so-called PRAI by four international organizations including FAO, and also Germany will kindly host a forum to discuss agricultural investment early next year. We think that we can utilize these inputs from other fora as one of the inclusive deliberation.

Finally, we would like to refer to the Ministerial Meeting on Food Price Volatility which was held in the margin of the CFS this year. It was a good opportunity for Ministers to exchanged views when the world faced another food price hike this year. We thank the French minister Stéphane Le Foll for his chairpersonship.

Ms Natasha DAULTANA (Pakistan)

To begin with, on behalf of Pakistan we would like to make some brief comments. First, we would like to draw attention to the agenda of the CFS, which always has a large number of items. The result is that the items cannot be debated in-depth. It would be better if the agendas could be shorter so that the discussions are more focused.

We would also like to point out that the High-Level Panel of Experts tend to address issues which really are cross-cutting in nature and the subject of discussions in other fora as well. It will, again, be useful if there is a focused treatment of the issues.

To conclude, we would like to lend our support and acknowledge the outcomes of the 39th Session of CFS, and especially endorse items D and E of the outcomes listed in document C 2013/21. Finally, we would also like to support paragraph 41 of the document.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

Brazil fully endorses the statement made by the Delegation of Peru on behalf of GRULAC, and wishes to reiterate its support of the approval of the Report of the CFS, which reflects the open and

high-level debate the CFS has promoted during its 39th Session on important issues related to food security and nutrition.

We congratulate the CFS, its Chairman, Secretariat, Members and participants for the outcomes achieved in the 39th Session. Particularly, we wish to stress the importance of the adoption of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework, GSF, which consolidates international consensus and common views on food security and nutrition, and which provide a solid base for building policy frameworks and programmes.

For the GSF to fulfill its goal, we encourage Members to promote the approved document across the appropriate fora. We believe that the CFS has proven its value, and we are committed to working with Members and participants to further improve working methods with the aim of enhancing its effectiveness – the effectiveness of its decisions and recommendations.

M. Luis DURÃO (Portugal)

Le Portugal voudrait premièrement féliciter aussi comme les autres pays la nomination de Monsieur Gustafson, en lui souhaitant les plus grands succès dans sa fonction.

Pour le Portugal aujourd'hui dans cette Session, pour nous il est très important que notre participation soit faite en tant que nouveau Membre du Conseil de la FAO. Notre intention dans un cadre général de notre place en tant que Membres de la FAO et dans ce Conseil, est effectivement de pouvoir participer et donner une forte collaboration à la FAO, notamment dans la mise en œuvre des opérations et des actions sur le terrain.

En ce qui concerne le rapport et la Session du dernier Comité mondiale pour la sécurité alimentaire, je voudrais aussi remercier le travail qui a été effectué par le Président, qui effectivement a conduit la réunion d'une façon très positive. Dans ce contexte, je voudrais souligner que le Portugal est le seul pays qui en mêmes temps est, simultanément membre de la FAO, de l'Union européenne et aussi de la communauté des pays de langue portugaise. C'est une organisation dans laquelle font parti plusieurs pays qui sont ici avec nous dans le Conseil de la FAO, notamment de l'Afrique et de l'Amérique du Sud, le Brésil particulièrement. C'est dans ce contexte que nous attirons l'attention et l'importance énorme dans le cas de la sécurité alimentaire, de la stratégie pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutrition qui a été adoptée pour cette organisation des pays de langue portugaise.

C'est dans ce contexte que j'aimerais souligner la volonté et l'engagement du Portugal dans cette situation peu particulière de pouvoir être présent dans trois organisations différentes, mais qui sont ici, travaillant dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire de la FAO. Sa volonté est d'une participation active en collaboration, avec la FAO et dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire pour la mise en œuvre en pratique de cette stratégie qui a été adoptée par la communauté des pays de Langues portugaise, notamment en tenant compte évidemment des orientations et des lignes d'action que nous appuyons et que nous approuvons, et qui ont été adoptées par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, notamment en ce qui concerne le cadre stratégique global que nous considérons être un document de base très important, mais qu'il faut mettre en œuvre et concrétiser l'implémentation des orientations. Et aussi je dirai les premiers pas, la première étape qui commence, de dossiers très importants pour nous aussi des investissements agricoles responsables.

Pour finir, Monsieur le Président, le Portugal voudrait dire évidemment qu'il approuve et considère très important le rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire.

M. Akla-Esso M'Baw AROKOUM (Togo)

La Délégation Togolaise appuie la Déclaration faite par le délégué de l'Ouganda au nom du Groupe d'Afrique. Toutefois, nous avons constaté que le rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du CSA figurant sur le site de la FAO, n'est qu'en version anglaise. En égard à la pertinence des recommandations de ce Rapport, nous souhaiterions qu'il soit traduit dans les autres langues de la FAO.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada very much welcomes the emphasis on prioritization and greater attention to both the financial and human resource demands on the CFS, which has been a key part of most of the interventions we've heard so far.

We have long underlined these very important issues for CF Members and for all of its stakeholders to consider. We also very much look forward to the contribution from GRULAC with regard to the Round Tables and to their format. We found that the format this year was improved. However, we also found the format of the panel discussion on contributions of various other organizations to the work of the CFS very enlightening. This could serve as a model.

We also support the point made by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group on the nature of the Report of the Committee on World Food Security to this Council, in particular, that it should note the decisions with specific implications for FAO and therefore for the Council. We would, however, caution that in our consideration of the areas of work identified by the CFS Plenary, it has been our clear understanding in approving that Programme of Work, that we would proceed on the basis of availability of voluntary contributions. Although we certainly agree with the important role of the expertise and knowledge available among the human resources of the Agencies here in Rome, and their critical contribution to the work of the CFS.

With this in mind, we very much welcome the statements by the heads of all three

Agencies at the opening of the CFS regarding their willingness to carry forward the implementation of the decisions of the CFS.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia supports the statements by a number of other Delegations for the need of greater prioritization of the work programme of CFS, and also for increasing the effectiveness of CFS work.

FAO plays a key role in supporting CFS activities, particularly through providing a significant component of CFS Secretariats' activities. While obviously supportive of FAO's ongoing efforts in this regard, Australia would make the comment that it is dependent on voluntary donors, including countries, to fund CFS's increasing work programme rather than FAO out of its core budget.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse est globalement satisfaite des résultats de la 39^{ème} Session du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale. Nous estimons que le CSA a fait des progrès significatifs afin d'assumer son rôle de principal plateforme intergouvernemental et international en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition. Ceci dit, le CSA doit encore progresser pour être en mesure de répondre aux grandes attentes des parties prenantes.

A nos yeux, il doit notamment, comme l'ont relevé plusieurs délégations, mieux fixer les priorités, améliorer ses méthodes de travail, notamment pour ce qui est des organisations des Tables rondes, renforcer sa stratégie de communication et écrire un mécanisme de monitoring innovateur.

Mon pays se félicite particulièrement de l'adoption du mandat relatif à un investissement agricole responsable. La Suisse entend conduire la deuxième étape de ce processus avec diligence et pragmatisme et dans le même esprit de transparence et de confiance que durant la première étape. Nous espérons, et c'est un point important, pouvoir compter sur le soutien actif de la FAO dans ce processus de consultation.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I would first, on behalf of the Asia Group, like to condole with the family of the late Edouard Saouma, which I forgot to indicate in my initial statement.

I would also like to thank the Chair of the CFS. I'm sure this will be another feather in his cap, so to say, for a very productive document.

The Asia Group will be discussing this in due course, but on behalf of Sri Lanka, may I say that our Minister, among some two dozen other Ministers of Agriculture, participated at the CFS and made a very lucid, clear statement. I don't want to go into it in great detail, but just to say that we congratulate the Secretariat and the Secretary, and we hope that the explanations you afforded his wife were accepted for staying until close to midnight, working late.

Thank you very much and we endorse this.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Thank you for your comments and your queries. I will not attempt to answer any of them because we all work together on this, and it's true with regard to any document or any conclusions when you re-read them - you are likely to pick holes in them. The beauty of it is that since it's a collective responsibility, we take all those comments in, take the queries onboard and spend time discussing them intelligently in order to come to solutions that will move us forward.

I would be very hypocritical if I called on Kostas to even answer the questions, because he is more knowledgeable than I on solving cases. So if you permit me, Mr Chairman, let's agree that we have views. We have suggestions. We even have very strong views on some issues. But there are things that we are able to use to improve the whole process of CFS, and make us more efficient.

I can assure you that one thing I cherish very much is the issue of being ever more efficient, and at the same time, I'm sure we had our own disagreements during the process with respect to a number of Round Tables and so on and so forth. But democracy has a way of doing its own thing, only to be criticized after that. But I take it in good spirit that you have all mentioned it and we are ready to work and collaborate more and more in order to become more efficient.

GRULAC, we appreciate you. Africa, we appreciate you. Near East, Americas, and Asia, I must not forget you, and the individual countries that actually have input regarding this. Let's spare you the task of trying to answer the questions, but I can assure you we'll work on it.

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

Japan, I will use this argument, and the record and other witnesses that are here, in the next Plenary Session of the Committee about midnight. Secondly, I would like to reinforce what the Chair just said in the next joint Session of the Bureau and Advisory Group - quite a bit of time will be spent, like every year, on the After-Action Review, that is, what has gone well and what has not been done so well in the last year, in preparation for the 40th Session. I think the comments that were made here today, and the proposals which I'm sure will be restated during this meeting, will be extremely helpful in further streamlining the work of the Committee.

The third point will be on the communication strategy. I think, as it was mentioned in this room, that the communication strategy is fundamental. What CFS is and does goes beyond the responsibilities of the Secretariat and the Bureau, and becomes the responsibility of every single stakeholder of the Committee. That was one of the issues highlighted in the last meeting of the Bureau. Be that as it may, of course the Secretariat will work in collaboration with the Bureau Advisory Group on a complete communication strategy.

I would like to say that the comments with regard to the preparation and focus of the Sessions should be made quickly and decided upon. This process which is extremely useful, has to be balanced with the need of have a concrete agenda for the 40th Session as soon as possible, so it can act as a guide for all of us in the work that we have to do in preparation for that Session.

Finally, I would like to mention something regarding the status of food and security. I'm changing hats here. The paragraph actually refers to the percentage, to the prevalence, not to the number of hungry. All we're saying in SOFI is that if we continue the progress that we had between the beginning of the 90's and 2007, then we will come very close to meeting the MDG, which is stated in terms of percentages, not in terms of the numbers of hungry people. That is, of course, the reason. As populations increase, an effort that can be made to keep the number of hungry from increasing as fast

as population, which immediately reduces the percentage. So the MDG1 is a more modest task than the one set by the World Food Summit in 1996 on the numbers of hungry people.

The last point, which is the same as I made in the Session itself on behalf of the Joint Secretariat, is that I would like to thank all the stakeholders of the Committee, the Member Nations, civil society, the private sector, international organizations, the three-room base stages and others for the best collaboration I have experienced since I've been Secretary this year in pushing the issues forward.

Thank you very much, and the Chair says here to make sure that we congratulate Daniel Gustafson, who we already know, on behalf of the CFS on his appointment as the Deputy Director-General Operations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à tous de votre participation active montrant tout l'intérêt de ce sujet pour le Conseil et pour la FAO. Je vous propose des conclusions qui seront envoyées au Comité de rédaction et qui sont au nombre de douze. Merci de me signaler si un point important était oublié, nous le rajouterons.

Le Conseil fait siennes les conclusions figurant dans le rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du CSA (15-22 octobre 2012). En particulier, le Conseil:

- 1) suite à l'approbation par le CSA de la première version du Cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, encourage toutes les parties prenantes à promouvoir et utiliser ce document lors de la formulation de stratégies, politiques et programmes en matière de sécurité alimentaire, nutrition, agriculture, pêches et forêts;
- 2) approuve les activités du Comité en matière de suivi;
- 3) appuie la requête adressée par le CSA au Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur le programme de travail pluriannuel pour que celui-ci: affine son processus d'établissement de priorités pour les cycles d'activités futures, en tenant compte des idées formulées au niveau régional; examine les lacunes et les nouvelles problématiques en matière de priorité, sélection et intégration;
- 4) note que les efforts se poursuivent pour harmoniser les méthodes, outils et systèmes d'information employés pour assurer une meilleure cohérence de la cartographie des actions en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition;
- 5) note que le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau a été chargé d'entreprendre deux études pour répondre aux lacunes en matière de politique et de nouveaux enjeux à savoir: a) L'importance des pêches et de l'agriculture durable pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition; b) Les pertes et le gaspillage des denrées alimentaires dans ce contexte de systèmes alimentaires durables.
- 6) se félicite des travaux innovateurs réalisés par le CSA et l'encourage à poursuivre ses efforts, en relation avec l'ensemble des parties prenantes et en prenant en considération les suggestions sur les méthodes de travail du CSA reçues par le Conseil;
- 7) encourage le CSA à concentrer ses efforts sur la mise en œuvre des conclusions du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et le changement climatique, afin d'assurer un aboutissement concret à ses travaux;
- 8) encourage le CSA à développer une stratégie de communication solide et efficace visant à disséminer au mieux ses décisions et activités au soutien de la sécurité alimentaire parmi toutes les parties prenantes;
- 9) recommande que les conclusions du rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du CSA soient prises en considération lors de la préparation du Programme du travail et budget (PTB) 2014-15, notamment au chapitre des ressources extra-budgétaires;
- 10) invite le CSA à réévaluer ses méthodes de travail, visant notamment à: a) raccourcir et hiérarchiser les points à l'Ordre du jour; b) profiter au maximum du temps alloué aux travaux en Séance plénière; c) limiter le nombre d'Evénements parallèles; d) prioriser et renforcer les travaux des tables rondes;

11) note que le Bureau a été chargé de définir les procédures de sélection du Secrétaire du CSA, ainsi que les qualifications et le mandat du secrétaire, les modalités et conditions de nomination au Secrétariat du CSA d'un fonctionnaire issu d'une autre instance du système des Nations Unies directement concernée par la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition; et enfin 12) encourage le Bureau, le Groupe Consultatif et le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, assistés du Secrétariat, à continuer leur travail, dans l'esprit du CSA réformé, et à donner suite, chacun dans le cadre de ses attributions, aux décisions prises par le CSA lors de la 39^{ème} Session.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Je vous remercie de ces propositions après un débat qui a été très riche. J'ai noté deux points.

D'abord il serait souhaitable que ces conclusions soient exprimées dans le strict respect des prérogatives de chaque institution, celles du Conseil et celles du CSA. Il y a eu un certain nombre de recommandations sur les méthodes de travail de CSA, mais c'est le CSA qui en décide, et à vrai dire, comme le Président l'a dit, toutes les décisions du CSA ont été des décisions collectives prises par à peu près chacun d'entre nous dans la salle. Nous sommes donc pleinement responsables au CSA des décisions que nous prenons, des ordres du jour que nous adoptons et des travaux que nous lançons.

Le deuxième point concerne, je crois, votre recommandation au Point 9. Il nous semble que les sujets que traite le CSA sont des sujets qui intéressent les questions relatives à la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition. Ce ne sont pas des sujets qui sont extérieurs aux préoccupations de la FAO ni au Programme de travail de la FAO. Donc pour la plupart des recommandations du CSA, ces sujets s'appuient sur une expertise qui est présente dans les organisations internationales romaines, présente à la FAO, au FIDA, et donc ne s'appuient pas seulement que sur des ressources extra-budgétaires. Je vous remercie.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

My point was also in regard to your ninth Point. Listening to you and then to the English interpretation, I don't believe, with apologies to the interpreters, that they fully captured it. So I was going to ask first if you could repeat it, and the same for Point 7. I heard a specific reference to climate change, but I don't believe that was the only issue that we felt should be addressed in that way.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Évidemment cela fait beaucoup de sujets. Mais sur la remarque de la France, bien sûr, le CSA a son fonctionnement propre, mais nous sommes en Conseil et nous rapportons au Conseil un certain nombre de choses. Nous ne décidons pas pour le compte du CSA, mais nous recommandons au CSA. Cela est tout à fait dans l'ordre des choses puisque nous sommes en aval du travail qui a été fait au CSA et que nous avons pu observer.

Il s'agit donc uniquement de recommandations. Il est bien sûr à la charge du CSA d'en tenir compte et nous souhaitons qu'il en tienne compte, sous la responsabilité des Membres.

Sur le deuxième point que vous avez évoqué, cela a peut-être été oublié mais au point 9 il s'agit bien des ressources extra-budgétaires, et il est bien indiqué « notamment ». C'est-à-dire que nous n'avons pas rendu le financement uniquement avec les ressources budgétaires. Donc je veux bien à la demande du Canada lire, relire les deux points, le 7 et le 9.

Point 7: le Conseil « encourage le CSA à concentrer ses efforts sur la mise en œuvre des conclusions du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et le changement climatique, afin d'assurer un aboutissement concret à ses travaux ».

Et pour le Point 9: le Conseil « recommande que les conclusions du rapport de la 39^{ème} Session du CSA soient prises en considération lors de la préparation du Programme du travail et budget (PTB) 2014-15, notamment au chapitre des ressources extra-budgétaires. Donc, ça n'exclue pas que ce soit tous les financements.

Voilà ce que je pouvais vous dire, mais merci de ces demandes d'explication.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Seeing as you are chairing, your summary is more than enough, and the final report for you to consider is the Report of the Drafting Committee. As Chairman, while chairing, your summary has been very excellent. Of course, you are a human being. You can make a mistake or error, but the final version we can't pass is the Drafting Committee, so take that note also. While you are chairing, you are not expected to make such a detailed report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie de ces félicitations qui me vont droit au cœur et en particulier aussi, à celui des représentants du Secrétariat, et de mon conseiller qui ont travaillé avec moi.

Je vous propose donc de transférer ces points au Comité de rédaction.

Je vous propose de suspendre nos travaux, mais je tiens à vous dire qu'à deux heures et demie, dès que 25 membres du Conseil seront présents, nous commencerons. Donc à charge à vous de vous organiser pour vous reposer, pour déjeuner, et participer aussi au « Side Event », très important, organisé par le « Rule Act ».

The meeting rose at 12.49 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 49

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.49 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 December 2012

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.43 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.43
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

8. Technical Committees: Programme and Budget Matters arising from:

8. Comités techniques

8. Comités técnicos

8.2 Report of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (28-30 May 2012)

8.2 Rapport de la 69^{ème} Session du Comité des produits (28-30 mai 2012)

8.2 Informe del 69.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (28-30 de mayo de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous prenons le point 8.2, le *Rapport de la 69^{ème} Session du Comité des produits* qui a eu lieu en Mai 2012, document C 2013/23. Je donne donc la parole à Eric Robinson, Président du Comité des produits.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

Independent Chairperson of Council, distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great pleasure for me to be presenting to you this afternoon the Report of the last Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

I'd like to thank the members for giving me the opportunity to act as Chair at this interesting and important time in the Committee's evolution. The previous CCP Bureau has done great work over the past two years on reforming the Committee, work that has renewed the strong foundation of the Committee, and at the same time, set the standard for the new Bureau. That work is reflected in the Report of the 69th Session of the CCP that I'm pleased to be able to present to you today.

The Session took place from 28 to 30 May 2012 and was attended by 97 out of the total 119 Member Nations. In addition, seven FAO Member Nations, the whole EC, two UN organizations, 13 international organizations, and four NGO's participated as observers.

The Session covered agenda items that were grouped under three major themes; the state of the world's agricultural markets, policy developments, and international action on agricultural commodities. The Committee's deliberations were supported by the excellent preparatory work undertaken by the Secretariat and three Side Events were organized on occasion of the Session: the first on the Italian Commodities Exchange, the second on the theme of Enhancing Inter-African Trade, and the third an animated presentation titled "A Chronicle of Food and Hunger".

In addition, a special event with the participation of the president of Costa Rica celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives was organized. Two Special Ambassadors for Cooperatives were nominated by the Director General during this event.

A key issue discussed in this Session was the reform of the CCP. The Committee deliberated on the proposals that emerged from the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on CCP reform. The Committee confirmed that the terms of reference of the CCP are appropriate and remain valid underlining the importance of maintaining the current balance between market and policy analysis.

The Committee agreed to the enlargement of the CCP Bureau from three to seven members, with one Representative from each regional group. With Canada as Chair, the newly-elected Bureau includes six vice-chairs, Australia, Chile, Iran, the Philippines, Portugal and Zimbabwe. The Committee also agreed that the enlarged Bureau should act as a Steering Committee to improve the continuity of activities between formal Sessions and, in addition, to raise the profile of the CCP. The Committee underlined the importance of promoting increased involvement of interGovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the work of the CCP.

This is a good start, and I'm looking forward to working to build on the solid progress made to-date. While we have come quite a long way with CCP reform, we still have much to do. The future of the interGovernmental commodity groups and the Consultative Sub-committee on Surplus Disposal needs to be rigorously examined. These issues will be considered at the next Session of the CCP.

Another area where we would like to focus in the coming term is the organization of appropriate inter-Sessional activities facilitated by the Bureau with the support of the Secretariat. I'm pleased to report that the preliminary work in this area has already begun. The Committee recognizes the importance and need for more timely and accurate information on commodity markets from improved food security and vulnerability information and for analytical studies on commodity and trade policies. This information will help to enhance market transparency and reduce price volatility.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of evidence-based analysis to improve understanding of patterns and determinants of small-holder participation in markets. The progress made in the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System, AMIS, was also noted. The value of AMIS was made evident earlier this autumn when the system helped prevent panic and stop the worst drought in decades turning into a food-priced crisis as had happened in the past.

I'll now briefly highlight the points for the attention of the Council listed in the box on page two of document C 2013/23. The Council is kindly invited to endorse the Report of the 69th Session of the CCP, confirm the importance of the products and services provided to FAO in terms of commodity markets information and analysis, and underline the importance of maintaining FAO's commodity market information and analysis capacity, take note of the progress made and the implementation of AMIS, endorse the CCP's recommendations that FAO keep a close watch on food price movements and policy responses and strengthen its assistance to Member Nations on actions to effectively mitigate the negative effects of high and volatile food prices. It is also called upon to support the CCP's advice regarding the allocation of appropriate resources to ensure a better understanding of the determinants of small-holder participation in markets and the policies needed to address them, and endorse the CCP's formulation of the technical priority areas falling under its remit; commodity market information, monitoring and outlook, food security information and early warning, policies and strategies to support small holder integration into markets and value chains, trade and food security, climate change and trade, and policy analysis and emerging issues.

Finally, we welcome the work accomplished by the Open-Ended Working Group on CCP reform and take note of the CCP's decisions regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, notably, the decision to enlarge the Bureau from three to seven members, with one Representative from each Regional group.

In closing, I would once again like to thank the Secretariat and former CCP Bureau members for their hard work and leadership which has enabled significant progress with the reform of the CCP. I'm excited to be working with a new Bureau to continue to improve the functioning of the CCP and to strengthen its position of the center of the global debate on agricultural commodity markets, trade and related policy matters.

M. Marc YOMBOUNO (Guinée)

Ma délégation intervient au nom du Groupe régional d'Afrique sur le point de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil concernant le Rapport de la 69^{ème} Session du Comité des produits, notamment aux questions relatives au programme et budget du Comité. Je voudrais avant tout féliciter les membres de ce Comité et son Secrétariat pour la qualité du travail abattu au cours de la Session tenue du 28 au 30 mai 2012 à Rome et dont le rapport es soumis à la présente Session du Conseil.

La région Afrique note sa satisfaction sur le contenu du Rapport, qui prend en compte les principales questions se rapportant à la situation des marchés mondiaux des produits agricoles, au cadre politique relatif au commerce international et au système d'information sur les produits et leur prix, ainsi que les mesures institutionnelles relatives à la reforme du Comité des produits, ses activités prioritaires et son budget-programme.

Cependant, quelques éléments d'appréciation figurant dans le rapport méritent d'être évoqués pour tenir compte des préoccupations des pays moins avancés et des pays en développement par Rapport au commerce international et l'accès au marché des produits agricoles. En effet, la hausse récurrente des prix des produits alimentaires constitue un défi majeur à relever pour la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi l'essentiel des négociations des droits portent sur l'agriculture, et l'accès au marché doit viser plutôt un programme de développement dans un contexte de commerce équitable. Ce

programme au-delà des échanges doit prendre en compte la protection de l'environnement, la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, le développement rural la promotion des industries agricoles et agro-alimentaires, la création d'emplois et l'accroissement des revenus des producteurs.

Comme nous le savons, le commerce équitable assure un revenu correct aux producteurs des pays du Sud, pour leur permettre de développer des activités à long terme. Particulièrement en Afrique, il s'avère nécessaire d'accroître la productivité agricole et de mener des actions concourant à la compétitivité des produits sur le marché. Pour ce faire, il convient de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles à négociations, commerciales et un système d'information sur les produits et les marchés, de développer les infrastructures commerciales et la chaîne de valeurs en recherchant la qualité des produits dans le respect des normes requises, d'améliorer les infrastructures de base nécessaires au développement, à savoir, l'eau, l'électricité, le transport, y compris les infrastructures d'accès au marché. Tels sont les commentaires que nous formulons sur le rapport du Comité des produits.

Monsieur le Président, à l'examen de ce Rapport, ma délégation, au nom de l'Afrique, félicite le Comité pour l'ensemble des résultats obtenus à l'issue de ses travaux et met un accent particulier sur le point ci-après: la recommandation invitant la FAO à renforcer l'aide apportée aux États Membres en matière de politique et programme, en vue d'atténuer les effets négatifs que l'instabilité des prix a sur les populations vulnérables. La recommandation relative à l'appui aux États Membres de la FAO pour faciliter l'accès des petits producteurs aux marchés, y compris l'allocation des ressources nécessaires à leur activité. Nous apprécions également la recomposition du Bureau du Comité des produits qui passe de 3 à 7 membres pour tenir compte de la représentativité effective de tous les Groupes régionaux. Dans la même logique, nous saluons la décision de faire participer aux travaux du Comité, les organisations intergouvernementales de produits, la société civile et le secteur privé.

Pour terminer, ma délégation, au nom de la région Afrique, souhaite l'approbation par le Conseil du programme prioritaire du Comité des produits qui s'inscrit dans le cadre stratégique révisé de la FAO et dans le processus de réflexion lancé par le Directeur général sur les nouveaux défis mondiaux.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

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

The EU thanks the Secretariat for providing document C 2013/23 which offers valuable summary of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. The EU welcomes that the Report underlines the progress made in the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and, consequently, encourages all the parties' input in AMIS to enhance efforts in providing the required information to the Secretariat of AMIS.

The European Union has consistently demonstrated its longstanding commitment in trade negotiations with a balanced approach engaging constructively with others to find acceptable compromises. The conclusion of an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced Doha Round remains a tough priority for the European Union in terms of trade policy.

The EU recognizes support provided to Members in the area of support to small-holder participation in markets while recognizing the importance and need for more timely and reliable information on commodity markets, improved food security, nutrition and vulnerability information, and analytical studies as a measure to enhance market transparency and reduce price volatility. The EU recalls the risks for the most vulnerable populations if certain policies, actions, measures are not taken, for example, on the follow-up provisions regarding the removal of export restrictions or taxes on food purchase for non-commercial humanitarian purposes.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I'm honoured to speak on behalf of Near East Group. Before I begin my statement I would like to express our sympathy and condolences to the family of Dr Edouard Saouma.

We welcome the document on the Committee on Commodity Problems. Concerning the state of the world agriculture commodity markets, we recognize the importance of market stability and the necessity of integrated measures based on deep analysis to overcome possible further sources of aggravation to commodity prices. In this context, we wish to highlight paragraph 8 regarding the importance of FAO commodity market information and analysis in promoting market transparency and in supporting policy formulation.

We fully support paragraph 10 recognizing the importance of improved market access for commodities from developing countries as a way to enhance their food security and income generating objective. Concerning the Agricultural Market Information System, AMIS, we welcome the comment on collaboration between FAO and other international institutions for the preparation of the price volatility and appreciate the significant contribution made by FAO in preparing the inter-agency report on price volatility and also FAO's subsequent leadership in AMIS activities. In this regard, we emphasize the equal right of all Member Nations, with special consideration for developing countries.

We reiterate the importance of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in agriculture at the WTO and further progress to the Doha Round agreement for its potential contribution to creating an enabling environment for agricultural development and food security as well as in the present context to responding to high and volatile food prices. We stress the recommendations made in paragraph 16 for strengthening the capacity in different areas particularly, Sub-item (d), assisting the developing countries in negotiating and implementing their trade agreements and preparedness for any eventual agreement in the Doha Round.

Regarding paragraph 17, recognizing FAO's strong collaboration with other international organizations, including WTO, in delivering technical assistance programmes in conducting studies on market and trade policy issues in implementing for food security, we believe a clear mechanism needs to be defined for materializing the successful collaboration and fruitful outcome with relevant international Bodies.

We also emphasize the Two sub items in paragraph 19 as follows: paragraph (d) recommended that FAO keep a close watch on food commodity price movements and policy responses and conduct in-depth analysis and country-case studies as required. Paragraph (d) requested FAO to continue and strengthen its assistance to Member Nations in both policy and programmatic actions to effectively mitigate the negative effects of high and excessive volatile food prices on vulnerable populations.

Considering the policy intervention support of small-holder participation in market, we support paragraphs 20-21 and we reiterate the importance of providing support to small-holder participation in markets including the practice guidelines on policy approaches to improve and facilitate greater availability of small-holder participation in agricultural local markets and national and international markets, as well as the main focus on strengthening of the small-holder integration into market and commodity value chain.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the work and comprehensive Report of the 89th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. My Delegation welcomes the document that has been prepared emphasizing the role of FAO in supporting various fora and initiatives to meet the ever-increasing global food demand. In particular, the one initiated by the G20, that is the Agricultural Market Information System, or AMIS, can be used to forecast global food supply demand and price movements and at the end will be useful in reducing food price volatility.

My Delegation is of the view that FAO needs to continue providing support and reinforcement to its Member Nations to have a sound and practical programme, as well as to minimize the negative impact of food price volatility that may lead to food insecurity and malnutrition. Our Delegation also feels that while achieving the Strategic Objectives, we should consider several important priorities, particularly the provision of information on commodity markets, and early warning system, and a policy to provide small farmers access to markets and value chain and to assist them in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

My Delegation considers that the growing importance of the role of AMIS in food security needs to be addressed by improving the quality and updating of data and supporting facilities. We suggest that commodity coverage of AMIS should be extended not only on rice, wheat, corn and soybeans but also to other important commodities such as meat, milk and sugar.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I will take the lead from the Chairperson from the CFS this morning with his comments and just thank you for your comments. Certainly I, myself, and the new Bureau will take them on board.

Mr Neil FRASER (Observer for New Zealand)

Concerning this item on the Committee on Commodity Problems Report, we're happy with and we agree with the matters for attention of Council on page two of this document. We think it gives good coverage of the work of this important Committee.

Members here may or may not be aware that some years ago, the Committee on Commodity Problems was under threat – but recent years have certainly shown how valuable and essential this Committee is. We're happy with the way it has worked to have COAG and CCP in different weeks; indeed in consecutive works. This allows both Committees more space to express their needs and interests and we would like to see that continue.

We note the references to AMIS in the box. AMIS and CCP have many shared interests and should work hand in glove. In fact, I see that CCP and AMIS should be each other's best clients.

Just a word about reform of CCP. We're pleased to see the reforms that were agreed at the last CCP meeting earlier this year but as the incoming Chair mentioned, further reforms are possible.

We are still of the view that the name of this Committee is an anachronism. The Committee on Commodity Problems should be updated to something that is more suitable to modern days. The CCP was the first Technical Committee to be established in this organization, so at that time over 50 years ago I think it was set up, there may have been commodity problems and they were referred to as such at the time. But if you go into this document that we were given, on page two, if you look for commodity or problems, there is no mention. There is trade, there's markets, there are other issues, such as economics. But commodity problems is now an outdated, outmoded terminology for this Committee. So we think a rather better and more appropriate name would give the world a much more meaningful guide to the valuable work of this Committee.

We remain hopeful that the reforms of the CCP will yet provide the Committee with a more appropriate name.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

The only thing I would say about that point is if I wasn't Chair of a Committee on Problems. It would be easier to explain to my kids so I take it on board.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, je vous propose de tirer quelques conclusions pour envoyer au Comité de rédaction.

Le Conseil approuve les conclusions et recommandations contenues dans le Rapport de la 69^{ème} Session du Comité des produits du 28 et 30 mai 2012. En particulier, le Conseil confirme l'importance des services assurés par la FAO en matière d'information et d'analyse concernant les marchés des produits, notamment pour la promotion de la transparence des marchés et la formulation des politiques et souligne combien il est important de maintenir ces capacités dans ce domaine. Il recommande, en outre, que le Secrétariat tienne compte dans son analyse des liens entre les marchés agricoles, financiers et de l'énergie.

En deuxième point, le Conseil prend note des progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre du système d'information sur les marchés agricoles AMIS et de l'intérêt particulier que présentent les activités de cette initiative pour le Comité des produits et ses organes subsidiaires, en invitant les pays concernés à contribuer pleinement à ce système.

Le Conseil approuve les recommandations du Comité des produits dans le sens d'un suivi attentif de l'évolution des prix des denrées alimentaires et les mesures prises à cet effet et relatives à des analyses approfondies et à des études de cas par pays. Il demande à l'Organisation de maintenir et renforcer l'aide qu'elle apporte aux États Membres en matière de politique et de programme en vue d'atténuer efficacement les effets négatifs du niveau élevé et de l'instabilité des prix des denrées alimentaires, notamment au moyen du renforcement des capacités institutionnelles à la négociation.

Il reconnaît l'importance d'une collaboration étroite entre la FAO et d'autres organisations internationales, notamment l'OMC.

Quatrième point, Le Conseil approuve les priorités techniques à intégrer, s'agissent de relever les principaux défis dans la formulation des nouveaux Objectifs Stratégiques et des Plans d'actions et programmes dans le cadre des activités futures de l'Organisations et qui sont les suivantes:

1. information, activités de suivis et perspectives relatives aux marchés des produits agricoles ;
2. information et dispositifs d'alerte rapide concernant la sécurité alimentaire ;
3. politiques et stratégies visant à favoriser l'intégration des petits producteurs au marché et chaînes de valeurs ;
4. commerce agricole et sécurité alimentaire ;
5. changement climatique et commerce ; et
6. analyse des politiques et questions émergentes.

Le cinquième point, le Conseil prend note des décisions du Comité quant aux conclusions et recommandations du Groupe de travaille à composition non limitée, sur la réforme du Comité des Produits, notamment la décision d'élargissement du Bureau du Comité. Sa composition passant de 3 à 7 membres, avec un représentant de chaque Groupe Régional, et se félicite du travail accompli par le Groupe.

8.1 Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (21-25 May 2012)

8.1 Rapport de la 23^{ème} Session du Comité de l'agriculture (21-25 mai 2012)

8.1 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (21-25 de mayo de 2012)

(a) International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

(a) Code de conduite international sur la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides

(a) Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Alors sans ne plus attendre, je vais demander au Président du COAG de bien vouloir venir présenter le rapport du COAG.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura)

Señor Presidente, antes de realizar mi intervención, deseo reconocer la presencia junto a la Delegación de la República Dominicana, de la diputada al Congreso Nacional, Guadalupe Valdez, quien es la Coordinadora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe del Frente Parlamentario contra el Hambre y quien nos acompañó en el acto paralelo sobre la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre 2025 que celebramos hace un rato en la Sala con su presencia, Presidente. Gracias por acompañarnos.

Señor Presidente, distinguidos Miembros del Consejo y Observadores. Es un honor presentarles el Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura celebrado en esta Sala del 21 al 25 de mayo de este año. De los 132 Países Miembros del COAG, 111 estuvieron presentes en la reunión. También participaron 5 Países Miembros de la FAO, la Santa Sede, una organización de Naciones Unidas, una organización intergubernamental y 14 organizaciones no gubernamentales como observadores.

Continues in English

The 23rd Session of COAG brings to the attention of Council its findings and recommendations on global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization. The Committee welcomed the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General in order to determine the future strategic direction of FAO.

The Committee highlighted a number of priority technical areas under its mandate to be taken into account, including sustainable agricultural production and productivity, attention to non-traditional crops, post-harvest food losses and waste in the food chain, resilience of rural livelihoods, and capacity-building among others. Please refer to paragraph 8 of the Report for a comprehensive list of priorities.

On options for stakeholder dialogue in support of sustainable livestock development, the Committee recognized the need to establish a novel and functional governing system for the global agenda of action and requested further information regarding its development and its relation to COAG.

On sustainable crop production intensification, the Committee approved the Progress Report on the implementation of the eco-system approach strategy, supported at its 22nd Session, with the revised title of Sustainable Production Intensification. The Committee noted the importance of a holistic approach to production that integrates economic, social, and environmental sustainability including the need for complimentary actions along the food chains and sustainable diets, and encouraged countries to incorporate it within their national agricultural development strategies.

The Committee also recommended examining the save and grow approach. On perspectives of land and water resources in a changing climate, the Committee endorsed FAO's strategy for the provision of technical assistance and advice on the planning and management of national natural resources for food and agriculture under different climatic and management conditions, with a special consideration of family farms and women farmers.

The Committee noted the proposed establishment of a small coordinating unit on regional and global perspectives on natural resources for food and agriculture. On item 8b), the Global Soil Partnership, we have identified the need for clarity on certain details contained in document CL 145/LIM/7 such as correcting a printing mistake and reviewing the usage of a couple of appropriate terms.

For this reason, I am convening a Special Session of the COAG Bureau to be held as soon as today's Council business comes to a close. This meeting will be open to all FAO Members for the sake of transparency. Document CL 145/LIM/7 will not be re-opened. This will be a consultation to perfect the document, and not a negotiation.

I ask Mr Chairman and members of the Council to reschedule Item 8b, Global Soil Partnership, to a later point within this Council Session.

On improving statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development, the Committee endorsed the Action Plan for improving statistics at all levels and called on Member Nations to consider implementing this while reinforcing their commitment to strengthening national agricultural systems through allocation of adequate resources.

On the update of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the Committee noted its critical role in agriculture development, welcoming the draft updated text, and the proposal to present the finalized version for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Environmental Programme.

In order to ensure a broader and more inclusive consultation among all stakeholders, the Committee Delegated the COAG Bureau to launch a process leading to this Council Session and for subsequent adoption by the 38th FAO Conference next June before submission to the Governing Bodies of WHO and UNEP.

The Bureau took immediate action to comply with the Committee's mandate, engaging all FAO Members. After incorporating country inputs and with technical support from the joint WHO/UNEP Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, the Bureau approved the final text renamed as

International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management. This was done on 10 October. These voluntary guidelines are submitted in document CL 145/LIM/6 Rev.1.

Acting upon a mandate from the Committee, the Bureau has initiated a consultative process on rules of procedure with a view to submit a text for adoption at the 24th Session of COAG. I would like to take a final moment to thank and recognize COAG Secretary Robert Guei, Mark Davis from FAO pesticides management, and Bureau members Matthew Worrell from Australia, Sultana Afroz from Bangladesh, Monique Ndongo from Cameroon, Michael Michener from the United States of America, Mohammad Elnor of Sudan, and Francois Pythoud of Switzerland.

Continúa en Español

Señor Presidente, miembros del Consejo, estos son algunos de los puntos destacados del Reporte del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura contenido en el documento C 2013/22, el cual someto a su atenta consideración.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia endorses the findings and recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture. As a member of the COAG Bureau, Australia is involved in the interSessional work of the Committee. In this context, we have been heavily engaged in efforts to finalize the revision to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management.

Australia is now in the position to support the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct and, therefore, endorses it being submitted to Conference for approval. Australia welcomes the proposed adoption of the revised Code of Conduct by the Governing Bodies of WHO and UNEP.

Australia agrees to consider the revised Code of Conduct in reference to its activities regulating pesticides.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

La Representación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela toma la palabra, en esta oportunidad, en su calidad de Presidente del G77 y China. Quiero aprovechar en una primera oportunidad para agradecerle al Embajador Mario Arvelo Caamaño, Presidente del COAG, al Bureau de este Comité, así como al secretariado por el trabajo que han desarrollado que condujo a la realización exitosa del Comité de Agricultura. El G77 en su reciente reunión, escuchó el Informe del Presidente del Comité, quien hizo pues un esbozo mucho más detallado que lo que acabamos de escuchar sobre el Informe Final de ese 23.º período de sesiones.

El G77 recibió satisfactoriamente el Informe del COAG entendiendo que, de manera resumida como él lo ha presentado acá y tal como está presentado como documentación para esta Reunión, presenta un enfoque práctico, dirigido, orientado a la acción, y los acuerdos que fueron alcanzados dentro del seno de esa reunión. El Informe contenido en el documento C 2013/22 traza una clara hoja de ruta para que pueda ser impulsado con vigor la labor de la Organización tanto en el ámbito de la agricultura como de la actividad agropecuaria, las cuales son cruciales para conseguir los objetivos de la Organización ayudando así a la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición. Por tanto, el G77 presenta acá el apoyo para que los Miembros del Consejo puedan aprobar el Informe del COAG.

En cuanto al Código Internacional de Conducta para el Manejo de Plaguicidas, se ha valorado el proceso de negociación que se inició hace 4 años con activa participación de los Países Miembros y actores involucrados en esta materia, incluidos el sector privado y sociedad civil. Este proceso, que fue un proceso amplio y transparente tal como se nos esbozó en esta reunión del G77, contó también con el apoyo de expertos de la Organización Mundial de la Salud y del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente. Esas consultas y negociaciones han culminado en la presentación de un marco de referencia para informar las decisiones de las autoridades nacionales que tengan a bien diseñar esta temática tan delicada y de importancia vital para los países, en especial para los países en desarrollo. Este documento actualizado sobre el manejo de Plaguicidas servirá para proteger la salud de los agricultores, para preservar el equilibrio medio-ambiental, para intensificar la producción y la productividad agro-alimentaria de modo que el texto contenido en el documento CL 145/LIM/6 Rev.1

representa, pues, un salto cualitativo, un salto, diríamos hacia adelante en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición. El G77, por tanto, acordó que nuestras Delegaciones Miembros del Consejo den su aprobación, repito, a este Código Internacional de Conducta para el Manejo de Plaguicidas y que luego pueda ser, a partir de hoy, remitido, a la Conferencia Regional.

Ya hemos escuchado la aclaración que ha hecho el Presidente del COAG sobre la Alianza Mundial para los Suelos, y estaríamos atentos a ver esas correcciones de carácter de traducción, si se quiere, de semántica, de frases que probablemente requieran esa revisión y usted, por tanto, nos presentará, más adelante, esa Alianza Mundial, la cual es vista con buenos ojos toda vez que ha sido un proceso también de consulta dentro de la FAO y en el cual hemos participado durante un poco más de un año los Miembros de esta institución.

Por tanto, señor presidente, muchas gracias y aspiramos que los Miembros de este Consejo puedan dar la aprobación a este Informe presentado por el Presidente del COAG derivado de su última sesión de trabajo.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

I am not a member and I was not prepared but if I am given the chance, I will take it. I would like to express our position to the Chair of COAG for his excellent presentation and also for his excellent leadership in leading COAG. So we welcome his recommendations and we support that Council approves the document.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

L'Ethiopie a intervenu dans le même sens que nous. Nous appuyons l'adoption du Code d'utilisation des pesticides. Je vous remercie.

Mr Yuichi SATO (Japan)

Thank you for the presentation made by the Chair of COAG. Japan would like to propose the complimentary consultation processes for the finalization of the definition of pest which is newly-proposed for this Council and the related division of pest management, page seven of the proposed document.

These definitions were definitely not included as part of the scope of the consultation process decided at the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture, COAG. These definitions have not yet been circulated for comments to Member Nations as far as we understand. On the other hand, the definitions of pest and pest management are very fundamental, and the basis for the Code of Conduct.

Japan believes that it is essential to provide Member Nations complimentary opportunities to value and comment, specifically on newly-proposed definitions of pest and pest management for ensuring consistency with current definitions.

If it is difficult to have an opportunity for additional consultations, Japan would like to propose to improve the descriptions more specifically. First, regarding the proposed definition of pest. After the words *materials or environments*, in the proposed text, we would like to propose to add the following wording, namely *“during the production storage, transport, distribution, and processing of food, agriculture commodities or animal feeds”*, for ensuring consistency with the definitions of Codex. In addition, the words *“vectors of”* should be eliminated.

Regarding the proposed definition of pest management, *“regulatory and technical control”* should be improved by rephrasing to *“regulatory and/or technical controls”* because the entities that are addressed by this Code of Conduct should include stakeholders such as manufacturers or users of pesticides in addition to the regulatory authorities.

In addition, after the words *“containers”*, the following working should be added for consistency with proposed 1.7.3 and 1.7.5 *“control of pesticide residues in food and feed this includes the notion of pesticide residues to the scope of this Code of Conduct.”*

Mr Michael V. MICHENER (United States of America)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work in producing the document and especially recognize the Chair, Mario Arvelo, for his leadership and collaborative spirit. The United States remains committed to the active cooperation with FAO in particular at the technical level. We believe that as the world's foremost technical organization for agriculture, it is important that FAO leverage its resources to maximize the impact of all of its activities.

We are pleased to agree with all of the findings and recommendations of the Committee. In particular with regard to the Report item entitled Global Trends and Future Challenges for the Work of the Organization, we would like to highlight the need for a clear line of sight between FAO's Strategic Objectives and work on the ground in order to translate FAO's normative and standard-setting work into country-level impact.

With regard to another item, Perspectives of Land and Water Resources in a Changing Climate, FAO should strive to ensure that sufficient, reliable and impartial information and knowledge on sustainable management of natural resources for food and agriculture be available to Member Nations to support policy decisions and interventions on food and agriculture at national, regional and global levels in the context of climate change.

FAO should seek to ensure that knowledge provided is supported by a wide scientific consensus. We would like to point out that we fully endorse the Action Plan for improving statistics at sub-national, national, regional and global levels for food security, sustainable agriculture, rural development and its governance. And we believe that the Plan will also benefit efforts underway in the Agricultural Market Information System, or AMIS, to increase transparency of global grain stocks.

Regarding the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides, this has long been a cornerstone of international collaborative work in the public and private sectors to promote sound pesticide management and its voluntary implementation compliments other international and multilateral agreements and programmes. The United States shares FAO's commitment to the promotion of the long-term viability of agricultural production in conjunction with public health and environmental protection. Further, the expansion of the Code's scope to include pesticides used for public health purposes is commendable and reflects the constructive contributions of the World Health Organization to this activity.

The United States strives for allegiance to the principles of scientific integrity as the basis for decisions and transparency as the foundation for a credible decision-making process. Our domestic processes allow opportunities for robust stakeholder participation consistent with appropriate legal frameworks, as well as complete documentation and evaluation of all public comments.

We believe these principles to be the key to ensuring that all countries, especially developing countries have comprehensive and accurate information that supports safer pesticide use practices and risk-based decision-making appropriate to their circumstances. We are pleased that the COAG Bureau and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management of WHO and FAO have successfully incorporated most of the revisions that the stakeholders provided.

The United States can at this time endorse the Code, and recommend that it is moved for adoption by the Conference. We also concur with the proposed change in the name.

Sr. Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

En primer lugar, Cuba desea reconocer el trabajo realizado por la Mesa del Comité de Agricultura para alcanzar el consenso en torno a este texto del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas como culminación de un largo proceso de negociación, por lo que apoyamos su aprobación.

Esta actualización del Código permite tomar en cuenta nuevos conceptos en el manejo de plaguicidas a lo largo del ciclo de vida del mismo resultando muy útil, en especial, para los países en desarrollo con vistas a lograr prácticas agrícolas responsables y sostenibles sin peligros para la salud humana y el medio-ambiente. Tenemos la esperanza de que futuras actualizaciones y adecuaciones que resulten

necesarios realizar no conlleve a un período tan largo de negociación con el que ha sido necesario para alcanzar consenso con el presente documento.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole à l'Union Européenne qui parlera au nom de l'Union Européenne de ses 27 Etats membres.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

It is my honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with the statement.

The EU thanks the Secretariat for preparation and organization of the 23rd Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. In this context, the EU would also like to underline the importance of the approved MYPOW 2012-15 for efficient reporting, respectively guiding the discussions.

We welcome the global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization but there is still need for analysis with respect to each challenge of FAO's basic attributes, Core Functions and comparative advantages as well as a clear line of sign between FAO's Strategic Objectives and work on the ground in order to translate FAO's normative work and standard setting work into country level impact.

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy on Sustainable Crop Production Intensification through a holistic approach that integrates economic, social and environmental sustainability to production, including the need for complimentary actions along the food chain and sustainable diets.

We would also support the integration of climates response to sustainable crop production and to agriculture production in general. In order to respond to climate change which has already happened and to future challenges, sustainability must take into account adaptation and mitigation actions to reduce risk, enhance resilience and promote low emission, and green production. Also particular attention should be paid to integrating actions on sustainable production with improving nutrition, reducing food losses and wastes, promoting the more efficient use of water and the conservation and use of genetic resources, as well as soil and air health.

We recognize the importance for a multi-stakeholder dialogue in support of sustainable livestock development and can, in general, support the Global Agenda for Action. Indeed, there is a need for a more comprehensive oversight and improved inter-sectoral collaboration in order to address all issues relevant to the livestock sector.

The articulation between this platform and COAG has to be further specified. We would also like the Secretariat to provide information regarding the coming meeting of the GAA in January in Nairobi, and in particular to confirm who can participate and to give us a summary of the main expected outcomes of this meeting.

More generally, we see FAO as the key UN Organization with the capacity and mandate to address in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, the complex social, economic, and environmental issues and trade-offs associated with the livestock sector.

We would support raising the profile of the global dialogue on a sustainable livestock sector in the deliberations of the FAO Governing Bodies, and we are looking forward to further discussion on the best options for achieving this goal, based on a clear proposal to be presented at the next Session of COAG, taking into account the recommendations of FAO's Reform and the already existing Bodies on livestock.

The EU appreciates FAO's development of tools and methodologies and provision of technical assistance and advice on the planning and management of natural resources for food and agriculture under different climatic and management conditions, with special consideration to family farms and women farmers. That said, we would also like to emphasize that the proposed establishment of a small coordinating unit should not duplicate the work of existing institutions.

We support the Action Plan for improving statistics at national, regional and global levels for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. We sincerely hope that the outcomes of the Global Strategy will benefit the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), and vice versa, in particular regarding capacity-building.

Regarding the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership, we look forward to participate actively in its implementation, as appropriate. The Global Soil Partnership will be a useful tool for contributing to the sustainable management of soils and will strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world, as underlined in the Rio+20 document, *The Future We Want*.

We would like to know more about the partnership corporate strategy, in particular with the private sector, and about the guidelines for the governance of multi-stakeholders' partnerships that FAO is preparing.

As regards the updated International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides the EU would like to highlight the fruitful efforts to find a compromise made by the Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) for finalizing the updated text with the help of the Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management.

We appreciated in particular that FAO supported by WHO and UNEP echoed the EU policy priorities on agricultural and human health pesticides, and on the definition of Good Agricultural Practices, the co-existence of the Globally-Harmonized System (GHS) and the WHO classification systems, the link with the Codex Alimentarius as regards the maximum residues level.

Furthermore, we would like to support the FAO to develop guidance to clarify the new definition of highly-hazardous pesticides. Because the Code of Conduct now also covers public health pesticides, while addressing itself to all concerned parties involved in its implementation, it demonstrates that the integration of forces from two other International Bodies, as WHO and UNEP, is worthwhile. The EU and its Member States would therefore encourage pursuing this integration and the concrete interaction of the three UN Bodies, with a view to an efficient implementation of the code of conduct.

Ms Myrna THOMPSON (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago concludes with the observations made by Venezuela on behalf of G77 and welcomes the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, we wish to congratulate the Committee for the comprehensive Reports submitted and indeed for the obviously excellent work that would have accompanied their deliberations and consequential recommendations.

We particularly recognize that the priorities of CARICOM are taken into account, in particular, the thematic areas of food and nutrition security, disaster and risk management and climate change, small-scale agriculture and agricultural, health and food safety.

We, therefore, support the findings and recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture and endorse as well the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture and the FAO staff involved in preparing the document. We want to say that the work of COAG has indeed become very dynamic and very productive. This is thanks to the active work of the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, of the Bureau and of the support of staff from FAO Headquarters.

Now as many Delegations have taken the floor before me, and I really want to be as brief as possible, I want to endorse the proposals that have been expressed. In particular, those expressed in the statement of the EU, which in a very detailed way set out the tasks and challenges that stand before the COAG.

Now I would like to once again express the Terms of Reference for the Global Soil Partnership that has been drawn up by the Open-Ended Working Group in accordance with the proposal of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture. I also want to thank the Secretariat for the updated voluntary Code of Conduct on the Management and Use of Pesticides.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Me dirijo a usted en relación al Código Internacional de Conducta para el Manejo de Plaguicidas. Al respecto, Chile da la bienvenida a esta nueva versión del Código de Conducta que se aprueba hoy. Sin embargo, teniendo en cuenta que éste es un documento voluntario y vivo que puede y debe ser constantemente mejorado y actualizado, ha hecho llegar a la Presidencia del COAG nuevas sugerencias de mejoras al texto, tanto en su forma como su fondo. Agradecemos al Presidente del COAG su buena disposición para incluir estas sugerencias en la próxima versión del Código de Conducta.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We thank the Secretariat for the quality document. We appreciate the work undertaken by the Chairman of the COAG. Our Delegation has carefully reviewed the documents on pesticides. We would like to put forward three points. Firstly, we highly appreciate the extent of participation during the revision of the Code of Conduct, by the Secretariat and Member Nations because it was truly Representative and consultative. Pesticides involve production, livelihoods, ecology and human health so before publishing a new Code, opinions should be widely sought and coordinated.

Secondly, we endorse the proposal to amend the name of the Code of Conduct into International Code of Conduct for Pesticide Management. It's not only a mere change in the title, but it involves every step in the management of pesticides from its production to their distribution and use. We believe that it embodies what the Director-General said this morning that a holistic and comprehensive method should be conducted in this area. This is indeed a success story, and we are that the project has been implemented fully.

Thirdly, we would like to propose that the quality of Chinese texts be reviewed. The accuracy of the Chinese texts is important because they involve quite a number of technical terms. We would propose that before official publication, the relevant Departments in China should be consulted regarding the terminology to ensure the accuracy of the Chinese translations.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse soutient les conclusions et recommandations du rapport du COAG. Nous sommes également favorables à l'adoption du nouveau Code de conduite international pour la gestion des pesticides. Nous souhaitons que la FAO s'engage tout particulièrement dans la mise en œuvre du Programme d'action mondial à l'appui du développement durable de l'élevage, de la stratégie d'intensification d'une production durable, de l'initiative visant à améliorer les statistiques en matière de sécurité alimentaire, d'agriculture et le développement rural durable, ainsi que la mise en œuvre du partenariat mondial sur les sols.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura)

Como han dicho mis predecesores, el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y el Presidente del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, lo que desea la presidencia es básicamente tomar nota y pedir al Secretario del COAG que incorpore los comentarios recibidos en el trabajo ordinario del Comité.

Muchas gracias a Australia, a Venezuela, que habló en nombre de los países del Grupo de los 77, a Etiopía, Côte d'Ivoire, Japón, Estados Unidos de América, Cuba, Chipre, que habló por la Unión Europea, Trinidad y Tobago y, aprovechar este instante para decirle al Consejo que, como representante de República Dominicana compartimos en mi país las preocupaciones externadas por la representación de Trinidad y Tobago. También, se dirigieron al Consejo la Federación Rusa, Chile y China. También, el Observador de Suiza.

Quisiera profundizar un poquito en dos aspectos. Uno es lo señalado por China respecto a los términos técnicos que contiene el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas. En efecto, siendo esto así, hay que prestar gran atención a la traducción a las distintas lenguas oficiales. Hay un primer borrador que fue preparado en tres lenguas oficiales: en inglés, en francés y en español, y de hecho la negociación última se produjo en inglés, de manera que, habrá que

tomar mucho cuidado, y estoy seguro de que estamos tomando nota en el Secretariado para salvaguardar la traducción del inglés al español, al francés, al árabe, al chino y al ruso, para que los usuarios de este Código de Conducta puedan tener las traducciones correctas de cada uno de los términos técnicos y puedo asegurarle, que, en efecto, el Código completo es un gran paquete técnico y no son palabras de uso común, así que habrá que poner mucha atención en este tema.

Otro aspecto que quiero resaltar es los puntos elevados por Japón y por Chile. Quiero recordar al Consejo que no estamos adoptando un instrumento de derecho internacional, una ley, estamos adoptando apenas directrices voluntarias y no por primera vez, porque hace ya tres décadas que se adoptó el primer Código de Conducta sobre Plaguicidas. Esta es la cuarta versión y, en este proceso que toma ya cuatro años, porque el proceso para preparar esta versión comenzó en 2008, han participado todos los Países Miembros de la Organización, no solo los Miembros del Comité de Agricultura sino todos los Países Miembros de la FAO. Se ha incorporado también al sector privado, a la sociedad civil y, como ha sido mencionado, a expertos en el tema provenientes de aquí de la FAO así como de la Organización Mundial de la Salud y del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio-ambiente.

Estas consultas incluyeron comentarios de numerosos países. Japón incluso aportó 30 comentarios que fueron incorporados al Código de Conducta en la versión final, así que muchas gracias al Gobierno de Japón por ese apoyo. Gracias también a los países en desarrollo porque el G77 mostró una gran flexibilidad en el proceso de negociación, y lo saben los miembros de la Mesa.

Este proceso de negociación logró un balance, porque sabemos que el trabajo que hacemos aquí es un trabajo de balance, es un trabajo de consenso y voy a retomar un poquito lo que dijo la Delegación de Estados Unidos de América por boca del Sr. Michener que es miembro de la Mesa. Este es un tema basado en la ciencia. El Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas basado en la ciencia, *science-based*. Y la ciencia, como sabemos, rechaza las certezas y rechaza las verdades definitivas.

Este es un instrumento vivo, y si el Consejo tiene a bien aprobarlo, mañana mismo, recomienza el proceso de consultas. Esto fue lo que expliqué a Chile en el GRULAC. Mañana mismo recomienza el proceso de consultas que llegará a esta Sala a un futuro Consejo para la aprobación de una quinta versión de este Código de Conducta. Así que es lo que puedo decir como Presidente.

No sé si la Delegación de Japón u otras delegaciones requerirían que el Secretario del COAG o que el área de Manejo de Pesticidas de la FAO aporte otros elementos.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais maintenant essayer de tirer les conclusions de nos travaux et qui seront transmis au Comité de rédaction.

Le Conseil approuve les conclusions et recommandations contenues dans le rapport de la 23^{ème} Session du Comité de l'agriculture (21-25 mai 2012). En particulier, le Conseil:

1. insiste, dans le cadre du processus de réflexion stratégique, pour que les Objectifs Stratégiques et le travail sur le terrain soient clairement énoncés et suffisamment cohérents pour que le travail d'établissement de normes et de règles mené par la FAO ait un impact concret au niveau des pays; il considère également comme essentiel d'établir des partenariats cohérents avec d'autres organismes du système des Nations Unies, des organisations de la société civile et le secteur privé pour pouvoir atteindre les futurs Objectifs Stratégiques;
2. encourage les États Membres à collaborer au Programme d'action mondial pour le développement durable de l'élevage et à le soutenir. Il recommande que la FAO continue de s'engager dans cette initiative à parties prenantes multiples à un niveau central et d'en assurer le Secrétariat en cas de besoin;
3. prend note des progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour une intensification durable des cultures fondée sur une approche éco-systémique et un environnement porteur, ainsi que l'importance d'une approche globale qui intègre durabilité économique, sociale et

environnementale et production. Il met également l'accent sur la nécessité d'un large éventail de partenariats associant les secteurs public et privé, y compris la société civile, les organisations d'agriculteurs, les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome et les centres internationaux de recherche agronomique du Groupe consultatif pour la recherche agricole internationale (GCRAI);

4. convient que la FAO devra veiller à ce que les pays Membres puissent disposer d'informations et de connaissances suffisantes, fiables et impartiales sur la gestion durable des ressources naturelles pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, dans le contexte du changement climatique.

5. prend note de la proposition de création d'une petite unité de coordination sur les perspectives régionales et mondiales relatives aux ressources naturelles pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Il demande que le mandat en soit clairement défini, y compris le lieu d'établissement de cette unité et les ressources financières à prévoir, et qu'il soit soumis aux Organes directeurs compétents de la FAO pour examen.

6. approuve les recommandations et le Plan d'action sur l'amélioration des statistiques en matière de sécurité alimentaire, d'agriculture et de développement rural durable;

7. souscrit au projet de résolution, inclut dans le document CL 145/LIM/6 Rev.1, contenant le texte révisé et mis à jour du Code de conduite international sur la gestion des pesticides et demande qu'il soit transmis à la Conférence pour approbation, étant entendu qu'il s'agit d'un document en constante élaboration et que les observations faites par certains membres en séance pourront être incorporés au Code dans le cadre des travaux futurs du Comité.

Le résumé en ce qui concerne le Point 8 sera rédigé et présenté mercredi après-midi, après que le Conseil ait examiné le document concernant la conservation des sols. Il me semble que toutes vos suggestions ont été prises en compte. Vos amendements étaient à la fois très nombreux, pointus et précis et ils ont été rassemblés dans le dernier document. Je fais également mienne la position évoquée par Monsieur Arvelo concernant la traduction du document dans les différentes langues. En effet, ceci est très important surtout compte tenu des termes techniques. La traduction est un art difficile, et devient parfois extrêmement difficile quand on touche au domaine technique, et il convient d'y prêter une grande attention. Je remercie également la Chine de son rappel à cet égard.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura)

Presidente, muchas gracias por resumir el interesante y rico debate que ha tenido a bien sostener este Consejo. Agradezco al Consejo en nombre de la Mesa, en nombre de todo el Comité de Agricultura y solo me resta reiterar lo que ya usted ha dicho.

Vamos a concluir el tema de la Alianza mundial sobre los suelos. Los términos de referencia están listos para ser aprobados pero, como había indicado al inicio, ha habido algún error de impresión, ha habido algún término que no es apropiado; entonces, sin reabrir el documento, vamos a examinar estas cuestiones, y eso lo vamos a hacer en una reunión especial de la Mesa del Comité de Agricultura que va a dar inicio inmediatamente termine la jornada del Consejo de hoy, a la cual están invitados todos los Estados Miembros del Consejo y observadores para participar con nosotros y poner punto final a esta cuestión y la aprobaríamos, entonces, en la agenda que usted ha indicado el miércoles.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Je n'ai pas de problème avec vos conclusions et je vous en remercie. Je souhaitais simplement souligner le fait que la délégation qui s'est exprimée au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses États Membres a demandé au Secrétariat d'exposer davantage d'informations sur la réunion à venir au sujet du partenariat sur l'élevage.

J'aurais aimé entendre la réponse du Secrétariat à cet égard lorsqu'il y aura quelque un présent qui puisse donner les informations qui ont été demandées.

M. Robert Gouantoueu GUEI (Secrétaire du Comité de l'agriculture)

Monsieur le Président, nous n'avons actuellement aucune précision sur la question posée, mais nous proposons de nous mettre en contact avec les membres qui désiraient obtenir des informations supplémentaires après cette réunion.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur Guei est donc à votre disposition pour répondre à vos questions à ce sujet.

Merci Madame l'Ambassadrice d'avoir insisté sur ce point.

8.3 Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2012)

8.3 Rapport de la 30^{ème} Session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juillet 2012)

8.3 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de julio de 2012)

Nous allons donc passer au Point 8.3: *le Rapport de la 30^{ème} Session du Comité des pêches* qui s'est déroulée en juillet 2012 à Rome (document C 2013-24). Je donc la parole à Monsieur Johán H. Williams, Président du Comité des pêches pour nous présenter le Rapport.

Mr Johán H. WILLIAMS (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome from 9 to 13 July this year. It was chaired by Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and myself as the First Vice-Chair.

Since I was elected as the Chair for the next Session of COFI and as I am expected as one of the calls from the Reform to work actively inter-Sessionally, I have the pleasure on behalf of the Committee to report here on the outcome of the 30th Session.

The COFI Sessions are well attended by Member Nations and other groups. This was also the case at the 30th Session, with 550 Delegates from 123 Member Nations and 64 IGO and NGOs.

The 30th Session of COFI was the first major international meeting on fisheries and aquaculture after Rio+20. Paragraph 113 of the Rio+20 Declaration goes like this and I quote; "We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine eco-systems, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition, and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people."

This and the chapter on oceans and seas were milestones in recognizing the importance of fish for future global food security. It created a paradigm shift that changed the focus and debate in COFI from how to why.

Under the Agenda item on ocean governance and relevant outcomes from Rio+20, the Committee urged FAO to reinforce its emphasis on fish as food, ensure that these aspects were not lost in the global and regional frameworks for ocean conservation and management, and urged FAO to further assert its leading role in fisheries and aquaculture in ocean governance.

The Agenda as attached in Appendix A of document C 2013/24 contains the revised Rules of Procedure of the Committee. The Committee hopes this will enhance the inter-Sessional consultation and the involvement of Members through the Bureau.

Under the Agenda item on World Fisheries and Aquaculture: Status, Issues and Needs, the Presentation of the Latest Version of the Report "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012," SOFIA, was made. The Committee, while stressing the high value of SOFIA as a flagship publication, recommended that FAO should provide more support to countries in data collection and quality control, as well as consider a simpler classification of stock status.

The Committee addressed sector development needs and among other issues pointed at the need for management improvement and enhancement of the role of the regional fisheries management organizations and, in addition, the importance of combatting Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported fishing to promote sustainable fisheries was addressed. Member Nations were urged to refer to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures.

The Committee also addressed the role of fish in food security, and in this context the potential of growth from aquaculture, especially in Africa, was enhanced.

The Committee received the eighth periodic Report on the progress achieved in implementing the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, including a number of international plans of action and strategies.

Although the Committee expressed strong support for the standards and norms of the Code and agreed on further efforts to facilitate their accessibility and more effective implementation, concerns were raised with respect to the low response rate to questionnaire and the need for assistance to many countries in implementing the Code.

It was further pointed out that the Code also provides a framework for aquaculture and that the importance of small-scale fisheries had to be addressed in implementing the Code.

The Committee endorsed the Report of the 13th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. In doing so, it agreed on the development of best practice guidelines for traceability. The Committee reiterated its support for the FAO's collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES, and with the World Trade Organization.

In endorsing the Report of the 6th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, the Committee stressed the importance of aquaculture to contribute to global food security and nutrition, and reiterated the request for additional assistance for aquaculture development. The Committee requested FAO to develop a conformity assessment framework for aquaculture certification guidelines, as well as a draft strategy paper including a long-term strategic plan for the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

Under the recent developments and future work in selected fisheries and aquaculture activities, two issues were discussed, small-scale fisheries and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing. With regard to the small-scale fisheries, the Committee recalled their importance to livelihoods and food security, and called for an interGovernmental technical consultation in the development of the international guidelines for securing small-scale fisheries in May 2013. It further agreed on the need to develop implementation strategies for these guidelines.

Regarding IUU fishing, the Committee stressed that Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported fishing continues to be a persistent and pressing problem adversely impacting on sustainable fisheries and food security, and again called for Member Nations to accede to the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement.

COFI noted the need for progress on Flag state Performance criteria and requested FAO to convene a new Technical Consultation. The Committee reiterated its support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels.

Concerning FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture, the Committee was informed of the departmental vision of the future, as well as the FAO Strategic Thinking Process to determine the future strategic direction of the Organization as a whole. The Committee agreed that FAO should focus on challenges relevant to its core mandate and that it must join efforts with partners in better coordination and urged FAO to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture priorities were reflected under the Strategic Objectives.

The Committee also approved its Multi-year Programme of Work 2012 – 2015, as attached in Appendix C. Finally, and agreed that the 31st Session of COFI should be held at FAO Headquarters in June 2014.

Chair, this concludes my presentation. The Council is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 30th Session of COFI as recorded in its Report and to provide the appropriate guidance, in particular on programme and budgetary matters.

Mme Célestine BA-OGUEWA (Gabon)

La Délégation que j'ai l'honneur de conduire intervient sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour portant sur le Rapport du 30^{ème} Comité des pêches de la FAO au nom de la Région d'Afrique. Au regard de la contribution significative des produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté et compte tenu de la nécessité des pays en développement de mettre en place des politiques sectorielles et structurées, nous appuyons la recommandation du Comité quand à l'accroissement de l'aide de la FAO en matière de collecte de données et de contrôle de leur qualité.

Aussi, tout en reconnaissant l'importance des activités de la FAO sur les pêches en eaux profondes, il est nécessaire d'entreprendre d'autres études sur l'impact des activités de la pêche industrielle et les espèces correspondant au niveau trophique inférieur.

A l'évidence, l'aquaculture est une alternative à la demande croissante de poisson de consommation. A cet effet, la FAO devrait appuyer l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre durable de cette activité. De même, nous approuvons la suggestion relative à l'accent que doit mettre le Comité sur l'examen de certaines questions internationales, questions qui reflètent vivement les inquiétudes de nos populations et dont les effets impactent négativement leur quotidien.

Je voudrais en particulier faire référence aux instruments internationaux tels que le Code de Conduite pour une Pêche responsable, dont le suivi de la mise en œuvre doit être renforcé. Nous reconnaissons assurément les progrès accomplis en matière d'application du Code de Conduite pour une pêche responsable. Nous souhaitons cependant que la FAO continue à apporter une assistance technique accrue aux pays en développement et aux organismes régionaux. Une meilleure application de ce Code en matière de pêche artisanale, d'accès aux marchés et de valeurs ajoutées contribuerait à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations les plus défavorisées.

Nous faisons nôtres les inquiétudes formulées par le Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson sur la question du co-étiquetage et soutenons le paragraphe 30 du Rapport et l'entrée de la mise en œuvre des directives relative aux pratiques optimales en matières de traçabilité. En outre, l'aquaculture assure la sécurité des moyens d'existence des populations rurales dans de nombreux pays. Par conséquent, nous reconnaissons l'importance grandissante et le rôle stratégique de ce secteur. Pour cela, nous appuyons le paragraphe 39, alinéa (b), (c) et (i) relatif au développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique et dans les Petits états insulaires en développement. à l'augmentation de ressources financières affectées aux activités aquacoles du Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture, à la revitalisation du Comité des pêches continentales et de l'aquaculture pour l'Afrique.

Monsieur le Président, à l'instar du Comité, nous faisons part de notre profonde appréciation de la reconnaissance du rôle capital de la pêche en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de lutte contre la pauvreté, rôle rappelé par la Conférence de Rio. Le cadre juridique et institutionnel de conservation et de gestion des océans sont certes les outils indispensables à la durabilité des pêches. Cependant, ces outils ne peuvent être efficaces que si les états disposent des capacités techniques pour l'application des normes édictées par les différents instruments internationaux.

Aussi, conformément à la fin du paragraphe 44, nous soutenons l'appel du Comité quant au renforcement de la capacité des Membres dans le domaine de la conservation et la gestion des pêches. Par ailleurs, le rôle du poisson dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition étant unanimement reconnu, nous appuyons la demande faite à la FAO de s'occuper des gisements d'hydrocarbure sous-marin en vue d'une évaluation des risques potentiels que présente l'exploitation de ces gisements pour la pêche et la sécurité alimentaire.

La Région d'Afrique se félicite de l'élaboration des directives internationales, visant à assurer la durabilité de la pêche artisanale car il faut souligner qu'au delà de sa dimension sociale et économique, rappelée à juste titre au paragraphe 52, alinéa (a), les captures pour la consommation humaine réalisées par la pêche artisanale, qui rassemble 12 million de personnes, sont égales, selon certains experts, à celles réalisées par le secteur de la pêche industrielle.

Concernant la lutte contre la Pêche illicite non déclarée et non réglementée, nous devons admettre que cette forme de pêche a des impacts négatifs considérables sur la durabilité de la pêche et de la sécurité alimentaire. Au regard de la faiblesse des moyens techniques des états de notre région pour lutter effacement contre ce fléau, nous appuyons les initiatives concourant à une meilleure gestion de ce problème par le biais des outils et des instruments internationaux à notre disposition.

De même nous appelons de tous nos vœux la tenue de la Deuxième réunion des travaux de la Consultation technique sur l'état du pavillon avec une participation de l'Ensemble des parties prenantes.

Tout comme le Comité, nous réaffirmons notre soutien ferme et inconditionnel à la FAO pour l'élaboration du fichier mondial, en coordination avec d'autres initiatives.

Enfin, dans le cadre des Objectifs Stratégiques qui soutiennent les priorités de travail et de budget, nous souhaitons que les priorités dans le domaine des pêches et de l'aquaculture soient prises en compte. Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais mentionner le concept économie verte, qui a été développé et soutenu pour garantir une gestion rationnelle et durable de la forêt et qui a été par ailleurs rappelé à Rio +20. A cet égard, nous souhaitons également qu'un engagement ferme et mondial puisse appuyer et soutenir un nouveau concept que l'on pourrait appeler économie bleue et qui représente les ressources halieutiques que mon pays soutient, grâce à l'impulsion du Président de la République, Son Excellence Ali Bongo Ondimba, à travers le pilier Gabon bleu.

Pour conclure, nous soutenons sans réserve ce rapport et demandons son approbation par le Conseil.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable écoute.

Mr Claudio Roberto POLES (Brazil)

Brazil wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for document C 2013/24 and for the quality of its summary. We therefore want to reaffirm Brazil's approval of the Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries held last July. As a member of the Bureau, Brazil considers that the multi-lateral approach is of fundamental importance to stress our common goals of sustainable productivity established in several FAO agreements, and in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Brazil would, therefore, like to emphasize the importance of FAO concentrating its efforts to promote the economic viability of fisheries and agriculture activities in developing countries. Our mutual commitment to ensure food and nutritional security associated with providing income increments to vulnerable populations is of great importance. In this connection, Brazil supports the FAO-led process of developing international guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries and other similar instruments, together with capacity-building programmes for the implementation of those guidelines in developing countries.

Acknowledging that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is a persistent and pressing problem, Brazil encourages FAO to further pursue its efforts towards the development of such mechanisms as the criteria for Flag State Performance and the Global Record.

Finally, Brazil also encourages the Council to ensure that the importance of fisheries and agriculture be fully encompassed through the Strategic Objectives, as well as integrated in the context of food security.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Germany would like to request the floor be given to the European Union. The current EU Presidency, Cyprus, will deliver a statement on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the results of COFI and acknowledge the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken.

While recognizing the high value of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) as a flagship publication, we stress that FAO should provide more support to countries in data collection and quality control, as well as consider a simpler classification of stock status, based on the sustainability of their exploitation. In addition, SOFIA should be made available before the meeting in order for COFI to be able to discuss its content. The EU also supports the standards and norms of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments, and expects further efforts to facilitate their accessibility and more effective implementation.

We would like to stress once more the importance it attaches to the entrance into force of the Agreement on Port State Measures and, invites all states to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible, as the measures provided for in the agreement will only be truly effective in combating IUU fishing if and when globally-enforced in a comprehensive, uniform and transparent manner. We also welcome the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on capacity-building for the implementation of this Agreement.

We support the development of a Global Record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, and are committed to actively participate by providing the required data to the Global Record. As noted by the Committee on Fisheries, the Global Record should be funded through the FAO regular budget and the FAO Secretariat should ensure that it is developed in a cost-effective manner. Should external financing be needed, the FAO Secretariat should provide precise information on such needs including a breakdown of costs for different project phases. In order to establish practical arrangements for the updating of the Global Record, the European Union would like to emphasize the need for technical guidelines and procedures for the transmission of data, which should be provided by the FAO Secretariat.

We wish to highlight the importance of the third resumed Session of the Technical Consultation on the Draft Criteria for Flag State Performance. It will represent a crucial step in the international efforts developed to stop IUU fishing together with the Global Record of vessels and the international instrument for Port State Control, among others.

We would also like to welcome the decision of the Committee of Fisheries to highlight, among the priorities of its Programme of Work and Medium-Term Plan, the study of the impact of industrial fishing on low-tropic level species.

We request FAO to develop a conformity assessment framework for aquaculture certification guidelines as well as a draft strategy paper including a long-term strategic plan for the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the specific needs for the future work. We would also like to express our satisfaction for the continuous consultation with all stakeholders in the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, and the need to develop implementation strategies for the Guidelines.

Finally, the EU would like to express once again its satisfaction with the results of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and underline that FAO should focus on challenges relevant to its core mandate, must join efforts with partners in better coordination and ensure that fisheries and aquaculture priorities are reflected under the Strategic Objectives.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

Canada would like to begin by thanking the Chair of the Committee on Fisheries for his report this afternoon and also for his work as Chair. We would like to encourage as others have already done that the Council adopt the Report as presented.

Two remarks that Canada would like to underline, for the Council today. First, as remarked in the Reports and the work of the Committee, is the importance of sustainability in providing the Guidelines for Fisheries. A second issue that is important for Canada regards the traceability of fish products. Canada appreciates the work of the FAO to support this objective.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran takes the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group welcomes the Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries and we thank the Secretariat for providing this document.

Agricultural development and small-scale fishing are the two main potentials in the Near East Region for eradicating food insecurity and alleviating the number of poor in coastal areas. In terms of agricultural development, the main fish agriculture and stream culture are the most relevant potential interventions in the Region. The region needs technical assistance in modern fish propagation and

baiting. In terms of improving small-scale fishing, the Region needs to improve and modify fishing techniques, and also needs assistance on post-harvest fishing and market delivery.

We ask FAO to give technical assistance on these two issues in the Near East. Coming to the document, the Near East Group supports and emphasizes the points below:

- a) more support to countries in data collection and quality control;
- b) the promotion of FAO's capacity-building activities and market access and the value addition in particular for small-scale producers and processors in developing countries;
- c) provision of additional assistance for agriculture development in Africa and Small Island Developing States;
- d) provision of more resources for agricultural activities of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department;
- e) provision of continued support to regional and national fisheries and institutions, in particular regarding small-scale fisheries;
- f) examination of the impact of ocean pollution and climate change on modern fisheries and cooperation with other institutions on ocean pollution;
- g) support for the completion of small-scale fisheries guidelines through extensive consultation with stakeholders;
- h) asking FAO to reflect the priorities of fisheries and agriculture under its Strategic Objectives.

