


December 2013

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

**Hundred and Forty-eighth Session - Cent quarante-huitième session
148.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 2-6 December 2013

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

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

<p>Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013</p>
<p>FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>2 December 2013</p>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.32 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 32
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.32
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I call the first meeting of the 148th Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today.

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I've been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document CL 148/INF/3, which is available at the document desk. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I now wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, who has joined us for this start of this opening meeting.

Before passing the floor to the Director-General, may I request the Council to stand for one minute of silence in the memory of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines and other parts of Southeast Asia last month.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council; Your Excellency Rigobert Maboundou, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Congo; Your Excellency Mr Solomon Owens, Minister for Agriculture of Gambia; Your Excellency Mr Marc Yombouno, Minister for Agriculture of Guinea; Your Excellency Mr Beda Machar Deng, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries of South Sudan; Your Excellency Mr Ouro Agadazi, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo; Your Excellency Mr Robert Sichinga, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Zambia; Your Excellency Madame Clémentine Ananga, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Cameroon; Your Excellency Mr Charles McClain, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Liberia, Members of the Council, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a pleasure to welcome you to FAO.

We have come a long way since I first spoke to you as Director-General elect in December 2011. We have made important changes in the Organization over the last two years.

I can say that now we have a clear focus. We have a team that is learning to work together. We have a plan and a budget –approved by you during the Conference last June.

We have defined concrete results and mapped out what we need to do to achieve them. And we already have the work plans to implement all that we have agreed to in paper.

The bulk of the results-based management planning process is complete. And our focus now shifts to implementation.

And allow me to point out that, in 2013, we already began executing six programmatic regional initiatives linked to the new strategic direction of FAO. They are framed by the new strategic objectives and respond to regional priorities defined at our last Regional Conferences.

These initiatives test-drive a new way of working in FAO.

The Corporate Programme Monitoring Board, that I personally chair, is reviewing carefully and regularly the progress made, and the challenges going forward. The results so far are very encouraging.

And we are scaling-up this way of working, defining new corporate initiatives for 2014-15, which address global, regional and sub-regional needs. Management and staff are fully immersed in this process.

For this effort to succeed, I need your cooperation. I need you to resist the temptation to micromanage. Please refrain from asking all the details on how we will implement our work. You will see and judge the results when we present them to you. Now, we deserve your trust.

You have approved a reviewed strategic framework and Programme of Work and Budget. We are acting on your guidance and we will report back to you.

I also need you to let my team focus on their work. Senior managers have always been accommodating of discussions with Members. They will continue to be available in this Council and at other moments, as necessary.

However, they cannot possibly respond to the requests of over 190 members without this affecting their work. So, I ask you to knock on two doors when contacting FAO.

For any request relative to conference services, meetings and protocol, please contact the CPA director.

For any issue related to FAO's substantive work, please contact Cabinet. Our doors are always open. So, our attention is now on the delivery of the Programme of Work and Budget.

By 2015, I expect you to see that the renewed FAO is not only on the right track, but is also delivering as expected and is better responding to your needs, within the framework we have agreed on.

Ladies and gentlemen, as requested by Members, our PWB integrates regular programme and extra-budgetary resources.

That means that the full delivery of our Programme of Work depends not only on the regular programme budget approved at Conference, but also on voluntary contributions. And we need USD 1.4 billion for the next biennium.

In the past, extra-budgetary funding were sometimes directed to specific interests that did not always fall within the top priorities of the Organization.

We cannot have that anymore. It is important that your voluntary contributions add to the strategic coherence that we have found.

You have approved a Programme of Work by consensus. That is where funding needs to go. I also need your full support on this.

I would also like to recall that the budget approved by Conference required USD 37 million in savings to be found.

As reported to the Programme and Finance Committees, we already identified economic savings worth USD 34 million. We will find the remaining USD 3 million from operating costs during the next biennium.

In addition, we will need to find further USD 2 million in efficiencies towards FAO's cost-share of the United Nations Resident Coordinator network.

This will be complemented by the USD 2 million from the FAO Country Office budget endorsed by the Finance Committee in the adjustments to the PWB to cover the total contribution of USD 4 million required from FAO to this network.

Allow me to add that, as has already been explained, most of the savings are being found in staff costs, which represent three-quarters of our budget.

I want to reaffirm that I am doing what is within my authority to control these costs, which have risen from 70 to 75 percent of our total budget in the past 10 years.

But, as you know, the main responsible for decisions related to staff costs are the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission.

In this regard, I would like to recall our understanding during the budget negotiation.

I assured you that I would find the savings and preserve the Programme of Work, as you requested. I have kept my end of the agreement.

In turn, you would appeal to your Capitals, calling for more vigilance by the General Assembly and the ICSC with regards to staff costs increases across the UN System.

I am just back from New York and I am sorry to say that you have to speak louder and be more proactive, because your voice was not heard yet. The decisions taken until now do not change the trend to increase staff costs in the next biennium.

This leaves FAO in a very difficult position.

Staff costs are rising and the FAO budget has lost 30 percent of its real value over the past 20 years.

At the same time, our responsibilities increase as Members ask us to do more and more.

These are two trends that need to change. If they continue pulling FAO in different directions, they will continue to cause serious damage to the Organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken a lot of what we are doing inside FAO. But this is only relevant as long as it has positive effects beyond our walls.

That is why I have also spent significant time speaking to governments and partners in their homes, in all regions of the world.

And even though we are still in the beginning of a long process, I can feel the good will and trust in the path that we are on.

We know that to help our Members achieve our main goal of food security, we need to be able to offer comprehensive support that ranges from production to social protection.

We are aware of the high expectations upon us. We have them, too. And we are excited about the challenges ahead.

I also want to highlight the growing commitment to end hunger that I have witnessed. Allow me to mention the example of Africa.

At the High-level Meeting on Food Security co-organized by the African Union, FAO and the Lula Institute in July, African nations set the goal to end hunger by 2025.

The region's leaders should confirm this bold commitment at one of the African Union Summits next year.

2014 will also be an exciting year with the International Year of Family Farming. The International Year was successfully launched a few days ago in New York. Last week, I also attended a very interesting event on family farming organized by the European Commission.

Ladies and gentlemen, as always, you have a full agenda this week.

I wish you fruitful discussions and look forward to receiving your guidance.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General, for your statement. We look forward to your smooth and effective implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 and we are sure that the Members will be supporting you.

Excellencies, delegates, I would like to remind you that in order to ask for the floor, you simply need to press the red button located by the microphone. The light will flash until the delegate speaks. The order of speakers will be automatically recorded and displayed on the screen above the podium.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give a brief account of the documentation for this session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The documentation for this session of the Council includes 14 main documents, of which five reports of sessions ending just before or after the distribution date.

Eleven documents were published on or before the distribution date of 4 November and three reports of sessions ending after that date were available at the beginning of the week following the conclusions of the sessions.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier****1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario**

(CL 148/1; CL 148/INF/1 Rev.1; CL 148/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. Our first item is the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable as set out in documents CL 148/1, CL 148/INF/1 Rev.1 and CL 148/INF/3.

Document CL 148/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 2 October 2013 to all Members of the Organization, together with invitations to this Session.

Since the 147th Session in June this year, no invitations have been issued to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-item 10.1 "Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions" and sub-item 10.2 "Applications for Membership in the Organization" can be removed from the Agenda.

Regarding item 15 "Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board", following consultations with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the Regional Groups, I wish to propose that item 15 be divided into two sub-items as follows: 15.1 will be on the "Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board" and 15.2 on the "Annual Reporting of WFP to the FAO Council and ECOSOC", in line with the resolution adopted by ECOSOC in July this year requesting United Nations funds and programmes to consolidate their current annual reporting. The background to this matter is given in document CL 148/LIM/6.

Are there any comments on the proposal to include this additional sub-item to the Provisional Agenda?

Thank you, the agenda is adopted as amended.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

With respect to the Timetable, you have before you document CL 148/INF/1 Rev.1, which is a provisional draft. Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 10 and the addition of item 15.2 on the "Annual Reporting of WFP to the FAO Council and ECOSOC" meet with the approval of the Council?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Thank you. The timetable is approved.