With that, the Near East Group endorses the Report.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Con relación al Informe del 30º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, la delegación de El Salvador desea reiterar los conceptos vertidos en dicha oportunidad por los Países Miembros del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA): Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, y como país asociado República Dominicana, durante el cual, de forma coordinada e integrada, y después de haber consensuado posiciones, hicimos llegar al COFI los puntos de vista de nuestros países en los diferentes temas tratados durante el mismo.

En esta oportunidad, deseamos expresar nuestro respaldo al Informe que se nos ha presentado y, en particular, a las 25 recomendaciones que se somete a consideración de este Consejo, particularmente las recomendaciones 8, 15, 17 y 21. Y reiteramos la urgencia a que se dé la adecuada atención y ejecución a las mismas.

Igual importancia deseamos darles a las 11 cuestiones que se desean someter a la consideración de la Conferencia en junio del próximo año.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I will try to follow the example of my Canadian colleague and I'll be very brief. Basically, the Russian Federation is grateful to the COFI for the documents from the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We would like to say that we support all the decisions that were adopted in the course of this Session. We think that the Session once again has shown the crucial role of fisheries, and especially agriculture, in dealing with the challenges related to global food security.

Of course, many, many topics were examined by COFI and I just wanted to highlight a couple of them, in particular the topic of combating IUU, Illegal, Unauthorized and Unregulated Fisheries, to which the Russian Federation attaches a great deal of importance. We are implementing domestic procedures for the time being in order to sign the Port State Measures Agreement of 2009. We support the appeal made to all Member Nations to make every effort so that this Agreement comes into force.

We, in the Russian Federation, are working to conclude bilateral agreements on this issue, and we have currently already reached such agreements with such neighbouring countries as the Democratic

Republic of Korea, Japan and Canada. We are currently in consultation with China with a view to signing a similar agreement.

We think that it's very important to complete the development of criteria for the behaviour of Flag States as quickly as possible because this will significantly bolster our efforts in combatting this negative, serious problem in international fisheries, IUU.

Unfortunately, we were not able to complete our initiative at the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries. That initiative was to establish a Global Register of Fisheries Vessels involved in IUU, based on lists produced by regional fishery organizations. An appeal was made to companies that are involved in manning crews and providing equipment to fishery ships to provide us with additional information.

I would also like to say that the Russian Federation has expressed the EU's wish to host the 7th Session of the Sub-Committee on agriculture, in Saint Petersburg in 2013, and the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries approved this decision.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

The United States thanks the COFI Secretariat for this paper and for all the work that went into it. We recommend endorsement of this document by the Council for transmittal to Conference. We would also like to make the following two quick points.

Number one: The US agrees strongly with the COFI Report that FAO's work on deep sea fisheries continues to be important and we note that the UN General Assembly itself has addressed deep sea fisheries and has indicated that this work should not be de-emphasized.

Number two: we join others, including Brazil and Germany, to support the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, or SSF, and we look forward to participating in the Inter-Governmental Technical Consultation scheduled for May 2013.

We also welcome multi-stakeholder participation in the SSF process.

Ms Myrna THOMPSON (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago notes the request of the Committee on Fisheries for additional assistance for aquaculture in Africa and Small Island Developing States, and we ask that the Council note that the Ministry of Food Production in our country is actively encouraging the development of a national aquaculture industry.

Some of the key elements of this Plan to develop this industry include: development of technological packages to support investments in the sector and appropriate criteria for statutory environmental approvals for aquaculture establishments, including farmer training and extension agriculture activities, promotion of the adoption of global aquaculture alliance standards, development of a model forum for the promotion and testing of models and research for key components of the sector, as well as facilitation of access to diagnostic testing services to address disease identification and control of aquaculture facilities.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to commend the Committee on Fisheries on its work, and supports the proposals of the Committee.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We welcome the Report of the Committee. We would like to put forward two points on this Report. Firstly, we believe that development of fisheries is conducive to ensuring food security, to raising living standards and to increasing income and employment opportunities, and is becoming an increasingly important sector.

The results of 30 years of reform in China are for all to see, and fisheries have made their important contributions. Development of fisheries is vital for developing states, but in these countries the industry is of small-scale production. That is why we think that FAO should provide more support to the development of small-scale fisheries in developing countries, in particular in their capacity-building because these numerous small-holders are being challenged by the major

international markets and by climate change. Under these circumstances, we should support these Member Nations to increase their production capacity, namely the capacity for processing, for access to markets, and to add value to their products.

Second point, we hope that FAO will conduct an in-depth scientific study to evaluate the effects of different eco-labelling on the efficiencies of fishery management so as to find a practical solution to this problem. And eco/labelling goes a long way in making fishery management more efficient.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

The Indonesian Delegation would like to thank and give high appreciation to the Secretariat for a comprehensive Report related to the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Indonesia supports FAO's leading role in fisheries and aquaculture, in ocean governance discussions, debates, policy-setting frameworks, and fora. Regarding progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, CCRF, my Delegation recommends that FAO Member Nations be encouraged to implement the CCRF. Moreover, FAO needs to promote the specificity in each region, the existence of local wisdom, and efforts to promote decreases in illicit fishing enterprises by adhering to lessons learned through FAO projects on this issue.

My Delegation also invites FAO Member Nations, NGOs, CSOs, and donor partners to provide sufficient funding and technical support for developing countries to strengthen their capacity in all aspects to combat IUU fishing.

In achieving sustainable ocean development, Indonesia would like to invite FAO Member Nations to support the Blue Economy Approach in relation to the Ocean Governance Concept. The Blue Economy Approach has already been discussed and elaborated in Rio+20 Reports on the Sustainable Use and Management of the Ocean, a Green Economy in a Blue World, prepared by FAO with the collaboration of United Nations Agencies and related institutions.

The Blue Economic Approach, which often is referred to as a Green Economy in a Blue World, covers the protection of the marine environment. It also covers the sustainable management of marine resources, especially fisheries. Blue Economy refers to the principle of how we manage and promote our natural resources from scarcity to abundance. It can be achieved by addressing the eco-system concerns in different ways through harmonious distribution of resources for a sustainable growth with equity.

In that connection, we welcome FAO Secretariat and other FAO Member Nations to support and cooperate in the implementation of the Blue Economy Approach and activities through sharing experiences and supporting the implementation of Blue Economy.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

First of all, our Delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, for his enlightening, concise, and straight-forward speech this morning, outlining the achievements realized so far and also highlighting his visions for the future of FAO. Secondly, I would also like to congratulate Mr Daniel Gustafson for his appointment as Deputy Director General Operations.

Fisheries, as you know, are of vital importance to the Southwest Pacific island countries. Our land masses, although small, together with our Exclusive Economic Zones take up about one third of the globe. We have about 70 percent of the total global tuna supply. Tuna, as you know, consists of albacore, yellowfin, big eye, and skipjack.

With regards to the Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, document C 2013/24, I want to express our appreciation to the Chairman for this excellent Report. Samoa was not represented at this Committee meeting. However, we support and endorse all of the recommendations and programmes put forward by the Committee for the attention of the Council.

Our Delegation, would like to place special emphasis on eight items which are especially relevant to us in the Pacific Island countries, as put forward by the Committee, namely Item 4, FAO to provide technical support including the development of sustainable management aquaculture plans; Item 6,

call for further analysis on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks, IPOA-Sharks; Item 8, underlining the importance of FAO's capacity-building activities on market access and value addition, in particular for small-scale producers and processors in developing countries; Item 12, reiterated the requests for additional assistance for aquaculture development in Africa and Small Island Developing States; Item 13, reiterated that allocation of financial resources for aquaculture activities of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department be increased; Item 15, requested FAO to continue its technical support to regional and national fisheries institutions, in particular regarding small-scale fisheries; Item 16, suggested that FAO examine the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change and cooperate with other organizations on ocean pollution; and Item 20, urged FAO Members, NGOs, and donors to provide financial and technical support to developing states to strengthen all aspects of their capacity to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.

Going through the whole Report of the Committee on Fisheries, document C 2013/14, I would like to point out some of the following issues covered in a meeting of the South – SPC and the Forum Fisheries Agencies or FFA of the Southwest Pacific held in Nouméa, New Caledonia in June this year. It is useful and might be advisable for the FAO Committee on Fisheries, as well as the FAO Council, to look into the results of these meetings before they finalize this Report.

Issue number one on world fisheries in aquaculture dealt with the status and needs, including presentations on the status of world fisheries and aquaculture and SOFIA 2012. Samoa's concern for this issue is the complexity of the questionnaire from FAO used to collect this information. It is very complicated for the Pacific Islands to follow the questionnaire. This will result in significant under-reporting and underestimating of fisheries and aquaculture fisheries in the Pacific.

Our recommendation for the FAO is to work with the Pacific Region Fisheries Management Organizations, such as SPC and FFA in producing a simpler questionnaire or use existing questionnaires produced by the Region to gather this very important information so that they will not be underestimated.

Issue two, regards progress and implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related matters. As an update, Samoa has made considerable efforts in streamlining these international policies to national ones. Samoa has now completed the review of its fisheries legislations in which key provisions within the Code of Conduct are being recognized and addressed for national implementation. The examples include the IPOA for sharks and turtles.

Issue number three deals with aquaculture. Samoa still has a very basic aquaculture but it has now developed its National Aquaculture Management and Development Plan 2013-16 which will guide the strategic development of aquaculture in the country in line with national policies, such as the Samoa Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries Sector Plan 2012-16 and regional and international policies from SPC and FAO, respectively.

Issue number four regards ocean governance and relevance outcomes of Rio+20. Samoa has a strong collaboration between its related ministries as a result of the outcomes of the Rio+12, namely the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. We therefore support the motion for FAO to be more involved in these international discussions, and have better communications with regional FMOs in order for these policies to be well-recognized and implemented by Member Nations, particularly as they affect the fisheries sector.

Issue number five is the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing. Samoa urged FAO to support the regional effort by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, or WCPFC, and sub-regional FFA for the Pacific Islands to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. Samoa also acknowledges its partners for assisting the region in combatting activities such as surface and aerial surveillance.

As regards issue number 6. Samoa would like to acknowledge that it has nationalized its obligations and there is an agreement on fisheries legislation which is now with the Cabinet.

Samoa requests financial and technical support from FAO to assist us and other Pacific Island Countries in achieving the implementation of these obligations.

Mr Johán H. WILLIAMS (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

First, I will commend the very constructive and clear points made by the Minister from Samoa. I really hope that you will participate in the next COFI meeting. The specific points raised from the floor were noted and we will look at them in the Bureau and with the Secretariat, so that we can address them in the intermediate period and Report at the next COFI meeting.

A general remark I would like to make going back to the work of Fisheries in FAO is the uniqueness of the Organization in being able to both develop the normative standards, and then to implement normative Guidelines and participate in implementing them in Member Nations.

The challenge ahead of us with respect to the food security issue is to preserve and protect the ocean's and the sea's ability to produce food, while we at the same time, protect and preserve natural wonders that have to be protected.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I would like to thank you all for your very generous support to the work that the Secretariat is doing and I appreciate very much your comments on the work of COFI and the Secretariat and the COFI Report.

I think I can confidently say that the issues that have been raised are either being worked on or are being prepared for us to be able to work on them in the future, so there is very good alignment with what we are doing and the concerns that you have raised.

We are, however, as we all are, resource-constrained so we have to take that into account when we push for the implementation of our issues of interest. The resource constraints can affect us in the coverage and in the critical mass that we can create for the impact of the work that we are doing.

But I am very pleased to be able to sit here and listen to your comments and be able to report to you about the alignment that I see between both the Secretariat and the Council and the COFI, of course.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie, et je vais vous faire lecture des projets de conclusions à transmettre au Comité de rédaction.

Le Conseil approuve les conclusions et recommandations contenues dans le Rapport dans la 30^{ème} Session du Comité des pêches tenue du 9 au 13 juillet 2012.

En particulier, le Conseil:

1. reconnaît l'importance du rapport périodique sur la situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture et recommande, dans un souci d'amélioration, que la FAO aide d'avantage les pays en matière de collecte de données et de contrôle de la qualité de celles-ci.
2. demande un effort accru pour permettre l'accessibilité et l'efficacité de la mise en application des dispositions des codes de Conduite pour une pêche responsable et des instruments connexes notamment par une aide soutenue aux pays en développement.
3. confirme son appui aux activités de la FAO en ce qui concerne les espèces aquatiques exploitées à des fins commerciales, intéressant la convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et flore sauvages menacées d'extinction, ainsi que dans le domaine de la traçabilité du domaine de pêche.
4. demande que la FAO apporte
 - a) une assistance supplémentaire en faveur du développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique et dans les Petits états insulaires en développement.
 - b) un soutien technique aux Organismes régionaux et nationaux des pêches à l'appui de la pêche artisanale et des petites exploitations aquacoles, en particuliers dans les pays en développement.

c) avec des ONG et d'autres donateurs, un appui financier et technique aux pays en développement pour leur permettre de renforcer leur capacité en vue de lutter contre la Pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée.

5. appui la poursuite des travaux de la Consultation technique visant à élaborer des critères d'évaluation de la Conduite de l'État du pavillon, de même que l'Élaboration d'un fichier mondial des navires de pêche.

6. Note la place faite aux océans et à la pêche dans la Déclaration de Rio +20 et réaffirme l'importance du rôle des organisations régionales de gestion des pêches dans l'application de mesures de conservation et de gestion favorisant la durabilité des pêches.

7. Demande que le Secrétariat évalue l'impact des programmes des eco-étiquetages dans la gestion des pêches et les retombées économiques.

8. Prend note de l'adoption par le Comité de son règlement intérieur révisé.

9. Demande que les priorités dans le domaine des pêches et de l'aquaculture soient effectivement prises en compte dans les Objectifs Stratégiques, étant donné l'importance des fonctions essentielles et des avantages comparatifs de la FAO et le lien avec ses activités normatives notamment en matière d'établissement de normes.

Voilà ce que nous avons essayé de retirer de la présentation du Rapport et de vos interventions.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Could we just ensure that when we're talking, we're requesting FAO to provide additional resources or assistance, that there's reference to having appropriate consideration of the budgetary implications of those decisions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Souhaitez-vous que l'on parle des conséquences budgétaires?

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Specifically I was referring to summary point 4, where you were talking about a number of areas where you were requesting FAO to provide assistance and so forth. It was just with a caveat there be appropriate consideration of the budgetary implications when considering them.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En réalité, dans le c) on dit qu'avec des ONG et d'autres donateurs un appui financier et technique aux pays en développement pour leur permettre de renforcer leur capacité en vue de lutter contre la pêche illicite. C'est-à-dire, que l'on demande des moyens de la part des ONG et des donateurs et un appui financier pour lutter contre la pêche illicite.

Dans le cadre du Point 4, nous ajouterons un chapeau qui devrait permettre de répondre à votre question: « Demande que la FAO apporte, dans le cadre des ressources à sa disposition » suivi des différents points. On ne préjuge donc pas des ressources.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Señor Presidente, hemos tomado rápidamente nota de sus, de sus observaciones y sus conclusiones. Simplemente quería reservar el derecho de mi Delegación a revisar con cuidado el lenguaje en función de lo que dice el Informe. Porque este Informe está hecho por expertos que han venido a esta reunión y cuidadosamente están redactadas las recomendaciones. Simplemente, para que en el Comité de Redacción nos podamos ajustar lo más posible a lo que dice el Informe.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Notre démarche est de produire des projets de conclusion qui sont envoyés ensuite au Comité de rédaction qui doit tenir compte des propositions qui ont été faites. C'est pour cela que j'accepte qu'il y ait non pas des amendements, mais des remarques qui seront transmises en l'état.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

With regard to the question by the Delegate from Australia, just a correction here: it's not Item 4. It's under Item 20 where it says "urge FAO members, NGOs and donors to provide financial and technical support to developing states to strengthen all aspects of their capacity to combat Illegal, Unauthorised, and Unregulated Fishing."

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Ministre mais quand j'ai évoqué le p Point 4, il s'agissait du Point 4 de mon document, et non pas dans le Rapport. Vous avez raison, il s'agit bien du Point 20 du Rapport.

Merci au Comité des pêches, à son Président et à son Secrétaire, et merci à toute l'équipe. N'oublions pas que la pêche et l'agriculture sont des éléments essentiels à l'équilibre alimentaire mondial. Merci.

8.4 Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (24-28 September 2012)

8.4 Rapport de la 21^{ème} Session du Comité des forêts (24-28 septembre 2012)

8.4. Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (24-28 de septiembre de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 8.4 pour le Rapport de la 21^{ème} Session du Comité des forêts qui s'est tenu en septembre. J'invite Monsieur Felician Kilahama, Président du Comité, à nous présenter le Rapport du Comité des forêts.

Mr Felician KILAHAMA (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

On the outset, allow me first of all to thank the ever living Almighty God for enabling me to be here, but to also thank FAO for the facilitation. Mr Chairman, the 21st Session of COFO was organized as the main component of the 3rd World Forest Week and was attended by over 600 Delegates. The slogan of the event was Forests, A Green Pathway for Human Development.

The Agenda for the COFO was developed by the Steering Committee based on the recommendations received from the six Regional Forestry Commissions and the agenda items. They are as you can see them on the screen.

On guidance from Member Nations, COFO invited countries to emphasize and promote the contribution of forests to greening the economy in the context of sustainable development, to strengthening dialogue and cooperation between forestry and other land use sectors at all levels in order to enhancing effectiveness in achieving development goals and fulfilling international commitments, to develop suitable strategies and actions for sustained financing for sustainable forest management and strengthening regional and international cooperation in this area, and to integrating fire management into national, rural land and forest management policies.

On the guidance of FAO, the committee noted the relevance of the State of the World Forests 2012, and invited the United Nations Forum on Forestry to consider them at its 10th Session, and also invited FAO to continue playing an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

COFO also requested FAO to seek ways to maximize forestry's contribution to greening the economy and to promoting the work on cross-sectoral communication and collaboration. It further recommended landscape thinking and interdepartmental work to support such integrated approaches.

FAO was also requested to identify its role in achieving the Bonn Challenge and strengthen its capacity in land use planning. The Committee also endorsed the Global Forest Resources Assessment long-term strategy, and requested FAO to prepare a set of Voluntary Guidelines for National Forest Monitoring, which is in line with the principles and goals of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

FAO should strengthen its fire management programme and propose a coordination mechanism between different UN Agencies and programmes and also develop a set of international guidance tools for managing fire related risks at the landscape level.

FAO was also requested to implement the sustainable forest management and enhancing the contribution of the forest and forest production to economic development. In promoting the importance of forestry's role in maintaining the productivity of the agricultural and natural resources and in strengthening the agricultural linkages across sectors and the policies and programmes for improved food security.

Support to countries was also meant to achieve the development goals on food managing but also in strengthening governance mechanisms and in integrating forestry issues into key environmental and land use policies at all levels and through hosting and supporting forestry and farm forestry facilities. This was also to be the case in strengthening the financial basis of sustainable forest management, through the development of enabling environments for investment in the sector and thus demonstrating the value of investment in sustainable forest management and introducing new revenue streams.

Of paramount importance was also the strengthening of national forestry information systems and of promoting inter-organizational collaboration at all levels to strengthen the information and knowledge base for forestry-related governance.

On strategic issues, Mr Chairman, the Committee welcomed the Strategic Thinking Process and noted that the formulation of the Strategic Objectives was a work in progress. The committee supported in principle the move to fewer Strategic Objectives of cross-cutting nature, but noted that the Strategic Objectives were currently focused mainly on food and agriculture, and they did not adequately reflect the contributions of natural resources, including forests and trees outside the forest.

The Committee requested FAO to give greater recognition of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources especially for the benefit of forestry and trees related to the provision of eco-system services, as well as support livelihood development and sustainable production and consumption in the formulation of Strategic Objectives and Action Plans.

The Committee further requested FAO to provide information to Members outlining the intended steps for strategic planning over the next nine months and clarity on how work on forestry would be budgeted.

Mr Chairman, COFO also emphasized the need for an adequate forestry budget in FAO. COFO urged its members to work through their own FAO Representatives in Rome, and also in their capitals, to ensure that views expressed in this Session were reflected in the revised versions of the Strategic Objectives.

Mr Chairman, on the guidance to the Strategic Objectives, the committee gave specific guidance on each of the five Strategic Objectives as follows. Strategic Objective One: To strengthen the recognition of forests in their contribution to food security. Strategic Objective two: to reflect a better balance between production and conservation and restoration and sustainable management of natural resources including the provision of eco-system services and biodiversity conservation; Strategic Objective three: Capture the role of forestry in livelihoods and employment, poverty reduction, and gender aspects as well as other social and cultural dimensions of forestry; Strategic Objective four: Include explicitly forest sector industries, including forest bio-energy, and capture the concept of sustainable production and consumption, as well as consider addressing forest governance elements; and Strategic Objective five: Include natural resource-based resilience due to the strong linkage between the natural resource base and preventing and reducing the risk associated with threats and crises.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, with these recommendations COFO successfully delivered on its mandate, and I do hope that this august Council Session will take these recommendations fully into account when discussing the Reviewed Strategic Framework. Mr Chairman, these recommendations are based on the understanding that we needed to see forestry and trees at the heart of sustainable development.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Encore une fois, je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole à l'Union Européenne. La Présidence actuelle de l'Union Européenne, Chypre, va parler au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses 27 États Membres.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for document C 2013/25 which offers a valuable summary of the guidance provided by the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry.

We welcome the launch of the State of the World's Forests 2012, and support the involvement of FAO in enhancing the contribution of forest and forest products in economic development. We also highlight the fruitful cooperation between UNECE and FAO at the regional level, and the unique role and the importance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), chaired by FAO. We invite FAO to further strengthen the coordinated work of the CPF in collaboration with other members of the CPF, especially in streamlining national reporting among the various international processes and in the implementation of the UNFF Resolution, with special attention to forest financing. We also see as priority that FAO further support the work of the AHEG on forest finance of the UNFF, as well as the CPF Advisory Group on Forest Finance.

We welcome the fact that FAO presented forests as a key to sustainable development at the COFO meeting. We share this view, and stress the need to highlight the relevance of sustainable forest management. Forests touch upon a variety of topics and, therefore, play a key role in addressing the multiple and interrelated challenges the world is facing today in terms of degradation of eco-systems, food insecurity, climate change and economic recession. The EU believes that it is important to promote the sustainable management of forests in an integrated approach across the landscape, and engage in more cross-cutting and inter-departmental work to support integrated approaches. Food security cannot be achieved without taking into account forests and trees, which provide fuelwood, fruits, medicines, fodder, shelter and numerous environmental services.

FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) is the most comprehensive assessment of the world's forests that is not only useful at the global level, but also for the countries themselves, as it sets parameters and definitions that increase comparability of available data. The EU is in favour of launching the next GFRA in 2015, which is also in line with climate discussions (REDD+). Priority should be given to improving the quality of the information and data provided, rather than further expanding the already extensive set of indicators and variables. To this end, more efforts are needed in capacity-building and in preparing a set of Voluntary Guidelines on national forest monitoring.

We support FAO in its efforts to support countries in addressing the challenges of forest governance. We also support the idea that forest governance be placed into a broad cross-sectoral perspective and be seen as part of the essential functioning of Governments and public institutions. For these reasons, we agree with the recommendation that FAO support countries to achieve their goals in strengthening governance mechanisms and in integrating forest issues into key environmental and land use policies at all levels, including through hosting and supporting the Forest and Farm Facility.

We are also pleased to see that FAO intends to give greater recognition to sustainable forest management and to the benefits of forests and trees in the formulation of Strategic Objectives. But we believe that the proposals on the table do not yet sufficiently reflect the multifunctional role of forests and sustainable forest management in overall sustainable development or in the development of a Green Economy in the follow-up process to Rio+20.

We expect more information outlining the intended steps for strategic planning over the next nine months, as well as clarity on how work on forests will be budgeted. We wish to emphasize the need for an adequate forest-related budget in FAO.

Finally, the EU appreciates that FAO will take into account the recommendations of the Strategic Evaluation. It is vital to ensure full use of inputs from the regions to identify synergies and ensure a strategic approach to forestry work.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran's speech on behalf of the Near East Group fully complimented the Secretariat in providing this document which is comprehensive. Forest and grasslands for the Near East Region with arid and semi-arid areas are very crucial. The aridity of the Near East Region has resulted in low forest cover, poor quality of lands with high deforestation rates, overgrazing in some areas and lack of sustainable management, all factors that are causing more land degradation and soil erosion in the Region.

Due to fragile situations of the forest lands and the climate change threat in Near East Region, COFO and its Report are very important for our Region. In this regard, we stress paragraph 12, recommending that FAO support countries in enhancing the contribution of forest and forest products in economic development. We also reiterate the importance of paragraph 18, requesting that FAO support countries in promoting forests and in maintaining the productivity of agricultural and natural resources.

We would also like to highlight paragraph 19 which requested FAO to develop the content of the Sustainable Forest Management SFM tool-books, including educational materials, voluntary guidelines and a communication platform to support countries, where requested, in their efforts to implement SFM.

We fully support paragraph 23, recommending that FAO support countries to achieve the development goals for good energy through technology transfers and training in wood energy. Concerning the sound information and knowledge base for better policies and good governance, we support FAO's work on capacity-building and on tools to strengthen national forest information systems. We also support evidence-based and future-oriented policy-making and efforts designed to achieve managerial progress in enhancing guidance and capacity-building through the other identified means.

Regarding the review of activities of forest and grasslands in the Near East Region, we fully endorse paragraph 44 that recommends FAO to increase support to the development of improved tools and mechanisms leading towards enhanced financing of forestry and grasslands programmes in Member Nations of the Region, including through South-South Cooperation.

Regarding the Strategic Framework and programme priorities for FAO in forestry, we agree that the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework on paragraph 63 is important because it requested FAO to give greater recognition to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of nature resources in supporting livelihood development, sustainable production, and formulation of Strategic Objectives and Action Plans.

With that, we endorse the document.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Señor Presidente, tomo la palabra en nombre del Grupo Africano para hacer breves comentarios sobre el tema del Orden del día, el documento C 2013/25.

Quiero felicitar al Presidente por la presentación precisa que ha hecho de este documento. El Grupo Africano considera importante las 20 medidas que se proponen en el documento. Si bien la formulación de alguna de estas medidas nos parece un poco más general y compleja, queríamos mejorar alguna de estas formulaciones. Pero pensamos que la mejor formulación de las medidas orienta mejor las estrategias de actuación.

Sobre el Estado de los Bosques del Mundo 2012, el Grupo Africano suscribe la recomendación para que la FAO prestara apoyo a los países en la mejora de la contribución de los bosques y los productos forestales al desarrollo económico. Y quiero destacar que la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África, en la definición de las esferas prioritarias de acción de la FAO destacó la importancia de un

enfoque integrado reconociendo la importancia de la ampliación del alcance de la productividad agrícola a la actividad forestal, la pesca, la ganadería, la acuicultura, y poniendo de relieve el enfoque basado en la cadena de valor, la gestión de recursos hídricos, la infraestructura inmaterial y el cambio climático.

El Grupo Africano quiere subrayar igualmente la importancia de la traducción del resultado de Río+20 en medidas concretas. Precisamente queremos indicar en el párrafo 17 de este Informe, en su referencia a la preparación del Plan de Acción sobre Economía Verde de la CEPE/FAO para el sector forestal y tener en cuenta la Declaración consensual africana para Río+20. Esta es una Declaración que conlleva una reflexión precisa y consensuada africana sobre el enfoque de la Economía Verde.

Come comentario general, quisiera recordar que África se enfrenta a grandes problemas derivados del cambio climático que inciden directamente en la inseguridad alimentaria y la calidad de vida de los habitantes. A través de la buena gestión de los bosques y la biodiversidad, se podría reducir el nivel de incidencia de dichos problemas.

La Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África recomendó la necesidad de colaborar con los Gobiernos nacionales para establecer programas de creación de capacidad institucional, promover concienciación e incluir la integración de los conocimientos autóctonos para ayudar a las comunidades rurales a comprender y afrontar las consecuencias del cambio climático en relación con la seguridad alimentaria. También recomendó que la FAO elabore modelos de provisión, así como estrategias y políticas regionales y nacionales de mitigación del cambio climático.

Específicamente quiero destacar que la Cuenca del Río Congo, que cubre toda la Sub-región de África Central, alberga la segunda mayor masa forestal del mundo detrás de las Amazonas. Y creemos que dicha región debería contar con especialistas que asistan a los Gobiernos a establecer programas de desarrollo corrientes que combinen mejor el desarrollo agrícola con la gestión sostenible y la protección de los bosques.

El 21.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal trató con mucho énfasis la necesidad de la decisión de los Países Miembros en la elaboración de estadísticas y otras informaciones fiables que puedan redundar en la buena planificación de las políticas forestales para garantizar buena gobernanza.

Por tanto, creemos que el Consejo debería emitir mensajes mucho más claros que ayuden a definir estrategias concretas sobre la conveniencia entre la producción de alimentos, la gestión sostenible de los bosques y la protección del medio natural.

Con estos comentarios, el Grupo Africano suscribe las prioridades del programa de la FAO para el sector forestal, y concretamente las principales conclusiones de la evaluación estratégica de la función y la labor de la FAO en el sector forestal y el Marco Estratégico y prioridades del programa de la FAO en relación con el sector forestal.

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

The United States looks forward to continuing its active cooperation with the FAO Forestry Programme going forward. We also wish to commend FAO's efforts to increase the visibility and understanding of forests' contributions to other sectors, such as agriculture and to the Green Economy, including through engagement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Management and restoration of forests and agricultural lands, particularly those that have been degraded, play an important role in the sustainability and productive viability of agriculture, agroforestry, fisheries, environment development, and an array of other sectors.

We urge FAO to continue seeking opportunities within and outside of the Organization for cross-sectorial collaboration and cooperation. Additionally, the United States supports the request arising from the 21st Session of COFO to give greater recognition to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as to the benefits of forests and trees in the formulation of the Strategic Objectives.

We especially encourage that consideration be given to revising the text of Strategic Objective number two, as follows, and I quote: "Promote the sustainable management of natural resources for

the conservation of biodiversity, enhancement of eco-systems services, and increased production in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.”

We will also address this under Agenda Item 6 on the Reviewed Strategic Framework. The recent FAO Forestry Programme Evaluation Report concluded that resources are spread too thin to adequately address all of the needs that the FAO Forestry Programme tries to cover. In this vein, the United States supports the recommendations of COFO to the Council, emphasizing those recommendations that tap FAO’s core strengths such as supporting countries and strengthening governance mechanisms, hosting and supporting the Forest and Farm Facility, contributing to the bond challenge and capacity for land use planning, and supporting national efforts to strengthen the financial basis for sustainable forest management.

The FAO Forestry Programme plays an important role as a neutral and science-based information body. The United States applauds ongoing efforts by FAO to assist countries to improve collection, analysis, and maintenance of data required to measure progress toward forest-related goals.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Nous considérons que le Cadre stratégique doit refléter de manière mieux appropriée la contribution des ressources naturelles, notamment des forêts et des arbres, à la réalisation des objectifs mondiaux de la FAO. Pour cette raison nous soutenons les recommandations du Comité des forêts visant à donner une plus grande reconnaissance à la conservation de la biodiversité et à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles; ainsi qu’aux avantages des forêts et des arbres liés à la fourniture de services éco-systémiques et aux moyens d’existence, et ainsi que d’appuyer la création de moyens d’existence et la production et la consommation durable lors de l’élaboration des Objectifs Stratégiques et Plans d’action.

Mr Felician KILAHAMA (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

I would like to take this opportunity to actually congratulate and thank those who took the floor to discuss the Report. We have contributed ideas and thoughts on how we can enhance the Report. I did not note anything regarding your question about nature, except the emphasis on sometimes putting more flesh, more meat on the bone. This is what has happened here.

So the views and the contributions will be taken into consideration if there is any opportunity of improving the Report. What is coming up vividly is the need to see, as I said, the position of the role of forestry in the path towards sustainable development. If forestry and tourists are disappearing, drought will increase, and food security will be a problem. Our colleagues in the fishery sector are also talking about the Blue Economy, while we are talking about the Green Economy.

If we can blend the two, I don’t know what would be the outcome between the Blue and the Green. I am hopeful, however, that they will lead to a better life, a better livelihood, and a better security for our survival.

Our colleagues are meeting in an hour. Much of what they are talking about is climate change, but how does climate change impact on us? They are the problems we are facing today. The scent of the trees and the forest will also contribute to climate change, will also improve food security and improve our poverty reduction efforts. If we can improve our forest industries, we will promote employment and this will enhance our survival.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Thank you very much to the countries for your guidance and for the recognition of the work of COFO and that of the Forestry Programme both in Decentralized Offices and at Headquarters.

I would like to start by sharing with you some very good news. Many of you have been following the proposal that originated in the last COFO Session and was endorsed by the last Conference and by other partner organizations. I am referring to the establishment of the International Day of the Forest. Last Friday, the Second Committee of the General Assembly approved the establishment on 21 March of the International Day of the Forest.

I would very much like to thank those who have contributed to this, who have made it possible, especially Ambassador Rachid Marif from Algeria and Ambassador Gladys Urbaneja Durán from Venezuela. By leading the G77, those in Rome and New York, they made it possible for this proposal to gain support and for it to be brought forward to the General Assembly. I would also like to highlight that despite some developed countries reluctance to establish international days and years, this resolution was passed with the positive contribution of all of the members of the United Nations. We are very thankful for it.

We have been taking action immediately in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests this weekend in our meeting in Doha to establish a Strategic Framework for implementing the International Day of the Forest in a strategic manner from 2014 forward. As you would imagine, there is no time to prepare for this event in 2013, but we are very lucky that one of the promoters in Algeria had already scheduled the Third Mediterranean Forest Week within the framework of *Silva Mediterranea*, one of the major FAO events exactly on 1 March, in Algeria, with the participation of Ministers. We can only invite the Membership to assist in providing coverage to the first celebration ever of the International Day of the Forest in Algeria in three months' time.

As regards the follow-up of the different activities, I would like to just share the issues very quickly with you. First, later in the Report of the CCLM, you will note the support of the CCLM and the guidance provided to the reform of today's Advisory Committee on Wood and Wood Products and to the Advisory Committee of Sustainable Forest Industries. These are totally related to the issues of the Green Economy discussed under COFO.

We would like, as well, to highlight that in the Report of the Programme Committee, you will see the results of the discussions on the Strategic Evaluation on Forestry. We would have liked to address this during COFO, but there was no time to translate it into all the languages. You will have the opportunity to discuss this later in the Council.

I would like as well to align the comments from the European Union regarding the streamlining of the Report. It is very important for the countries to report on different processes affecting their work with FAO under the CPF, the Collaborative Partnership for Forests. We have had excellent results and at the present moment, the Collaborative Questionnaire on Forest Resources is shared by six international organizations – international conventions and processes. In recent months, the Montreal Process representing North America, South Pacific, and the Southern Cone has joined the Collaborative Resources Questionnaire. So we are trying to reduce the burden of the countries and we are very glad that the Montreal Process, with other processes, have also joined.

We would also highlight the progress in preparing the International Conference on Forests and Food and Nutrition Security from 13 to 15 May here in Rome. We invite you all to participate. The dates and locations for the next six Regional Forestry Commissions have been identified, and we are moving forward as well as to identify an area and data for COFO in order to assure that the promises and the COFO resolutions related to the Strategic Framework that could not be included in the document because it was already prepared by the Secretariat before COFO met will now be able to be considered. We trust that this timing problem will be solved during the next round so COFO can be convened at an earlier stage in time. We could not confirm the date yet but we are working hard in cooperation with CFS and the Secretariat to find an adequate date to avoid the problem we had this time.

Regarding the reform of the International Poplar Commission and the Convention, we thank the Indian Government for hosting the Fourth Annual Meeting. There is currently a proposal for broadening its mandate so that COFO can be reported on in 2014 as an Article XIV Body.

I would just like, as well, to recall that one of the requirements that COFO had in establishing its programme of work in forests was the bottom-up approach from the Regional Forestry Commission into the COFO process. I think that process is quite unique, and I will invite you to learn more about it as described in the COFO Report. Through this bottom-up approach, we can assure that our priorities in forestry on a global scale are really embracing all of the priorities from the Member Nations.

This was, more or less, what I had to say. I think it's important to share the good news about the International Day of the Forest, as well as the great progress on several activities that may be of interest to you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Rojas. Je vous propose, donc, les conclusions suivantes.

Le Conseil approuve les conclusions et recommandations figurant dans le Rapport de la 21^{ème} Session du Comité des forêts (24-28 septembre 2012). En particulier, le Conseil:

prend note des conclusions du Rapport sur la *Situation des forêts du monde 2012* et note que le Comité a invité le Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF) à les examiner à sa 10^{ème} Session (avril 2013) et a reconnu le rôle actif de la FAO dans le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts (PCF);

recommande que soit encouragée une gestion durable des forêts et des arbres fondée sur une approche intégrée prenant en compte l'ensemble du paysage et que soit défini le rôle futur de l'Organisation dans le « Défi de Bonn »;

approuve la recommandation du Comité tendant à:

aider les pays à accroître la contribution des forêts et des produits forestiers au développement économique;

mettre en évidence les moyens de renforcer les liens entre forêts et agriculture dans les différents secteurs et divers organismes et dans les politiques de gestion des terres, en vue d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire;

aider les pays à atteindre leurs objectifs de développement dans le domaine de la dendroénergie;

renforcer les mécanismes de gouvernance et promouvoir l'intégration des questions forestières aux principales politiques relatives à l'environnement, à la biodiversité et à l'utilisation des terres à tous les niveaux, notamment en appuyant le Mécanisme en faveur des agriculteurs et des forêts;

aider les pays en renforçant les systèmes nationaux de façon à enrichir la base de connaissances, de statistiques et d'information sur les forêts, pour une meilleure gouvernance des forêts;

encourage l'Organisation à étudier les moyens de renforcer l'efficacité des programmes pluri-annuels futurs, notamment pour ce qui est de fixer les priorités, d'éviter les chevauchements d'activités et de déterminer les besoins en ressources, et approuve la stratégie à long-terme pour l'Évaluation des ressources forestières mondiales, ainsi que les recommandations des commissions régionales sur les priorités du programme;

appuie la recommandation que la FAO aide les pays à accroître la contribution des forêts et des produits forestiers au développement économique, notamment en fournissant des informations, des connaissances et une assistance aux pays pour leur permettre d'améliorer l'emploi des produits forestiers issus de forêts faisant l'objet d'une gestion durable;

appuie la recommandation que la FAO réfléchisse aux moyens de mettre à profit les forêts pour une économie plus verte;

demande qu'une plus grande attention soit portée à la conservation de la biodiversité et à la gestion durable des ressources forestières lors de l'élaboration des Objectifs Stratégiques, compte tenu des indications du Comité, et recommande de tirer tout le parti possible des apports des Conférences régionales aux prochaines Sessions du Comité des forêts, en se concentrant sur les questions présentant un intérêt commun pour plusieurs des Conférences et Commissions régionales.

fait sienne la recommandation visant une coopération plus étroite entre les Comités de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches.

Voici donc les conclusions tirées de la présentation et de vos débats, mais s'il y a un point qui vous semble être omis, n'hésitez pas à le signaler, car cela facilitera la rédaction du Rapport. Pas de commentaires, donc nous le transmettrons ainsi.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président et Monsieur le Secrétaire, et j'en profite pour dire à l'issue de ce point 8, nous avons passé du temps, compte tenu de l'action et du travail réalisé par les quatre Comités, tout comme ce fut le cas avec les Conférences régionales lors du dernier Conseil. Il s'agit de la base de notre proposition pour les Objectifs Stratégiques et de l'action de la FAO.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Muy brevemente para decirle que con relación a sus conclusiones en el Comité de Redacción, mi Delegación va a tratar de ajustarlas al texto del Informe que se aprobó.

3. Programme Implementation Report 2010-11
3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-2011
3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2010-11

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous en avons terminé avec le point 8 et allons passer au point 3, *le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11*. Comme prévu, nous tiendrons compte des éléments du rapport de la réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier du 7 novembre se référant à ce point.

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

I will briefly present the purpose, format and content of the Programme Implementation Report for the 2010-11 biennium.

The Programme Implementation Report informs the Membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the previous biennium. It is retrospective in nature, reporting on what the Organization has achieved in terms of programmatic results and financial performance, compared to the two-year targets set out in the Medium-Term Plan and to the budget in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Under the results-based framework that covers all of FAO's work under all sources of funds, the monitoring and reporting arrangements are built on three elements: work plan monitoring; mid-term review, and the end of biennium assessment.

Periodic work plan monitoring was undertaken by all unit managers to identify risks and improve programme delivery during the biennium. The mid-term review 2010 was a qualitative assessment by Managers and Strategy Team Leaders of progress toward achievement of unit and organizational results. It was carried out in early 2011 and presented in the Mid-term Synthesis Report 2010.

The end of biennium assessment, presented in the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 before you, provides a comprehensive analysis of achievements and identifies opportunities for improved organizational performance. It includes a quality assurance process for reported performance information related to indicators, so as to verify progress reported and document the reasons for missed targets and lessons learned.

This is the first Programme Implementation Report produced under the results framework of the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13. The structure is, therefore, somewhat different from past reports, and, as recommended by the Conference, it was developed in consultation with the Programme and Finance Committees.

The first section of the Report highlights four major policy developments in the biennium relating to FAO's work, on Food Price Volatility, on Emergency Intervention, on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and on Sustainably Increasing Food Production through Save and Grow. This section was first introduced in the previous PIR, and was welcomed by Members.

The second section, Making a Difference, provides an overview of the Organization's main achievements worldwide under the current 11 Strategic Objectives, the Functional Objective X in collaboration with Member Nations and stakeholders, and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The third section, *Managing Resources Wisely*, describes FAO's managerial performance. It combines a review of work done under Functional Objective Y on Administration, with various financial analyses and other initiatives to improve internal efficiency and effectiveness.

The Report includes five printed Annexes and one Web Annex on the Internet, providing information on quality assurance, regional dimensions, language policy, gender and geographical representation of Professional staff, and programmatic results.

So what did we achieve in the 2010-11 biennium? As you will recall, the agreed measure of FAO's effectiveness is through indicators and targets of the Organizational Results. In 2010-11, we achieved 76 percent of the 174 performance targets in the Organizational Results. The main reasons for the shortfall were threefold: first, the change in donor interests, competing priorities and ambitious targets, accounting for 29 of the 41 targets that were not met; secondly, optimistic assumptions about the cost of data collection, its timeliness and availability, accounting for 6 of the targets missed; and third, measures for 6 indicators that were only available later this year, after the document was published and one of those targets, under Strategic Objective L, has now been reported as exceeding performance.

Concerning the administrative and financial performance, the Organization spent 99 per cent of the approved Regular Programme budget, while total expenditure including increased Voluntary Contributions rose by 25 per cent during the biennium to USD 2.7 billion. Biennial efficiency savings totaled USD 37.5 million, achieving the target in the PWB.

Other important achievements include: an increase in the representation of women among the Professional and higher ranks of staff, from 21 percent at the end of 1996 rising to 40 percent at the end of 2011 biennium; a reduction in the number of Member Nations outside the range of equitable representation among professional and above staff; the continued improvement in the recovery of administrative and operational support costs, rising from 64 percent in 2006-07 to 84 percent in 2010-11; and the successful decentralization of the Technical Cooperation Programme, with a reduction in the TCP project approval time from six to four months, and putting in place an internal assessment of TCP results.

The main value from a review of past performance is to identify opportunities to improve corporate performance. I would like to highlight four lessons learned that are helping to shape the reviewed Strategic Framework and the new Medium-Term Plan: first, the potential of partnerships and alliances to increase FAO's influence; second, the use of multi-disciplinary approaches to better meet the needs of stakeholders, especially when coupled with good science, statistics and assessment; third, the importance of investing in capacity-development as an engine for sustainable improvements. And fourth, the strengthened results-based management techniques and practices, in particular the results chain and the formulation of cost-effective indicators and targets.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to the comments of the Council on the format and content of the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11, and its transmission to Conference.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I am sure that you were thinking of doing something else this evening but we have many important issues to discuss that I am happy that you chose to remain with us. As you who were here at the Council in June, you know that my colleague, Mounqui, and I will be a recurring feature up here, so I will try to be very brief so as not to exhaust your patience.

I had indeed the pleasure to Chair the Joint Meeting this time. The Joint Meeting is a true honour because it very much reflects the whole Membership, and it gives us a good way of preparing Council to discuss important issues before it actually meets.

When it comes to the Programme Implementation Report, the Joint Meeting appreciated the work done while regretting that the June Council had not been able to discuss this important document because it arrived too late for the Council to consider. For 2012-13, we requested a concise and focused Programme Implementation Report, and encouraged further work on geographic representation while reiterating that competence is the main criteria.

We want to see an analysis of what helps to achieve success and what hinders it, i.e. lessons learned, a report focusing on key findings and performance against indicators, as well as information on the regional dimensions within the Strategic Objectives, as well as a clearer reporting of the implementation of the integrated budget.

The Joint Meeting endorsed the Programme Implementation Report.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I didn't want to be the first speaker. Chairperson, I'm making this intervention on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group considers the PIR 2010-11 as a bottom-up approach in measuring results at unit level for each of the 56 organizational results toward the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11.

We treat the PIR as an accountability report by Management to the Governing Bodies and do not expect the assessment of impact from the PIR. Impact assessment is the domain of the Office of Evaluation and in some areas of work, of the Office of the Inspector-General.

The Near East Group wishes to strongly support the five recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of 7 November on the PIR 2010-11. The Near East Group appreciates the effort of OSP and that of the other FAO units at Headquarters and Decentralized Offices in the preparation of the PIR 2010-11. The job is laborious and cross-organizational. In this connection, the Near East group welcomes the explanation provided in Annex 1 of the document on how the information on performance under the organizational results was assembled and sifted for consistency and accuracy.

The Near East Group particularly appreciates the contents of Annex 2 of the document which gives the regional dimension of the PIR, and which more or less conforms with what was reported to the five Regional Conferences by the respective regional ADG's.

In general, the Near East Group endorses the structure of the PIR and as I said before, we appreciate its regional dimension. While PIR 2010-11 is informative in terms of outputs realized, or not realized, the textual part is somewhat bulky and in some places it overplays the contribution of exogenous elements that were not factored into the PWB 2010-11. We feel that the PIR should be the accountability report on what was planned, and not of unplanned and unforeseen events that develop during the course of implementation. The latter should be treated in a different manner.

The Near East Group welcomes that a common outline that was used in explaining the biennial performance of each Strategic Objective and takes note that the programmatic results of the 49 organization results of the 11 Strategic Objectives and the 7 organizational results of Functional Objective X and Y are listed in Annex 5 of the document.

The Near East Group considers the context of the PIR to be useful to Member Nations, and other FAO partners, and especially to the donor community which contributes funds to the Organization that exceed the level of net appropriation. As shown in figure two, the overall 76 percent rate of success is a sign of healthy performance.

The Near East Group notes the steady rise in the recovery of administrative and operational support costs derived from extra-budgetary funded field projects, but the aim should be 100 percent recovery. In this connection, the Near East Group notes the useful comments of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee on support cost expenditures and recovery.

From figure one, the Near East Group notes that the Professional staff of Headquarters units still remain the major source of technical support to field projects, 55 percent with the share of the Sub-regional Offices remaining relatively low (18 percent). We hope this will change dramatically with the strengthening of the Technical Hubs.

The Near East Group is disappointed by the low share of support to field projects in the Near East and North Africa Regions. This needs to be corrected.

Finally Chairperson, we look forward for a more concise and focused PIR of 2012-13, as recommended by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of 7 November.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia thanks FAO for producing the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 using the results based framework, and notes that this Report is an improvement over previous versions. Australia raised a number of issues at the 37th Session of the Conference in 2011 with respect to the 2008-09 PIR, recommended a number of improvements.

In light of these previous comments, we made the following requests for future improvements to the PIR to insure that the PIR reflects effective prioritization of the FAO's work. We acknowledge that this may be in development and look forward to seeing greater prioritization pursued through the further development of the Strategic Framework and the next PWB.

We request information on instances where programme elements have been canceled, delayed or modified, and more extensive assessment of results by using more indicators with benchmarks and targets at country and programme levels.

The Outlook and Lessons Learned Section under each Strategic Objective reporting should be considerably expanded. This should include an outline of what FAO will do differently in future to ensure all targets are met.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

I would kindly ask you to pass the floor on to the European Union so that Cyprus, who is holding the Presidency at the moment, can speak on behalf of the EU and the 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

We welcome the first Programme Implementation Report (PIR) which contains a wealth of useful information of how FAO has performed in accordance with the new Strategic Framework and the results-based framework, In line with the reform, FAO's result is now reported to a larger extent in terms of impact instead of output.

We are pleased to see that overall, FAO has done reasonably well on results against indicators, especially if we take into account that some indicators were not measurable. We appreciate the clear indication in paragraph 49 of areas where the Organization can do better and would like to underline the importance of further improving corporate policies and organizational support.

As highlighted in the PIR, FAO's human resources are the key to successful performance. We strongly encourage merit-based appointments and building capacity, with a focus on better management and performance assessment. FAO should strive to achieve a better gender balance across the Organisation, at all levels, including in Senior Management, and at both Headquarters and Decentralized Offices. We strongly encourage FAO to make understanding of, and commitment to, gender a core competence for all Management, as well as considering gender across all areas of work.

We request that FAO reports back to Member Nations on progress with this. While welcoming FAO's concerted efforts in building internal capacities on gender equality, following the Gender Audit, we note with concern that there are no results reported of the increased budget allocation for Strategic Objective K on Gender.

We take this opportunity to emphasize that spending is not in itself an indication of sound budget management; managing resources wisely is the challenge. We recognize that measures are being taken to address these issues and look forward to the development of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) to help improve country performance and use of available resources more effectively for maximum impact. In addition the new Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy, an important part of IPA action, is an important tool to increase efficiency of planning funding. It is good to see that the Secretariat's forecast of mobilizing extra-budgetary resources was accurate. We hope that the transition to more programmatic resources can be further accelerated.

The EU welcomes the emphasis on achieving value for money as demonstrated by the reporting on efficiency savings. Particularly in the current financial climate, it is important that FAO continues to strive for further efficiencies where possible to ensure that maximum funding goes to programmes.

We appreciate the clear outline of major trends in each sector, what FAO has accomplished and, especially, the "outlook and lessons learnt" and encourage the Secretariat to put particular emphasis on this last item, further developing the analysis. We note that there are no lessons learned for the Decentralized Offices Network (paragraphs 197-213).

The emphasis on partnerships, a multi-disciplinary approach and capacity-building is welcomed. A fine example is the cooperation with WFP in the Global Food Security Cluster. Another is the cooperation of many divisions in FAO to create an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation. We strongly support the emphasis in *inter alia* paragraph 92 to improve collaboration across FAO, as well as the conclusion that FAO should develop more effective partnerships with relevant organizations as a way of focusing on its comparative advantages.

In conclusion, the EU can fully concur with the assessment in the document that, taking account of lessons learned during the biennium, the highest priority areas of attention for improved programmatic performance are: greater focus on prioritization; continued focus on results and demonstrating impact; improved management of resources (financial and human), more effective alliances and partnerships and development of a clear corporate strategy in this regard, to be discussed with the Membership; a more thorough approach to multi-disciplinary actions; investing in capacity-building as an engine for lasting improvements; promoting greater focus on governance and on enabling environment to improve project sustainability especially in challenging environments; and promoting greater focus on gender across all areas of work.

We look forward to an on-going discussion on this issue, and how we can further refine and develop FAO's reporting on results with clear and measurable indicators of impact.

M. MOUNGUI MÈDI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur le Point 3 de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Régional d'Afrique. Le Groupe Régional d'Afrique félicite le Secrétariat pour la production de ce Rapport, qui porte sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11 et qui nous est soumis pour examen et/ou décision.

Nous voulons féliciter Monsieur Boyd pour sa brillante présentation. Par la même occasion nous félicitons le travail fait par le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme pendant la Réunion conjointe du 7 novembre, dont le Rapport nous a été dernièrement présenté par la Présidente du Comité du Programme.

Ce rapport nous donne des informations sur le travail de la FAO accompli au cours de l'exercice biennal qui s'est achevé en décembre 2011, notamment sur les résultats opérationnels et financiers qui avaient été prévus dans le Programme de travail et budget. On nous a demandé d'apporter nos commentaires sur le contenu du Rapport, mais aussi sur la forme, et nous allons nous limiter à ces deux orientations. Le Groupe Régional d'Afrique a examiné ce Rapport avec, en toile de fond, la vision globale de la FAO, qui est d'avoir un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition, et dans lequel l'alimentation et l'agriculture contribuent à améliorer le niveau de vie des populations, notamment les plus pauvres, de manière durable en termes économiques, sociaux et environnementaux. Nous avons également tenu compte de la réalisation des trois Objectifs mondiaux et l'atteinte des 11 Objectifs stratégiques et des deux objectifs mentionnés.

La FAO en 2010-11 a-t-elle contribué à la réalisation de cette noble vision? Telle est la question qu'il convient de se poser en parcourant le Rapport. Dans le Rapport il a été identifié un certain nombre de défis majeurs dans l'environnement mondial au cours des réunions considérées – défis qui continuent de peser lourd sur l'atteinte des objectifs en matière de sécurité alimentaire:

- 1) le niveau inacceptable du nombre de personnes qui souffrent encore de la faim et de la malnutrition;
- 2) l'instabilité des prix des denrées alimentaires qui perdure;

- 3) le problème de changement climatique qui est réel; et
- 4) et l'augmentation des crises et des catastrophes.

Monsieur le Président, nous prenons acte de toutes les actions engagées par la FAO pour faire face à ces grands défis et qui ont permis d'obtenir des résultats concrets sur le terrain. Nous nous félicitons particulièrement des résultats obtenus dans tous les domaines en rapport avec le travail de la FAO et des actions entreprises dans les Bureaux décentralisés et, particulièrement, le lancement de plusieurs initiatives destinées à améliorer la cohérence, les résultats et l'intégration du réseau actuel des Bureaux décentralisés conformément au projet relatif au Plan d'action immédiat.

Le Groupe Régional d'Afrique apprécie également l'organisation des visites de terrain pour les Représentants permanents. Celles-ci se sont révélées utiles, car elles ont permis à nos Représentants qui y ont pris part de se familiariser avec les travaux des Bureaux décentralisés. Ils se sont fait une idée directe des difficultés que rencontrent ces Bureaux pour appuyer l'action humanitaire et les actions de développement dans ces pays. Ils ont pu aussi comprendre les possibilités d'amélioration du fonctionnement de ces Bureaux et les enjeux s'y rapportant. Nous encourageons donc la multiplication de ces visites.

Pour ce qui est du cas spécifique du Programme de coopération technique – le PCT – les enjeux inhérents au traitement de nombreuses demandes venant des pays et la mise en œuvre d'un mécanisme d'assurance qualité restent des défis. Nous avons remarqué que seulement 11 pour cent de ces demandes ont été approuvées pendant cet exercice biennal 2010-11 et qu'un pourcentage encore élevé de projets non éligibles a été identifié - un peu plus de 10 pour cent. Pourquoi continue-t-on d'identifier des projets non éligibles? C'est un effort qui, que nous ne recommandons pas parce qu'il n'est pas productif.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Régional d'Afrique pense que pour apporter des solutions durables aux problèmes de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la malnutrition, il est fondamental que la FAO continue de travailler d'avantage avec les pays dans la perspective d'accroître de manière durable la productivité et la qualité des cultures vivrières et de la production animale du développement rural, des moyens de subsistance et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources. Nous partageons aussi l'avis émis par la Réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme sur la manière de présenter les futurs rapports sur l'exécution du Programme. A savoir:

- 1) analyser les facteurs qui contribuent au bon résultat et ceux qui sont la cause des insuffisances relevées, et mettre en lien cette analyse et les enseignements à tirer d'activités antérieures;
- 2) inclure une évaluation des questions transversales, des fonctions essentielles et de la mobilisation des ressources;
- 3) recentrer le rapport imprimé sur les principales conclusions et les résultats en regard des indicateurs, et publier des documents d'appui sous forme d'Annexe web;
- 4) aligner les rapports sur les dimensions régionales sur les objectifs spécifiques, et
- 5) présenter des rapports plus clairs sur l'exécution du Programme.

Avec ces remarques, Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Régional d'Afrique approuve le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11, et suggère au Conseil de le soumettre à la Conférence de 2013 pour approbation.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

El Ecuador respalda el Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-11, y solamente quiere resaltar la necesidad de que para la preparación de los Informes se presente información de los indicadores del cumplimiento de los Objetivos Estratégicos por regiones, a fin de poder evaluar de mejor manera el impacto y las repercusiones del trabajo de la FAO.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to thank Mr Boyd Haight for the presentation. We remember that Mr Haight almost lost his voice in the June Council due to the overwork, but we are happy to hear his clear voice at this late hour today.

We think this is an excellent and useful Report and we endorse its transmission to the Conference next summer. We won't go into details today and we would like to highlight two points out of the recommendations of the Joint Programme and Finance Committee Report.

First, this is the first Report of the implementation of the integrated budget which is comprised of regular budget and extra-budgetary contributions, and we can imagine that drafting the Report was not a routine, rather a cumbersome work. We appreciate the efforts of the Management in that context.

However, we hope that the implementation of the integrated budget is more clearly described in the next Report, as was discussed in the Joint Programme and Finance Committee last month. Second and last, we appreciate the Management's effort to try to submit the Report to the June Council. As the Chairperson of the Programme Committee just said, it missed the deadline unfortunately but we are pleased to hear that the FAO staff are already using this Report for reviewing and improving their work even before the formal confirmation by the Council.

We hope that we can discuss the next Report in the spring Council so that the lessons learned and our comments may be reflected in the subsequent PWB. Concise and focused Report would make it possible, as was stated by the Near East Group.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all I would like to express my thanks for this document, the Programme Implementation Report for 2010-11 and the Immediate Plan of Action. This is a great amount of painstaking work, so I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on preparing that document.

We'd like to point out that three quarters of the Objectives were achieved, which is not a bad result, I think. It highlights the effectiveness of the FAO reform process, but at the same time we express some concern that 29 Objectives were not achieved, including important ones such as the sustainable management of forests, the cooperation with Member Nations in concerned countries, and so on.

In principle, we welcome FAO's action on improving the efficiency of food markets by providing timely information, providing assistance to farmers and helping them to adapt to climate change and cope with emergency situations.

And, finally, we would like to note the work on increasing the use of Russian in FAO, and express the hope that its use will continue to increase in all areas of FAO's work.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing this comprehensive Report. We have two points to make. First, we appreciate FAO's work over the last two years in its support to the development of agriculture and in continuing its internal reforms, FAO has achieved remarkable results and has presented activities that elicit our admiration.

Just to give you an example, the timeframe for approving a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, was reduced from six to four months, and the payment was speeded up as well. I think that is a very eloquent example, demonstrating that there is a new change in FAO's work.

Second, we would like to express our concern at geographical representation in the Report. It says on page 106 that representation of Asian countries is fairly low. There is a chart there that includes, of course China, however, certain Asian countries are not represented in the FAO at all. Moreover, some countries are less well represented in higher posts.

I note that we've had many views from the VIPs on the podium, but we've hardly seen any Asian faces. I have seen many faces on the podium but I have hardly ever seen an Asian face there. So we hope that the FAO and the Secretariat will step up its actions to take measures to remedy that

situation. We hope that, among the new efforts undertaken by the Director-General, we will then see more Asian faces in the Organization in the future.

Sr. Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

Cuba coge con beneplácito el Informe presentado por la Secretaría. Coincidimos con la visión de insatisfacción por la cantidad de personas que padecen hambre aún, teniendo en cuenta sobre todo que esto se concreta en un contexto de crisis a nivel mundial agravado por varios factores, entre estos, la volatilidad de los precios de los alimentos, en particular debido a la especulación financiera en el mercado internacional de los alimentos.

Es significativo que en el período no se alcanzó el 17 por ciento de las metas planteadas, principalmente como resultado de cambios en los intereses de los donantes y de prioridades contrapuestas, entre otros aspectos.

Sobre los resultados alcanzados, mi delegación desea reconocer particularmente la implementación de las actividades de la FAO en el terreno, con énfasis en aquellos enfoques adaptados a las circunstancias determinadas por la incidencia del cambio climático en la agricultura, la gestión de la reducción de riesgos de desastres y la colaboración con otras organizaciones, como el PMA.

Entre las temáticas apoyadas por la FAO en el período, tengo el agrado de señalar que la referida a la inocuidad de los alimentos tuvo una constatación concreta entre los resultados alcanzados por el Programa de Cooperación Técnica en mi país, con la implementación de un proyecto regional que, en nuestro caso, nos permitió una revisión de la situación actual que debe enfrentar el país en momentos en que hemos decidido descentralizar la producción de alimentos hasta el nivel local. Asistencias de este tipo son las que necesitamos los países para sentar las bases de creación o fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

En este mismo sentido, Presidente, mi Delegación expresa su reconocimiento a los actuales esfuerzos de la Organización para lograr una mayor eficiencia en su trabajo, en lo cual están jugando un importante papel las medidas promovidas por el Director General y refrenda el Informe que nos ha sido presentado.

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

I sincerely thank Delegates for the suggestions that have been made to improve future reports. The PIR has gone through many evolutions and we hope we can get better at meeting your needs.

Concerning the timing of the Report, we will of course try to produce the next PIR within the first half of 2014. The comment that I believe Japan made about the fact that we're able to move ahead with using the results in fact is because the PIR is simply a report of the end of biennium assessment that we carry out internally at the end of the year, so our staff and the Management already have at hand, before the Report is even produced, the Management information that helps to make corrections and improvements and that is one of the features of our monitoring system.

The timing of the Report is also related to an issue raised by the European Union. You mentioned that we had not reported on the increase in resources for Strategic Objective K on Gender, which is, in fact, something that was discussed and agreed at the Conference one year ago for the current biennium, 2012-13 so there is a timing issue in terms of your thinking ahead with the current biennium and we'll report on this in the next PIR 2012-13, that is on how we have used the additional over five million USD for gender in 2012-13. The timing of the PIR and planning documents is something we have to think about in terms of the overlapping nature of our planning process and our process.

And in that respect, it's also important to remember that the next PIR 2012-13 will be reporting against the current Strategic Framework, not the new Strategic Framework. There will be a limit as to what we can do in terms of improved reporting on indicators. By the time you see the next PIR, you will already have reviewed and approved a new Medium-Term Plan, so we'll all need to bear this in mind as we move forward.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Haight. Je vous propose donc le projet de conclusion pour le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme.

Le Conseil accueille avec satisfaction le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11 et prend note des résultats obtenus au cours de l'exercice biennal en regard des objectifs pré-établis.

Le Conseil demande que soit élaboré un Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2012-13 plus concis et plus focalisé, pour examen à sa première Session en 2014; et recommande les améliorations suivantes:

- analyser les facteurs qui contribuent aux résultats positifs et ceux qui sont la cause des insuffisances relevées, et mettre en lien cette analyse et l'expérience acquise;
- faire figurer dans le Rapport une évaluation des questions transversales, des fonctions essentielles, et de la mobilisation de ressources;
- recentrer le corps du Rapport (imprimé) sur les principales conclusions et les résultats obtenus en regard des indicateurs (voir l'annexe 5 du document C 2013/8), et publier les documents d'appui sous la forme d'Annexes web;
- aligner les Rapports futurs sur les dimensions régionales des Objectifs stratégiques et présenter des Rapports plus clairs sur l'exécution du budget intégré; et
- énoncer clairement les priorités fixées en début d'exercice et les résultats obtenus en regard des indicateurs d'impact.

Le Conseil encourage la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts en faveur d'une représentation géographique équilibrée parmi le personnel du cadre organique, tout en respectant les exigences en matière de compétences.

Et le dernier point:

Le Conseil approuve le rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11, qui sera soumis à l'attention de la Conférence.

Voilà les propositions qui vous sont faites au regard à la fois des travaux des Comités du Programme, des rapports présentés et de vos interventions.

4. Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action

4. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate

4. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point 4, *Rapport sur l'État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate* se trouve dans les documents CL 145/10 et CL 145/10 Sup.1. Ces documents contiennent le Rapport sur les nouvelles orientations liées à la mise en œuvre du PAI présenté précédemment, et sur les mesures prises pour accélérer la mise en place des actions qui seront achevées en 2012 et en 2013. Les éléments se référant à ce point contenu dans les Rapports des Comités du Conseil, comme indiqué dans les calendriers provisoires, seront aussi pris en compte.

Sans plus attendre, j'invite Monsieur Benfield, Directeur de l'Unité de gestion du programme d'exécution du PAI à introduire ce Rapport.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, Programme Management Unit)

The Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action for 2012 indicates progress made towards acceleration of the IPA programme in realizing the benefits of the IPA and in mainstreaming of IPA activities.

The objective for acceleration is to complete as many IPA actions as possible by the end of 2012. The Report indicates that at the end of 2012, it is projected that of the 274 IPA actions in the programme,

10 actions, due to their size and complexity, or their nature, will not complete at the end of 2012. In addition, there are three actions that require the engagement of Members to complete.

And finally there are ten IPA actions for discussion with Members that Management had proposed be considered closed. These are described in the progress report at paragraphs 10-26 and, in summary, in the table at paragraph 27. There was a very constructive discussion in the Joint Session of Finance and Programme Committees on these actions and, as a result of that discussion, Management has changed its recommendations for these ten IPA actions. The revised proposal is now for five actions to be closed, two to remain open, and three to be parked for future consideration. This revised proposal is contained in the supplement CL 145/10 Sup.1 at paragraph 4, and Council is requested to provide guidance on these updated Management proposals.

On realizing benefits, the Report indicates that over 300 benefits have been identified. The benefits have been divided into major and minor categories with the major benefits providing a high level view, as requested by Members, of the results of the reform. This progress report provides some examples of benefits, and the major and minor benefits will be presented in the main report on the IPA that will be considered by the Spring 2013 Sessions of Governing Bodies.

On mainstreaming, the Report describes the approach to mainstreaming, some of the large IPA actions that will not complete in 2012. Also at the end of 2012, not all of the IPA benefits will have been fully achieved, and the Report describes the approach to mainstreaming benefits realization after 2012.

The Report also indicates financial progress, with expenditure at end August 2012 of USD 16.5 million. A balance of USD 3.5 million is projected to be carried forward mid-biennium, from 2012 to 2013. Of course the IPA programme is a biennial budget and Management has indicated that it is anticipated that the entire budget will be expended in 2012-13 solely on IPA activities.

And finally, the Report indicates the proposed contents of the main IPA Report that will be produced for consideration in the Spring Sessions of Governing Bodies. This Report will cover the entire FAO reform period and will provide information on IPA benefits to assist Members in their determination of the extent to which the IPA has addressed the organizational performance issues identified in the IEE.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I must say for me who spent some time here in Rome, it is extremely interesting and almost moving to see how we're coming through this process and what it has meant for both the Member Nations and the countries. I for one feel that all the work that we have done on the Reform together with the Secretariat has brought all of us together, and so it is interesting to see the end of this process and to see how we will be able to follow it up because this was just the foretaste of the Report that we will see next year which will report on the whole reform period from 2009-12. We very much look forward to that Report. We made what I find a useful suggestion of having a shorter summary of the whole Reform Process for the benefit of our new colleagues who have not been involved in the process to be able to bring them up to speed.

The Joint Meeting requested that the next Report also look into sustainability because we all know that change takes time to really put down roots. I read somewhere that it can take between three and ten years so we need to keep our eyes on that and also possible multiplier effects.

We suggested, as Mr Benfield said, to use other terms than closed to better reflect the status of the outstanding ten items. We're happy to see that has been taken on-board and this is what we're asked to reflect on today. Also the budget for IPA should be fully utilized in 2013 with no further carry-overs. In spite of the difficulties that we can understand, we strongly encourage the Secretariat to overhaul the FAO Manual, an exercise which could draw on the other public sector experiences such as the one in Mexico.

The Joint Meeting requested a status update on the frequency of executive leadership meetings, meetings of the Human Resources Committee, on the working status of the Performance Evaluation

Management System and on the recruitment of the Ombudsman, as well as the information as to how to gender objectives are being fulfilled, all important parts of the IPA.

We also said that greater flexibility in grading of posts and continued corporate business improvement was expected. Information on the revised culture change approach and on staff mobility should be made available as soon as possible. Language balance, testing of machine translations and finding funding for interpretation were additional points raised by the Joint Meeting.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I'm happy to sit before you this evening to report on the outcome of our discussion in the Finance Committee on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

You've heard Mr Benfield and also the Chairperson of the Programme Committee. I think what they have said was exactly what is in the Report, but I wish to emphasize that we were given a task to essentially discuss the financial issues contained therein.

Then, though we have just given that sermon, we discussed SOSA's progress of individual IPA initiatives such as the Human Resource Strategy, Implementation of the General Resource Management System but what we did substantially was to review the progress on the IPA 2012 budget and expenditures presented in section 5 of the document, paragraphs 58-61. In that regard, the Committee noted that there was an un-expenditure on a number of IPA items which were expected to result in a carryover of funds at the end of 2012 of approximately USD 3.5 million. We noted that there should be no carryover after 2013. I think the Secretariat confirmed that. You heard Mr Benfield speaking about it.

The Committee considered that this could not be a full Report. It was considered as an Interim Report and that a full Report on the financial performance 2012 would be provided in the 2012 annual report on the IPA, presented at the Spring Session in 2013, including the budget for 2013, and that the Report on post-IPA implementation arrangements will also be presented in 2013.

Mr Mogens KJORUP (Denmark)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. We would like to make the following comments:

First, we appreciate the informative Progress Report, and we support the proposals for how to deal with the IPA actions discussed in section II of the Report, as amended after a discussion in the Programme Committee.

Secondly, we welcome the intention to ensure that the 2012 Annual Report will include full information of not only a quantitative, but also a qualitative nature. We believe the inclusion of qualitative information is important, not only to see whether the exercise was worthwhile, but also important as it tells us how the purposes and objectives behind the various IPA actions were met. This will facilitate the identification of areas where further efforts are still needed.

Thirdly, we agree that the IPA cannot and should not become a limiting framework for pursuing additional opportunities to improve FAO's performance. Constantly looking for ways to improve and innovate is a trademark of an effective and dynamic organization. Against this background we also welcome that such efforts, as reported in the document are made and which are to be discussed under Item 5: Transformational changes in the 2012-13 biennium.

At this stage we will limit our comments to the following: We note that the vision for the transformational changes partially builds upon FAO Reform, the IEE and the IPA. However, these linkages are not very clear. Are the transformational changes initiated on the basis of analysis already carried out of gaps arising from the IPA implementation, or are the linkages between the IPA and the transformational changes of a different nature? We would welcome further information on this matter.

And, finally, on the basis of the comments above, we would encourage FAO, when preparing for the June Conference, to consider the merit of a possible joint analysis of the IPA and the transformational changes in the current biennium as a basis for a discussion and decision on what to do next.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I'm making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group appreciates this Annual Progress Report on IPA implementation and concurs with the comments, requests and suggestions of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, as reflected in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Joint Meeting Report.

The Near East Group considers the Progress Report of the IPA to be well-structured and unambiguous, and expresses appreciation to the Secretariat for its preparation. The Near East Group takes note of Table 2 of the Progress Report which shows expenditures for the first eight months of 2012. The table shows zero expenditure for Project 23 which is culture change, and Project 26 which is mobility. We review this with concern.

Moreover, for ten IPA projects, more than 50 percent of the 2012 allocation remains unspent. This is particularly so for IPA Project 1, Governing Body Reform, Project 5, RBM, Project 12, Partnerships, Project 13, Procurement, and Project 15, Translation and Printing. That is why the Report of the 145th Session of the Finance Committee states that by the end of 2012 there will be a carry forward of approximately USD 3.5 million, that is about 12 percent of the 2012 IPA budget of 28.5 million for the 22 Projects.

This level of under expenditure raises the question of acceleration which is dealt with in Part Two of the Progress Report. While the implementation of several IPA actions is being accelerated for completion, ten IPA actions as listed in paragraph nine of the Progress Report cannot be completed in 2012 and need to be integrated and mainstreamed in the normal work of the Organization.

Part 3 of the Progress Report covers Benefit Realization. The Near East Group supports the two-dimensional approach as mentioned in paragraphs 34 and 36, namely, the timeframe of the benefits and the categorization of benefits into financial and non-financial benefits. In particular, the Near East Group appreciates the IPA benefit realization framework described in Annex One and in the Appendix of Annex One.

Finally the Near East Group is pleased to note that the Progress Report makes no mention of the Marnet Report, though we had been briefed previously that it was well-received by Management.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

I again would like to ask you to pass the floor to the European Union and there to Cyprus the current Presidency, to deliver a statement in order to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding countries to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to reiterate our strong support for the IPA as a shared vision of FAO. We thank the Secretariat for the document and welcome progress made. Efforts now must be made to first complete and mainstream all IPA actions and second to enable the desired fundamental and systematic change by truly embedding the IPA vision and measures in the Organization.

Culture change remains a vital objective. This is one of the most important opportunities for Management to renew the culture within FAO. We invite Management to present its ideas and strategies about which culture change is wanted and how it shall be achieved. Furthermore, we look forward to the result of the Benefits Realization initiative launched by Management to truly see how the IPA has promoted efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in the Organization.

Efforts in human resource management must continue to aim for a modern and efficient structure where recruitment is timely and merit-based and experience is gained both at Headquarters and in the Field. Staff need to be well-equipped and supported to improve management skills and improve performance assessments in order to develop stronger chains of accountability for results.

We strongly encourage FAO to make understanding of and commitment to gender and competence for all Management as well as to consider gender across all areas of work. We request that FAO reports back to Member Nations on progress with this. We reiterate the 144th Council decision to encourage management to appoint the Ombudsman as soon as possible.

The awareness of risk and risk management is increasing which will make actions more sustainable. This trend must continue until risk awareness is truly mainstreamed.

As far as the OIG's risk-based audit is concerned, we would like to be certain that it conforms to international, professional standards and is not just generally complying. As we are nearing the completion of the IPA implementation, we support Management's efforts to go beyond the renewal process prompted by the IEE and transform FAO into an organization that is constantly identifying and implementing better and fully transparent ways of working, and thus able to address changing conditions and new challenges.

We also invite FAO to come forward with concrete steps towards transparent and result-oriented cooperation with the private sector and civil society, in particular farmers associations or organizations and research institutions. We look forward to the presentation of Refined Strategies of Partnerships to be discussed with the Membership taking into account the debate in the Finance and Programme Committees accompanied by concrete Guidelines.

The Finance Committee expressed one month ago concern about the difficulties in the implementation accounted by individual IPA projects such as a result-based budgeting, results-based management and IT projects. We would like to be Informed about appropriate steps taken by the Secretariat in these regards.

We look forward to the presentation in 2013 of a Full Report on the Implementation of the IPA and in particular about the utilization of the remaining USD 12 million plan for the IPA. In this regard, we would appreciate to receive a situation report with an estimate of the remaining workload for the completion of all the remaining actions in a qualitative manner.

Indeed, at the end of 2011, Management confirmed that the 20 percent actions being carried forward to 2012-13 still represented 40 percent in terms of outstanding efforts, time and costs. We also recognize that Membership has a responsibility for completion of some IPA actions, and we will look for continuing working with other Member Nations towards this end.

Finally, we take the opportunity to reiterate the need to protect FAO's competencies as a global knowledge organization to strategically develop its normative capacities for maximum impact, and to preserve and concentrate on its comparative advantages maintaining its centres of excellence.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

I have two points to make. First of all, we approve of the Director-General's timetable to accelerate the reform process and to complete the implementation of the IPA by the end of this year. However, we noted that there are ten items postponed. We have to continue to follow them. They cannot be disregarded.

Secondly, we attach high importance to the language balance. In action 3.55, a budget will be set aside for technical publishing on the web in each available language. Action 3.57 stipulates that separate version websites to the FAO website will be developed in Arabic and Chinese.

The Management proposal here is close, but not implemented in the manner foreseen by the IPA. Of course, while we understand that FAO will attach high importance to the language balance because when a Member Nation can really understand FAO's work, it can really participate in its work. How can a Member Nation understand FAO's work than in its own language. Therefore, language balance is really a matter of Member Nation's interest.

Sr. Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

Mi Delegación desea reconocer el alcance del Informe presentado en el documento CL 145/10. Este permite hacer una valoración objetiva de los alcances obtenidos en la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de

Acción. Es encomiable que la mayoría de las medidas que se encontraban en curso a finales de 2011 finalizarían previsiblemente en 2012.

Mi Delegación apoya las propuestas que se presentan a los Miembros del Consejo para concretar los pasos que permitan dar conclusión a la implementación del Plan de Acción. Mi delegación reconoce los esfuerzos aceptados que la Dirección General de la FAO está realizando en pos de ganar en eficiencia de la Organización y, en este sentido, a la vez que deseamos ratificar nuestro apoyo a esos esfuerzos, resaltamos la importancia que tendrá la presentación de Informes futuros sobre los aspectos de carácter cuantitativo, financiero y presupuestario en el marco de la implementación de las medidas del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Mr David J. LANE (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for providing this in-depth document. It supports the Secretariat in its efforts to fully implement the remaining IPA actions by the end of 2012. The United States also encourages the Secretariat in its efforts to integrate IPA actions into the normative work of the organization.

Over the course of the last four years, the United States has been actively involved in the implementation of FAO's reform agenda, specifically the IPA. This has been, perhaps, the most important issue for the United States with regards to the FAO and improving its functioning. We're gratified to see that many of the reforms agreed to by FAO's Membership contained in the IPA are starting to show results.

However, we believe that we must not be complacent. The job is not complete. Continuing the FAO reform process remains a priority for the United States. Whereas the United States expects the IPA to be concluded by its agreed timeframe, the end of 2013, we are not against completing it earlier. However, we do not want to see quality of implementation sacrificed for speed.

If it is determined that the full timeframe is needed for IPA implementation, we are willing to accept that as well. At the end of this period, we would want to see the remaining IPA items and their costs mainstreamed into the next Programme of Work and Budget.

Regarding the ten IPA actions to be further discussed with Members, the United States Government agrees to consider Actions 3.11, 3.48, 3.84, 7.23, 7.19, 3.55, 3.57, and 3.71 closed or in part, to use Director Benfield's term, pending further action.

While understanding Management's rationale to close Action 6.2, we request that further information be provided to Council as it is not clear that the multi-disciplinary fund is the most effective way to address these cross-cutting issues.

And finally, the United States Government maintains that Action 7.22 be addressed in 2013.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan thanks Mr Benfield for summarizing the document and we also thank the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees for their remarks. We would like to make two observations.

First, we welcome the supplementary document which reflects the comments raised in the Joint Programme and Finance Committee last month. We are delighted that Management has reacted quickly to accommodate our requests, and we support the revised Management proposal regarding the ten outstanding IPAs.

We would like to once again remind the Management that the characteristics of the Actions which are categorized as closed are different, one by one. In this context, we suggest that a remark or a note be adequately added to those which are categorized as closed in the Final Report, as is concisely described in the supplementary document.

Second, the management points out that it is time to realize benefits and we support this. The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees has discussed what benefits are. Japan believes that the overall benefit across the board is important as well as the detailed individual benefit. Expressions on the faces of staff rather than the numerical statement could be a clear indicator to

measure such overall benefit. In other words, it can be measured whether FAO staff are highly motivated and enjoy working for FAO. In that context, we recommend an all staff survey be made in the near future to ascertain whether culture has changed.

Having said that, we look forward to the next report which will give an account of all actions throughout the implemented period. We hope it will provide us with the confidence that the continuous improvement have been mainstreamed within the Organization, and that raising a loud voice for reform is not necessary anymore.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

El Ecuador respalda el Informe presentado y felicita por la aceleración alcanzada conforme al requerimiento del Director General, ya que mi Delegación comparte la idea de que no se puede seguir una reforma permanente. El Informe presenta un resumen de los más de trescientos beneficios alcanzados, frente a lo cual felicita esta Delegación. Sin embargo, el Ecuador quiere recordar lo manifestado por la Conferencia de 2009 que señaló que la plena aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción deberá mejorar la posición de la FAO para ayudar a impulsar la producción agrícola de forma sostenible y reforzar la contribución general de la agricultura al desarrollo y los medios de vida, contribuyendo así a la disponibilidad permanente de alimentos para todos. Es decir, Sr. Presidente, esos son los beneficios y resultados que deberán conseguirse y empezar a evaluarse.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia has long been a supporter of the IPA and the reforms it is bringing to the FAO. Australia recognizes the good progress made towards completion of the IPA process, and supports the Director General's efforts to conclude most outstanding IPA actions by 2012. Australia holds the view that all IPA Actions should be fully completed by the end of 2013 as agreed.

Despite this urgency, we want to see full, comprehensive, and timely implementation of all IPA reforms with its outcomes echoing throughout the Organization. The conclusion of the IPA should not be a rubber-stamp process. Regarding Management's proposals for status changes to the ten IPA recommendations put forward by Management for reconsideration, Australia can broadly support the proposals contained in document CL 145/10 Supp.1.

Australia welcomes and appreciates the benefits realization reporting and looks forward to the IPA 2012 Annual Report which will include quantified results and outcomes. However, there are a number of outstanding reforms that will need to be implemented in 2013 and we will continue to monitor progress through our involvement in the Governing Bodies.

As stated in previous Council meetings, Australia also encourages FAO to move to a post-IPA reform mentality where FAO will start a process to embed a culture of ongoing and continuous reform within the Organization. In this regard, we look forward to a document to be presented in 2013 on post-IPA implementation arrangements.

Mr Jose Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

I am honored to speak on this issue on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. Allow me, this being the first time I am taking the floor, on behalf of my Delegation and Government, to express our profound sorrow and condolences for the passing away of former Director-General Edouard Saouma, who will always be remembered in Cape Verde as a great friend.

I thank the Secretariat for the presentation of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the IPA, which stresses that the review of the implementation of the IPA was very successful. The completion of many IPA Actions previously scheduled to be completed in 2013 was accelerated to be completed in 2012. However, ten IPA actions cannot be completed in 2012 for understandable reasons, and three other new actions were added to the list of outstanding actions.

The Africa Regional Council has expressed in the past its support to the Director General's call for the need to successfully complete the Immediate Plan of Action and is ready to continue supporting this process which is closely linked to the ongoing Strategic Thinking Process. In this context, the Africa Group also welcomes the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General to help

determine the FAO's future strategic direction, and as a basis for reviewing the Strategic Framework 2010-19, as well as preparing the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

We believe indeed that in this matter, three words are key; they were all pronounced here and we subscribe to them. We need to act speedily, we need quality, but we need the Reform to come at a certain point in time, to an end.

Indeed, the 27th FAO Regional Conference for Africa endorsed the broad guidelines, in particular with respect to internal controls and contributable duty, promotion of interdisciplinary work through the use of more disciplinary trust funds, development of partnerships, and assessment of security issues.

In addition, institutional strengthening measures that are being implemented aim to streamline the functioning of the Management Team to facilitate consistency and overall cohesion of accountability. In this case the budget in the Strategic Objectives is particularly welcomed. The actions of the Director-General to better integrate emergency and development programmes in the country offices are also very welcomed.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea welcomes the Progress Report on IPA implementation and thanks the Secretariat for its preparation. We have three points to highlight. First, on the ten IPA actions which management proposed to Members for consideration, we support the decision of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee which was later reflected in the supplementary document and which was circulated today. We also concur with all of the other recommendations made in the Joint Meeting.

Second, on culture change, Action 3.22, which is key among all IPA actions, we would appreciate if Management further elaborated on how will it make employees at all levels fully engaged and how it will mainstream culture change fully into the ongoing work of the Organization? We would also appreciate explanations on how Management will evaluate the effect of culture change.

Finally, we welcome the comprehensive Report on the entire reform period to be provided for the March 2013 Governing Bodies sessions, and we look forward to receiving a condensed report.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Russian Federation)

In principle, we support, like many Delegations who have spoken before us, the release of the document. We congratulate the efforts underway for finalizing the Plan of Action. This includes the acceleration of the reports of the reforms, and also mainstreaming of IPA Actions. We also agree with the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees.

With respect to the Secretariat's proposals about the transfer of measures from the IPA from 2012 to the next year, in principle we don't object, although we do consider that good practice requires everything to be implemented within the timeframe allotted.

And, in conclusion, I would like to support my colleague from the Delegation of China regarding the use of languages in FAO's work. I hope that there will be broader use of Russian too, and that this won't be passed over in the next version of the document.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

El Salvador respalda este Informe sobre los progresos alcanzados en la ejecución del PIA. Solicita que continuemos los esfuerzos para concluir este proceso de Reforma. La FAO tiene que trabajar a pleno ritmo, ya que nuestros países la necesitan. Es fundamental terminar con este ejercicio a la mayor brevedad posible, dándole las herramientas necesarias para cumplir con su cometido con eficiencia.

Mr Jose Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

Thank you for your understanding. For Africa, decentralization has probably always been the single most important IPA issue. Indeed, being one of the continent's most affected by hunger and malnutrition, where food and nutrition security is of utmost importance and having many specificities that make each case unique, Africa cannot but place FAO's Field action at the Regional and Country level at the forefront of its concerns.

Therefore, the FAO Regional Conference for Africa appreciated the actions to improve FAO's efficiency and effectiveness and will count on its commitment to the Decentralization process, making the further efforts required directed toward its effective implementation, especially at country level. It also stressed the need to locate and optimize utilization of human and financial resources to achieve results responding to priorities in regional, sub-regional, and country levels, underlining the need to prioritize immediate implementation while studying the option to proceed in stages.

The Regional Conference for Africa welcomed the idea of decentralized networks of more flexible and innovative technical hubs located, if possible, in the countries where regional economic communities have their Headquarters.

In this context, the ARC is pleased to note that actions are already being taken aimed at strengthening the liaison functions in the Regions, with a corresponding increase in the necessary budget allocation. Africa wishes to reiterate that the criteria for different models of country support should take into consideration additional factors beyond *per capita* income in order to ensure a continued high level of support from FAO and not marginalize small-holders and producers in low-, middle-, or high-income countries, as well as Small Island States.

On this basis, the African Region Conference can go along with the proposal concerning Action 3.48, one of the issues that needs more discussion with Member Nations referred to in paragraphs 10 and 20 of the Report, subject to member agreement.

There is a need, also, for the strengthening of mobilization and allocation of resources to field offices from external partners in association with the private sector, producer organizations and civil society, as well as of giving the due attention to providing capacity-building and using local skills with emphasis on gender equality.

The Africa Region acknowledges, with due appreciation, the fact that the budget of the Technical Cooperation Programme was protected against cuts. However, we propose that the TCP be considerably augmented. The Africa Group recognizes and appreciates the efforts being made to shift the focus of IPA implementation to outcomes and benefits and, to this end, we underline the need to protect FAO's competencies as a global knowledge organization, especially in expressing its comparative advantage.

We also stress the need for continuing culture change with appropriate mechanisms for reporting on its impact with the use of improved indicators.

With this, I would like to express support to the document, while we wait for further Reports that will be brought to this Council in early 2013.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer lugar, para agradecer la presentación del Informe y del documento que hemos estado analizando, el CL 145/10, sobre los avances alcanzados hasta el momento en las distintas medidas aprobadas por el Plan Inmediato de Acción. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela pudiera tener algunas observaciones referidas básicamente a la clasificación de los puestos de trabajo al tema de la reducción de personal y en lo que se ha denominado ahorro para la Organización. Digamos que la hora en que está prevista la programación es muy tarde para tocar estos temas con un poquito más de detalle. Sí quisiéramos indicar la importancia que tiene para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela el tema del cambio de la cultura y la aplicación de la visión, nosotros creemos que el más importante de los cambios que debemos esforzarnos en que sean aplicados en esta Organización el cambio de cultura referente a la rendición de cuentas tal como lo han evidenciado Informes de otras instancias de Naciones Unidas en donde efectivamente hay una debilidad en este tema. Otras organizaciones tienen problemas similares respecto a la rendición de cuentas y a la evaluación de tal manera que nosotros nos acogeríamos a lo planteado en resoluciones sobre esta materia en las Naciones Unidas para ratificar que ese cambio de cultura es esencial en la FAO.

En la FAO debemos acostumbrarnos a la rendición de cuentas como un elemento de obligación que tienen el funcionariado y que tiene toda la dirección y la conducción de esta Organización para que pueda ese funcionariado responder a las decisiones que estamos tomando incluidas estas del PIA y a

las medidas que se adopté como ésta que estamos tomando en consideración. Por lo tanto, deberíamos andar hacia la posibilidad de que haya una responsabilidad para cumplir los compromisos, como habla la resolución de las Naciones Unidas en este tema, sin reservas ni excepción. Aquí vamos a tener que comenzar a pensar que el cambio de cultura tiene que ver con el rendimiento, con la rendición de cuentas y con la evaluación, y que cada funcionario tiene que ser responsable por sus actos y entregar a la Organización y a los Países Miembros esa rendición de cuentas porque si no, no tenemos indicadores de cómo evaluar el funcionamiento de esta Organización.

Yo creo que escuchamos esas palabras de que no había evaluación expresadas por el propio Director General en el último Seminario Informal de tal manera que esa es una de las preocupaciones que en este corto tiempo pudiéramos decir como Representación de Venezuela respecto a un verdadero y a un esencial cambio de cultura que requiere profundamente esta Organización.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I found it very interesting to be reminded about the Staff Survey because I remember that we did have one and it would indeed be interesting to see how it has changed the perception of the staff. I think there was one, but maybe Mr Benfield has further information.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je voudrais faire des observations sur l'idée de la prise en compte de la nomination de l'Ombudsman. Je crois que l'on revient dessus encore pour insister parce que le Comité financier avait également discuté de cette question. Je vous remercie.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, Programme Management Unit)

Thank you very much for those comments. They are very constructive and very helpful to us as we start the process of developing the Final Report for consideration in the spring Sessions. I would like to just cover one or two of the main points that were raised in the very varied interventions.

The first point I'd like to raise is about uneven expenditures. Comments were made about the low level of expenditure as at August and an example was given of mobility where there is no expenditure. The reason for that is one of the objectives on mobility was to double the rate of staff rotations within the Organization. Now the existing number of staff rotations are charged to a central fund in FAO. They are not IPA-related expenses, but anything above the existing rate of rotations is charged to the IPA, and that's charged at the end of the year. And so, on something like mobility, there won't actually be anything to show financially until the month of December for any one year. We are on target to double the number of staff rotating in 2012, but financially you won't see anything there until December. So the IPA budget does have an uneven spread in terms of progress throughout the year.

A number of comments were made about culture change. This was the subject of some discussion in the Joint Meeting as well. Management was asked to communicate its ideas on a new approach to culture change to Members and to communicate this better to staff. In the Informal Session, we did start that process with Members to try to explain how we see culture change changing from a separate team to something which is integrated with the transformational change process.

We listened to the feedback from Members as well, and the warnings that mainstreaming culture change should not mean forgetting culture change but that it should be mainstreamed. We've taken those things onboard. We will be communicating better, and we do share your views about the importance of culture change.

With regard to some questions raised by China and by the Russian Federation on the two IPA actions dealing with language coverage, just to be clear on this, the original proposal was, as you stated, to close but not implement. In the revision that is in the supplement, both of those actions at 3.55 and 3.57 have been parked and further work is committed to by Management on both of those issues. So in the original Report, it was recommended to close. In the supplement following discussions at the Joint Session in particular, that proposal has been changed to "parked", with further work to be

carried out on language balance and particularly on quality testing of machine translations. So there is further work committed to by Management on these two actions.

If I can turn to the comments made particularly by the United States but by other Delegates too, regarding “Beginning to show results but not complacent”. Indeed, it’s important to understand that the IPA programme, with the exception of those small number of IPA Actions, will close at the end of 2012 but there is a time lag between completion of the programme and realization of the benefits. Some of the IPA benefits have been achieved. Some have been completed and some are on-going. Some have been achieved, some are in progress and some have yet to start.

It’s important to understand the time lag between benefits realization and completion of the programme. Indeed, when we talked about mainstreaming IPA in future years, one of the categories there that we talked about in mainstreaming and not just the IPA Actions that weren’t complete by 2012, but mainstreaming the realization of the benefits, many of which will fall in 2013 and beyond.

There’s a comment also about Action 7.22 which relates in particular to the FAO Manual. Clearly as we look at addressing continuous business improvements, particularly in the administration area, and with reference here to the initiative undertaken by the Mexican Government, the Representative of Mexico did make it very clear to us that this does involve a review of the Administrative Manual. That’s the reason why we have opened that again and we do intend to follow-through on that in 2013.

There was a very helpful suggestion from the Delegate of Japan about adding remarks to the items that we say are closed. As we’ve been going through the IPA, we’ve actually been collecting evidence, not just remarks, but evidence of closure. In the main Report that we’ll produce at the end of this year, we will be providing Annexes that give you evidence on closures, so that you can understand for yourselves why we’re saying something is closed.

The final comment I would make relates to a discussion that took place on the Employee Survey in the Joint Session. Again, it’s coming back to the importance of the changing culture and to mechanisms and ways in which we can measure this. Culture is a difficult thing to measure, but if you ask your employees questions that relate to culture and then you ask them those same questions again later, then you can measure the way that staff opinions have moved. That is one of the techniques that we do intend to use when we re-run the Employee Survey.

We’re looking at 2013 to re-run the Employee Survey and that is one way in which we can change and measure the way in which staff perceptions of the culture have changed. But, once again, thank you very much for those comments. We have made careful notes of them and they will be very helpful to us in developing the main Report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Benfield, merci Cecilia, merci MOUNGUI pour vos réponses, ainsi que pour le projet de conclusion.

Le Conseil prend note du rapport sur l’état d’avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d’action immédiate et se félicite des progrès réalisés dans l’accélération du processus de réforme, étant donné que la plupart des actions du PAI devraient être achevées en 2012.

Le Conseil demande que:

- le processus de réforme qui a pour objectif final le renouveau de la FAO, à savoir l’«intégration» des actions du PAI dans ses activités, se termine en 2013;
- tout solde non dépensé des crédits 2012 soit utilisé à des fins liées au PAI en 2013, avec pour objectif d’éviter les rapports sur 2014;
- un rapport de situation complet sur la mise en œuvre du PAI soit présenté à la Conférence à sa 38^{ème} Session, par l’intermédiaire du Conseil à sa 146^{ème} Session, rapport qui contiendra des informations détaillées de nature quantitative, qualitative, financière et budgétaire et qui prendra également en compte la pérennité et les effets multiplicateurs possibles des avantages du PAI;

Le Conseil approuve l'approche proposée concernant les 10 actions du PAI, qui sont récapitulées dans le tableau figurant dans le document CL 145/10 Sup.1 et reproduit dans l'Annexe de ce Rapport, et précise que:

- l'Action 7.22 concernant le remaniement approfondi du Manuel de la FAO devra être menée à bien en adoptant une approche similaire à celle qui a été suivie par le Gouvernement mexicain;
- un aperçu devra être présenté à sa prochaine Session sur la manière dont les objectifs de parité hommes-femmes sont remplis;
- un document sur le changement de culture, ainsi qu'un document sur la politique de mobilité, devraient être communiqués aux fonctionnaires et aux États Membres dès que possible;
- la poursuite des travaux sur l'équilibre linguistique et l'évaluation de la qualité de la traduction automatisée sont encouragés;
- le processus de recrutement du médiateur doit être mené à terme; et
- les actions considérées achevées seront marquées d'un astérisque et feront l'objet d'un complément d'information.

Nous allons transmettre ces conclusions au Comité de rédaction. Je vais donc lever la séance en vous demandant de continuer à travailler, à vous reposer mais impérativement, demain matin 9:30 précises.

The meeting rose at 20.32hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.32 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

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

4 December 2012

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.39 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

5. Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 Biennium
5. Changements transformationnels de l'exercice biennal 2012-2013
5. Cambios para la transformación en el bienio 2012-13

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 5. Changements transformationnels de l'exercice biennal 2012-13, le document étant le CL 145/3.

Ce rapport fait le point sur les changements transformationnels effectués à ce jour, en relation avec le processus de réflexion stratégique aux travers duquel sont définies les orientations et priorités de l'Organisation. Les mesures contenues dans le document contribueront aux méthodes de travail qui seront mises en place en 2014-15 pour réaliser au mieux les Objectifs Stratégiques.

Les éléments pertinents des Rapports du Comité du Conseil, du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, ainsi que le Rapport du Comité de la Réunion conjointe seront bien sûr pris en considération, et les conclusions que je tirerai feront à la fois état de la présentation primaire, des remarques faites par les Comités et de votre discussion.

Je donne la parole à Monsieur Boyd Haight pour présenter ce point.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Council at its last Session in June supported the Director-General's vision of transformational change of FAO, that is: to enhance the delivery and impact of FAO's work to combat hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by effective translation of normative work to country-level impact, and of global knowledge products into tangible change in policy and practice.

The transformational change of FAO has several aspects: it builds on past and on-going reforms in the way the Organization works. It is based on a clearer and more focused strategic direction. It enhances the capacity and functioning of the Decentralized Office network. It applies targeted institutional strengthening, and it identifies measures to obtain value for money.

As stated by the Director-General yesterday morning, through transformational change we are putting in place new ways of working this biennium, while ensuring full delivery of the Programme of Work. We are also setting the stage for further change in the new Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the PWB for the next biennium.

You will recall that the Council in June approved a set of changes in the further adjustments to the PWB 2012-13, and welcomed further proposals for institutional strengthening to be presented at this Session. The document before you reports progress on implementation of the approved measures and sets out further transformational changes and their impact on the PWB 2012-13.

I would like to highlight a few elements to these changes so as to facilitate your deliberations. We have made good progress in implementing the Decentralization measures on improved planning and priority-setting including formulation of Country Programming Frameworks; on arrangements for a more flexible Decentralized Offices network; on the integration of emergency and development activities; and on monitoring and oversight anchored in internal control and accountability.

We have fine-tuned the implementation of the human resources management function, clarifying the strategy and policy role of the Office of Human Resources and the servicing role of the Human Resource Support Service, as well as the responsibility of the Director of Human Resources for all human resources activities in the Organization.

And we have established the Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy, setting the stage for further streamlining and rationalization of these functions and related capacities.

Further measures for institutional strengthening have been developed since June as part of the analytical Strategic Thinking Process to determine the future strategic direction for the Organization.

The functions of the Technical Cooperation Department are refocused to assist and enhance country capacities in mobilizing resources and South-South Cooperation, preparing for and responding to food and agriculture threat and crises, and programming of investments for agriculture and rural development. This builds on the strengthened Decentralized Offices network. It also consolidates overall responsibility for Country Office support, monitoring and oversight in the Office of Support to Decentralization, and corporate planning and budgeting in the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management.

The transformation of the Technical Cooperation Department also implements the recommendations of the evaluation of FAO's role and work in food and agriculture policy to better align FAO's global policy advice with policy assistance at country level. Therefore, the policy assistance function is transferred to the Economic and Social Development Department and to the regions, with a cross-divisional team tasked to develop a strategy and mechanisms to ensure accountability for FAO's policy work as a whole.

In addition, and in line with the strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition as supported by the Programme Committee, the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division is transformed. The consumer protection functions comprising food safety and the Codex Secretariat are transferred to a Food Safety and Codex Unit in the Office of the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. The remaining nutrition functions are transferred to the Economic and Social Development Department to become the Nutrition Division, which will aim to increase knowledge and evidence to maximize the impact of food and agriculture systems on nutrition, improve food and agriculture systems governance for nutrition, and reinforce national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status.

Following a critical analysis, the Office of Knowledge Exchange will focus on uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices, and on capacity-development. In order to ensure enhanced coordination of research and extension systems with technical work across sectors, the functions related to support to research and extension are transferred to the multi-sectoral Natural Resources Management and Environment Department. The functions related to publishing policy and support and communication for development are consolidated in the Office for Communications, Partnership and Advocacy.

And finally, the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division will now report to the Deputy Director-General for Operations. This will strengthen the link of this important FAO governance liaison function with Senior Management, without changing the structure or function of the Division.

Let me turn to the role of interdisciplinary work in supporting the new strategic direction and programmatic approach, as mentioned by the Director-General in his remarks yesterday. You will recall that the Council in June endorsed the reallocation of USD 6.8 million in administrative savings to strengthen the Multi-disciplinary Fund, bringing the total resources available for interdisciplinary work in this biennium to USD 11.3 million. The Fund is intended to strengthen collaboration across disciplines and organizational boundaries to increase FAO's effectiveness in priority areas. This is exactly the approach to new ways of working that will be necessary to implement the cross-cutting Strategic Objectives emerging from the Review of the Strategic Framework. Therefore, the application of resources for interdisciplinary work will be used in part to catalyze and pilot these new ways of working during 2013, in three areas.

First, a small amount of Multi-disciplinary Fund resources will be provided to each of the five Strategic Objective teams to develop the conceptual leadership and programme approach to address priority areas of work related to the Strategic Objectives.

Second, a small amount of the MDF resources will be provided to the cross-cutting thematic teams to develop their work programmes linked to the Strategic Objectives.

And third, half of the MDF resources will be allocated to six programmatic regional initiatives that will be used to pilot a corporate programmatic approach to addressing key regional priorities emerging from the Regional Conferences, related to: the hunger-free Latin America and Caribbean initiative, rice-based production systems in Asia, water scarcity in the Near East, rural poverty in

Africa, agrarian structures in Europe and Central Asia, and resilience in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

The lessons learned from the work undertaken through the Multi-disciplinary Fund will be instrumental in refining the new ways of working for the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in the next biennium.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, the transformational changes are providing the basis for a more effective FAO now and in the future. The measures proposed have been reviewed and supported by the Programme and Finance Committees, as you will hear from the Chairs.

The Council is invited to note that its previous guidance and decisions have been implemented, approve the further measures and their impact on the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, and note that transformation will continue through the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As you will have noticed, this is an important item so it was discussed in the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting which I view as essential preparational Council work. The Reports that the Chair of the Finance Committee and I will give encapsulates the opinions of the Programme and the Finance Committees. The Programme Committee welcomed the document.

The importance of continuing to deliver, especially at country level, while implementing the changes, was underlined. Furthermore, the activities resourced by the Multidisciplinary Fund must be aligned to the Strategic Objectives and Member Nations' priorities. Throughout, gender must be clearly visible. The Programme Committee thoroughly supported measures to improve accountability and internal control. We noted that further changes will come in the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan at the end of January and hope to see some further efficiency gains at that time.

Mr Mougui MEDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased at this point in time to report on the outcome of the discussion that took place in the Finance Committee at its 147th Session. The document that we are discussing now is CL 145/3 Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 Biennium.

The Committee supported the progress in implementing measures approved by the Council at its previous Sessions, as you must have heard from Mr Boyd Haight and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee. In particular, we supported the Decentralization measures, the human resource management function and the establishment of the Office of Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy.

The Committee welcomed the further transformational measures proposed, aimed at institutional and organizational strengthening. The Committee also noted that the guidance of the decisions of the Council had been followed in implementing and pursuing transformational changes in 2012-13. The Committee supported the revised post establishment. This is reflected in Table Two of the document before us and also supported the revised edition of net appropriation by budgeted chapter.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda has the honor to make this statement on behalf of the Africa Group. We have already provided a soft copy of the statement and also a hard copy.

First, we thank the Secretariat for the well-articulated document and thank both the Programme and Finance Committees for their invaluable contribution to this work. We would like to make the following comments.

As a matter of principle, the Africa Regional Group is always eager to support reforms aimed at enhancing performance of the Organization without hurting core field programmes, including the process and functioning of Decentralization. In this regard, we acknowledge the actions so far taken by Management in responding to the guidance provided by the 144th Session of Council, as elucidated in paragraphs 8-11 of the document.

As noted in paragraph 7, FAO has launched deeper reforms with the aim of realizing further savings through streamlining and efficiencies, and that proposals and efficiency savings will be presented in the PWB 2014-15. The Africa Regional Group encourages Management to keep governance abreast of all transformational changes as they unfold.

We note the progress made on implementation of different aspects of the Organization, as detailed in paragraphs 13-40, and congratulate Management for all the efforts. In particular we, note the internal staff transfers to enhance efficient service delivery under the decentralization arrangement, as elucidated in paragraphs 13-24; express the view that regional balancing and gender considerations should continue to be accorded prominence in guiding staff recruitment processes; encourage Management to keep governance Informed of progress and processes of staff recruitment at all levels of implementation; note the measures undertaken to enhance FAO regional and country presence, and especially the strengthening of the Somalia office, as this falls in line with the recommendation made by the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa in Congo, Brazzaville in May 2012; welcome the model elaborated in paragraph 21, considering that integrating delivery of emergency and rehabilitation programmes creates a framework that promotes synergy and limits the possibility of grey areas that often result from uncoordinated institutional action; observe that the Decentralization process, being work in progress, necessitates that appropriate guidelines should be provided to facilitate prompt adjustment and delivery of services within the Organization's mandate; note the five areas to which USD 11.3 million has been allocated in the PWB 2012-13 to strengthen Headquarters and Decentralized Offices as highlighted in paragraphs 27 to 29, in furtherance of the Director-General's Strategic Thinking Process. We exceptionally welcome the actions that facilitate implementation of decisions reached by the 2012 Regional Conferences.

Under Part III in paragraphs 41 to 73, we note many actions that are at different levels of implementation. We welcome the move to establish a stronger South-South Cooperation function based at both Headquarters and in the five Regional Offices, as elucidated in paragraphs 45 to 76.

With these comments Chair, the Africa Regional Group takes note of Part A, and approves Parts B and C of the executive summary, and paragraph 89 of the document as required of Council.

In conclusion Chair, allow me to reiterate that these are our preliminary comments subject to augmentation by other Members of the Africa Regional Group wishing to do so.

Sr. Miguel Oyono DONG MIFUMU (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Si bien apoyamos resueltamente la posición del Grupo Africano que nos acaba de presentar Uganda, mi Delegación quiere hacer breves comentarios dada la importancia del tema. Debo manifestar que apoyamos la reflexión adoptada por el Consejo en su 144.º período de sesiones en el cual se respaldó la decisión de conllevar un cambio transformacional de la FAO aprobando medidas conexas y realizando nuevos ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el 2012-13 para rendir a esta institución más eficaz y efectiva sobre la base de la demanda de los Países Miembros. Respaldamos igualmente las nuevas medidas relativas al reforzamiento institucional. Debo recordar que la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África reflexionó sobre el proceso de cambio transformacional y aprobó las grandes líneas de orientación sobre todo lo relativo al control interno de la Organización y el desarrollo de la Alianza Estratégica. Además, la estrategia o priorización clave de los Objetivos Estratégicos es crucial en ese proceso. Quizás tengamos dificultades para conllevar el ejercicio de priorización de la intervención de la FAO que se concuerda con la visión de todas las regiones. Pero donde creo que coincidimos todos es en la necesidad de hacer todo lo posible para que la labor de la FAO sea efectiva y trabaje prioritariamente para erradicar el hambre, la desnutrición y, por lo tanto, la pobreza en el mundo.

En esa línea de reflexiones, mi Delegación cree que el proceso de Descentralización debería trabajar para dar respuesta efectiva a las demandas específicas de cada región o cada país. Por lo cual, las Oficinas Descentralizadas deberían estar dotadas de responsabilidad creciente así como de recursos humanos y financieros apropiados, acompañados de medidas transversales como la capitalización y formación de los agricultores: África subraya la importancia de la cercanía.

Respalbamos la visión de la FAO de proceder a una evaluación sobre el apoyo a los países africanos para la colaboración en planes de inversión en el marco del CAPP y subrayamos la necesidad de aumentar el presupuesto de la cooperación técnica. Sobre el Plan Estratégico Revisado y el Plan a Plazo Medio para 2014-2017, coincidimos con el delegado que habló en nombre del Grupo Africano tomando acta de la decisión del Director General suscrita en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África en Brazzaville de trabajar para ayudar a África a alimentarse aunque reconocemos los desafíos que aquello entraña y las dificultades que la FAO puede toparse para revertir la tendencia actual del aumento de las personas desnutridas en África. Nos sumamos sin embargo a la disponibilidad de los Miembros del Grupo Africano de trabajar con la Secretaría y otros Grupos Regionales para llegar a conclusiones satisfactorias sobre la base de documentos que la Secretaría elabore al respecto.

En el plan específico de mi país, debo destacar el trabajo loable que despliega mi Gobierno para hacer frente al problema del hambre y la pobreza, no solo en el país sino solidarizándose con los demás países de África y otras regiones del mundo con dificultades extremas. Valoramos igualmente la cooperación y nos asociamos plenamente con la realización con los organismos de agricultura del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas basados en Roma para que sigan ofreciendo asistencia técnica a los Gobiernos Nacionales y para que hagan frente, de manera efectiva, a los desafíos ligados al desarrollo de la agricultura.

Creemos que esta experiencia entre los organismos internacionales es crucial para definir esta estrategia viable y factible que garantice una economía rural diversificada y próspera en sintonía con una vida social y ambiental sostenible.

Sobre el plan financiero, compartimos igualmente la preocupación actual sobre las dificultades financieras de atreverse a la Descentralización, elemento básico para implementar el Plan de Acción trazado; razón por la cual, se requiere el recurso, el concurso y los esfuerzos de todos los Estados Miembros para apuntar responsabilidades financieras a la FAO.

Y termino señalando que mi Gobierno se ha comprometido efectivamente con el apoyo financiero a la FAO y tiene saldadas todas sus cuentas ordinarias con la Organización. Hemos ido más lejos. Quiero reiterar aquí el discurso pronunciado ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas de Nueva York, el pasado 27 de septiembre, donde su Excelencia, el Presidente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo anunció su apoyo de solidaridad al Fondo judicial en apoyo a la seguridad alimentaria en África con una contribución de 30 millones de dólares. Esta decisión soberana forma parte de la gran visión que asume el Presidente de Guinea Ecuatorial de ser protagonista y actuar para el desarrollo y progreso de África a la responsabilidad compartida de todas las Naciones tanto en los llamados ricos del norte como los pobres del sur, de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the update on progress and would like to highlight five areas of particular importance. First, results. We encourage the greater focus on strategic planning and results. We look forward to the development of the new results framework that will capture the action plans of the Strategic Objectives and Country Programme Frameworks, reflecting FAO's work in partnership and commitment to gender.

Second, country-level delivery. We welcome the emphasis on improving country performance and strengthening Decentralized Offices with better management and greater accountability, including decision-making. We look forward to evidence of the Country Programme Frameworks' internal controls and accountability helping to deliver more consistent and strategically-focused results.

However, we would like to emphasize the need to keep a critical mass of technical expertise at Headquarters and to ensure systematic sharing and capitalizing of technical information across the Organization, because this operation must strengthen the impact of FAO.

Third, Human Resources reform. We encourage the strengthening of staff capacity in the field and at Headquarters. The more rigorous assessment for the appointment of Country Representatives, based on competence and merit, is a welcome development. We need to see this, and further HR reforms, throughout the Organization for better management and performance assessment. However, the EU is concerned about the increase in the number of posts that are outside of the regular departmental structure. It is imperative that FAO Core Functions are sufficiently staffed, and that decision-making continues to become increasingly transparent, in order to retain FAO as the UN knowledge organization on food and agriculture.

Fourth, accountability. A culture of accountability, transparency and openness should be at the heart of the reform process. This requires a culture change that needs leadership and commitment from the top, and throughout the Organization, together with adequate internal control mechanisms.

Fifth, value for money. We welcome FAO's focus on strengthening value for money at all levels of the Organization and look forward to further proposals for greater efficiency gains in the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15.

It is essential that FAO continues to focus on its transformational change to become the results-based, open, effective and efficient organization that we all want and need. This is a critical time for FAO in demonstrating its impact. Effective communication of FAO's vision, actions and results will also be important in this and we look forward to working together with FAO and other members to support reform and communicate results.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am honored to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group appreciates the contents of document CL 145/3 and considers it as the continuation of the Reform Process in FAO, including the Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director General. We think that the transformational changes are intended to secure resources within the level of approved net appropriations for areas of work that are closely aligned with the Strategic Thinking Process. The Near East Group is of the opinion that what the Director-General has proposed is a shift of resources between Departments and Offices at Headquarters and a modest transfer of resources from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices.

The sum effected through transformational changes is only 5.7 percent of the total net appropriation of USD one billion five point six million. As indicated in Table Two, the change in net appropriation for the 11 Strategic Objectives is indeed very minor. It amounts to an increase of one fifth of one percent. The allocation to TCP remains unchanged, namely USD 116 million or 11.5 percent of the total approved net appropriation.

The Near East Group notes that the USD 5.9 billion has been added to the Decentralized Offices which is an increase of 2.2 percent in their combined net appropriation. But it is not clear how much of this additional sum is for the Regional Offices and how much for the Country Offices.

Out of the USD 5.9 million, the Near East Region will receive USD 750,000 which is the lowest among the five developing regions. We say this because one of the main recommendations of the evaluation of the Near East Regional Office was the need for more resources to maintain, and I quote "FAO's leadership in the Region."

The Near East Group appreciates the creation of the multi-disciplinary fund for special areas of work by Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices, as spelled out in the box under paragraph 29 of the document. In particular, the Near East Group attaches importance to the regional initiatives for which USD 6 million will be allocated. We feel that high-priority regional initiatives and potential areas of work related to Rio+20 can be instrumental in generating extra-budgetary resources to complement the assessed budget. This is a challenge that calls for concerted efforts by FAO.

With respect to proposed changes in the organizational structure of Headquarters, the Near East Group supports the transfers of part of AGN from AGD to ESD and the increase in staff for LEG, OCP, OSP and OSD. We note that these additional posts are primarily transfers from TC and CS. We support this transfer.

The Near East Group takes note of the new terms of reference of TCS. In particular, we welcome that South-South Cooperation which will have a distinct entity within the structure of the Organization but we also consider it important that Decentralized Offices take the lead in South-South Cooperation. We expect that the newly-appointed DDG for Operations will provide the leadership in this direction. We also hope that more resources will be added to South-South cooperation in the PWB 2014-15.

The Near East Group attaches great importance to country policy support which demands further strengthening, due to its catalytic role in the preparation of nationally-owned Country Programme Frameworks. The Near East Group is also of the opinion that the change in the political landscape of the Arab world demands timely and robust policy assistance response from FAO.

The Near East Group notes that TCS will surrender the policy assistance function to the ES Department. We, therefore, wish to see a robust country support policy programme from the Economic and Social Department under the leadership of its newly-appointed ADG. This is important because of the multiplicity of challenges. Policy assistance to developing member countries is bound to be highly versatile.

The Near East Group would prefer that Decentralized Offices take the lead in country policy support, but with strong backing from Headquarters, especially from ESD. We wish to see that this matter is fully addressed in the PWB 2014-15.

The Near East Group supports the five proposals as reflected in paragraphs 62 to 69 of the document. The five proposals make better use of the net appropriations allocated to OEK. In particular, we consider the transfer of research and extension to NR Department as a wise decision, especially of the need to promote good practices for adaptation to climate change.

The Near East Group also understands the rationale for adjusting the reporting line of CSC to the DDG Operations, and including the Director of CSC in the Senior Management Team.

Finally, Chairperson, the Near East Group wishes to reiterate its support for the transformational changes which are for the better alignment of the organizational structure, while the areas of technical work remain unaffected. The Near East Group also looks forward for further efficiency savings to be identified in the preparatory process of the PWB 2014-15.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We are grateful to the Secretariat for preparing the document on Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 biennium. Russia supports the revised structure of offices funded from the budget, including the transfer of posts from the Professional category and Headquarters to the Decentralized Offices, the change in the organizational structure of the FAO Secretariat, as well as, the reallocation of funds between the various parts of the Organization, in keeping with what is presented in the document.

We welcome the mention in paragraph 18 of this document of the plans for the forthcoming opening in Moscow of a Liaison Office of the FAO and the Russian Federation. Agreement, in principle, on this has been reached. At present, there is an active process underway for agreeing on the appropriate formalities.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We appreciate Mr Haight's presentation, and we approve the proposals, especially the revised proposal that OHR, Office of Human Resources, and CSP, Human Resources Support Services, will integrally function. This is reasonable.

We would like to reiterate two comments we made during the Joint Programme and Finance Committees in November.

First, we still are not certain if OSP, OSD, and Technical Cooperation Department, TC, could effectively operate with close cooperation under the structure that OSD and TC Department report to the DG through DDG Operations, and OSP reports directly to the DG.

Mr Haight told us that there is no need for concern regarding disruption because all of the heads of these offices and the Department are members of the Senior Management Team. We may not have to worry under the leadership of the new DDG,. However, we would like to once again repeat that the importance that the offices which carry the functions of strategic planning, resource mobilization, implementation, and reporting, should effectively cooperate with each other.

Second, we strongly support paragraph 88 of the document which reiterates the need to streamline the expenditures for consultants and travel of staff. The Director-General says to the staff that they should not rely on consultants. Also, the Director-General says that unnecessary and non-urgent travel should be avoided. We support both statements by the Director-General. Staff are now assigned on merit basis and we believe that the staff could do more by themselves. Also, the functions of the Organization are being decentralized and an IT communications system is being equipped in the field, so we think that duty travel can be reduced.

These two are the comments from Japan.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We are thankful to Mr Boyd Haight and his team for the preparation of this document. We are aware of the thorough discussion that took place earlier in the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting on 7 November 2012. Therefore, we could like to endorse the document as outlined in CL 145/3.

We are especially happy to observe the trust given to the Decentralization Process and the commitment of USD 11.3 million to the Multi-Disciplinary Fund. We are hopeful that inter-disciplinary work of the Organization, which was hitherto getting neglected due to the creation of departmental silos, will get its due in the future.

We are also hopeful that the priorities identified by the Regional Conference will get the required resources and the Regional Conferences will emerge as important Governing Bodies within the Organization. With these observations, we support the proposed structural changes and the revised budgetary post establishment, and we would also like to approve the revised net appropriation by budgetary chapters as reflected in Table Two.

Mr David J. LANE (United States of America)

The United States welcomes document CL 145/3 that details transformational changes currently underway at FAO. A more efficient and effective Organization is in everyone's interests. We support the DG's efforts to move the Decentralization effort forward and we trust that the benefits of these changes will be reflected in the 2014-15 Programme of Work and Budget that we will consider at Conference next year.

We also commend the Director-General's recent appointments, including selection of the new DDG for Operations and the new Director of Human Resources, and we look forward to seeing additional appointments early in the New Year to fill out the Director General's leadership team at the FAO. This leadership team will be critical to the success of transformational changes within the Organization.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent document. We would like to put forward three points. First of all, in principle, we support the transformational changes at the FAO, in particular in the four following areas: increased decentralization; secondly, increase of the capacity for planning; thirdly, increase in cooperation including the multi-disciplinary cooperation; and fourth, achievement of more savings and increased efficiency. These are the points that we support.

Furthermore, we would like to express a hope that during the transformational changes, FAO would pay attention to the steady enhancement of the transformation. We would hope that the normal work

of the Organization would not be affected, in particular as regards technical cooperation, or the establishment of the Global Resources Management System, GRMS.

Thirdly, we would like to put forward a proposal for FAO to step up efforts on South-South Cooperation. We are much in agreement with the proposal made by our distinguished colleague from Afghanistan. Indeed, time has proven that the South-South Cooperation is one of the best ways for developing countries to increase income for farmers and to improve on their economic and social development. During the South-South cooperation exposition held in last December, as well as the Global South-South Forum held recently in Vienna, these meetings have proven that South-South Cooperation is an effective measure for this integral interdependence and mutual help among developing countries.

It could be seen that for FAO, WFP, and the IFAD are all stepping up efforts in South-South Cooperation. However, it could also be seen that FAO had already played its due role in this area and we think that in the framework of South-South Cooperation of the Organization, China is also playing its role. We support the new funding for South-South Cooperation of USD 30 million. China has also sent a series of other experts to more than 23 countries for this type of cooperation, mainly in Asia, Africa, South Pacific, and Latin America, and we have extended to them more than one thousand new technologies. Where projects are implemented, we provide funding of ten to fifteen percent. Crop production has increased, as has the income of farmers. In particular, in the capacity for rural development of the project areas, China hopes to increase efforts on South-South Cooperation.

During the visit of the Director-General of FAO in China, one of the main focuses was on this cooperation so that we hope that FAO will also increase its attention on this area and that the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, there will be more projects to promote this type of cooperation.

Mr Chalit DAMRONGSAK (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the informative document. We commend the Director-General for his efforts in improving the management system of the Organization that aligns with the recommendations of the last Council.

We appreciate the emphasis placed on Decentralization, especially in Asia and the Pacific Region that has more than two-thirds of the world's hungry. In this regard, Thailand approves the revised budgeted post establishment in Table 1, the structural changes in Annex 1 and the revised distribution of Budget in Table 2.

We hope that the reduction of staff at the Headquarters will not cause any impact on the overall work of FAO. Last but not least, we look forward to further initiatives in other areas, such as the ones on optimum use of the available budget and on institutional strengthening in the next biennium.

Sr. Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

Cuba acoge con beneplácito esta actualización de la transformación que se lleva a cabo en la FAO, la cual fue respaldada por el Consejo en su anterior periodo de sesiones. En especial, deseamos resaltar los avances en el reforzamiento de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas en cuanto a la mejora en la planificación y el establecimiento de prioridades, el aumento de su flexibilidad, el uso de modelos integrados para la ejecución de los programas, y su seguimiento y supervisión. En este proceso, la designación de directores de proyectos de campo con experiencia y capacidad de gestión demostrada, como representantes de la FAO en las oficinas de los países, deberá incidir positivamente en los resultados del trabajo en el terreno que implica un mejor apoyo a los esfuerzos que en pos del desarrollo realizan los países en desarrollo. Igualmente, apoyamos todas las medidas tomadas para el reforzamiento institucional centradas en la mejora y la racionalización como es la transformación del Departamento de Cooperación Técnica, las que deberán repercutir en la movilización de recursos y una mayor solidez en la gestión de la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Alentamos también a continuar racionalizando los procesos, mejorando la eficiencia, y el trabajo de la Organización; apoyamos desde el principio que los procesos deben ser cada vez más eficientes, flexibles y adaptables en consonancia con el Marco Estratégico de la Organización.

Estas medidas respaldarán nuevas formas de trabajo en 2014-15 y deberán continuarse desarrollando nuevas iniciativas para reforzamiento institucional, lo que brindará un apoyo óptimo para alcanzar los Objetivos Estratégicos de la Organización.

La búsqueda de nuevas maneras de mejorar la eficacia en el uso de recursos debe continuar alentando a que se presenten nuevas propuestas relativas al ahorro y al aumento de la eficiencia. Por lo tanto, Cuba apoya los 3 aspectos de orientación que se solicitan al Consejo en el documento.

Finalmente deseamos expresar que transformaciones de esta magnitud promovidas y lideradas por el Director General y su equipo de dirección de la FAO, son las que se requieren en las actuales circunstancias que vive el mundo para lograr que esta Organización pueda servir a sus Miembros y contribuir de forma efectiva a la erradicación del hambre.

Sr. Don Alan ROMERO ZAVALA (México)

El Presidente de México apoya la aprobación de la revisión de la plantilla de puestos y los cambios estructurales, así como la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por Capítulos Presupuestarios reflejada en el Cuadro 2 del documento de referencia.

No obstante, Señor Presidente, deseamos enfatizar la importancia de que la administración continúe con la aplicación de medidas tendientes a reforzar la red de Oficinas Descentralizadas y que incremente la capacidad de planificación estratégica, el control interno y la rendición de cuentas a fin de mejorar la eficacia en el uso de los recursos de la FAO.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia takes note that the previous guidance and decisions of the Council have been implemented as part of the transformational changes being driven by the Director-General. Australia welcomes all efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. Australia is particularly pleased that increased resources and focus is being given to Pacific Island Countries in the Southwest Pacific Region. Australia is supportive of the further transformative changes for institutional strengthening proposed in the paper. We approve the revised budgeted post establishment and structural changes. We also approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter.

We would draw attention to one of the structural changes that is underway and that's the transferring of the Codex Secretariat to the Food Safety and Codex Unit so in our view the Secretariat is in particular need of strong leadership and direction at this particular point. We'd also draw attention to the measures that are outlined in the paper to do with internal control and accountability and reinforce the importance of that this is particularly true in paragraph 53 where it talks about giving high priority to improving monitoring and oversight of the performance of Decentralized Offices and of overall programme and budget performance.

Lastly, we just agree with the comments from the United States Delegation about looking forward to the finalization of the Senior Management Team of the Organization.

Sr. Don Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

No quiero repetir ya lo que todos han dicho, el apoyo frontal y claro a la gestión del Director General para transformar la FAO y este documento refleja eso: los cambios que ha introducido tanto en la estructura del personal como en el gasto, reflejan su deseo, su intención de una FAO diferente, descentralizada, más actora en el terreno y menos burocrática. Sin embargo, Señor Presidente, y dando nuestro voto y aplauso al Director General por esta línea de cambio en la FAO, quisiéramos hacer una pequeña observación. La FAO hace evaluaciones de gasto. La FAO evalúa que el gasto se haya realizado bien pero creo que es fundamental que la FAO introduzca un nuevo concepto de evaluación de resultados.

La FAO da cooperación técnica a los países para ejecutar proyectos en beneficio de las clases menos poseídas o más pobres y hay que evaluar resultados; es lo primero. Y lo segundo, la Oficina de Evaluación de la FAO es una oficina autónoma, y se entienda bien lo que es autonomía. Autonomía operativa no quiere decir independencia de la Institución. Hay una dependencia administrativa y una

dependencia política. Y las políticas las establece el Director General. Y, por lo tanto, la evaluación que tiene autonomía operativa debe enmarcarse en las políticas establecidas por la Dirección, que es el mandante o el depositario del mandato que damos los países al Director General.

Felicitaciones al Director-General.

Mr Odonbaatar SHIJEEKHUU (Observer for Mongolia)

Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great honour and privilege to address the Council in the capacity of the first resident Permanent Representative of Mongolia to FAO and other UN Agencies based in Rome.

It is gratifying to note that the opening of resident Permanent Representation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome is an expression of high consideration of the Government of Mongolia to partner with these organizations, as well as manifestation of Mongolia's interest to advance active multilateral cooperation in the field of food, agriculture, fisheries, forest and natural resources in contributing to the implementation of the Global Goals of reducing hunger, eliminating poverty and supporting sustainable management and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

I am pleased to inform the Council that this year was remarkable for our cooperation with FAO. Thus, the first Country Programme Framework of Mongolia for 2012-16 has been jointly formulated with FAO and signed in October of this year, giving the start to a more planned and results-based approach in the activities between Mongolia and FAO.

The next significant event in our cooperation with FAO was the first visit of the Director-General of FAO to Mongolia, held on 4 and 5 October 2012. During the visit of Mr Jose Graziano Da Silva, the Memorandum of Understanding for strengthening cooperation and bolstering joint actions and projects over a five-year period between the Government of Mongolia and FAO has been signed.

The MOU and the Country Programme Framework of Mongolia for 2012-16 have a great importance for streamlining our development priorities with the Strategic Objectives of the Organization at global and regional levels, as well as with the reviewed Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 under discussion at this Session of the Council.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate the willingness of my Government to be a proactive member of the international community in the field of food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and preservation of natural resources by elevating our participation in all kind of activities of food related organizations and contributing to the reduction of poverty and hunger worldwide.

As was stated during the Director-General's visit to Mongolia, we are interested in participating in the humanitarian food aid procurement activities of the UN through the Rome-based agencies: FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme.

Based on recent achievements in the agricultural production and trends of fast economic growth of the country, the Government also intends to make Mongolia a food reserve country in the Northeastern Asia by combining its vast resources in terms of land and animals capable of producing high-quality organic foods, especially meat, milk and crops, with the expertise, knowledge and good practices of FAO, development partners, the business community, and civil society organizations.

Mongolia wants to continue South-South Cooperation Programmes that have been jointly implemented with the People's Republic of China, and use them as demonstrations of successful cooperation among developing countries.

High on the agenda is preparation works for the organization of the 32nd Asia Pacific Regional Conference to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2014. The Government of Mongolia is ready to begin this work at the earliest possible convenience, and requests the FAO Headquarters, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), as well as all the regional Member Nations, to provide their

support and assistance by providing their high-level participation and active inputs to this important event for both Mongolia and FAO.

Recent developments in our cooperation with the Organization and the goals set forth to accelerate joint projects and programmes for years to come will require more responsibility and speed in decision-making, actual implementation, and monitoring and assessment at country level that will also require increased capacity-building of local FAO Representations and transfer of certain powers from Headquarters to them.

In this regard, the Government of Mongolia is of the view that successful implementation of objectives envisaged in the Country Programme Framework and MOU, as well as the organization of the next Regional Conference in Ulaanbaatar, would be much related to the strengthened capacity of Assistant FAO Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar, which can be further expanded to the full-fledged FAO Representation, if required.

Mongolia fully supports all strategic initiatives and measures that have been taken to reform the Organization and improve its efficiency and performance. We are sure that the transformational changes envisaged in the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 and preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, will definitely have a far-reaching positive impact on the viability of FAO and fulfillment of its vision and Global Goals in the fast-changing global environment that requires quick responses and reactions at all levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Council for its decision to add the temporary position of Programme Officer or Deputy FAO Representative in Mongolia, and hope that the official with an adequate authority and competence will be dispatched soon, and take the lead as Assistant FAO Representative in Ulaanbaatar. Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr Mehmet BULUT (Observer for Turkey)

Decentralization and the strengthening of Decentralized Offices have been discussed during FAO Regional Conferences and Councils for more than ten years. However, in the past year this issue has gained momentum. As a result of these efforts and the Strategic Thinking Process, it has been highlighted that there is a need for strengthened FAO Regional and Sub-Regional Offices as integral parts of FAO governance, and that Sub-Regional Offices and Country Representations in particular should be strengthened.

Turkey considers FAO to be an important organization, which is making significant contributions to ensuring food security and nutrition in the world. We would like to state that Turkey is always ready to provide support to FAO activities as usual, both in realizing its mission of fighting hunger and poverty, and in implementing the reform programme which aims to strengthen Decentralization. South-South Cooperation and the establishment of partnerships with the private sector are also supported by Turkey.

In this context, I would like to point out that Turkey agrees that there should be new agreements for new or revamped offices in some countries, and the need to open Liaison Offices in some others, with the funding and support of the Host Governments. We also believe that action should be taken to strengthen FAO's presence in a number of Member Nations in Europe, Central Asia and the Pacific, through the establishment of Assistant FAO Representative positions.

As you may know, starting with its membership in 1948, there has been close cooperation between FAO and Turkey on several agricultural issues.

As a result of these good relations, the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia was officially inaugurated in 2007, in accordance with the decision taken during the 33rd Ministerial Conference in November 2005. We believe that a strong FAO presence by means of the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia in Turkey is very important, as the Office contributes significantly to further developing and strengthening our relations, as well as that of agricultural development in Central Asia.

As you know, the Republic of Turkey makes an important contribution to the FAO Sub-Regional Office, and is very proud to host the Office. We also have a Partnership Programme with FAO, by

means of which we are making financial contributions in addition to our 'in kind' contributions. The first phase of the Partnership Programme was implemented between 2007 and 2011. There are 30 projects under implementation. These projects are important steps in the development of the agricultural infrastructures of the countries in the Region, and also for ensuring food security.

Taking these satisfactory and positive developments into consideration, negotiations are being carried out to extend the Partnership Programme for a new term, with the aim of further strengthening the Sub-Regional Office both technically and administratively. We have no doubt that the Partnership Programmes's new mandate will be more effective due to the experience gained from the first. Turkey will continue its contributions to the Region in all respects.

Within the remit of the Decentralization process, our priority is to establish a strengthened and more effective office. As FAO is in the midst of a comprehensive reform process, certain points still need further clarification. However, we support the process in the belief that it will lead to the further strengthening of decentralized structures like the Sub-Regional Office in Turkey.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse accueille dans l'ensemble de manière favorable les changements transformationnels proposés. Nous soutenons les efforts visant à rendre la FAO plus efficace. J'aimerais, à cet égard, mettre en exergue les trois points suivant:

Premièrement: nous nous félicitons de la volonté de la FAO de nommer les représentants dans les pays sur la base de critères de compétence et de mérite.

Deuxièmement: nous appuyons également l'accent mis sur l'amélioration de la performance au niveau des pays et du renforcement des Bureaux décentralisés. À nos yeux, toutefois, il faut veiller à maintenir une masse critique d'expertise technique au Siège.

Et le troisième point: nous nous félicitons également de la volonté de rechercher de nouvelles économies et des gains d'efficacité dans le Programme du travail et budget 2014-15.

Mr NEIL FRASER (Observer for New Zealand)

Thanks to the Secretariat for this informative document, CL 145/3, which we've already commented on in the Programme Committee, and the contents of which we generally support.

I just want to draw attention to one aspect – now it's two points – because I want to add support to what Switzerland said about performance at country level while maintaining the critical mass at Headquarters as a Center of Excellence.

The point I wanted to draw attention to was the Multidisciplinary Fund and its use in developing and implementing the six programmatic Regional Initiatives, to which there is reference on page eight of the document, with Work Area Three diverting USD 6 million to this.

I note that the speakers this morning have welcomed those Regional Initiatives. However, we'd like to observe that those Regional Initiatives do not offer any particular benefit for the Southwest Pacific Region. The initiative coming from the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Hanoi is related to rice, which is not a feature of Pacific agriculture.

We would like to suggest that, in future allocations from the Multidisciplinary Fund, favorable consideration be given to work on coconuts – often called the 'tree of life'. This issue did get a special mention and consideration during the Regional Conference in Hanoi. Not only would such special and enhanced attention be of value to the Pacific Islands, it could also, of course, provide corresponding benefits for other Regions.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We wanted to follow up on the point raised by New Zealand regarding the Multidisciplinary Fund for Regional Initiatives.

We support this, and note that it is mentioned as being a pilot for the new cross-cutting or interdisciplinary approach envisioned under the reviewed Strategic Framework. In this regard, as no

initiative has currently been put forward in the North America Region, we look forward to an opportunity to discuss with the Secretariat how a priority identified by our informal Regional Conference might also be included, if not as part of this pilot effort, then in the next Programme of Work and Budget as it is developed under the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Très rapidement je voudrais d'abord remercier les Membres du Conseil pour l'appréciation qu'ils ont apportée aux travaux du Comité financier. Je voudrais juste revenir sur la question de l'utilisation des Fonds multidisciplinaires. Ces fonds ont été créés durant le biennium précédent suivant une idée d'innovation pour soutenir essentiellement les travaux dans les domaines techniques et pluri-disciplinaires. Nous avons examiné cette question au niveau du Comité financier et nous pensons que jusqu'à maintenant l'orientation de ces fonds va vers des priorités, mais comme nous savons que la question de la prioritarisation au niveau de la FAO reste centrale, il nous est pas possible de confirmer que tous ces fonds ont été utilisés dans les domaines dits prioritaires.

Mais nous soutenons la continuation des efforts de prioritarisation des activités au sein de la FAO et que ces fonds qui sont essentiellement destinés à être utilisés dans les Bureaux décentralisés puissent effectivement tenir compte des priorités régionales qui sont établies.

Le montant a certainement été accru cette année et nous pensons que les États membres doivent pouvoir continuer à soutenir ce fonds, voilà mon premier commentaire.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

It is very interesting and heartening to hear the very thorough debate that we have had. Specifically, I'd like Members of the Committee, who have worked very hard and devoted a lot of time to their work, to listen to the words of Uganda recognizing the invaluable contribution of the Finance and Programme Committees to the work of the Council. I thank you for that.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman and thank you to all the Delegates as well as the Chairs of the two Committees for the very constructive inputs and support for the transformation process.

Transformational change is not easy. It is not business as usual. It is a slow and deliberate process. In fact, this is the third time we've come to you in this biennium to propose incremental transformational changes. We are trying always to learn from our own performance and to feed that back into the changes as we implement them.

Also I'm pleased to hear the many references to the need to focus on results, performance and accountability and communicating those to the Members and the public at large. As discussed last night, we will certainly aim to use the Programme Implementation Report as a vehicle to communicate progress.

I would like to make just a few comments on some of the interventions. Concerning policy assistance, we appreciate the stress by Afghanistan and the Near East on making policy assistance effective. It is important to realize that we have over 20 policy assistance posts already in the Decentralized Offices, so bringing together the Headquarters policy assistance function in the Economic and Social Department will bring some coherence into the overall work in this area.

Concerning the Multidisciplinary Fund, again I appreciate very much the support for the use of the Fund, particularly for the Regional Initiatives.

New Zealand, we have already had a discussion in the Programme Committee about the fact that the priority for rice is focused on Asia, not on the Southwest Pacific. Indeed, I did not mention the Southwest Pacific in my introductory remarks. But in the trial period that we have this biennium, we feel we can only handle six Regional Initiatives, that is, one per Region and one per emerging Objective. Certainly for the next biennium, as we find our way with using these programmatic Regional Initiatives next year, we would try to expand to the other priorities that have been identified by the Regional Conferences, and this was mentioned by the Finance Committee Chair. Of course, we are aiming at the priorities identified by the Members, most recently through the Regional

Conferences. But I must emphasize again that we are taking a corporate approach, a programmatic approach, to these priorities. It's not just the Regional Offices or the Decentralized Offices. The formulation is actually being led by the leaders of the Strategic Objectives here in Rome.

I think for North America, it's an interesting question that we will have to look at as we go forward into the next biennium.

And finally on South-South Cooperation, although Laurent Thomas is not here, I am sure he could speak at great length about the appreciation that we have for the support, particularly of China, given to the programme. South-South work has been strengthened within the TC Department, and five positions were shifted from the TC Department in the Regional Offices in this transformation, specifically to support the south-south cooperation work, which is a high priority for the Director-General and that is reflected in the transformations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais comme d'habitude essayer de vous faire un projet de conclusion, qui tient compte à la fois du document, de la présentation, des Rapports des deux Comités et du dialogue que nous avons eu entre nous.

Le Conseil note que les décisions et orientations qu'il a précédemment formulées ont été suivies et se félicite des initiatives proposées visant à un renforcement institutionnel.

En particulier, le Conseil:

- a) se félicite des progrès réalisés dans la mise en application des mesures touchant à la Décentralisation, aux ressources humaines, au Fonds multidisciplinaire et à l'établissement du Bureau de la communication, des partenariats et des activités de plaidoyer;
- b) approuve la création de postes et les changements structurels révisés concernant notamment le Département de la coopération technique, le Département du développement économique et social, la Division de la Conférence, du Conseil et du Protocole, ainsi que les activités du Programme de travail relatives à la nutrition, à la protection des consommateurs, aux connaissances, à la recherche et à la vulgarisation;
- c) approuve la répartition révisée des ouvertures de crédits nettes par chapitre budgétaire, telle qu'elle figure dans le tableau 2 du document CL 145/3;
- d) demande la mise en œuvre des changements transformationnels tout en veillant à ce que le Programme de travail approuvé pour 2012-13 soit exécuté dans son intégralité;
- e) note avec satisfaction l'impulsion donnée à la Coopération Sud-Sud, et l'assistance aux politiques au moyen de ses changements structurels ;
- f) souligne l'importance de maintenir comme principe de base l'obligation redditionnelle de chaque membre du personnel dans le cadre du PTB 2014-15;
- g) se félicite que les mesures de contrôle des dépenses relatives à l'embauche de consultants et aux voyages du personnel seront formellement intégrées dans le PTB 2014-15;
- h) note avec satisfaction que la décentralisation des activités relative au Programme de terrain est déjà engagée, et rappelle l'importance de maintenir une masse critique en matière de connaissances au Siège;
- i) insiste pour que les initiatives financées par le Fonds multidisciplinaire soient conformes aux Objectifs Stratégiques et aux priorités régionales; et enfin
- j) déclare attendre avec intérêt d'examiner d'autres changements transformationnels contenus dans le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 et le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015, notamment aux fins de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles dans les Bureaux décentralisés.

Cela fait beaucoup de points mais je crois que c'est un travail ample qui concerne tout l'établissement de notre institution. À priori je n'ai rien oublié, je l'espère, de toutes les remarques que vous avez faites et nous transmettons donc ces éléments au Comité de rédaction du Rapport. Nous allons passer

au sujet suivant mais Monsieur Haight, Mougui et Cecilia vont rester tous les trois avec nous ainsi on continue avec les mêmes, on ne change pas une équipe qui gagne.

6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17

6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017

6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017. Je vous rappelle que ce sont les documents CL 145/4 et CL 145/4 Corr.1.

Monsieur Haight, je vous donne la parole.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates and ladies and gentlemen. One year ago, in December 2011, the Council endorsed a set of five guiding principles for the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the new Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17. These were to identify fewer priority aims and challenges, and thus fewer Strategic Objectives, apply a multidisciplinary country focus, and identify priorities that are cross-cutting and build on country and regional priorities, leverage comparative advantages and Core Functions, improving the connection between FAO's global public goods and normative work with regional and national needs, clarify and rationalize results and development outcomes based on one FAO-wide set of Strategic Objectives and to engage staff at all levels, coupled with a framework of internal accountability.

We have come a long way in the past year. The Director General launched the Strategic Thinking Process in January to guide the review, with engagement of staff at all levels. We have had extensive consultations with Members through the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council.

In this introduction, I will touch on some key aspects of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan, and I will try to clarify a few matters that have been raised by Members in the Programme and Finance Committees last month. I will also touch on the road ahead in preparing and reviewing the next versions of these programme planning documents.

The review of the Strategic Framework was driven by the iterative, analytical and consultative Strategic Thinking Process. We started from the FAO Vision and Three Global Goals. Through a staff working group and with expert outside advice, 11 major Global Trends were identified relating to the major development problems in the immediate future. From these trends, taking into account FAO's broad mandate, seven development challenges were formulated as having special significance and urgency for Member Nations.

Then, we undertook a critical review of FAO's Core Functions in the context of the Organization's basic attributes, such as interGovernmental status and the neutral status of FAO. The Core Functions are the critical means of action to be employed by the organization to achieve results. Let me just list these seven functions. First, to facilitate and support development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments such as interGovernmental agreements, Codes of Conduct, and so forth. Second, to assemble, analyze, monitor, improve access to data and information. Third, to facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels. Fourth, to advise and support capacity development at country and regional level for evidence-based policies, investments and programmes. Fifth, to advise and support uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices. Sixth, to facilitate partnerships between Governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector. Seventh, to advocate and communicate in areas of FAO's mandate.

Let me repeat that these Core Functions are the main ways that FAO acts, our main areas of action.

Then, five cross-cutting Strategic Objectives for FAO were derived through this process from the seven development challenges. They have been Informed by the vision and Global Goals of the Organization, UN mandates and international agreements that affect FAO, and our main attributes, Core Functions, and comparative advantages.

These five Strategic Objectives are first, to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; second, to increase and improve the provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; third to reduce rural poverty; fourth, to enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels, and fifth, to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

Another innovation is that gender issues and improvements in governance will be mainstreamed across all of the Strategic Objectives as critical to their achievement, and will be represented in the outcomes and outputs under the Objectives.

Mr Chairman, I would like to provide some clarifications on two issues raised in the Programme Committee concerning Strategic Objectives 1 and 3. The Programme Committee requested a formulation of Strategic Objective 1 to be better aligned with the goals of the Organization. Indeed, the first Global Goal is the “reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

We note that the formulation of Strategic Objective 1, in relation to this goal, is absolute: “Eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.”

To ensure a better alignment of Global Goal 1 and Strategic Objective 1, the Secretariat would propose two amendments:

First, to change the opening phrase of Global Goal 1 from “reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger” to “eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.” This change would be in line with the “Zero Hunger Challenge” that has been endorsed most recently at the Rio+20 Summit.

The second proposed amendment is to change the title of Strategic Objective 1 to read “Create the conditions to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition”, better capturing what can be achieved through FAO and contributing directly to Global Goal 1.

To facilitate your consideration of this proposal, the Secretariat has made available to you these two changes, shown in track mode in the table following paragraph 98 in document CL 145/4, in all languages.

Concerning Strategic Objective 3, Reduce Rural Poverty, the Programme Committee suggested better alignment of Strategic Objective 3 with FAO’s Core Functions. Let us be clear: the rural poor fall under FAO’s mandate, and this Objective is directly related to Global Goal 2, which is the “elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods.”

The reduction of rural poverty contributing to this Global Goal 2 requires an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach, including agriculture. For Strategic Objective 3, FAO will focus its interventions through its Core Functions, in particular policy and technical advice, working closely with other Agencies, such as IFAD on agricultural investment.

Mr Chairman, I would now like to turn briefly to the outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17. The Medium-Term Plan provides the four-year results framework for FAO’s Strategic and Functional Objectives and Organizational outcomes, with performance indicators and targets to be achieved through the application of FAO’s Core Functions.

The Medium-Term Plan is work in progress. You have before you an outline. Several improvements are being incorporated and the MTP is now under preparation. First, Action Plans are being prepared and refined for each Strategic Objective, which will be implemented as corporate programmes complemented by programmatic regional initiatives as we just discussed under the previous agenda item. These corporate programmes will be guided by Programme Leaders appointed by the Director-General with authority over the resources.

Second, within the Strategic Objective Action Plans, there are fewer Organizational outcomes. You’ll note in the document that there are 17. That compares with 49 in the current Medium-Term Plan

2010-13. This will allow us to provide a clear line of sight from objectives to outcomes and outputs measured by performance indicators with baselines and targets.

I digress a moment to speak about indicators and targets. We recognize the importance of understanding whether or not FAO's products have been used by our clients. That is reflected at the level of the outcomes and the objectives. We aim to define the change our products contribute to at the level of the organizational outcomes, and we recognize that the development outcomes at the level of the Strategic Objectives can only be achieved as a result of working in partnerships, in particular with Members since these are the objectives of Members.

So our indicators at the development outcome and Strategic Objective level are going to be based on available information and we are working in partnership with the Rome-based Agencies. We're working with our Statistics Division, and working with other Organizations to ensure that these are well-known, measurable indicators. And our organizational outcome indicators will be designed to monitor the uptake and use of our outputs.

I can give an example from Strategic Objective 5 where we have an outcome that is related to countries and regions having legal, policy and institutional regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction and crisis management in place for food and agriculture systems. A simple measure of that would be the existence of such policy frameworks in the countries concerned with FAO's assistance, as well as the establishment of a nation-wide risk information system in countries. So we have ways to measure whether FAO's products contributing to these outcomes have been used, and put them in place in countries.

Returning to the improvements in the MTP, the third is an objective to ensure technical knowledge, quality, and service which is being elaborated, and I will turn to that in a moment. Fourth, we are giving attention, as I mentioned, to the cross-cutting areas of work on gender and governance. These areas of focus will be developed within the Actions Plans for each Strategic Objective and will be measurable at the outcome and the output level.

And a final fifth area of improvement is that the formulation of the Functional Objectives is being improved. These provide the enabling environment for effective collaboration with Member Nations and stakeholders, and administrative services. Those of you who were here during the discussion of the PWB 2012-13 will recall that the Functional Objective X on Member Nations and stakeholders was found to be rather opaque. We are working to make this much more specific to be able to measure the type of enabling services that are provided relating to FAO governance, oversight and direction, information and technology, and our outreach activities.

Now, I would like to provide clarifications on two other issues raised in the Programme Committee. First, the Programme Committee emphasized the need for further elaboration of the objective designed to maintain and enhance the technical quality of the Organization's work relating to norms, standard-setting, knowledge and the provision of public goods. This is the Sixth Objective that is proposed in the document. Indeed, we are working on its elaboration in the full Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. Let me emphasize that FAO's support to standard-setting Bodies, such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, will be maintained and clearly identified in the PWB 2014-15, no matter where this work is placed in the results framework.

Second, the Programme Committee recalled the need for a smooth and transparent transition from the current four-year results framework in the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 to the new results framework in the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17, in terms of areas of work to be continued or dropped and new areas of work. We intend to show in the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 a comparison of resource allocations to the Strategic Objectives and organizational outcomes in the PWB 2012-13, compared to with PWB 2014-15, and the impact on main areas of work.

Finally, let me elaborate on the next steps in preparing and agreeing the reviewed Strategic Framework, and the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, all three of these documents to be approved eventually by Conference.

First, the Strategic Objectives that the Council is asked to endorse this week, along with Council's comments and guidance on the reviewed Strategic Framework and the outline of the MTP, will form the basis for the Director-General to prepare the full draft Strategic Framework, and the full draft Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 to be published by 31 January 2013.

Second, the full Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan/Programme of Work and Budget will be considered by the Programme and Finance Committees in March and the Council in April of next year. The Council will provide comments and will recommend a budget level to the Conference.

Third, the Conference in June 2013 will consider the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan/Programme of Work and Budget, along with the comments and recommendations of the Council. The Conference will decide the budgetary appropriation for the 2014-15 biennium and will provide guidance as appropriate to the Director-General to prepare adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 at the approved budget level. The Council in December 2013, one year from now, will consider and approve the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, for implementation from 1 January 2014.

Mr Chairman, we have come a long way in the past year in formulating a new strategic direction for the Organization and in implementing transformational change. The preparation of the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget is a work in progress through a stepwise approach, in close consultation with the Membership.

At this point, the Council is requested to endorse the five proposed Strategic Objectives and provide any comments and guidance on the draft Action Plans in the outline of the Medium-Term Plan to be used by the Secretariat in preparing the full draft Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget for publication by the end of January.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

This is another Agenda Item, which is even more vital to FAO's future. We will proceed as with Item 5. The Programme Committee welcomed the documents, and commended the thematic and cross-sectoral approach, as well as the participatory working methods. I thank Mr Haight for confirming that we will continue to work in this way.

The comments made by the Programme Committee are, of course, linked to the comments of the Technical Committee's Regional Conferences and other Governing Bodies. The Committee highlighted the need for the clear integration of the two cross-cutting issues – especially with regard to gender. FAO's core function is the base for its work. Sustainable management of natural resources was emphasized. The inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Fisheries and Forests, in the Context of National Food Security, was also suggested.

As touched upon by Mr Haight, the Programme Committee proposed a reformulation of Strategic Objective 1, in alignment with the goals of the Organization. I hope you have all received this suggestion from the Secretariat, as well as a better alignment of Strategic Objective 3 with regard to FAO's Core Functions. Mr Haight's response to this was that FAO's work would be channeled through its Core Functions.

The Programme Committee suggested that the Council should endorse the Strategic Objectives, taking into account the Governing Bodies' comments as a basis for preparing the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15. In particular, the Programme Committee emphasized that the Strategic Objectives designed to maintain and enhance the technical quality of the global public goods should be further elaborated. As Mr Haight mentioned, they are working on this, and it will be clearly visible in the Programme of Work and Budget, which I look forward to.

The Programme Committee wanted the modalities for leadership, delivery, accountability, monitoring and resource allocation for the Strategic Objectives to be clear, as well as the organizational structure and related reporting lines, roles and responsibilities.

The Committee recalled the importance of a robust results framework, with performance indicated by baselines and targets. We reiterated the need for gender outcomes for each Strategic Objective. The Committee underlined that the outcomes and outputs of the Action Plans should be operationally implementable and measurable. As Mr Haight also mentioned, we stated that the transition from the old to the new must be smooth and transparent, and we very much look forward to seeing this in the new Programme of Work and Budget.

We wanted the areas of work to be clear, or areas of work to be dropped and new areas of work established.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I'll be very short and try to be very concise on the issues that were discussed by the Finance Committee at the 147th Session on the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

In the Committee, we welcomed the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General and noted that he provided sound basis for establishing the future work of the Organization. We also welcomed the descriptions of the five Strategic Objectives, recognizing that these affected domain areas of work in which the Organization will focus its efforts.

The Committee looks forward to the further elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 on the objective on technical quality, knowledge and services including the development of performance indicators, as well as on the approaches to budgeting and market style management.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU: Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement.

We welcome in principle the progress made to reduce the number of Strategic Objectives and enhance their cross-cutting nature.

We would like to make six points:

First, we need greater clarity that the new Strategic Framework will fully be within FAO's mandate, given most of the new Strategic Objectives are very broad. The Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the PWB need to clearly show how the Strategic Objectives and outcomes track back to the current ones and take into account lessons learned. FAO also needs to set out which areas of work it plans to de-emphasize and drop. Partnerships and comparative advantage must be addressed in a consistent manner throughout. We stress the need for transparency in all of this.

Second, we need to maintain FAO's key role in the provision of knowledge and public goods, and in the development of international standards and norms. In this regard, we strongly support the ideas behind the new Sixth Objective. We would like to know how these ideas fit with the five Strategic Objectives, and would favour a status that reflects their importance.

We also emphasise the need for a dedicated budget line. More generally, we urge FAO to preserve a critical mass of technical posts at Headquarters. Regarding the Core Functions, we would like to see a clear reference to the role of FAO in elaborating and facilitating the production of norms, standards, statistics and global public goods (for instance in the first one).

Third, there is a need to refine the Strategic Objectives so that they are better aligned with FAO's mandate, goals and comparative advantage, avoiding overlap with the other relevant international organizations while, of course, fully contributing to on-going processes such as the post-2015 global objectives.

We also expect that the reduction of the number of Strategic Objectives will lead to a better prioritisation. In this regard we have the following specific comments:

We fully agree with the strong will to eradicate hunger as expressed in Strategic Objective 1. However, Strategic Objective 1 is currently more ambitious than Global Goal 1, namely "reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger." The Strategic Framework needs to follow a logical hierarchy, and we therefore strongly support the Programme Committee's request to reformulate Strategic Objective 1.

We could consider, for example, including the language from the beginning of Strategic Objective 1 at the beginning of Global Goal 1, recognising the high-level ambition of eradicating hunger. This would then read: "Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have significant safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

We could then add four words at the beginning of Strategic Objective 1 which would then read: "Create the conditions to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition". This would be in line with the organisational outcomes proposed. Adopting this approach will also increase the chance of FAO achieving Strategic Objective 1. We would also like to see the implementation of the Right to Food explicitly covered in this Objective.

We welcome the clarification that Strategic Objective 2 now clearly covers forestry and fisheries, as well as agriculture. These important sectors should be treated in the same way as agriculture, and not grouped under natural resources. We would like to see coherent and consistent terminology throughout the entire document in that regard.

At the level of outcomes, we feel that explicit reference should also be made to sustainable management of natural, as well as genetic resources. We also suggest and refer to sustainable intensification as a basic approach to agriculture, as reflected, for example, in FAO's save and grow and Climate Smart Agriculture Approaches. FAO's role in regional and international forest policy has to be duly recognised by integrating global forest objectives into policy frameworks at all levels.

We are pleased to note that in the Strategic Objectives reference is made to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security, and the supportive role by FAO in particular in Strategic Objective 2.

We fully agree with the Programme Committee's recommendation to better align Strategic Objective 3 to FAO's core mandate and to its comparative advantage in order to avoid overlap with other actors, in particular IFAD.

Strategic Objective 4 needs to explicitly include fisheries and forests. FAO's important work on food safety (i.e. Codex Alimentarius and IPPC) should also be further elaborated here.

Strategic Objective 5 also needs to be more focused on FAO's mandate and comparative advantage. Partnerships, especially with the WFP, are key in this area. Attention should be paid to the importance of forests in increasing resilience.

Fourth, the role of the crucial cross-cutting themes of gender and governance needs to be much more clearly articulated. On gender, we expect a clear commitment from leadership and for FAO to present tangible actions across all Objectives and Action Plans. Such actions should be underpinned by a rights-based approach, and should aim to tackle the underlying causes of gender inequality.

Fifth, greater clarity is needed on how FAO will organize itself, particularly on the new matrix structure. We would like more information on responsibilities, reporting lines and budget allocations as well as on how the Strategic Objective Programme Leaders and ADGs will relate to each other and the circulation and capitalisation of knowledge and technical information. We expect these issues to be clearly and transparently set out by January 2013, when the Medium-Term Plan and PWB are presented.

Our sixth and last point is to continue to strengthen accountability and results-based management. We underline the need for clear and measurable targets and indicators. We note the challenge of direct attribution to FAO of Regional or Country-level Outcomes, and we would be grateful to hear Management's view on this. We fully support the Programme Committee's guidance for this process, as set out in paragraph 9 of document CL 145/6.

To conclude, we welcome progress made on the Strategic Framework, and we believe that it has the potential to create a sharper-focused, more effective FAO. We request the Secretariat to take on board the comments made by the Finance and Programme Committees and the following six improvements when providing the revised draft Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and PWB to the Council Session of April 2013:

First, clarify how the new Strategic Framework will change the work of FAO, including which areas will be de-prioritized.

Second, give due prominence to FAO's leadership on technical knowledge and standard-setting, as expressed through the Objective 6, and further elaborate this.

Third, refine the Strategic Objectives to better align with FAO's mandate, goals and comparative advantage.

Fourth, strengthen the focus on gender with tangible actions across all Objectives and plans, and with a clear commitment from leadership.