Excellencies, may I draw the Council's attention to my pre-session letter to you proposing a procedure to be followed when examining the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting. Given that these reports contain advice and comments on specific items on the agenda of this session, I would like to propose that we follow the well-established practice of making comments on such matters when the pertinent item is taken up. This approach will help focus our debates and avoid repetition.

I take it that the Council approves this approach.

Thank you. Before discussing these items, I would point out which matters appear both in the reports of a given Committee and as an item on our Agenda.

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

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

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

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons have been received: His Excellency Gustavo Infante of Argentina, His Excellency Basant Gupta of India, and His Excellency Gianni Ghisi of Italy.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed His Excellency Neil Briscoe from the United Kingdom as Chairperson, and the following countries as members; Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Morocco, Russian Federation, South Africa, and United Kingdom. Are there any objections? Thank you. It is so decided.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

May I suggest that in line with our consolidated method of work, Council Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

Similarly, the quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace and if you speak into the microphone. I should also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management.

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

I will draw-up conclusions of the discussions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session. The Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at recent sessions of Council. I invite you to point out any omission inadvertently made that you believe should be included in the draft report rather than waiting for the meeting of the Drafting Committee. In this way the task of the Drafting Committee will be made easier, allowing it to carry out its work more efficiently.

8. Report of the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (7-11 October 2013)

8. Rapport de la quarantième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (7-11 octobre 2013)

8. Informe del 40.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (7-11 de octubre de 2013)

(C 2015/19)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on our agenda is item 8, Report of the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which took place from 7 to 11 October 2013. Please ensure that you have document C 2015/19 before you.

I now invite Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, to introduce the report.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

It is a great honour for me to present you the report and results and the outcomes of the 40th Session of CFS and as you might know, it was the Fourth Session since the Reform of the CFS.

During the CFS, we dealt with seven agenda items corresponding to the roles of the Committee. Almost 800 representatives of CFS stakeholder groups, governments, civil society, private sector, research institutions, foundations, international and regional organizations and observers including 25 ministers and 12 Vice-Ministers, registered for CFS 40.

Organizational matters were dealt with in item 1, and in item 2 opening statements were made by the heads of the three Rome-Based Agencies, the special representatives to the UN Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).

A brief presentation was made on the main findings of the State of Food Insecurity in the world 2013 (SOFI) under item 3. Recommendations from policy round table debates on two topics were made under item 4, including bio fuels and food security and investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition.

Item 5 included seven topics corresponding to the main CFS work streams, namely: firstly, progress on the consultation process to arrive at principles for responsible agricultural investments; secondly, progress on the consultation progress to arrive at an agenda for action for addressing food insecurity and projected rises; thirdly, endorsement of the process for updating the Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition (GSF); fourthly, the second version as well as the second version of GSF; fourthly, the endorsement of the proposed amendments to the CFS Rules of Procedure and on the General Rules of the Organization, as well as the terms of reference, qualifications and selection procedure for the new CFS Secretary; fifthly, recommendations regarding monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations; sixthly, approval of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2014 and 2015; and finally, the endorsement of the next steps of the CFS communication strategy.

In agenda item 6, ways to encourage strengthened linkages and a two-way dialogue between CFS and other food security and nutrition stakeholders at the global and regional levels, especially the post-2015 Development Agenda were explored.

Election of the new CFS Chair and Bureau, and the adoption of the report of the session took place under item 7.

There was a special event on natural resource management for food security in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda, empowering small-scale food producers and food insecure communities to be agents of change, and this was held also in the context of CFS 40.

Last but not least, in between the official meetings there were also over 35 side events, which leads to the conclusion that the work of CFS can count on a lot of interest.

Having said this, I am happy to take questions and remarks from the Council and we are looking for your continuing support for the important work of CFS.

Sra. Alba COELLO (Ecuador)

Solamente para solicitar que se le dé la palabra a la Delegación de Paraguay, que hará su presentación en representación del Grupo Latinoamericano.

Sra. Lorena PATIÑO CARDOZO (Observador de Paraguay)

El Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe, el GRULAC, agradece el Informe del 40.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, celebrado del 7 al 11 de octubre.

Al respecto, nos permitimos hacer unos breves comentarios teniendo en cuenta que para el GRULAC este Comité es vital en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza.

Resaltamos los resultados del CSA 40, entre ellos, la aprobación de recomendaciones de políticas sobre biocombustibles y seguridad alimentaria, y sobre inversiones en la agricultura de pequeña escala en favor de la seguridad alimentaria de la nutrición, temas de gran relevancia para el mandato del Comité. Al respecto, el GRULAC manifestó en su momento, y reiteramos ahora, que debido a la presentación tardía de los documentos en español, varios países no pudieron participar y presentar sus criterios y posiciones en las mesas redondas que trataron los temas mencionados. Destacamos la adopción de la segunda versión del Marco estratégico mundial para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición; documento que está en la base de la reforma del CSA, y alentamos a todos a contribuir para su amplia diseminación.

El CSA 40, además, ha preparado el camino para la continuación de la elaboración de los principios, para la inversión agrícola responsable y del Programa de acción contra la inseguridad alimentaria en situaciones de crisis prolongadas, que esperamos aprobar en el 2014.

El GRULAC ha participado y respaldado estos trabajos a pesar de las dificultades registradas en diversas ocasiones por demoras en la disponibilidad de documentos de negociación en español. Estamos comprometidos en seguir contribuyendo a esas y otras líneas de trabajo del CSA.

Sin embargo, nos preocupa que la intensidad y alcance del Programa de trabajo del Comité puedan superar su capacidad y la de sus miembros para tratar los temas con la profundidad merecida y con amplia participación de todos los actores.

Es necesario que el Comité asegure la ejecución de su amplia agenda de trabajo, preservando el respeto al principio de inclusión y participación que llevó a su reforma. El multilingüismo y la entrega de documentos traducidos en los plazos establecidos son las bases de las consultas. La transparencia y la confianza que permiten al Comité tratar los temas de alta sensibilidad política. Al respecto, insistimos que el presupuesto del CSA debe ser suficiente para asegurar la igualdad de la participación de todos los miembros.

Es esencial que los temas que aborda el Comité y las decisiones que adopte respeten y estén en conformidad con las atribuciones y competencias de otros Órganos de la FAO y otras agencias de Naciones Unidas.

Trabajar coordinadamente obliga que este tipo de metodologías se alineen con lo que está sucediendo en el terreno, en las oficinas regionales y sub-regionales, en las oficinas de países, y desde un espectro más amplio en el sistema de Naciones Unidas. En este marco, las resoluciones de las Conferencias Regionales deben constituir el insumo base para el establecimiento de prioridades del CSA; etapa fundamental. Y la Secretaría de la FAO debe dar marco a las demás consultas para la selección y clasificación de las temáticas a ser examinadas en el CSA, puesto que reflejan las necesidades y demandas en el terreno y las particularidades de cada región.

Finalmente, reiteramos el compromiso del GRULAC con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, respaldando sus trabajos, estructura y relevancia, teniendo presente que en cada sesión plenaria nos deja experiencias positivas y avances concretos que nos permiten cumplir mejor sus objetivos.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

Mr Chairperson, I would like to ask you to please pass the floor to the Distinguished Delegation of Lithuania which will make a statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

Lithuania, as the presidency of the European Union, will deliver this statement on the CFS matter. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

First of all, we would like to reiterate our continued support for the reformed CFS as well as for the proper follow-up of the decisions and recommendations arising from the CFS sessions. Therefore, we encourage the Council to acknowledge the outcomes of the 40th Session of the Committee as proposed in the decision box.

We welcome the high level of attendance and the diversity of participants in this 40th Session of the CFS. In particular, the presence of Ambassador Nestor Osorio, President of ECOSOC, and of Ambassador Macharia Kamau, co-chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrates the success of the CFS's model as the foremost multi-stakeholder platform for global governance of food security and nutrition.

Because of time constraints and for coherency purpose, we should avoid having other major events during the CFS week with the exception of the celebration of the World Food Day with which greater coordination should be sought.

In addition, to facilitate preparatory work by delegates, we encourage the CFS Secretariat to redouble their efforts to ensure timely availability and quality of all meeting documents in the six official languages.

We have been pleased with the work of the HLPE. We also appreciate the transparency of the public consultation process on the zero-drafts of both reports. The revised process put in place to prepare the draft decision boxes allowed us to identify and start addressing the major points of controversy in advance of the plenary session. In order to ensure the full inclusivity of this process, we however suggest avoiding arranging task teams meeting during the summer period.