Fifth, clarify the new organisational structure, including staffing, budgeting and management, and

Sixth, continue to strengthen accountability and results-based management.

Mr David J. LANE (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for generating this document and for their work in developing the Strategic Framework and the five Strategic Objectives. Obviously, significant thought and energy have been dedicated to this process.

As we noted during the Joint Session of Finance and Programme Committees last month, we believe that while still a work in progress, we are on the right track for establishing Strategic Objectives and Medium-Term Plan of work to which we can all agree. We point to the conclusion of an additional Objective to ensure that the quality and capacity of FAO's knowledge and technical work, and the two cross-cutting themes of Gender and Governance, as very positive developments.

With regards to the Strategic Objectives and Medium-Term Plan, the United States would like to reiterate its position from last month's Joint Meeting.

Regarding Strategic Objective (SO) 2, we believe this SO should more clearly recognize the importance of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, including forests and fisheries - which is one of FAO's mandates, as well as fundamental to the long-term sustainability of food production and poverty alleviation. We suggest revising the Strategic Objective to incorporate the importance and value of natural resource management and eco-system services as follows: "Promote the sustainable management of natural resources for the conservation of biodiversity, enhancement of eco-system services, and increased production in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Measuring outcomes is very important to the United States and is a key metric on which we peg our support to various international organizations.

With that view, regarding the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, the United States notes that the key purpose of results-based budgeting is to identify estimated costs for achieving intended results so that the Secretariat and Governing Bodies can make Informed programme and budget decisions. The linkage of resources to intended results also provides a solid basis for assessing programme performance, both during implementation and after the fact.

The U.S. believes the organizational outcomes and outputs that are contained in the Medium-Term Plan and are intended to be a yardstick by which to measure success towards achieving the Strategic Objectives are vague and sometimes difficult to quantify.

While we acknowledge that it is sometimes difficult to produce concrete measurable and tangible metrics that quantify indicators and targets of achievement, they are, nonetheless, critically important. FAO needs to determine the baseline, short-term goals and long-term goals to be achieved for each Strategic Objective. We view this as the first building block for the formulation of the next Programme of Work and Budget. Whereas a lot of emphasis has been centered on the drafting of the new cross-cutting objectives, it is now time to start evaluating exactly what is planned to be achieved in the next biennium.

Again, thank you to all involved for the good work thus far on the Strategic Framework and the Strategic Objectives.

Sr. Alan ROMERO ZAVALA (México)

México expresa su agradecimiento a la Secretaría por el proceso de reflexión estratégico llevado a cabo. Deseamos destacar la importancia de mantener este diálogo que ha demostrado ser útil para definir de manera coordinada los Objetivos Estratégicos que orientan la labor futura de la FAO.

Habiendo dicho esto, esperamos con interés una mayor elaboración del Plan de Plazo Medio y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2014-15.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the quality documents provided to us on the Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

My Delegation welcomes the Strategic Thinking Process which was introduced by the Director-General of FAO as an important part in driving forward the Organization objectives. We take note that the Strategic Thinking Process is linked to the establishment of five Strategic Objectives of the FAO. My Delegation believes that the five Strategic Objectives should become the guideline for FAO to run as intended in a clear timeframe. In addition, my Delegation fully supports the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan for the 2014-17 which also can be used as the basis for the evaluation of FAO Medium-Term achievements.

In the process of achieving the five Strategic Objectives, there is one aspect that needs special attention. Nowadays the world has faced the adverse effects of global climate change. Meanwhile in many countries the competition for the degradation of natural resources are increasing resulting in land conversion for non-agricultural purposes, and land fertility degradation. If we let these things happen regularly, they will reduce the countries' food production capacity which, in turn, will decrease the global food production capacity.

In this regard, these five Strategic Objectives can only be achieved if they are supported through investment in infrastructure and technology to enhance and maintain the capacity of natural resources and agricultural infrastructures in promoting agriculture and food production in sustainable ways. Therefore, my Delegation recommends that the FAO take a lead in promoting investment in agricultural infrastructures and technology transfers in its Member Nations based on their specific needs.

Mr Chalit DAMRONGSAK (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Secretariat for the informative document. We commend the process of reviewing the Strategic Framework and reaching a conclusion with the five cross-cutting Strategic Objectives that align with FAO's mandate.

As for the outline of MTP 2014-17, we welcome it with two recommendations. First, the Action Plan should provide clear guidance, should be simple to implement and provide measurable outputs.

Second, the transition from the existing MTP to the new one should be transparent and based on regional initiatives.

With these observations, Thailand endorses the five Strategic Objectives, as proposed in part 2 of the document.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

Canada is very grateful for the analysis presented by the Secretariat in document CL 145/4. As others have noted, we recognize the level of work and insight that's been provided. We also appreciate the view that this is a process we're proceeding together on.

We support in principle the document and the contents presented. Particularly, we would like to flag a couple of points with regard to the revised Core Functions. Canada believes that this is a good reflection of the Core Functions of the FAO, and that they are consistent with the FAO's work.

With regard to the strategic outcome that was presented by Mr Haight on FAO's normative work, we'd like to ask that the further analysis that the Secretariat provides be commensurate with the analysis conducted on the other strategic outcomes, namely further analysis about outputs and activities that the FAO could pursue. We believe that this is an important outcome that supports the provision of trade and people's access to food. In addition, it helps address volatility of food prices.

One other issue that Canada would like to flag regards the document at hand. It includes contextual factors on how agriculture, fisheries and forestry can increase their provision of goods and services in an environmentally-sustainable manner. As Canada stated at the Joint Programme and Finance Committee meeting earlier in November of this year, we believe this analysis would benefit from including some facts about how innovative technologies, including countries' adoption of biotechnology, has made a contribution to increasing the provision of these goods and services.

In conclusion, again we'd like to express our thanks to the Secretariat and look forward to continued work on this initiative.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for these two Reports. They are very systematic and very concise and succinct. We think these are excellent Reports. So we would like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work.

However, I have two comments to make. First, when we developed Strategic Objectives, we should have reflected Member Nations' priorities. The Objectives should be based on a bottom-up process. We attach great importance to the GIAHS Programme. In recent years, FAO has implemented the GIAHS Programme in many countries in Asia, Near East and Africa. The Programme has played a very positive role in promoting biodiversity, food security and sustainable development. It has struck a balance between conservation and development. So it has played a demonstrable role and Member Nations have responded very positively to this initiative.

The protection of agricultural genetic resources is very important to countries with a traditional model of agricultural protection such as China, India, and Brazil. These countries are modernizing their agricultural production. With this modernization, biodiversity is being negatively impacted and a lot of good agricultural and genetic resources, are disappearing.

We think this is a very negative development. It will have a negative impact on the sustainable development of world agriculture. We have also noticed that in the Report of the 112th Session of the Programme Committee, the Report of the 23rd Session of the COAG, and the Report of the 144th Session of the Council, the strengthening of the work related to the GIAHS has been mentioned many times. We think that GIAHS and Agricultural Genetic Resource Protection should be included in the Strategic Objective 2 and corresponding work plans and outputs. This is the first comment that I wanted to make.

The second comment relates to outputs. When developing outputs for Strategic Objectives, there should be both a qualitative and quantitative indicators. Only by doing this can we have objective and correct evaluation of our work.

Mr Mogens KJØRUP (Denmark)

The Nordic Countries, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, welcome the document on the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the participatory process underway.

We have the following nine comments. I shall be brief. First, the document needs to focus more on FAO's specific work in an integrated manner. Second, we would like to see an additional objective added to the list of five Objectives in order to ensure continued delivery of FAO's excellent global public knowledge.

Third, there ought to be uniformity in the document on natural resources and sectors. Fourth, forestry and fishery must be included at the same level as agriculture. The importance of forests and fisheries for food security need to be better reflected in Strategic Objective 1. Sustainable forest management and forest products are key elements in Strategic Objective 2, and Strategic Objective 5 should reflect the role of forests for the resilience of rural livelihoods and the combat against climate change in a better way.

We welcome that the sustainable management and the utilization of genetic resources figure as part of FAO's Global Goals. Consequently, this vital area should also be clearly-reflected under Strategic Objective 2.

Gender must be visible throughout the document. For instance, a clear gender reference in the organizational outcome for each Strategic Objective would be appreciated very much. Seventh, FAO's participation in the MDG Post-2015 Process must be highlighted. Eighth, the transfer from one Strategic Framework to another must be outlined, including how the process can be implemented smoothly to cause the least disruption, and how we can monitor budget allocations and activities from one to the other, as well as indicators and outcomes.

Ninth, prioritization means not doing everything, so there need to be clarity on areas not to be worked on.

In general, we look forward to increased coordination and impetus in FAO's work through the Strategic Objective teams, which is a new and innovative way of harnessing the excellence of FAO to deliver results on the ground. At the same time, we would appreciate a clearer understanding of how this will work organizationally and budget-wise.

And finally two observations: energy markets are not within FAO's mandate and the reference should be deleted. The difference between disaster risk reduction and resilience should be clarified.

The Nordic Countries look forward to continued dialogue on the basis of presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget at the end of January 2013, where the Strategic Framework will be further detailed.

M. Rachid MARIF (Algérie)

Je remercie l'orateur pour l'excellent document qui nous a été présenté sur le Cadre stratégique révisé.

Monsieur le Président, la Délégation algérienne a l'honneur d'intervenir au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point relatif au Cadre stratégique révisé, et ébauche du Plan à moyen terme 2014-17 pour examen et décision (document CL 145/4).

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord en cette 145^{ème} Session du Conseil de la FAO de saisir l'occasion qui nous est offerte pour remercier notre Organisation et son Directeur général Monsieur Graziano da Silva qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour la qualité du travail fourni au service de la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'insécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la faim dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique est conscient des défis mondiaux, régionaux et nationaux auxquels la planète est confrontée. Il est également conscient que la FAO a changé d'air et est en

train de passer à une nouvelle étape qui a amené le Directeur général à engager de vastes réformes structurelles et transformationnelles au sein de cette Organisation, dont l'objectif fondamental est de lutter contre la faim, la malnutrition et l'insécurité alimentaire. Parmi ces réformes, l'on note le Cadre stratégique révisé qui définit l'orientation stratégique globale de la FAO. Il représente l'un des points les plus importants dans la vision des changements transformationnels de la FAO.

Comme vous le savez, le procédé de réflexion stratégique a été avancé par le Directeur général de la FAO en janvier 2012 pour fixer les futures orientations de l'Organisation. Le Groupe Afrique apprécie l'esprit qui a entouré ce processus qui se fonde sur une participation large, concertée, participative, productive et transparente avec l'ensemble des parties concernées, à savoir, la consultation du personnel, la contribution d'un groupe d'experts, d'autres organisations partenaires et une vaste concertation avec les États Membres. Dans cette optique, cinq Objectifs stratégiques ont été élaborés représentant les principaux domaines d'activité dans lesquels la FAO concentrera ses efforts pour tenter de concrétiser sa vision et ses Objectifs mondiaux. À cela, trois innovations liées aux cinq Objectifs stratégiques proposés sont en train d'être conduites dans le PMT, à savoir, des plans d'action servant de guide pour atteindre les Objectifs Stratégiques, un Objectif supplémentaire visant à garantir la qualité des connaissances des activités techniques de l'Organisation et deux domaines d'activité transversaux relatifs à la parité homme-femme et à la gouvernance sont introduits et intégrés dans les différents Objectifs stratégiques.

S'agissant du Plan à moyen terme pour la période 2014-2017, le Groupe Afrique note que celui-ci est en cours d'élaboration dans le cadre de l'approche accède sur les résultats adoptée par la Conférence de la FAO en 2009 pour la planification et l'établissement du Programme de travail et budget.

Pour sa part, le Groupe africain invite la direction de la FAO à prendre en considération les propositions et les orientations découlant des Comités techniques et des Conférences régionales et notamment celles issues de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue à Brazzaville en avril dernier.

Le Groupe Afrique partage également les orientations et recommandations du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier qui ont examiné les documents portant sur le Cadre stratégique et ébauche du Plan à moyen terme. À ce titre, le Groupe Afrique invite la direction de la FAO à prendre en considération ces orientations et recommandations. Le Groupe Afrique invite également la direction de la FAO de tout mettre en œuvre afin de créer les conditions nécessaires pour éradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition. Le Groupe Afrique note l'importance des deux thèmes transversaux relatifs à la parité homme-femme et à la gouvernance, intégrés dans tous les Objectifs Stratégiques et la nécessité d'intégrer les questions liées à l'égalité homme-femme dans les travaux de la FAO pour une meilleure visibilité. Le Groupe Afrique partage la demande du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier relative à ce que les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts soient applicables et soient prises en compte. Le Groupe Afrique attend enfin avec intérêt les prochaines discussions pour la finalisation des documents relatifs au Cadre stratégique. Le Groupe Afrique approuve la vision de la FAO, les Objectifs, les Fonctions essentielles ainsi que les Objectifs fonctionnels.

Monsieur le Président, compte tenu de ce qui précède, le Groupe Afrique appuie pleinement les initiatives lancées par le Directeur Général et notamment les cinq Objectifs contenus dans le Cadre stratégique révisé, et lui assure son soutien total. Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

Mr John SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to join our colleagues in congratulating and thanking the authors of this Report, and the excellent work done in reviewing the Reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan 2012-17.

We recognize that the five proposed Strategic Objectives which will be used to prepare the FAO Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 are consistent with the policy objectives identified by the Ministers for Agriculture of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. And indeed, at the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Argentina in March 2012, the caucus of CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture agreed that the policy objectives should include transformation of the sector

towards market-oriented, internationally-competitive, environmentally-sound production of agricultural products, promotion of increased production, productivity, and world market share, increased diversification of processed agricultural products, and improved food and nutrition security, all in accordance with the vision of the FAO which reads “A world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest in an economically-, socially-, and environmentally-sustained manner.”

We recognize as well that the Action Plan of the MTP 2014-17 specifically includes the regional objective of the 2025 Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative.

Accordingly, Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Trinidad and Tobago endorses the Strategic Objectives in the Reviewed Strategic Framework and MTP 2014-17.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group on this agenda item. The Near East Group welcomes document CL 145/4, and wishes to lend its support to the Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director General. However, it considers that this is still work in progress and there is room to accommodate possible changes in the structure and content of CL 145/4 based on the views expressed by Members at this Session of the Council. The Near East Group notes that the Secretariat does not wish to introduce any change in FAO’s vision and its three Global Goals, as stated in MTP 2010-13. We are happy for this decision. However, in the paper just circulated to us, there is a change in the wording of Global Goal 1. We can accept this change.

The Near East Group appreciates the treatment of the 11 major trends and the conclusions resulting from their analysis, as stated in paragraph 26 of the document. It supports the presentation of the 7 challenges, the 6 FAO Attributes and its 7 Core Functions. However, given the wide mandate of FAO and its partnership with a large number of other organizations, each with its own challenges, it may be advisable to reconsider the Challenges when finalizing the MTP 2014-17.

The Near East Group maintains an open attitude towards the reduced number of Strategic Objectives, five in comparison to eleven for Medium-Term Plan 2010-13. It notes some linguistic changes in Strategic Objectives 2, 3, and 4 as compared with the version that was presented to the Council in June this year. We support these linguistic changes. The five Strategic Objectives are now sharp, short, and focused. All of the five Strategic Objectives are over-arching and ambitious but they are all significant in relation to the challenges that the world is facing in terms of food insecurity and climate change. In general, the Near East Group supports the consolidation in the number of Strategic Objectives but wishes not to close the door for one or two additional Objectives, as have been suggested by several Delegates in this Session.

We also maintain an open attitude to possible changes in the wording of the five Strategic Objectives, such as a change proposed in Objective 1 proposed by the EU, USA and China.

The Near East Group supports the inclusion of the two cross-cutting themes in gender and governance. We are open to inclusion of the additional Objective on technical quality, knowledge, and services. We think it could stand as the Sixth Strategic Objective, provided its wording is rephrased to read “enhance the Organization’s technical quality and services.” At present, it remains an isolated Objective.

The Near East Group wishes to propose the inclusion of a matrix that would link the seven Global Challenges with the five Strategic Objectives, as there is strong possibility that one Global Challenge may be addressed by more than one Strategic Objective.

As it stands, the Near East Group considers Section C of Part 3 to be satisfactory. Each Strategic Objective has a brief section on the context and rationale and has a useful section on main factors contributing to the design of the Strategic Objective. There are 17 Organizational Outcomes listed for the five Strategic Objectives. Members will recall that there were 49 Organizational Results for the current Medium-Term Plan, so that cut from 49 to 17 is indeed significant. Whether the 17 Organizational Outcomes could suffice, the wide range of contributions expected from FAO will

have to be put to test when formulating the PWB 2014-15. *Prima facie*, it appears to be a tight number. We hope for the possibility of a few additional Organizational Outcomes is not excluded.

The Near East Group notes that each Strategic Objective has an Action Plan and each Action Plan is to be guided by a Team Leader, an idea that receives our strong support. Each Organizational Outcome has its outputs ranging from a minimum of two to a maximum of six outputs. Altogether, there are 59 Outputs for the 17 Organizational Outcomes. Moreover, each Output is the end result of several areas of work. For example, there are 46 areas of work associated with the seven Outputs of Strategic Objective 1. Whether the grouping of so many areas of work into a single Output is feasible is yet to be tested. We think it's a very challenging job.

The Near East Group feels that it is important to give clear indication that the areas of work under each Output do reflect the priorities identified by the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees of the Council; COAG, COFI, COFO, CCP, and CFS and, if feasible, the common priorities emerging from the CPFs, Country Programme Frameworks. In this connection, we urge the Secretariat to provide a coherent picture of priorities in the revised Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

The Near East Group highly appreciates the inclusion of the six Regional Initiatives which is a novel addition to MTP and we think that the topic chosen for our Region, namely water scarcity in the Near East, is the right one.

Finally, Chairperson, the Near East Group agrees with the contents of paragraph 96, namely that more work is needed with respect to indicators, baselines, and targets for the 17 Organizational Outcomes and if feasible, Indicators for each of the five Strategic Objectives. We also wish to suggest the inclusion of separate sections on risk assessment, resource mobilization, and FAO's strategy in response to Rio+20.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan thanks Mr Haight for the presentation, including the improvements which reflect the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Strategic Objectives have been improved and we agree with them, including the proposed amendment of Strategic Objective 1.

We are afraid that we have as many as five comments on the document. First, in line with the comment by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and also of the comments of the Nordic Countries and others, we would like to emphasize that it is necessary to direct attention to sustainable management of natural resources and fisheries and forestry.

The current Strategic Objectives seem to focus on eradicating hunger and reducing poverty and they are, by all means, important. But natural resources, forestry, and fisheries have different systems from agriculture and the views of these sectors should be incorporated into the Strategic Objectives. In this context, we support the concept of the proposal of the USA to amend Strategic Objective 2.

China emphasized the importance of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, GIAHS, and we strongly support this. GIAHS is one typical example which supports a cross-sector movement to preserve and further develop sustainable production system. We recommend the colleagues to take a look at the brochure on the table outside of the room which refers to the activities by China, Japan and other countries on this subject.

The second point relates to what was discussed under the previous Item. The Inter-departmental Strategic Objective programme leaders and heads of existing departments should work in a well-coordinated manner. It also relates to the budget allocation to the Strategic Objective teams and traditional Departments and Offices. It is an unprecedented attempt to allocate budget to the cross-cutting teams even though it is small, and we hope that the Teams and Departments will work in harmony with each other so that the Organization can act as one FAO.

The third point is about statistics. We recently received the news that the Inter-departmental Statistics Group has been established. Statistics is an indispensable component of FAO's work and we support this initiative. We request that the recent launch of the initiative be duly reflected in the Action Plans.

The fourth point was already mentioned by Mr Haight. It deals with normative work. Normative work should not be neglected. For example, standard-setting work, such as that of Codex Alimentarius and IPPC is currently proposed to be included as a Sixth Objective if I understand correctly. We would like to stress that the new numerical order of the objective does not mean its degree of importance.

Finally, as the fifth point, we would like to make two specific comments on the outline of the Medium-Term Plan. One, the definition of the actions, outputs, and outcomes should be clearly distinguished. Our understanding is that actions are the processes of doing something. Outputs are something produced by actions and outcomes are the final result of the effect of the actions. We trust that the Medium-Term Plan should be elaborated based on the clear and consistent definition of each action, output and outcome.

Second part of the fifth point; the number of Strategic Objectives is reduced and Action Plans should be well focused, with proper prioritization. Mr Haight said that the number of actions and outcomes would be reduced in accordance with the cross-cutting nature of the Objectives, and we look forward to the next document. We recommend that the focus include statistics, standard-setting, and GIAHS, as I said, plus capacity-building for eradicating animal diseases and plant pests, preserving and utilizing plant genetic resources, and finally managing fisheries and forestry resources.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous arrivons au terme de notre temps imparti pour ce matin. Avant de vous libérer, je voudrais vous rappeler qu'un événement collatéral organisé par l'Italie sur "Food Waste" se tiendra à 13 heures dans le Sheikh Zayed Center.

The meeting rose at 12.36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

**FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 December 2012

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.39 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 (continued)**6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 (suite)****6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous allons donc pouvoir continuer nos travaux. Nous avons des sujets importants à voir. Et si nous le pouvons, nous prendrons même de l'avance pour demain.

Je donne la parole au Représentant de Cuba pour commencer l'intervention.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGÜERO (Cuba)

Cuba agradece la presentación del documento CL 145/4 con la actualización del Proceso de Reflexión Estratégica, el Marco Estratégico Revisado y el Esquema del Plan a Mediano Plazo 2014-2017.

Vemos con satisfacción que el Proceso de Reflexión Estratégica y la Revisión del Marco Estratégico han avanzado, y que las reformas emprendidas se han acelerado en el último año con la aplicación de medidas para lograr la mejora del impacto de la labor de la FAO, que debe centrarse en su principal objetivo: la lucha contra el hambre, la malnutrición y la inseguridad alimentaria a través de la conversión de su labor normativa en resultados concretos en el plano nacional, y de sus productos de conocimiento global en cambios reales de políticas y prácticas donde proceda.

La elaboración del Plan de Mediano Plazo 2014-2017, incluyendo Planes de Acción para cada uno de los cinco Objetivos Estratégicos, un Objetivo adicional asociado con la calidad y la capacidad de conocimiento y trabajo técnico en el que se contempla toda su actividad normativa; y considerar género y gobernanza como aéreas transversales en todos los Objetivos, muestra un adecuado avance presentando las versiones preliminares de los Planes de Acción de cada Objetivo Estratégico.

Cuba considera también que resulta imprescindible que en las versiones posteriores de estos planes se establezca una definición más clara y precisa de las metas y los productos asociados a cada una de ellas, y que se establezcan los indicadores necesarios para medir cuantitativamente, siempre que sea posible, lo que se ha logrado, y la eficiencia con la que se obtuvo. Ello permitirá contar con un marco de resultados que brinde una clara orientación para el trabajo.

En cuanto a la propuesta de modificación que recién nos ha sido presentada sobre los Objetivos Estratégicos, deseamos expresar que Cuba ve con preocupación el cambio en el Objetivo Estratégico 1, con la introducción del término o fórmula "Crear las condiciones necesarias para erradicar el hambre", no se trata de una cuestión de semántica o de metodología para redactar Objetivos, sino de una cuestión de fondo. En cada momento estamos creando condiciones para erradicar el hambre. Antes de iniciar el trabajo, a partir de mañana, podríamos haber cumplido el Objetivo, pues los proyectos de la FAO aportan resultados concretos en ese sentido.

Cuba considera que tendríamos que hablar, por lo menos, de reducir el hambre en el mundo, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición, como guía, como Objetivo que indica lo mucho que hay que hacer todavía, y la urgencia con que lo deberíamos hacer.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea welcomes the document reviewing the Strategic Framework and outlining the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, which has been formulated through the Strategic Thinking Process. We would like to highlight two points.

Firstly, the Republic of Korea supports the five new Strategic Objectives and their enhanced cross-cutting nature. As they will be further elaborated in the Medium-Term Plan and the PWB for 2014-15, we look forward to seeing their prioritization in the Action Plans with regard to FAO's core competence and the mandate of other relevant international organizations.

Secondly, as much as it is important to establish Objectives, it is also important to implement Action Plans and to evaluate performance. In this regard, we would like to encourage the Secretariat to develop measurable performance indicators.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation supports the Strategic Thinking Process undertaken on the initiative of the FAO Director-General to determine the focus areas of the organization's future activities and priorities. This initiative by the Director-General demonstrates his resolve to make the Organization more effective.

We approve the Reviewed Strategic Framework, which sets out the organization's Strategic Objectives. The programme reflects the major global trends in the field of agriculture, the main global challenges and the comparative advantage of FAO, as well as its organizational specificities and overarching functions.

We also support the draft Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, in particular, the standard settings or the standardization work incorporated into it. We feel it is fundamentally important to maintain the functions of selecting, accumulating and exchanging knowledge and expertise as FAO's priority.

We feel that FAO should remain an organization based on knowledge. In this context, the role of the Decentralized Offices is important in distributing and disseminating that knowledge.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia welcomes the Reviewed Strategic Framework and refined Strategic Objectives. Australia has long been calling for FAO to focus on its comparative advantage, and we therefore appreciate the discussion in this paper on where FAO's Core Functions lie and where it can best be active.

We are very supportive of a smaller number of Strategic Objectives. In our mind, this should lead FAO to concentrate its efforts in a more focused manner. Australia notes that the document is a work in progress, and we agree with many of the comments made by other Delegations today to improve the document. While all five Strategic Objectives have outcomes and outputs linked to measure progress, these indicators could benefit from being more specific and having baselines to measure changes. We also consider that the document would benefit from a more explicit recognition of the importance of trade – both to the work of FAO and the Strategic Objectives.

We note the importance of FAO's normative standard-setting and goal information provision work, and support attempts to make this work clearly visible in the Strategic Framework and PWB. In this regard, we support further development of the presentation of this work in either the five Strategic Objectives or the sixth Objective dealing with technical knowledge and quality services. We support Canada's intervention that further data, including performance indicators, be developed for the sixth Objective.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

India would like to endorse the document (CL 145/4) dealing with the Reviewed Strategic Framework, and the outline of the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17. We fully express our support to the amended text given to us this morning, which in our opinion has addressed most of the concerns expressed by the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Joint Committee.

We would also like to recall the sentiments expressed by our Asian colleagues – China and Japan – to give importance to the globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, which is of great significance in terms of small holders.

It is our understanding that identification of such agricultural heritage systems around the globe would be helpful in conserving biodiversity, preserving traditional knowledge systems, and in the long run, in ensuring sustainable production in agriculture.

We would appreciate if FAO could reflect the importance of the agricultural heritage system in the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-17, and earmark specific resources for this purpose.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

El Ecuador quiere expresar el respaldo al proceso de reflexión estratégica que lleva adelante el Director General, caracterizado por su inclusión y transparencia. Igualmente apoya el documento presentado. Sin embargo, quiere referirse a la propuesta de la Secretaría, circulada el día de hoy en la mañana, específicamente en el punto del Objetivos Estratégico 1.

El Ecuador comparte la preocupación expresada por la Delegación de Cuba en el sentido de que con esta propuesta de modificación se estaría diluyendo el objetivo y mandato que tiene la Organización. Para el Ecuador, creando las condiciones necesarias, se tendría un medio para alcanzar la erradicación del hambre. Por lo tanto, no podemos evaluar los medios; lo que tenemos que evaluar en este Objetivo Estratégico es, justamente, si se ha erradicado o se ha reducido el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Entendemos que en este periodo temporal del Marco Estratégico, no es posible alcanzar la erradicación del hambre; pero por lo menos se puede plantear que en este espacio temporal, el Objetivo sea de reducir el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición. En el caso contrario, este mismo criterio de establecer condiciones necesarias se podría aplicar para el resto de los Objetivos Estratégicos. Con lo cual nos estaríamos apartando del Objetivo de este proceso de reflexión.

Finalmente, Presidente, igualmente el Ecuador comparte el criterio expresado por la Unión Europea en el sentido de que se debe hacer una referencia, en el Objetivo Estratégico 1, al Derecho a la Alimentación.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

La Argentina desea agradecer a la Secretaría la elaboración del documento CL 145/4 y expresar su respaldo a los Objetivos Estratégicos y al proceso de elaboración de los proyectos de Planes de Acción asociados a los mencionados Objetivos.

En relación con la elaboración de Planes de Acción asociados al Objetivo Estratégico 1, es fundamental tener en cuenta que las principales causas de la inseguridad alimentaria son la pobreza y la desigual distribución de la riqueza. Por lo tanto, los Planes de Acción tendientes a dar respuestas al hambre en el mundo, deberían encaminarse en dos direcciones, asegurando el acceso inmediato a los alimentos, sobre todo a las poblaciones más vulnerables, y promoviendo políticas que permitan incrementar la producción de alimentos. En este último punto, el rol de las nuevas tecnologías, en particular la biotecnología, es clave para incrementar la producción y desarrollar alimentos más nutritivos.

En relación al Objetivo Estratégico 4, y a las menciones a estándares privados, la Argentina considera sumamente relevante hacer mayor hincapié en los riesgos asociados a la proliferación de estándares y esquemas privados y sus efectos negativos sobre los pequeños productores agrícolas, especialmente en los países en desarrollo. Es sumamente relevante seguir este tema de cerca, ya que la imposición de este tipo de estándares, los cuales suelen ser excesivamente restrictivos y carentes de justificación científica, generan dificultades en la inserción de los pequeños productores en el sistema de comercio internacional, limitando el desarrollo de sectores agrícolas en muchos países y produciendo, consecuentemente, una merma en la oferta de alimentos, lo cual va en detrimento del logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

Finalmente, y en relación a las oportunidades que ofrece el comercio internacional, mencionadas en el marco del Objetivo Estratégico 4, se considera importante señalar que las estrategias que los países, tanto importadores como exportadores, adopten para beneficiarse del comercio internacional deben realizarse en el marco de los compromisos asumidos en la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

La mejora sustancial en el acceso a los mercados de los pequeños productores de alimentos se logrará a través de la promoción de condiciones de comercio internacional abierto, transparente y equitativo. Por ello, y en vistas al logro de la seguridad alimentaria, es clave la conclusión de la Ronda de Doha conforme a su mandato, pues las distorsiones que enfrenta el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas, van en detrimento de la eficacia y de la integración de los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat pour la présentation du Cadre stratégique révisé. Nous nous félicitons de la réduction des Objectifs Stratégiques en espérant que permettra de mieux fixer les priorités de l'Organisation. Nous accueillons également de manière favorable la nouvelle formulation d'Objectif global 1 et d'Objectif stratégique 1 qui a été distribuée ce jour.

La Suisse accorde une importance toute particulière au Sixième Objectif stratégique visant à maintenir et à améliorer la qualité technique des travaux de l'organisation relatifs aux normes et à leur définition, aux connaissances et à la diffusion de biens publics mondiaux. A cet égard, nous tenons à

souligner le rôle important que jouent les fonctions essentielles qui doivent être vues comme des éléments clés du Sixième Objectif stratégique.

Une attention toute particulière doit être accordée au renforcement des capacités qui doit permettre de garantir des résultats plus durables ayant un plus grand impact au niveau des Pays membres. Nous jugeons également important et soutenons le choix des deux thèmes transversaux relatifs à la parité hommes-femmes et à la gouvernance en tant que thème intégré à tous les Objectifs stratégiques. Il convient de leur accorder, selon nous, la visibilité nécessaire et de mettre en place des actions tangibles.

Finalement, à notre sens, l'Objectif stratégique 2 doit être visé - comme l'ont relevé plusieurs délégations - pour mieux tenir compte de l'importance de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, notamment des ressources liées aux forêts et aux éco-systèmes ainsi que de la gestion et de l'utilisation des ressources génétiques. En ce qui concerne les forêts, une place plus importante doit leur être accordée dans le sens des recommandations faites par le Comité des forêts lors de sa 21^{ème} Session.

Sr. Juan Manuel PRIETO MONTOYA (Observador de Colombia)

Colombia da la bienvenida y comparte los Objetivos Estratégicos, pero quiere resaltar tres elementos.

Primero, junto a lo dicho por China y Estados Unidos, es necesario recalcar la importancia de crear indicadores prácticos para valorar el cumplimiento de los Objetivos Estratégicos.

Segundo, es necesario insistir en la coordinación de los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO con los del FIDA y el PMA, a fin de prevenir la duplicación de esfuerzos y aumentar el impacto de las intervenciones, insistiendo en la importancia de lograr un trabajo coordinado a nivel nacional entre las tres Organizaciones. En el caso de Colombia, se trata de una problemática concreta e inminente por tres razones. FIDA ha aprobado un préstamo por valor de 50 millones de dólares para el desarrollo de un proyecto de agricultura familiar que será ejecutado por el Ministerio de Agricultura.

El PMA, en su Marco de Cooperación 2012-14, ha inscrito líneas estratégicas que orientan la acción, ya no hacia la ayuda inmediata, sino hacia acciones de desarrollo de mediano y largo plazo para lograr la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. La FAO integra en sus líneas prioritarias acciones similares. Dado dicho contexto, las tres Organizaciones deberían articular sus intervenciones en terreno y poner a disposición de los Países Miembros recursos y capacidades. Dicha articulación entre FAO, FIDA y PMA resulta esencial para lograr los Objetivos Estratégicos.

Tercero, el Plan de Acción de la FAO se centra en crear, proteger y recuperar los medios de vida resistentes, de forma que la integridad de las sociedades que dependen de la agricultura, la ganadería, la pesca, la actividad forestal y otros recursos naturales, no se vean amenazadas por las crisis. Y sobre el particular, Colombia resalta lo fundamental que resulta que las acciones de la FAO en esta área sean coordinadas con los sistemas nacionales de gestión de riesgo y de desastres que muchos países en este momento están modificando y reestructurando.

Mr Adnan F.E. GEBRIL (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

With regard to the Strategic Objectives, Libya has carefully followed all the interventions and the observations made by the Member Nations. We approve them all, while giving more attention to what was being said by the European Union regarding the need to coordinate between the Strategic Objectives of FAO and the Global Goals, especially as regards alleviating hunger and combatting this scourge.

Regarding the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan, as you all know, many of the countries of the Near East and North Africa have known political changes leading to more freedom and more democratic regimes. These changes and transformations have taken a difficult path, and their impact has affected the sectors of production. Therefore, Libya looks forward to seeing more attention granted to regional programmes in these countries in order to adopt new policies, to address individual economic and agricultural concerns, and to help these countries restructure, thereby also keeping pace with the need to implement this programme within the Medium-Term Plan.

We also reinforce the importance of the Right to Food based on the human rights approach.

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

Thank you, Mr Chair and thank you very much all Delegations for very constructive comments.

I would like to make five comments. First, I'd like to acknowledge the value of this iterative, consultative process that we're in to get to a new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan. As I mentioned in my introductory remarks, we've had quite a bit of consultation already. We have it today and we will have it going forward over the next year. This is a process that will evolve a new Strategic Framework, but more importantly a Medium-Term Plan and a Programme of Work and Budget that we can be in the position to fully implement on 1 January 2014.

Responding to your comments, I also think it is important to distinguish in terms of, on the one hand, what we do - the content, and the other is how we do it. Regarding the what, we've heard many constructive comments about the need to reflect work related to natural resources management, fisheries, forestry, gender, genetic resources, heritage systems, statistics, and trade more clearly, and certainly we're in the process of trying to do that. We have made some progress already in the document that was before you, but clearly, it is not enough.

Regarding the need to focus our work and there are two ways we can do that besides listening to the priorities that you are expressing now. One is to rigorously apply the Core Functions to achieving the Objectives and Outcomes; and here I think it is also important to recognize that those Core Functions include standard setting, norms, data and information. We apply those Core Functions across all of the work that we do within the Strategic Objectives while maintaining the capacity, through contributions to the standard-setting bodies, for example IPPC and Codex Alimentarius. But we need to take that next step and make sure that all Members are able not only to participate in the standard setting process but have the capacity to put them into practice.

So the Core Functions are one mechanism we have to try to focus our work across the Objectives, and the other is building the robust results frameworks with the indicators, baselines, and targets. I think that many of you have recognized the importance of that, and you will have a first view of that framework in the full draft Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. I think we can expect those to evolve as we move through the formulation process next year to actually implement in 2014.

We will also show the transition from the old to the new, which I mentioned in my introductory remarks. We will take on board the comments that have been provided in particular for Strategic Objectives 1 and 2. We will see how the Chair formulates the report on that. We will clearly formulate objective six to ensure the quality of technical and knowledge services of the Organization, including global public goods. It's not intended to be an objective that holds all of the standard-setting work because, as I mentioned, standard-setting as a Core Function needs to also be applied to the Strategic Objectives. So for us, this is a work in progress, and we'll come back to you with proposals in the full document.

Now in terms of how we do our work, I would like to comment on three elements. One is the matrix structure of Management. One thing that we have learned, and I think those of you who were here during the negotiation and implementation of IPA will recognize, is that the current Strategic Framework has Strategy Team Leaders and the Programme Committee has had many interactions with those leaders, and one of the main lessons learned is that they were not empowered. They had no authority over the resources needed to achieve their objectives. That is one of the critical changes that will be made in the new way we work in the future, that we give these Strategic Objective Leaders the authority to lead the planning process, allocate the resources to the Divisions, Offices, and Departments who will do the work, and then monitor the performance against the indicators. So it is a fundamental change, but it recognizes that if we are going to achieve our Objectives and Outcomes, which are by definition cross-cutting, we need to have programme leadership that has the authority to make decisions about what will and will not be done to achieve the planned outcomes.

The second way of working is in terms of the indicators. We have a Results-Based Management and Monitoring Reference Group within the House made up of many of the Results Based Management experts that we have, but also working with outside expert advice and working with our colleagues in the World Food Programme and IFAD, and even further afield through some of the G20 initiatives and with USAID and others to ensure that our methodology is robust and is tested by others.

And finally, comments were made by Japan about the role of OSD, Technical Cooperation Department and OSP concerning resource mobilization. The Office of Strategy Planning and Resources Management has the responsibility for the strategic planning and resources, while the Technical Cooperation Department is responsible for the actual fund-raising, dealing with the partners, and getting out there and getting the message out to where we need Voluntary Contributions.

We will be forming an internal committee, a high-level committee, to provide the guidance that is necessary to the Technical Cooperation Department, working with OSD, and to identify resource allocation in cases where we are receiving Voluntary Contributions that are not ear-marked or less ear-marked. So we are working together. The reporting lines, we feel, are clear and the authority is being put in place for resource mobilization.

Finally, and my fifth point is about the expectations for the MTP/PWB documentation at the end of January. You've asked for many things. We will do our best to provide that, but we do need to be realistic. It'll be our best effort. As I said in my statement, we will, of course, be discussing these documents with the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council. There are two months between the Council and the Conference and, of course, whatever the Conference finally decides, whatever guidance is provided to the Director-General, will need to be reflected in the adjusted PWB at the end of next year. So I think you need to bear with us in terms of the amount of information provided – nothing is final in these documents because they are all proposals for consideration by the Governing Bodies, and we will make our best effort to respond to all of the various requests and guidance provided here.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais donc essayer de faire un projet de conclusion pour le transmettre au Comité de rédaction du Rapport, pour qu'ils tiennent compte à la fois de la présentation du Rapport, des amendements mais aussi des soucis évoqués par les Comités et par vous-mêmes.

Le Conseil, se félicite du Processus de réflexion stratégique qui à travers ses phases itératives, analytiques et consultatives a permis l'examen du Cadre stratégique et déclare attendre avec intérêt de poursuivre le dialogue à cet égard.

En point suivant: approuve les amendements proposés à l'objectif mondial afin qu'ils se lisent comme suit: éradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition.

De même que les amendements proposés à l'Objectif stratégique 1 pour qu'ils se lisent comme suit: créer les conditions nécessaires pour éradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition.

Le Conseil approuve les cinq Objectifs stratégiques contenu dans le Cadre stratégique révisé, et prend note du Sixième objectif relatif à la qualité, aux connaissances et au service technique qui devraient pouvoir servir de base pour la préparation du Plan à moyen terme 2014-17 et du Programme de travail et budget 2014-15. En particulier, le Conseil:

- a) Attend avec intérêt de prendre connaissance du contenu du Sixième objectif qui visera au maintien et à l'amélioration de la qualité technique des activités de l'Organisation relatives à l'établissement de normes, des connaissances et de la fourniture de biens publics.
- b) Souligne l'importance de la parité hommes-femmes et de la gouvernance comme domaines d'activités transversaux qui devront être intégrés à tous les Objectifs stratégiques et notamment la nécessité d'intégrer les questions liées à l'égalité homme-femme de manière systématique dans le travail de la FAO.
- c) Demande que les orientations émanant des Conférences régionales et des Comités techniques soient prises en compte.
- d) Suggère que les Plans d'actions soient affinés en tenant compte des fonctions essentielles reformulées.
- e) Réitère l'importance des Systèmes agricoles patrimoniaux, de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, y compris les ressources liées aux forêts et aux éco-systèmes, en particulier, dans l'établissement des Plans d'actions concernant les Objectifs stratégiques 2 et 5.

- f) Demande que les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale soient prises en compte, et
- g) Insiste sur la nécessité de tenir compte des priorités des programmes conjoints de la FAO et de ses États Membres telles que celles relatives au système de patrimoine agricole durable.

Le Conseil attend avec intérêt d'examiner en 2013 l'ébauche du PNT 2014-17 et le PTB 2014-15, et donne les orientations supplémentaires suivantes pour leur préparation. Le Conseil:

- a) Souligne qu'il est nécessaire de veiller à plus de clarté dans les modalités de direction, d'exécution, de responsabilité, de suivi et d'attribution des ressources dans les Objectifs stratégiques.
- b) Demande un aperçu clair de la structure organisationnelle et des rapports hiérarchiques, des rôles et des responsabilités.
- c) Souligne combien il est important que le cadre de résultats soit bien étayé et que soit défini de manière appropriée les indicateurs de résultat y compris des indicateurs spécifiques liés à l'égalité homme-femme avec des niveaux de référence et des signes.
- d) Enfin, rappelle qu'il est nécessaire d'assurer une transition souple et transparente de l'actuel Cadre stratégique de quatre ans qui figure dans le Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 vers le nouveau cadre de résultats qui figurera dans le PNT 2014-17, et de préciser quels domaines d'activités devront y être conservés, abandonnés ou créés.

Voilà ce que j'ai essayé de transmettre avec les différents travaux qui ont été faits au cours des derniers mois sur ce sujet et y compris en séance.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

El Ecuador y la delegación de Cuba presentaron su preocupación con respecto a la modificación del Objetivo Estratégico 1. No hubo una respuesta por parte de la Administración al respecto. Sin embargo, quisiéramos que se vea reflejado en su resumen la preocupación en cuanto a la modificación de ese Objetivo Estratégico. Ecuador entiende que es un documento que todavía se está trabajando hasta su aprobación por la Conferencia en junio.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'ai bien entendu vos remarques, mais nous avons besoin d'un double aspect dans cette décision, nous avons besoin d'une décision sur les cinq Objectifs stratégiques pour que le PTB soit préparé et tous les autres commentaires sont intégrés pour représenter les objectifs au Conseil du mois d'avril, aujourd'hui nous devons décider des cinq Objectifs Stratégiques. Alors, j'ai entendu l'ensemble des Membres, bien sûr, Cuba et l'Equateur ont fait des réserves sur ce sujet-là mais globalement j'ai senti un assentiment pour adopter les Objectifs tels qu'ils ont été présentés (version modifiée). Donc, j'ai proposé qu'ils soient adoptés. Bien sûr, vos remarques seront signifiées et dans le cadre de la préparation des autres éléments, il en sera tenu compte.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGÜERO (Cuba)

Creo que sobre el Objetivo Estratégico 1, como bien ha planteado la Delegación de Ecuador, no se puede hablar de consenso. Cuba mantiene su reserva sobre la manera en que ha sido modificado.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Me sumo a las observaciones que han indicado la Delegación de Ecuador y la Delegación de Cuba en cuanto a la inclusión de la frase que precede los Objetivos Estratégicos en los términos en que estaban redactados: "Erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición." Colocar antes la frase "crear las condiciones necesarias para" Venezuela igualmente no lo comparte. Creo que altera el sentido y propósito de esta institución, y el objetivo que tenía condensar en cinco Objetivos Estratégicos los objetivos de la institución. Y ahora que conlleve el "crear las condiciones necesarias", cuando, en efecto, la mayoría de las condiciones prácticamente no estarían exactamente en manos de la FAO, es como indicarnos que es inalcanzable. Me sumo, repito, a Ecuador y a Cuba.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Ratificar lo planteado por mi compañero y lo respaldado por Cuba y por Venezuela. Una cosa es un mandato: “erradicar”. Sé que es complejo, pero ese es el mandato y esa es la función, no es crear solo condiciones. Porque mañana podremos decir: “Las condiciones fueron, pero...”. No, el compromiso es erradicar. Eso con relación al concepto en sí, es una modificación presentada esta mañana. Si hay un País Miembro, y más en este caso ya respaldado por Cuba, que hace una observación, debe ser tomada en cuenta. Si la tradición en procedimientos en la FAO no era así y ya lo preestablecido quedaba, y uno tenía que allanarse a lo que han decidido antes, estamos modificando y cambiando con el nuevo Directorio y con la nueva estructura. Y eso queremos, que cambie la FAO. Por eso es que creemos que debe constar nuestra observación como una observación básica a los mandatos.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

Thank you Mr Chairman, for your summation of the proceedings on this particular item. Earlier today, the United States made a point regarding SO2 that we believe should be included in your summation, as well as taken into consideration by the Drafting Committee. The point made was a suggested revision in the wording to take into account the importance of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. I believe it should be in the record of the specific language that we requested or submitted, but if you would like, I can re-read it too. We would request that you include this in your summary.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour répondre à la question des États-Unis d'Amérique, comme vous n'avez pas le document, je vais relire le petit point e) et vous me direz si c'est suffisant: «Réitère l'importance des systèmes agricoles patrimoniaux, de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, y compris des ressources liées aux forêts et aux éco-systèmes, en particulier, dans l'établissement des Plans d'actions concernant les Objectifs stratégiques 2 et 5.» Cela ne reprend pas forcément *in extenso* le rapport mais j'avais cru pouvoir répondre à votre demande dans ce cadre-là.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

I'm not sure it does fully respond to it, and therefore we would prefer that the summary notes of this meeting include our request for the revised language.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La demande formulée est intégrée dans le verbatim qui sera disponible mais la conclusion du Conseil est un petit peu plus rassemblée. Je pense qu'un consensus est possible parce que le projet de conclusion que je fais est un projet de synthèse qui ne reprend pas tous les amendements. Donc je vous propose de le présenter comme cela et, bien sûr, il est dans le verbatim.

Pour revenir au premier point concernant la demande de l'Équateur, de Cuba soutenue par le Venezuela, y a-t'il d'autres interventions?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The issue is, are we closing the door on the number of objectives or amendments of objectives at this Session? Because there were also suggestions by several Members to add Strategic Objectives. Then, there are amendments to several objectives – 1, 2, and another one also. So this is the issue – you have to decide.

Do you want to close the discussion or do you want to keep it open? I think it would be better if you stated in your summation that this is still an open issue, still a work in progress, and the Secretariat will take into account the comments made by Members and come up with a revised version of the Strategic Objectives, organization results, etc. in April. If we close the door now, we are getting into control issues, which are really difficult to resolve at this time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'ai bien compris et l'objectif de toutes les interventions et de faire évoluer le texte dont le Secrétariat tient compte pour faire des propositions pour le prochain Conseil, mais la difficulté de l'exercice c'est que nous devons agréer les cinq Objectifs stratégiques pour que le Secrétariat puisse engager son

travail de préparation du Programme et du budget que nous leur avons demandé de proposer pour la fin janvier. Le processus de budget ne peut pas attendre le Conseil du mois d'avril. Donc, sur ces cinq Objectifs stratégiques, il est important que nous nous prononcions et, sur le reste, tout est en évolution tel que cela a été dit. D'ailleurs, on l'a déjà dit mais je ne me souviens plus exactement pour quel programme. Monsieur Haight va peut-être apporter quelques éléments sur ce sujet-là.

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

The Secretariat has said on numerous occasions, as set out in the document, in order for us to produce a full draft Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget by the date requested by Council on the 31 January 2013, we must know the number of Strategic Objectives to plan around, and we proposed that in the documents before you. So we do not see it as an open question. We have to walk away from this meeting knowing the number of Strategic Objectives around which we will plan because they are the budgetary chapters for the PWB.

Now the actual formulation of those Strategic Objectives in terms of their titles, the nuances in their titles, and of course the underlying proposals are what we will continue to discuss with you in the coming Governing Body meetings. We have made a proposal. We've heard the comments on the title of Strategic Objective 1. We heard comments on others in terms of the nuances, and that may be the part that could still be open to some extent when we come back to you in March and April.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous rappelle que la proposition amendée ce matin, venant du Secrétariat, fait suite aux discussions des différents Comités sur ce sujet et, en particulier sur le terme «éradiquer» la faim qui était dans l'Objectif stratégique, alors qu'il n'était pas directement dans les Objectifs mondiaux. C'est pourquoi il y a eu les deux amendements: il a été demandé de l'indiquer dans les Objectifs mondiaux et voir au niveau de la Conférence s'ils peuvent être modifiés, et donc repris. Voilà pourquoi il y a eu cet amendement, mais autrement on reste, bien sûr, sur le même objectif. C'était une réponse à une demande qui a été formulée, maintenant si ceux qui l'ont formulé plus précisément, souhaitent dire quelque chose, je ne vous cache pas qu'en tant que Président, cela m'arrangerait.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

There has been some difficulty trying to arrive at a conclusion regarding these Strategic Objectives. A lot of very good sustainable ideas have been put forward. But a big question is whether there is enough money for their implementation? That's the big question.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de votre rappel des aspects budgétaires, mais cela fait partie des Objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, bien entendu dans le cadre du budget imparti.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, je propose de clore le débat comme je l'ai évoqué dans les conclusions, avec les commentaires que j'ai fait aux différents États Membres qui avaient des questions supplémentaires. S'il n'y a pas d'Objections, nous transmettrons ce document, tel que j'en ai fait la synthèse, au Comité de rédaction, et avec toute la souplesse que je vous rappelle que nous avons dit concernant la préparation du projet, et qu'a évoqué Monsieur Haight, concernant les Objectifs stratégiques. Mais je le rappelle, nous étions contraints aujourd'hui d'accepter les cinq Objectifs stratégiques pour pouvoir continuer le travail. J'en profite pour rappeler qu'au Conseil dernier, nous avons demandé au Secrétariat de fournir les éléments budgétaires un mois plus tôt que d'habitude. Le Secrétariat met tout en œuvre pour pouvoir le faire, mais si nous n'adoptons pas les cinq Objectifs stratégiques, nous n'étions pas en mesure de le faire.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGÜERO (Cuba)

Cuba no tiene ninguna objeción al número de Objetivos Estratégicos. Cuba solo está diciendo que no hay consenso sobre la formulación del Objetivo número 1, la manera en que debe quedar ese primer Objetivo. No hay consenso, y creo que eso debe quedar reflejado aquí. Tendremos que buscar ese consenso, si no es hoy, en una próxima sesión. Esta nueva formulación la recibimos hoy. Hace un mes o hace tantos días, teníamos otra formulación. Yo no puedo, Cuba no puede y los otros Países Miembros que han expresado su preocupación, ahora, tomar una decisión sobre un cambio que se ha presentado en la mañana de hoy.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'interventions pour aménager cela, compte tenu qu'il n'y a pas de consensus sur les termes tels qu'ils sont évoqués ici, je vous propose de supprimer, « créer les conditions nécessaires » et de garder l'Objectif stratégique, « Éradiquer la faim ».

Y- a-t-il des interventions?

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

Can we have some time to discuss this? We sensed a lot of support for the proposed wording, and I think it's important that we don't draw the discussion to a final conclusion right now.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme c'est décisionnel, je dois rechercher le consensus dans la mesure où un certain nombre de pays ne sont pas d'accord. Je vous ai fait une proposition alternative. Si elle convient nous l'adoptons, sinon nous devons continuer à discuter. Nous pouvons suspendre la décision et former un groupe ou suspendre la séance pour que chacun puisse se consulter.

Est-ce que cela vous convient de suspendre la séance pendant dix minutes. Y-a-t-il des objections?

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

I just wanted to propose that we leave it for tomorrow. We can continue with the rest of the Agenda Items in order to leave enough time for the Members to discuss the matter among themselves, and hopefully by tomorrow we can come back to the Plenary with a consensus. That's my proposal: to leave this agenda Item and postpone it until tomorrow.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose que vous me donniez l'accord sur le texte global que j'ai présenté, sauf la partie de ce texte que nous laissons en suspens et sur lequel je vous demande de vous mettre d'accord d'ici demain 10 heures.

Donc, à 10 heures, entre deux points, nous prendrons position et je vous demande de vous mettre d'accord soit sur « créer les conditions nécessaires pour éradiquer la faim » soit tout simplement « éradiquer la faim » ou bien toute autre formule qui aurait l'accord de tout le monde.

Il en est ainsi décidé, demain 10 heures vous revenez avec une proposition sur ce terme-là.

7. Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme**7. Amélioration du Programme de coopération technique****7. Mejora del Programa de cooperación técnica****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons au Point 7: *Amélioration du Programme de coopération technique* (document CL 145/8), qui va nous être présenté par Monsieur Laurent Thomas.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Sous-Directeur général du Département de la coopération technique)

Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, j'ai le plaisir de présenter le document CL 145/8: Renforcement du Programme de Coopération Technique (PCT), qui propose des mesures pour poursuivre l'amélioration de cet instrument, et le rendre plus utile aux États Membres bénéficiaires.

Ma présentation s'articulera autour de 3 points: premièrement, un rappel des processus d'amélioration récent du PCT à ce jour; deuxièmement, les mesures additionnelles en réponse à la demande du Conseil en sa Session de juin 2012; et troisièmement le processus de mise en œuvre tel que proposé par la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (en sa 112^{ème} Session) et du Comité financier (en sa 147^{ème} Session) le 7 novembre 2012.

Alors le premier point.

Le TCP a été l'objet d'un processus continu d'amélioration sur les derniers biennia avec, en particulier, trois étapes clés.

De nouveaux critères d'approbation qui dès 2006 exigent que les projets du PCT soient alignés tant au cadre des PRAI, priorité par pays, qu'au Cadre stratégique de la FAO.

La Décentralisation du PCT, entamée dès janvier 2010, accompagnée d'un transfert d'autorité aux Bureaux décentralisés d'approuver les projets PCT de développement.

Et enfin, le lancement, en juillet 2012 d'un nouvel outil (L'Evaluation Ex-Post) qui permettra de recueillir des données quant aux résultats, durabilité et effets catalytiques des projets PCT tant au niveau des projets individuels qu'au niveau agrégé du Programme.

Les effets positifs de ces mesures incluent:

Une meilleure délégation d'autorité aux Représentants de la FAO dans les Bureaux décentralisés; Une meilleure adéquation aux priorités des États Membres; et une réduction du temps d'approbation des projets - passé de 6 mois à 3.5 mois en moyenne, avec, aujourd'hui pour 90 pour cent des projets une approbation en l'espace de 4 mois.

Conformément aux recommandations du Conseil, des mesures additionnelles de réponse aux besoins des pays ont été formulées.

En effet, à sa 144^{ème} Session en juin 2012, le Conseil avait demandé que lui soient communiquées « les propositions globales d'amélioration du Programme de Coopération Technique conformes aux réflexions du Processus stratégique et aux cadres de programmation par pays ».

En réponse à cette demande, le Secrétariat présente le document CL 145/8 de « Renforcement du PCT » basé sur les grands axes suivants:

Une utilisation du cadre de programmation par pays (CPF), en anglais, en tant que point d'entrée et de définition des priorités d'assistance technique du PCT dans le pays. Le PCT sera utilisé pour appuyer les domaines prioritaires identifiés dans le cadre du CPF en vue d'assurer une utilisation plus stratégique et d'optimiser ses potentiels effets catalytiques;

Deuxièmement, un rôle et des responsabilités majeures des Bureaux décentralisés de la FAO pour le suivi et le compte rendu des projets PCT;

Et enfin, une ultérieure simplification et harmonisation des procédures du PCT.

En ce qui concerne le processus de mise en œuvre des mesures, le 7 novembre 2012, la Réunion conjointe du Comité de Programme et Comité financier a revu les propositions du Secrétariat de renforcement du PCT telles que présentées, et a demandé qu'un plan de mise en œuvre de ces mesures de renforcement lui soit présenté d'ici fin de l'année 2013.

Le Conseil est donc invité à prendre connaissance et à, éventuellement, appuyer les recommandations des Comités.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

The Joint Committee endorsed the proposal for enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme consistent with the Strategic Thinking Process and Country Programming Frameworks, and noted that the Country Programme Frameworks will serve as a basis for resource mobilization and building partnerships at local levels.

The Joint Meeting looks forward to receiving an Implementation Plan and timeline before the end of 2013. Finally, the Joint Meeting observed that the further integration of emergency and development work would eventually have an impact on the budget structure.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

We are supportive of this new approach. The only question I would have is when might we have a sense of the eventual impact on the budget structure? When might we be finding out more about that?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I'm making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. Chairperson, the hiccup in the approval and delivery of TCP-funded country and regional projects which arose from the transfer of authority

from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices has ended, and the situation is back to normal. We are happy that the transition process is over.

We are also very happy that there have been significant reductions in time duration from the submission of requests to its approval and from its approval to the starting date of implementation. I think this is good progress.

The Near East Group wishes to make the following comments. We are happy that the TCP will continue to remain as a separate budget chapter. While there is no intention to change the regional distribution of the remaining 85 percent of TCP allocation for development projects, we feel that a new look of regional distribution should be initiated as one element of the Strategic Thinking Process.

It is time to revise the eligibility criteria and have a critical look at TCP regional distribution accordingly. This could be done through the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, TCP requests for development projects must be done by nationally-owned Country Programming Frameworks in which FAO, along with other stakeholders, is a full partner. This nexus between TCP projects and national priorities included in the CPF must remain strong and alive.

To the maximum extent possible, the FAOR would take the lead in ensuring that TCP projects are strategically placed and, particularly, that they are designed to leverage additional resources for the various components of CPF. The FAOR would also take a lead in co-financing.

It is also important to recognize that a considerable amount of capacity-building and training is required to enable Country Offices to manage TCP in a strategic manner. Such capacity-building should be a high priority in 2013.

From the document, one draws the conclusion that as of 1 January 2014, regional allocations for development projects will be managed by the Regional ADG. This is paragraph 8 of the document. At the same time, paragraph 12 says that the FAOR has the authority to approve TCPs. This idea that one manages and the other approves calls for some clarification. For example, to whom should a Member Government submit a request for TCP? To the FAOR or to the Regional ADG, or to the Regional ADG through the FAOR?

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes the opportunity to discuss this Item and notes the pertinent observations made by the Programme and the Finance Committees in their Joint Meeting on 31 May and 1 June 2012.

We agree that the transformational change agenda provides a timely opportunity to better integrate the TCP into country programming activities through FAO's corporate planning and monitoring instruments.

We would emphasize that, in order to enhance the use of TCP to improve both FAO's responsiveness and its impact at country level, Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) should be used to identify the priorities for the use of TCP resources, and to help direct and focus resource mobilization efforts.

For that reason, we believe that FAO should put more emphasis on the elaboration of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) as a tool for effective delivery. In doing this, it should make sure that the elaboration of CPFs be country-led and, therefore, strongly linked to existing national programming frameworks and poverty eradication strategies. Such frameworks bring together the entire UN System, the international financial institutions, the bilateral and multilateral donors, the universities and research organizations, the civil society and the private sector. CPFs should therefore constitute the basis for specific advice from FAO on matters related to these competencies and comparative advantages.

Besides guiding countries in the transformation to a more sustainable agricultural and rural development, a carefully elaborated, high quality CPF, suitably linked to other relevant country programme coordinating frameworks, such as the UNDAF, should assist countries in setting clear priorities, focussing on results and accessing available funds.

Sr. Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

El tema de la mejora del Programa de Cooperación Técnica merece una particular atención, teniendo en cuenta su importancia para lograr el cometido de la Organización, en respuesta a las necesidades de asistencia de los países en desarrollo.

Cuba refrenda las propuestas de mejora del PCT presentadas por la Secretaría. Consideramos que con las mismas se apoyarán mejor las necesidades y prioridades definidas por los países. La implementación de estas propuestas permitirá una mejor planificación del uso de los recursos disponibles y el establecimiento de metas claras para guiar el trabajo en el Terreno.

Por otra parte, deseamos que la Secretaría tenga en cuenta, entre las observaciones que se puedan hacer al documento, que Cuba asume las propuestas no solo para una mejor o mayor movilización de recursos voluntarios, sino para una mejor utilización del presupuesto ordinario de la Organización. Es imprescindible, como parte de las mejoras del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que se logre implementar un proceso más ágil y eficiente de aprobación de las propuestas de proyectos que se enmarquen en los marcos de prioridades de los Países Miembros. Este punto es vital para que las actividades de la FAO se armonicen efectivamente con los planes de desarrollo de los Países Miembros. Se lograrán mayores resultados contando con marcos de planificación definidos, y un proceso eficiente y ágil en la aprobación de los proyectos. La Secretaría debe mantener una atención constante sobre este aspecto, sobre el que aún queda mucho por hacer.

Mme Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur ce Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la préparation de ce document en réponse à la demande formulée par le Conseil en juin 2012, elle-même inspirée des conclusions des évaluations qui ont recommandé une utilisation plus intégrée et stratégique du PCT, en particulier, l'Évaluation stratégique 2010 de la programmation par pays a recommandé que, et je cite, « la FAO devrait affecter des crédits disponibles dans le budget de son Programme ordinaire pour des activités de terrain, afin d'appuyer les domaines d'action prioritaires sélectionnés dans le cadre de programmation par pays de chaque pays ».

Nous savons que la FAO, à travers le Processus de réflexion stratégique, se trouve à un tournant décisif des changements transformationnels en matière de planification, et que les Cadres de programmation pays constitueront désormais, dans ce contexte, les outils essentiels qui définiront les grands axes d'intervention de la FAO dans les pays pour répondre aux priorités des pays avec davantage d'efficacité et d'impact.

Les cadres de programmation par pays devront également permettre une meilleure orientation des initiatives de mobilisation des ressources pour les pays, dans les Bureaux décentralisés et faciliter le ciblage de partenaires au développement.

Nous restons convaincus qu'une rationalisation des processus de mobilisation de ressources intérieures et une utilisation plus stratégique du PCT donnera la possibilité de mieux tirer parti des contributions volontaires des partenaires de développement et des gouvernements à l'assistance technique de la FAO.

Dans la perspective de pousser plus en avant le processus de Décentralisation, nous sommes d'accord avec le principe de donner plus d'autonomie aux Bureaux régionaux en leur conférant les responsabilités de la gestion des crédits du PCT.

Les Bureaux décentralisés devront être suffisamment dotés en ressources humaines et en compétences techniques pour mieux répondre aux besoins des pays, mais aussi pour garantir un système fonctionnel d'assurance/qualité pour les programmes, afin de s'assurer que les principes fondamentaux du PCT, notamment l'éligibilité du pays, les effets catalyseurs, les incidences durables

et l'engagement des gouvernements sont pris en compte implicitement lors de l'élaboration des Cadres de programmation par pays.

Pour ce qui concerne les aspects budgétaires, nous encourageons l'intégration des activités liées aux situations d'urgence et au développement dans les Bureaux décentralisés, l'objectif étant d'assurer une meilleure coordination des programmes de terrain.

Le Groupe Afrique soutient les principes directeurs qui sont à la base de la proposition pour le renforcement du PCT et attend de recevoir, comme l'a proposé la Réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, un plan d'exécution et un calendrier courant 2013.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

The Brazilian Delegation supports the measures to integrate the TCP into country programming activities by means of FAO's corporate and planning instruments. We commend the efforts made so far aiming at the Decentralization of such an important function. We note with pleasure, the strengthening of the links between TCP and CPF and the consequent ability of FAO Representatives in the field, to negotiate co-financing with potential partners.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Just one point: we have a similar question to that of Canada. According to paragraph 9 of the document, 15 percent of the TCP resources would be set aside for emergency operations and on the other hand, Management stresses that emergency and development are being integrated. We totally agree with that idea. However, when and how it effects the budget structure may depend on the way of further integration of emergency and development operations. It may be difficult to indicate, but we would appreciate clarification from Management regarding this point.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I would first like to commend this document, but I would also like to make some comments of the Sri Lankan situation which I would appreciate would be taken into consideration.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the FAO for the support the FAO has extended to Sri Lanka. Having said that, it is important that the post-conflict Sri Lankan situation, post-2009, be taken into consideration and in this I support the suggestion by the Near East Group, Afghanistan speaking on their behalf, that even in terms of reallocation of budgets, the effective situation of countries be taken into consideration. Decentralization is fine. We fully endorse it, and we commend efforts to decentralize.

Also, a greater engagement of Sri Lankan staff at the FAO Office would be more useful. Needless to say, there needs to be staff from Headquarters also but when you take into consideration the budget, there are some instances where I have noticed that some 25 percent to 30 percent of budgets are spent for maintenance of local offices. So developing countries are paying back loans which also have about 25 percent of the total budget being utilized for maintenance of local offices. The point is taken that it is important that the local office be fully-fledged, but I would urge that even the local Representatives, the Permanent Representatives, be involved and their advice is also sought in terms of presenting these budgets. When I left Sri Lanka, although I had made several requests, we were hardly engaged at all. I was hardly engaged by any of the UN Organizations so I think it is important that the Permanent Representatives, before they leave their respective countries, also be engaged and briefed, and perhaps even given an idea and a tour of some of the Technical Cooperation Projects which are ongoing so that they will be much more aware when they come into Rome.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We would like to compliment Management for the preparation of the Country Programme Frameworks (CPF) which will form the basis of engagement by FAO with each country and of deployment of TCP funds. We are also happy to observe that from the year 2014, the Regional Representative will manage the TCP allocation in consultation with the National Governments, consistent with the priorities identified in the CPF.

Resource mobilization, including co-financing, has also been identified as an area for engagement and embedded into the proposal for announcement of Technical Cooperation Programmes. We encourage

the FAO to go ahead and report to the Council at a future date the results of this enhanced cooperation. With these observations, we would like to endorse the document, Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme, outlined in document CL 145/8.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

El Salvador comparte los planteamientos expuestos en el documento que estamos examinando. Estimamos que es de particular importancia la integración del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) en las actividades de programación por Países Miembros, a través de los instrumentos de seguimiento y programación de la FAO, en particular los marcos de programación por países.

Respaldamos la propuesta de reservar el 15 por ciento de los recursos del PCT para operaciones de emergencia, pero aquí consideramos importante contar con un poco de flexibilidad, pues no todos los años son iguales en cuanto a las emergencias en los Países Miembros.

Nos parece bien que el PCT continúe siendo un capítulo independiente de la consignación presupuestaria de la FAO, y respaldamos las iniciativas orientadas a una mayor movilización de recursos. Por último, teniendo en cuenta que, como se indica en el documento, las mejoras propuestas del PCT requieren de Representantes de la FAO que, como se dice aquí, sean de alto calibre, que comprendan esta nueva FAO y que sean capaces de tomar decisiones estratégicas y ofrecer un adecuado asesoramiento a los Gobiernos, me gustaría contar con mayor información sobre el programa de aprendizaje para la programación eficaz por Países Miembros que se señala fue iniciado este año.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

El Ecuador acoge el Informe y felicita por los progresos realizados. Queremos resaltar el hecho de que a partir del 2014 serán los Representantes Regionales quienes gestionen la asignación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de sus respectivas regiones. Estos deben responder a las prioridades definidas por cada país, y las recomendaciones de las Conferencias Regionales.

Ecuador alienta a que se siga trabajando en las políticas de Descentralización, que está estrechamente vinculada con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y a que una actualización de los avances en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y la evaluación del mismo se presenten regularmente en los períodos de sesiones del Consejo.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for having drawn up the document CL 145/8. We have some comments to make on it. First, we support the integration of the TCP programmes into the Country Programming Frameworks, and we hope that the TCP programmes will be managed at the regional level.

I think these two points represent all the interests of Delegations at FAO as well as the interests of all the Regional and Country Offices. We think that this change will make FAO's work more targeted and allow it to have more impact.

Second, we have a suggestion. Could we use part of the TCP to support South-South Cooperation because at present, South-South Cooperation is becoming more and more important at a global level, especially among developing countries. I think that the TCP could be combined with South-South Cooperation. At the national level, we could strengthen the FAO national offices so that they could work with South-South Cooperation programmes that already exist in those countries. Again, this regards Headquarters. Some of the TCP programmes could be used to support South-South Cooperation, for example in training, education, publications, and so on.

I think that in this way, South-South Cooperation will further contribute to food security, increased farmer incomes, and increases in agricultural production.

Sr. Juan Manuel PRIETO MONTOYA (Observador de Colombia)

Colombia sugiere que, frente al fortalecimiento regional, se haga una mención a la Cooperación Sur-Sur como instrumento para el fortalecimiento en las prácticas identificadas. Conforme a la importancia de esta modalidad de cooperación y al auge que ha tomado en los últimos años, se

considera pertinente un desarrollo más claro frente al tema y las estrategias previstas por la FAO para incentivarlo.

Y, segundo y último, frente a la decisión de continuar reservando el 15 por ciento de los recursos del PCT para operaciones de emergencia, se sugiere que teniendo en cuenta la vulnerabilidad de los países de América Latina ante el cambio climático y, en especial, de Colombia, se designe también un porcentaje para prevención y acciones de mitigación.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Sous-Directeur général du Département de la coopération technique)

Je vais essayer de répondre à toutes les questions qui ont pu être posées. Je peux voir émerger des commentaires des Membres du Conseil, appuyant les propositions élaborées dans le cadre du document présenté, en ce qui concerne la cohérence avec le cadre de priorités programmatiques, le CPF, et les propositions qui encouragent une plus grande prise de responsabilité par les responsables des Bureaux décentralisés, en particulier les Représentants de la FAO et les Représentants régionaux, qui supervisent les Représentants de la FAO.

Continues in English

First of all, there is one point of clarification that came from several interventions regarding integration, emergency, and development and the relation with the TCP. The answer is that while we are progressing in a better integration of emergency and development activities as per your guidance, to allow FAO to assist Member Nations in addressing the immediate need following a disaster as well as the root cause of the problem, it is essential to keep separate allocations in the TCP as it is today. This is 15 percent to be able to indeed cover this immediate need for saving livelihoods and often even saving lives.

When disaster strikes, these monies are used to jumpstart activities such as planting immediately to catch the next crop or saving the livestock, or preventing the spread of animal diseases that could be hazardous to human health. So this is consistent and fully coherent with the wish of the Organization to integrate emergency and development activities, with different budget lines, for emergencies and for development activities. But we will still require a specific allocation to address the immediate need after a disaster and this allocation of 15 percent is relatively limited. It is modest. We cannot have more but it is far below the extent of need. The same principle is used for the rest of the TCPs. The same criteria of catalytic support to mobilize more donor support and extra-budgetary support to respond to the immediate needs following a disaster.

So the answer more specifically to Canada is that I don't think there will be an impact on budget structure. We have to keep the allocation specific as indicated today at 15 percent for emergency response.

As regards the question from Afghanistan on the regional allocation of the TCP and the respective roles of the countries in the Regional Office, the TCP and the national TCP will remain country-driven. This is a starting point, and the responsibility of the FAO Representative working and doing the oversight. What may have created a slight misunderstanding is that the discussion has taken place at country level but the regional allocation is managed by the Regional Representative. The discussion is taking place between the FAO Representative and Government counterparts, but the Regional Representative is the one ultimately approving the TCP project. This is the principle of segregation of duty required in reviewing what has been proposed at country level and assuring that it is in line with the criteria.

I think it answers also, the question about the sensitive balance between Regional allocations. What has been done is based on a careful analysis of trends and basic principles of country demand and country need. It is true that in some situations, countries may need more than others, particularly when they are in a protracted crisis situation, but this is the way it is done.

That is the point. Then there were several interventions including that of Afghanistan on the need to pursue the work in capacity-building. Indeed, we are convinced that we should promote capacity-building linking the TCP with CPF. Indeed, the CPF is the instrument of dialogue between FAO and the Government. We assess countries' needs, the Strategic Framework and FAO's comparative advantage, and we discuss with Governments how best to use FAO's limited resources in support of Government priorities.

Again, here it is of our intention to ensure that FAO's CPF processes support existing Government priorities and existing planning frameworks such as the UNDAC in the dialogue with the United Nations. Better CPFs will allow FAO to be a better contributor to their role in the UNDAC process at country level.

It is also extremely important that the CPF be closely linked to resource mobilization. It is extremely important because the TCP should be catalytic. It is used to ensure more resource mobilization. With the current and agreed CPFs with Governments, we can have better focused TCPs and better resource mobilization in the dialogue with resource partners at country level.

Cuba commented on the need to accelerate the approval of TCP. We fully agree, and this would be our target for the next biennium. I hope that at the next discussion of the Governing Bodies, we can report that we made the same level of progress with the TCP that I just reported, moving from six months from approval to three point five months, and hoping that we can reduce the timeframe further to, why not, two months or even less.

There was a comment and a suggestion from both Columbia and China on the relationship between South-South Cooperation and TCP. Indeed, it is extremely important that the TCP be also an instrument to better mobilize South-South Cooperation expertise to support countries. In fact, it is not something new. We are already, in some cases, having TCP supporting South-South Cooperation programmes. We see this as an area where there will be expansion in the future. So it is very much welcome and very much in line with the existing TCP setup. In fact, there are some specific budget lines found in the TCP nomenclature for South-South Cooperation expertise.

We take due note of the recommendation of Cameroon on behalf of the Africa Group to ensure that we continue to make progress in empowering the Country and Regional Offices and more the link between the evaluation of Country Programming Frameworks and the TCP. Definitely, it's a priority. And regarding the integration of emergency and development activities, this is a work in progress although very much a priority of the Director-General, as highlighted in his different presentations to the Council.

I think I have covered all of the roles and comments of the Membership. Yes, I think I have covered all of the comments and my apologies if I have missed an important comment or query.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

The proposal for the overall enhancement of the TCP consistent with the Strategic Thinking Process and Country Programming Framework is in line with the division of the Director-General outlined in his speech last year on the future for FAO. This he outlined as a bottom-up approach or Decentralization approach. This proposal was endorsed by our Delegation at the time. That was last year and it is now endorsed again by our Delegation at this Council meeting.

Our only question that we want to ask the Chairman of the Programme Committee is that whether the Programme Committee consulted the Finance Committee with the overall outcome of these new visions by the Director-General because budget of the financial matters are so very important for the fulfillment of this proposal. So that's my question because if they did work together and the budget is in keeping with their thinking or the proposal put forward, this is ideal for us.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

My question actually follows on the latter and thank you for letting me come back to this. Mr Thomas, thank you very much for your clarification of the 15 percent. I think that's very clear.

The question that I had asked and it wasn't asked very well but Japan asked it better comes more from the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees as to they observed that the further integration of emergency and development work would eventually have an impact on the budget structure. I wondered if this has something to do with extra-budgetary versus Assessed Contributions and if there is some further thinking going on and how would this come forward to us, and through what means? That was really my question, and perhaps I asked it to the wrong person.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Únicamente quería ver si era posible obtener la información que había solicitado. O sea, ¿cómo va ese programa de aprendizaje para la programación eficaz por Países Miembros?, ¿En qué regiones hemos iniciado el trabajo de preparar a estas personas para que sean capaces de tomar decisiones estratégicas y ofrecer un adecuado asesoramiento a los Gobiernos, lo cual se indica en el documento?

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Thank you very much Distinguished Delegate of Samoa for keeping all of us including the Secretariat thinking of what we can actually do with the means that we have. As you rightly point out, for the technical cooperation, the budget aspects are of course very essential. This is why this item, the Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme was discussed in the Joint Committees where all Members of both the Programme and Finance Committees participate in the discussions and the Reports. So I hope that can allay any fears on your part.

As to the question of emergency and development, we speak a lot about how emergencies should be integrated into development so at a certain point when we have succeeded in doing that the measures that are taken at a specific point in time as a result of some catastrophe will seamlessly go over into development activities.

It seemed to us that having a certain allocation for one of these areas would not be easy to maintain and we wanted to point out that this could have an impact on the budgetary structure not today, maybe not tomorrow, but certainly in the near future.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

My apologies to El Salvador for missing this question from my note. Effective country programming is ongoing. In fact we have already a large number of staff in different regions being trained. It's sold out. We are improving it on an ongoing basis. For example, the links between the TCP and effective country programming as well as the links between effective country programming and resource mobilization are being strengthened as we progress. I will provide El Salvador with details outside of this Session on the statutes of Effective Country Programming in the different parts of the world.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Thomas, pas d'autres questions. Je vais vous présenter le Projet de conclusion.

Le Conseil prend note du contenu du document sur le renforcement du Programme de coopération technique ,et approuve les mesures d'amélioration du PCT en particulier

- a) l'utilisation du cadre de programmation par pays comme point de départ comme définition des priorités en matière d'assistance technique au titre du PCT dans les Pays membres;
- b) le rôle et les responsabilités accrues des Bureaux décentralisés de la FAO.
- c) une ultérieure simplification et harmonisation des procédures.

Le Conseil note que le cadre de programmation par pays permettra d'orienter et de cibler la mobilisation des ressources et pourra servir de support à la Coopération Sud-Sud.

Le Conseil prend note de l'appui à ses propositions exprimé par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier lors de la Réunion conjointe en novembre 2012.

Le Conseil approuve les propositions présentées par le Secrétariat pour le renforcement du PCT en conformité avec le Processus de réflexion stratégique et le cadre de programmation par pays et demande qu'un plan de mise en œuvre de ses mesures soit présenté lors d'une Session conjointe des Comités du Programme et financier avant la fin 2013.

Cela vous semble-t-il refléter les différents points qui ont été présentés et commentés?

- 9. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 112th Session of the Programme Committee and the 147th Session of the Finance Committee (7 November 2012)**
- 9. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme et de la 147^{ème} Session du Comité financier (7 novembre 2012)**
- 9. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 112.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 147.º período de sesiones (7 de noviembre de 2012)**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au Point 9: le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme et de la 147^{ème} Session du Comité financier. Le document de référence sous la cote CL 145/5 est accompagné, comme annoncé hier par le Directeur général du document CL 145/LIM/9 sur la Stratégie de la FAO en matière de partenariat avec la société civile.