We clearly see the added value of side events organised during the CFS week, as they provide space for an open dialogue on issues related to the CFS mandate and an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to showcase their experience and ideas. However, we encourage the Secretariat to reduce the number of events and consider alternative ways for organising such events to achieve maximum impact and attendance. Clear selection criteria for these events should be presented which should be applicable to all, including the three Rome-Based Agencies.

We support a greater engagement of FAO, WFP and IFAD in CFS activities, in line with their respective mandates, core strengths and comparative advantage, and encourage them to take into account CFS key products and recommendations in their policies and technical assistance. This should be clearly reflected in FAO Programme of Work and Budget and its result framework, and similarly addressed by WFP and IFAD. Sufficient resources should be allocated by the three Rome-based Agencies to facilitate the work of CFS and its Secretariat. We urge the three agencies to

proceed urgently with the recruitment of a full-time Secretary in order to have this position filled as soon as possible.

Finally we support a well positioning of CFS in the current discussion around the development and later the implementation of the post-2015 Agenda, which is of utmost importance. With the help of three Rome-Based Agencies and all other CFS stakeholders, we should ensure that the CFS model and vision is adequately recognised in other United Nations fora and international organisations, and that its products and recommendations are taken up in the field.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Es un honor para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela participar en esta reunión del Consejo, bajo la conducción del Embajador Wilfred Ngirwa, a quien deseamos el mayor de los éxitos en su desempeño como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, así como a los miembros de la mesa que le acompañarán en este período de sesiones.

Igualmente, agradecemos la presentación del Informe del CSA 40 por parte de la Presidencia de este importante Comité.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela respalda plenamente la intervención expresada a nombre del GRULAC. Sin embargo, reitera su profunda preocupación por las repercusiones que la industria para la producción de agrocombustibles pueda tener en la seguridad alimentaria, y sus efectos en el aumento de los precios de los alimentos.

La disputa por la tierra y otros recursos naturales, el incremento de la demanda de algunos productos agrícolas tales como azúcar, maíz, yuca, semillas oleaginosas, y aceite de palma, debido a su empleo como materia prima para la producción de agrocombustibles, han impactado el precio de los alimentos a nivel mundial, favoreciendo su tendencia hacia el alza. Por ende, ratificamos que la producción de agrocombustibles no debe hacerse a expensa de cultivos agrícolas. Asimismo, Venezuela ratifica su preocupación ya que con ello se afectaría el acceso de la población a los recursos hídricos, poniendo en peligro la biodiversidad silvestre y agrícola, incrementando la competencia por los escasos recursos naturales, y afectando la calidad del suelo.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I shall limit my intervention by reflecting on the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and will do my best to also cover some of the points in the box on page 2 of the document.

In general, CSF 40 was an improvement over CSF 39, but still more effort is needed to make the CSF the core multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional platform that focuses primarily on issues of hunger, food security and nutrition.

Building on the experience of CSF 40, we hope CSF 41 will see further improvement in the following distinct six areas:

One, to have a shorter but focused agenda.

Two, to ensure that interaction among members is a built-in element in most if not all of the agenda items.

Three, to be highly selective in the choice of topics for more in-depth study to the Open Ended Working Group.

Four, to establish feedback with other technical committees of the Council on specific topics.

Five, to revisit the criteria used in the choice of side events for the real to reducing their numbers because small delegations cannot cope with so many side events.

Six, to focus High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) studies on topics where evidence-based knowledge is lacking or insufficient.

And now a few observations on the box. The State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) is indispensable for CSF and we wish to see it further enriched in content, analysis and perspective. There is considerable scope for improving the management of policy roundtables and reducing the size of the decision box.

With respect to global, regional and national initiatives, we prefer limiting the number of such initiatives, reducing the number of panelists and allowing more time for questions from the floor. We think the process in completing the study on specific topics is lengthy and should be reduced.

CSF contribution to post-2015 needs further scrutiny to ensure, firstly, that any contribution from CSF is not duplicative to the thematic consultation on hunger, food and nutrition security, co-chaired by FAO and the World Food Programme and which also includes involvement by IFAD and Bioversity; and secondly, that the contribution has the distinct advantage of value added.

Finally, we think that the CSF Bureau and the Advisory Group should spend more time in reviewing the work stream submitting by the CSF Secretariat.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Cuba agradece a la Presidencia del CSA la presentación del Informe del CSA 40.

En primer lugar, nuestro país apoya la declaración hecha por Paraguay a nombre del GRULAC. Estamos de acuerdo con la aprobación del Informe presentado al Consejo.

Deseamos referirnos, en particular, a la participación del CSA en la elaboración de la Agenda para el Desarrollo post 2015. Consideramos que los temas de la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, y su vínculo con la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, deben tener un destacado lugar en esta agenda. Cuba considera que, en el proceso de elaboración y aprobación de esta agenda, el CSA puede aportar importantes contribuciones al proceso intergubernamental que se lleva a cabo en la sede de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York presentando una visión integradora, con elementos sustantivos que sirvan como base para la inclusión del tema de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, con el peso requerido en la Agenda de Desarrollo post 2015.

Finalmente, deseamos expresar lo que Cuba ha dicho reiteradamente en otras ocasiones: la solución definitiva al problema de la pobreza y el hambre dependerá de la erradicación de las causas estructurales que los generan. La aplicación de políticas de inclusión social ha mostrado ser parte sustantiva de esa solución.

Ms Shelina AFROZA (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has gone through the Report of 40th Session of the CSF. The Report contained in document C 2015/19 is an excellent one. Particularly, we appreciate the State of Food Insecurity 2013 roundtable discussion on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security.

We are highly encouraged by the recommendation of the document and Bangladesh especially expects that the international community will come up with more investment in smallholder agriculture.

In that regard, we would like to highlight both fisheries and livestock which are two important concerns for food security. Bangladesh is a country with more than 150 million people in a small land. We would really appreciate to have more importance and more investment in fisheries and livestock for achieving food security. Bangladesh endorses the Report.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to congratulate the remarkable achievement of the 40th Session of the CFS. Particularly, we would like to thank the former CFS Chairperson, Mr Yaya Olaniran, the Rapporteurs of the Roundtables, Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh and Ms Florence Buchholzer of the European Union, the Chairpersons of the respective Working Groups and CFS Secretariat headed by Mr Kostas Stamoulis.

Japan also thinks that the second Ministerial Meeting on International Food Prices which was held in parallel with the 40th CFS was a good opportunity to exchange views at the political level.

We hope that the Ministerial Meeting and the CFS will have a synergistic effect for achieving a world without hunger and we also hope that this good practice will continue in the next year and onward.

Next year, 2014, is another important year for concluding the consultations on the Principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment and Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity (RAI and A4A). We, the stakeholders, have to cooperate to keep our work in line with the agreed timetable. At the same time, we should continue our efforts for the effective implementation of the achievements over the past years, including Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure. We have agreed with the decision boxes and implementing the decisions is our work. In this sense, the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the prior achievements is important.

Finally, we think that the work of CFS is like a marathon or long distance running and we know that the new CFS Chair, Ambassador Verburg, is a strong and tough marathon runner. We look forward to working with the new Chairperson, the new Bureau members and the new members of the High-Level Panel Experts.

Sr. Oscar GODOY ARCAYA (Chile)

Antes que nada, quiero agradecer el trabajo y el Informe de la Comisión. En seguida decir que Chile aprueba y adhiere totalmente a la declaración hecha por la Presidencia pro t empore del GRULAC, a representaci n del Paraguay, y agregar un comentario que me parece relevante.