Madame Nordin, Présidente du Comité du Programme et de la Réunion conjointe, va nous présenter les deux questions du Rapport qui restent à examiner, à savoir la Stratégie en matière de partenariat avec le secteur privé et la stratégie de partenariat avec la société civile, puisque le Rapport sur l'exécution du programme, le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action, les Changements transformationnels au cours de l'exercice et le Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauché du plan à moyen terme et l'Amélioration du Programme de coopération technique ont déjà été présentés.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

There is only one point left in the Report from the Joint Meeting which is the item on Partnerships with Private Sector and Civil Society. As stated by the Director-General, it is important to work together to achieve results. The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees is an excellent example of working together because the entire Membership is reflected in the composition of the Committees, allowing for good discussions on timely-presented documents.

I view this as a substantial element to prepare the work of the Council. For our meeting on 7th of November, we had two documents on partnerships. One concerning the private sector and one for the civil society. This is the Report.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the updates on the Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society and with the Private Sector respectively, and recognized the importance of both strategies in relation to FAO's mandate and pursuit of its goals and objectives. It recognized that the two papers were living documents and, while generally supporting their content, requested specific amendments to be made in both strategies.

The Committee highlighted the importance of maintaining FAO's neutrality and impartiality. It underlined the importance in the elaboration of both strategies to take into account the role, competence and mandates of Governing Bodies and other related Committees.

Furthermore, the Joint Meeting underlined the importance of the decentralized level emphasis for implementation of the two strategies. It stressed the need for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategies. We underscored the need for transparency in partnership work and thus encouraged online dissemination of related information.

Furthermore, we highlighted the importance of linkages to the organization-wide Strategy on Partnerships and other related UN documents. Finally, we encouraged clear selection criteria for engaging in partnerships. Those were the general comments applicable to both strategies.

With respect to the Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector, the Joint Meeting noted the guidance previously provided by Members had been dually incorporated. The Joint Meeting underlined the importance for clear delineation of mutual benefits and it encouraged attention to the experience of other UN Agencies with regard to non-profit corporations and input supply organizations.

The Joint Meeting requested the consideration of resource mobilization from the private sector to be linked to the broader resource mobilization and management strategy, stressing that partnerships are of a collaborative nature. It recommended that the reference to the voluntary guidelines and the

responsible governance of tenure, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security in the document be reviewed.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the updated strategy for partnerships with civil society as an important document for the Organization. It commended the Secretariat for the excellent first formulation of the strategy and requested in particular, in addition to the general comments, the following refinements: to include the concepts of risk assessment and management as for partnerships with the private sector; to consider better articulation or separation of the treatment of partnerships with academia and research institutions, philanthropic foundations, farmers organizations and with movements with different legal status, and also to delete the topics of interest to the civil society from the document of the revised strategy.

Finally, the Joint Meeting looked forward to further refinement of the two strategies for its consideration and possible endorsement at its next Session which would be in March of 2013.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Cecilia, pour ce rapport de la Réunion conjointe, mais comme le Directeur général vous l'a dit en commençant le Conseil hier matin, un nouveau document qui vous a été transmis dans toutes les langues. Je vous propose donc avant d'ouvrir le débat de demander à Mme Marcela Villarreal, Directrice par *interim* du Bureau de la communication, des partenariats et des activités de plaidoyer, de nous présenter ce document.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director a.i., Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

As you have heard from Cecilia, this document that is presented to you today was discussed and also welcomed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees recently in November. We received, indeed, very valuable guidance from you which we have duly incorporated one-to-one, every single comment. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you because I do believe that the document has been very much improved with all of your comments.

Therefore, the new document has highlighted the importance of maintaining FAO's neutrality and impartiality. It now includes concepts of risk assessment and management as the Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector does. It also underlines the importance at the decentralized level and it gives more emphasis to implementation specifically at the decentralized level. We have also, as you requested, deleted the list of topics of interest to civil society in order to make it more in line with an overall strategic vision.

Now what is this document actually? This strategy is one that provides FAO staff members with guidance, especially those at the decentralized level, to engage in an effective and productive way with civil society to facilitate implementation of our new Strategic Framework.

As you have heard and you have seen, we have had quite a bit of time to discuss the new Strategic Framework. The Strategic Objectives outlined there are of a broad nature. Therefore, we cannot achieve them without very solid, very meaningful partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. This Strategy that you have before you basically helps us as FAO staff members to ensure that we are aligned with the Strategic Framework and that we engage in meaningful relationships, in this particular case, with civil society.

So what is this Strategy not? This Strategy is not one that addresses FAO Governing Bodies, or their composition, or their membership, or their rules, or their own engagement with civil society. It is meant precisely for FAO staff members, to provide them with guidance on how to engage more meaningfully with civil society. It provides elements for this engagement to be more measurable, more results driven, and basically provides effective tools for monitoring and follow-up. So it aligns our work with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation and with the new Strategic Framework.

Now, why today? Why do we discuss it today? This would not be the first time when a document coming from the Joint Meeting is presented to Council for endorsement. As you have heard, partnership is a very central element of the vision of the new FAO presented by the Director-General. We are aware of the fact that the next Joint Meeting will be in March, with possible endorsement at Council after that. Whereas it may seem just a few months to several of us, we really would like to

show that we have a sense of urgency in terms of getting down to work and being able to implement what we're here for.

Now we'd just like to underline that when it comes to reducing hunger, we simply cannot wait, so this is the sense of urgency. So we have engaged in intensive consultations with you individually, and with the Regional Groups, and we also had a good discussion at the Informal Seminar with Permanent Representatives. We have listened very attentively to your comments and concerns, and we believe that we have incorporated them fully in this text.

In any case, as Cecilia mentioned, this is a living document so naturally it will have room for improvement. We do look forward to your constant feedback, which will naturally improve it every time. So with the understanding that this is a living document, we would request the Council to endorse the revised strategy.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Je voudrais juste revenir sur le rapport de la Réunion conjointe, pour dire que c'est un rapport fidèle. Je mentionnerai également son propos introductif qui rappelle que la Réunion conjointe des deux Comités constitue un forum consultatif dans lequel l'ensemble des Membres est représenté.

Monsieur le Président, la stratégie sur le partenariat avec le secteur privé n'est pas à l'Ordre du jour parce que le Secrétariat, sur la recommandation du Comité financier, a préféré le présenter à la Session du printemps 2013. Le document sur le partenariat avec la société civile nous est maintenant présenté sur proposition du Secrétariat, et il est soumis au Conseil pour considération.

Je note que la nouvelle version du rapport intègre globalement les recommandations et les suggestions des Membres exprimées lors de la Réunion conjointe. Cependant, le Comité financier, en temps qu'organe statuant, n'a pas encore eu le temps d'examiner la nouvelle version de ce document. Même si certains Membres ont été consultés, il ne nous revient pas de nous prononcer.

Le document est soumis au Conseil, et c'est le Conseil qui est compétent à cet égard pour décider de la voie à suivre. En tant que Président du Comité financier, je crois que nous pouvons nous en remettre à la sagesse du Conseil.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur ce sujet, l'intervention du Directeur général hier, l'intervention des deux Présidents et la présentation de Mme Villarreal nous permet d'être transparents et clairs. Je remercie le Directeur général d'être avec nous.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

The EU welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and would like to present the following points. We are concerned about the procedure. I repeat, the procedure, that this is proposed by FAO Management on the issue of partnerships.

Listening to the Report of the Chair of the Programme and Finance Committees, we would wonder why Management is not taking fully into account the outcome of the deliberations and the advice of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to further refine the two strategies for consideration at the next meeting and for possible endorsement at its next Session.

We urge FAO to adhere to our agreed procedures in the Basic Texts, and the ones on its respective Governing Bodies.

Sr. Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Esta declaración es en nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe. En primer lugar deseo agradecer al Secretariado de la FAO por el trabajo y las consultas que ha llevado a cabo para presentar a este Consejo la Estrategia de la FAO para las Asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil, contenida en el documento CL 145/LIM/9. El día de ayer nuestro Director General aquí presente subrayó la importancia que le otorga a una decisión positiva del Consejo sobre esta propuesta de estrategia. Señor Presidente, nuestro Grupo Regional respalda el documento que tenemos frente a nosotros y consideramos que el mismo otorga un punto de partida de fundamental importancia, y le damos la bienvenida.

Asimismo, consideramos que como todo documento vivo deberá perfeccionarse con las contribuciones de todos los Países Miembros de la Organización. Como ya ha sido dicho, la composición, normas y procedimientos de los Órganos Rectores de la FAO deben ser punto de partida de la Estrategia y puntualmente respetados. De igual forma, siendo que nuestra Organización es una Organización de Países Miembros, estamos seguros de que la consulta con los Gobiernos en materia de las asociaciones con la sociedad civil será un elemento esencial del trabajo y esfuerzos de la FAO en esta materia. De igual manera, Señor Presidente, en esta nueva etapa que vive nuestra Organización, los Países Miembros sabemos de la importancia de información oportuna sobre las labores que lleva a cabo la FAO, y por ello estamos convencidos de que el Secretariado de la FAO mantendrá informado a este Consejo sobre los trabajos, las alianzas y los recursos que involucre su trabajo con la sociedad civil.

Por último, teniendo en cuenta el carácter dinámico de la estrategia, solicitamos que la Secretaría de la FAO nos presente un documento actualizado, con antelación, para ser considerado en las reuniones de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas que se realizarán en marzo de 2013.

No me resta más que reiterar el firme respaldo del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe a esta iniciativa del Director General, y hacer un llamado a los demás Grupos Regionales para que también le otorguen su apoyo.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial toma la palabra en nombre del Grupo de los Estados Miembros de la FAO en la región Africana. Recuerdo que al día de hoy son un total de 50 Países Miembros. La región de África agradece sinceramente a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de este excelente documento, integrado en el tema nueve de la agenda de este Consejo, documento CL 145/LIM/9, relativo a la Estrategias de la FAO para las Asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil. Nuestros sinceros agradecimientos van expresados al Director General por encarnar esta iniciativa prometedora, encaminada a hacer frente a los desafíos relativos al hambre y a la malnutrición. Nuestro continente es precisamente uno de los más afectados. También felicitamos a la Señora Marcela Villareal por la excelente presentación.

La Región de África reconoce la importancia que conlleva adoptar esta iniciativa y estamos determinados a hacer progresar la misma. Efectivamente, la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África conoció una participación alta de la sociedad civil, y en el marco del CAADP conlleva orientaciones precisas sobre las alianzas. Pero como se sabe, Señor Presidente, aquí tratamos de un documento político que conlleva responsabilidades políticas a los Países Miembros.

Por lo tanto, el Grupo Africano desea hacer tres fundamentales observaciones. 1) El Grupo Africano reitera su compromiso de apoyar y acompañar al Director General en su reflexión estratégica transformacional de la FAO, y en su iniciativa concreta de promover alianzas con el sector privado y la sociedad civil. África está plenamente disponible a trabajar con la Secretaría de la FAO y los otros Grupos Regionales para garantizar la aprobación de esta iniciativa. 2) Sin embargo, el Grupo Africano subraya el retraso con el cual el documento relativo a esta iniciativa fue puesto a la disposición de los Miembros, lo cual, lamentablemente, ha dificultado el desarrollo de las necesarias concertaciones y diálogo del Grupo Africano, y el respaldo de nuestras capitales. 3) El Grupo Africano subraya la importancia de la recomendación formulada por el Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas en su reunión conjunta celebrada el pasado día 7 de noviembre de 2012. Creemos que dicha recomendación se inscribe sabiamente en la necesidad de permitir a los miembros de analizar y

comprender mejor el contenido del documento y recibir comentarios de nuestras capitales sobre el mismo.

Finalmente, concluyo diciendo que sobre la base de esas tres observaciones y teniendo en cuenta el carácter vivo actual de este documento, la Región de África desearía solicitar a esta Asamblea del Consejo un poco más de tiempo para poder proseguir con el análisis del documento, y avanzar con las consultas oportunas hasta las próximas Sesiones, que temo también están a la vuelta de la esquina.

Ms Natasha DAULTANA (Pakistan)

I would just like to take a minute here and speak on behalf of Pakistan. We would like to take this opportunity to comment on the FAO's Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector and FAO's Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society. Although these two items have been kept together in the Programme Committee's Report, they are essentially distinct categories.

This is why the Programme Committee was provided with two separate documents. We welcome this initiative because it is important in relation to FAO's mandate and the pursuit of its goals and objectives. The areas identified for collaboration are advocacy and communication, work covering both normative and field aspects, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-development. This would help in meeting the objectives of the Organization while stressing the importance of its neutrality and impartiality.

We would like to ensure that there are frameworks and procedures in place to maintain this neutrality and impartiality.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Near East Group. First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for producing this document. The Near East Group welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. My statement is related to the document on the Strategy for Partnership with Civil Society, CL 145/LIM/9.

The revised Draft of the FAO Strategy for Partnership with Civil Society is much better and has incorporated the documents of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Near East Group therefore endorses the revised strategy in principle, and looks forward to the Action Plan which would be prepared in close collaboration with the Regional Offices.

The Near East Group wishes to suggest that input to this Action Plan should also be the contribution of FAO Country Offices, especially the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of civil societies in the countries concerned, and on the basis of consultation with the national authorities.

The Strategy has been conceived as a living document, which will be revised upon the information received from the monitoring system currently being established and the subsequent evaluation of ongoing partnerships. The Near East Group also recommends that the four objectives listed under paragraph 14 could be made more succinct. We wish to propose the following language: "Expand different FAO's partnerships with civil societies for mutual benefits, especially the types of collaboration efforts required in fulfillment of Strategic Objectives 1 and 3; strengthen FAO's initial internal capacity to work harmoniously, efficiently, and effectively with different types of civil societies; assist civil societies to improve their capacities to become better partners of FAO; promote the exchange of knowledge and experience among civil societies in different regions, preferably through South-South Cooperation; utilizing the services of civil society in leveraging more resources for poverty eradication, enhancing food security, and improving environmental conditions in developing countries."

With this observation, the Near East Group endorses the document.

Mr Mogens KJØRUP (Denmark)

The Nordic Countries endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting. We wish to underline the need for Members and the Secretariat to work together openly and transparently. The preparatory work in the Finance and Programme Committees is an excellent way of achieving this. As a Delegate pointed out this morning, the Committees provide an invaluable contribution to the work of the Council.

With this, we fully support the agreed procedures in the Basic Texts and the ones of the respective Governing Bodies.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada fully recognizes the importance of partnerships for the work of FAO, with both civil society and private sector, where we have new strategies which were presented to the Joint Committee Meeting, and also with academia, research organizations, and philanthropic foundations which, as yet, are not the subject of a revised or updated strategy.

Considerable effort has been made by the Secretariat and a number of Member Nations, including Canada, in working together since the Joint Meeting of the Committees, on both the Private Sector Strategy and the Civil Society Strategy, but especially the latter. We welcome the progress that has been made in taking into account our views and those of others, and we very much appreciate the openness of the Secretariat in this regard.

Because of the significance of these partnerships to the ability of FAO to deliver on its goals and, in particular, the work of FAO in the field at countries' sub-regional and regional levels, Canada is concerned that sufficient opportunity for the appropriate consultation with and consideration of the Civil Society Strategy by Member Nations has not taken place as was considered necessary by the Joint Meeting of the Committees prior to its being presented to Council.

The requirement for timely provision of documents to the Council for its consideration has been repeatedly emphasized by Member Nations and underpins the work of the Council, as does the advisory role of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meetings. We appreciate very much the impact the strategy is intended to have as guidance to both the Decentralized Offices and Headquarters. However, we would have to agree with others who have requested time be given for proper consideration of this Strategy and that the strategies for both civil society and the private sector continue to be further refined and be presented again at the March Session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Yo quisiera comenzar por indicarles a todos los Delegados y los Miembros Observadores e invitados presentes que este tema es un tema al cual le hemos hecho seguimiento durante bastante tiempo. Es un tema que las Naciones Unidas lo ha estado presentando a nivel mundial desde la década del 60, un tema que ha aprobado diferentes Asambleas de Naciones Unidas para tratar de establecer plataformas y trabajos de manera más consistente y más sistemática, e insta a las Organizaciones de Naciones Unidas a que ocurra de esa manera, y a que establezcan esas plataformas y esas estrategias para incorporar a la sociedad civil como parte fundamental de nuestro trabajo, del trabajo de todo el sistema, repito.

Señor Presidente, solo por mencionarle, el ECOSOC, que sabemos que es la Agencia de Naciones Unidas que tiene que ver con el cumplimiento de los derechos económicos, sociales y políticos de los pueblos y de sus Países Miembros, lo aprobó en el año 67. Por supuesto, como idea fundamental y que debe considerarse en cada una de las organizaciones mediante un proceso de debate, de adaptación de los mandatos que tiene cada uno de los organismos, esto ha venido evolucionando. Y tan es así, que el documento que se nos presenta a discusión, el CL 145/LIM/9, habla de la historia que también ha conducido a que la FAO intente definir esta política. Eso no ha sido posible. Eso no se ha concretado.

Ahora bien, en la Cumbre del Milenio del 2000, el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para entonces, reafirmaba el papel central de la sociedad civil y sus organizaciones, no solo para la misión de las Naciones Unidas, para el Siglo XXI como se indicaba y como era la aspiración de esa gran cumbre, como todos sabemos, sino para el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Quedaba claramente definido, en esa oportunidad, que la sociedad civil era un elemento de apoyo fundamental, un elemento esencial que teníamos que incorporar para que esos Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, sobre los cuales íbamos a trabajar en adelante, pudieran concretarse.

Ahora bien, esto ya era redactado en la Carta de Naciones Unidas en nombre de los pueblos. O sea, la primera frase que tiene la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, yo quiero ratificarlo, Señor Presidente y a todos los Miembros, pues habla efectivamente de "Nosotros los pueblos"; con eso se inicia la carta.

De tal manera que obliga a las Naciones Unidas a trabajar en función de que cada vez incorporemos, avanzar pues, en incorporar a los pueblos, a los seres, que conforman nuestros pueblos, nuestros países, nuestros estados. Porque en definitiva, lo que ha definido también las Naciones Unidas y he escuchado durante ayer y hoy en la sesión, la palabra, el concepto “desarrollo”, es que nosotros somos una de las organizaciones que más debemos trabajar en función de ese desarrollo humano. Creo que nosotros y el PNUD, el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, son dos organizaciones que debemos alinearlos en función de considerar que el desarrollo humano es el pilar, es el centro, es la columna vertebral de nuestro testamento ético, por decir así, y moral, para contribuir a la erradicación, en nuestro caso, del hambre y de la pobreza. De tal manera que esa participación fundamental de la sociedad civil nos permitiría, además, un cambio esencial que estamos necesitando en este momento que es la sostenibilidad. O sea, lograr que nuestras sociedades, a nivel local, nacional y regional, puedan participar y puedan ser vistas por nosotros como un recurso, como unos colaboradores.

Yo creo que para el cumplimiento de nuestros objetivos son tan importantes los Países Miembros que soportamos financieramente, que estamos todos los días elaborando el trabajo y el cumplimiento del mandato, y la elaboración de toda la normativa, el papel normativo y el fortalecimiento de esta institución como institución de conocimiento. Yo creo, sin embargo, que tenemos que considerar que en ese recurso, que es la sociedad civil, tenemos unos colaboradores para integrarlos a nuestras políticas, a los programas que definan los países, tomando en consideración sus necesidades y pudiendo establecer un diálogo, como se ha establecido acá, neutral. Nosotros somos una institución neutral, pudiendo establecer ese diálogo neutral como puede ser solamente afectado por nuestros Gobiernos un diálogo transparente y neutral.

Saludamos, por tanto, este proceso incluyente que se inicia con la formulación ya de una Estrategia específica para trabajar con la sociedad civil. Creemos entonces que la FAO, que ha venido realizando un largo proceso de colaboración con la sociedad civil para poder implementar sus programas en el terreno, le permitirá a la FAO esta estrategia, proporcionar elementos medibles.

O sea, cuando estamos hablando de la incorporación de la sociedad civil, estamos teniendo la posibilidad de tener en el terreno la capacidad de medición y de que nuestro trabajo esté efectivamente orientado hacia los resultados. O sea que podemos ser efectivamente monitoreados, esa es la percepción de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, modestamente. Porque creo que nosotros cada vez más necesitamos esa medición para hacer efectivo ese anhelo, ese mandato de erradicación del hambre como lo estamos adoptando en esta reunión. De tal manera que alinear el trabajo y la colaboración de la FAO con la sociedad civil, atendiendo a las recomendaciones de la evaluación externo-independiente, no estamos tomando referencias externas a nosotros, distintas a las que esta Organización ha generado, en base a lo que nos ha indicado la evaluación externo-independiente, en base a estos nuevos objetivos que estamos definiendo; y en base al nuevo ímpetu que le estamos otorgando a la descentralización de la FAO.

Yo creo que la Descentralización necesita apoyarse en esta nueva estrategia de la sociedad civil. Deberíamos, por tanto, pensar que esta estrategia nos va a permitir sistematizar el trabajo de la FAO, y que podamos fomentar alianzas en el plano del trabajo en el terreno de manera clara y orientada, repito, a los resultados. Yo creo entonces que, en ese sentido, apoyamos la propuesta hecha por la Dirección General, y apoyamos también la declaración hecha por el GRULAC en términos de entender que este documento es un documento vivo al cual queremos hacerle aportes más adelante, y decantar un poco más aspectos que todavía quedan por dejar más claros dentro del documento.

Pero apoyamos irrestrictamente esta Estrategia.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan thanks Ms Villarreal for clear statements as usual. We fully support the idea that partnership with civil society is important and we appreciate that Management quickly improved the document. Although we didn't have sufficient time to examine the details of the document, we are pleased that the document reflects most of the comments in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

It is difficult to decide our position. It is a living document so we can or we cannot adopt it, but having listened to the statements of other Delegations, we see there is no consensus. So we would rather recommend postponing the approval of the document until the next Council.

We have three rationales for postponing the adoption. The first is the concern about the procedure as stated by the EU. This is the strategy document, and it is not a report such as the Programme Implementation Report which we discussed yesterday, and this is a very new document. Taking these points into account, we think consensus is important.

The second rationale is concern about the substance of the document. We just raised one example of concerns about the document. The tools for collaboration as stated in Chapter Five, Part B are one of the main elements of this regular programme, but it is not clear if FAO intends to use these tools or not. If FAO intends to use these tools, it does not reflect the discussion in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. For example, as regards number six, Multi-donor Trust Funds, I remember there was no consensus about establishing market donor trust funds. This is one example of our concerns.

The third and final point is a practical reason. FAO can enhance partnerships with civil society without a written document. We even encourage Management to do that with or without the written strategy. Rather than rushing to adopt the document now, we can develop and adopt a written strategy paper based on the experience of cooperation with civil society when it is ready.

Finally, we once again thank Management for elaborating the document.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I have the honor of speaking on behalf of the Asia Group Members.

Since the Members did not have adequate time to dwell on this text, the comments that we are offering will be our initial ones. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General for taking this valuable initiative, and for having already put it into practice. We also thank the Secretariat for the clarification and the presentation.

The document containing the strategy for partnership with civil society is a commendable initiative with the aim of contributing towards the creation of more measurable results-driven elements, which can be effectively monitored. It also aims to implement collaborations in alignment with the FAO Strategic Objectives.

We wish to offer the following comments. The Group supports the proposal and recognizes it as a starting point requiring further improvements. We also share the views of the Delegations who support it, and request that the Secretariat update this document. We also support the sentiments expressed by certain Delegations that the latter should be given more time to study this document for it to be better understood.

The previous speakers made very valuable comments in different respects. Some spoke of the procedures and we do not have many comments to make on these, but we acknowledge that many Delegations recognize a lot of substantive improvements can be made to the text.

In light of these comments, we request that the Council allow more time for Members to analyze this document, and give it the due recognition and attention that it deserves.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

También voy a ser breve pero no puedo dejar de mencionar el agradecimiento al Secretariado, a todos los que han trabajado en este documento, a la Señora Villarreal en particular.

Mi colega de Japón decía, con mucha razón, que este es un *living document* que podemos aprobarlo o no. Yo, por supuesto, respaldo plenamente lo que ha dicho el Embajador de México en nombre del GRULAC. Por lo tanto, estoy a favor de aprobarlo. Hago simplemente algunos comentarios.

No creo que se trate de un documento nuevo. Es un documento que fue presentado oportunamente en la Sesión Conjunta, que recibió la atención de todos los Miembros que forman dichas comisiones y que luego también ha sido considerado en un sistema de consultas informales que se llevaron a cabo. El documento que tenemos a la vista incorpora, como ha sido reconocido por varias Delegaciones,

muchas de las observaciones que se hicieron en esas sesiones y también muchas de las que se hicieron durante la ronda informal y de consulta. Es, sin duda, un documento vivo.

También, como GRULAC, tenemos inquietudes que van a ser oportunamente presentadas al Secretariado para que sean consideradas en el refinamiento de esta Estrategia, refinamiento que puede realizarse aprobando la Estrategia definida, y creo que en algún momento vamos a tener que aprobarla. No sé hasta cuándo vamos a poder estar pidiendo refinamiento y refinamiento del documento, obviamente hasta que tengamos consenso, hasta que estemos de acuerdo.

Entendemos que este documento había alcanzado un nivel suficiente de consenso como para que fuera aprobado pero, insisto, es un tema que el Director General nos ha planteado como una necesidad con una urgencia que él estima que es necesario atender y, reitero, en algún momento debería ser aprobado. GRULAC ya se ha expresado, podría ser ahora, y seguramente vamos a seguir trabajando en su refinamiento pero deberemos darle a esta situación una decisión que no es definitiva, es una decisión para aprobarla y seguir trabajando. Quería dejar expresado esto claramente.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I associate myself with the statement made by the Chairman of the Africa Group. I have been involved with social movements all my life in order to fight for the independence of my country. I am concerned about human rights, exploitation, and lack of access. I understand its importance, but my worry is about the neutrality of FAO, the good reputation it has built for many years, and the damage which may be created by establishing a partnership with civil society.

FAO will in no way change the mandate of civil society, special resources or social movements. Of course, lack of access to a social movement will ignite certain processes in a country – talk about lack of access to resources or productive assets, and why you even exist. Why do you exist? So it creates a revolution.

It is not only this. For example, when we look to the relationship between North and South. While the South is dying or going down, the North is a source of resources, technology and know-how. But the relationship with the South is because of demand, field demands, human records. When they put in their Constitution, the need to develop any relation or partnership with any country, they have that demand, so the developing countries are retreating from that relation.

Rather they prefer resource blocks or not to have that demand in terms of human rights aspects. Cooperation with the South is demanded where there are less resources, less know-how, and less technology because of this. So my worry concerns FAO, which was very popular and welcomed in every country with open arms when implementing its projects which were mainly under TCP.

But when it organizes a movement in a country, the next few days it will be kicked out, sent from the country, or from several countries.

We should be prepared that FAO should back out of this if the organization or movement is ignited locally, because when it tries to relate these issues the people will revolt against the Government and they are working under the banner and the name of FAO, the societies which are doing this. Who is the leader? It is FAO's project and they are doing this? Yes. Then the partnership will be cut off. So this we have to study very carefully in preparation for such a sacrifice. Like myself, we are not in a position to decide. I will say the following to the Government, with all our intentions, ideas and work. They ask us what project do you have as regards FAO? How much is it? Even if we lose it, if we do not have it, how much will it cost? So you have to put all these things forward, so we have not read the documents. It is only relaying what Japan and others were referring to.

I have not even finished reading. I read about ten pages, with about seven pages remaining, and because it was only yesterday when the Director-General introduced it and appealed for support, I said is it a dream or what? Is he prepared to keep FAO's relations, especially with Africa? In Africa, it is not a lack of resources. It is not a lack of trained people, but the potential for revolution. Who ignites this problem of social movements?

To be brief, we have to be prepared for this, that is the message it will give to our Governments and also to those of us who have been brought up with social movements. I am representing my Government, but still, it is in my blood, the movement which liberated my country.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

As mentioned, FAO has a long standing collaboration with civil society in the implementation of field-level programmes, and this Strategy will contribute towards providing more manageable results and elements that can be effectively monitored. This will allow for these collaborations to be aligned with FAO's Strategic Objectives.

The Director General asked and put the Agenda Item in front of us, and he is coming and sitting with us for approval. We heard the Director General is not coming, but for this document he is coming. This means that it is very important for his work. As already mentioned, this is a living document – meaning that the door is not closed. It is open any time we want to make a correction, an observation, or an intervention.

Therefore, I ask the Member Nations to endorse and approve this document.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We recognize the importance of FAO's partnership with civil society, and also that the document before us has taken into account most of the concerns expressed by Members in the Joint Meeting.

A partnership with civil society is not new to FAO. There has been a strong bond with civil society in the CFS. Civil society has also been invited to the various Technical Committees, COAG, CCP, and also the Regional Conferences. We do recognize that this document is not a final one.

As my friend from Iran said, this is a living document and it will be subject to improvements based on the progress achieved in creating partnerships with civil society. A lot of concerns have been expressed – so it needs to be worked upon further. What has been proposed is perhaps a broad endorsement of this document. It has been clearly stated that FAO will bring out a Handbook delineating the criteria for selection, and detailed Guidelines governing the relationship between FAO and these bodies.

We would have been happy to see the broad outline of the Handbook which would have cleared many of the doubts that have been raised by our esteemed Members. But we estimate that there are six main areas of collaboration, and we do not disagree in terms of the broad direction in which we want to move.

Certain tools have also been identified. There are different tools for collaboration which have been mentioned, but perhaps this needs further elaboration. We have to consider that this is of great importance to the working of FAO, to the process of Decentralization, and also to give a good signal not only to the Headquarters, but also to the Regional, Sub-Regional, and Country Level Offices.

We should come to a broad agreement now, and we can finetune this and put it to the Programme Committee and Finance Committees in March. Then we can finalize the document, perhaps in the next Council meeting. A viable compromise would be to express broad agreement on this document.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En l'état de la discussion je suis obligé de remarquer que nous ne sommes pas tous d'accord sur les mêmes conclusions. Je serais tenté de demander au Directeur général si, après avoir entendu toutes ces interventions, il souhaite faire une intervention et redire sans doute ce qu'il a dit déjà hier matin.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have expressed that this is a very important document for us, so that was the reason that I spoke about it to you in the opening meeting of the Council, asking you for your endorsement. I believe that the debate expressed the concerns of the countries relating to the proceedings and to the possibility of having inadequate consultation with their capitals on the final version.

I fully agree with all of those constraints, but I would repeat what has been said, particularly by the last three speakers. First, this is not a new document. We have been discussing it since the Regional Conferences. We have discussed it in our Programme and Finance Committees, we have discussed it in our Informal Seminar, we have discussed it bilaterally and in meetings with Regional Groups. What is in front of you is the same document with the amendments that the countries asked us to insert. So in that sense, it is not a new document. We have been able to demonstrate the incorporation and

recognition of these concerns to each one of you, and I believe that this was clearly expressed in our bilateral meetings for all, recognizing the work we have done in this respect.

We also expressed very clearly that this is a living document that will need much more improvement in the future, which we are prepared to address – including coming back to this discussion in the next meeting and addressing all of the suggestions that we may receive during this period, from now until the next meeting.

We also agree with the idea that this is a very important political document. It is not an internal document. This is mainly a document that demonstrates the importance that FAO gives to partnerships, specifically with civil society, which has been one of our pillars from the beginning. FAO started a partnership with civil society to implement our work from the beginning. We have been building such partnerships, and as we improve Decentralization processes at present, it is very important to decentralize our work on partnerships with civil society, and also to build up the capacity at Decentralized Offices.

So with the assurance that we will come back in the next Joint Committee with all of the suggestions that we may receive from now on, I request your support to endorse it as a living document, to be reviewed in the next Session as mentioned by India, as a compromise that more improvements may be needed, and recognizing that we have a lot of work to do together in the future of this Organization.

I thank you for your support.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci monsieur le Directeur général. Donc je vais m'aventurer à essayer de faire une synthèse et une conclusion de ce qui a été dit pour respecter les interventions de tous et continuer le travail.

Le Conseil approuve le rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme et de la 147^{ème} Session du Comité financier.

Le Conseil en particulier: a) accueille favorablement la Stratégie de partenariat avec le secteur privé et souligne son importance pour les activités de l'organisation. Le Conseil fait sienne la demande formulée à l'intention du Secrétariat par les Comités à leur Réunion conjointe pour que soient intégrées leurs récentes conclusions dans une version actualisée de la Stratégie qui sera présentée lors de la prochaine Réunion conjointe en mars 2013 pour approbation - ça c'est pour le secteur privé; b) accueille favorablement la Stratégie de partenariat avec la société civile et félicite les Comités pour leur travail efficace et leur analyse lors de la Réunion conjointe et fait siennes les observations formulées sur le fond en particulier quant à la nécessité pour la FAO de préserver sa neutralité et son impartialité dans sa collaboration avec des partenaires extérieurs; c) constate que le Secrétariat a incorporé les améliorations demandées lors de la Réunion conjointe dans la version actualisée de la Stratégie présente dans le document CL 145/LIM/9.

Tout en reconnaissant le caractère évolutif de la Stratégie, le Conseil demande qu'une version complète et mise à jour soit soumise à la prochaine Réunion conjointe des Comités financier et du Comité Programme.

Voilà ce que je vous propose. Est-ce que cela vous pourrait vous convenir ? Êtes-vous en accord avec tout ce qui a été dit, y compris avec ce que vient de dire le Directeur général ?

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, we would like to ask for a brief interruption of this Session. We have need for further consultation among ourselves.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Elle est accordée, je vous demande un quart d'heure maximum ça va? Suspension de séance d'un quart d'heure.

The meeting was suspended from 17.54 to 18.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 54 à 18 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.54 a las 18.20

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mes chers amis, cela nous a permis de nous dégourdir les jambes et de favoriser le «plein esprit». Après avoir consulté et entendu les uns et les autres, je vous propose une version un peu plus finale tenant compte de ce que nous avons dit, c'est-à-dire, qu'il y a un document évolutif qui sera complété avant le prochain Conseil pour avoir un accord de tout le monde. Et puis, il y avait dans la discussion des différences entre deux termes: «approuve» ou «accueille» favorablement. Je vous propose «accepte». C'est la position entre les deux, donc je vais vous lire ce que j'ai proposé. Je relis la phrase depuis le début:

«Constate que le Secrétariat a incorporé les améliorations demandées lors de la réunion conjointe dans la version actualisée de la Stratégie présentée dans le document CL 145/LIM/9. En reconnaissant le caractère évolutif de la stratégie, le Conseil accepte ce document d'étape sur la Stratégie de partenariat avec la société civile et demande qu'une version complète et mise à jour soit soumise à la prochaine Réunion conjointe des Comités financiers et du programme en mars 2013, pour approbation au Conseil en avril 2013.»

Voici ma proposition qui tient compte du débat, y-a-t'il des objections?

Encore une fois merci du travail que vous avez fait, merci de la collaboration et merci aussi à tous ceux qui devaient faire un effort de l'avoir fait. J'ai le Japon qui veut la parole, vous l'avez.

Mr HIDEYA YAMADA (Japan)

Of course, we have no objections but we have a small request for our future work. Please make it clear whether a document is for the Programme and Finance Committee or for the Council. This document was originally for the Joint Programme and Finance Committees, and we did not expect it would be submitted to the Council. Whether a document is for Programme and Finance Committees or for the Council affects our preparations. So we request that this point should be clear for all the documents for the meeting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de cette question qui éclaircit les choses, mais compte tenu que nous sommes en Conseil et que nous venons de prendre cette position en Conseil, je demande que ce document soit un document du Conseil, présenté bien sûr au Comité du programme et au Comité financier pour avis.

Donc je demande que ce soit un Comité du Conseil, je pense que juridiquement il n'y a pas de problème. Merci d'avoir posé la question: «document du Conseil d'avril présenté au Comité du programme et au comité financier de mars », cela vous va-t'il?

Et j'aimerais le redire devant le Directeur général mais oralement il faut éviter de ne pas respecter les règles des dates. Vous m'avez dit que c'était la dernière fois, mais c'est comme l'acte de contrition, malheureusement, on a tendance à repêcher, on est pardonné mais il ne faut pas recommencer trop souvent.

10. Report of the 112th Session of the Programme Committee (5-9 November 2012)

10. Rapport de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme (5-9 novembre 2012)

10. Informe del 112.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (5-9 de noviembre de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Cecilia, la présidente du Comité du programme va nous présenter le Rapport de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I'm sure that in view of the late hour and all the work that we've already done, you will be very happy to hear that this is my last item on the podium. You will have a fresh face after me. Also I would like to say because I noticed some confusion in the room during the day that Mr Médi of course has the honour of being the Chair of the Finance Committee and I have the same honour for the Programme

Committee, but these Committees always get together as a Joint Committee. The previous item was a Joint Meeting item so it was discussed by the two Committees together. It follows a strict order. I will share this time and in March it will be Mr Médi who will be fulfilling this, just to be clear about that.

We have quite a few extremely interesting items that we discussed during our Programme Committee. We had a strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition which as I understand you take a great interest in, as well as we do, especially since food and food-related questions are very high on the global agenda. We do know that partners here in Rome have also started to underline the work on nutrition.

I will not go into everything the Committee said but we did emphasize that cooperation with other partners including UNICEF, WHO, WFP, the Standing Committee on Nutrition through the SUN and REACH initiatives was vital to reach all goals. This Strategy and all the work with FAO had to fit into the Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget.

If I might say so, the strategy and vision for something is the start. Then we have the privilege in the Programme Committee to look at Evaluations, and this time it was time for a major Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry. We welcome the comprehensive and timely nature of this evaluation. This evaluation was presented to the Committee on Forestry which shows how flexible we can be because of course the document should have come to us first and then to the Committee of Forestry, but of course it served no purpose waiting for two years for the next Committee.

We, of course, took note of all the comments that had been made by the Committee on Forestry. The Programme Committee emphasized here as in other parts the importance of better prioritization. Also something I found very interesting is that the work on sustainable forests and food security and poverty reduction are mutually-reinforcing, so if you work in poverty reduction, you should work so as to aid sustainable forests and the other way around. Sometimes this link does not come out clearly.

Of course the evaluations and recommendations should be taken into account for future work in the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. We had also Evaluation of FAO's Support to the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We commend the quality of the Evaluation Report. If you take an interest in this area, I strongly suggest that you have a look at the documents. We highlighted again the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unauthorized Fisheries where FAO and states needed to be ever vigilant.

We also encouraged FAO to concentrate resource mobilizations on initiatives in a building capacity in fisheries management and also, as we have heard during this Council, the need to address the situation of small-scale fisheries which, of course, are in a very vulnerable position. Underlined here again, was the importance of gender. We did say that FAO has to be careful when considering its role in certification. Because its comparative advantage is standard-setting certification should be left to other organizations. Again, the importance of partnerships was emphasized.

Then we had another part of the Evaluation. First we looked at the strategy then we had the evaluation of activities, then we had follow-up to Evaluations. This time we had follow-up to the Strategic Evaluation of FAO country programming. We noted that much work had been done on the Country Programming Frameworks. We welcome the link between these Frameworks and resource mobilization efforts, and we also supported the Decentralization underway. We look forward to further updates in October 2015 because this has been going on for too short a period for the Programme Committee to be able to make substantial assessments of the many changes underway.

Then we had a Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of FAO which is another type of evaluation where peers, i.e. evaluation units with much experience across the UN System, look at the evaluation function here. The Programme Committee was pleased to concur with the Peer Review conclusion that FAO has a mature evaluation function. We supported the further enhancement of this evaluation function.

We pointed out that independence is the key to the Evaluations Office's credibility. We also supported a more strategic use of evaluations and for the Office of Evaluations to be assume full responsibility and to apply a more uniform approach to evaluations as far as possible. We also noted that the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation could be refined by providing more clarity on the process of recruitment of the Director of Evaluation.

Since this meeting, the recruitment of the Director of Evaluation has progressed because for those of you who might not know, unfortunately the present Director of Evaluation thinks he's old enough to retire and I guess we have to respect that.

An assessment of the internal monitoring, and oversight function has also been initiated, the results of which will be provided at the Committees next meeting. I'm sure you remember the Director-General touching on this subject yesterday.

Then of course we have to give directions as to what the Office of Evaluation is going to be doing for the coming two years. We confirmed the importance of finalizing the round of Regional Evaluations. I'm sure you've looked at the Regional Evaluations that have been done so far. I personally find them fascinating. We will be having a preview of the European Region's evaluation in mid-December which we look forward to. And also there will be synthesis of all of these Evaluations that will be presented to the Conference in 2015. There we'll be able to see the different Regions across the board, including the difficulties, the achievements, and what we can learn from each other.

One factor that worries me is that the amount of documentation only over the last five years has grown by 370 percent. Yes, I can see that people are astounded by this, but it is a fact. We know we get more and more information and these days we might think that information is cheap because you just post it on the Web. However in order for countries to be able to assimilate the information, it needs to be done in a major language that some of us have had to learn and others have the fortune of having been born with, so translation costs have become exorbitant because we have very thick evaluations.

I'm happy to report that the Programme Committee agreed to trial test one evaluation for its next meeting that is, to have one comprehensive Executive Summary translated with the relevant evaluation remaining in its original language on the Web where you can print it out, or pay for the translation if you want to. This is a test case. I do hope that we will be able to endorse this procedure, because not only will it bring translation costs down on this I would be happy if we could organize some informal seminars for my Programme Committee. But also, at least for me in Stockholm, there are many processes that want attention. I have to fight to get visibility for FAO, and if I can show Evaluations that are maybe 20-25 pages, it would be so much easier to attract the capitals interest in actually participating in this.

So what will we be looking at, or what will the Office of Evaluation will be looking at in 2013? We endorse the Evaluation of Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production, including a focus on small-holder agriculture and biotechnologies with the prospective integrated crop management in order to capture water use. And the Evaluations should encompass the period from 2004, so as to start from the statement on biotechnologies.

Also the evaluation of FAO's work in post crisis transition, for 2014 we have FAO's work on climate change, adaption and mitigation. We also have FAO's role in the dissemination of knowledge, on food, agriculture and natural resources, and finally FAO's work on genetic resources.

Furthermore, the Committee supported the Joint FAO/WFP Evaluation on the Joint Food Security Cluster, while cautioning that these would need to be sufficient experience with the Cluster to allow for a meaningful Evaluation. We also supported the Somali Country Evaluation. And then we have the implementation of the Council decision regarding the funding of Evaluation extra-budgetary activities, which basically means that when somebody gives FAO resources for activities in the budget, there should be a provision for evaluation of the activity in question.

We noted that there had been progress on the implementation of the 2007 Council decision but there was still room for improvement. We suggested that FAO adapt a more pro-active approach with donors, and underlined the potential of leveraging evaluations carried out by the donors themselves.

Then we have a recurring item, which I'm sure you recognize. It's the review of Article XIV Bodies. We endorse the differentiated approach towards Article XIV Bodies. We noted the progress that had been made in the CCLM and we asked to be kept Informed of developments.

I look forward to seeing all my Committee Members and also the Finance Committee members during the week of March 18-22 when we will hold our 113th Session. I think that was all, Mr Chairman.

Yes, thank you very much. I would just like to point out that we do have Mr Bob Moore, the present Director of the Evaluation Office here, if you have any questions.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group wishes to support the recommendations of the Programme Committee on the strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition, as spelled out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of document CL 145/6.

Given the importance accorded by the international community that proposed a strategy and vision, these are welcomed by the Near East Group. However, we wish to stress the need for more resources to be allocated to AGN and to the Economic and Social Development Department for the implementation of the new strategy. In particular, we wish to emphasize the need for additional staff to support the work on nutrition in the Decentralized Offices.

The Near East Group wishes to support the findings and recommendations of the Independent Evaluation of FAO's Rule and Work in Forestry and underlines the importance of accommodating the recommendations of the Evaluation Report in the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17.

The Near East Group is disappointed that the Evaluation Team did not visit any country with low forest cover, as we know there are 52 countries in which forest cover is less than 10 percent of the land. Similarly, we welcome the findings and recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's report and we support the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and particularly, we support the Programme Committee for the formulation of an Action Plan for Aquaculture.

We regret that the Evaluation Report has not given adequate attention to the urgent need for improved management of small-scale indigenous fisheries. As we know, small-scale fisheries account for 90 percent of the world's fish catch and employ 33 million of the 36 million people engaged in fisheries worldwide. The gender issue is more permanent in small-scale fisheries which are predominant in developing countries.

The Near East Group noticed that the Programme Committee welcomed the Report of the Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of the FAO. By and large, the Report of the Peer Review gives a good certificate of health to the work of the Office of Evaluation, OED. Members will recall that paragraph 30 of the charter of the Evaluation Office of FAO, which is part of the Basic Texts, provides for a Peer Review of OED every biennium, and Evaluation of the Evaluation Function in FAO every six years.

Management's main observation on the Peer Review is that the work of OED is primarily oriented towards the demands made by the Governing Bodies, and must also meet the needs of Management for internal evaluation. Management is also concerned about the proliferation of units responsible for providing oversight functions. Based on these two observations, the Director-General has proposed the launching of an independent inquiry about the rules and function of the units responsible for oversight work and the Regular Programme resources committed to these oversight units, including OED. The Near East Group wishes to support the proposal of the Director-General for such an independent inquiry.

The Near East Group also wishes to draw the attention of the Council Members to the graph of the Evaluations undertaken because of their importance for both the Governing Bodies and the Director-General. What I say is the strike the quotation from the charter. Paragraph 2 of the Charter says that evaluation provides accountability to Member Nations and the Director-General. Paragraph 4 says that Evaluation is an integral element of the results-based management system. Paragraph 7 says that the primary principle underpinning Evaluation in FAO is independence, impartiality, credibility, transparency, and usefulness. They are all inter-related.

Paragraph 14 says that the Programme of Evaluation is defined in a rolling four-year plan. Evaluations are made for after a specific request from the Programme Committee or the Director-General as a result of the need to achieve a balanced coverage of the Organization's strategies and priorities over the medium-term.

Paragraph 37(a) says that the role of the Director-General is to make proposals on the work programme of the Office of Evaluation and, in so doing, he may requests specific independent

evaluation of the FAO programmes and activities. Paragraph 38 says that Internal Evaluation Committee advises the Director-General and the Office of Evaluation on matters pertaining to evaluation in FAO with respect to the Organization as a whole.

Paragraph 40 says that the Evaluation Committee is responsible for the review of the coverage of evaluation proposal for the evaluation work programme, and for the details regarding reference or measure criteria for evaluations. It also says that the Evaluation Committee reviews the Management Response to evaluations for consideration by the Governing Body.

And last, but not least, the Near East Region particularly emphasizes the Programme Committee's recommendations with a view to increase the authority of Article XIV Bodies, since this forms part of the mainstreaming objective of the Immediate Plan of Action. We believe it is crucial for Article XIV Bodies which have a specific Programme of Work and Budget for approval by their Governing Bodies to be allowed to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO.

We support the conclusion of the Programme Committee on paragraphs 27 and 28 of its Report in agreeing with the CCLM deliberations on Article XIV Bodies and bringing to a close these IPA-related actions in the light of CCLM deliberations. We particularly request FAO Management, as indicated on paragraph 28(c) of the Programme Committee Report, to implement the deliberations of CCLM and keep the Programme Committee Informed.

With this observation, the Near East Group endorses the document.

Ms Liz NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

I would be very grateful if you could pass the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

The EU welcomes the succinct and outcome-oriented Report of the Programme Committee. We support the conclusions concerning Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 biennium, the Review of the Strategic Framework and the Outline of the Medium-Term Plan, and we presented our position during those agenda items.

We fully support the conclusions of the Programme Committee on the FAO Strategy and Vision on Nutrition, as stated in paragraph 12 of the Programme Committee Report and would like to underscore the need for FAO to focus its strategy and vision on nutrition, taking into account its comparative advantage in this area, while seeking collaboration without overlaps with the other main actors in this field. Furthermore, a Code of Conduct with a clear distinction of responsibilities and duties must be developed for handling the collaboration, especially with the private sector, in order to keep high FAO's reputation as an honest broker and forum.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Venezuela toma la palabra en calidad de Presidente del G-77 y China para dar la bienvenida y apoyar el Informe del 112.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, documento CL 145/6.

Apoyamos la recomendación del Comité que tiene que ver con el fortalecimiento de la autoridad de los Órganos del Artículo XIV. Este apoyo es necesario para que el trabajo de estos Órganos sea efectivo y que puedan contar con programas de trabajo y presupuesto específicos aprobados por sus Órganos Rectores y para que tengan la posibilidad de ejercer una mayor autoridad administrativa y financiera mientras sigan permaneciendo en el marco de la FAO.

Apoyamos la conclusión del Comité del Programa en sus párrafos 27 y 28 del Informe donde se acuerda con las deliberaciones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y se insta a su implementación, en particular el párrafo 28 c) donde se requiere de la Administración de la FAO la implementación de las deliberaciones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos el cual luego debe informar sobre las mismas al Comité del Programa.

Agradecemos la presentación por parte de la Presidenta del documento CL 145/6.

M. Akla-Esso M'Baw AROKOUM (Togo)

Ma délégation intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point à l'Ordre du jour du Conseil relatif au Rapport de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme, tenue du 5 au 9 novembre 2012.

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter la Présidente du Comité du Programme et tous les participants aux travaux de ce Comité. La Région Afrique marque sa satisfaction sur le compte rendu du Rapport qui a examiné un certain nombre de questions relatives à l'évaluation et à la planification du Programme, ainsi qu'à l'établissement des priorités. Nous notons que le Comité s'est penché particulièrement sur les points suivants:

- les changements transformationnels pour les assises biennales 2012-2013;
- le Cadre stratégique révisé et l'ébauche du Plan a moyen terme 2014-2017;
- l'examen, par des pairs de la fonction, de l'évaluation de la FAO;
- et la mise à jour du Plan de travail à évolution continue relatif à l'évaluation 2012-2014.

Monsieur le Président, tous ces points ont été abordés de manière transparente et inclusive, et ont débouché sur des conclusions et des recommandations pertinentes qui reflètent la qualité du travail abattu.

Eu égard à ce qui précède, le Groupe Afrique appuie les conclusions et les recommandations issues de ce rapport, et invite le Conseil à bien vouloir les approuver.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We also appreciate the Report of the Programme Committee. We have two points to raise here. First of all, I believe we should continue to improve and perfect evaluation work based on scientific evidence. We have also heard that in recent years, the evaluation of work has increased three-fold, so the budget and also the time consumed has also increased.

However, we still believe that evaluation work is exceedingly important for FAO because this serves as the basis for decision-making by the Team Leaders and the Senior Managers. At the same time, evaluation can also improve the work-related Departments so that direction can be maintained and effectiveness can be improved. Of course, evaluation should be scientific and rational, so the number of new evaluations should be in a rational way. However, the priorities should be well-conducted.

We want to say something about translation. As we said, evaluation work is rather intense and there is also a shortage of funds so in the future, it is possible that Evaluation Reports for the Programme Committee may be produced in English only. That is what we heard, and for the other languages, there may be only summaries.

We are of the view that it is too early to say this because it is not in line with the principle of the balanced use of language, and also in exchanges of communication, language is a vital tool. If we cannot communicate well and fully, if there is a misunderstanding, then it will be difficult to reach consensus. And then, as a result, the effectiveness of these Reports will diminish. Therefore, we need to be careful before we make such a decision, otherwise it may backfire.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, and all of the staff members that took part in preparing this document. The task placed before the Programme Committee is a very complex one, and I can simply say on behalf of the Russian Federation that the Programme Committee fulfilled that task quite successfully. I wanted to add that we want the Programme Committee to continue working at the same pace and within the established timeframe.

I think that all the goals of the objectives reflected in this document are perfectly reasonable and have been thought through and weighed carefully. I think they reflect the balance that we are seeing emerge in this Organization. So I would also like to urge everyone to endorse this document and thank, first and foremost, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and all of the experts from the FAO Secretariat who participated in drafting this document and who work in this Committee.

I would also like to support what my colleague from China said with respect to the written translation. It is true that this is a complex issue and we understand that we need to find some sort of way out of this situation, but if we were to take a measure that was maybe too radical, that might not be the best way forward. So I would support what my Chinese colleagues said with respect to the translation and to ensuring that such languages as Chinese and Russian, are not lost in the work of our Organization.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Je voudrais remercier tous les membres du Conseil qui ont bien voulu exprimer leur satisfaction avec le travail mené par le Comité du programme.

Continues in English

But I would also like to thank all of the Members because they have put in a lot of work not only in the Committee, but I also know that you had discussions with your Regional Groups beforehand which I think contributes to having a well-rounded discussion that can truly aid the Council. Therefore, I would like to thank you very much for your efforts, and I look forward to our next meeting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour intervenir, il ni avais pas de questions précise donc merci. Je avis donc vous faire part des projets de conclusion.

1. Le Conseil approuve le rapport de la 112^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme et:
 - a) se félicite de la stratégie de la FAO relative aux activités en matière de nutrition et confirme la nécessité d'assurer l'alignement de la Stratégie avec le Cadre stratégique révisé et l'ébauche de Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017;
 - b) approuve la mise à jour du Plan de travail indicatif à évolution continue relatif à l'Évaluation des stratégies et du Programme 2012-2014;
 - c) fait siennes les recommandations sur l'évaluation du rôle et des activités de la FAO dans le domaine des forêts et souligne qu'il faut intensifier les activités intersectoriel de l'Organisation et concentrer son action sur l'utilisation intégrée des terres et la gestion durable des forêts;
 - d) fait siennes les recommandations sur l'évaluation de l'appui de la FAO à l'application du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, en particulier sur la Pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INDNR), et encourage la FAO à concentrer ses activités de mobilisation de ressources grâce à l'application du Code;
 - e) soutient les points de vue du Comité sur la suite donnée à l'évaluation stratégique de la programmation par pays de la FAO et se félicite des progrès accomplis sur le Plan de l'application de la décision du Conseil prise en 2007 concernant le financement de l'évaluation dans le cadre des activités extra-budgétaires;
2. Le Conseil prend note des opinions du Comité sur l'examen par des spécialistes de la fonction d'évaluation de la FAO et
 - a) convient que la fonction d'évaluation de la FAO a atteint un stade de maturité et que l'indépendance fonctionnelle du Bureau de l'évaluation (EOD) est essentielle pour sa crédibilité;
 - b) note l'état d'avancement relatif à la procédure de recrutement du prochain Directeur de l'évaluation;
 - c) convient qu'il est nécessaire de remédier séparément aux lacunes concernant: i) la portée limitée de l'évaluation interne en ce qui concerne l'apprentissage à l'usage de la Direction; ii) les problème de chevauchement et le manque de cohérence et d'efficacité des fonctions de supervision de l'Organisation;
 - d) accueille favorablement l'évaluation accélérée qu'a entamée le Directeur général dans le cadre de ses responsabilités de gestion en vu de remédier à ces carences.
3. Le Conseil entérine la recommandation du Comité selon laquelle il est souhaitable de clore l'activité liée au PAI concernant l'Examen les Organes relevant de l'Article XIV et approuve

l'adoption d'une approche différenciée à l'égard des Organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif qui ont des caractéristiques statutaires et des exigences opérationnelles distinctes, demande à être tenu au courant des suites données aux délibérations du CQCJ et adhère aux propositions suggérant de continuer à se placer dans une optique pragmatique et souple en ce qui concerne la participation des organisations non gouvernementales, des organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé aux réunions des Organes relevant de l'Article XIV.

11. Reports of the 146th (29-30 October 2012) and 147th (5-9 November 2012) Sessions of the Finance Committee

11. Rapports des 146^{ème} (29-30 octobre 2012) et 147^{ème} (5-9 novembre 2012) Sessions du Comité financier

11. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 146.º (29-30 de octubre de 2012) y 147.º (5-9 de noviembre de 2012) del Comité de Finanzas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Point 11 de l'ordre du jour: le Rapport du Comité financier. Vous trouverez les documents de référence sous les codes CL 145/7, CL 145/13 et CL 145/LIM/2. Les questions à examiner contenues dans le Rapport de la 140^{ème} Session concernent le PAM.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am really pleased to be here with you today to present the Report of the two Sessions of the Finance Committee that have taken place since the last Session of the Council. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 145/7 and CL 145/13. In addition, document CL 145/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the status of contribution in areas as at 27 November 2012 and every country can refer to that to have an idea of the state of its arrear.

While the 147th Session deal with FAO issues, the 146th Session was a Special Session convened to deal exclusively with WFP matters. Our Report on WFP matters has been submitted to the World Food Programme Executive Board for its consideration. As agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you the highlights of the Report of the Finance Committee meetings, except for those matters referring to the Progress Report. We have already seen all of those in the course of the day since yesterday.

Now, let me dwell on the financial position which is the first item. In reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee noted that based on the cash position at the end of October 2012, the Organization had sufficient funds to meet planned expenditures only until the end of November and urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of Assessed Contributions to ensure that FAO is able to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work without recourse to external borrowing.

I must say openly here that the United States and Japan's response to this call helped a great deal to safeguard the financial position during the course of November, and I want to be very thankful to the efforts of the Permanent Representations here for facilitating that.

The Committee reviewed the Audited Accounts of FAO 2012-2-11, and welcomed the issuance of the External Auditor's unqualified opinion expressed its appreciation for the quality of the long-form Report, noting the qualifications provided by the External Auditor and the Secretariat. The Committee agreed to submit to the Council for forwarding to the Conference, a draft resolution adopting the 2010-2-11 FAO Audited Accounts, and the External Auditor's Report as presented in paragraph 10 of document CL 145/7.

The Committee concurred with the rate of 0.01 percent of USD and 0.15 percent for Euro Assessments suggested by the Director-General for use in determining the amount of discount associated with the Incentive Scheme for Prompt Payment of Assessed Contributions for each Member Nation that had paid its Contributions in full before 31 March 2012.

Budgetary matters: The Committee reviewed the annual report on the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities Work called SFERA, covering a period from 1 July 2011 to 30 July 2012. The Committee acknowledged the importance of the Fund to deal with emergencies and

endorsed the establishment of a new window under the SFERA, involving a Fund component to provide the Organization with a means to prepare for and respond to Level 3 Emergencies.

The Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Support Costs Expenditures and Recoveries, covering the implementation on the policy on support costs during the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012. The Committee stressed the importance of providing clear and timely information and communication on the implementation of the improved cost recovery mechanism to resource partners, and requested that the retroactive application of the uplift be applied flexibly to ongoing projects.

The Committee agreed with the draft outline of the comprehensive report on support costs to be presented to the Finance Committee in 2013, requesting that it also include information on harmonizing/approaching cost recovery within the UN System.

Human Resources: The Committee reviewed and updated the Progress Report on the Implementation on the Human Resource Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2012-13, and noted that the decisions of the Council at its 144th Session in June 2012 regarding the structure and priorities of the HR function had been implemented and were being pursued.

The Committee noted the recommendation of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), following the 2012 Rome Salary Survey for the General Service category, to introduce a Revised Salary Scale and agreed to transmit the ICSC recommendation in this regard to the Council for approval of the Revised Salary Scale.

Administrative and information systems framework: The Committee reviewed a further progress report on the implementation of the Global Resource Management System (GRMS) and congratulated the Secretariat on a successful go-live milestone achieved on 6 November for all Headquarters and Regional Offices, and noted the planned activities to implement the GRMS in more than 100 offices worldwide by May 2013.

The Committee emphasized the importance of meeting the remaining programme target dates, in particular with respect to the IPSAS implementation deadlines. It urged the Secretariat to address the risks identified by the Office of the Inspector General, and ensured that the system was fully stabilized during the subsequent months.

Oversight functions: The Committee reviewed the Progress Report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations which summarized the progress made by the Organization in implementing the External Auditor's recommendations, in particular those arising from 2008-09 biennium long-form Audit Report.

The Committee expressed some concern over the slow pace of implementation, and looked forward to receiving an updated Report at this next regular Session, including the status of implementation of the recommendations included in the long-form Report on the 2010-11 Financial Statements.

The Committee examined and endorsed the Director-General's proposals to modify the current Disclosure Policy for the Report of the Office of the Inspector General, OIG, by periodically updating the Permanent Representatives Website to provide information on the Report covered under the policy and to implement a secure internet-based solution that would provide Permanent Representatives and all of the nominees with view only access to the reports online from their own location as an alternative to viewing them in the OIG premises.

The Committee reviewed progress made by the Organization in implementing the FAO Whistleblower Protection Policy (WPP) and agreed that any transfer of OIG responsibility for the preliminary review of complaints under the WPP would be premature, and that this matter would be kept under review.

The Committee supported OIG's proposal to pursue awareness-raising of the Policy within the Organization. The Committee reviewed the frequency of reporting by the FAO Audit Committee and reconfirmed its decision that both the Annual Report of the Inspector General and that of the FAO Audit Committee be presented on a yearly basis at the Spring Session of the Finance Committee. The Committee agreed that the Finance Committee could decide on a case by case basis whether to request that the Secretariat provide further updates of actions taken at a Session prior to the following year's Annual Report.

The Committee considered proposed updates to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. In this regard, the Committee made a number of recommendations for the Terms of Reference to be further revised, and requested the Secretariat to present a revised version of the Audit Committee Terms of Reference to its next regular Session in 2013 for endorsement.

The Committee examined proposed updates to the Charter of the Office of the Inspector-General, OIG, noting that it had been updated primarily to add information required in Internal Audit Charters under the recent updates of the international standard for the professional practice of internal auditing, and reflected current definitions and practices already adopted by OIG. The Committee endorsed the proposed update of the Charter, subject to incorporation of additional suggested changes made by the Committee during its discussion.

The Committee considered the Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO, and which had also been submitted to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and the Programme Committee.

The Committee noted that Management would report on the implementation of the deliberation of CCLM to the Finance Committee at its Spring Session in 2013. The Committee requested Management to provide further information on the main statutory, administrative, and financial characteristics of the existing Bodies under Article XIV so that it could examine the proposal made in relation to specific Bodies and decided to re-examine the matter in detail at the Spring Session in 2013.

The Committee reviewed progress on the Financial Disclosure Programme and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the introduction of the programme which was based on the standard programme as implemented by the United Nations' Secretariat and other programmes and funds.

The Committee examined Proposed Amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization, which had been under review by the CCLM and the Council and which responded to a previous request of the Committee to the Secretariat to provide comprehensive information on the financial implications of the proposals.

The Committee endorsed the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organizations, referred them to the Council for subsequent transmission to the Conference and decided that the financial implications of the matter would be addressed in the context of the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

The improved Methods of Work and Efficiency of the Finance Committee: This is a standing item. The Committee supported exploring possibilities of organizing thematic field visits for members of the Committee at both Decentralized Offices and Headquarters units under the principle of promoting inter-Sessional consultation in preparation for the forthcoming Session of the Committee.

The Committee also requested the Secretariat to consider the introduction of information technology tools which would support the review of documentation by Members, and further requested the Secretariat, when drafting papers for consideration by both the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to give explicit guidance on the aspects to be considered by the respective Committees.

In conclusion, the Sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues as I have reported on, and all these issues facing our Organization.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee, I would like here and now to extend our appreciation to the Secretary for his assistance and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us with the opportunity to further the work of the Organization.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanation you may have regarding the Report, but if I may, in a personal note, I wish to seize this opportunity to recognize some people and I think they deserve it, the machinery behind the work of this Committee. I would like to start with Mr Dan Gustafson who was acting in his capacity, *ad interim* ADG CS, Corporate Services. He took over for Mr Nick Nelson who did everything to clear all the documents before his departure. I want to thank

you very much Mr Dan Gustafson, and we wish you well in your new assignment as Deputy Director-General.

I would like also to recognize the assistance of Mr Hija. It was his first meeting as the Director of Finance, and I think he also has very big machinery behind him which is. Let me now recognize also Mr John Fitzsimon, the Inspector General of FAO, who assisted in everything that we did in terms of side functions, and also Mr Sharma, the Inspector General of WFP.

I will not forget Mr Sean O'Brien. I already congratulated him when we were presenting the Report at WFP.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my able right-hand man, David McSherry, the Secretary of this Committee, without whom I am not operational. I think he deserves a big thanks and a clap. Please help me to applaud Mr McSherry and his team. Please do that for me.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

He was very instrumental. He had a wonderful team behind him. I wanted to recognize him.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien que je partage votre appréciation à l'égard des membres du Secrétariat et malgré les applaudissements à leur égard, les Membres du Conseil sont libres de poser des questions ou de faire des remarques.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

In the last item, I said that if we not deal equitably with the question of languages, problems would arise. We have just listened to the Report that you have presented, but we felt that the opinion that we expressed was not reflected in your summary Report. Before we have the opportunity of expressing an opinion, you have already jumped into another agenda item. The language issue is very important.

Both our Russian colleague and I have expressed that it is not professional to provide only English versions of documents. The time is not ripe yet to do that. We would strongly recommend that our viewpoints should be reflected in your Summary Report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de rajouter une phrase qui réitère l'exigence du respect des langues suite à la demande d'un certain de nombre de pays afin que ceci soit pris en compte.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire intervient au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique sur le Point 11 de l'Ordre du jour relatif au Rapport de la 146^{ème} et de la 147^{ème} Sessions du Comité financier tenues du 5 au 9 novembre 2012. Le Groupe Régional Afrique adresse ses sincères félicitations au Comité financier et singulièrement à son Président pour l'excellence du travail réalisé et la qualité du rapport présenté. Notre intervention portera sur trois points.

- 1) En premier lieu, la situation financière de l'Organisation.

En cette période de crise économique, nous sommes conscients des difficultés des États Membres, toutefois, la question des contributions reste déterminante pour notre Organisation. Aussi, le Groupe Régional Afrique prend-il note des informations contenues dans le Rapport qui présente la situation financière de l'Organisation et exhorte les États Membres à s'acquitter intégralement de leurs cotisations. Le niveau de recouvrement des contributions au Programme Ordinaire de la FAO est un point récurrent aux travaux du Comité financier. Il va sans dire qu'un effort devra être fait dans ce sens. En ce qui concerne les arriérés de contribution, il faut indiquer que sur les 63 États membres en arriérés au 1^{er} janvier 201231 ont pu s'acquitter des leurs arriérés au 27 novembre 2012, soit un taux de 49 pour cent. Nous félicitons les efforts accomplis par ces États Membres et encourageons ceux qui ne se sont pas encore acquittés de leur contribution à le faire car le paiement des contributions est un gage de survie pour notre Organisation. Il est souhaitable que toutes les contributions soient réglées dans les conditions prévues par l'Article 5 du paragraphe 5.5 du Règlement financier de

l'Organisation. Concernant les abattements, le Groupe Régional Afrique prend acte de la proposition du Comité financier de soutenir les remboursements à partir de l'année prochaine, et que ces remboursements reflètent effectivement les contributions éligible d'un pays en 2013. Le Groupe Régional Afrique souhaite que l'analyse du coût d'administration de ce système d'abattement soit présentée au Comité financier à sa Session du printemps 2013 pour examen par le Conseil. Nous accueillons favorablement aussi la proposition du Directeur général portant sur le calcul de la remise à accorder à chaque pays, et la mise en place d'un Plan incitatif pour le paiement rapide des contributions.

2) Le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Les documents CL 145/7, CL 145/13 et CL 145/LIM/12 présentent les Rapports de la 146^{ème} et de la 147^{ème} Sessions du Comité financier qui a examiné les questions concernant le Programme alimentaire mondial dont le Conseil d'administration s'est tenu en novembre 2012. Le Groupe Régional Afrique se félicite de la présentation de la nouvelle politique en matière de communication des rapports pour le contrôle qui fait suite à la recommandation formulée par le Conseil lors de l'approbation, en juin 2011, du contrôle et de la politique concernant la communication des rapports de ses statuts. Nous prenons acte des dispositions proposées qui prévoient la possibilité de passer des accords formels en vue de la communication des rapports d'enquête. Ceci placerait la politique du PAM au premier rang pour ce qui est de la transparence entourant les Rapports de contrôle au sein du système des Nations Unies.

En ce qui concerne les Organes statutaires relevant de l'Article XIV, le Comité financier a examiné la situation des Organes statutaires relevant de l'Article XIV ayant pour objet de permettre à ceux-ci d'exercer une plus grande autorité et d'obtenir une autonomie financière et administrative majeure tout en restant dans le cadre de la FAO. Ces mêmes documents avaient été examinés par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Le Groupe Régional Afrique prend note des décisions issues de ces instances, et demande à ce que le Conseil travaille dans le sens d'octroyer une plus grande autonomie à ces Organes statutaires.

Pour terminer, nous demandons au Conseil d'entériner les décisions du Comité financier. Sur toutes les autres questions examinées, nous lui demandons d'approuver ce rapport et nous présentons nos meilleurs vœux au Président, comme annoncé dans son Rapport oral, à l'occasion de son anniversaire

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you would give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

The EU welcomes the Report of the Finance Committee, and would like to highlight the following issues.

With regard to the Financial Position of the Organization, we note the slightly improved financial position compared to the July projections. However, we are very concerned that FAO might have to revert to commercial borrowing by the end of the year.

Therefore, we urge all FAO Members to pay their contributions in full and on time. We also call upon Management to pursue measures introduced to improve Prompt Payment of Contributions and Arrears by Member Nations, particularly those concerning the Incentive Scheme for prompt payment of contributions whose efficacy has been proven.

We also take note of the staff-related liabilities and concur with the request by the Finance Committee for a document presenting a range of options to address this matter, which should be discussed in the first quarter of 2013.

On the IPA Progress Report, we note that under-expenditures on a number of IPA actions will lead to a carryover to 2013 of about USD 3.5 million. We appreciate that no carryovers are foreseen after 2013, and that a Full Report will be presented to the Finance Committee in March 2013.

We are concerned about the implementation of the Support Cost Policy. We note that some elements, such as the recovery of costs that are below the ceiling rates, will not be implemented. We regret on the other hand, that the Improved Cost Recovery Uplift (ICRU) related to costs for IT, security and office space occupancy has been implemented retroactively and that it also has been applied to persons that do not actually use Headquarters facilities.

We consider that a piecemeal approach and urge Management to proceed cautiously while waiting for the Comprehensive Report on Support Costs, with special attention to ICRU to be presented in 2013. We expect that the Finance Committee's relevant conclusions will seriously be taken into account.

On the Global Resource Management System, the EU welcomes the progress made with regard to the successful go-live, but urges Management to carefully plan and implement the rollout of the systems, including first and foremost the full implementation of IPSAS, according to the established timetable.

Finally, concerning document CL 145/13, we take note of the Finance Committee's Report on WFP matters, and we understand that the Report was dealt with in the November Session of the Executive Board.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Just one point about the support cost policy. We would like to support the comment by the European Union, particularly regarding the Improved Cost Recovery Uplift, ICRU. As is stated in the Report of the Finance Committee, clear and timely information should be provided by Management and retroactive application of the uplift should be applied flexibly to ongoing projects.

In addition to this comment, we also would like to echo your appreciation to the Secretariat. We have not heard that Mr Gustafson resigned from his post as ADG-CS, so we hope that we can continue our cooperation together in the future too.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia can agree to the Audited Accounts being submitted to Conference for adoption. We can also agree to the ICSC's recommendations regarding the Revised Salary Scale. We can endorse the Proposed Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization, and subsequent transmission to Conference.

In relation to one of the matters discussed by the Finance Committee dealing with the Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies, we note the Finance Committee's decision on this matter as well as the parallel consideration of this matter by the CCLM and the Programme Committee. We call on Management for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of these Committees to provide these Bodies with greater financial and administrative autonomy, particularly given Council provided direction on this matter back in 2009.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Conseil

a) Approuve le rapport des 146^{ème} et 147^{ème} Sessions du Comité financier. Les questions concernant le PAM abordées dans le Rapport de la 146^{ème} Session ont été examinées par le Conseil d'administration du PAM lors de sa deuxième Session ordinaire en novembre 2012. En particulier, le Conseil exhorte tous les États Membres à verser leur contribution dans leur intégralité et dans les délais de sorte que la FAO puissent continuer à financer les dépenses d'exploitation nécessaires à l'exécution de son programme de travail.

b) Se félicite du fait que le commissaire aux comptes a émis une vision sans réserve sur les états financiers de l'Organisation en 2010-2011, et recommande à la Conférence d'adopter le projet de résolution présenté dans l'annexe de ce Rapport.

c) Note que le comité financier a approuvé les taux de 0,01 et 0,15 pour cent proposés par le Directeur Général pour les quotes-parts établis en dollars et en euros, respectivement, à utiliser pour calculer la

remise à accorder aux États Membres qui se sont intégralement acquittés de leur contribution avant le 31 mars 2012.

d) Note que le Comité financier a approuvé la création d'un nouveau volet au titre du fond auto-renouvelable du Fonds spécial pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement afin de faire face aux situations d'urgence de niveau 3.

e) Prend note des indications données par le Comité au Secrétariat au sujet de la mise en oeuvre du mécanisme visant à améliorer le Recouvrement des dépenses d'appuis.

Note avec satisfaction que les décisions prises par le Conseil à sa 144^{ème} Session en juin 2012 au sujet de la structure et des priorités de la fonction « Ressources Humaines » ont été mises en oeuvre et continuent d'être appliquées.

Approuve la recommandation formulée par la Commission de la fonction publique internationale à la suite de l'enquête réalisée en 2012 sur les conditions d'emploi à Rome en ce qui concerne les Agents de la catégorie des services généraux à introduire un Barème de traitement révisé.

Approuve les amendements proposés aux Articles 37 et 40 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et sur la question des moyens qui devraient être mis à la disposition d'un nouveau Directeur Général entre son élection et la prise de fonction.

Décide que la question devra être traitée dans le cadre de l'élaboration du programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice biennal au cours duquel un nouveau Directeur Général sera élu.

Note que le Comité financier a approuvé les propositions relatives à la modification de la politique de communication des rapports du Bureau de l'inspecteur général et de la charte du Bureau de l'inspecteur général qui consistera à afficher sur le Site Internet des Représentants permanents la liste des Rapports visés et à mettre périodiquement à jour.

Attend avec intérêt les informations additionnelles sur les principales caractéristiques statutaires, administratives et financières des différents Organes relevant de l'Article 14 afin qu'ils puissent examiner les propositions formulées par ces différents Organes.

Le document sera transmis au Comité de rédaction du rapport.

15. Arrangements for the 38th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the General Debate at Conference)

15. Organisation de la trente-huitième session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du débat général de la Conférence)

15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el debate general en la Conferencia)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point 15: organisation de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Alors, je vous le propose parce que je ne peux pas le faire sans votre accord mais j'insiste fortement

Mr Michael V. MICHENER (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chair and we certainly admire your ambition and your eagerness. However, the WFP is a particular specialized Agenda Item for our mission. It was scheduled for tomorrow morning and our specialist in this area will be available tomorrow morning. It would therefore be difficult for us and probably others to take on this Agenda Item this evening. We recommend waiting until tomorrow morning.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc, je peux pas vous l'imposer. Je ne vous cache pas que je le regrette.

Il est bien clair que la proposition que j'ai faite est sur le Point 15 qui concerne l'organisation de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Donc, je ne dis pas qu'il ne faut pas avoir de spécialistes mais les généralistes doivent pouvoir assumer leurs responsabilités.

Mr Michael V. MICHENER (United States of America)

Believe it or not, we need guidance from capital on this particular item, so we would like to wait until tomorrow morning to get our guidance from capital.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Excuse me. To come back to the last item and your conclusions, we don't see reflected, the point the United States made and some other Delegations on the ICRU, and we would like to see that reflected in some way in the conclusions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je relis ce que nous avons dit sur ce sujet: « Prend note des indications données par le Comité au Secrétariat au sujet de la mise en œuvre du mécanisme visant à améliorer le recouvrement des dépenses d'appuis. » C'est un texte général, il me semble.

Pendant que nous discutons du Rapport du Comité financier, les États-Unis n'ont pas changé d'avis. La séance est donc levée et reprendra demain matin à 09h30. Je demanderai à tous d'être présents ce qui permettrait de gagner dix minutes. Je souhaiterais pouvoir terminer demain sans qu'il soit nécessaire de tenir une Session supplémentaire dans l'après-midi. Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 19.53 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 53

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.53 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

**FIFTH PLENARY SESSION
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

5 December 2012

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

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

18. Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board
18. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM
18. Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour cette cinquième séance, nous essayerons de terminer à 17:30. Aujourd'hui plusieurs sujets importants sont à l'ordre du jour, aussi, dans l'intérêt de nos travaux, vous voudrez bien m'excuser par avance si je suis un peu directif.

Je vous propose tout de suite d'attaquer le point 18 avec l'Élection des six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM, et je remercie Madame Erica Joergensen, Secrétaire du Conseil d'administration du PAM, de participer à nos travaux.

Les documents de référence sont CL 145/9 et CL 145/LIM/3.

Nous devons donc procéder à l'élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM pour un mandat expirant le 31 décembre 2015, qui remplaceront ceux dont le mandat prend fin au 31 janvier 2012.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les candidats sont les suivants:

Liste A: il y a un seul candidat, l'Ouganda pour un siège à pourvoir. Liste B: il y a deux candidats, l'Afghanistan et les Philippines pour deux sièges à pourvoir, étant donné que la République islamique d'Iran a annoncé au Secrétariat sa volonté de retirer sa candidature. Liste C: il y a un candidat, le Mexique pour un siège à pourvoir. Liste D: il y a deux candidats, les États-Unis d'Amérique et l'Italie pour deux sièges à pourvoir.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Gagnon. Nous avons le même nombre de candidats que de postes à pourvoir. Êtes-vous d'accord pour élire les six candidats par consentement général manifeste ?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Pour ce qui sera envoyé comme le projet de conclusion en application de la Résolution 7/2011:

En application de la Résolution 7/2011 du 2 juillet 2011, le Conseil a élu six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM, pour un mandat de trois ans (du 1er janvier 2013 au 31 décembre 2015) selon la répartition suivante: Liste A: Ouganda. Liste B: Afghanistan et Philippines. Liste C: Mexique. Liste D: États-Unis d'Amérique et Italie

Mes félicitations, et merci Madame d'avoir participé activement à nos travaux.

13. Report of the 95th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
(8-11 October 2012)

13. Rapport de la 95^{ème} Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
(8-11 octobre 2012)

13. Informe del 95.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos
(8-11 de octubre de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point suivant à l'ordre du jour, est le point 13: le rapport de la Session de la 95^{ème} Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (document CL 145/2). Je donne sans plus attendre la parole au Président du Comité, Monsieur Hassan Janabi.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters) (Original language Arabic)

Good morning colleagues, Representatives of countries, Members of the Council to this meeting.