En primer t rmino, relacionado con aquello que ha expuesto la Uni n Europea con respecto a la extensa agenda de actividades paralelas a la cuadrag sima reuni n, estamos completamente de acuerdo en que esa proliferaci n debe reducirse, haciendo uno *screening* m s riguroso de todas las propuestas. Yo creo que, en parte, esto est  relacionado con una creciente inflaci n de lo que se ha venido denominando "la representaci n de la sociedad civil". La verdad que quiero enfatizar es esta: que la sociedad civil no es representable; lo he dicho en otras ocasiones. Son organizaciones particulares de la sociedad civil las que acuden a nuestros foros, enriqueciendo nuestro di logo y exponiendo sus planteamientos que son paralelos y afines con los nuestros fines y, por lo tanto, obviamente que yo estoy completamente de acuerdo con su presencia. Lo que yo creo es que debe, de alguna manera, transparentarse la manera con la cual se elige a estas organizaciones para ocupar la palabra en nuestras sesiones; en todas nuestras sesiones, no solamente en el Comit  de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Y, por  ltimo, quer a recoger una invitaci n que hizo la expositora que nos expuso el Informe de la Comit , diciendo que hay que fortalecer o buscar los medios para dialogar con otras instituciones, con otras organizaciones, y, de alguna manera crear un caudal de reflexi n y de decisiones acerca de los grandes temas de este Comit  que, a mi juicio, es para nosotros el m s importante de la FAO. Es la obra m s se era de esta Organizaci n.

Y yo quisiera preguntar si, acaso, nosotros tenemos alguna relaci n para estar presentes con vigor, con potencia, con identificaci n notable, dir a yo, en la pr xima Expo Mil n 2015 que va a tratar, justamente, en forma tem tica general el tema alimentario.

M. Ouro-Koura AGADAZI (Togo)

Ma d l gation intervenant au nom du Groupe Afrique voudrait, tout d'abord f liciter le Pr sident du Comit  de la s curit  alimentaire pour sa pr sentation, et aussi saluer tous les participants aux travaux de cette 40^{ me} session dont la qualit  se refl te   travers ce rapport final.

Monsieur le Pr sident, toute une s rie d'actions   envisager d coule de ce rapport. Entre autres, les principes pour un investissement agricole responsable, la lutte contre l'ins curit  alimentaire durant les crises prolong es, la table ronde sur les agrocarburants et la s curit  alimentaire, la table ronde sur l'opportunit  d'investir dans la petite agriculture en faveur de la s curit  alimentaire et de la nutrition, le cadre pour le suivi des d cisions et des recommandations du CSA et surtout, l'engagement de tous   sa vision,   savoir un monde lib r  de la faim dans lequel les pays mettent en  uvre les directives volontaires pour la concr tisation progressive du droit   une alimentation ad quate dans le contexte de la s curit  alimentaire nationale.

Je voudrais revenir sur les tables rondes organis es autour des th mes d'int r t pour le Conseil et d'importance capitale pour les travaux de la FAO,   savoir les «Agrocarburants et la s curit  alimentaire» et «Investir dans la petite agriculture en faveur de la s curit  alimentaire et de la

nutrition», et ceci pour féliciter le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau qui a permis de mettre en lumière des axes d'actions intéressantes dans l'optique d'une harmonieuse cohabitation durable entre la sécurité alimentaire et la sécurité énergétique d'une part, et l'opportunité d'investir dans la petite agriculture en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, d'autre part.

Je voudrais à ce sujet préciser que le Groupe Afrique:

- 1) souscrit aux recommandations émanant des deux tables rondes organisées autour des thèmes «Agrocarburants et la sécurité alimentaire» et «Investir dans la petite agriculture en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition»;
- 2) approuve le calendrier proposé pour la voie à suivre en ce qui concerne le processus de consultation extensif relatif à l'élaboration des principes pour un investissement agricole responsable;
- 3) se félicite des efforts mis en œuvre en vue de l'exécution des trois mesures immédiates définies comme étant les domaines d'actions prioritaires pour l'élaboration d'un programme d'action en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays en situation de crise prolongée, et approuve le calendrier proposé pour la voie à suivre;
- 4) entérine les amendements proposés à l'article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation et demande au Conseil de les transmettre à la Conférence pour approbation à sa 39^{ème} session; et
- 5) adopte le programme de travail pluriannuel du CSA pour 2014-2015, notamment les thèmes proposés pour les rapports du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, les axes de travail principaux et autres, ainsi que la note d'orientation révisée sur la sélection et la hiérarchisation des activités du CSA, et recommande que le Groupe de travail à composition non limitée poursuive ses activités.

Pour finir, vu l'importance et la pertinence des thèmes et des points qui découlent de ce rapport, ma délégation au nom du Groupe Afrique invite le Conseil à prendre acte des conclusions émanant dudit rapport.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

First of all I would like to express high appreciation to the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security for her presentation and to the FAO Secretariat for the good quality of documents provided to us.

My delegation acknowledges and endorses the outcome of the 40th Session of CFS and particularly appreciates the view emerged from the discussion on the essential role of food security and nutrition and poverty eradication in the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We welcome the Bureau to explore ways, in consultation with the Advisory Group of the CFS, to provide inputs to the decision-making process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York.

Mr Chairperson, allow me to share the result of Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) fora of the Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which Indonesia holds in Chairmanship in 2013. This subject is relevant to be reported in this important meeting since most of APEC member economies are also Members of FAO and the topic of deliberation is food security.

Through the PPFS, APEC has a unique opportunity through partnership among governments, privates and other stakeholders to identify creative solutions to address food security in the region. The theme of PPFS 2013 was "Aligning farmers into the achievement of global food security", especially smallholders and women. The intention is that we should not leave behind small-holders and women in the effort to achieve sustainable food security and nutrition.

There are three important priorities discussed in PPFS, namely: sustainable development of agriculture and fishery sectors; facilitation of investment and infrastructure development, and enhancing trade and markets; and finally, this APEC fora resulted in a document called APEC Food Security Roadmap towards 2020, version 2013. This is a living document which can be revised as needed.

The Food Security Roadmap was endorsed by APEC economic leaders in the Leaders' Meeting of 8 October 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. In addition, in the APEC Leaders' Declaration there are several points regarding food security under the chapter of "Sustainable growth with equity".

Among others, are: one, promote the crucial role of farmers and fishers, particularly small holders and women, in the achievement of food security by strengthening their capacities to take an important role in the supply chain and creating a solid partnership between government and private sector.

Two, implement the APEC Food Security Roadmap towards 2020 to enhance supply chain connectivity, achieve efficiencies, reduce post-harvest losses and waste, and improve the food system structure by 2020 to provide lasting food security to APEC economies.

Three, recognize that bans and other restrictions on the export of food may cause price volatility, especially for economies that rely on import of staple food products, and we reiterate our pledge against protectionism.

This thinking process will be continued in 2014, with China holding the Chairmanships of APEC and of PPFS. Based on my observation, I noticed that China has made an excellent preparation for the incoming APEC PPFS 2014. I have full confidence that under China's Chairmanship, the incoming PPFS 2014 will have productive and meaningful results for achieving sustainable food security in all APEC economies and globally.

This effort is a truly relevant and in line with the work done by Committee on World Food Security and post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia supports the adoption of the Report of the 40th Session of the CFS. We would like to point out the increasing role of this Committee in the UN system as the main intergovernmental platform for discussing questions of agriculture development and food security in the context of sustainable development.

At the same time, we highly commend the inclusive nature of the Committee, which attracts to its work a broad range of interested parties, including civil society organizations, producers and consumers, farmer's organizations, as well as academia.

Russia supports the scientific expertise component of the CFS and its High Level Panel of Experts as well as the enhancement of this component.

This approach is reflected in the financial assistance which our country extends to the HLPE.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Australia and the Southwest Pacific fully endorse the recommendations made by the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The Southwest Pacific also welcomes the new CFS Chair, Ms Gerda Verburg, who has been an active member in the CFS and the FAO overall, and has already outlined her strategic plan for the future CFS. We very much look forward to working with Ms Verburg as she works to increase the focus of the CFS to build outlook and to stimulate open discussions.

We also very much welcome the findings of the State of Food Insecurity in the World report 2013 and that the number of food insecure people in the world has decreased, and we urge work to continue to address this challenge.

In addition, we would like to make three additional points for consideration by the Council. Firstly, we would like to encourage the Council and the FAO and the Rome-based Agencies to extend their full cooperation in the timely recruitment of a full-time Secretary of the CFS to facilitate its work.

Secondly, we encourage the fully prioritized work plan of the CFS as detailed in its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) and the prioritization process under the Open Ended Working Group which should continue to ensure that the CFS deals with the most important and relevant items in food security on its agenda, but without overloading its membership.

Lastly, we recognize that the CFS Chair is taking notes on the comments made today by our colleagues and we encourage that these comments, to assist the work of the CFS, be related in an appropriate manner back to the CFS through its Bureau and Advisory Group.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the CFS for her presentation. At the same time, I would like to congratulate her on her election. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson as well for his outstanding work.

The Chinese delegation feels that the 40th session of the Committee on World Food Security was a great success. It examined the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013 as well as the reports of the High-Level Panel of Experts on biofuels and food security and it also considered the issue of investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition and the Session made appropriate recommendations there upon.

The CFS has a number of working groups working on principles for responsible agricultural investments, priorities of work, as well as the Rules of Procedure. The 40th Session also considered global and regional coordination. The Chinese delegation endorses this report and approves the Terms of Reference, qualifications and selection procedure for the new CFS Secretary.

China hopes that future development plans and activities will be more universal, open and transformational, and we hope that the CFS will bolster its communication with other bodies while enhancing its transparency and accountability while addressing sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, empowerment of women, climate change, energy use and water management in greater detail.

China encourages the CFS to commit itself to the post-2015 Development Agenda. As for the development of the principles for responsible agricultural investments, we hope that the Secretariat will successfully conduct its consultations, in order to hear the voice of all stakeholders in order to spawn a consensus on this issue.

Ms Eun Jeung LEE (Republic of Korea)

Good morning and congratulations for the excellent presentation by Ambassador Gerda Verburg. Food security is becoming a very critical issue in front of the predicted crisis and nutrition security is also to be carefully viewed at global, regional and country level for the future generations and to minimize additional effort in the future.

In the meeting, Korea supported action plans until now and furthermore asked CFS builders to concentrate especially on the development of the post-2015 in cooperation with the multi-stakeholders and the advisory groups.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea endorses the report of the CFS.

Ms Abla Malik OSMAN MALIK (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Firstly, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee for the presentation of the report. We approve the suggestions contained in it. We would also like to welcome the topics debated during this Committee of issue to the entire world such as biofuel and addressing crises.

As regards the administration of water resources and food security, this is an issue which requires our attention, especially since we do suffer from a lack of water. We are in favour of specific proposals for addressing this issue as we can look at the results of the topics which were debated in the round tables.

We hope that the FAO will distribute widely the results of these round tables, especially what is decided on in Regional Conferences so that these Regional Conferences can also debate the results and the recommendations of the Committee.

We are once again in favour of the activities of the CFS and we hope that we will be presented with new results in this new era that we are beginning with the new Chair of the Committee.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Fifteen countries and others on behalf of their Regional Groups sent their very supportive remarks and recommendations. Thank you for the strong support and your promise to join forces to make the CFS a multi-stakeholder platform even stronger.

But we have to keep in mind that we only can operate if we acknowledge the work of our predecessors and would like to thank the former members of the Bureau, the outgoing members of the Bureau, all people who had given their strength and energy and best thinking and commitment to the advisory board, but also a special thank to Ambassador Yaya Olaniran.

Having said this, it is very much appreciated that most of you also commended the excellent work of the HLPE. By selecting the new Chair of the Steering Committee of the HLPE - I was happy to Chair that meeting - and I am convinced that a newly elected Steering Committee will do a great job, because they are very motivated to support the important work of CFS and they also recognize and acknowledge not only they, but also the people working in research institutions, departments, universities or whatever, recognize that working for CFS can really add value to decision-making and improve policies and allow not only to develop policies, but also to think about implementation, application, and to be more result-oriented.

And finally, thank you for the support you showed to the Secretary, it is only one and half month that I am the Chair and I am impressed by the commitment of the Secretary and of all of the people working in the Secretariat. There are also a lot of committed people within the Rome-based Agencies: FAO, WFP, and IFAD, who are prepared to deliver support or input for decision-making in CFS.

I would like to respond to Paraguay on behalf of GRULAC and to Venezuela and Cuba, your remark on the timely release of the translations is very important and it has been included in the report of the CFS. This means that we have to operate following a clear calendar which has been approved for next year. Now it is up to the CFS Bureau, the Advisory Group, the Secretariat, and the Chair to stick to the schedule and plan the delivery and outcomes between now and the meetings in January, so that we can work on forming the schedule.

I would like to answer to Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States, that we will try to avoid to schedule meetings in the second part of July and in the month of August next year.

That is my second point. My third point is the recognition by Chile, Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Indonesia and China, that CFS is the core platform.

Australia was mentioning that we are still making progress in the improvement of the proceedings and in the outcome and quality of decision-making and in finding solutions and consensus.

We are making progresses in the application and implementation of the results, but CFS is a platform and it doesn't have a body for implementation and application. FAO, WFP and IFAD and other agencies and organizations have a role on this, CFS has to work on the outreach.

We have to commit them to work with the CFS outcomes and we are always looking for partners, strong partners to cooperate with. In this regard, the contribution of Indonesia is also taken on board well if we have the opportunity to work with APEC and APEC leaders to reach concrete and sound results for smallholders, fishermen, but also for people working in forestry and middle and bigger farmers. We stand ready if necessary.

My fourth remark is on implementation. Japan mentioned the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, we have it in mind but we are still trying to organize a meeting somewhere next year, to invite all partners who are already busy with application and implementation, where possible, members of the international land coalitions, the World Bank, other partners. We will try to invite them, to bring them together here in Rome to make it possible to take stock on where the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines stands and how we can support partnerships between Organizations in order to strengthen and to speed up the implementation because that is what we all are longing for.

The remarks on the side events are taken on board well. We had a lively exchange of opinions during the advisory and Joint Meeting and the Bureau Meeting. We will think about how to organize side

events without exhausting delegations, and at the same time we are looking into the opportunity to webcast some events so that people can participate afterwards following the web cast and taking notes, of what happened.

Many Organizations also from outside Rome expressed interest in being present during the CFS meeting to network with CFS members and observers, but also to show the progress made. They are very interested, but I feel that there is a necessity to look again into this and the Secretariat is already working on this.

On the round tables and the reports, many of you requested to be concise and concentrated. I agree with those who say let us try to focus on more impact, but at the same time, together we agreed on the agenda and on the issues for next year. We have to respect our commitment and our decisions, making them workable. With this purpose in mind we try to manage the work as good and as effective as we can.

Regarding the new items, the HLPE to write a report about or to organize a round table, we have to give priority to the decision-making in the Bureau about what kind of added value CFS can deliver – on such a proposal, such an issue. It is also thinking ahead of the work to be done.

I think I leave the rest of the answers to the Secretary except what has been said by Japan about a marathon: it is tempting to invite all of you to join me in the marathon. The next marathon will be here in Rome in March so we have about four months to start training. But I know that some of you are very much interested and are always in training just like me.

I think the real marathon is the marathon to bring CFS to the level where CFS really is meant to be, as the global and the globally recognized platform on food security and nutrition and all related issues.

I thank you very much for all of the compliments you made saying that we are improving, but probably we have done already the first half marathon and it is necessary to run the second part of it. Who have run the marathon in real life knows that the second part is always more tempting, more challenging, but to reach the finish, it is great.

So let's join forces to run the second part of the marathon and bring CFS where CFS should operate and should act in the next decade. I would like to witness it myself.

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

Congratulations for chairing this extremely important body. Also on behalf of the Joint Secretariat, I would like to express our congratulations to the new Chairperson. I have been working with the new Chair, as you mentioned, for one and half months, and I can assure you she is ready for the marathon and beyond.

I would like to thank the Council first of all for its continued support to the Committee since its reform several years ago and the Committee's Governing Bodies and also its Secretariat and for the constructive suggestions that we have always heard from this body for the consideration of the Committee's Governing Bodies and by the Secretariat.

Now the Secretariat, under the overall guidance of course of the Bureau, the Advisory Group and the Plenary, strives to improve the way it supports those Governing Bodies and to better focus its support to those bodies.

However, let me say that there is a continuous challenge, a little marathon if you wish, to support the Committee with not only a very, very important work programme, but also a Committee with expanding influence, recognition, and visibility. So we have to live up to the challenge of being better recognized as a model for multi-stakeholder consultations on such an important issue as food security.

We are doing this under a core resource base which is of course fixed, but also thanks to the contributions and support of a number of countries and other stakeholders it is expanding. They contribute to the work of the Committee and to that of the Secretariat through financial resources, secondments, and other means. Thank you very much to all of those.