On the basis of what the Independent Chairperson of the Council has just proposed, I will do my utmost to make a very succinct presentation of the Report of the 95th Session of the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters that was held in October.

It was a very intensive meeting, unlike previous meetings, because we had to discuss a number of very important issues that you can consult for yourselves in the Report. Part of the meeting focused on the approval or endorsement of a series of documents which were approved beforehand in the appropriate Bodies. I'm not going to go through the entire content of the debate on these matters because it does feature in the Report itself.

Among the important issues that were debated, was the policy pertaining to the Protection of Whistleblowers, on the basis of an administrative note that was distributed in 2012. The Committee considered that the policy adopted currently is sufficient and does not require any amendments, but it was indicated that there should be a clear link between this policy and the policy of the Ethics Office of the Organization, and also a clear relationship with all the other Committees.

With regard to Internal Audit, the Committee debated this point and proposed that it should be possible to review the Internal Audit Reports when they are not in line with the policy of the Inspector General. We also discussed at length document CCLM 95/12 with regard to the Bodies established under Article XIV, to allow them to access greater financial administrative authority while remaining within the framework of the FAO.

There are some 18 Statutory Bodies under Article XIV at the FAO which are different in their nature and their mandate among themselves, and the Committee agreed it would be difficult to establish a single methodology which could be applied to all the Statutory Bodies allowing them greater financial administrative authority while preserving a harmony of work in the Organization. So there is not a single solution with regard to these Bodies from a financial or administrative point of view.

The Committee considered that generally the CCLM would agree to granting greater financial administrative authority to these Bodies as long as the sufficient human resources were available to allow them to exercise that authority. Also, it would be necessary to have sufficient oversight on the part of the Organization of the work of these Bodies so that this is not an obstacle or, so that it does not destabilize the work within the FAO.

Another issue that was discussed at length was the membership and the role of the General Committee of the Conference. We discussed the restoration of Voting Rights of Members that had not paid their Assessed Contributions over a certain period. The General Committee has traditionally made a proposal to the Conference for restitution of voting rights to those countries which had not paid their assessments on the basis of a series of agreements or commitments as established by those countries themselves. The CCLM expressed its availability to examine the legal aspects of this issue, but deferred the financial aspects because this was linked to the financial resources and the budget of the Organization. It was suggested to allow the Finance Committee to examine this situation in light of the recommendations of the Conference that was held in 2005.

Also, the Committee discussed a document pertaining to the Committee on World Food Security, a document which should have been approved at the last Session of the Committee on World Food Security before it was examined by the CCLM. Therefore, our Committee will discuss this issue once again if it is adopted at the CFS. So it will be debated at the next Session of the CFS.

Another matter which came before the Committee was the revision of Articles 19 and 22 pertaining to the meetings of Technical Committees. Generally speaking, countries can be members of Technical Committees and sometimes there is not a sufficient quorum which makes it difficult to take decisions. After a very detailed discussion, we adopted a mechanism which we believe could be useful. You have it in this document which involves sending an invitation to Member Nations before the Technical Committee starts.

So Member Nations are thus asked to respond expressing their wish to participate or not. This communication on the part of countries should reach the Organization no later than 10 days before the beginning of the meetings of the Technical Committees. Personally, I think that this could be a useful mechanism, but it may be difficult to oblige countries to send a communication 10 days before holding the meetings of the Technical Committees; you have the floor to see if you could come up with a better, more practical mechanism.

At the CCLM we agreed that this mechanism would allow at least a minimum requirement to allow Member Nations to express their wish to participate in the meeting so that we have the necessary quorum which allows decisions to be taken.

Subsequently, the Committee discussed its Multi-year Programme of Work, and approved the annual Report that was prepared within the framework of the Multi-year Programme of Work for the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The Committee emphasized the fact that it has a special status in the Organization because it does not have standing items on its agenda. It deals with what is submitted to it by the Secretariat, by Management or by the Technical Committees.

Thus concludes the introduction for these items, Mr Chairman.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Eritrea is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and wishes to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Chairman of the CCLM, Mr Hassan Janabi, Ambassador of Iraq for his comprehensive and excellent introduction to the agenda item. We also appreciate the amount of work done by the CCLM at its 95th Session in reviewing, examining and making recommendations on more than 11 different items.

The Africa Group took note that the Whistleblower Protection Policy has been examined, including receiving and screening of complaints of retaliation and the reason for complaints. A review of its implementation concurred that no change to the policy was warranted. In this regard, the Inspector General has made a plan to further publicize the policy to insure that staff's awareness continues to be raised.

The CCLM examined the Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports and welcomed Management's proposal to periodically update, during the year, the Permanent Representatives Website at least with reports, available for viewing under the current disclosure policy, and encourages Management and the Inspector General to identify options to allow for viewing under the current policy. The Africa Group welcomes the proposal of the CCLM. Such a proposal is included in the piloted online method used as by the UN Organization.

The Africa Group welcomes and endorses the proposal to modify the standard administration clause used in contracts of the Organization with commercial suppliers to include that arbitration under the provision shall be administered by the International Bureau of the Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Proposed amendments to Rules 37 and 40 of the General Rules of the Organization deal with the Appointment of the Director-General, and specifically with provisions relating to the staff. The Africa Group welcomes the review being made by the CCLM and endorses the proposed amendment including the addition of the nomination period from 12 months to 3 months to the Office of the Director-General.

A restricted authority of the Director-General to make appointments of senior positions during the last six months of his/her term of office has resulted in the proposal for appointments to grade D2 and above expiring not later than five months after the end of the term of the office. The new Director-General may extend any such appointment. The Africa Group endorses the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix I and forwards it to the Conference for approval.

As regards the review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO, the Africa Group noted that the list of Bodies established under this authority were so many and varied in

their function, composition, budgetary and administrative matters. Almost in all aspects they are different and have different interests.

A few years ago when some of those African countries were members of the IOTC, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which was established under this Article, they raised alarm and expressed their objection. We are of the opinion that internal consultation among the constituencies of the different Bodies should be made to establish and determine their position on the matter rather than have it be decided by Council here, where all are not Members of the different Bodies or of the Treaties.

If there was another item, if there was a recommendation by the Conference during its 33rd Session in November 2005, that the Finance Committee should examine the restoration of Voting Rights of countries and others, as well as the approval of the Installment Plan to Settle Arrears, if the Finance Committee has not done so, the Africa Group believes that the Finance Committee should examine the matter in light of the guidance provided by the Conference.

The Africa Group supports the adoption of the draft Council Resolution containing the status for the Agricultural Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East set out in Appendix II of this Report. The Africa Group notes that the CFS, at its 39th Session (15-20 October 2012), endorsed proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization and agreed to transmit them to the CCLM and the Council for forwarding to the Conference for final approval. However, the last meeting of the CCLM was 8-11 October 2012 which took place a few days before the CFS's last Session. Therefore, it is expected that CCLM will re-examine it at its next Session from 6-8 March 2013 and then the Council at its 20-26 April 2013 Session shall approve it and forward to the Conference for final approval.

Membership of the Technical Committees' review of Rules XIX, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII of the Committee on Commodity Problems, Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, and Committee on Agriculture. The CCLM noted and examined that the current notification of members to the Secretariat deserved to be considered as members of technical committees was undesirable and endorsed a proposed amendment to paragraph two of each of the four stated rules to the fact that notification of membership should be made no later than ten days before the opening date of the Session as opposed to acquiring membership at any time, even while the committee was in Session, resulting in uncertainty regarding actual members of the Committee and forum for decision.

Therefore, the Africa Group welcomes the proposed amendments of the CCLM regarding the membership of the Technical Committees and endorses the draft Council Resolution and the attached appendix to be forwarded to the Conference.

The Africa Group supports the adoption of the draft Council Resolution containing the Revised Status of the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products specifically, set out in this Report. We took note of the Multi-year Programme of the CCLM 2012-15 and observed that there were no standing or recurrent items arising from the sealed mandate and that matters would be examined by the CCLM as they arose.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters) (Original language Arabic)

I am very sorry, for the sake of saving time in my presentation and giving more time to you, I overlooked one important aspect that the CCLM discussed which is Item 4 of the CCLM meeting regarding the Amendment to Rules XXXVII and XL of the Basic Texts. These are in regard to the limitation on the Director-General's authority to appoint senior level staff in the last six months of his mandate. And actually, we found that very pleasing and there was an agreement that this really works for the sake of good management and efficiency in the Organization, whereby the Director-General himself introduced a limitation on his own authority to appoint staff at level of D2 and above in the last six months of his mandate.

I think even the Director-General himself indicated in his opening speech that there were some difficulties in this as well as in the logistical support provided to the newly-elected Director-General

in the overlapping period before he or she takes office. So the second aspect discussed in the CCLM was the support given to the elected Director-General during this overlapping period.

In the last election, the overlapping period was six months, a very, very long period of time, and we did not anticipate this to happen. We did not have a provision to deal with such an extended period of overlap. We didn't know that there could be some difficulties in the handing over of the Organization and obviously we have witnessed some difficulties there.

From now on, the overlap period between the outgoing and incoming Directors-General is going to be only six weeks, but during these six weeks, we need to make sure that during this transition period, the Organization is fully functional, that the outgoing Director-General functions to the last minute and at the same time that the incoming Director-General starts on time on the first minute of his mandate. The overlap period, however, would ensure that the new Director-General is informed and is supported, and the Finance Committee estimated the cost of this six weeks of support of the new Director-General to be USD 169.000 which is, in our review, an amount worth spending to bring the new Director-General up to speed so that at the moment when he takes over, he is really up to the task and fully Informed. Thank you and I am sorry for missing this.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, especially Ambassador Janabi for his excellent leadership and the CCLM Secretariat, particularly Mr Tavares for his guidance for its work and for this comprehensive Report.

We note that most of these points are non-controversial, and that many of them were subsequently reviewed by the FAO's Finance and Programme Committees. The United States would also like to thank Ecuador and Pakistan for the excellent contributions by their Representatives to the CCLM.

We would like to comment on three particular issues discussed at those meetings. Number one, the FAO Disclosure Policy on Internal Audit Reports has been improved to allow Members digital or remote access to these important documents. This is an improvement over the previous policy, but the United States looks forward to even better access more in line with the access that some other UN Organizations and Agencies already provide.

For example, the World Food Programme Executive Board recently approved Public Disclosure of Internal Audit and Inspection Reports. We would not want FAO to lag behind the World Food Programme, and we urge the Director-General to prepare a roadmap for Public Disclosure of FAO Internal Audit Reports.

Number two, Changes to the General Rule of the Organization XXXVII, governing late term appointments by the Director-General at the D1 level and above, and General Rule XL, governing provision of logistical and administrative assistance to the incoming Director-General are understandable. But as the United States said at the Finance Committee meeting, we feel that these changes would be better made using Administrative Circulars as opposed to changes in the General Rules of the Organization, and we feel that this procedural process sets a poor precedent of using changes to the general rules of the Organization when Administrative Circulars would suffice.

Three, the issue of Article XIV Statutory Bodies, financial and administrative authority, has been debated since the results of the FAO Reform Process were first announced in 2009. We feel that there is adequate support for FAO to move ahead on this issue in consultation with the Finance and Programme Committees. We ask that the FAO keep the Council apprised of progress in this area.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like to comment on the Report presented to the Council by the Chairperson of the CCLM on the 95th Session of the Committee that took place last October. First of all, I would like to thank you for producing the document.

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group, and would like to congratulate the CCLM on the successful outcome of its 95th Session. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Chairperson of the

Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Janabi, for his commitment to the CCLM and for his briefing to the G77 Group on the Report last week.

The Near East Group fully endorses the Report presented to us, and I would like to register that our Group particularly appreciates two issues therein. Firstly, the commitment of the Director-General to limit his authority in appointing senior staff members at level D2 and above in the Organization in the last six months of his term. We believe that it is the right decision to improve the efficiency and good management of the Organization.

Secondly, the transitional support that will be extended to the new Director-General by the Organization, and making sure that both outgoing and incoming Director-Generals are fully engaged in manning the Organization to the last minute in the case of the outgoing Director-Generals, and from the first minute in the case of the incoming Director-Generals. The amount estimated by the Finance Committee to cover the expense of the overlapping period is reasonable.

Finally, since I am not happy with your conclusion on the Finance Committee on the following issue, I am going to raise it again and I would like it to be recorded exactly. In alignment with our statements yesterday on Article XIV Bodies, we request that FAO Management implements CCLM deliberations, and reports the progress of the implementation process to the appropriate Committee for further improvement.

We alert the Council that a lack of action in this regard may have an adverse effect on the activities of important Bodies such as the International Treaties on Planned Genetic Resources, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the General Fishery Commission in the Mediterranean. If you do not grant them the required authority, they may not stay in FAO, and this will result in an unfortunate situation.

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Greece)

J'aimerais vous demander de donner la parole à Chypre, Président en exercice de l'Union européenne, pour parler au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 Pays Membres.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

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

Regarding Item 3 on the Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports, the EU supports any measures that facilitate easier access to the Internal Audit Reports of the Office of the Inspector General, OIG. The EU further supports the OIG in identifying options to allow for the viewing of reports other than through physical visits to OIG's office; for example, through secure online methods to facilitate remote viewing.

On Item 6, Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies, we accept that there are no 'one size fits all' criteria to decide to whom, or to what extent, to devolve greater authority in terms of these Bodies. We support the use of objective criteria, such as those suggested by the CCLM, to make Informed decisions. We would focus on the general guiding principle, that increased Delegation of authority to Article XIV Bodies could only be considered where appropriate oversight mechanisms are put in place by FAO. In summary, Delegation of authority should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

On Items 7 and 8, membership of the General Committee of the Conference in the year of the Election of a new Director General, and Legal Aspects of the Treatment of Arrears respectively, the EU is keen to support any measures that improve Governance within the FAO. The EU believes that dealing with the issue of Restoration of Voting Rights for countries in Arrears, and proposed Installment Plans, are best dealt with by the Finance Committee rather than the General Committee of the Conference. Thus, we support an increased role for the Finance Committee under Item 8.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Pakistan is a Member of the CCLM, and therefore we endorse its Report. However, I would like to emphasize one point, and that is the section dealing with the Article XIV Bodies. This matter, as my

distinguished colleague from the United States has said, has been outstanding since 2009 and it is not that it was not considered.

After 2009, the Council considered the matter, the Programme Committee considered the matter, and the Finance Committee considered the matter. They all showed broad support for granting administrative autonomy to these Bodies.

We are at the end of 2012, and the matter is still outstanding. This does not mean giving them independence. It means delegating authority to certain units. Before delegating, as the CCLM Report states, a review needs to be carried out to establish the adequacy of staffing so that internal control aspects are taken into account. That Review has not been carried out, and we would suggest that we implement this and report the progress made to the Finance Committee as the Report of the Finance Committee has suggested. This is because it has been three years and it is not only a question of dealing with the Delegation of authority. There are also legal and other aspects.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Permítame inicialmente agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por su disposición para participar en la plenaria que sostuvo el pasado 20 de noviembre el G77, en donde pudo ponernos al tanto de todos y cada uno de los detalles y de las resoluciones que han ocurrido en las últimas reuniones de este Comité. Le agradecemos ese detallado Informe. Igualmente, la presentación que ha hecho sobre el mismo en la mañana de hoy y de verdad creemos que ha sido excelente el trabajo de todo el Bureau, por tanto felicitamos al Comité, tanto al Bureau como a usted, Presidente. En el día de ayer hicimos referencia al punto que vamos a considerar hoy de manera específica, a nombre del G 77 y China. Ya Irán hacía mención e igualmente el Representante de Pakistán en ese Comité volvía a ratificarlo.

Desde el 2009, siendo una Resolución mencionada en el párrafo 2.65 del Plan Inmediato de Acción, el tema del aumento de la autoridad de los Órganos del Artículo XIV está en nuestras agendas. Creemos que hemos discutido este tema en diferentes Órganos Rectores suficientemente. Como hemos declarado en el día de ayer, es hora de preparar el terreno para un trabajo efectivo de estos Órganos para que se le provea de recursos humanos y de recursos financieros, dado el importante trabajo y las áreas vitales que desarrollan en sus respectivos mandatos. Por ello, solicitamos a la Administración de la FAO implementar las conclusiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en relación a los Órganos del Artículo XIV y reportar sobre las mismas a los Comités de Finanzas y Programas para que tengan adecuada solución. Repetimos, creemos que ya es tiempo de detener tanta discusión y resolución a todos los niveles de los Órganos Rectores competentes para que tomemos acciones porque tenemos el peligro y ponemos en riesgo el trabajo de esos organismos. O bien, como ha sido indicado por un orador precedente, pudiéramos correr el riesgo de que la FAO deje de tener en su seno por falta de apoyo, organismos que tienen que ver con su mandato.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We welcome the Report of the CCLM. We also appreciate the hard work of the Secretariat. In general, we support Appendix 1, especially the amendment to Rules XXXVII and XL of the GRO, including the amendment to the Appointment of the Director-General and also the amendment to the Articles regarding Staff Arrangements.

So, overall we support the Amendment. However, there is one issue we would like to raise here. That is, the appointment period, now the duration becomes three month instead of twelve months and we think three months is too short because in some Member Nations, there are quite lengthy internal procedures to go through for appointment. The operational point of view is quite complex as well, so we think three months is probably a bit too short for that.

Ideally, six months would be appropriate. So, in other words, 12 months is too long, three months too short, but six months is appropriate.

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

The Russian Delegation welcomes the Report of the 95th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. We consider that all of the recommendations and decisions set forth in that Report are fully warranted and we support them, in particular with respect to the Disclosure of Internal Oversight and Auditing Reports. At the same time, we feel the work of Disclosure of Audits should be done unambiguously throughout the UN System and should correspond to the relevant recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions of the United Nations.

We also support the decision of the Committee on the Revised Statutes of the Agriculture Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East and the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper and Wood Products. We also support the general amendment for the Office of the Director-General on D2 and above posts, and to the Membership of Technical Committees ten days prior to the opening of the Session.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We also would like to thank the Chairperson, His Excellency Janabi. We endorse the Report and we would like to make one comment on Article XIV Bodies. It is about the degree of enhancing autonomy.

Each Article XIV Body is unique and different by nature, and we think that we share the view that we cannot generalize them. Some proposed measures by Management could be applied to all bodies and other measures could be applied to only a few Bodies. As a result, some Bodies may enhance their autonomy but others may remain almost as it is.

In this regard, as the conclusion of our comment, it is desirable to listen to the stakeholders of the Bodies in the process of discussion.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I thank all my colleagues and friends who contributed to the discussion. I did not find any major disagreements and I agree with all the comments that we heard from the groups as well as from my colleagues who are also on the Committee, the U.S. Representative and the Pakistani Representative.

Most of the discussions referred to Article XIV Bodies which are still an outstanding issue. Obviously, there is a big need to move faster on this. The other issue was the Disclosure of the Internal Review. My understanding is external review reports are available to the public, but for the Internal Review there are some limitations. The CCLM as well as the Membership supports more openness when it comes to the Internal Review but I leave the floor to my friend, Mr Tavares to comment on these issues.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I note that there is broad support for this Report and we, as Secretariat, welcome this and are grateful to the members for this support.

Just two points that I would wish to mention. One has to do with Article XIV Bodies. We want to assure you that we are committed to making these Bodies work. We are committed to responding to their functional needs. As you have noted, some members pointed out the need for a case by case approach to the needs of these Bodies. This does not make this exercise easy, in view of the fact that they are under the framework of FAO and act through FAO. We are, however, going to continue to review this matter. We must make a submission to the Finance Committee shortly, and we will be reporting on the Implementation of the conclusions of the CCLM. So we are committed to bringing this issue to a close.

As regards the observation made by the Representative of China, what I could suggest is the following. In fact, this Rule refers to the nominations period, the period during which countries may nominate candidates for the Office of Director-General. There has been a feeling throughout the past few months that the current period of 12 months is extremely broad, and has the undesirable effect of

having the Council almost two years before an election start working and setting dates for this process.

There was an inclination to have a period of three months because of a very simple reason. We all know, more or less when this period will be. So what we could do is that we could maintain this proposal for the time being. We could have some consultations through you, Mr Chair, and we could see if this proposal requires any adjustment. So we would, subject to your concurrence of course, be able to endorse this Resolution, and we would still have some consultations to see if we should be revising this particular timeframe. I trust that you will be able to accept this proposal.

I want to just check with our Chairperson a specific point that he is bringing to my attention. Yes, I wish to refer to the specific question raised by the Representative of Russia. We have traditionally considered in FAO that we have two main oversight mechanisms: the External Audit and the Internal Audit functions. Normally Internal Audit Reports would be central management tools, whereas Member Nations would be able to rely on the reports produced by the External Auditor. We know that this distinction, in a way, has been blurred. We have had discussions in the Finance Committee about this matter. We have also had discussions in CCLM about this matter.

We have made the proposal that is in line with what is done at the United Nations and in a number of other organizations that internal audit reports may be made available to Representatives. I trust again that you'll be able to endorse the proposals that have been made in the Report, both to the CCLM and to the Finance Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de ces réponses et de ces suggestions de travail en commun.

Je vous propose de vous faire un projet de conclusion qui comme pour les autres fois tient compte à la fois du document, de sa présentation, du travail au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et du débat que nous venons d'avoir maintenant.

Le Conseil approuve le Rapport de la 95^{ème} Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ).

Plus particulièrement, le Conseil:

- Convient qu'aucune modification de la politique ne s'impose en ce qui concerne l'application de la Politique de protection des personnels qui dénoncent des manquements;
- Approuve la proposition de la Direction concernant la mise en application de la politique relative à la Communication des Rapports de vérification interne, tendant à faciliter l'accès des Représentants permanents aux rapports;
- Approuve la proposition de modification de la clause-type d'arbitrage, telle qu'elle figure au paragraphe 10 du Rapport du Comité;
- Approuve le Projet de résolution de la Conférence, qui figurera en Annexe au Rapport du Conseil, sur les modifications qu'il est proposé d'apporter aux Articles XXXVII et XL du Règlement général de l'Organisation, et demande qu'il soit transmis à la Conférence pour approbation;
- Réaffirme que les Organes statutaires relevant de l'Article XIV ne sont pas tous de même nature, approuve les conclusions du Comité sur les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, restant à régler afin de permettre à ces Organes d'exercer une plus grande autorité financière et administrative, tout en restant dans le cadre organique de la FAO;
- Demande que l'Administration fasse rapport sur la mise en œuvre des délibérations du CQCJ au Comité financier à sa Session de mars 2013, et demande que rapport lui soit fait sur cette question à sa prochaine Session;
- Prend note des débats du Comité sur le rétablissement des droits de vote des États Membres redevables d'Arriérés de contributions et demande que le Comité financier examine la question, en tenant compte des indications données par la Conférence à sa 33^{ème} Session, en novembre 2005;

- Adopte le Projet de résolution du Conseil relatif au statut révisé de la Commission de l'agriculture et de l'utilisation des terres et des eaux pour le Proche-Orient, qui figurera en annexe au Rapport du Conseil;
- Note que les amendements qu'il est proposé d'apporter à l'Article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation concernant le CSA seront réexaminés par le CQCJ suite à leur adoption par le CSA;
- Approuve le Projet de résolution de la Conférence relatif aux amendements à apporter aux Articles XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 et XXXII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, qui sera inclus en Annexe au rapport du Conseil, et demande qu'il soit transmis à la Conférence pour approbation;
- Adopte le Projet de résolution du Conseil relatif au statut révisé du Comité consultatif du papier et des produits dérivés du bois (CCPPB), qui sera en annexe au Rapport du Conseil;
- Prend note du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité pour 2012-15, soulignant les caractéristiques spécifiques de ses travaux, et notant qu'aucun point permanent ou récurrent qui pourrait être examiné à des dates prédéterminées ne figure dans son mandat.

Voilà ce que j'ai essayé, à la lumière du travail du Comité, de transmettre au Conseil, et pour certains éléments, à la Conférence. Il me semble ne pas avoir oublié de choses pour ce qui a été demandé par L'Iran et d'autres on l'a inclus dans le 1, 2, 3, dans le sixième point. Je pense que c'est suffisant.

Il sera donc transmis comme cela au Comité de rédaction du rapport.

19. Margarita Lizárraga Medal
19. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga
19. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Point 19 (document CL 145/INF/4) sur la Médaille Margarita Lizárraga, qui, je le rappelle, est une ancienne fonctionnaire au Département des pêches de la FAO, qui rend hommage à un individu ou une organisation s'étant distinguée dans l'application du code de conduite pour les pêches responsables.

Monsieur Mathiesen, c'est vous qui opérez et qui allez donc nous présenter cette médaille, merci Monsieur Mathiesen.

Mr Árni Mathiesen (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Selection Committee, being composed of the Bureau of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries and I, myself, unanimously agreed that the Awards for 2012-13 be given to La Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano or the Central American Fisheries and Aquacultural Organization, OSPESCA, in El Salvador.

OSPESCA is an integral organization which brings together the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama with the Dominican Republic as an Associate Member. The Organization was established on 18 December 1995 by the Central American Fisheries and Aquacultural authorities with the aim of promoting a sustainable and coordinated development of the fisheries in aquaculture in the Sub-region through the formulation and execution of regional-level strategies, programmes, projects and agreements on issues related to fisheries and aquaculture based on the principles stipulated in the Code.

OSPESCA was elected in recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in the Central American countries, and is considered as a model of an interGovernmental organization and is emulated in other Regions for the catalytic effects of its achievements. The contribution of OSPESCA to the application of the Codes is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable, as well as catalytic, for other Regions to follow.

Before concluding, I wish to reiterate the deep appreciation of the Organization and in particular the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for the continuous support provided by the Government of Mexico with regards to this award which commemorates an eminent Mexican national, Dr. Lizárraga,

and her contribution to the process of the negotiation and adoption of the code of conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Mr Chairman, you may wish to invite the Council to endorse the nomination of OSPESCA, and recommend that the Medal be presented to it as part of the proceedings of the 38th Session of the Conference in June 2013.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a este Consejo para refrendar en nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe la nominación de la Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA), integrante del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), a fin de que se le otorgue la medalla Margarita Lizárraga para el período 2012-13.

Para el GRULAC es un orgullo esta nominación para OSPESCA y nuestro Grupo Regional solicita a este Consejo aceptar la propuesta del Comité de Pesca para que la Medalla se entregue en el curso del 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO que tendrá lugar del 15 al 22 de junio del 2013.

Con su venia, Señor Presidente, quisiera entregar el uso a la palabra a la distinguida delegación de El Salvador, País Sede de esta Organización del sector pequero, y la cual puede ilustrarnos sobre la labor y los logros de esta Organización que se presenta, sin duda, como un modelo a seguir para otras Regiones del mundo.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

En primer lugar quiero agradecer el apoyo de mi Grupo Regional. Ya en la presentación que se ha hecho se han indicado algunas de las actividades que OSPESCA realiza en la Región. La Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano, OSPESCA, está integrada por las autoridades nacionales de pesca de 8 países como se ha indicado en su momento: Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá y, como País Asociado, la República Dominicana.

OSPESCA nace en 1995, el mismo año en que fue aprobado el Código de Conducta de la Pesca Responsable de la FAO. Y en 1999 se institucionaliza en la Secretaría General del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA), en donde en el 2005 logra que se apruebe y se ponga en marcha la primera política de integración dirigida a la pesca y la acuicultura, siendo el Código de Conducta su principal herramienta de referencia. La ejecución de esta política ha permitido consolidar un trabajo conjunto sobre 11 áreas estratégicas seleccionadas sobre la base de un diálogo intergubernamental y con la sociedad civil, en donde la FAO ha acompañado estos esfuerzos con proyectos regionales.

OSPESCA ha logrado definir y aprobar su propio Código de Ética para la Pesca y la Acuicultura Responsable, el cual entró en vigencia en el año 2011. Como se indica en el documento que estamos examinando, la selección de OSPESCA se hizo en reconocimiento de su significativa contribución al desarrollo sostenible de la pesca y la acuicultura en los países de América Central, y en razón de que es considerada un modelo de organización intergubernamental emulada en otras regiones por el efecto catalizador de sus logros. Para El Salvador y para los países del SICA, la nominación de OSPESCA representa un importante reconocimiento a su labor.

Respaldamos la declaración de la Presidencia del GRULAC y solicitamos a este Consejo aceptar la propuesta del Comité para que la Medalla se entregue a OSPESCA en la próxima Conferencia.

Mme Pakponedong K. ALI-TILOH (Togo)

Ma délégation intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point à l'ordre du jour du Conseil relatif au décernement de la Médaille Margarita Lizárraga pour l'exercice 2012-13 à l'Organisation du secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture de l'isthme centraméricain OSPESCA en El Salvador.

Monsieur le Président, nul n'ignore l'importance et le rôle que joue la pêche et l'aquaculture dans la lutte contre la faim en général et spécifiquement dans la sécurité alimentaire nutritionnelle dans nos pays en voie de développement, cette filière contribue de manière substantielle à la réduction de la pauvreté par la création d'emplois au niveau des couches vulnérables.

C'est ici pour nous l'occasion de remercier la Banque mondiale, la FAO et l'ensemble des partenaires techniques et financiers qui accompagnent actuellement le Togo, dans le cadre de notre Programme national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire (PNIASA), pour la mise en œuvre d'un volet de développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dont l'objectif est d'assurer la durabilité de la pêche artisanale au Togo. Ainsi, les critères proposés par les membres du jury ont permis au Comité de sélection de décider à l'unanimité de décerner la médaille pour l'exercice biennal 2012-13 à l'Organisation du secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture de l'isthme centraméricain OSPESCA, El Salvador.

Nous adressons nos félicitations à cette Organisation qui a contribué de manière remarquable, pratique, tangible et durable à l'application du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, offrant ainsi un exemple à suivre aux autres Régions.

Monsieur le Président, eu égard à ce qui précède, le Groupe Afrique appuie le choix porté sur l'OSPESCA et recommande que la Médaille Margarita Lizárraga lui soit décernée à l'occasion de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence qui se tiendra du 15 au 22 juin 2013 ici à Rome.

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

The Russian Federation also endorses the statements of previous Delegations with respect to the awarding of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Central American on Fisheries and Aquacultural Organizations. We think that is indeed an organization which merits this award since we know that Central America is very diverse and we know what contribution this organization makes to implementing the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Therefore, the Russian Federation wholeheartedly supports this decision and considers that this awarding of the medal at the next Conference of FAO will be a graphic example of the contribution of the Central American Region in guaranteeing sustainable fisheries.

I just have a minor question. I don't fully recall whether there were other nominees for this medal so from which list of nominees was OSPESCA selected?

Mr Md. Ashadul ISLAM (Bangladesh)

We are very much pleased to know that the OSPESCA is going to have the Medal of the award of Margarita Lizárraga Medal for their contribution to sustainable fisheries. We thank OSPESCA for their efforts and we hope it will be able to play an important role in developing the fisheries sector. In this case, I would like to propose that in the future there could possibly be a small video presentation so that the Committee and Council could visualize the contribution of the Organization receiving the Medal. This is my proposal.

Mr Árni Mathiesen (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I am pleased to hear the positive response to the nomination from the Council with regards to the question from the Honorable Delegate from Russia. There were three nominees and they were the Commission of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Australia which is commonly known as CCAMLR, the Institute of Marine Research, IMR in Norway and OSPESCA.

With regards to Bangladesh's suggestion about a video presentation, I think that is an excellent suggestion, and the Secretariat will consider whether we can prepare a video for the next occasion.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Mathiesen, merci à vous tous aussi pour l'appui, le Conseil approuve-t-il cette nomination?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je considère ce silence approuvateur et c'est encore mieux avec les applaudissements. Donc nous transmettons le projet de conclusion.

Le Conseil approuve la nomination de l'Organisation du secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture de l'isthme centraméricain (OSPESCA), dont le siège se trouve en République d'El Salvador et recommande que la Médaille Margarita Lizárraga lui soit décernée lors de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO en juin 2013.

Je crois que c'est conforme à ce que vous avez dit, Monsieur Mathiesen.

23. Observance of World Soil Day

23. Célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols

23. Celebración del Día Mundial del Suelo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point suivant est le Point 23, concernant la Célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols (document CL 145/11 Rev.1). Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole à Monsieur Muller, Sous-Directeur général du Département de la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement.

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

Briefly, I want to introduce this Agenda Item and I would like to start reminding all of us that since 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences adopted a Resolution to propose 5 December as Bureau. This date was chosen to honor His Majesty the King of Thailand for his efforts in the promotion of soil science, soil resources conservation and sustainable management.

The purpose of the endorsement here of World Soil Day by FAO Council is to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of food security and eco-system health, and as a vital contributor to human well-being through its contribution to food, water, energy security and mitigation, biodiversity, and loss in climate change. What we are doing with this proposal is to raise awareness. We do not want to commit financial resources, but we want to send a strong message to the world that soil is really underestimated on the agenda of many institutions. We are therefore proposing that 5 December become the World Soil Day, and we want to forward this proposal to the UN General Assembly in order for them to also endorse it.

We had discussions during the launch of our Global Soil Partnership and I would like to thank Thailand, the Asian Regional Group and G77 for their support during the discussions we had. We have tabled for you, for discussion and consideration, this proposal of the World Soil Day on 5 December.

I would like to reiterate that we do not plan to open an office to celebrate the World Soil Day so there are no financial commitments made. I would also like to say that other Organizations have already taken up this idea. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is organizing an event today at COP 18 in Doha. There is also a side event to celebrate World Soil Day and UNCCD is a member and partner of our Global Soil Partnership and therefore we can see that other UN Organizations are also taking this idea up.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Gracias al Sr. Müller por presentar este Tema 23 de nuestra agenda sobre la Observancia del Día Mundial de los Suelos.

Embajadores, Excelencia, distinguidos colegas, en esta oportunidad Venezuela toma la palabra como Presidente del G77 y China, indicando que este tema ha sido debatido en distintas sesiones plenarias del Grupo Regional y más específicamente en la última celebrada el 27 de noviembre de este año. Los Países Miembros del G77 apoyan plenamente la elección del 5 de diciembre como Día Mundial de Suelos y solicitan al próximo 146^o período de Sesiones del Consejo que apruebe la observancia del Día Mundial de Suelos a celebrarse anualmente el 5 de diciembre. Solicitamos, asimismo, que este tema sea transmitido al 38^o período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO a celebrarse en junio de 2013, para luego elevarse para aprobación de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el próximo septiembre de 2013.

En esta solicitud hemos estado acompañando al Reino de Tailandia, el cual ha insistido en diferentes escenarios del Sistema de Naciones Unidas para que se produzca esta aprobación. Por lo tanto, le agradecemos a ese País Miembro del G77 y China y a usted, Sr. Müller, por su trabajo. Todos sabemos el importante rol que juegan los suelos en el camino hacia la consecución y obtención de la seguridad alimentaria. El G77 y China, por lo tanto, reafirman su apoyo a este recurso natural fundamental e invitan a toda la membresía a apoyar esta iniciativa presentada por la FAO junto a la Alianza Mundial sobre Suelos.

Mr Chalit DAMRONGSAK (Thailand)

In consideration of the importance of soil for food, water and energy security, soil science and soil as an essential resource, we would like to request the FAO Council to endorse the proposal of World Soil Day on 5 December. We also wish to reflect that this item be transmitted to the next FAO Conference in June 2013, and then forward it to the United Nations General Assembly during its next session in the fall of 2013.

Lastly, I would like to pass the floor to Sri Lanka to speak on behalf of the Asia Group.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Asia Group on this Agenda Item. The Asia Group takes this opportunity to thank the membership for agreeing to the inclusion of this Agenda Item on Declaration of 5 December 2012 as World Soil Day. We are equally delighted to notice that FAO, International Union of Soil Sciences, and Thailand will hold a Council Side Event on Securing Healthy Soils for a Food Secure World dedicated to Soils today at 1:00 pm at the Sheik Zayed Center.

The Asia Group has supported this initiative in order to recognize the noble objective of endorsing Bureau by the FAO Council with the means of celebrating the importance of soil as a critical component of food security and ecosystem health as well as a vital contributor to human well-being through its contribution to food, water, and energy security, and in mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change.

We are pleased to observe that at present, the World Soil Day is celebrated mainly by the global community of some 60 thousand soil scientists charged with the responsibility of generating and communicating knowledge and understanding of the key roles of soils in supporting life and agricultural production on Earth.

We also support all of the initiatives relevant to the subject; including the Global Soil Partnership and the Declaration of the International Year of Soils 2017, which we will be discussing under a different Agenda Item.

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Greece)

J'aimerais vous demander de donner la parole à l'Union européenne. Chypre, le Président, va délivrer une parole pour l'Union européenne et ses 27 États Membres.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome document CL 145/11 and note all of the information provided regarding the need to give emphasis to the important role of soil and its contribution to food, nutrition, water, and energy security, and in mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change. We share the view that soil is a key component to addressing the current and future pressures of a growing population. All efforts, therefore, must be made, including by raising awareness to secure the sustainable management of soils in order to eradicate hunger and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world, as underlined in the Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future We Want".

We would like to have some more information regarding the added value and investment return for awareness rising and media outreach of having another World Day to make sure that the ratio between

the impact and the resources mobilized is gainful. We consider the above information essential in order to determine our position on the proposal to observe World Soil Day annually on 5 December. We would also like to reiterate our position concerning the proclamation of the National Days, Years, and Decades which should be consistent with relevant international guidelines.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

The Delegation of India fully supports the proposal to celebrate 5 December every year as World Soil Day, taking into account the vital role that soils play in the sustenance of life on our Planet Earth.

We take this opportunity to thank Thailand for playing a pivotal role in bringing this to the notice of the international community. We also thank the Natural Resource Management and Environment Department led by Mr Alexander Muller, for initiating this move, and the support we received from the Asia Regional Group and the G77 and China Chapter of FAO.

I am certain that, with the endorsement today, we'll be celebrating World Soil Day, next year the same day with a lot of jubilation.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

I also wish to thank Mr Muller for his concise and important introduction. In our opinion, the marking of World Soil Day is a visionary decision and an important event for the whole of humanity because soils are the foundation of humanity's existence. The observance of this World Soil Day is consequently a major development for agriculture since soils are also the foundation for agricultural development and food security. So this initiative is extremely important.

We thank Thailand for its endeavors. We also thank the FAO, especially Mr Muller and his team for this decision and for the work for which they have performed to this end.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We thank Mr Muller for his introductory remark. Japan fully endorses the statement by the Chairperson of the Asia Group and welcomes the observance of World Soil Day.

Soil is one of the indispensable natural resources and its sustainable management contributes to achieving the world's food security. So it is worthwhile that FAO plays the role of an advocate for raising awareness and promoting actions for the sustainable management of soil.

We also thank the initiative of Thailand for spearheading this movement and we believe that the Side Event today will be successful.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea fully supports the work done in the area of soil by the FAO Natural Resources Management and Environment Department and as the Asia Group Chairperson has already expressed, we endorse the proposal concerning the observance of World Soil Day on 5 December.

We also appreciate the leadership of Thailand on this issue. Given the critical role of soil for food security and eco-system services, it should be recognized not only in the FAO, but also in the entire UN system.

Mr Md. Ashadul ISLAM (Bangladesh)

Respected Chair, the statement from the Bangladesh Delegation is that the soil is the finite natural resource that is non-renewable. It is as important for us as bread is for life. So soil is the structural basis of all life, including humans and other living beings. It is the foundation of agriculture, forests, soils, organic carbon and the basis for food, fiber, nutrient cycles, etc.

More particularly, soil is one of the main physiographical resources of nature, serving as the core balancing factor of the eco-system. Mr Chair, soil is important not only for humans but equally important for wildlife, cattle, and other creatures. More particularly, soil is the foundation of agriculture. Maintaining the purity of soil is very important for producing more food for a continuously increasing number of the world's population. In countries with limited territory and huge

populations, soil, coupled with the use of fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, is exceedingly important for more agricultural production and other purposes.

Moreover, the industrial, rich and affluent make the soil health poor. The level of damage we do to the soil is immense. Soil is degenerating in various ways. Top soils have been taken for bricks, construction, making roads and embankments. The soil does not speak or cry. If it could, it would scream like anything and the sound might be like a thunderstorm we hear from the sky. Mr Chair, soil is the core component of agricultural production.

To achieve the Zero Hunger goals of the FAO, it is critical to produce more food. Without maintaining a healthy soil, it is not possible to produce more food for fiber, and a lot of other products. Mr Chair, “soil is very important to us unlike, to my left and right, that is Australia and Brazil, because both of the countries are very big with a lot of land to and fro. We need to produce at least three products from the same piece of land in a production cycle year. Therefore, we are very much in favor of maintaining the healthy soil of the Earth. The role of soil for food security and eco-systems is closely tied with human civilization. It is true that soil is getting comparatively less priority compared to water and air. In this context, we are very much in favour of building global soil partnerships.

Mr Chair, in this given situation, we are aligning with the resolution of the international union of soil sciences, IUSS, to the proposals to make 5 December as World Soil Day. We deeply appreciate and endorse the efforts of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand for his personal interest and in this regard, Mr Chair, we strongly support and endorse the global soil partnership for its vital role in helping to enable the survival and growth of a healthy eco-system.

Finally, we support and endorse the proposal to declare 5 December as World Soil Day to raise awareness between the locals and nationals at the international level. We also are not just endorsing it for the purpose of declaring World Soil Day, but to use that Strategic Framework to support continuous research and programmes to maintain the quality of the soils for sustainable agriculture and eco-systems be developed.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. As the chair of the G77 has mentioned, we are supporting the proposal for a World Soil Day. We think that World Soil Day emphasizes the importance of soil for our life. Also, we emphasize the importance of this soil for agricultural development. Therefore, we endorse the proposal.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

Au niveau de mon pays, la Côte d'Ivoire, qui est un pays agricole, il va sans dire que nos sols ont subi suffisamment de dégradation. Aujourd'hui dans ce forum le rôle des sols n'est plus à démontrer. C'est pour cela qu'il est nécessaire d'instaurer une gestion durable des sols pour la sécurité alimentaire et la préservation des ressources naturelles. La Délégation ivoirienne appuie donc la célébration de cette Journée mondiale des sols qui est proposée chaque 5 décembre. D'ailleurs, aujourd'hui nous sommes un 5 décembre. Nous félicitons la Thaïlande pour son rôle de *leadership* et l'équipe de la FAO qui a travaillé intensément sur ce dossier.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

My Delegation welcomes the document and supports the FAO Council to endorse the observance of the World Soil Day on 5 December as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of soil and land for food security and the environment. This initiative should be supported by many parties to increase their awareness and understanding of all parties, not only in the food and agriculture sector but also with other parties who deal with soil, such as mining businesses and property concerns.

At the regional and global level, there is also a need for a joint effort to develop the methodology for maintaining soil fertility and disseminate and implement the results of research related to sustainable agriculture based on sustainable land use and land conservation.

In addition, FAO also needs to encourage research institutions to strengthen their capacity in research and development on land utilization and land conservation in strengthening food security and alleviating climate change.

Mr Gudni Bragason (Observer for Iceland)

We support an annual observance of the World Soil Day as a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security. The importance of the Earth's soil as an essential element of food production, food security, water security, and in reaching the first Millennium Development Goal certainly merits a special observance day in our calendar.

This World Soil Day will give us an opportunity to promote the importance of land restoration and draw attention to land degradation which is among the world's greatest environmental challenges, affecting climate biodiversity, soil quality, food, and water security.

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

First of all, I would like to thank you, the countries for having taken this initiative. This agenda item is based on your initiative under the leadership of Thailand and we can already see that other UN Agencies have taken up these ideas and they're talking more about soil. Awareness-raising is an important issue. I would like to come back to the question raised by the European Union.

We want to use this World Soil Day as part of our work on soils to raise awareness. There are studies that the world has lost 24 billion tonnes of fertile soil. This is three tonnes per person and soils are a non-renewable resource. It will take generations to bring these fertile soils back, but nobody is talking about it. We are dealing with soils as if soil could be bought in the supermarket and this is not the case. If you are talking about producing more food, feed and fiber, we need soils. If you are talking about climate change, we need soils. If you are talking about applying eco-system services, we need soils, but this is not well-recognized. Therefore, we don't want to invest a lot but we want to have a decentralized but very dynamic campaign to raise awareness.

We can already see, that you the countries, have taken the initiative. It will be discussed at the General Assembly. Today 60,000 soil scientists all over the world are celebrating it and I had the pleasure to discuss with the President of the International Union of Soil Scientists, Professor Ya Young, this morning the question of how does it come that the world is not more concerned about the situation of soils? He says it's a complex issue. It's highly scientific. We need the leading role of an international organization, and then we, the soil scientists, can explain what is at risk.

Therefore, I don't see a lot of investment but I see a high return of investment because losing soils is much more expensive than having an awareness campaign to protect soils. Therefore, to the European Union, we will not ask for additional financial resources but we want to raise awareness and we want to increase our technical work on sustaining soils and managing soils in a sustainable way.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci monsieur Müller de ces explications et merci aussi de votre engagement et de votre passion.

Je considère que la proposition est acceptée, compte tenu des différents aspects, et je vous propose le projet de conclusion suivant:

- Le Conseil approuve la proposition d'instituer une "Journée mondiale des sols", qui serait célébrée le 5 décembre chaque année, pour sensibiliser le public à l'importance des sols, du point de vue de la sécurité alimentaire et des services éco-systémiques.

- Le Conseil demande à cet égard qu'un Projet de résolution soit soumis à la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence en juin 2013 pour approbation, et demande au Directeur général de transmettre la résolution à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en vue d'institutionnaliser la célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols le 5 décembre de chaque année.

15. Arrangements for the 38th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the General Debate at Conference)

15. Organisation de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du Débat général de la Conférence)

15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el Debate General en la Conferencia)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 15, Organisation de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence (Rome, 15-22 juin 2013) (document CL 145/12).

Il s'agit de propositions concernant l'ordre du jour provisoire de la Session, le calendrier d'examen des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, les élections, le traitement des résolutions, et les invitations.

Le Conseil est donc invité à prendre des décisions sur l'ordre du jour qui se trouve dans l'Annexe A, sur la limitation à cinq minutes au maximum de la durée des déclarations des chefs de délégation faites au titre du Débat général, les dates limites de dépôts de propositions de candidatures pour le poste de Président indépendant du Conseil, pour la période de juillet 2013 à juin 2015; mais aussi pour les candidatures des Membres du Conseil pour la période de juillet 2013 à juin 2016, et de juillet 2014 à juin 2017; de prendre position sur la constitution des deux Commissions, à savoir, la Commission I pour les questions de fond et politique générale, et la Commission II pour les questions relatives aux programmes et aux budgets.

Avez-vous des commentaires à faire sur le projet d'ordre du jour qui, je le rappelle, est en annexe A. Pas de remarques ? Je considère donc que l'ordre du jour provisoire de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence est approuvé par le Conseil.

En ce qui concerne le thème principal du Débat général, il est proposé au Conseil de prendre en considération le thème de la publication *La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture* pour 2013, au titre du Point 9 « Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture », Le titre proposé est « Mettre les systèmes alimentaires au service de la sécurité alimentaire et d'une meilleure nutrition ». Nous débattons ce point après la présentation du Secrétariat.

Entre-temps, je vous propose aussi les dates de limite de dépôts de propositions de candidatures, qui sont prévues le 8 avril 2013, à 12 heures pour le poste de Président indépendant et le lundi 17 juin 2013 à 12 heures pour les Membres du Conseil.

J'en profite pour vous signaler qu'une nomination pour la présidence de la Conférence, est déjà prévue à la suite des consultations au sein du Groupe régional du Proche Orient. Le Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'irrigation et de l'élevage de la République Islamique d'Afghanistan, Son Excellence Monsieur Mohamed Assif Raemi, a été proposé.

En ce qui concerne le Bureau, la Commission de vérifications des pouvoirs et le Comité des résolutions, nous attendons encore les nominations, je propose donc qu'on reprenne cette question à la prochaine Session en avril 2013.

En ce qui concerne la constitution des deux Commissions de la Conférence, il est proposé de désigner un représentant du Groupe G77 pour présider la Commission I, sur les questions de fond et de politique générale, et un représentant de l'OCDE à la présidence de la Commission II, sur les questions relatives aux programmes et budgets. Êtes-vous d'accord sur cette proposition concernant la présidence? Le rapport de la désignation pour le Bureau de la Commission de vérifications ? Et sur l'alternative Groupe G77 et OCDE pour les deux présidences ? Je considère donc que cet élément-là est prévu.

Conformément à la pratique établie, la Palestine sera invitée à participer à la Session en qualité d'Observateur, comme pour les Conférences précédentes.

Avez-vous des remarques sur ces différents points ? Pas de remarques ? Donc tous ces points sont entérinés.

Le thème du Débat général « Mettre les systèmes alimentaires au service de la sécurité alimentaire et d'une meilleure nutrition » va maintenant vous être présenté.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

Good morning everybody. I would like to present Terri Rainey, who is the editor of "The State of Food and Agriculture" which I will be speaking about in a few minutes.

We would like to give you a very brief report on the ongoing work on "The State of Food and Agriculture 2013", which is proposed as a theme of the Conference.

One would think that the statement that "good nutrition starts with food and agriculture" is almost something trivial, but apparently it's not. There is a challenge to it, for example our interventions in the food and agriculture system, which are key to reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. Yet there is a lot of concern about nutrition and nutrition outcomes in the world. The coexistence of food insecurity, hunger in terms of calories as well as micro-nutrient deficiencies, at the same time that obesity is increasing, is a cause for great concern.

The question is, can food systems contribute to better nutrition and how? The way we define food systems in "The State of Food and Agriculture" encompasses the complex networks of individuals and institutions that provide food for everyone on the planet. Food systems determine the availability, affordability and nutritional quality of the food supply and influence the amount and combination of foods that people are willing and able to consume. Individual food choices in turn influence what food systems produce. Now these choices are of course influenced by social and cultural factors including education and advertising, and they occur within a broader system of incentives and constraints that are shaped by public policies and institutions.

The other thing about food systems that we very often hear is that they are being transformed. This process of transformation is called food system transformation, agriculture transformation, or food system revolution. There are many names. If one wants to take stock of the food systems and how they can be managed for better nutrition, one also has to take into consideration also the evolution and direction in which the systems are changing.

Regarding food systems, food insecurity and malnutrition, are caused, and we recognize this, by a complex interplay of economic, social, environmental and behavioural factors that prevent people from consuming the appropriate amounts and quality of foods for a healthy life and healthy diets. Food systems interventions can have multiple impacts on the ability of people to have a balanced nutritional diet. Those interventions will vary according to the nature of the food system and the linkages between the various components of the food chain.

Now for us. Despite, of course, the ongoing concern regarding over-nutrition and obesity, which is as I said before a coexisting problem with food insecurity and malnutrition in many countries, we believe that under-nutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies continue to exact a much higher burden on society in terms of reduced years of healthy life and productivity losses.

Stunting micronutrient deficiencies and low fruit and vegetable intake are responsible for the loss of about 150 million disability-adjusted life years annually. That's a big number. We don't want to go into the nitty-gritty of dailies but those are enormous numbers and they're a big tax on economic growth and the ability of countries to get out of poverty.

As I said before, the nature of the food sector and the food system interventions to address malnutrition would change according to the process and the stage that the food system finds itself in this transformation process. In many low-income countries, a large share of the population in rural areas earn a living from agriculture. Agriculture labor productivity is low, food value chains are very short, underdeveloped processing is minimal, food comprises a large share of household expenditures and stunting micronutrient deficiency, are the primary malnutrition problems.

In this country for instance, a major impact of intervening in the food and agriculture systems would be through increasing income from increasing for example agricultural productivity. Additional interventions from the point of view of nutrition are necessary to improve the nutritional quality of staples and to promote diversification of production and diets. Integrated farming systems, home gardens and bio-fortification, are some of the other interventions. And then one can go on, and on the basis of the analysis of the state of food and agriculture systems, one can design what would be the proper entry points in the system to promote good nutrition.

In summary, “The State of Food and Agriculture 2013” examines the linkages between food systems and human nutrition. It assesses the economic and social costs of malnutrition, identifies the impact pathways through which food systems affect nutritional outcomes, evaluates the empirical evidence regarding alternative interventions in different contexts and discusses policy options, institutional arrangements and capacity-building measures aimed at improving nutritional outcomes. This is what we will present, if the issue is approved, as a special issue for Conference debate.

I will close here. I will ask Terri if she wants to add anything to what I just said because she is a much deeper connoisseur of the subject, I can assure you of that.

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Greece)

J'aimerais vous demander de donner la parole à Chypre, qui exerce la Présidence de l'Union européenne, et va faire une déclaration pour l'Union Européenne et les 27 États Membres.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU (Croatia) and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the document CL 145/12 on the Arrangements for the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. With respect to the theme for the General Debate for the 38th Session of the FAO Conference, we would suggest the following title: “Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”.

We consider this an important first step in the development of the Programme of Work of the CFS. Indeed, sustainable food systems would include stating how to reduce food losses and waste, how to develop innovative approaches in considering environmental, social and economic aspects on both production and consumption sites, promoting the adoption of climate smart agriculture techniques and practices, and taking into account the links between energy, water, food security and nutrition. This will give the opportunity for all Ministers to address the Conference on a subject of critical importance not only to food security but also in relation to nutrition.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I would like to make two comments. The first one is, very brief. I agree with what I heard from the EU, I had more or less the same idea, so I hope the Secretariat will seriously consider their proposal.

The second point I want to raise is to thank you for the Council. First, I wish to express my country's sincere appreciation to members of the Near East Group for their decision to put forward the nomination of our Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Forests, as a candidate for the Chairmanship of the 38th Session of Conference. On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I also wish to thank each and every Member of the FAO Council for receiving the proposal of the Near East Group and for agreeing to submit the nomination of our Minister to the Plenary of the Conference.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

In principle, we support the organizational Arrangements for the 38th Session of the Conference. With regard to the subject or the theme for the General Debate, we do have some comments. Firstly, we think that we should define food-systems to be systems that include production, processing, and distribution, or the sale of, foodstuffs.

Once food systems have been defined, we think that we should also link these to food safety. For example, in China, the ministry of agriculture is responsible for agriculture production, but distribution and sale of foodstuffs comes under a different Ministry. So, I think that defining food systems is very important.

Secondly, regarding better nutrition, we'd like to know what "better" means? Does it mean better production or better sales or better processing of food or better preparation of food? I think that we should also better define what is meant by better nutrition.

Finally, we propose that we add the word "agriculture" to the theme so that it reads: Food and Agriculture Systems. In English:

Continues in English

It will be changed to "Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition".

Continues in Chinese

I'll continue in Chinese now. FAO is responsible for agriculture and food. Regarding better nutrition, if we can't properly define "better", we should leave that word out. So, those are the comments that we have.

We also heard the proposal from the European Union and we believe that is also a very good proposal. We believe that the theme for the General Debate must be sufficiently general to cover climate change, the environment, sustainable development, etc.

It is in that context that we discuss food security and it allows us an overview of all issues. It also allows us to find better solutions to better deal with problems. I think that the European Union's proposal is also a very good option.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Muchas gracias al Señor Kostas Stamoulis por la presentación que ha hecho sobre este tema. Nosotros, en principio, estamos de acuerdo con el tema, pero compartimos los comentarios que acaba de efectuar la Delegación de China. Nos parece importante tener claras las definiciones de los términos con los cuales vamos a estar trabajando para poder tener un debate fructífero y positivo. Entiendo que esto podría ser parte de los trabajos que van a estar vinculados con los documentos que se presenten a la Conferencia y, por supuesto, estamos interesados en trabajar sobre este tema.

Comparto, como dije, las preocupaciones de la Delegación de China con respecto a la definición del sistema alimenticio, el sistema de producción que incluye cada uno de estos términos, y reitero que nos parece importante que esto esté claro a la hora de llevar adelante los debates.

Con respecto a la propuesta de la Unión Europea, también nos parece interesante y positiva, pero creemos que quizás sería oportuno en el título que se defina agregar el concepto de: "en el contexto del desarrollo sustentable", que es una terminología que está más acuñada y que creo que encaja muy bien en el tipo de trabajo y el tipo de debate que queremos dar a este tema.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I don't have any problem with the theme and thank you, Gustavo, for the introduction. The reason I raised my flag to intervene is to understand what a food system is. In his explanation, he described it as transformation. Then what would you say for crop processing. Is this a transformation but not the full system? So the definition that is important when preparing the background document. As China and Argentina indicated, there must be a clear definition, or else crop processing is a transformation from the raw material to the final form of things but crop processing is not the food system, but just a part of it.

So that is a warning that I want to flag; the transformation input he put in the food system is not in the right place.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We welcome the organizational arrangements for holding the forthcoming Conference. On the theme, we entirely agree with the observation made by China that the word better may be omitted and just “nutrition” maintained in the document. That is also the proposal of the European Union. They also used the word nutrition.

On the issue of whether agriculture should be mentioned or not, I think “agriculture” should be mentioned somewhere because if food systems include “agriculture”, there is no need for FAO to be called the Food and Agricultural Organization; we could just say Food Organization if “agriculture” is included in that. So, the word agriculture is very vital and it must appear in the title. Except for these two observations, we have no problem with the theme as such.

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

I would also like to thank Mr Stamoulis for his excellent presentation of the document. In principle, the Delegation of the Russian Federation agrees with the draft agenda, the organization of the Conference’s work, and the themes which will be examined and debated as part of the 38th Session of the Conference.

We believe that the proposal from the Chinese Delegation is quite reasonable and rational and we support it in principle. Also, I believe that it is necessary to have a much more concise title only to talk about food, it would be clearer and there would be less different interpretations. We also support the idea of having a Commission with regard to the substance and policy in the area of agriculture which would deal with the Programme and Budget. We also support the proposal of the Director-General to invite Palestine as an Observer to the 38th Session of the Conference.

Mr Adnan F.E. GEBRIL (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

In principle, Libya approves the arrangements for the 38th Session of the Conference. As regarding the topic of the General Debate under discussion, we believe that it remains the most important challenge facing the international community over the last decade and we believe that there are many lessons to learn and successes to record in that respect.

However, some remaining challenges are ongoing today and we faced them for the first half of the century. We believe that we should have them as objectives to aim at for this period. As you all know, many countries managed to turn their agricultural activity into a profitable business. However, other countries still strive to make this activity a main and substantive one, providing for the needs of its population. Therefore, we believe that there are many parties that can play an important role in that respect.

These are relevant to all of the activities that can be implemented and programs of work that can be adopted. The three main themes of sustainable development, food security, and combatting drought and desertification are principal areas that can be focused on to reach the aspired goals. We believe that many issues are imposed on us today and require answers through which we can move into effective work that can, in turn, lead to success in meeting this important and noble goal of eradicating hunger for all mankind.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

We also have no problem with the organizational arrangement for the Conference. Regarding the matter of food systems and food security and nutrition, actually we don’t have any problem with the proposal by the EU and we also think that the proposal by China to delete the word "better" is reasonable.

But I want to just to turn the attention of the Members to the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts for the next biennium on two matters that we have: agriculture and food waste. Therefore, based on this decision which you made, I propose this item also covers food waste because nowadays, most people recognize that we have to prevent food waste to improve food security. The title which I am suggesting is: “Better Food Change Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I think we would also like to join the previous Delegations in welcoming the compilation of the provincial agenda of the 38th Session of the Conference. We are also very comfortable with the arrangements that are now going to be made to have a successful Conference and particularly on the issue of the theme of the General Debate. I think we wish to share the views expressed by some Delegations.

While we were actually debating on the concept of food systems, I just Googled and looked at the definition that everybody talks about. I think most of the Delegations are quite right in bringing different dimensions. So if I put the ideas together, actually the food system includes all processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population; growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, and disposal of food and food-related items.

So in piecemeal, I think that many Delegations made additions to enlarge the scope of this food system concept, but there are fundamental things that we need to take into account. I think the Chinese Delegation made very pertinent comments, regarding the need to have a much wider and a more inclusive definition. Another aspect was injected by Argentina on the need to relate the food system to sustainable development in a sustainable food system because here we are talking about the agricultural sector. Of course, that is the main particular tool that we can use to provide food to the people in the world.

Another aspect would like to add disposal. I think disposal also contains the waste of food items. I think, as an Ambassador stated, it is an issue which we all try to address, that is, the waste of food, because there are people who go hungry but in other parts of the world, there is a lot of food wastage. So these are also issues that need to be brought into this core part of this food system.

Mr Neil FRASER (Observer for New Zealand)

We have no problems with the arrangements proposed.

Concerning the theme, we listened to the discussions this morning with interest. We're quite happy and comfortable with the theme as expressed there, with maybe some minor changes to it. But as expressed, we would be quite happy with it. Please keep it simple and concise and short. The longer it gets, if we add in all of these suggestions, then it will become unwieldy. It will mean everything and nothing at the same time.

The suggestion by China to add "agriculture" to the theme then makes the topic exclusive of fisheries and forestry contributions to the food systems. So we think the "food systems" is a good generic term. The theme expressed here excludes nothing. I couldn't think of anything that I couldn't put into a Minister's intervention under that theme. And under the subject of Minister's interventions, we know from past experience that Ministers may or may not take any notice of the theme.

There are many statements at Conference that give no recognition to the theme of the Conference at all. Those of us who have been to several Conferences know this. Maybe it will be different this year, who knows. But if they are working toward a simple theme, it seems to be there is more chance that we will get reference to it.

Also, I can't think of anything that could be excluded from incorporation under that theme.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me permettez juste d'intervenir sur ces sujets-là aussi, je crois que nous avons un défi à relever en la matière pour définir le titre. En effet, il faut qu'il soit suffisamment lisible et communicatif, mais d'un autre côté, tous les éléments que vous avez évoqués, sont à prendre en considération. Mais à mon avis, nous aurons du mal à inclure tous les éléments dans le titre.

Nous allons donc essayer de vous faire une proposition, puisqu'il faut que le Conseil décide du titre.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Allow me to respond to the debate on the question of what is a food system on the use of the term “food system”, as well as on the suggested use of the term “better nutrition”. As far as food system is concerned, as you know, the consumption of food involves production from a variety of sources including agriculture. But as you also know, agriculture is not exclusively limited to the production of food. There are a variety of other crops which are produced by agricultural systems which are not necessarily food-related, although, of course agriculture generates incomes which indirectly contribute to food consumption.

The question of food systems is an important issue for the FAO and as the Chinese Delegate correctly pointed out, involves a variety of aspects. It is important to recognize that all of these aspects hinge on us. Especially since the Rio Conference in 1992 the international community has committed itself to sustainable production and consumption. It is important for us to think of food systems in connection with this commitment to achieving sustainable production, as well as consumption.

If I may move to the other question of nutrition and the use of the term “better nutrition”, we have a situation in the world where the FAO has historically looked principally at one indicator of hunger and this has been very important to determine whether or not enough dietary energy is being received by human beings. We have taken a rather minimalist definition of what constitutes hunger, that is severe and chronic dietary under nutrition. However, as we also know now thanks to generations of scientific work, good or adequate nutrition also requires adequate protein consumption, as well as the consumption of micro-nutrients. This is especially important for mothers and young children. Sufficient micro-nutrient consumption is important insofar as inadequate consumption effects physical, as well as mental development.

So the use of the term “better” here is an indication of the need to think about the different dimensions of nutrition, and to try to aspire to meeting adequate nutrition. However, as was correctly pointed out earlier by my colleague, we also have a situation now of what is sometimes referred to as over-nourishment, over-nutrition, leading to overweight, leading to obesity, leading to non-communicable diseases. So “better nutrition” doesn’t mean more consumption of food. More consumption of food could lead to inferior nutrition, leading to such conditions.

And so “better nutrition”, in a sense, implies a certain balance of our consumption which is important not only for sustainable production and consumptions but improved human condition. We at FAO are committed to focus principally on under-nutrition for reasons emphasized by my colleague earlier, precisely because what we find is that the consequences of under-nutrition right now in the world greatly exceeds the problems associated with over-nourishment relating to overweight as well as obesity and non-communicable diseases.

This does not mean we ignore those problems and the two issues are linked, but it is important for us to focus on the problem of under-nutrition. So, in a sense, our interests, our focus on under-nutrition implies that “better nutrition” implies adequate consumption of the nutrients I referred to earlier, in other words, calories, proteins, and micro-nutrients.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

There were a lot of useful suggestions from the floor on the content of what we will present to the Conference in June. I will leave the honours to the Chair to summarize them. It is something that can be a guide for all of us.

All I want to say is to echo what New Zealand and the Chair have already said. If we make this intractable, then the risk will be that we will not be able to produce anything at the end of the day. Interventions will not be focused, and the key messages will be diluted. A lot of the things that you said are already in the plans of the Report, but if we stray too much from the basic objectives, which I summarized in three or four lines, the danger is like the danger with regard to every document or communication. It diffuses what the Conference will say to the world on how to intervene in food systems in order to achieve better nutrition. That is the self-serving warning that I had.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais m'aventurer pour vous faire une proposition de synthèse en disant que nous aurons le titre mais il n'est pas exclu que le Secrétariat proposera une petite box sous le titre qui parle de meilleure nutrition, de gaspillage, de différentes choses mais en dehors du titre. Je vous propose ayant entendu tout ce qui a été dit, comme titre:

«Système alimentaire durable au service de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle».

C'est une approche pour tenir compte de la notion de résilience, de durabilité et de garder le terme nutritionnel.

Si on peut trouver une manière d'utiliser le terme «nutrition» à la place de nutritionnel, je suis d'accord.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

From what I have understood from the explanation of the Secretariat and of the Assistant Director-General, we have to focus on something. The terms that you have mentioned are very general. We want to solve the nutrition issue. But how? I think this is the term you have mentioned. The title is very general. Again, I am suggesting that we have to focus on one problem. We had it in the different Regional Conferences. For example, as you know in the Regional Conference for the Near East, one of our problems is the food chain. Therefore, I insist that we have to focus on one issue which solves the problem of nutrition. When we say "nutrition", "sustainable", these are general terms that are mentioned everywhere. But we have to focus on some special issues to be considered by the people, by the Member Nations. This is why I am again suggesting "Improving the food chain system for food security and nutrition".

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We believe that our proposal for the new theme is, in fact, acceptable. The reasons are that at the world agriculture level, we are in line with the mandate or the work's scope of the FAO. We all know that in many countries, the Ministry of Agriculture is only in charge of production. So if it regards food processing, sales, or distribution (and I myself will belong to the domain of other Ministries), and make it very broad, then the Minister of Agriculture probably would not be able to attend the Conference. So this is a very important issue to consider.

Without agriculture, Ministers of Agriculture will not necessarily be coming; maybe the Minister of Food Processing or for Sales or for Distribution, because those Ministers are more suited to attend the Conference. I do not know how we will deal with that situation. I believe it is not only the case with respect to China. There are many countries which will probably have a similar problem. So if you want to see more Ministers of Agriculture coming to next year's Conference, then the theme has to pertain to agriculture.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me permettez de faire une petite réflexion à ce sujet, la Conférence n'est pas réservée qu'aux Ministres de l'Agriculture et si le Président chinois veut venir pour le débat, c'est possible puisque nous avons toujours aux Conférences des Chefs d'État qui viennent aussi.

L'alimentation va bien au-delà de l'agriculture, donc si le Ministre de l'Agriculture chinois ne veut pas venir, il faudra demander au Président chinois d'insister pour que le Ministre vienne. Excusez-moi de cette remarque.

Mr Tareq Abdulkarim AL DRIWEESH (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

We speak here on behalf of the Near East. Regarding China's proposal with respect to the theme of the Conference, I believe it should be inclusive and that it should correspond to what we want to achieve. I believe that it should be 'Improving food systems for the sustainability of food security'. This title should reflect all the elements we are aiming to portray.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We consider that we should heed the opinion of the Chinese Delegation, which was voiced earlier as well as those of other Delegations. It seems to us that dragging the discussion out indefinitely in the name of the General Debate would be counter-productive. We think that food systems in general, food security, would be perfectly adequate to span the whole array of issues, including agricultural development and the very important question of nutrition without them necessarily being included in the title. This is because they are all inextricably linked within the social elements of this issue as regards the sustainability of food systems.

We could mull this over, but in principle the name of the theme, the title of the Debate, should be sufficiently general and integral, and it should not be prolonged indefinitely. This can be dealt with in the documents which are appended to the title, and which would spell out what is at stake. But the name should be as pithy and concise as possible, and also clear, so that we can incorporate all of those elements therein.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

He escuchado con mucha atención los profundos y sesudos comentarios de todos y de cada uno de los Señores Delegados sobre la alimentación, la producción, la agricultura, las proteínas, los carbohidratos, la pobreza y la nutrición. Señor Presidente estos son temas de la Conferencia. Tenga la plena seguridad que si seguimos discutiendo y debatiendo habrán miles de temas más, y no nos vamos a poner de acuerdo. Y los Señores Ministros llegarán a la Conferencia y cada uno dirá lo que quiere decir.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je crois que c'est ce que tout le monde essaie de réaliser qu'il faut parler de façon concise. Je vais vous faire une proposition sur laquelle vous allez vous prononcer et ensuite nous écrivons. J'ai relevé quatre points qu'il nous faudrait mettre dans le titre:

Système alimentaire; durable; sécurité alimentaire et nutrition.

Si nous nous mettons d'accord sur ces quatre points, je peux avec le Secrétariat écrire quelque chose pour le début de l'après-midi, mais si vous me dites que, sur les quatre, il faut en supprimer un, on l'enlève. Quant à moi, je pense que Sécurité alimentaire et nutrition sont indispensables. Le « Système alimentaire » peut-être, ou a-t'on une autre formule plus élégante? La notion « durable » a été proposée par un certain nombre de personnes. Il y a la résilience, le durable.

Si vous nous donnez mandat pendant le déjeuner d'écrire quelque chose qui inclut ces quatre termes en prenant le moins possible d'espace, je pense que nous aurons avancé. Mais, si vous me dites que sur les quatre il y en a un qu'il ne faut pas mettre, nous le ferons avec trois. Avec un cinquième, ce serait trop long.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Vuelvo a insistir y con todo comedimiento, que dejemos el tema como está. "Sistema de Alimentos para la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición" que lo dice todo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mr Vallejo-López donne une autre solution, mais le sujet est à la proposition. Moi, j'ai essayé d'écouter les différentes interventions qui ont été faites, mais je vous fais remarquer qu'en dehors de l'aspect durable, il y a les trois éléments que j'ai évoqués.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Yo creo que usted ha hecho un buen resumen de los temas y hay tres temas que son básicos: seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y los sistemas. Como dije antes, la propuesta de la Unión Europea es interesante pero nos abre una ventana que nos exigiría ponernos a trabajar un poco sobre el alcance del tema sostenible. Creo que los elementos que usted mencionó y la forma en que está presentado el título, acompañando lo que dijo el Embajador de Ecuador y también basándome en lo que mencionó la Federación de Rusia, creo que podríamos mantener el título en base a esos tres elementos.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Well, again, we're calling for the text to be as picky as possible and for the theme to be well-expressed. At the same time, if you are going to rework the text, then you need to heed the opinions expressed. That is the first point.

Secondly, not dividing or opposing, were pitting against each other "food security" and "nutrition". We think this is a common, single theme. Nutrition needs to be kept precisely within the context of guaranteeing food security. So, as it is worded now, we could agree, but in any event, you should not pit one notion against the other.

Mr Adnan F.E. GEBRIL (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

We think leaving the wording as it stands would be the best option open to us because the concept of "food security" encompasses "nutrition" and it is also related to other aspects of food security.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après ce que vous avez entendu, pour simplifier et le raccourcir encore, je vous propose, sur la base de ce qui a été dit au départ et de ce que vous venez de dire, le titre suivant:

Les Systèmes alimentaires au service de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Monsieur le Président, je m'en voudrais de prolonger nos discussions, mais il me semble que le thème de la durabilité n'est pas pris en compte. Or comme l'a dit Monsieur Sundaram, après Rio+20 où nous avons réussi la synthèse entre la sécurité alimentaire et la durabilité, il serait dommage que nous ne soyons pas capables ici de l'intégrer dans notre propos.

Est-ce qu'on ne pourrait pas dire: « *Les Systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire* » ?

Ensuite, on peut dire comme vous voulez « la nutrition » ou « nutritionnelle », ce n'est pas mon propos.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'était la proposition que j'avais faite juste avant et on m'a demandé de réduire, alors c'est pour cela que j'ai réduit, mais merci.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

There is a bit of a nuance here which could take us back to square one, and dash all of our efforts. In wishing to improve the name and reach consensus, we have basically gone back to square one. I do

apologize. I was listening to the Russian text, then I heard the translation into English, and I couldn't really believe my ears.

Again, we're hearing the term again: nutrition security. When we're already in the final straight, why should we fell the whole tree? So I would propose the following wording which would be in keeping with what we were agreeing on. We can agree with sustainable food systems or food systems for food security, including the question of nutrition, or we can say "and nutrition" as a compromise because, for us, the question of "nutrition" is within the notion of food security, and is inextricably linked to it, and we don't pit one against the other.

Mr Adnan F.E. GEBRIL (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

I hope this will be my very last intervention on this. If we need to include all of these terms in one title, which would cover food nutrition systems, food security, nutrition, I would propose the following: "Improving food systems to improve sustainable food security."

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

As you can see, there are so many definitions coming out. Can I suggest we live with the original as it was proposed by the Secretariat because the Assistant Director-General very well explained why the word "better" was used. So I prefer to go back to the original title and leave it as it is.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, avant de donner la parole à ceux qui l'on demandée, je vous rappelle que je vous ai fait une proposition tout à l'heure sur les quatre termes à mettre dans le titre: *Systèmes alimentaires, durable ou durabilité, sécurité alimentaire et nutrition ou nutritionnelle*.

Donc, j'ai entendu la proposition de la Fédération de Russie. Je vous la rappelle, elle dit: *Durabilité des Systèmes alimentaires au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition*.

À partir de tout ce qui a été dit, nous devrions pouvoir nous mettre d'accord. Si vous ne l'êtes pas tous, je suis obligé de continuer le débat. Est-ce qu'il y a des objections à cette proposition ?

Je vais donc suspendre la séance. Vous y réfléchissez pendant le déjeuner. Mais je tiens à vous dire que vous avez quand même tous donné plus ou moins votre accord sur ces quatre termes, et que c'est dans ce cadre là qu'il faut établir quelque chose. Merci.

The meeting rose at 12.36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

**SIXTH PLENARY SESSION
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

5 December 2012

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.39 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

15. Arrangements for the 38th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the General Debate at Conference) (continued)

15. Organisation de la 38^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du Débat général de la Conférence) (suite)

15. Disposiciones para el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el Debate General en la Conferencia) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons continuer nos travaux en cette sixième séance.

La proposition que je vous fais: « Les Systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition », ce qui donne en anglais, Louis Gagnon.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

"Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition".

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Es una buena propuesta, pero yo insisto con la que planteé anteriormente con relación al tema de la sustentabilidad. Creo que se podría decir: "Sistemas de alimentos/alimentación para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el contexto del desarrollo sustentable", que refleja también terminología que ha sido utilizada en la Declaración de Río+20.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Oui, j'entends ce que vous dites, mais la proposition que j'ai faite est plus courte, comme un certain nombre d'entre vous l'ont souhaité, et nous avons les éléments évoqués: systèmes alimentaires, durables, sécurité alimentaire, nutrition. Est-ce que vous avez une objection ?

Mr James Taetah ASUTAKANG (Cameroon)

I know we would not come back to this matter of definitions but it perhaps be better to say "sustainable system for food security" because if you say the sustainable food system and then say for food security, it does not sound well. The sustainable system for food security. Every time you talk about food security, we know that the absolute guide for food security is nutrition so even if you do not say nutrition, it is clear that it is in food security, a sustainable system for food security.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Oui, j'entends votre réaction mais si on met les systèmes durables on ouvre complètement les débats sur la durabilité sans la lier directement avec le système alimentaire de production de transformation et de distribution. Ça c'est la première réflexion. Pour l'aspect de nutrition, personnellement, je pense qu'il est bon de mettre « nutrition » parce que c'est une notion qui, comme cela a été dit, ouvre le débat alimentaire pas uniquement au quantitatif, au qualitatif mais aussi aux façons de se nourrir aussi, car nous savons qu'aujourd'hui la difficulté alimentaire, c'est une question de quantitatif, de qualitatif et j'allais dire d'usage, de la façon dont on se nourrit. C'est pour cela que sécurité alimentaire et nutrition sont à mon sens complémentaires. Donc je maintiens malgré vos réflexions ma proposition, mais on avance. D'autres remarques. Après ces explications, y a-t-il des objections ? S'il n'y a pas d'objections c'est adopté, merci.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Continuons, je me permets de vous lire le projet de conclusion générale sur le Point 15, car il n'y avait pas que ce point là dans le Point 15, mais nous les avons adoptés auparavant.

Organisation et calendrier provisoire de la Session

Le Conseil convient de soumettre à l'approbation de la Conférence l'Ordre du jour provisoire et les dispositions proposées dans le document CL 145/12, et il recommande en particulier:

- a) que deux Commissions soient constituées pour examiner, respectivement: i) les questions de fond et de politique générale (Commission I) et ii) les questions de programme et de budget (Commission II);
- b) que la date limite de dépôt des candidatures pour l'élection au Conseil soit fixée au lundi 17 juin 2013 à midi, et que l'élection ait lieu le vendredi 21 juin 2013.

Date limite de dépôt des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil

Le Conseil décide de fixer la date limite de dépôt des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil au lundi 8 avril 2013 à midi.

Désignation du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents de la Commission I et II

Le Conseil note qu'à la suite de consultations du Groupe régional du Proche-Orient un consensus s'est dégagé pour nommer à la présidence de la Conférence le Ministre afghan de l'agriculture, de l'irrigation et de l'élevage. Il est par ailleurs convenu que la présidence de la Commission I serait assurée par un ressortissant d'un pays du Groupe des 77, et que celle de la Commission II le serait par un représentant d'un pays autre qu'un pays du Groupe des 77.

Le Conseil a convenu:

- de reporter à sa 146^{ème} Session, avril 2013, sa décision sur la composition du Bureau de la Conférence, de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs et du Comité des résolutions;
- de recommander à la Conférence d'inviter la Palestine à participer à la Conférence en qualité d'observateur;
- de recommander à la Conférence que le Débat général de sa 38^{ème} Session ait pour thème « Les Systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition ».

Voilà les résultats de nos différentes discussions et prises de positions en fin de matinée et début d'après-midi. On a rien oublié, je crois que ce sont des procédures.

6. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 (continued)

6. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 (suite)

6. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 (continuación)

Je vous propose donc de passer au point suivant qui est la reprise du Point 6, que nous avons discuté hier, sur le Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du plan à moyen terme.

Je vous propose que pour remplacer, « créer les conditions d'éradication », après accord entre les différents pays qui étaient en discussion, on indique « contribuer à l'éradication de la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition ». Il semble qu'il y ait eu accord de discussion, pas d'objection.

Bien merci et merci de ce dialogue qui a été vraiment très positif. Donc ce sera ajouté directement aux conclusions d'hier.

8. Technical Committees

8. Comités techniques

8. Comités técnicos

8.1 Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (21-25 May 2012)

8.1 Rapport de la 23^{ème} Session du Comité de l'agriculture (21-25 mai 2012)

8.1 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (21-25 de mayo de 2012)

Point 8.1, c'est la suite du Rapport du Comité de l'agriculture, concernant le Mandat du Partenariat mondial sur les sols, document CL 145/LIM/7 Rev.1.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura)

Señor Presidente, en efecto, como usted explicó al Consejo, el Tema 8.1 b) correspondiente al Mandato de la Alianza Mundial sobre los Suelos, los términos de referencia. Tuvimos que posponer el conocimiento de este Tema desde la reunión del lunes por la razón, como expliqué al Consejo, de que se habían identificado algunos errores, cuatro errores, en el documento original CL 145/LIM/7, motivo por el cual los Miembros del Consejo tienen en sus manos una revisión, la revisión 1, de dicho documento.

Como se explicó al Consejo, en consulta con el Secretario del Comité, convocamos una Reunión Especial de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Agricultura, la cual sesionó en esta Sala al término de la sesión nocturna del lunes. Esa Sesión fue en aras de la transparencia abierta a todos los Países Miembro de la FAO, y allí indicamos cuales eran los elementos que habían que cambiar para poder reflejar el acuerdo alcanzado por el Grupo de Trabajo que preparó los términos de referencia. Había un error de una palabra en el párrafo ocho, había un error de impresión en el párrafo nueve y también el lenguaje utilizado en otros dos párrafos, el doce y el dieciocho, no se compadecían con una redacción apropiada en inglés. Había un tiempo verbal que no hacía sentido, y también había alguna otra palabra que debía ser incorporada para reflejar lenguaje ya acordado por los Países Miembros de Naciones Unidas en la Asamblea General.

Yo voy a pedir al Sr. Alexander Müller, que es el Subdirector General del Departamento de Ordenación de Recurso Naturales y Medio Ambiente, que, como parte de la exposición que él va a hacer sobre este tema, que pueda especificar estos cambios que introdujimos el lunes en la noche, porque no son cambios de naturaleza política, no son cambios de naturaleza técnica, no son cambios sustantivos, son apenas cambios de forma para que el documento sea lo más perfecto posible y que, el Consejo esté en condiciones de considerar y, espero yo, de dar su visto bueno a estos Términos de Referencia en los cuales llevamos ya más de un año trabajando.

Así que, sin más preámbulos, yo le pediría al Presidente del Consejo que autorice al Sr. Müller a hacer esta presentación.

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

I would like to highlight in the beginning that these Terms of Reference of the Global Soil Partnership are the result of an extensive and intensive consultation process. We have started in October last year between October and February 2012 to organize a Technical Working Group composed by 76 voluntary members and they have produced the Zero Draft and the Background Document of the Terms of Reference.

Between February and May, we had the revision of the Zero Draft by country members. There were two rounds of an Open-Ended Working Group and there was a short Zero Draft. At the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture in May, we presented the Terms of Reference and the countries requested further revision by the Open-Ended Working Group.

Between June and November 2012, we revised, in these Open-Ended Working Groups in two rounds, these Terms of Reference, we came to a consensus and an agreement and you all were involved. Let me please take the opportunity to thank all of you for the intensive work over a long period of time. These Terms of Reference reflect now what is the consensus among the Members.

At the end, we had four items to be discussed. I would like, as requested by the COAG Chair, to present them. In paragraph 8, in the document in front of you, you find now the word sustaining the provision of eco-system services. In the non-revised version we had the word supporting. I have to say we had a very interesting discussion in the Open-Ended COAG Bureau meeting on what is really the difference. A native EU speaker said there is no difference so we went back to the original text, sustaining the provision of eco-system services. This was the consensus in the Open-Ended Working Group.

Change number two is already introduced by the Chair of COAG. We had a printing error in paragraph 9 in the draft. There was one item missing, the Plenary Assembly. This has been changed.

In paragraph 12, we had it inserted again, and this goes back to the consensus achieved in the Open-Ended Working Group, the brackets with the agreement of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly so there is no extension of the mandate of the technical experts without the agreement. This is also not a substantial change. It makes things only clearer.

I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 18. Here we had a real clarification because paragraph 18 links with the real convention. We have inserted now the exact wording of the decision of the Rio+20 Conference. Here I would like also to thank you for your constructive work because it is really important that we have a verbal team there. We do not try to paraphrase it. We know that it was very difficult in Rio to achieve this consensus and therefore we are quoting in paragraph 18 that we achieve five pillars on action to “strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development”. Here we have inserted exactly the quote from Rio.

In overall, we have changed nothing. We have clarified it and we went back to the already agreed text in Rio so that from my perspective this is the basis and the consensus of the long period of intensive consultation as Member Nations.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Argentina reconoce la necesidad y la importancia de la conservación de los suelos agrícolas, ya que se trata de un recurso natural estratégico no renovable. En este sentido, cabe destacar que, en nuestro país, la mayor parte de la producción agrícola se realiza en base al sistema de siembra directa, esto es, se siembran los cultivos sin remover la cobertura natural del suelo, lo cual contribuye de manera significativa a disminuir la erosión. Asimismo, cabe señalar que en la Argentina se está trabajando activamente en proyectos y programas vinculados a la conservación y la recuperación del suelo desde distintos organismos del Gobierno.

Por estas razones, Argentina respalda la aprobación por parte del Consejo de fijar el 5 de diciembre como fecha para celebrar el Día Mundial del Suelo, y agradece y reconoce a Tailandia y a la FAO su iniciativa y los esfuerzos realizados para llegar a este resultado.

Y en relación con la Alianza Mundial sobre los suelos, la Argentina la respalda con entusiasmo. Hemos participado activamente en la elaboración de los Términos de Referencia y agradecemos al Departamento de Ordenación de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente de la FAO y a la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Agricultura la conducción de este proceso, así como hacemos extensivo este agradecimiento a los países que efectuaron contribuciones. Como resultado, tenemos unos Términos de Referencia muy útiles, cuya aprobación respaldamos. Constituyen una base sólida para continuar trabajando y, en ese camino, continuará participando Argentina.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Greece)

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the current EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

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

Regarding the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership, we accept the proposed Terms of Reference, and look forward to participate actively in its implementation as appropriate. The Global Soil Partnership will be a useful tool for contributing to the sustainable management of soils and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral work as underlined in the Rio+20 document, "The Future We Want".

We would like to know more about the partnership corporate strategy in particular with the private sector, and about the Guidelines for the Governance of Market Stakeholder's Partnerships that FAO is preparing.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of COAG especially and Mr Müller for all the efforts they have made in the constructive work. We fully support this Global Soil Partnership. This morning when we took the floor, we said that soil is the basis for human life. It is also a prerequisite for future agricultural development. Therefore enhancing cooperation in Global Soil Partnership is really essential. We can also contribute to the food security therefore we fully support this Global Soil Partnership. However, there is a question we would like to make for clarification.

In part 5.1, paragraph 10, it says the GSP is a voluntary partnership open to Governments, international and regional organizations, institutions and other stakeholders.

Paragraph 10: is this part of the Article XIV Bodies of the Basic Texts of FAO? If it is within the Article XIV mandate, then we agree, otherwise we should negotiate because we should be careful. It is not open to everyone, so we can still keep and maintain FAO's independence.

Therefore, I would like to ask for a clarification on this paragraph. We should give high importance to this paragraph.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, agradecerle al trabajo que ha venido desarrollando la división encargada de preparar este documento y que preside el Señor Alexander Müller. E igualmente, agradecer al presidente del COAG por los esfuerzos y las negociaciones para que pudiéramos, para el día de hoy, presentar para aprobación de este Consejo el documento sobre la Alianza Mundial de los Suelos, y dar inicio en definitiva bajo estos Términos de Referencia a un trabajo que vamos a desarrollar en los próximos meses, en función de la formulación de esta propuesta.

Quisiéramos decir que el G77 y China, a nombre de quien estoy hablando ya en este momento, desde los primeros tiempos, ha apoyado este trabajo. Hemos tenido diversas presentaciones en nuestras sesiones plenarias y, por supuesto, hemos tenido también el tema del impulso que Tailandia ha venido dando acompañando a este esfuerzo, tanto con la presentación del Día Mundial como del Año Internacional, tema que va a ser tratado posteriormente.

De tal manera que, siendo la degradación de los suelos ese proceso silencioso aunque bastante visible, que probablemente no llama la atención directa de todos los que deben tomar las decisiones para establecer políticas y acciones concretas que redunden en su preservación, creemos que entre los objetivos que propone la Alianza pudiera permitirnos ese llamado de atención y, por supuesto, el reconocimiento y la promoción y apoyo para que se produzca la toma de conciencia de que debemos abordar el manejo de los suelos mediante una gestión sostenible, ya que solamente garantizando la salud del suelo pudiéramos garantizar el gran reto, que es la seguridad alimentaria para todos los que habitan esta tierra y, sobre todo, con las presiones que conllevaría proveer alimentos para el 2050 a una población de aproximadamente nueve mil millones de habitantes.

Abogamos por que este trabajo se desarrolle en consulta con los Países Miembros, que tengamos participación en lo posible de la manera más entusiasta y que podamos, en definitiva, ayudar, respaldar, con todo el trabajo científico que hacen sociedades que trabajan en este campo como lo indica este documento que ustedes han presentado hoy, con el conocimiento que tienen los grafólogos en el mundo y en nuestros países para que se elaboren Directrices con miras a una ordenación sostenible de este recurso que, como han dicho en la presentación que tuvimos del *Side Event*, así como lo han dicho otros Miembros acá, es el recurso que nos garantiza la vida.

Sin el recurso suelo no podemos garantizar la vida en el planeta, no solo para los humanos, sino la vida de las otras especies, plantas y animales que garantizan nuestra vida además.

De tal manera que yo les agradezco esta presentación y que puedan brindarnos a los Países Miembros las orientaciones para una necesaria revisión de la manera en que se ha conducido la utilización adecuada de un recurso tan ínfimo, tan poco, con el que cuentan los seres humanos en el Planeta para proveerse desde allí de las fuentes de alimentos que son para todos nosotros. Es de tal manera que el

G77 saluda y apoya el acuerdo al que se llegó, y aprueba esta Alianza Mundial de Suelos y el inicio de su trabajo.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia supports the establishment of a Global Soil Partnership and the associated Terms of Reference. Australia has been keenly involved in and supportive of the partnership. We believe that FAO is uniquely placed to lead and coordinate this initiative which we believe is a neat fit with FAO's land resources work. We acknowledge that the partnership is a platform that will require the close involvement and resources of many partners, and Australia is willing to provide support.

Mr Gudni BRAGASON (Observer for Iceland)

As mentioned by Cyprus, Iceland aligns itself with the EU statement. I would also like to thank Mr Müller and his team for the excellent work. We welcome the launch of the Global Soil Partnership last year. This is an important initiative which will be a valuable tool in the fight against soil degradation.

We would like to be active partners in this partnership, as demonstrated by an upcoming International Conference – allow me to mention this – on Soil Carbon Sequestration for Climate, Food Security, and Eco-system Services to be held in Iceland in May next year. In this context, we advocate soil restoration for climate change adaptation and mitigation, while at the same time providing opportunities for protective human use in a sustainable way.

Allow me to mention that my country has for centuries suffered erosion of its soil, caused by harsh nature, volcanic eruptions and exploitation of land and these conditions prompted us to establish a Government Soil Conservation Service more than a century ago.

We would like to share our know-how in this respect, to train specialists from developing countries to combat land degradation and soil degradation, restore damaged land and to assist strengthening institutional capacity and gender equality in the field of land restoration and sustainable land management. For this purpose, we have set up a United Nations University Programme, a Land Restoration Training Programme, aiming at assisting developing countries in capacity-building within this field.

Once again, we welcome this initiative, and believe that t FAO has a vital role to play in this field.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Mr Müller and Ambassador Mario Arvelo, thank you for the introductory remarks and clarification. Japan also would like to endorse the Terms of Reference of the Global Soil Partnership. We also look forward to the fruitful discussion in the Technical Workshop in the framework of GSP this week. It will be a good opportunity to review the state of the art, and discuss challenges and opportunities. A Japanese expert is pleased to participate in it.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Asia Group and as Chair of the Asia Group, let me first fully endorse the sentiments expressed by the Chairperson of the G77 and China, Ambassador Gladys Urbaneja Durán. Let me thank, Thailand, the FAO, Mr Alexander Müller, and my dear colleague Mario Arvelo, for an excellent document and the efforts that have been taken. Let me thank Thailand especially for having taken the initiative.

I think I will not be wrong in saying that the Global Soil Partnership is a *sine qua non* for world food security, and this is very important.

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

I would like to start with thanking the Member Nations for all of their support in the last months and I count on the continuous support, because this Global Soil Partnership will only be as strong as the inputs we receive because FAO is not only facilitating but it is providing the platform.

I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 where the Global Soil Partnership is defined as a voluntary initiative which does not create any legally-binding rights or obligations, and in paragraph 5 we are recalling Principle 2 of Rio Declaration 92 that States have the sovereign right to exploit their own natural resources. We are not interfering there. It is a voluntary partnership. However, what we are doing, as FAO, is facilitating a process where we can receive the highest technical and scientific input for the partnership.

So one of the key issues of this partnership is the InterGovernmental Panel of Technical Experts, and here I would like to reassure China that the reason we have chosen FAO as the platform is because FAO is a neutral facilitator. FAO is independent. There is no influence other than the decisions of the Governing Bodies. Therefore, there will be no interference with the neutrality and independency of FAO.

However, an Article XIV Body would mean that states would have to ratify legally-binding agreements, such as the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources, which was negotiated over years and the Terms of Reference and the Treaty have been ratified by states. This has created legally-binding obligations and also rights. This Global Soil Partnership is a voluntary initiative, and therefore it does not create any legally-binding rights and it is not an Article XIV Body.

Independence is guaranteed by FAO as the neutral facilitator based on the best available technical and scientific advice. Regarding collaboration with all stakeholders, I am mentioning this especially because of the question of the European Union. We know that we need the private sector to manage soils in a sustainable way. International organizations are not managing soils; farmers are managing soils, the private sector is managing soils. But what we can provide is the latest scientific information and we can translate it into action on the ground so that farmers have access to information and that the private sector has access to information. Therefore, we are looking forward to the broadest possible partnership in this Global Soil Partnership, and I have introduced it when we presented this Report.

This Report reflects the spirit of the Global Soil Partnership. We have received input from NGOs, from academia, from private sector, from Governments. Collaboration is the key word and this is what we are going to continue to do in the Global Soil Partnership. I hope I have answered the questions. This is, of course, work in progress and we will have to review all of the achievements after a certain period of time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci je crois que l'unanimité est faite sur ce Rapport. Donc, je vous propose la conclusion suivante, qui sera intégrée dans la conclusion du Comité de l'agriculture.

Le Conseil approuve le Mandat du Partenariat mondial sur les sols et recommande la mise en œuvre de cette initiative. En vue de cette future journée du 5 décembre pour les sols nous avons eu trois événements au Conseil ou en parallèle: l'adoption de la Journée mondiale, ce document et l'événement parallèle, donc je crois que nous avons déjà marqué une bonne journée sur les sols aujourd'hui.

Excusez moi je reviens juste un peu en arrière concernant le Point précédent que nous avons adopté, concernant le terme « éradiquer » dans le cadre du Point 6, pour qu'il n'y ait pas d'ambiguïté, il va de soi que l'accord passé concerne les Objectifs Stratégiques, mais ce qui a été modifié dans le cadre des buts de la FAO, éradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire, la malnutrition est maintenu et accepté.

16. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2013-16

16. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2013-2016

16. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2013-16

Le point 16: Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2013-2016. Conformément aux Textes fondamentaux (volume II, section D, résolution 8/2009 intitulée « Mise en œuvre des actions du Plan d'action immédiate relatives au Conseil de la FAO »). Le Conseil établit son programme de travail pluriannuel pour une période d'au moins quatre ans et il est un point permanent de l'ordre du jour du Conseil depuis que la Conférence, à sa 37^{ème} Session en 2011, a approuvé le premier Programme de

travail, et l'a reconnu comme un bon outil de planification. Vous voudrez bien noter les changements apportés au Programme de travail pluriannuel par rapport à la version soumise lors de la précédente Session, qui sont signalés par un astérisque dans le document.

Je vous demanderai ensuite d'examiner et d'approuver le Programme de travail pluriannuel pour 2016. Les délégués qui désirent intervenir sur ce point peuvent prendre la parole.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group has studied document CL 145/14, and wishes to express its gratitude to the Independent Chair of the Council for producing the Multi-year Programme Report for 2013-17. We also wish to thank the Secretariat of the Council for contributing to this cooperation.

The Multi-year Programme will, of course, assist the next Independent Chair of the Council in guiding the work of this Body. Chairperson, the Near East Group wishes to propose three minor suggestions. In the Annex on page 3 in the English text, the first bullet point refers to MTP and PWB. We suggest adding 2014-17 after MTP and 2014-15 after PWB. This will be done only once and not repeated again when references are made to MTP and PWB.

On page 5 of the Annex in the third bullet point at the top of the page, mention is made of Independent Evaluations. We suggest changing the word independent to "strategic" because all evaluations have to be independent. Chairperson, you will recall the Director-General on Monday when he addressed the Council. If I recall, he said that if evaluation is not independent, he doesn't want it. So, also the Council receives only strategic evaluations to the Programme Committee, not all evaluations.

The same change will have to be made in the Appendix, page 11 of the English text.

The last comment in the Appendix, that is Appendix to the Annex, paragraph 5, item 7, we suggest adding the words "management responses" after "independent evaluation" which will become "strategic evaluation".

Mme Sónia Cristina MARTINS (Cap-Vert)

Le Cap-Vert prend la parole sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique. Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la qualité de ce document que est un bon outil de planification pour les travaux du Conseil dans les prochaines années., Nous apprécions globalement les réajustements introduits dans ce Plan de travail notamment les actions du plan d'action immédiate qui ne pourront être menées à bien avant la fin de 2012 et qui seront intégrées dans les Organes directeurs en 2013.

Nous prenons note des décisions adoptées à la Réunion conjointe du Comité de programme et du Comité financier sur la mise en œuvre du PAI en novembre dernier, et nous soulignons l'importance d'avoir toujours une approche proactive et un dialogue régulier avec les Comités et les Groupes régionaux sur des questions clefs pour notre Organisation.

Monsieur le président, le Groupe Afrique juge très positif le fait d'avoir dans l'esprit les ajustements qui pourront être apportés au Calendrier des Sessions des Organes directeurs étant donné que des événements imprévisibles peuvent avoir un impact sur l'Ordre du jour du Conseil. Nous voudrions insister sur l'importance d'avoir un examen régulier des rapports intérimaires sur la mise en œuvre du PAI et nous nous réjouissons de l'attention particulière qui sera accordée à l'Évaluation des réformes de la gouvernance prévue dans la session, Point 2.74.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique apprécie le travail accompli à ce jour sur la base de nouvelles orientations qui ont été annoncées par le Directeur général de la FAO au début de cette année dans le cadre de la vision de changement transformationnel de l'Organisation. Dans ce contexte, le Groupe Afrique appuie le processus de réflexion stratégique entamé par le Directeur général, et réitère son plein engagement au renforcement du partenariat avec l'Organisation afin de créer les conditions nécessaires pour éradiquer la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président pour conclure, le Groupe Régional Afrique approuve le Plan de travail pluriannuel 2013.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Greece)

Je voudrais vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole à l'Union européenne. Chypre, la présidence actuelle de l'Union européenne va parler au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres.

Ms Christina PITTA (Observer for Cyprus)

Cyprus is speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes document CL 145/14, Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2013-16. We note that the MYPOW reflects many of the actions in the Immediate Plan of Action, and consider this document a good planning tool for the work of the Council for the coming years.

We think that a proposed consultation on the governance, including the role, responsibilities and resources of the Independent Chairperson of the Council should be included in the MYPOW.

The EU would like to stress the importance of securing the Calendar of the biennium to ensure the planned sequence of the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the inter-Sessional work done by the Independent Chair of Council using the existing informal structures. This work helps to maintain a good dialogue between the Membership.

Finally, the EU endorses the MYPOW for 2013-16.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

The United States thanks the FAO Secretariat for holding the Informal Seminars and consequently improving this draft of the Council's Multi-Year Programme of Work 2013-16.

We also find the draft agendas presented in the Appendix to be very useful. Improvements have been made to this document and the United States feels that the Council should endorse document CL 145/14 but we have the following comments.

In sections A through F, the indicators and targets are not as strong as they should be, the results and outputs are somewhat vague, and the activities and methods of work lack detail.

The document calls for "clear and precise decisions", and yet the document itself is not very clear and precise.

We believe that sections A through F of this document should continue to be modified and developed more fully by countries participating in a continued informal seminar process which would result in an improved document for presentation to the 146th Session of the Council for final approval.

Section G should be completely revised in order to be consistent with the information that has already been provided in Council document CL 145/10, Progress Report on the immediate Plan of Action implementation. Only after such information is consistent, the list of outstanding IPA actions may be presented to the 146th Council for consideration.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour ces remarques. Pour ce qui concerne l'Afghanistan et sa demande de changement ou d'ajout d'un certain texte en particulier par le remplacement « indépendante » par « stratégie », il n'y a aucun problème pour le faire. De même que je pense que les questions qui sont posées par les États-Unis concernant plus de détails doivent être ajoutées dans ce dossier et j'ai pris note aussi des éléments qui ont été évoqués par d'autres intervenants que ce soit le Groupe Afrique ou le Groupe de l'Union européenne.

Je vous propose comme projet de conclusion: «le Conseil prend note des changements apportés au Programme de travail pluriannuel par rapport la version précédente et demande des évolutions pour le programme pluriannuel de 2016 qui sera vu au Conseil d'avril, c'est-à-dire, que la demande qui a été formulée, on la renvoie en avril.

J'ai rajouté aussi que ce Plan pluriannuel doit s'intégrer dans le Plan stratégique. Bien sûr, il n'est pas en dehors du Plan stratégique, et à la demande aussi qui a été formulée de: «Encourage la coordination entre les Organes de gouvernance sous la responsabilité du Président indépendant du Conseil».

Donc, je relis: «Le Conseil prend note des changements apportés au Programme de travail pluriannuel par rapport à la version précédente et demande des évolutions pour adopter le Programme pluriannuel au Conseil d'avril. Ce programme doit s'intégrer dans le Plan stratégique. Le Conseil encourage la coordination entre les Organes du gouvernance sous la responsabilité du Président indépendant du Conseil».

On rassemble donc tout ce qui a été discuté et, au Conseil d'avril, on fera quelque chose de plus définitif. Cela permet de prendre le temps de le faire.

En ce qui concerne les questions posées concernant les objectifs dans le PAI, il reste comme cela jusqu'à la prochaine fois. Ils ont été énumérés et le dernier Conseil a demandé d'aboutir sur ces points là au prochain Conseil.

17. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 144th Session of the Council

17. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 144^{ème} Session

17. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 144.º período de sesiones

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous abordons donc le point 17: Suite à donner aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 144^{ème} Session de juin 2012.

Je donne donc la parole au Secrétaire, Monsieur Gagnon pour en faire rapidement un commentaire. Vous avez le document CL 145/LIM/4.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le format du tableau a été modifié depuis la dernière Session. Il présente chaque décision, comme cela avait été demandé, extraite du rapport du Conseil qui consiste en un ou plusieurs paragraphes accompagnés de leurs références entre parenthèse ainsi que des informations sur l'état d'avancement dans la mise en œuvre de chaque décision.

C'était pour vous expliquer comment était fait ce tableau. Bien sûr, on ne va pas vous représenter tout le tableau puisque vous l'avez eu auparavant, mais je vous ai expliqué le mode d'emploi.

M. Kouame KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

La délégation ivoirienne intervient au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique et félicite le Bureau et le Secrétariat pour la bonne conduite de nos travaux. Notre intervention porte sur le point 17 relatif à la suite à donner aux décisions adoptées lors de la 144^{ème} Session de juin 2012, document CL 145/LIM/4. Ce document traduit au mieux les importants efforts menés par l'Organisation pour exécuter les décisions du Conseil, important Organe de gouvernance de la FAO.

Le Groupe Afrique, au nom duquel nous nous exprimons, note avec satisfaction que les décisions prises par le Conseil dans sa 144^{ème} Session ont été prises en compte par la FAO. La présentation de l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions à travers un tableau synoptique permet d'avoir une visibilité plus nette des actions menées au sein de l'Organisation. La structuration sous la forme achevées, en cours ou pas encore commencées permet de donner des statistiques sur l'état d'exécution des dites décisions. Ainsi, au niveau des décisions relatives au Plan d'action immédiat et aux Conférences régionales, les décisions sont à plus de 80 pour cent au moins en cours d'exécution.

Au plan de la Décentralisation, le niveau d'exécution est en cours à 67 pour cent.

Quant aux ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et de budget 2012–2013, c'est avec une réelle satisfaction que nous avons noté que 80 pour cent des décisions ont été achevées.

Monsieur le Président, au regard de ce qui précède et considérées sous un angle quantitatif, nous pouvons noter que sur 68 décisions prises lors de la 144^{ème} Session du Conseil, 64 pour cent de l'ensemble de ces décisions sont effectivement en cours d'exécution, 24 sont complètement achevées et 12 pour cent n'ont pas encore été commencées. Nous gardons l'espoir que ces décisions seront exécutées.

Monsieur le Président, cependant au plan qualitatif, le Groupe Régional Afrique voudrait insister sur le faible taux des réalisations des décisions relatives à la Décentralisation. Cela reste encore un défi à relever. La politique de Décentralisation doit être accélérée et renforcée parce qu'elle fait partie des cinq piliers de la vision du Directeur général pour l'Organisation.

Par ailleurs, le Groupe Afrique attend avec beaucoup d'intérêt la mise en œuvre effective de toutes les décisions, notamment celles du domaine de la Décentralisation et de la prise en compte de l'équité et du genre. Cette politique de Décentralisation, si elle est bien menée permettra dans les années à venir d'augmenter la visibilité du travail de la FAO tout en œuvrant à proximité des vrais bénéficiaires qui sont les petits producteurs. C'est pourquoi, nous félicitons le Directeur général pour avoir mis l'accent sur cette Réforme de la FAO afin de mieux servir les Pays Membres, le succès d'un Programme de coopération technique et de certains aspects des changements transformationnels en dépendent.

Pour conclure, le groupe Afrique en appelle à tous les partenaires au nouveau local, national, régional et international pour faire de la Décentralisation une réalité en accord avec les décisions de la Conférence régionale tenue à Brazzaville.

Après avoir apprécié l'état d'avancement de l'exécution des décisions de la 144^{ème} Session, la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, invite le Conseil à adopter les informations contenues dans le document CL 145/LIM/4.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

In echoing the statement by the Africa Group, we would like to express warm appreciation to Mr Gagnon and his team, namely CPA instead of CSC I believe, for accommodating our request to change the format in the June Council. The document has been drastically improved, and now it's easy to read.

We have no major concerns. We wouldn't say we have no concerns, but we have no major concerns about the status of implementation, and we look forward to the continuous quality reporting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons pris note à la fois de la satisfaction mais aussi de la demande que toutes les décisions soient effectives. Je vous propose donc les conclusions suivantes:

Le Conseil prend note de la suite donnée aux décisions adoptées à sa 144^{ème} Session qui s'est tenue du 11 au 15 juin 2012, et demande qu'elles soient toutes mises en œuvre effective rapidement et le Conseil note avec satisfaction les améliorations apportées à la présentation du document.

20. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2012-14

20. Calendrier 2012-14 des Sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

20. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2012-14

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 20 qui est le Calendrier 2012–2014 des Sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et autres réunions principales. La FAO établit ce calendrier en étroite collaboration avec le FIDA et le PAM pour éviter les chevauchements des réunions, améliorer encore le système et éviter

que soient fixées des réunions autres que celles des Organes directeurs, mais qui intéressent la majorité des Représentants permanents. Les trois Organisations ont lancé un Calendrier commun sur le Web qui peut être consulté par tous les responsables des trois Organisations chargés de la programmation des réunions.

L'adresse pour accéder au site se trouve dans le document qui vous est présenté.

En ce qui concerne le Calendrier des réunions de 2012 à 2014, celui de 2012 a été mis à jour pour information et celui des réunions prévues en 2014 est également présenté pour information.

Quant au Calendrier des réunions prévues pour 2013, le Conseil est prié de l'examiner pour l'approuver. Toute modification apportée depuis la dernière Session lorsqu'il a été présenté pour information est signalée par un astérisque.

Peut-être Monsieur Gagnon, pouvez-vous indiquer les changements qu'il y a eu, mais il n'y en a pas eu beaucoup.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Tel qu'il apparaît dans le document CL 145/LIM/1 Rev.1, en 2013 des astérisques ont été inclus en ce qui concerne la réunion du CQCJ en mars, la réunion du Codex Alimentarius en juillet, la Conférence sur la nutrition+21 prévue du 13 au 15 novembre 2013, et finalement la 148^{ème} Session du Conseil qui est prévue du 2 au 6 décembre.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avez-vous des questions ou des remarques ? Si tel n'est pas le cas, voici les conclusions que nous proposons de transmettre.

- Le Conseil prend note du Calendrier 2012–2014 des Sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales pour 2014, et approuve les dates de réunions pour 2013.

- Le Conseil se félicite des efforts consentis en vue d'une meilleure coordination des trois Organisations ayant leur siège à Rome grâce à la mise à disposition en ligne d'un « Calendrier commun ».

Voilà ce qui sera transmis. J'en profite si vous me le permettez, bien que cela ne concerne pas 2013, mais 2014, pour faire part de mon expérience à l'ensemble du Conseil et surtout à mon remplaçant au moment opportun. Il s'agit du choix des dates des Conférences régionales et des différents Comités techniques. Nous avons dû avoir des négociations très importantes la dernière fois, car tout changement, bien que justifié, bouscule le calendrier d'une façon parfois difficile à gérer. C'est pour en avoir parlé avec le Directeur général il y a peu de temps, lorsque nous avons deux Conférences régionales qui se suivent sur des semaines entières, il est vrai qu'il est difficile de les organiser au plan physique et administratif. De même qu'il est nécessaire que les Comités techniques respectent la période de l'année dans laquelle ils doivent se tenir pour pouvoir transmettre leur rapport à la Session du Conseil concernée, et ce pour la bonne marche de notre Organisation. Nous y sommes presque arrivés l'année dernière et j'espère que ce sera parfaitement au point l'année prochaine.

21. Provisional Agenda for the 146th Session of the Council (2013)

21. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 146^{ème} Session du Conseil

21. Programa provisional del 146.º período de sesiones del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons au point 21, l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 146^{ème} Session du Conseil, qui doit se tenir en avril 2013.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Vous avez sous la cote CL 145/INF/2 le projet d'ordre du jour pour la 146^{ème} Session du Conseil, qui se tiendra en avril 2013.

C'est généralement parlant, l'ordre du jour standard que l'on retrouve à la Session du Conseil qui précède la Conférence biannuelle.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Concernant le prochain Conseil qui sera avant tout le Conseil de préparation de la Conférence, je vous rappelle à l'occasion que nous devons discuter du budget, et que suivant le PAI nous devons tirer des conclusions sur le budget pour les présenter à la Conférence.

Mme Hazar SASSI (Tunisie)

La Tunisie prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique au sujet du Point 21 concernant l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 146^{ème} Session du Conseil qui devrait se tenir en avril 2013.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du document qui nous est présenté et apprécie particulièrement sa clarté. Nous notons également avec satisfaction le processus d'examen régulier des Rapports issus des différents Comités techniques et l'attention particulière accordée au Plan à moyen terme 2014-17 et au Programme de travail et budget 2014-15.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique approuve l'Ordre du jour provisoire qui nous est présenté en estimant que celui-ci constitue un bon instrument de planification du travail de la prochaine Session du Conseil.

Mr Zulfiqar Haider KHAN (Pakistan)

I would like to say just a few words regarding an important item concerning legumes and pulses.

As you all know, pulses are an extremely important food item in terms of global nutrition and sustainability. Globally, around 67 million tonnes of pulses are grown on about 77 million hectares in a year. As you are all aware, they are a staple food produced by 172 countries of the world and are consumed in almost all the countries of the world. They are regarded as the main protein source in the developing countries, and around two billion people consume pulses in one form or the other.

In our opinion therefore, there is a lack of awareness about the benefits and the value of this important source of nutrition worldwide. Therefore, there is a great need to address this situation and raise the level of awareness in order to derive maximum benefits from this important crop.

In view of this, we would like to propose the inclusion of an item to the provisional agenda of 146th Session of the Council and include the International Year of Pulses on the Agenda and invite all the participants to give their kind support to have 2016 declared as the International Year of Pulses.

We would appreciate the kind support of the Council on this.

Ms Alison CLEMENT (Canada)

Please permit me to first extend my regards as this is my first opportunity to address the Council.

Canada supports Pakistan in its request to add consideration of an International Year of Pulses in 2016 to the Agenda of the Council Session in April 2013. As my colleague from Pakistan has noted, pulses are an excellent source of plant based protein for people around the world. They form part of the standard food basket used by the World Food Programme in response to emergency food situations, and can also play a positive role in improving the sustainability of agriculture.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

We would join the support for Pakistan's proposal for consideration of designation of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses for inclusion on the Council Agenda for the 146th Session.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

The United States is pleased to support this important effort and this proposal by Pakistan to raise the profile of pulses internationally, including within the UN System. Our position has always been that these events should be financed, however, by extra-budgetary contributions.

Mr Md. Ashadul ISLAM (Bangladesh)

We support the proposal of Pakistan to include in the Agenda of 146th Session of the Council to declare 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

We also want to support the proposal made by Pakistan for the International Year of Pulses to be in 2016.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

As well all know, the pulse is an important protein source for the poor. In fact, in my country, India, it is known as “poor man’s protein” so we would wholeheartedly support the proposal of Pakistan to celebrate 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. We would also request this to be put on the agenda of the 146th Session of the Council.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

Echoing the sentiments expressed by my colleague from India, I would like to say it is true that it is through supply of pulses to the poor that you can really gauge the pulse of the poor. Having said that, I would like to echo the sentiments of the previous speakers and thank Pakistan for this very meaningful proposal for the 146th Session that the 2016 be declared the International Year of Pulses.

Mr Mehmet BULUT (Observer for Turkey)

Turkey attaches high importance to the declaration of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Pulses are very important crops for nutrition, health, food security, sustainable agriculture, environment and for small-holder farmers.

To this end, we called for an action during the CFS 19th Session and arranged a Side Event during the CFS in October. We’d like to extend once more, our thanks to all participants for their interest in the event which also shows their support. Thus, we strongly support inclusion of an item on the International Year of Pulses in the Agenda of the 146th Session of the Council, and we hope that you will also support this proposal and declaration of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

We fully support Pakistan’s proposal. Pulses, in many parts of China, are not only a staple food, they are also feed for animals and sometimes used as fertilizers. Therefore, pulses can be a topic for an International Year. This is very significant, especially for developing countries and for backward parts of countries. Therefore, we also suggest to declare 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. We also hope the next Council will give this item very important attention.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I also join all of the previous speakers and support the proposal of Pakistan to include in the 146th Session of the Council an Agenda Item on the International Year of Pulses in 2016.

Mr Emmanuel ACHAYO (Observer for United Republic of Tanzania)

In recognizing the importance of pulses, the Tanzanian Delegation would also like to join Pakistan and others in the supporting the inclusion of the International Year of Pulses on the agenda of the next Council.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation de la République du Congo fait sienne les propositions de la Tanzanie qui est intervenue au nom du Groupe Afrique, de la Tunisie et de l’Érythrée. Nous voulons aussi appuyer la

proposition du Pakistan en insérant ce point à l'Ordre du jour, connaissant l'importance des légumineuses, notamment dans les pays africains où l'énergie est une énergie qui provient du bois. Les légumineuses sont des cultures à croissance rapide qui peuvent permettre également d'avoir du bois pour le chauffage.

Nous appuyons également cette proposition parce qu'avec les légumineuses on peut fertiliser les sols, avec ce qu'on appelle les légumineuses arborescentes. Nous appuyons cette proposition parce qu'au niveau africain, la grande partie des protéines provient des légumineuses.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

We join the Africa Group, and also other Representatives, in supporting the proposal by Pakistan to include in the agenda of the 146th Session of the Council that 2016 be the Year of Pulses.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Previamente hice una consulta con los distinguidos Representantes de Pakistán que han tenido a bien hacer esta presentación para que sea considerada en abril en el próximo 146.º período de sesiones del Consejo. Pero estábamos conversando de otros asuntos referidos a las fechas que ya tiene programadas la FAO para celebrar que es el próximo año el Año Internacional de la Quinoa; el año siguiente es el Año de la Agricultura Familiar, el año 2014, y luego el 2017 que estamos promoviéndolo como el Año Internacional de los Suelos. Por tanto, sería un tema que muy bien está en asomarlo en el 146.º período de sesiones del Consejo, y allí se tomará la decisión.

Al parecer otras agencias de Naciones Unidas pudieran quedar incluidas en el lapso que haya entre el 2014 y el 2017 pero, sin embargo, yo soporto ese tema de que haya un Año Internacional de las Leguminosas. Efectivamente, como han dicho distintos Miembros, es un producto excepcional que además de ser un recurso alimentario como bien lo han indicado quienes me han antecedido, es un recurso alimentario para los pobres. También es cierto que contribuye a la conservación y a la preservación del nitrógeno en los suelos, de tal manera que son tantas las bondades que tienen las leguminosas para la alimentación humana y la alimentación animal que estamos totalmente de acuerdo como República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

También sabemos que en el Grupo del G77 y China en los meses por venir estaremos apoyando la propuesta de Pakistán para ver su canalización y para que sea posible celebrar ese año.

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente y gracias a Pakistán por su propuesta.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to go along with the majority of the Council Members to include the International Year of Pulses on the Agenda of the next Council. Two points, if we may add. Firstly, the same point as the Venezuelan Delegation just stated; International Year of Soils is going to be declared, which we have just discussed in this Council, so we need to think about the order of declaring International Years.

Secondly, regarding financing referred to by the United States Delegation, we need to recall the principles regarding the International Years which we adopted in the last Council session.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien je crois que c'est clair, nous inscrivons l'année internationale à l'Ordre du jour, puisque c'est unanime, mais je tiens quand même à préciser que nous l'inscrivons à l'Ordre du jour avec toutes les réserves qui ont été évoquées, en particulier celle des dates. Ce sera le prochain Conseil qui prendra la décision.

Je vous propose donc les conclusions pour ce Point 2. Le Conseil a examiné l'Ordre du jour provisoire de sa 146^{ème} Session en avril 2013 et décide d'y ajouter un point supplémentaire intitulé: « Année internationale des légumineuses ». Est-ce qu'il faut que je mette « Année internationale des légumineuses en 2016 » ou simplement « Année internationale des légumineuses » ?

En mettant 2016, on prend déjà une décision. Ce sujet étant très sensible compte tenu de ce qui a été dit sur les sols et sur d'autres années internationales.

Je vous propose de prendre les choses les unes après les autres et de mettre: « Année internationale des légumineuses ». Et en Conseil, nous aviserons.

Mr Zulfiqar Haider KHAN (Pakistan)

A brief comment here. Thank you very much for the support, and we would like to have this debated in the next Council as it comes up for discussion but, for the record, let it be stated that this has no budgetary implications. Only extra-budgetary resources would be used. There are no financial implications as far as the countries are concerned here.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est pour ça que je préfère qu'on mette « Année internationale des légumineuses » à l'ordre du jour et on évoquera tous ces sujets pendant la présentation. Le Point 21 est clos.

24. Working Methods of the Council

24. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

24. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 24: Méthodes de travail du Conseil et je donne tout de suite la parole à Louis Gagnon, le Secrétaire Général, pour qu'il nous fasse part des dernières innovations mises en place pour améliorer encore les méthodes de travail du Conseil.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Alors, parmi les innovations mises en place proposées pour améliorer les services fournis aux États Membres et conformément aux recommandations du PAI, je voudrais citer:

- Le document « Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 144^e Session ». Pour tenir compte des observations des délégués formulées lors de la dernière Session du Conseil, le tableau fournissant les informations et référant les décisions prises par le Conseil est à présent assorti d'une synthèse en trois colonnes précisant l'état de la mise en œuvre de chacune des décisions: achevées, en cours ou pas encore commencées.
- De plus, à compter de la présente Session du Conseil, le Site web des Représentants permanents de la FAO offre la possibilité à chacun de suivre à distance et en direct les débats du Conseil. La Vidéo de chaque Session y est diffusée en streaming.
- Troisièmement, la mise en ligne, depuis le mois dernier du Bulletin mensuel destiné aux Représentants permanents, ce bulletin donne un aperçu des activités de la FAO qui se sont déroulées dans le mois précédent, et sa publication met en lumière les événements à venir.
- Quatrièmement, le Site web des Représentants permanents de la FAO possède une nouvelle page intitulée « social gazette » sur laquelle les Représentants permanents peuvent publier des informations non officielles et où ils peuvent se connecter aux Réseaux sociaux comme Twitter.
- Cinquièmement, la publication sur la Page web du Conseil, des informations sur les Événements parallèles tenus pendant cette Session.
- En six, le développement d'une application pour iPhone du site web des Représentants Permanents de la FAO. Elle sera disponible en ligne à l'adresse qui figurera demain dans l'Ordre du jour.
- En sept, le Salon slovaque, qui sera en principe aménagé comme espace dédié exclusivement aux Représentants des États Membres.

Enfin, la proposition à partir de la Session d'avril 2013 de programmer le point concernant l'évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO, le vendredi matin avant ou après éventuellement un événement parallèle. Cette nouvelle disposition aurait l'avantage d'éviter de précipiter l'examen de ce point à la fin des travaux essentiels du Conseil le mercredi après-midi. Elle permettrait aussi de disposer de plus de temps en séance plénière le mercredi après-midi pour des

débats sur des points appelant des directives ou des décisions de la part du Conseil. Et enfin, le temps des Délégués serait ainsi mis à profit le vendredi matin, en attendant l'adoption du rapport prévu en séance plénière l'après-midi.

M. Aristide ONGONE OBAME (Gabon)

Ma délégation intervient brièvement sur ce point de notre Ordre du jour au nom de la Région Afrique.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de saluer la volonté qui anime le Secrétariat, pour rendre nos travaux plus concis dans le cadre d'une bonne gouvernance de cette organisation d'une part, et de la révision périodique des Méthodes de travail du Conseil d'autre part. Monsieur le Président, quels commentaires nous suggère cette note qui date d'avril 2011? Il convient de rappeler tout d'abord que la note, objet de ce point, incluse dans le document CL 141/17, intègre les modifications apportées aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, modifications relatives au rôle, aux fonctions, aux pratiques et Méthodes de travail du Conseil, suite aux réformes exigées en matière de gouvernance, dans le Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO, adopté par la Conférence en 2008. Cette note souligne le rôle essentiel du Conseil en tant qu'Organe exécutif de la Conférence, notamment en matière de stratégie, de programme et de budget comme rappelé dans la partie 2A de la présente note Fonction du Conseil. Cette note à mettre régulièrement à la disposition des participants aux travaux du Conseil, tel que stipulé au paragraphe 31, a pour objet de renforcer également l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, comme souhaité par tous les Membres de cette organisation. Cette efficacité, nous la retrouvons encore aujourd'hui au travers des documents qui nous ont été soumis.

Monsieur le Président, nous avons eu en effet à examiner au cours de cette Session du Conseil, des documents soulignant l'essentiel des préoccupations permanentes de nos États Membres. Nous avons été saisis d'un rapport faisant ressortir de façon claire les conclusions, les décisions et les recommandations issues des délibérations des Organes directeurs conformément aux préconisations du Plan d'action immédiate. Nous avons assisté à des présentations brèves, centrées sur des questions mises en avant dans les divers documents. Nous avons assisté à des travaux intéressants sous votre conduite. Cette note, de notre point de vue, est conforme aux dispositions pertinentes des Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. En conséquence, nous demandons qu'il constitue un élément de référence pour la bonne conduite des travaux du Conseil, Monsieur le Président, pour terminer, je ne sais pas si cette note nous est soumise pour approbation, si c'est le cas, la région Afrique recommande au Conseil de l'approuver.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'est pas dans l'Ordre du jour d'adopter ou non cette note, c'est une note d'information qui a été présentée par Monsieur Gagnon. En plus de cette note, les évolutions concernant le Conseil seront bien sûr progressivement avancées.

J'en profite aussi pour dire que les Réunions Informelles des Présidents de Groupes régionaux qui se réunissent avec moi à peu près tous les mois et demi ont contribué aussi à apporter des demandes nouvelles dont s'est saisi le Secrétariat.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Just a question of clarification concerning the transformation of the Slovak Room. How will that be financed? Perhaps we can get some more information on this from you, Mr Gagnon.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons eu l'autre jour l'occasion de discuter avec les Présidents régionaux et avons abordé aussi le niveau d'équipement nécessaire et le financement Monsieur Gagnon va vous donner quelques informations à ce sujet.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We discussed this at the last meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Regional Groups, and I was able to present two or three different scenarios. Depending on the level of the refurbishing, we are

talking about, it went from approximately USD 50 to 55 thousand and I mentioned, in responding to the very same question as was put to us at the meeting, that we would need to explore with colleagues in the Finance Division, which source of funding would be available for this and that we would report back to Chairs and Vice-Chairs when we regrouped at the next meeting.

But I can say that one possibility to explore was to see if a specific item under the IPA budget could be used for that purpose, specifically, the IPA budget related to governance.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En effet le principe de mettre à disposition le Salon slovaque est acquis, l'aménagement est à discuter et l'on verra en fonction des dépenses si cela peut se faire dans les limites du budget établi.

Pour l'instant, la décision est prise pour le Salon slovaque et l'aménagement sera décidé par la suite.

Sur ce Ooint 24, je transmets pour projet de conclusion:

Le Conseil prend note avec satisfaction des innovations mises en place et se félicite des constants efforts consentis par le Secrétariat pour améliorer ses services et Méthodes de travail.

25. Any Other Matters

25. Autres questions

25. Asuntos varios

25.3 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

25.3 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel

25.3 Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous sommes rendus au Point 25, avec le Point 25.3: Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel. C'est un point qui a été ajouté le premier jour.

Je donne la parole à Louis Gagnon.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

En raison du départ à la fin de leur mandat de deux Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel, il est proposé de nommer: Madame Andrea Repetti, Représentante permanente suppléante de l'Argentine auprès de la FAO, comme membre jusqu'au 31 décembre 2014, en remplacement et jusqu'à la fin du mandat de Monsieur Carlos Bentancour. Il est aussi proposé de nommer Monsieur Stetson A. Sanders, Deuxième Secrétaire des États-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO, comme membre suppléant, jusqu'au 31 décembre 2013, en remplacement et jusqu'à la fin du mandat de Monsieur Keith Heffern.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Gagnon. Avez-vous des remarques à formuler? Je vous demande donc de les élire par acclamation, ils méritent bien vos applaudissements.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Madame, Monsieur, bon courage.

Mr Le Mamea Ropati MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

I would like to put forward a request to you sir for your permission to speak on an issue not on any of the Reports put forward for discussion in this Council, an issue which is very important and so precious to our Delegation and I am sure to more than the 14 other Member Nations of FAO in the Southwest Pacific Island Countries in our Region.

The Membership of our Organization, FAO, currently stands at 191 countries. This Membership is divided into seven demographic regions. These regions are allotted a number of seats in the 49 Member Council, according to the number of countries in the Region. For example, the 48 countries for Africa are allotted 12 seats in the Council. That is a ratio of one seat per four Member Nations. For the 48 Member Nations of Europe, with 10 Council seats, that's about one seat per five countries, a ratio of one to five.

For the 23 Member Nations of Asia with 9 Council seats, that's about one seat per 2.5 countries. The 21 Member nations of the Near East with its 6 Council seats, that's about one seat per 3.5 countries. The 33 Member Nations of Latin America and the Caribbean with 9 Council seats, that's about one seat per 3.6 countries. For the two countries of North America with two Council seats, that's a ratio of one seat per one country.

For the 16 Member Nations of our Region, or the Southwest Pacific, with its one seat currently occupied by Australia, that's one seat representing 16 countries of our Region. From what I have outlined above, you will notice a huge disparity in the distribution of Council seats between the regions. I will, therefore, implore you, Members of FAO, to please look into this very important issue in the case of fairness and good governance.

May I also say that of all the countries of the world, I think you will concur with me that our 18 or so Small Island Countries in the vast Pacific Ocean are the most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters like cyclones and tsunamis, etc.

In our meeting on Monday, 3 December, this week during discussions of the Report of the Committee on Fisheries, document C 2012/24, I presented a lengthy speech on the issues raised in the Report. The reason, Mr Chairman and Delegates, because we are very passionate about fisheries, especially tuna fisheries is because it is our livelihood. Our Organization is called FAO. That is Food and Agriculture Organization, not agriculture and food organization, so food is very important and fish is the most important food for all of us, but especially us residing in the Pacific Island Countries.

I do not want to bore you any longer with a long speech by this old man from the Pacific, but I implore you Mr Chairman and distinguished Members of this Council to please add two more Council seats for the Southwest Pacific Sub-region for the sake of fairness, of representation and good governance. Please give us the Small Island Countries of the Pacific a chance to be represented in this Council and thus enabling us to contribute to the decision-making process of FAO, a very important Organization of the United Nations.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman and thank you for this very important opportunity.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Ministre, votre requête est bien prise en compte et je vous remercie de votre participation active.

Je réponds simplement à cette question. Dans le cadre du PAI, le point intitulé « Modification de la Composition du Conseil » a été suspendu, suite à de nombreuses discussions avec mon prédécesseur et avec moi-même. Il ne tient qu'au Conseil de décider de le reprendre sur les bases qui ont été évoquées, mais ce n'est pas le cas aujourd'hui puisque nous avons dit qu'il était reporté, avant la fin de l'année 2015. Ainsi, votre requête a bien été entendue et si les Membres du Conseil, par l'intermédiaire des Présidents des Groupes régionaux souhaitent que ce point soit abordé au prochain Conseil, cela sera fait pour prendre en compte la représentation globale au Conseil et non pas uniquement le cas de votre Région.

Encore une fois, merci de votre participation assidue et permanente.

En ce qui concerne le point sur les « Questions diverses », j'ai été saisi d'une demande du personnel pour s'exprimer devant vous, ce qu'il va faire, avec l'accord du Directeur Général, et sans débat.

Ms Susan MURRAY (Deputy General Secretary, Union of General Service Staff)

Good afternoon. My name is Susan Murray. I am the Deputy Secretary-General of the UGSS and I speak on behalf of both Staff Representative Bodies of FAO.

Mr Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, it is indeed an honour and a pleasure for us to be here today to address the Council on specific issues that are very pertinent for staff members at FAO.

Before we enter into this discussion, we would first like to take the opportunity to thank the Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, for once again allowing us the opportunity to voice our concerns and observations at Council regarding the most recent developments within the Organization.

In this connection, we would like to highlight the fact that the Staff Representative Bodies are very interested in the outcome of the transformational changes that are currently underway and indeed in the outcome of any future transformational changes.

We are specifically referring to the impact on staff morale emanating from this prolonged period of uncertainty. As Mr Graziano da Silva said before his election as Director-General, the Reform underway should inevitably reach its conclusion otherwise the Organization runs the risk of becoming too inward looking to the detriment of its work mandate. The Staff Representative Bodies therefore feel that the Reform effort must have a sunset clause, that is, a beginning and an end so that the FAO staff members may begin to focus on the Organization's already challenging mandate.

The Staff Representative Bodies would like to apprise the Council of what we can only define as improving staff management relations. In this connection, we very much look forward to a continuation of the very valuable and effective staff management dialogue that has already been instrumental in sorting out some contentious issues before they reached unmanageable proportions.

Among the issues still under discussion are: the outcome of the salary survey results for the GS category. The staff believes that both the methodology and its application during the Rome Salary Survey are flawed, and we are disappointed with the outcome. We hope that our views will be given due consideration within the spirit of an effective consultative process. It is our fervent wish that this matter be settled in a satisfactory matter for all actors concerned in the interest of harmonious staff management relations.

In a similar vein, the Staff Representative Bodies are very much concerned about the nature of non-staff Human Resources contracts currently issued by the Organization and the potential for difficulties as a result of these contracts. We would hope that a more equitable mechanism would be identified by Management so that the colleagues working under these contracts are remunerated on the basis of equal pay for equal work.

The Staff Representative Bodies are also very hopeful that the recruitment process for Professional staff members may be effectively streamlined including the checks and balances, not to mention the legitimacy that the Professional Staff Selection Committee currently provides.

The Staff Representative Bodies are very grateful that the ICSC has recommended that the mandatory age of separation be increased to age 65, no later than the 1 January 2014 for new recruits. However, the Staff Representative Bodies are also very keen for this new mandatory age of separation to be extended to current staff on a voluntary basis. The Staff Representative Bodies feel that the extension for both new and current staff would go a long way in alleviating the current Pension Fund deficit. We therefore look forward to the Report of the ICSC to be presented at its July 2013 Session where this feasibility will be thoroughly discussed.

In terms of administrative processes, the Staff Representative Bodies feel that the Organization has gone a long way in developing IT systems that improve the way in which we work. We are having some teething problems with the recently-instituted GRMS and we look forward to further

functioning of the system to make it fully operational as well as more training for staff members to make them fully operational in the use of GRMS.

One final point, The Staff Representative Bodies would like to congratulate the Organization for the effective selection process leading to the appointment of the new Director of Human Resources. Needless to say, we very much look forward to similarly effective selection processes taking place for the appointment of the new Assistant Director-General, CS, the new Senior Officer/Staff Relations and the Ombudsman and are hopeful that the Organization will make the announcements regarding these appointments in the not-too-distant future. The Staff Representative Bodies feel that with these new actors in place, staff management relations could only be enhanced.

Winston Churchill once said, "I suppress with difficulty an impulse to become sententious". The Staff Representative Bodies would therefore do likewise by not making this address any longer than necessary. So without further adieu, the Staff Representative Bodies would once again wish to thank the Director-General and the Council Members for giving us the opportunity to voice our observations and our concerns. Thank you most kindly.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Murray. Je crois que c'était important que vous puissiez transmettre à l'ensemble des Membres du Conseil vos préoccupations, en tant que membres du personnel.

22. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

22. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO

22. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 22: Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO, document CL 145/INF/6, dans le cadre duquel seront faites six interventions, qui seront présentées par Monsieur Juan Lubroth, Chef de Service de santé animale à la Division de la production et de la santé animale, Département de l'agriculture et de la protection des consommateurs; Monsieur Jomo Sundaram, Sous-Directeur général du Département du développement économique et social- qui est déjà intervenu ce matin; Monsieur Alexander Müller, Sous-Directeur général du Département de la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, que je n'ai pas besoin de vous présenter; Mme Linda Collette, Secrétaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, Département de la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement; Mme Marcela Villarreal, que nous avons également écouté hier, Directrice par intérim, Bureau de la communication, des partenariats et des activités de plaidoyer; et enfin, Monsieur Daniel Gustafson, Directeur général adjoint (Opérations).

Comme vous en avez été informés, je compte sur vous pour que les présentations restent dans la limite des 5 minutes afin d'avoir le temps de pouvoir répondre éventuellement à quelques questions. Je propose que les questions ne soient posées qu'à la fin de toutes les interventions.

Video Presentation

Présentation video

Videopresentación

Mr Juan LUBROTH (Animal Health Division)

Good afternoon. You have just seen FAO's video commissioned by the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework on the importance of prevention. My name is Juan Lubroth. I am the Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO.

You would think that I would be speaking to you mainly about animal health but I want to introduce to you the concept or the approach of One Health. One Health is basically understanding how interconnected our well-being is to animals, terrestrial or aquatic, wild or domestic, to crops and to the food we produce and eat in a shared eco-system.

One Health is therefore necessary to ensure adequate nutrition, food safety and food security. The health and nutrition of all of us depends upon a complex system from production to consumption, crops, food processing, animal feed, trade, and the environment, including water and natural resources.

So in this complex system of production, marketing and meeting consumer needs, it is clear that the food chain is really not a chain at all. It is a web of inter-connectivity. One Health and the One Health approach addresses multiple disciplines coming together to ensure that the food chain or web is safe, and that the world's natural resources are properly managed.

FAO amasses this concentration of knowledge and technical expertise through policies for sustainable development, early warning, disease intelligence, and timely response, legislation and compliance, strategies for the prevention and control of diseases and pests including bio-security for production systems, capacity-development at local, national, regional and global level, and public private partnerships including other types of collaborations.

FAO is a One Health Organization. The application of One Health principles will benefit families and civil society, promote safe trade and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers or livestock keepers affected by threats through improved risk assessments and their improved management. Thank you. One Health for all, invest in prevention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour cette présentation très intéressante sur le sujet « une seule santé » qui est un élément essentiel aussi de notre travail sur le terrain.

J'invite à présent Monsieur Jomo Sundaram à nous rendre compte du « Programme d'action des Nations Unies en faveur du développement après 2015, informations actualisées sur l'Équipe spéciale de haut niveau sur la crise mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire, Rio+20 et CIN+21 ».

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Allow me to brief you on various processes in which the FAO is involved. The Post 2013 to Post 2015 process, the Rio+20 process as well as the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition+21.

Following Rio, there are four parallel processes which are taking place principally led in New York. The General Assembly is involved in discussing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the Follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference held last June principally around the whole question of sustainable development goals. Furthermore, there is a High-Level Panel led by President Yudhoyono, President Sirleaf Johnson and Prime Minister Cameron which is involved in discussions to make recommendations on the Post-2015 Process.

In addition, the United Nations Development Group has initiated a hundred national level consultations on these matters. The FAO is particularly involved in ensuring that hunger, food and nutrition security remain high on the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. In this connection, we are currently involved and leading an e-consultation since the middle of last month. We will also be involved in February next year in consultations with CSF stakeholders and then in March of next year we will be involved in the High-level Consultation in Madrid.

ICN+21 is scheduled for November 2013 here in Rome, and is being organized by FAO together with the World Health Organization. It intends to raise the profile of nutrition challenges after the ICN Conference two decades ago. In addition, we hope to identify the consensus for global nutrition policy priorities and framework, and to mobilize resources and the political will necessary to make greater progress on nutrition.

The High-Level Task Force of the Secretary-General of the United Nations continues to work. We are now at a crossroads with the Director-General becoming the Vice-Chair of the High-Level Task Force.

This has involved a number of different activities, most importantly there have been two reviews of the work of the High-Level Task Force on its functioning and role in 2011 and currently there is a process involving examination of the work of the Secretariat. This will lead to a revisiting of the Terms of Reference of the High-Level Task Force, probably involving consensus around questions of advocacy and ensuring greater and better international coordination. Much of this will involve the comprehensive framework for action which has been revised three times, and the Zero Hunger Challenge announced by the Secretary-General at the Rio+20 Conference in June this year.

These different processes are coming together in very important ways, and it is extremely important that we involve the Member Nations. The Member Nations processes, as I identified in the first slide, are crucial. They will determine what will happen with the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It will also determine what happens as far as the sustainable development goals are concerned.

We will need to work very closely with all of you here in Rome. We will need to work closely with your colleagues in New York. But the road from Rome to New York is not a very direct road and involves many complications. It is very important, therefore, that we work very effectively in the months and years ahead. There are many channels for this. The Committee on World Food Security is working directly with you, the Permanent Representatives, the FAO Representatives in various countries and, of course, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition will be very important.

We are now trying to secure greater cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies and it is also important for us to seek your strong and effective presence in New York. I would like to emphasize that we intend to focus primarily on a number of key issues relating to the principal mandates of the FAO to ensure focus on the work which we do and our contribution to these processes, as well as focus on advocacy, which we hope you will be strongly involved with.

Finally, I would like to suggest that it would be useful to strengthen these efforts by including a consideration of Post-2015 processes at the next FAO Conference in the middle of next year and also to consider this as an Agenda Item for the round of Regional Conferences in 2014.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Sundaram. Je donne maintenant la parole à Monsieur Alexander Müller, pour un exposé sur le «Activités relatives à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC)».

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

What I would like to do in my brief presentation is to update you on the ongoing negotiations in Doha COP 18 Climate Change Conventions, and I would like to inform you what was FAO's contribution, including special focus on where are we with regards to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. And I have to say this can only be an interim update because, as you all know, the negotiations are ongoing and very often a conclusion will only be found at the last minute. So, therefore, this is preliminary and this can absolutely not represent the final result.

The overarching message we have brought to the Climate Change Convention and to the negotiations is that we have to link the two goals. On the one hand, there is the need of achieving food security for all with sustainable management of natural resources and agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. I have to say we have already used the new Strategic Framework as an entry point to make sure how cross-cutting these issues are. You will see agriculture first, then fisheries, and you will see that they are fully in line because they have a very important role to play in reducing the number of hungry people in increasing food production based on sustainability, and in avoiding dangerous climate change.

As you know, the international community has agreed on the two degree goal, that is, the average temperature increase of two degrees, but we should be aware that greenhouse gas emissions go far beyond two degrees. We are on a path to 3.5 to 4 degree increase and this could lead, in some regions of the world, to real dramatic situations. Therefore, our message of linking adaptation to changing

climate conditions is critical to achieve food security. Independent of any outcome of the COP's adaptation, this is a matter of urgency, and we can offer agriculture as part of the solution.

FAO is contributing to UNFCCC in two ways and here I have to say that FAO is not a Party to the Convention. You the countries, are Parties. We are only supporting the countries and on request of the countries, the Convention. Therefore, building on our long-standing experience on the ground, we are providing countries with technical support and we are a platform to share knowledge and experience, especially regarding adaptation.

And it becomes more and more important for countries to be sharing experiences and for FAO to offer to serve as neutral facilitator and independent body. At the same time, and this is our second entry point, when we are participating in meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FAO shares information on our own programmes, tools, and documents that can help countries to achieve their food security goals in the changing climate.

And for me personally, after having participated in some of the Climate Change Convention meetings, there is a difference now. Countries are requesting additional information on adaptation, especially as regards agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, because the experience is that. Climate change is already happening, and FAO can provide a lot of inputs and support to countries, as well as support the process if the countries want us to do so.

So I would like now to come to the interim update. Agriculture has gained increasing attention in the negotiations in Durban. Durban has changed the landscape. The successful leadership of South Africa in Durban has really brought us to a different situation where agriculture plays a more and more important role in the negotiations. And, by the way, this is also of importance for the countries because internally, you can see more and more that at the Climate Change Convention meetings, the Ministers and their staff are negotiating on agricultural issues. Personally, I have not seen many Ministers of Agriculture at the Climate Change negotiations, so I believe that the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, and Fisheries in the preparatory work and at the negotiations is something we have to continue to discuss here.

Second, it is very clear that more technical dialogue is required. Adaptation to climate change is not business as usual. We have good practices. We have first experiences. We can share information but if we apply a risk management approach, it is very clear that more technical work is required. However, I would like to say that despite this consensus that adaptation is important, there is not yet a decision on the future of agriculture in the negotiations because Member Nations are negotiating the entire package and they do not want to get an agreement on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries by not having come to an agreement on the second commitment period of Annex 1 countries of the Kyoto Protocol. Therefore, it is the package that is important, and of course we are not interfering in this because this is not our mandate.

But we can see that adaptation and agriculture will remain on the agenda and will become increasingly important. And adaptation is the entry point. My feeling in the negotiations was that there is really a consensus that we have to focus on mitigation. However, there is also ongoing discussion – can agriculture also contribute to mitigation? Highly political and our position was always that increased management or sustainable management also can contribute to mitigation and at the same time increase food production because this highly political issue is not an issue which we could address.

The second area where we had intensive discussions was UN- REDD-plus, Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation and Deforestation. There is, again, an increasing demand for FAO and for our partners, especially in the UN-REDD partnership of UNEP, UNDP, and FAO, on National Forest Monitoring Systems and the famous MRV, Measurement Reporting and Verification, to assist.

We have made a lot of progress and I would like to inform you that the UN/REDD partnership now has 44 Member Nations as participants, and we have 16 national programmes on the ground where we are supporting countries to prepare for REDD developing their capacities on MRV.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice will, however, not forward a decision to COP because there is still an outstanding critical issue, verification. Countries did not achieve a consensus on how to verify the measurements in the reports. Again, this is a highly political issue. We have been asked to provide a lot of technical input but the decision remains with the countries.

There is progress in financing REDD-plus activities. However, again, and this is always within the Climate Change negotiations, and linked to the broader question of how will the international community find an agreement on financing the Green Climate Fund? 100 billion by 2020. Therefore, REDD is very much linked to this.

I have to say, in our UN-REDD partnership, we have now mobilized around USD 125 million to support countries. This is outside of the Green Climate Fund, and we will continue to mobilize money for this support. And, again, agriculture is an important component of REDD. We have received many requests from countries to support them in stopping their deforestation. This is related to agriculture because, REDD does not focus entirely on trees. It looks at the entire system of increased productivity, sustainability, water, and agriculture. We are currently in the process, with our UN-REDD partnership, of increasing the scope of the support of all 44 Member Nations.

What did we do in Doha at COP 18? We had two Special Events organized by FAO and one official Side Event on Agriculture and Climate Change where we presented our technical contribution with inputs from all Technical Departments and had an intensive debate. We also had organized an FAO Knowledge Event on Climate Smart Approaches because we wanted to present FAO as a knowledge Organization and as the neutral platform where we could exchange information.

I had the pleasure to be invited to make a presentation to the SBSTA of UNFCCC and to present the conclusions of the last CFS meeting. I have to say it was a real pleasure because I could present the outcome of an interGovernmental negotiation process, the result of your hard work, and a lot of the people there were not aware that we had come to an agreement on the difficult issue of climate change and agriculture. I read word by word your decision and afterwards, we received many requests to disseminate this text. We have also distributed the Report and the decisions of CFS to the participants.

There was a High-Level System Side Event on Food Security and Drylands under Changing Climate. Our Director-General, as you know, could not participate because, in parallel, we had the Council meeting. We had also received a lot of requests to participate in other meetings. It was impossible to go to all of the meetings where we had been invited. What we are doing now is following-up on the negotiations. We will organize the provision of technical advice upon the request by Member Nations. And, of course, we had a booth; there were a lot of publications and a lot of information which we provided to the countries.

The very last slide; the way forward. FAO is the best placed to provide a platform for technical policy dialog that can help build common understanding. One of the key issues in the climate change negotiations is builds trust, work together, and the work we have organized and the technical capacity we can offer is recognized by all countries, independent of their position in other political issues. We can also provide services on capacity development of Member Countries in their two areas which are of growing importance; adaptation and I might remind you on the information document we have presented to COAG on FAO's adaptation strategy, we will have to work more on adaptation. We will organize after COP, more work on adaptation because this is the key issue of the countries and some countries also want us to do small work on mitigation. You can see in the brackets, where appropriate, I am not entering any difficulties in the discussion here.

The second area is reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including issues relates, as I already said, to measurement reporting and verification as well as, and this is broadening the scope, governance, legal preparedness. We had an intensive discussion on tenure. We presented the voluntary guidelines and it was very clear that these guidelines are well recognized at this level, as one of the very few international guidelines, voluntary guidelines of course, which could support the process towards reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

A lot, a lot of work, a lot of requests from countries but I think it is worthwhile to collaborate. My very last sentence is I will come back to the donors of FAO to request additional support for our work.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Müller. La parole est maintenant à Madame Linda Collette pour nous présenter les « Conclusions de la 11^{ème} Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique ».

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I will be sharing with you the main relevant outcome of the 11th Conference of the Parties of the CBD, which is the Convention on Biological Diversity. I will illustrate the recognition of FAO in that forum, and also present to you opportunities for FAO regarding biodiversity.

I think we all know how important biodiversity is for sustaining our production system in that it underpins eco-system functioning and provision of eco-system services essential for human well-being. In FAO, it is very well-recognized. We do have the mandate to work on natural resources, it is part of our mandate, Global Goal 3, which refers to utilization of natural resources including genetic resources.

We also have, in the new Strategic Thinking Process, some Strategic Objectives that rely on, make use of, or acknowledge the importance of biodiversity. Regarding our policy landscape on biodiversity, it is important to say that countries have recognized that they have failed when it comes to the objective of 2010 regarding biodiversity and they have decided to develop a Strategic Framework which is called the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. As part of this Strategic Plan, there are targets, and then has been adopted in Nagoya in 2010.

It is an international framework for biodiversity. The General Assembly has decided to declare the Decade of Biodiversity from 2011-2020 to help to further the implementation of this Strategic Plan.

We also know that in Rio, there was some discussion about sustainable agriculture and the contribution of biodiversity, eco-systems services, and genetic resources. The UN System has also organized itself by creating a UN System-wide way of trying to look at the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of which FAO is part. An acronym, it's the IMG or Issue Management Group on Biodiversity of the eco-system management, or the biodiversity management group. Just to say that there is a system that exists in order for institutions like FAO to pull their knowledge together and coordinate how we can work towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Now, the next two slides that I am showing refer to selected biodiversity targets. There are 20; they are divided into five goals and many of them - I have highlighted seven, and they are really relevant to FAO. target number seven dealing with the need for agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry to be managed sustainably. There is another part of the sentence which is ensuring conservation of biodiversity. So you can see that in the right column – it might be difficult to read – but in the right column, what we tried to do was mapping the targets and indicating the work of FAO and all of the things that we're doing.

So we have, for instance, target number 9. I won't go through all of them but it is interesting to see that one is on Avian Species. The place of the International Plan of Protection Convention is instrumental. We have a target on genetic diversity that has to be maintained and plans of action need to be put in place by countries to make sure that that it is maintained. The role of the Commission on Genetic Resources is very important in that regard. We have one on eco-systems services and on the Nagoya Protocol regarding access and benefit-sharing, indicating the importance of the International Treaty and the Commission regarding access and benefit sharing?

So, as you can see by this demonstration, a lot can be done by FAO to help in the implementation of this Strategic Plan. Now, if we go back to the meeting that we had in October of this year in India regarding the meeting of the COP 11, there were 33 decisions.

I won't go through them with you but just to highlight two important ones that are much policy-oriented regarding the Strategic Plan. FAO is being invited to contribute to assessing progress towards achievement of selected Aichi biodiversity targets. The importance of further strengthening

collaboration between the Convention and FAO in meeting the relevant Aichi targets, particularly in the context of achieving food security is also being stressed.

I think it is important to see that the work of FAO is contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The other decision that was dealt with was the technical topics or thematic issues and I won't go through all of them but they include agriculture, biodiversity, the mandate of FAO. It is well-recognized that it is in FAO's hands to ensure that it works with countries.

The way forward: in the past we have been very active in the CBD. For your information the Executive Secretary of the CBD came here in May to discuss with the DG and with the Working Group on Biodiversity, so it is well-recognized that there is some partnership between the two institutions. We believe that we should continue to further demonstrate the leadership of FAO in supporting the Strategic Plan on issues related to our mandate, to continue to be the voice of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry within the international biodiversity agenda and to provide support to the implementation of targets as they relate to our mandate.

Many countries have recognized that they failed regarding the 2010 objective on biodiversity. They have also acknowledged that protected areas were not the only way to achieve and to maintain biodiversity. Using it sustainably is the key to the goal, and this is why institutions like FAO and others that are in the economic sector have a good role to play.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci madame Collette.

La parole est maintenant à Madame Marcela Villarreal pour nous parler de la «Collaboration entre les organisations dont le siège est à Rome».

Ms Marcela Villarreal (Acting Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

Let me just start by quoting the words of our Director-General who said that "*Strengthening partnerships to achieve our goal of a world without hunger is a cultural change in itself that needs to begin at home and here in Rome, with our sister Agencies*".

So indeed, it is my pleasure to report to you that throughout this year 2012, we have witnessed significant progress, as well as, strengthened commitment among the three Rome-Based Agencies in improving our cooperation and collaboration and in impacting at the global, regional and national levels.

We are working very closely with the two other Rome-Based Agencies to strengthen our partnership and the coherence around our shared strategic priorities with the aim of maximizing our joint impact for our common beneficiaries. Indeed, as we heard yesterday throughout the day, the World Food Programme and IFAD are main partners for us in implementing our five new Strategic Objectives.

Just as an example, we couldn't think about implementing SO3, about reducing world poverty without the collaboration and close partnership with IFAD. And we couldn't think of addressing issues like improving resilience in the rural areas without the collaboration of the World Food Programme.

So let me just give you a couple of examples of this spirit of renewed partnership and commitment. So the joint preparation to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 Conference is one example in which the three Rome-Based Agencies together with Biodiversity International were successful in collectively raising the crucial importance of agriculture, food security and nutrition issues for sustainable development. Another example is the successful collaboration in the context of G20 initiatives, including the statement delivered by FAO on behalf of the three Rome-based Agencies at the G20 Summit held in Los Cabos (Mexico) last June urging world leaders to maintain nutrition security as high priorities on their food agenda.

Another example is the joint support to the G8's renewed commitment to keep food security high on the global agenda and the creation of a New Alliance to increase food security and nutrition. We're very closely collaborating with this New Alliance in particular at the country level.

We also have the creation of a new local food purchase programme, which is the "Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme", established by FAO and the World Food Programme in five African countries to benefit farmers and vulnerable populations. Here is one example where the two organizations have brought together their own comparative advantages, i.e. through agricultural development on one hand and interventions to increase access to food on the other, with very successful outcome.

There are many other examples. Let me just mention how the Rome-based Agencies are working together to address issues related to food insecurity in protracted crises, high international food prices and the need to empower rural women. The three Rome-based Agencies and UN Women are already on the ground empowering rural women in order to enhance food security among the most vulnerable populations.

There are many other areas where we are going to continue to enhance our collaboration, including reinforcing collaboration and joint advocacy on the resilience agenda in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security last May.

As part of the follow-up on Rio+20 and the UN Development Agenda Post-2015, you have just heard from my colleague Jomo Sundaram that Expo Milano will be held in 2015. The topic of Expo Milano is "Feeding the Planet" and FAO is leading the three Rome-based Agencies and Biodiversity International together with the rest of the UN System to produce very strong messages at that event regarding reducing hunger and increasing food security.

Also through the preparations for the Year of Family Farming in 2014, we are working together to promote and help guide the contribution of family and small-holder farming in eradicating hunger and in reducing rural poverty.

These are just a few examples. Last but not least, we are also collaborating to increase efficiency savings in a number of administrative issues.

This list is not exhaustive. There are many, many other examples that show that we have committed to working together and to collaborating. This commitment is indeed increasing throughout time. So we will be continuing our work and deepening our engagement as we go down the road, and more specifically, as we go down, this new road of implementing our five new Strategic Objectives.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Villarreal.

La dernière présentation prévue est celle de Monsieur Daniel Gustafson, Directeur général adjoint, sur l'«Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement».

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Before turning to the discussion of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, on a personal note, I would like to thank all of you not only for accepting me in my new role, but because essentially all that I know about FAO as a Membership Organization and the importance of decisions at the collective level I've learned from those of you in the room or from your colleagues, both in the other offices where I've worked or in this past year in the Regional Conferences and in particular in the Finance and Programme Committees. I also think that most of what I know at all about the work of FAO and the things that we deal with, I've learned from your colleagues back home and a lot from the colleagues here on the podium and around the House. It really is gratifying for me to work with you and I look forward to continuing as we go forward in the next year.

The QCPR, this Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, is in many ways kind of the last step. It's good that I come at the end of the Presentations. It really is sort of the last step of this process, in that it represents how the UN as a whole makes decisions on how we work at the country level and how we work collectively in partnerships, and on the other issues that my colleagues have discussed,

and how we strive collectively to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of what we do. It is the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development, and establishes System-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of this System.

Just to be clear on the process, it is one that is System-wide and the decision will come as a Resolution of the General Assembly later on this year, in November or December. It is the culmination of a long process in which FAO was an active participant. It went, we think, really very well with active participation and a lot of stakeholder participation at the country level, both from Governments and from Country Offices and so on. As I said, the issue will be debated and approved in the General Assembly Resolution that will come sometime towards the end of this year.

The main trends or the main issues that have come up so far highlight these among others:

- One is the strong recognition of the importance of respect for our human rights including the right to food, gender equality and empowerment of women, all of which of course are strong elements in our own Strategic Framework;
- High priority given to poverty eradication in FAO's programming, and in particular to focus on the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, again in line with our Strategic Thinking Process;
- Special emphasis on disaster risk reduction and transition from disaster response and relief to development, the seamless nature of those activities;
- A strong push for a more coherent UN System at the country level, among all the Funds and Programmes and Specialized Agencies. And again, working seamlessly across these Agencies and Funds and Programmes rather than as individual siloed activities always in very close collaboration with the Governments and other partners at the country level;
- Finally, full recognition of the "Delivering As One" approach that has been piloted for the last almost 15 years now from the initial countries in the initial sort of pilot thinking as one of the main modalities of how UN coordination would work at the country level.

In addition to that, the key topics among others in which we have been active in getting our views across, and that are also emerging, are the discussion of having a critical mass of core funding that would fund the activities of the overall UN System at the country level and the need for Specialized Agencies to take part in that, to be fully engaged and to fully benefit from this.

I wish to touch upon the full participation of all UN agencies and in particular the Specialized Agencies and their Country Programming Frameworks in the UNDAF's, the UN Development Assistance Frameworks. In our case, this would be the FAO's Country Programming Frameworks which as a requirement must mesh with not only the Country Strategic Frameworks and FAO's Global Framework but also have to be completely in sync and fully part of the UN Development Assistance Framework of all the Agencies in that country.

As the draft document on the Delivering As One approach goes forward, it is seen as one of the main approaches for other countries. It needs, however, to be seen in the context of individual country situations, and not as one size fits all.

The UNCT's, or the UN Country Team, are for the Heads of Agency at the country level. The UN Country Team is the key coordination mechanism, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and all Agency Representatives need to be fully engaged in that process. It is for us one of the performance evaluation criteria and we ask the Resident Coordinator for feedback on how the FAO Representative is doing as part of that Country Team.