We heard specific issues mentioned regarding timeliness of documents and we are doing our best. We have heard you loud and clear. We can make a pledge that next year, also under the new working procedures which the Chair and the Bureau seem to be putting together about timeliness of work planning, I think we will do much, much better next year. So that my successor doesn't have to come here and apologize again for some of the issues regarding documentation.

I would like to underline the excellent working relationship that the Secretariat has developed over the years with the Bureau, the Advisory Group, the Chairs, and the members of the working groups of the Bureau, the technical working groups, and the coordinating bodies, which participate in the Committees such as the private sector coordination mechanism and the civil society coordination mechanisms.

Just naming all of those stakeholders and groups gives you a little picture of the number of tasks that the Secretariat has to carry out. We would like to also thank the Secretariat and management of the Rome-based Agencies, which they have committed to the work of the Committee not just the financial resources for the core functions of the Committee, but also numerous technical and logistical support which they don't show in the budget of the Committee. Unfortunately as I said, some of these contributions go unnoticed.

Finally, and this responds to such comments regarding the speed at which the issue of the new full-time Secretary process, and I would like to assure you that this is the last time that you will see me here on this podium, the last Council meeting as the Secretary representing the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security. And I am taking this opportunity to thank all of you for really heartfelt thanks to all of you for your constant support and encouragement through this body, but also on a one to one level.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Kostas, and thank you for the work that you have done for the Committee on World Food Security as the Secretary.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, after hearing your interventions and reprise from Ambassador Verburg and Mr Stamoulis, allow me to conclude this item as follows.

The Council endorsed the conclusions contained in the Report of the 40th Session of the Committee of World Food Security, which took place from 7 to 11 October 2013.

In particular, the Council:

- a) encouraged all stakeholders to promote and make use of the Second Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, following its endorsement by the CFS, while acknowledging its voluntary nature;
- b) acknowledged the progress made as CSF framework for monitoring CSF decisions and recommendations and supported the proposal for a plan of action to disseminate major CFS decisions in the context of the CFS Communication Strategy;
- c) welcomed the development of an implementation plan for the CFS Communication Strategy;
- d) welcomed the adoption of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2014-2015;
- e) noted the endorsement of the proposed way forward for the inclusive consultation process for the development of principles for responsible agricultural investments;
- f) appreciated the efforts in addressing the three immediate actions identified as priority areas of work supporting the development of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises and noted that the proposed schedule was endorsed by the Committee;
- g) endorsed the terms of reference, revised qualifications and selection procedure for the new CFS Secretary, as well as the modalities and requirements for the inclusion in the CSF Secretariat of other UN entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition, and recommended that they be approved by the Conference;

- h) noted the Reports of the High Level Panel of Experts and encouraged CFS to concentrate on implementing the conclusions of the two Policy Round Tables held on Biofuels and Food Security, and Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition;
- i) endorsed the request to forward the endorsed proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization and recommended it be forwarded to the 39th Session of the Conference in June 2015 for approval;
- j) supported the mandate given to the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, to explore ways for the CFS to provide inputs to decision-making process for the post-2015 Development Agenda;
- k) encouraged the CFS Bureau, Advisory Group, HLPE and other stakeholders to continue their work in the spirit of the reformed CFS and to implement, each within their respective mandates, the decisions made by the Committee at its 40th Session;
- l) stressed that Regional Conferences have a key role to play in identifying the main areas for action at regional and sub-regional level in the promotion of food security and nutrition;
- m) requested the Secretariat to revisit the criteria for selecting side events during the session of CFS with a view to reducing their number;
- n) encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that documents are available in all FAO languages by the applicable deadline.

Any comments? Thank you. Item 8 is now concluded.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, I have a clarification to make regarding the Vice-Chairperson from India, who will be Mr Vimlendra Sharan, Alternate Permanent Representative of India to FAO, and not His Excellency Ambassador Basant Gupta as previously announced. I take it that the Council agrees to this nomination.

Thank you. It is so decided.

3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15

3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015

3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2014-15

(CL 148/3; CL 148/3 Annex 5)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to item 3, Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

In compliance with FAO Conference Resolution 7/2013, the Council is called upon to consider the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. Please ensure that you have the relevant documents, CL 148/3 and CL 148/3 Annex 5 Rev.1, before you.

I would like to invite Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to introduce this item.

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

The Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 have been prepared by the Secretariat in line with the established programme planning cycle, so that the Organization is ready to implement the Programme of Work from the start of the next biennium, next month. The adjustments reflect the decisions and guidance of the Conference in June 2013 when it approved the Programme of Work and the budget level for the biennium.

In particular, the Conference:

- Approved the budgetary appropriation 2014-15 of USD 1,005.6 million to fully implement the Programme of Work, while requiring the Director-General to find efficiency gains and savings of USD 36.6 million, particularly from staff costs.

- Emphasized the importance of decentralization, administrative streamlining, work prioritization, and full managerial scope to the Director-General for implementation of the Programme of Work.
- Authorized the use of any unspent 2012-13 balance for one-time expenditures associated with transformational change.
- Requested reporting on gender mainstreaming, information on social protection, and implementation of the cost-sharing arrangements for the UN Resident Coordinator system.
- Appealed to the International Civil Service Commission and the UN General Assembly to consider the need for greater vigilance with regard to increases in staff costs across the UN common system.

In my brief introduction, I will highlight some key aspects of the measures put in place to achieve efficiency gains and savings, and the progress on work planning and arrangements for implementation.

Concerning the efficiency gains and savings:

The goal in finding savings is to make the most efficient and effective use of available resources without affecting the delivery of the Programme of Work. Following the Conference in June 2013, the Secretariat undertook a critical review of established posts in 17 non-technical offices located at FAO Headquarters. We also looked for further opportunities for savings on staff salaries and benefits, although as noted by the Director-General these are mainly determined by the International Civil Service Commission and the UN General Assembly in New York.

The result is that USD 36.6 million in savings has been found, of which 76 percent – USD 27.7 million – is from staff costs, mainly in non-technical offices at Headquarters. Of the USD 8.9 million found from non-staff operating costs, measures have already been put in place for savings of USD 6.2 million relating to travel and contracts. Measures to achieve the balance of USD 2.7 million will be put in place in 2014.

Finding savings of this magnitude is not easy and it is not painless: 100 posts have been abolished, 41 of which are in the Information Technology Division alone. Developments in this fast-changing field have offered opportunities to evolve our information technology business practices without affecting the level and quality of essential services. The staffing of the Office for Corporate Communication and the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development has been rationalized. And the ongoing review of Director-level positions has yielded further savings through the abolition or downgrading of seven D-1 posts.

The associated cost of redeployment or separation of affected staff members is being carefully managed, in consultation with the Staff Representative Bodies. One-time costs of about USD 6 million will be incurred, funded from regular budgeted resources for separations and the unspent balance of the 2012-13 appropriations.

As mentioned by the Director-General this morning, last week at the meeting of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, he committed to contribute FAO's full cost share of USD 4 million to the UN Resident Coordinators System in the 2014-15 biennium, in view of its importance for coherent UN action at country level. We have already provided for half the contribution in the Adjustments to the PWB and we are confident that we can find a further USD 2 million in efficiency savings to fund the balance in 2015, thereby enhancing the delivery of the Programme of Work, particularly at country level.

Turning to work planning and implementation:

The Adjustments to the PWB also inform the Council of the efforts being made to plan and monitor the implementation of FAO's Programme of Work, as set out in Section III of the document. We are not making the mistakes of the past of putting in place a well-crafted Strategic Framework but then carrying on with business as usual in doing our work. Rather, we are using the new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan to identify exactly *what* FAO needs to do – itself and in partnership with others - to achieve the agreed outcomes, and developing a monitoring framework to hold ourselves accountable. In doing so we are putting in place more focused means of action - *how*

we deliver – building on the IPA actions on new ways of planning and monitoring, and on culture change. This is not a one-off action, but a continual process of learning and adjusting how we work.

There are three key elements we are pursuing in preparing for implementation.