Similarly, we're happy to see that South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation is given strong emphasis in the QCPR discussion, which of course coincides with our own prioritization of that issue.

And finally, the document calls for full implementation of management and accountability for the Resident Coordinator System which deals with management at the country level and how the other Agencies contribute to that, including financial contributions which is often rather tricky for us and

other Specialized Agencies. So far, this is not an insurmountable problem, but there are often issues of cost-sharing that go beyond what we maybe had expected or are able to manage. So far, however, we've been able to contain those. It is an issue that comes up frequently and I'm sure it will continue to do so in the future.

In any case, I'm happy to say that FAO for a long time has really been actively involved in this process. At the country level we work really well as a partner with other UN Agencies. In fact, where we have had most problems is where we have been not as well-integrated. It is clearly a policy decision and a policy emphasis, both institutionally and in keeping track of how our Offices function. We need to ensure that they do in fact follow along and contribute to the larger efforts of the UN at the country level. We look forward to the conclusion of the QCPR process, and are happy regarding the success of our inputs.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Mi Delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaría por las presentaciones realizadas.

Deseamos referirnos al tema de la Agenda post-2015, en la presentación se señaló que el tema sería revisado y planteado en la Conferencia de junio de la FAO. Sin embargo, en el programa provisional anotado para la próxima Conferencia que el Consejo presentó el día de hoy, no está incluido este tema y, tampoco está incluido el tema referente a la Conferencia Río+20. Creemos sería muy importante que ese tema sea incluido en el programa de la Conferencia al igual que la participación de la FAO en esta. Creemos que es importante que conste tal como lo señalaba el señor Müller. Es necesario un mayor involucramiento de los Ministros de Agricultura en este tema, y hay que aprovechar en la Conferencia para que con los Ministros de Agricultura presentes lo planteen y lo discutan.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, let me thank all the speakers for their introduction. These are extremely useful for us because it brings us up-to-date. I have two queries to raise, one to Mr Alexander Müller and the other one to Mr Gustafson.

Mr Alexander Müller said that there is a move to include agriculture into REDD, which is extremely good news to hear. But may I ask him, which agriculture are we talking about? Are we talking about grazing area, which has a potential for carbon sink or are we also talking about irrigated agriculture, which reduces emissions to retro use fertilizer, etc.? Or are we also talking about REDD for agriculture? So this is an issue. Where I would need some clarification.

To Mr Gustafson, will there be some chapter in the QCPR about these eight or ten country pilot UN One countries? I've forgotten how many. Would there be any specific evaluation of these countries and what the UN One has done?

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier tous les intervenants. L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe africain qui se félicite du document CL 145/INF/6 relatif à l'évolution des débats au sien d'autres instances de la FAO, et encourage l'Organisation à continuer à collaborer avec les autres Organismes afin de réaliser ces objectifs.

Les activités de la FAO dans la mise en œuvre de l'initiative « Une seule santé » doivent être encouragées, la FAO doit continuer à œuvrer dans ce domaine, afin de protéger et sauver des millions de vie de personnes, notamment les populations pauvres des maladies et d'autres fléaux qui affectent la sécurité alimentaire dans beaucoup de régions du monde, telle que la menace acridienne qui touche actuellement la Région du Sahel et qui risque d'affecter des millions de personnes. À ce titre, le Groupe africain invite la FAO à travailler davantage pour répondre à ces menaces, lutter contre les autres fléaux, et partager ses expériences et son savoir faire avec les autres instances dans le domaine de la santé.

Concernant la participation de la FAO à l'élaboration de l'Agenda de développement post 2015, et le suivi des recommandations de la Conférence Rio+20, le Groupe africain en félicite l'organisation de

sa participation et l'encourage à inclure ces points dans l'Ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence de la FAO, prévue en 2013, et ceux des Conférences régionales, qui se tiendront en 2014.

Notre Groupe se félicite également de la tenue de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, qui se tiendra en novembre 2013, et souhaite qu'elle débouche sur des conclusions concrètes.

Notre Groupe encourage l'Organisation à travailler davantage avec la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique et la Convention sur la diversité biologique, afin de promouvoir la compréhension sur les effets du changement climatique sur la sécurité alimentaire et chercher les moyens d'atténuation et d'adaptation au changement climatique, tout en favorisant l'augmentation de la production, la promotion de la conservation de la diversité biologique et l'utilisation durable de ses composantes.

Le partenariat entre les trois Organisations onusiennes romaines reflète une volonté réelle de la part des trois Organisations à œuvrer ensemble pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire. Notre Groupe encourage davantage ce partenariat, ainsi que la poursuite des initiatives lancées, telles que le programme « Achat par les Africains pour l'Afrique » entre la FAO et le PAM, ainsi que le programme « Achats locaux » en Afrique. Notre Groupe invite les trois Organisations romaines à œuvrer davantage afin de répondre aux besoins de notre région, et notamment le Sahel et la corne de l'Afrique.

Enfin, concernant l'examen de la Politique quadriennale complet 2012, le Groupe africain souhaite que les nouvelles orientations stratégiques, qui visent à améliorer le Système des Nations Unies dans les pays en développement, tiennent compte des besoins de notre continent, particulièrement le renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales, et l'éradication de la faim dans le monde. Je vous remercie.

Mr Tetsuji IWAMA (Japan)

Thank you for all the Presentations and the useful information, especially that of Mr Sundaram.

We would like some more information about the schedule. When and how will FAO contribute to all the activities such as Post 2015, Rio+20 or ICN+21. We are also interested in about FAO's schedule, how FAO will work towards those activities.

Mr Ivan KOONSTANTINOPOLSKY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, we would like to thank the speakers for the very interesting and informative reports. We welcome under Agenda Item 22 the document on events. Developments in Fora of importance for the mandate of FAO. In the context of Point 10 of this document, on the involvement of FAO Representatives in the G20 Summit held in Los Cabos Mexico, we would like to commend the outstanding Chairmanship of the G20. Russia intends to ensure that this discussion is a continuous one on all of the questions which are on the G20 Agenda, including the question of food security, so that we contribute as far as possible to the meeting of the commitments which have been entered into.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First of all, I would like to thank the speaker for an informative Report. Secondly, I have a question for Mr Müller. As he has mentioned, is FAO really going to give technical assistance to countries to overcome climate change. I would like to know if there is any specific help for fisheries, especially aquaculture, forestry or agriculture. If FAO has any special assistance or technique which the countries that can avail themselves of this technique? I would appreciate it if he could provide us with more details.

The second question is about South-South Cooperation. What I understand about South-South Cooperation is using the capacity of developing countries to others. Mr Gustafson, are you satisfied with the progress achieved to date or is there more scope for this kind of Cooperation because there is a lot of capacity in many countries that can be of great assistance to others.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En primer lugar, quisiera felicitar a la Federación de Rusia por sus nuevas responsabilidades como Presidente del G-20. Solo quisiéramos reconocer el señalamiento que ha hecho la distinguida representación de la Delegación de Rusia en el sentido de que el tema de la seguridad alimentaria se mantendrá como un tema prioritario en la agenda bajo su Presidencia.

En segundo término, Sr. Presidente, solo quería señalar que en ese sentido, durante la Presidencia Mejicana del G-20 consideramos como muy positiva la colaboración y la relación que tuvimos con el Secretariado de la FAO, no sólo a través, en primer lugar, de un documento que fue elaborado por esta Organización, la FAO para las discusiones que tuvieron nuestros Vice-Ministros de Agricultura, sino también a través de la presencia del propio Director General de la FAO en la Cumbre de Los Cabos. Nosotros en ese sentido vemos que la relación puede ser muy fructífera y muy positiva.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Je voudrais remercier l'ensemble des intervenants pour leurs présentations, qui démontrent bien l'esprit de collaboration dans lequel travaille la FAO et la volonté de diffusion de nos travaux, mais aussi la volonté de placer l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition au cœur des activités des Nations Unies, de lutte contre la pauvreté et pour le développement durable. Je me réjouis que le G20 sous ses différentes présidences successives ait inscrit et maintenu ces thèmes dans son agenda politique.

Je voudrais faire deux remarques sur les Présentations qui nous ont été faites. La première, c'est que la France soutient totalement l'approche intégrée, « une seule santé » décrite par Monsieur Juan Lubroth, qui lie santé humaine, santé animale et santé des éco-systèmes en mettant l'accent sur la prévention. Je voudrais aussi me joindre aux propos de l'Algérie au nom du Groupe africain, qui a cité la lutte contre l'invasion acridienne et la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts en ce moment et de financer les activités de la FAO.

Pour ma deuxième remarque, je voudrais aussi remercier Madame Marcela Villarreal de sa Présentation, et je me réjouis que la collaboration entre les trois Organisations romaines ait franchit une nouvelle étape: après celle de la coordination administrative, nous en sommes maintenant à la coordination des politiques. Je m'en réjouis.

J'espère qu'un jour nous franchirons la troisième étape, qui serait celle de la coordination de la programmation sur le terrain.

Je voudrais citer aussi le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale comme un des points essentiel de collaboration des trois Organisations romaines, et remercier Madame Villarreal d'avoir cité la mise en œuvre des Directives volontaires sur la gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts, comme un des exemples de coopération entre la FAO et le FIDA. Je voudrais citer enfin la négociation à venir des principes pour les investissements responsables en agriculture comme étant un des points sur lequel la FAO devra lier ses efforts à ceux du FIDA.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

We also would like to join the previous Delegation in thanking and congratulating all the presenters on five topics which we feel are very important to us.

My Delegation always, values very much the Presentations that normally FAO staff have undertaken in the past on this very same agenda item. I think, however, as previous speakers stated, that gives us some sort of up-to-date information as to what FAO is doing. We do have a couple of comments and clarifications.

First, on the Presentation on One Health for all, I think we welcome this initiative of a One Health approach because it is a very new dimension of FAO activities as they used to talk in compartments when dealing with human, environment, and animal health because they actually derived from different mandates, from three different international organizations dealing with norms and standards.

So I think this kind of approach will really help developing countries like mine where we try to really build the production base, not only targeting the domestic market but also the export markets. Through this approach, we feel FAO will enhance its assistance to countries like mine in the future.

Regarding the third Presentation on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we are again very pleased to note that the Secretariat is ready to help developing countries to participate in the ongoing negotiations process. We would like to hear from Mr Müller as to how this assistance can be obtained, particularly in ensuring greater participation in the negotiations process leading up to the conclusion of these legal instruments.

Just a question on the last point on the Comprehensive Policy Review presented by the Deputy Director-General. We would like to see among all these operational activities for development, the issue of trade because even agricultural commodities are involved in trading. I know some institutions which do not fall under the UN, like the World Trade Organization. They have certain mechanisms to help countries in mainstreaming trade into development. I would like to see how such umbrella organizations and their activities can be brought into the overall UN initiatives for development, and whether there are any sort of mechanisms for this assistance to be mainstreamed through the UN System? I would just like some clarification regarding this.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, deseo expresar a nombre de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela el agradecimiento a los expositores de las 5 Presentaciones hechas, en especial porque nos dan luces sobre los trabajos que viene desarrollando la FAO en los distintos escenarios a nivel internacional y de los esfuerzos que esta Organización ha venido haciendo a objeto de colocar en el más alto nivel de la agenda internacional y de distintos foros internacionales, la conexión que hay entre nuestros trabajos y la necesidad de coordinar para que efectivamente el tema de la erradicación del hambre y el tema de la agricultura sean parte también de las preocupaciones de esas Organizaciones.

Yo quería solo referirme a la última presentación en el aspecto que fue indicado sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular dado que habló de distintas instancias con las cuales ya se ha establecido coordinaciones quizás más permanentes y más sistemáticas. Quisiera ratificarles la necesidad de que la FAO desarrolle un trabajo a nivel de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe con todas las expresiones de integración que también existen en nuestra Región que son muy diversas para que reforcemos el trabajo; por ejemplo, de un programa que ha venido sosteniendo la propia FAO, como es el programa que presentamos el pasado lunes de la Iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre (ALCSH) y el interés de la Dirección Regional de la FAO de traerlo al seno de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños el próximo mes de enero cuando se realiza su Reunión anual de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno.

Yo creo que ese es un escenario fundamental para que la FAO conecte sus trabajos al más alto nivel en términos de proseguir haciendo avances en la erradicación del hambre y en la malnutrición en América Latina y el Caribe. Pero igualmente tenemos foros de integración como la Unión de Naciones del Sur, el Sistema de Integración Centroamericano de Tecnología Agrícola, el CARICOM, el ALBA y otros foros de integración en América Latina.

Yo pienso que hemos visto que hay un trabajo muy específico con algunas agregaciones de Estados con grupos de Estados, pero creo que debe reforzarse la Cooperación Sur-Sur que venimos haciendo en América Latina y que la FAO participe conjuntamente con los Estados en ese trabajo.

Mr Shobhana K. PATTANAYAK (India)

I would like to compliment all the speakers for the precise and informative presentations to this august assembly. I have two short points. One is on collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. We received an account of how the Rome-based Agencies are functioning together, especially in the past in procurement and travel activities, and now how they are jointly tackling issues at the level of Rio+20, G20, G8, and other high-level fora.

But what surprises us that today FAO is developing a document called the Country Programme Framework. The same is true of IFAD. It has a document called COSOP, Country Strategies

Opportunities Programme. In WFP they have also evolved certain country-level documents that started with Uganda, if I remember correctly and now they are carrying them out.

Now, where do these three documents meet? Do they converge at all? Are they being developed in parallel? Now, unless these documents and efforts converge at the level of the country, I don't think there is any effective Rome-based collaboration. I would like to see the day when that happens. When is that date? I have put this question up and I would like to receive a response from Management.

On the issue of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, it is a very great ideal but can we really achieve it? We have so many organizations working at the country level, each of them with a different vision and different Strategic Objectives. We spent a lot of time discussing five Strategic Objectives in this Council. Similarly, those other organizations also have their Strategic Objectives. They have different Boards. There may be the same countries but they have different Boards. They have different administrative practices. They have different models of funding. So how do you really make them effective and coherent for them to have country level modalities? This is a very tall task, and I don't see how we can do it, I would like to know more about it.

Secondly, on the issue of the Resident Coordinator System, I heard Dan Gustafson saying that there are some issues relating to financial contribution. It's a very costly system. The Resident Coordinator who is generally from UNDP, has this big brotherly attitude towards others in the field. Is this going to change? Do these UN Agencies have a mobility policy where individuals or Senior Officers from one Organization can move as Resident Coordinators? And if so, only then will things start to change. And even if they have, are they familiar with these Agencies' individual functioning? Can they handle the mandate of Specialized Agencies like World Food Programme, like that of FAO? Is it true that a jack of all trades can manage these Specialized Agencies? I don't know, so I would like to pose these questions. These are the only two questions that I have.

Mr Juan LUBROTH (Chief, Veterinary Office, Animal Health Division)

I want to thank very much France and Sri Lanka for highlighting the importance of the One Health approach. From my perspective, there were no real questions about this, except the focus on the specific pathogen or the issue of threat. My Presentation on One Health is really the translation that different disciplines have to come together to tackle complex problems such as health, and to tackle them when they are small and before they become regional, continental, or global crises.

Let me give two examples. One is that at the global level, early warning systems, are important. We need to have an integration and inter-operationability between our databases here at FAO and in other institutions and Agencies. This has very much to do with Climate Change, as well as preparedness for diseases or pests in adapting to climate change. It is important for FAO, though, to be able to distill information from databases to prevent crises.

The other example is at the local level. It is important to have farmer or livestock field schools where we are able to discuss food hygiene, nutrition, gender issues, maternity, childcare and family planning at the local level. That is where I determine success, to be up-to-date as to what is happening at the family and at the community level.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Allow me to respond to three sets of issues. The first raised by Japan concerns the schedule and information sharing. We are committed to sharing information as it becomes available, but allow me to emphasize that FAO will not be involved in the full range of activities. What we will report and highlight are those activities where we are trying to focus our work. To appreciate and to follow the full range of activities, unfortunately, at this point requires you to follow the four different processes which I have already described.

On the post-2015, the post-Rio, the High-Level Panel, and the UNDG processes. I have provided three documents as background to the three points I was making earlier. They provide links to some of the relevant web pages but I think it is less than complete and I will try to ensure that a new, updated version with all the links is provided.

Secondly, both Russia and Mexico raised the question of FAO's relationship to the G20. We lead the Secretariat for the AMIS, the Agricultural Market Information System, and we will continue to do that work to the best of our ability. The information available which is generated through AMIS is available to all in the spirit of transparency to enhance market information knowledge. We look forward to cooperating with Russia as it leads the Presidency of the G20 in the coming year.

Finally, with regard to the questions raised by Iran as well as Venezuela on South-South Cooperation, I should emphasize because of my previous hat in the UN Secretariat, that the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) which we had responsibility for, is essentially a document which covers the operational activities of the UN System. The South-South Cooperation work is essentially covered in the framework of what is called the Developmental Operation Forum which meets once every two years under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council. The information on that, of course, is available. FAO, however, is very much committed to supporting and strengthening South-South Cooperation. In this regard, we have, in the Technical Cooperation Department, very important work taking place, and the Director-General himself has been involved in initiating South-South Cooperation endeavours in connection with the Zero Hunger Challenge involving the African Union as well as the Lula Institute.

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

I would like to start with Afghanistan and I am going to use terminology that you, Afghanistan, very often use when you are describing the Reform Process of FAO. The ongoing discussion on how to best include agriculture in REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is a work in progress, and sometimes they are learning while they are going. Our role is to provide the technical input. At the negotiations, they did not make any difference between rainfed agriculture, grazing, or intensive, or smallholder agriculture. Therefore, it will be our input to be provided on the different activities that will drive the process. This is work in progress, and nothing has really been agreed upon, but everything is on the agenda. Therefore, I am really happy that it is on the agenda and we can provide input. We have informed that stopping deforestation also means investing in agriculture and especially in small-scale agriculture so that farmers can increase production and can earn more income. This is one of the important issues to stop deforestation. But this is, again, a work in progress.

The second was the question from Nigeria. Yes, more work has to be done, especially when we are looking at areas where we can see today the impact of changing climate conditions. This is one of the reasons why we have decided to work closely with the Decentralized Offices. We are currently working together with our Office in Cairo in the RNE Region to organize Land and Water Days, especially under the perspective of a changing climate. So basically we bring together everybody in the Region dealing with land and water looking at the changes of climate change with a view of building a hub to present lessons learned, analyze new challenges, and integrate adaptation into all the policies.

From my perspective, it does not make sense to deal with adaptation as a separate issue. We have to integrate adaptation and development into food security programmes. If we have this as an add-on, we will not achieve what we have to achieve.

Iran requested information on the kind of technical assistance FAO could offer in the different areas; fishery, agriculture and forestry. I would like to go back to the High-Level Conference on World Food Security and Climate Change which we had organized in 2008 in FAO with very high-level participation. In the preparatory phase, we had asked all Technical Divisions and Departments to organize workshops. The Fishery Department, for example, organized a very well-recognized Workshop on Fishers and Climate Change. Technical Guidelines have been developed and we can support countries wishing to apply them.

Also, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has launched, in the Climate Change Negotiations, Guidelines on National Adaptation Planning. There was a special expert who put together what was needed in order to meet the objectives of national adaptation

planning for the Least Developed countries. They have two objectives one is to reduce vulnerability, to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and the second is to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation in a coherent manner into relevant, new, and existing policies, programmes, etc.

However, after having looked at these lengthy documents, it is very clear that least developed countries also need assistance, under the leadership of the country, in order to build up their capacities to build national adaptation plans. This is one of the controversial issues, that is how much money will be provided in order to support these countries? And here we are coming back to the entire package of the climate change negotiations.

There is a lot that international organizations, including FAO, can offer. However, it has to be brought to the local level and to the country level, and additional financial resources are needed. Otherwise, the least developed countries will not be able to adapt to climate change.

As to the question raised by Sri Lanka regarding FAO's assistance, we already receive invitations to the technical meetings of the UNFCCC for which FAO is providing a lot of input regarding methodologies and databases. For example, we have been requested to provide information on how to best adapt to climate change. This is also linked to the work Linda Collette has presented on genetic resources. There is no adaptation to climate change without genetic resources, and climate change, at the same time, is putting genetic resources under pressure. Therefore, the work of the Commission is very much linked to the support of the countries. What we are not doing is supporting countries to financially participate in the Climate Change negotiations. We do not have the resources, but it would be good if more countries would be able to participate.

And I can give you an example why this is so important. Bangladesh, for example, has built on their national service reduction plan. This was also presented at COP and it has received a lot of attention. Many countries want to receive support in building up resilience against natural disasters and in adapting to changing climatic conditions.

FAO has worked together with Bangladesh, and now we are receiving more requests from countries. They want to know whether we can support them in building up these capacities to work within their respective countries, based on their needs. And here, again, I am always coming back to the same old story. The challenge of Climate Change is so big that with existing financial resources, countries, especially least developed and developing countries, cannot meet the challenges. This is one of the reasons why, from my perspective, the green climate fund needs a funding window for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Otherwise, adaptation, which is necessary, will not work.

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

There was no question necessarily targeted to biodiversity, but I would like to say that I appreciate the fact that people support the work that we are doing at FAO regarding biodiversity in the sense that it was part of a larger comment.

I would like to take this opportunity, and I think it is interesting that Alexander mentioned it because when it comes to genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, the forum of FAO is the Commission on Genetic Resources. It focuses on all the components of biodiversity and it is embarking in climate change discussion in trying to develop a roadmap regarding climate change and a programme to assist countries regarding not only climate change but genetic resources conservation for adaptation. The genetic dimension is really related to this, as is conservation production and adaptation. We are looking forward to seeing your countries at the meeting of the Commission in April 2013.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Acting Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

I would just like to refer to the remarkable success that several of you referred to of keeping the issues regarding food security very high on the international agenda, very specifically on the G20 Agenda.

I would like to say that this is not only Rome-based Agencies collaboration. It is first and foremost collaboration with you, the Member Nations. It also is based on powerful ideas substantiated by very sound technical background and political will. I think that we have been able to have all these elements throughout the French Presidency of the G20, which produced the system of AMIS. We've been talking about it here at the Council, or as the French like to say les AMIS. It probably sounds nicer in the French language. AMIS has been continued throughout the Mexican Presidency with great success.

I would like to thank the Russian Federation for their commitment to continue to take this issue throughout their Presidency. From our side we commit to continue providing the technical elements that are necessary for this success. The matter is being dealt with at the very high international political level.

When is it that we are going to come to what France called the third stage, and India called the implementation at the country level? When is it that we are going to see that kind of work together reflected in country programming? This question, which is a difficult one, I leave to my colleague Dan who is going to respond as the former Director of OSD.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Thank you very much, Mr Chair and also for these questions, each one of which is a very interesting topic. First for Afghanistan, yes there is quite a long section on the evaluation of the eight pilots and then the next round of what were called self-starters and where they will go. So that I think is a separate document that is also summarized in the paper.

For Iran, yes. We see South-South Cooperation as something that has much greater scope and potential than, let's say, we have taken advantage of so far through initiatives in each of the Country Offices and how they would manage South-South Cooperation with their own expertise and what they need, and what they can have to offer, not only, let's say, in a centralized way. We do have, I think, a number of very good examples of that, but it's something really of a growth area.

I would say although not a question directed to the Presentation specifically but the comment from France I think is particularly important when looking at the collaboration at the country level. I'll get to that in just a minute in response to the question from India. I have participated this week in an initiative, I think the impetus came from WFP to select a prize winner for the so-called "Name and Fame" of the country programmes across IFAD, WFP and FAO that have had the best collaboration. There were a lot of candidates. There were some really very good experiences and my role together with colleagues from IFAD and WFP was to select the finalists list and the Agency Heads would then select the final winner. I'm sure we will give good publicity really to all of those. But there is a lot of good collaboration at the country level that needs to happen everywhere. It is more uneven than it should be but there is really very good experience regarding this.

For Sri Lanka, the trade issue is one that often comes up in a number of ways. I think that in a general sense, it often happens either with regard to capacity-development on negotiation or capacity-development on compliance. At the country level where we often have colleagues is from UNCTAD, the UN Commission on Trade and Development, or through interaction with WTO on things like standards or trade development facility. In fact, and correct me if I'm wrong, I think one of the key staff members in that facility is a former FAO staff member. There is a lot of synergy with what FAO does on compliance regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures that lead to trade disputes.

Similarly, all the work on sanitary and phytosanitary standards and capacity-development in assisting countries to comply with Codex and IPPC standards, as well as others that facilitate trade or that can lead to trade disputes fits in. So it is really in the capacity development on compliance and negotiation where I think we have more interaction with our UN colleagues, and with the countries on trade.

The questions from India are all very good. I'll try and be brief on this. The strategies converge often, I would say, in any case at a very high level as a requirement of the way that UNDAFs are formulated. Similarly, there is a part in all of the country development assistance frameworks called the Common Country Assessment that we all can contribute to and then use the same Common

Country Assessment, that is, the same numbers, same analysis and so on. That generally comes out of the Government analysis where it is there or often from UNICEF through their multi-indicator cluster surveys, or from FAO and our food security data, and so on.

Where we get into more difficulty is in complying with priorities of the countries and what the Governments want from us, and where they would like us to work, and the prioritization of those topics relative to what we would like to do together. Often those converge, and we try to converge even if we are working in different places. But often, they don't converge. In the development arena this is often more difficult than in the emergency response context where we are thrown together and I think generally work together very well. But on development assistance activities, often Governments would want something different from IFAD than from FAO and WFP, and so on.

But, nevertheless, I think we are increasingly moving in the direction of convergence. Certainly, there is mobility across Agencies and the Resident Coordinator System is not open only to UNDP staff. Historically, the Resident Coordinator has also been in charge of the UNDP office. That has changed. There is some nuance here but there is now a Country Director for UNDP that takes much of that role and the UN Resident Coordinator is on top of that.

It's important to remember that the Resident Coordinator functions as he should, he is a coordinator and not the manager. Where this coordination role works, it works quite smoothly in getting or cajoling the rest of us to work together where we may or may not naturally do so. It doesn't work very well if you look at it as sort of a manager of our programmes because we do, in fact, respond only to the Governing Bodies of our Agencies and not to anyone else.

But if I look, let's say, on the mobility question and at the podium, there are, among us four Agencies represented or staff with experience in four different UN Agencies that I know of and there may be more, and it's not uncommon for us to have WFP staff and FAO staff coming and going to some extent with UNDP, UNFPA, IFAD. We also have UNRWA, and the UN Secretariat. So there is actually quite a bit of mobility.

I think what we see, in summing up, on the Country Programming Framework, is that it is a challenge to make compatible the UNDAF, the country development strategy, and FAO's Global Strategy, but it is not that difficult of a challenge. If these things are not consistent and if they are not consistent with what IFAD and WFP in particular are doing, in addition to UNICEF and the others, there probably is something wrong with the coordination at the country level, either on the part of the Government or on the part of the UN country system.

But I think we are moving really quite rapidly, without really extreme changes in how we are working. It's just more a question, I think, of monitoring and incentivizing, motivating us so that, in fact, these characteristics of collaboration across Agencies and a more coherent approach are in place everywhere.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il ne faut surtout pas supprimer cette réunion; il faut plutôt la faire vivre, parce que c'est une belle occasion d'échanges entre les différentes personnes de la direction et nous-mêmes. Toutes les questions qui y ont été posées ont montré tout l'intérêt que vous y portiez, on va donc essayer puisqu'on a une proposition pour les prochains Conseils, de voir comment on peut faire au mieux.

Dans la mesure où on avait dit qu'il nous faudrait un petit plus de temps, on pourrait le faire le vendredi matin. Notez, cependant, que le vendredi matin, on aura une heure et demie alors que là, il y a presque deux heures que nous y sommes, donc il faut qu'on y fasse attention.

Sans entrer dans le débat puisque j'ai bien entendu ce qui a été dit aussi sur la collaboration, la concertation entre les différentes organisations onusiennes, et particulièrement, celles de Rome, la tendance que nous avons, en tant que Représentants des États Membres, c'est de dire qu'il faut que les organisations travaillent ensemble, mais ces organisations, c'est nous. Et je pense qu'il serait bon d'étudier, je le dis au Directeur général adjoint et j'en parlerai au Directeur général, de voir comment, une fois par an lors d'une réunion Informelle avec les Directeurs des trois organisations et leur staff, nous avons une rencontre complète pour parler des stratégies ou autre, parce qu'on peut donner des

instructions à nos directeurs, mais il faut qu'elles restent les mêmes lorsqu'ils se rendent dans les autres organisations.

Cette réunion serait de type Informel (non décisionnel), mais pour échanger et entendre tous ensemble les mêmes choses.

Donc Monsieur Gustafson, si vous le souhaitez nous en reparlerons avec le Directeur général, avec l'accord du PAM et du FIDA, bien sûr. Ceux qui participent dans les autres instances, pourraient aussi inciter à cela.

Dans le temps qui m'est imparti en dehors de ma responsabilité vis-à-vis de la FAO, j'ai eu l'occasion à Genève, Bruxelles et Rome de rencontrer sur les aspects de gouvernance d'autres organisations de niveau international. Il est vrai que les instances interministérielles de nos Gouvernements ne sont pas informées sur notre travail. Il faut donc parvenir à comprendre comment communiquer davantage, par l'intermédiaire des organisations et de leur personnel, mais aussi des États Membres.

Demain le Comité de Rédaction se réunira à 9h30 dans la salle du Liban sous la présidence de Madame l'ambassadrice de France, Madame Quincy. Vendredi matin, nous aurons deux Événements parallèles, de 9h 30 à 11h sur les thèmes « Investir dans l'agriculture pour un avenir meilleur », « La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 2012 »; et de 11h 30 à 12h30, nous aurons une réunion sur l'outil FAOSTAT de diffusion de données et de bases de données récentes sur les gazes à effet de serre.

Nous nous retrouverons vendredi après-midi pour l'adoption du Rapport; l'heure vous sera communiquée en temps. Nous avons un peu innové cette année, nous aurons, avant l'adoption du Rapport, le compte rendu de la visite de terrains d'un certain nombre de membres qui sont allés en Afrique au mois de juin dernier.

Merci pour le travail très dense que nous avons réalisé pendant ces trois jours, et je vous dis à vendredi matin pour ceux que je ne verrai pas demain. Bonsoir et merci.

The meeting rose at 18.34 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.34 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fifth Session
Cent quarante-cinquième Session
145.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-7 December 2012
Rome, 3-7 décembre 2012
Roma, 3-7 de diciembre de 2012**

**SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 December 2012

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.06 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 06
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 15.06
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

25. Any Other Matters**25. Autres questions****25. Asuntos varios*****25.1 Debriefing on 2012 Field Visits by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations******25.1 Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en 2012 par des hauts fonctionnaires des représentations permanentes basées à Rome******25.1 Reunión informativa acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas en 2012 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma*****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la 7^{ème} et dernière séance de la 145^{ème} Session du Conseil. Comme convenu dans notre Calendrier, nous allons entendre au titre du Point 25.1, « Autres questions », le « Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en 2012 par des hauts fonctionnaires des Représentations permanentes basées à Rome ». En ce qui concerne la visite de terrain effectuée en Amérique latine en octobre dernier, en Bolivie et au Nicaragua, le compte rendu en sera fait à la prochaine Session du Conseil en avril 2013.

Aujourd'hui, j'ai le plaisir d'inviter les intervenants qui ont visité des projets sur le terrain au Mozambique et au Zimbabwe, à nous faire part de leur expérience et de leurs commentaires.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

I am very happy to be here today to tell you about the FAO field visit we took this June to Zimbabwe and Mozambique. I would like to say we are missing one of our seven members today, Christina Blanc from Switzerland, who was no longer able to be with us today. But we are all going to tell you a little bit about what we saw and experienced, and perhaps motivate you to participate in one of these trips too at some future date.

As I said, we went to Zimbabwe and Mozambique from 24 to 30 June. We visited programme sites. We met with Representatives of the Country Offices, as well as staff members. We also met with Representatives of the UN System development partners, civil society, the private sector and Government officials in both countries.

We found the FAO Offices have active emergency and development portfolios, and they work closely and cooperatively with the international aid community. It was also pleasing to see that the FAO staff in the Country Offices were clearly dedicated to the work that they are doing there.

Under the ongoing Reform Process, the FAO offices are reinforcing efficient Decentralization. However, we felt that more could be done with additional support from Headquarters to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of this effort. It also appeared that FAO Headquarters and the Country Offices could both benefit from more frequent and direct communication.

In both countries, gender equality remains a major impediment to sustainable development. We felt that continued assistance with rule of law issues is critical, as is land governance, as evidenced in the importance of the voluntary guidelines that were recently agreed.

They are both very important. FAO seems to have a wide range of effective partnerships, and plays a very important role as a neutral broker or facilitator. So overall, our team members found the visit to be very highly informative, and quite frankly, very worthwhile.

We all agreed, however, that greater preparation could have enhanced the effectiveness of the trip, and we will elaborate on that in our presentations. Again, we were very honoured to have made this trip. I would like to refer to my colleagues from the trip to give you some more specific details, so we will go to Christine first please.

Mme Chistine TON NU (France)

Je vais aborder très rapidement avec vous les aspects plus institutionnels de notre visite relatifs à la FAO elle-même. Mais tout d'abord je voudrais dire qu'effectivement ce genre de déplacement me paraît très utile et très bénéfique et que nous n'avons qu'à nous féliciter de ce voyage. Nous remercions aussi également les personnels des Bureaux nationaux et sous-régionaux, qui nous ont reçus comme des rois.

Donc j'aborderais quatre points, un point sur les ressources humaines, un point sur le rôle des Représentants de la FAO, un point sur la Décentralisation et sa mise en œuvre et un point sur la planification stratégique.

Les deux Bureaux sont de grands Bureaux, au Mozambique comme au Zimbabwe, qui comprennent à peu près une cinquantaine de personnes. Il est toujours difficile de savoir exactement combien de personnes travaillent à la FAO, mais si on cumule le personnel permanent, les unités des urgences, les consultants, on arrive à 50 à 70 personnes à peu près. A Harare, il y a également 16 personnes qui travaillent au Bureau sous-régional et couvrent les aspects techniques sur 16 pays de la Sous-région. Les deux équipes nous ont semblé vraiment très engagées et très solides. Il ne s'agit pas du tout de faire une évaluation ni des équipes, ni de leur travail puisqu'évidemment nous n'avons pas assez de temps, mais il nous a semblé qu'elles étaient vraiment motivées et qu'elles avaient un très vaste portefeuille avec un mandat assez large et beaucoup de demandes. Le point le plus sensible en termes de ressources humaines est la pénurie de personnel, qui semblait être un des plus grands défis pour les deux Bureaux. Par exemple, sur neuf postes de cadres techniques à Harare, trois postes étaient vacants quand nous sommes passés, donc un tiers qui concernaient des sujets importants, par exemple, ceux de la sécurité alimentaire ou l'élaboration de politiques. Donc il nous a semblé important de réduire les délais de recrutement et de ne pas laisser des postes vacants trop longtemps parce que cela nuit à l'image de la FAO dans la Région.

Ensuite effectivement, nous avons regretté d'avoir très peu de temps pour discuter avec le personnel des deux Bureaux, pour vraiment parler de leurs conditions de travail, de leur statut. Aussi nous n'avons pas eu tellement d'informations sur ces points là. Il nous semble également important de mettre l'accent sur la politique de mobilité, puisqu'à part le « FAO Rep. », personne n'était jamais venu à Rome et seul, le Représentant se rend sur Accra de temps en temps, au Bureau régional ou dans les autres Bureaux régionaux. Donc le lien entre le Siège et les Bureaux nationaux est vraiment important. Il faut mettre l'accent aussi sur les difficultés de voyage. Par exemple, pour aller de Harare à Accra et retour, il faut bien deux, trois jours. Ainsi, une coordination et une supervision directe du Bureau régional nous paraît un peu difficile dans ce cas là.

Quant au rôle des Représentants de la FAO, il nous semble fondamental. Ce sont en effet à la fois les Ambassadeurs de la FAO qui doivent avoir des compétences diplomatiques en relation avec les Gouvernements, mais aussi des compétences de managers et de leaders d'équipe puisqu'ils encadrent des équipes importantes, et également de gestionnaire, car ils doivent mener à bien le programme de travail et gérer les budgets. Donc les deux Représentants nous ont semblé vraiment très engagés, passionnés, et bien intégrés dans leur équipe. Ils ont une compétence technique également et il faut ajouter que les deux Représentants étaient des experts. Dans leurs termes de référence, tous les « FAO Reps. » doivent consacrer un tiers de leur temps à de l'expertise technique et à un soutien au pays sur le plan technique. Il nous a semblé un peu ambitieux, disons, qu'un tiers du temps d'un Représentant de la FAO soit consacré à ce soutien technique. Il est vrai qu'ils nous ont semblé très, très occupés.

En termes de Décentralisation, la tendance était plutôt une perception positive de la Décentralisation et de la délégation accrue d'autorité qui était donnée aux Bureaux, nationaux et sous-régionaux. Les délais d'approbation des programmes PCT, par exemple, ont été raccourcis. Il y a eu des formations, il y a un soutien du Bureau régional, donc la perception est plutôt positive. Il est même demandé qu'une délégation encore accrue de pouvoir soit donnée parce que nos interlocuteurs la jugeaient aujourd'hui encore insuffisante face aux besoins et aux défis.

La mise en place des systèmes d'information, notamment du GRMS, nous paraît importante aussi pour faire diminuer les doublons et gagner en termes d'efficacité.

Nous avons noté également que les relations entre les Bureaux nationaux et le Siège pourraient être accrues sur le plan des connaissances techniques et du soutien technique que le Siège pouvait apporter aux Bureaux. Et enfin nous avons noté que l'intégration des unités d'urgence devait se faire de façon très prudente et prendre en compte les leçons tirées des expériences d'autres Pays ou Régions, où cela avait été fait avant parce que les deux unités en question sont importantes.

En dernier lieu, en termes de Planification stratégique, le portefeuille des deux Bureaux est important, 35 millions de dollars pour le Zimbabwe, et 41 millions de dollars pour le Mozambique. Ce sont donc des Bureaux qui gèrent de gros portefeuilles avec aussi des programmes multi-donateurs. Le Mozambique est également un pays pilote pour l'initiative « *One UN* » des Nations Unies et les Bureaux de la FAO reçoivent beaucoup de demandes des gouvernements et de leurs partenaires, ce qui crée une certaine pression sur les responsables et donc une nécessité de prioriser les activités. La nécessité d'établir des priorités est bien comprise, et dans les deux Bureaux le cadre de programmation par pays est quasiment finalisé ou en cours de finalisation, ce qui aidera à cet établissement de priorités.

Mr Mohammed LAKHAL (Morocco)

I would like to start by expressing my great pleasure and privilege to have participated in this Field Visit to Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and to express my thanks to all the parties that have contributed to the organization of this trip. My thanks go particularly to the FAO Secretariat, to all the staff members, to the Country Offices, as well as to the official authorities and the local communities visited in both countries for the warm welcome that was extended to the Delegation.

Although it was relatively short, this visit was in my view very informative and constructive. It allowed us to observe on the ground a certain number of projects that were developed by FAO, and helped us to understand how FAO operates in the Field and how it interacts with different partners and also to see the impact of the reforms being discussed and undertaken here in the Headquarters are playing out on the ground. All these things are reflected in the Report that is presented to you for information today.

What I would like to highlight in this brief presentation is that Zimbabwe and Mozambique, are countries within our continent where the needs and challenges are quite significant. The work within the framework of partnership, and the reinforcement of partnerships, is very crucial. Of course, this should be based on the comparative advantages of FAO.

In the different meetings that the Delegation had, we were fortunate to have met with all these actors, with Representatives of civil society, of the Government, of donors. We can say with regard to the private sector, that the role played by FAO generally is well-appreciated by all these actors, and that the Organization and the offices enjoy a positive image both in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Also, the relationship and the coordination with USCT members is very much appreciated.

In Zimbabwe, for example, the Delegation took particular note that FAO plays an excellent role of coordination through the organization of regular meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Working Group, which is composed of Representatives of Governments, donors, civil society and private entities.

The projects visited like the cattle dipping, the egg production and post-harvest management reflect the strong cooperation that exists between FAO and the Governments, and also the local communities.

As in Zimbabwe, FAO is developing strong links with different partners in Mozambique. The Delegation especially noted the excellent coordination with the USCT team through the "Delivering as One" initiative, which I find an excellent initiative that merits to be extended and generalized. I think my colleague Mr Taghavi Motlagh will elaborate more on this issue.

Another point, which I want to highlight, concerns the acceleration of the process of Decentralization. I think this is very important for a better efficiency, and to obtain good results in the implementation of FAO projects on the ground. From what has been explained to us during the visit, and was mentioned by Christine, there is some improvement in this regard achieved especially in terms of, for

example, the timely approval of programmes and projects. But there is still more to be done to ameliorate and improve the efficiency of the Bureau.

Why do I stress the importance of locating the necessary human and financial resources to both the Country Offices? I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of all the staff members of the two countries, and to the quality of assistance they provide within the framework of their mission.

To conclude, I would like to stress the importance of such field visits, and to thank FAO once again for this initiative, which should be encouraged and better improved.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

It was also my pleasure to participate in this visit. It is fortunate to see the impact of the programmes in the Field that we have discussed here during many Sessions, and to see their effectiveness of the with regard to the ultimate targets to improve livelihoods.

I would like to take the opportunity to raise an important point, regarding the usefulness of the field visit. In order to manage the programmes a report should be produced that covers their positive points, their successful options and their effectiveness in the Field. On the other hand, the report should also cover the weak points. It should, of course, encompass all comments, and its outcome can be considered for the Council. It is important for FAO policy to take note of the outcome of the field visits as an effective management tool.

Concerning the partnerships, of the UN System, FAO is there to ensure the effectiveness of programmes. Partnership, cooperation and collaboration with UN Agencies in the field is important in achieving success.

In this regard, I would like to say that the UN System in Zimbabwe and Mozambique has a number of comparative advantages. With regard to advocacy for UN core values, including human rights and gender equality, human security and the Millennium Development Goals, and also with regard to normative and technical advisory services, especially national capacity. That is important at a central and decentralized level, as is support for national evidence-based programmes and implementation services. The UN can be sub-contracted to implement services on behalf of the Government, as seen in other regions to support national humanitarian responses at the onset of emergencies, to bring the voice of civil society to the table, and to build partnerships between all stakeholders.

In the two countries, the United Nations development framework was for operational activities within the UN System in countries organizing tentative areas or pillars, namely governance, human capital, HIV/AIDS, and economic development. As mentioned, it was agreed in 2007 that Mozambique should be a pilot country for 'Delivering as One'. It was after the initial phase initiated by the Secretary General in this regard, and it was based on four principles: one leader, one budget, one programme and one office. It is making the UN System more coherent, effective and efficient in the field. Mozambique is one of the eight pilot countries as regards 'Delivering as One'.

In this respect, we actually had a very well-managed meeting, and we witnessed very good cooperation among the UN Agencies in both countries.

The final point that I want to raise is that these are really two countries that are rather immense, and have an enormous capacity for progress. They have fertile land, water and manpower, and so on. But on the other hand, we see that they are insecure countries, and the sources can be managed well to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and food security.

Ms Claudia FUMO (European Union)

I would simply like to join my colleagues in expressing appreciation for the visit, so I will not repeat all of that. But I would like to add that we had someone from the Mozambique representation here in Rome who accompanied us, Mr Gwenya, and that was really appreciated by all of us.

I am just going to say a couple of words on land, which was one of the themes that we looked at during this visit, although I should preface by reiterating that it was an incredibly short visit, so our impressions were exactly that. They were impressions.

In both countries, because agriculture is a key sector, the whole issue of land laws and policies, and all the aspects related to their tenure, is fundamental to the achievement of the food security objectives among others. In both countries, the issue is rather sensitive, but perhaps for different reasons. So I will touch on a couple of points with regard to each country.

In Zimbabwe, land has been and continues to be a very important political issue. Security of tenure for all nationals is actually one of the objectives of the Global Political Agreement in 2008, and I would say it was important, I would also emphasize our role to really delve into this complex issue. But there were two important comments that came out of the discussions we had. Everyone commented that the resolution of this issue was fundamental for Zimbabwe in order to move away from this period of protracted crisis, and to really maximize the full potential of a country that really has so many resources. A lot of people commented that resolving this issue would enable development partners to shift away from the short-term approaches, which have characterized the nature of engagement to date, and to start focusing on resilience and livelihood through longer-term planning. So this was quite important for FAO, and I think for all of us.

With respect to FAO's programme given this context and within the policy framework pillar of the CPF, which at the time was still under discussion, there is work planned with regard to land policies. At the time of our visit, FAO had actually just been appointed to lead a Working group on Land Reform that had been previously chaired by the EU, and which had been in existence for quite a number of years. In this regard, we heard a lot of very positive comments from a wide range of stakeholders about FAO's important role as a neutral facilitator, acting in a challenging context.

In Mozambique, land is also a very important topic. Land belongs to the state. This was explained to us as a means to ensure equitable access by all. The state also allows the use of land by individuals with a sort of permit. In 1997, Mozambique passed a law on land, which is viewed by many as being highly progressive because it recognizes customary land use and requires that anyone who wishes to invest in Mozambique, or in a specific area, must first consult the communities living on the land and, indeed, come to an agreement with them.

Natural resource management, including land, is also a key pillar of the Government's Agricultural Development Plan. Because approximately seventy percent of rural households have less than two hectares of land, there is a strong focus on smallholders and food security.

With respect to FAO's programme, we can say that FAO has had a long-term engagement with regard to land issues in Mozambique since the time of the Peace Agreement in 1992. Certainly through their support together with others, I wish to recall the development of the Land Law in 1997, and the formulation of the Territorial Planning Policy and Law.

For several years, FAO has also provided technical assistance to a training center of the Ministry of Justice, which provides training on and dissemination of the Land Law, and other related legislation to actors engaged in the justice sector and civil society organizations.

Since 2009, within this programme, there has been a project funded by Norway on gender and women's rights to land, and this has had an impact on both Government officials and civil society organizations in a number of different communities.

Our final comment on this theme is that given that the Voluntary Guidelines have been approved in May, and subsequently endorsed by the FAO Council in June, we took the opportunity of inquiring before our visit whether they were known. We found that in Zimbabwe there was a limited awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines, and we would say, across the board, including FAO. But in Mozambique, there was quite a strong awareness. Indeed, a lot of interlocutors felt that it was the Mozambique experience that actually shaped the development of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Mr Agus Prihatin SAPTONO (Indonesia)

We would like to add our thanks for this field visit, and we would like to share the following reflection as regards the field visit. Preparation of the field visit should start as soon as possible, from the moment the visiting team is constituted.

The first and only briefing provided at Headquarters was on 31 May, leaving less than four weeks before departure in an extremely busy period. This was insufficient for the group to organize itself or to review the recommendations. The standard Terms of Reference stating the proposed expected outcomes, etc. of the trip should be drafted by OSD, and posted on the Permanent Representatives Website. We understand this has never been done, and that indeed the Cambodia visit Terms of Reference were drafted by a member of the group instead of FAO.

Better focus materials should be provided to the team in advance: a short presentation of the FAO offices that will be visited, basic data such as staff numbers, budget, principles, programme activity etc., a concise presentation of the country situation, and of FAO's activities in the countries, as well as a summary of the policy with regard to FAO's work in the countries, and also with respect to that of WFP and IFAD if possible.

A short note should also be provided with respect to the technical programme. A lot of material was provided at the briefing, but this had come a bit too late. Not all of it was available, and it was difficult to decide what to read. The FAO Representative of countries to be visited should be invited and associated with any briefing organized by FAO in Rome. The briefing in Rome should always include the Decentralized Offices and should kickoff with an introduction by the Decentralized Office in question on the staff and the draft programme of the field visits.

Plenty of time should be allowed for answering questions by the team. In the second stage, a brief presentation on the major technical activity, if needed, with technical officers at Headquarters, could follow with priority given to issues highlighted in the Field Visit Programme. We were concerned that for our briefing on 31 May, OSD had mobilized a large number of Headquarters staff from different divisions who were asked to present their work, even if it was not directly related to the visits.

The programme should include a balanced series of meetings with Representatives of the Government, but also with civil society, the private sector, the UN, FAO Representatives, donors, coupled with visits to the field. Most importantly, sufficient time should be given to meeting with FAO staff, and to a briefing at the end of the trip with respect to each country. The protocol should be kept as light as possible, with as small a number of FAO staff mobilized as possible.

In order to minimize the burden of the Country Office, the expenses should be kept at a reasonable level, with economy class tickets and medium rate hotels for the team. Finally, a concise Report should be drafted by the team with observations focusing on FAO's work in the field. The Report should be shared with FAO and the Permanent Representatives, and then presented to the Council. Previous Reports should be provided in advance to future groups for institutional memory, and as examples.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

There are also, in addition to the insights we gained during our field visits, visits that we made outside of the city. In Zimbabwe, as in both countries, we drove about two to three hours outside of the capital to visit some project sites. In Zimbabwe, it was a cattle dipping site, that was very interesting. This huge pit had been dug in 1925, and used consistently. With FAO and other's help, it is now used to protect the cattle.

The dip was phenomenal. I had never seen anything like it.

The farmers all brought their cattle in from out in the fields, from villages everywhere, and they lined them up. It was so orderly, it was amazing, and the cows knew the drill on this thing. They rounded up and went to this dip tank, and when it was their turn, they leaped into this water- and pesticide-filled tank, and then swam and walked out of it, and shook it off, and they were good for another six months in that regard. It was just a phenomenal thing to see the organization behind it, and it just really worked.

Another project we saw in Zimbabwe was one on egg production. Donors had created a programme where primarily women farmers, who seem to us to be the heads of household out in the villages, were given up to twenty chickens, along with a cage that was designed to maximize production and efficiency. To us, it was remarkable to see how the women adapted to this.

One lady who showed us this was just so proud, and so Informed about what she was doing, and the fact that not only did she have additional food for her family in the form of eggs, but was also able to take some to market, and had learned the skills to market the excess eggs. It is one of those sustainable development projects. It was just really clear to us how what may seem like small things can have a big impact.

In Mozambique, we learned about post-harvest management, a project that was helping farmers build metal or stone silos to store their excess crops better. We know that food losses play a significant role in hunger, but the farmers we saw were very proud and impressed with their new family-run silos – we are not talking about huge industrial silos, but about one at each house – very effective.

And then, perhaps our most memorable visit was to a women's – well it is not really a women's, but it was *de facto* that – a farmer's field school. It was all women who showed it to us. They had a model farm where the women had set up a bulletin board to show us what they were doing, and they instructed us in all that they had done together from using goods that were provided to them through the programme, to sharing knowledge among themselves on best practices, on things such as developing their own organic fertilizers or their own natural pesticides, teaching older women, teaching younger women how to develop the seedlings and maintain them. And then, we also saw how they immediately, set up a brigade down to the stream below of buckets going up. It was the height of efficiency. We were very impressed with their knowledge and willingness to make a go of this.

And finally, speaking of gender, I would like to comment that it was clear to us that considerable work remains to be done in both countries in order to level the playing field. Our observations indicated, as we have all said, that women play key roles in farming and community organization, and while laws exist that provide for equal treatment, the application of those laws has not been fully embraced in practice.

Some programmes to remedy this situation are in place, but increased emphasis on this issue would be beneficial, we think, to both societies. This reinforced to us the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout the FAO's Strategic Plan.

In conclusion, like my colleagues, we want to thank everyone who assisted in making this visit such a successful opportunity for us to gain insight into the FAO's operations in the Field. Surely, this information is going to help us carry out our governance responsibilities, and we are grateful for the opportunity, and urge you to avail yourselves of it when the opportunity arises.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à tous les six de cette présentation à la fois exhaustive et complémentaire. Il n'est pas prévu de débat, mais s'il y a quelques questions ou remarques très courtes, c'est possible.

M. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinée Équatoriale)

Au nom du Groupe Afrique, je voudrais exprimer ma gratitude pour la facilitation fournie pour que les Représentants permanents de la FAO de toutes les Régions aient eu la possibilité d'effectuer des visites sur le Terrain.

Nous sommes particulièrement satisfaits du fait que la dernière visite de Terrain ait été menée dans deux pays africains, comme vous l'avez dit, à savoir, au Mozambique et au Zimbabwe.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que les Gouvernements hôtes, les Bureaux de pays de la FAO et le Bureau régional aient accordé la facilitation nécessaire pour ces visites, afin que les Représentants permanents puissent rencontrer le Gouvernement et les fonctionnaires de l'ONU, ainsi que les représentants des organisations paysannes, du secteur privé et les représentants des ONG clés.

Le Groupe Afrique est heureux de constater que le rapport fait référence aux progrès réalisés dans l'installation des Bureaux de la FAO, aux améliorations constatées dans le traitement des projets du PCT et à la simplification des procédures en vue de faciliter des prises de décisions plus actives.

Le rapport note cependant le nombre de postes vacants au Bureau sous-régional à Harare, et recommande qu'il soit pourvu dès que possible.

À cet égard, nous voudrions recommander un mécanisme plus transparent et plus sensible aux besoins techniques des Bureaux décentralisés.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que les Bureaux de la FAO, dans les deux pays, ont établi un large éventail de partenaires efficaces et qu'ils jouent un rôle clé en tant que facilitateurs.

Nous voudrions exhorter les Bureaux de la FAO à aider les Gouvernements des Pays hôtes, afin de renfoncer le partenariat entre les Ministères et les parties prenantes clé, afin de parvenir à une meilleure cohérence des politiques.

À cet égard, nous demandons instamment la finalisation rapide des directives sur le partenariat dans le but de fournir aux Bureaux décentralisés de la FAO des orientations politiques pertinentes.

Comme il a été indiqué dans cet excellent rapport qu'ont présenté nos collègues, nous voulons encourager le Siège de la FAO à s'assurer que les initiatives importantes, telles que les cadres stratégiques mondiaux d'initiatives volontaires, soient communiquées aux Gouvernements hôtes et aux parties prenantes concernées.

Les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts devraient être l'objet de discussions avec les Gouvernements hôtes, compte tenu de la centralité du régime foncier pour répondre aux défis de la production alimentaire.

Nous notons avec satisfaction, que le cadre de programmation par pays du Zimbabwe a été conclu, et en voie de finalisation au Mozambique.

Nous espérons que le processus d'élaboration des cadres de programmation par pays sera utilisé comme base de discussion entre les Bureaux de États Membres de la FAO, les Gouvernements hôtes et les partenaires, pour discuter et fournir des informations sur les Objectifs Stratégiques de la FAO.

Passant à la question du genre, le rapport fait une observation importante sur les cadres juridiques qui sont en place dans les deux pays afin de faciliter l'autonomisation des femmes, mais que celles-ci restent marginalisées.

Nous serions favorables à la recommandation formulée dans le rapport pour les Bureaux de pays de la FAO, afin d'assurer qu'ils intègrent le genre dans tout leur travail avec les gouvernements hôtes et les partenaires, en vue d'assurer que les femmes aient les outils nécessaires pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Enfin, nous aimerions appuyer l'idée que dans l'avenir ces visites soient plus structurées, avec des cadres de références clairs, qui précisent le rôle des Représentants permanents, des gouvernements hôtes et des Bureaux régionaux et de pays de la FAO, ainsi que les résultats attendus de ces visites.

Compte tenu de l'importance du suivi du processus de réforme, les Représentants permanents devraient clairement se concentrer sur les questions qui peuvent donner une plus grande clarté sur les défis actuels.

Continues in Spanish

Permítame aprovechar esta oportunidad para comentar una anécdota efectivamente en el marco mismo de esta, la importancia de conocer lo que pasa sobre el terreno, dado que el Presidente del Grupo Africano también se involucró en forma personal para poder visitar nuestra Oficina Regional de la FAO en Accra. El Representante de la Sub-región de África, del África del Sur, basado en Harare, que es un asiático, me explicó precisamente lo entusiasmado que se quedó cuando vio a los representantes de la FAO llegar a Harare para conocer lo que la FAO hace sobre el terreno. Fue, muy importante para él, poder explicar a los Representantes de la FAO en Roma su marco de trabajo, sus actividades, sus programas y, sobre todo, sus dificultades sobre el terreno.

Yo creo esas visitas, como lo dicen todos los testimonios, son importantes para nosotros porque muchas veces creemos que desde Roma conocemos todo lo que pasa sobre el terreno. Las visitas, sin embargo, demuestran que no es verdad. No conocemos todo lo que pasa en el terreno. El terreno tampoco conoce todo lo que pasa en la Sede de la FAO, donde aquí se definen las orientaciones

generales del funcionamiento de la FAO sobre el terreno. Por lo tanto, concluyo asegurando efectivamente que la FAO siga apoyando esas visitas del terreno.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

My Delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group. We appreciate the presentation by the team who visited the two countries in Africa. One of the points or problems they raised is that there is a shortage of technical staff, and I think it is one of the areas that perhaps could be looked into by the Director-General in the future.

However, I have one question which I always raise in such a forum. Although there are shortages of staff at the field level, there are still experts, national experts, at the country level. Given the opportunity, I think they would carry out the duty well. But my experience is that in FAO they may be employed, but even then, they are not given the proper opportunity to utilize their expertise. They are, rather, given secondary roles in the Offices, and my question to the team is, did they observe in their visit both at the Field and the Offices, national experts playing a role?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je donne la parole à Karen pour donner une réponse sur ce point-là. Mais je tiens à préciser à nouveau que ces voyages ne sont pas des voyages d'audit, cela doit être clair, mais vous pouvez faire part de votre sentiment.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

Yes, I would like to say that too, I would like to have more answers to this. This was part of the issue we brought up in our lessons learned – that we would have appreciated more time in each country that we visited to ask more questions, and find out even more information about the programmes and how they are being carried out. But we were not an Audit Programme, so I am afraid I do not have the answer to that. Do any of my colleagues feel that they could answer that one? But it is worth looking into.

Mme Chistine TON NU (France)

Oui, je suis d'accord avec Karen. Nous n'avons pas eu le temps de creuser cette question en quatre jours de visite. Malheureusement, mais c'est une question très importante: la place des experts nationaux et d'une manière plus générale la place des consultants dans le travail de la FAO et les différentes catégories de statut qui existent, pas seulement dans les Bureaux décentralisés mais également ici au Siège.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie de ce rapport qui montre l'utilité de ces déplacements, l'utilité aussi qu'il soit présenté à tout le monde et non pas en cercle restreint, car cela permet à chacun de voir ce qui a été fait et d'échanger.

J'ai entendu aussi vos remarques sur la préparation; nous allons donc voir avec le Secrétariat comment être plus opérationnel sur la préparation.

Cependant, je voudrais quand même préciser que tout ne dépend pas que du Secrétariat, car l'organisation des visites de terrain de ces deux dernières années n'a pas toujours été facile, en particulier pour savoir quelles étaient les personnes qui effectivement feraient partie du voyage. Des inscriptions de dernière minute ont occasionné des difficultés d'organisation, voire matérielles et économiques, car des billets d'avion pris à l'avance permettent de faire quelques économies.

Il serait bon que tout le monde fasse des efforts, aussi je vous propose qu'en début d'année, lors d'une réunion Informelle des Présidents de Groupes régionaux, nous parlions avec le Secrétariat pour voir comment nous pourrions avoir un cadre plus précis. J'ai bien entendu aussi la nécessité d'avoir des thèmes bien appuyés.

Enfin, c'est ce que vous avez dit, comme le Directeur général également, ce que tous nous disons et ce à quoi travaille le Secrétariat: rapprocher la FAO du terrain.

La FAO c'est le staff, mais c'est aussi nous, les États Membres, et je pense que des initiatives pareilles en les rationalisant encore un peu plus, nous rapprocheront tous, les États Membres, le Siège et le terrain.

Merci d'avoir contribué à cet échange et merci aussi aux Pays hôtes et à la Région de nous avoir accueillis.

Je clos ce Point 25.1.

Je demande à Madame la Présidente du Comité de rédaction du Rapport, Madame l'Ambassadrice Berengère Quincy de bien vouloir venir à la tribune.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons procéder maintenant à l'Adoption du rapport. Le document de référence porte la cote CL 145/REP. Et sans plus attendre je donne la parole à Madame Bérengère Quincy, Présidente du Comité de Rédaction, pour nous présenter ce Rapport.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (Président du Comité de Rédaction)

Tout d'abord je voudrais tous vous remercier de la confiance que vous m'avez faite en m'élisant à ce poste de Présidente du Comité de rédaction.

Je voudrais aussi remercier chaleureusement les membres du Comité, le Secrétariat et les interprètes qui nous ont assistés et qui nous ont permis de travailler pendant onze heures et demie dans un réel esprit de coopération, et je dois dire pour moi une très bonne ambiance.

Notre travail a été grandement facilité par la précision des recommandations des Comités qui faisaient rapport au Conseil. Puis, par la précision des conclusions du Président indépendant du Conseil à l'issue de nos délibérations sur chaque point.

Nos méthodes de travail s'améliorent de Conseil en Conseil, et je trouve pour ma part cela extrêmement positif.

Nous avons eu quelques difficultés tenant à des questions de traduction, aussi parce que les concepts ne sont pas toujours traduisibles facilement d'une langue à l'autre. Nous sommes convenus que les Délégations en ferait part au Secrétariat comme c'est l'usage.

Nous avons eu aussi des débats relatifs à des questions de fond, mais nous sommes arrivés à trouver des formulations qui reflétaient nos débats, et l'état du consensus acquis au sein du Conseil.

Ce rapport n'est peut être pas le meilleur qui soit mais, grâce à l'esprit du consensus de tous, il est le meilleur que nous ayons pu produire, et j'espère que nous pourrons l'adopter. J'espère aussi qu'il servira de guide utile aux ambitieux chantiers dans lesquels nous sommes engagés, avec le Directeur général, jusqu'à la Conférence.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Quincy. Merci aux membres du Comité de rédaction, et toutes nos félicitations à tous et à toutes pour l'excellent travail accompli.

Le contenu de ce Rapport, comme vous l'avez dit devrait rencontrer l'agrément du Conseil. S'il y a des corrections à faire aux versions linguistiques, comme d'habitude, je vous prie de les communiquer par écrit au Secrétariat afin qu'elles soient prises en compte pendant la finalisation du rapport.

Mais avant de vous demander de l'adopter en bloc, je vois que la Thaïlande a demandé la parole.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

I would like to provide Thailand's further comments on the Report, particularly with regard to Item 21: Provisional Agenda for the 146th Session of the Council, April 2013.

With regard to the International Year of Soils specifically, Thailand and the Asia Regional Group have sent the letters to the Director-General of FAO requesting to add an Agenda Item regarding the International Year of Soils for FAO's Governing Body Sessions.

FAO also acknowledges that they have received these requests, that they have been brought to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, and suggests that this matter be raised during this Council for further discussion. Furthermore, during this Council discussion, the Chairperson of G77 and China, Japan and Sri Lanka also stated that the International Year of Soils should be added in the next provisional agenda for the 146th Session of the Council.

You may recall that on 5 December on UN's Bureau site, we also celebrated His Majesty the King of Thailand's 85th birthday given his efforts to conserve the soil for food security. This was also attended by the Director-General of FAO, Chairman of Codex Alimentarius, and members of the Global Soil Partnership, and many more of our FAO Members. I very much appreciate and thank you very much for your support as regards Bureau.

We are now coming to the adoption of the proposal to establish a Bureau, to celebrate annually on 5 December the platform for raising awareness of the importance of soil for food security and ecosystem functions. So therefore, I think now it is important and it is time for Member Nations to take real action as regards the International Year of Soils. Therefore, Thailand requests to add the International Year of Soils in 2017 to the Provisional Agenda of the 146th Session of the Council in April 2013.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Effectivement après le dernier Conseil, votre pays a écrit au Directeur général, qui a répondu qu'il faudrait parler de ces sujets au cours d'une autre Session du Conseil. Effectivement aussi, plusieurs Membres du Conseil sont intervenus et dans leurs interventions ont fait état d'une Année internationale des sols.

Moi-même, dans mon rapport de la discussion, j'ai fait état de cette demande, mais j'étais convaincu qu'elle était déjà en cours, et personne ne demandait qu'un point supplémentaire soit ajouté en plus de l'Année internationale des légumineuses qui était proposée. Maintenant en tant que Président, je pense que nous pouvons proposer de mettre un point supplémentaire, « Année internationale des légumineuses » et « Année internationale des sols ».

Je vous répète aussi que nous n'avions pas mis de date parce que le Conseil prochain statuera à ce sujet.

Est-ce qu'il y a des objections à ce que nous rajoutions à ce point « Année internationale des sols » ?

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, je vous propose de l'indiquer dans le Rapport.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We are so sorry to request the floor, although Japan is a Member of the Drafting Committee. First of all, we wanted to support the proposal by Thailand, and secondly, we have one proposal to amend, which is CL 145/4, Item 4: "Progress Report on the IPA".

I think this is a typo, but under paragraph 3, sub-section F, at the very end of the page, it says 'actions considered completed', but our request in the Plenary was to add supplementary information with regard to the actions, which would be categorized as 'closed'. We understand that Mr Benfield accepted, so we proposed that this line reads as 'actions considered closed' instead of 'completed'.

If the sense of the Council is as it is in the Draft Report, we would be flexible, and we can propose for it to read 'actions considered completed and closed'. Either amendment is acceptable for us.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'espère que ce n'est pas simplement une question de traduction. En ce qui concerne la version française, je la lis :

« Que les actions considérées comme achevées soient marquées d'un astérisque dans le Rapport final sur la mise en œuvre du PAI et fasse l'objet d'un complément d'information. »

Donc, pour le français cela correspond à ce que vous demandez, mais je ne peux pas juger quant aux autres langues. Nous pouvons rajouter « achevées et closes ».

Y a-t-il des objections à rajouter « closes » après « achevées » ?

Non, ce sera donc inclus dans ce texte.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I would also like to thank the Drafting Committee for the Report. I just have two comments to make. One is to support the proposal by Thailand, that is, the concerns are genuine, they have support and should be included. The second one is on Report CL 145/8.2 on Item 8.2. The heading of that report reads 'Report of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Products'. We do not have that Committee. The Committee we have is the 'Committee on Commodity Problems', so we changed the word 'Products' to 'Problems', if that is acceptable to Members.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je ne pense pas que cela pose problème puisque que c'est le titre correct. Donc, pas d'objections à ce que le titre correct soit rétabli.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Quisiera agradecerles a la Embajadora Quincy, Presidenta del Comité de Redacción, y a todos los miembros del Comité de Redacción por su trabajo excelente y agotador. Solamente, Presidente, quiero expresarle por parte de la Presidencia del G77 el apoyo a la Representación de Tailandia, indicando la necesidad de incorporar el Año Internacional de los Suelos para el 2017, para la agenda del próximo Consejo.

Esto lo hemos trabajado durante todo este año realmente. Usted está copiado en las comunicaciones que acá tengo, que es del Director General fue copiado el Ministro de Agricultura de Tailandia, fue copiado nuestro Representante Permanente acá ante la FAO. Llevamos todo el año prácticamente trabajando sobre este tema. Y la última solución que se nos brindó fue presentar el Año Internacional de los Suelos en una fecha distinta a la que originalmente propusimos, pero que quede entonces para el próximo Consejo a celebrarse en abril, dentro de la Agenda, el tema del Año Internacional de los Suelos.

Ya le pasaremos debidamente, pues, las comunicaciones, o bien mi persona o bien nuestro próximo Presidente del G77, y los Representantes de Tailandia, de manera formal, para esa agenda provisional.

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, China and the Chinese Delegation fully support the Report of the Drafting Committee. We think it is a perfect, complete and well-drafted Report. We thank in particular the members of the Drafting Committee for having worked for eleven and a half hours. We wish to express our appreciation. Second, we support the proposal by Thailand which would be to have an additional Item on the Agenda which would be the International Year of Soils. That would be on the Agenda of the next Council.

Yesterday we talked about World Soil Day, and we said that soil is the foundation of human life and it is also the foundation of agricultural development and food security. The celebration of the International Year of Soils would be very important for agricultural development and food security. I am quite sure of that, so we give our full support to that proposal.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

El Ecuador respalda el Informe con la propuesta de Tailandia y, solamente, quiere realizar una pequeña enmienda, más de forma, Presidente. Pero para darle más coherencia al Informe, con relación al Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales, que era el documento CL 145/REP/13, en literal H, dice que el Consejo señaló que las enmiendas propuestas al Artículo XXXIII del Reglamento de la Organización con respecto al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, serían revisadas por el CCLM, luego de su aprobación por el Comité de Asuntos de Seguridad Alimentaria en su 31° período de sesiones, en octubre. Esto ya aconteció, y el Consejo, al emitir un criterio respecto al Informe, deberá tomar los hechos, ya, que han sucedido y ya han sido aprobadas dichas propuestas de enmienda, y quizá debería señalarse que se habían aprobado las propuestas y que serán examinadas por el CCLM en su reunión en primavera, más para darle coherencia al Informe. Gracias, Presidente.

LE PRÉSIDENT

[...] les amendements déjà adoptés. Cela sera inscrit. Il s'agit donc plutôt d'un problème de fond et non de forme.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Asia Group, I would like to thank Ambassador Quincy and the able team who obviously have put in a lot of hard work in a very short time to get this document out. I would also like to thank the Asia Group members who served on the Drafting Committee, that is, Bangladesh, Indonesia and China for having volunteered to serve on the Drafting Committee. It is generally a tough job, and nobody takes a great interest in serving on Drafting Committees so I would like to particularly thank them for having agreed to serve on the Drafting Committee.

I would also like to fully endorse the proposal made by Thailand. I think this was also very eloquently and adequately represented earlier on by the Chair of the G77 and China, as well as Japan, regarding the International Year of Soils. I think a lot of groundwork has been done. I have also written to the Director-General regarding this matter, and I acknowledge with thanks the letter received from him, So, without further ado, may I fully endorse the final document of the Drafting Committee as well as on behalf of the Asia Group and Sri Lanka, to endorse the proposal made by Thailand.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons donc rajouté quatre éléments au rapport: celui concernant la Journée internationale des sols, le rajout du terme « closes » dans le cadre des amendements du PAI demandé par le Japon, la rectification du titre du Comité des produits, en particulier en anglais, et l'ajustement du libellé concernant les amendements du CSA.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

The Africa Group has asked me to request some brief information, regarding this report, CL 145/REP/15. Paragraph two of that Report gives a deadline for submission for nomination of the position of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, that is at 12 hours on Monday, 8 April 2013. We would like to know when members will be given some more information regarding the post.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Nominations are to be made to the Secretary-General of the Council or to the Director-General, and they will be circulated immediately thereafter. I do not know if you need more specific information, but it is a procedure that we have in our Basic Texts. You have a time limit for the submission of the nomination, and the Secretariat will circulate the nominations immediately thereafter.

The document "Arrangements for the Forthcoming Session of the Conference" provides information on this matter and the Secretariat will be glad to provide such additional information as you may require. But the document on "Arrangements for the Forthcoming Session of the Conference" also has details on this topic.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons répondu aux questions, intégré les amendements. Après ces discussions, le Conseil accepte-t-il d'adopter le Rapport en bloc?

Merci, le Rapport de la 145^{ème} Session du Conseil est donc adopté.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie, je remercie encore une fois Madame Quincy et tous les membres du Comité de rédaction, et vous tous en fait puisque vous avez tous contribué.

Y a-t-il des commentaires après cette adoption? Nous sommes bien d'accord que les commentaires ne remettent pas en cause l'Adoption du Rapport.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

I would be grateful if you could give the floor to the European Union. Cyprus, the EU Presidency, will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We would like, first of all, to thank the Ambassador of France as well as the other members of the Committee for their excellent work which facilitated the adoption of the Report by the Council immediately.

We want to make only two remarks. We welcome the improved Methods of Work of the Council and we also welcome the accurate summary by the Independent Chairperson of the Council which should form the basis of the Drafting Committee's work.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank you for your participation in the FAO Council this week. The debates you had and the guidance you have given help us shape our future work.

I would like to start by pointing out that the five Strategic Objectives which you have endorsed this week have set us on the right path to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Your endorsement allows us to start the preparation of the Action Plans for each Strategic Objective as well as the draft Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget next January.

Next year, we will also start the transition to the new set of Strategic Objectives, while assuring the full delivery of the current Programme of Work and Budget. Let me repeat what I told you at the opening Session: even a small, real increase in the next budget level will give a strong signal of your commitment to achieve FAO's new Strategic Objectives. I ask you to convey this proposal to your capitals in advance.

Speaking of budget, I want to thank Members for answering my call to pay arrears of their 2012 Assessed Contributions and also anticipate 2013 payments when possible. In particular, I want to thank Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Gambia, Israel, Mali, Oman, Sudan, and Timor-Leste, for the advance full settlement of their 2013 Assessed Contributions.

I would also like to thank Burkina Faso, Iceland, Mongolia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, and the United Republic of Tanzania for the advance partial settlement of their 2013 Assessed Contributions. All your efforts are much appreciated. The good news is that with the payments received, we will not need to borrow money for operations until the end of 2012.

The bad news is that the current cash level is expected to cover operating expenses only until the end of next January. So I renew my appeal regarding the timely payment of Assessed Contributions, regardless of the amount, for 2013.

Civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors have important roles to play in our quest for a hunger-free sustainable world. Their participation enhances the efforts to address food security. The contribution they can give at the national level is also very important. I want to thank

you for understanding the importance of these partnerships, and for accepting the Civil Society Strategy we presented to Council.

It gives us a solid and transparent foundation to support the collaboration that already exists and build new ones, while striving to guarantee the neutrality and impartiality of FAO, that we all agree is essential. As you have requested, we will submit to the next Joint Meeting a complete and updated version of this Strategy for approval. We will also present the Revised Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson, and Members of the Council for your efforts in achieving a consensus, and giving a strong, positive message, despite valid, individual reservations. I recognize this was done in the best interests of our Organization. That is also what led me to request amendments to the General Rules of the Organization to ensure an adequate transition process.

The new rules regarding the transition period will ensure that FAO keeps functioning and gives incoming Directors-General the flexibility to put in place the Senior Management that he or she needs to lead the Organization.

In that sense, your confirmation of Dan Gustafson as Deputy Director-General, Operations is important for this effort. Let me take this opportunity to say that Fernanda Guerrieri, currently our Regional Representative for Europe, will take up office as Directeur de Cabinet in mid-January.

In welcoming her, I want to thank Changchui He for having accepted my invitation to assist me in this first year of office.

In a related issue, at your meeting this week, you accepted my request that the Staff Representatives speak to Council. I thank you for this courtesy towards our staff members who are at the heart of our work. Staff associations appreciate the opportunity of having addressed Council twice this year. They are also aware that this is not usual practice, and that it will not repeat itself at every Session.

Let me briefly add that, in the next steps of the Transformational Change Process, we will review the Apex structure, as requested by the Independent External Evaluation. This will include, first, the review of the current Deputy Directors-General structure; second, the split of the functions currently performed by the Office of Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy; third, the creation of the position of Chief of Statistics and of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Statistics; fourth, upgrading of the Directeur de Cabinet post. These changes will be submitted through the Governing Bodies to the next FAO Conference.

We opened this week with the sad news of the death of former Director-General, Edouard Saouma, and we are ending this meeting mourning the passing away of the Brazilian architect, Oscar Niemeyer. But he left a message of hope I want to share with you.

Niemeyer said, and I quote: “We have to dream, or things don’t happen”.

Working together, we are not only dreaming, but making things happen. I wish all of us a peaceful end of the year break to recharge our energies for 2013. I look forward to welcoming you back at FAO in the New Year.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de Délégation, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués et Observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Nous voilà arrivés au terme de nos travaux, et avant de vous remercier et de clôturer la Session, permettez-moi de vous faire part brièvement de quelques observations. Tout d’abord, au nom du Conseil et en mon nom personnel, je souhaite la bienvenue à Dan Gustafson, nommé Directeur

général adjoint, chargé des opérations par le Directeur général, après confirmation lundi par le Conseil. Toutes nos félicitations, Dan, et tous nos encouragements pour accomplir la mission qui vous a été confiée, vous pouvez compter sur nous.

Je voudrais ensuite vous remercier pour la qualité et la clarté croissantes de vos interventions, notamment sur les points les plus délicats. Elles ont facilité considérablement la rédaction de mes conclusions, qui elles-mêmes, après avoir été revues par le Secrétariat, constituent la base des documents soumis au Comité de rédaction. Je considère que le Conseil devient de plus en plus performant, et je vous encourage à poursuivre dans cette direction.

Un petit point en confidence, je dois vous dire que j'ai vécu un très bon Conseil, et je vous en remercie.

Concernant le contenu de nos travaux, une étape essentielle a été franchie avec la validation des cinq Objectifs Stratégiques proposés par le Directeur général. Nous poursuivrons notre réflexion sur le Cadre stratégique, lors de la Session du Conseil d'avril, qui aura également à statuer sur le projet du Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015.

S'agissant du point sur la Stratégie de partenariats avec la société civile, qui nous a été soumis en urgence, le Conseil dans sa sagesse a prouvé qu'il était capable de surmonter les difficultés de procédure pour privilégier le débat de fond, et qu'il savait se mobiliser quand c'était nécessaire.

Soyez-en tous remerciés.

Nous reviendrons sur ce sujet en avril, où nous aborderons également la Stratégie de partenariats avec le secteur privé un autre thème particulièrement sensible et important, qui nécessitera une préparation minutieuse et plus paisible, je l'espère.

Cette semaine un souffle particulièrement constructif a animé nos travaux, permettant de dépasser tous les clivages traditionnels et d'unir Secrétariat et Gouvernance dans un même élan.

Il convient de préserver cet « esprit de Rome » pour les Sessions futures et pour accompagner au mieux l'action du Directeur général et de sa nouvelle équipe.

Merci à tous, Jean-Jacques, Louis, Barbara, Stephen et vos équipes, et les Présidents et Membres des différents Comités. Merci aux interprètes, aux 'messengers', aux techniciens et aux gardes de sécurité.

Je souhaite à tous de bonnes fêtes de fin et de début d'année. Une année 2013 de paix et de bonheur, et qui nous rapproche encore un peu plus de l'éradication de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Bon retour dans vos foyers.

Je déclare close la 145^{ème} Session du Conseil.

Pour le compte rendu, je n'oublie pas de vous dire que la prochaine Session du Conseil aura lieu du 22 au 26 avril. Merci, bon retour.

The meeting rose at 16.41 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.41 horas