First, the monitoring and evaluation framework is based on the results framework of the Medium-Term Plan. It provides a means to measure progress on the interlinked Strategic Objectives, Organizational Outcomes and Outputs through indicators, baselines and targets. The Results Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation is provided in Annex 5, with indicators for the Objectives and Outcomes, and in Annex 6 with indicators for the Outputs. The revision to Annex 5, which was issued last week, includes further details on the process and methodology for developing indicators as requested by the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting.

The approach to monitoring and evaluation is much more methodical and evidence-based than in the past.

There are three sets of indicators leading to the Strategic Objectives:

- The five Strategic Objectives are global development objectives. A set of indicators is being compiled for each Strategic Objective, with derived metrics and indices to be monitored annually and reported on every four years.
- The Organizational Outcomes are changes at country level that will foster achievement of the Strategic Objectives. Indicators measure the extent to which reforms and capacities have been put in place by countries, and the development of policy frameworks, standards and agreements more widely, particularly at global level. The measurement methodology focuses on the main determinants of success, with information obtained through surveys and secondary data. The baseline information provided in Annex 5 is preliminary, based on a pilot survey, and will be completed with targets for all Indicators by May 2014.
- The Outputs are FAO's direct contribution to the Organizational Outcomes in terms of products and services produced by FAO from all sources of funds. The monitoring of Output Indicators will allow Management to track progress and review how gender and governance issues are being addressed.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework also provides for the monitoring of performance of Objective 6, of technical quality, the four functional objectives and the three special chapters in terms of their business processes.

In this regard, as suggested by the Joint Meeting, we will revise the target for the indicator 10.1.A on timeliness of governing body documents so as to reach 90 percent in 2015 and 100 percent in 2017, while also meeting the language requirements.

The second key element of implementing the Programme of Work is work planning and resource allocation – the definition of products and services necessary and sufficient to achieve the Outputs in the results chain. The work-planning process also recognizes Corporate Technical Activities – which are mandated technical activities carried out by technical units under Objective 6 or contributing to the Strategic Objectives, such as our work on statistics and in particular that work on global public goods; the flagship “State of the World” publications on agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, food insecurity; our support to international treaty bodies, such as the international treaty on plant genetic resources, the international plant protection convention and so forth, and our participation in UN system and other global initiatives, and support to work on gender and governance..

The third main element is formation of delivery mechanisms, building on the experience with the initial regional initiatives as mentioned by the Director-General this morning. This is new ground. The corporate initiatives addressing global, regional and national needs will help us to prioritize and focus delivery of the products and services in the results chain.

These three elements that I have described will guide our monitoring and reporting of performance internally, through the Corporate Programmes Monitoring Board, as mentioned by the Director-General, and through the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 responds to the decisions and guidance of the Conference. With these adjustments, the Organization is ready to implement the Programme of Work from January next year. The Council is requested to approve these adjustments, particularly the revised post establishment and distribution of net appropriation by budgetary Chapter.

The Council is also requested to note that the finalization and implementation of work plans may result in further resource shifts across budgetary chapters that will be regularly reported to the Finance Committee in line with Financial Regulation 4.5.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Haight. We also need to be informed of the discussions of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15. Please note that these are contained in the reports of these committee meetings, in documents CL 148/6, CL 148/7 and CL 148/8.

I now ask the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI, to take the floor. He will be followed by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and of the November 2013 Session of the Joint Meeting, Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present the outcome of the discussion of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee on the adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, which is presented in document CL 148/3.

We discussed this document at length. We discussed all of the financial matters included therein and the Committee welcomed the adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, noting that it correctly and fully reflected the decision and requests of the 38th Session of the Conference and expressed satisfaction that the required budgetary savings of USD 36.6 million have been found, consistent with the Conference's guidance for the need to fully implement the Programme of Work in the most cost effective manner.

The Committee supported the savings identified in staff costs, mainly from non-technical offices and at Headquarters, and endorsed the proposed shift of resources among budgetary chapters resulting from initial planning in gender statistics.

The Committee also supported the outcome of the skill mix of posts in the decentralized offices network. The Committee endorsed the contribution of USD 2 million from the FAO country office budget towards its cost share of the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in 2014-15 and looks forward to reformation on the above commented discussion on the UNDG.

The Committee encouraged closer collaboration among the Rome-Based Agencies in administrative areas for further savings and efficiencies. The Committee recommended the Council approve the revised budgeted post establishment and the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapters as reflected in table four of document CL 148/3.

The Committee noted that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning as well as from using the most efficient, effective modalities of implementation. During the biennium, I recall that between chapter transfers and transfer from one chapter to another, required to implement the PWB during the biennium, will be handled in accordance with the Financial Regulation 4.5

Dear Chairperson, these are the main outcomes of our deliberations on this matter.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I would like to say good morning to all and I would like especially to thank the Programme and Finance Committees. I think we have a very good working atmosphere and I do hope and think that our recommendations will be of use to the Council and also to the Organization.

As was stated by the Chairperson, first, in the Programme Committee we discussed these adjustments from a programmatic point of view, and we concurred with the Finance Committee that the decisions of the Conference had been followed. We went through the monitoring and evaluation structures set out and we found it sound, if complex. We will follow with interest how useful it is in guiding FAO's work.

We underlined the importance of global public goods as well as the protection of programmes and we were happy that the Technical Cooperation Programme would continue to the same extent. We emphasized the importance of cross cutting gender work, using sex disaggregated statistics, using them in the indicators across all strategic and functional objectives, as well as enhanced external cooperation to identify sources of sex disaggregated figures because it turns out that many figures are household figures which doesn't really help if you're trying to crosscut gender work.

We thought the indicators and their impact have to be carefully considered, in addition further efforts to create the necessary coherence between the outcomes and the indicators should be made, and also the indicators should be defined by using clear terms so that we really know what we are measuring.

We endorse the five guiding principles for identifying, prioritizing, and elaborating outputs. We encouraged the Secretariat to dig deeper into the issues of emphasis and de-emphasis, giving more details and resource implications.

We highlighted the need to work in close consultation with Member Nations and partners, especially concerning statistics. And we felt that it would be of use to the Council to be provided with a timeline, a sheet where we could see when different reports and surveys would be available.

We underscored the central role of the Corporate Programme Monitoring Board, the so-called CPMB, and we wished to be kept informed of its work. We underlined that further strengthening of the Rome-Based Agencies cooperation was very useful, even if the areas that are left can be difficult.

We would have liked to have seen a document detail the process and methodology of developing the indicators. When we came to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees as Mr Médi described and I have tried to describe, we already had this substantial discussion behind us, so the Joint Meeting listened to the conclusions of the two committees and endorsed the comments. We appreciated the delivered savings and we wanted to further highlight the need for increased cooperation here in Rome, especially in the financial and administrative areas. They are difficult but we have to consider it and see what can be won and how much it would cost.

We also thought that one goal for delivering documents, something that has been touched on already this morning, is set quite low, if I might say so. Eighty percent of documents should be delivered on time in 2017 and we warmly encourage the Secretariat to be more ambitious and go further. And also the clearance between the outcomes and indicators was again underlined. We would have wanted to see final versions of annexes 5 and 6 for this Council, but that was not possible.

We also highlighted the need for efficient personnel management by ascertaining that the staff's skills match the work to be done as should the amount of staff. We requested that management ascertain that crosscutting issues, i.e. gender and governance, are well coordinated and that the Strategic Objective coordinators are adequately supported.

Also the Joint Meeting wanted to follow the work of the Corporate Programme Monitoring Board and also concerning their work on budgetary resources and the movement between financial chapters.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I would like you once more to allow the Delegation of Lithuania to take the floor on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

With regard to the Work Planning and Implementation, we commend FAO on the work done. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework shows more coherence between outcomes and indicators. We look forward to the final version of the Results Framework and the Output Indicators. The introduction of baseline indicators for the Organizational Outcomes will provide FAO and the membership good insight on FAO achievements.

However, stronger and more unified efforts are necessary to correctly mainstream the cross-cutting issues, gender and governance; gender work must be put on a fast track to improve a rights-based perspective and create a satisfactory mechanism of accountability. We emphasize the importance of using sex-disaggregated indicators across all strategic and functional objectives. Also, FAO must ensure that it has the right staff and skills mix to deliver the planned results.

Furthermore, overarching issues such as nutrition and climate change must also be systematically integrated in FAO's work as reflected in the results framework and indicators to be finalized in early 2014.

During the last two years, FAO and its Members discussed intensively the Organization's new Strategic Framework and its implementation through the Programme of Work and Budget. At its 38th Session, the Conference agreed on the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 including further savings of USD 36.6 million. We acknowledge that FAO since then has worked hard to fulfil the requests and support the adjustments in line with the Conference's decisions.

We support the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. We thank management for having identified savings and for proposing priorities as well as areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis along the lines recommended by the Conference. Nevertheless, we would be grateful for clarifications on the following issues with regard to these adjustments.

We note that an amount of USD 2.7 million in required savings is still open. We encourage the Secretariat to delve deeper into the issues of emphasis and de-emphasis with more details on results and resource implications. Further, the total cost of elimination of one hundred posts within Headquarters will cause subsequent costs between USD 5 and 7 million, but we understand from Finance Committee discussions that the total costs cannot yet be calculated completely as not all severance payments, etc., have been incorporated. In the same way, elimination of posts could lead to increased expenses such as consultancies or outsourcing.

Also, we note that an amount of USD 2 million will be provided as FAO's contribution to the United Nations Resident Coordinator System for 2014-15 was not budgeted for. We note that FAO's share has been estimated at USD 4 million. We attach great importance to the United Nations Resident Coordinator System as well as to Delivering as One initiative. We urge FAO to find funds to fully fund its share of the Resident Coordinator System in the future biennia.

We would like to commend the Secretariat on the rollout of the Global Resource Management System. We would like to be regularly informed about what the GRMS is contributing, possible obstacles and measures to overcome them, as well as management's comment on the savings resulting from the implementation of the GRMS when it is fully and accurately working. We look forward to engaging constructively on these issues.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

It is a pleasure to be here at this FAO Council Session at what is a critical point in the future of FAO. We are in the last month of the current biennium, but more importantly FAO is about to start implementing a new Programme of Work and will do this in a totally new way with a stronger strategic focus.

The effectiveness of FAO and the outcomes generated from implementation of this new Programme of Work will largely determine whether FAO will regain the mantle of being seen as the preeminent International Organization dealing with agriculture and food issues.

In this context, let me state that the Southwest Pacific Region strongly supports the Director-General's efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of FAO. We believe that he is on the right track and we want to recognize this and support his efforts.

Australia continues to encourage a fiscally responsible approach to UN budgets, believing that UN Organizations must continue to look for ways to deliver mandates more efficiently and effectively. It is reassuring to hear from the Secretariat all the hard work that has gone into best positioning FAO to start the new biennium at a gallop, and it is at a gallop that we expect FAO to begin and finish.

In return for providing FAO management the flexibility to implement the new Programme of Work consistent with this mandate, Australia has high expectations and will hold the Organization accountable for its performance in delivering against the new Medium-Term Plan and the reviewed Strategic Framework.

Measuring progress will now be of critical importance for FAO to show the world that the new Strategic Objectives are making a real difference and providing a clear line of sight from the Basic Texts to the farmers in the field.

We support the Director-General in his intent to focus the work of FAO in only those areas where it has a comparative advantage and can make a real difference and with closer collaboration between FAO and other Rome-based Agencies and International Organizations.

At Conference, we strongly supported the shift to fewer Strategic Objectives and, in this light, we reiterate the importance of the normative work of FAO which is fundamental to its role. We continue to support the decentralization of authorities and responsibilities to the regional offices to facilitate this increase in efficiency and effectiveness.

Having said this, we note that for efficiency and effectiveness, there must be robust two-way communication, priority setting, planning, and reporting systems linking the regions and Headquarters. As Australia has previously stated, FAO will need to clearly demonstrate an ongoing prioritization of work so as to ensure that all of its activities are contributing directly and significantly to the new Strategic Objectives.

We commend the Director-General in implementing the budgetary decisions of Conference and note the requested savings have been identified and outlined and aligned with member interests while preserving the Programme of Work. As the Director-General has himself stated again this morning, FAO faces a great challenge in successfully implementing the reforms we have all worked so hard for.

Let us not fool ourselves. We are only at the beginning of the most challenging period for the Organization in delivering consistent with the new approach. In recognition of this, the Southwest Pacific Region stands ready to assist to ensure we collectively achieve delivery of the outcomes and outputs sought. While not wanting to micromanage in any way, we call upon FAO management to closely monitor implementation issues and to regularly report these to Members.

We don't doubt that problems will arise, but we do ask that the FAO membership be alert to those problems early before they become unmanageable. In this way, member nations will be best positioned to lend whatever assistance we can to collectively achieve the efficient and effective FAO we all want and deserve. The Southwest Pacific Region will continue to provide constructive assistance to support this fundamental shift.

With these important principles in mind, the Southwest Pacific Region expresses its support for the proposed revised budgeted post establishment and the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Agradecemos la exhaustiva presentación realizada por la Oficina de Estrategia, Planificación y Gestión de Recursos de la FAO, y los Presidentes de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas.

Revisada la documentación presentada, y en conocimiento de los esfuerzos cumplidos por los Estados Miembros en las discusiones sustantivas que tuvieron lugar en las reuniones de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas realizadas con posterioridad al 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia, respaldamos los ajustes propuestos al PTP para 2014-2015.

La información contenida en el documento CL 148/3 y en los Informes de la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Programa y Finanzas, indican que el Director General y su equipo han tomado las medidas necesarias solicitadas por la Conferencia para lograr aumentos de eficiencia y ahorros por el valor de 36.6 millones de dólares americanos.

Tomamos nota que los ahorros en los gastos de personal representan el 76 por ciento del total de los ahorros globales. Dado el seguimiento que hemos hecho a la labor realizada por la administración en esta materia, sabemos el gran esfuerzo demandado para alcanzar este objetivo, y la consideración que ha tenido la administración para que estas medidas afecten lo menos posible la estabilidad del personal, así como la ejecución del programa.

Sobre el punto B del documento CL 148/3, la aprobación de la plantilla presupuestada, Venezuela manifiesta en el marco del sistema de Naciones Unidas, la necesidad de implementar medidas orientadas a la distribución equitativa de sueldos, la simplificación de aquellos procesos administrativos que incrementen los gastos, y la supresión de los costos por concepto de trámites burocráticos.

En razón de esto, y entendiendo que dichas medidas constituyen un ahorro de 36.6 millones de dólares para la Organización en base a un proceso de mejoramiento de la eficacia y la eficiencia, y con la esperanza de que su reasignación redunde en el incremento de los esfuerzos realizados por la Organización para erradicar el hambre en el mundo, Venezuela no tiene objeción en que se apruebe la plantilla presupuestada para el bienio 2014-2015, y esperando que estas reducciones no impliquen ningún efecto que relegue personal de los países en desarrollo.

En cuanto al trabajo que realizaremos juntos el próximo bienio, nos parece importante el apoyo previsto al proceso de descentralización para reflejar, en mejor medida, los resultados en el terreno. Asimismo, apoyamos que siga reforzándose el enfoque de género en todos los Objetivos Estratégicos.

En todo este proceso de hacer más con menos, creemos clave la simplificación administrativa en los procesos internos de la Organización. La propuesta presentada sobre el Marco institucional de seguimiento y evaluación planteada en el párrafo 44 del documento CL 148/3, podría ser una herramienta que brinde mediciones sobre el rendimiento institucional en el cumplimiento del PTP.

En referencia al punto C sobre la aprobación de la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulos presupuestarios, dado que la misma obedece un incremento en la eficacia y eficiencia, que incluyen la simplificación de los procesos administrativos, el énfasis en las cuestiones de género, de centralización y necesidad de otorgar plena capacidad de acción al Director General, aspectos estos que contribuirán al trabajo que la FAO realiza conjuntamente en las regiones y con los países para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, Venezuela tampoco tiene objeción alguna.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela acoge la recomendación del Comité de Finanzas para que los Estados Miembros cumplamos con el pago puntual de las cuotas asignadas, a fin de asegurar que la FAO pueda ejecutar el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto aprobado por la Conferencia.

El año 2014 representa la primera etapa de ejecución de ese programa. Deseamos el mayor de los éxitos a la administración y a todos los Miembros, y nos complace el fortalecimiento del diálogo claro y franco entre todos nosotros y la administración, lo que ha permitido alcanzar consensos importantes para que la FAO fortalezca aún más su trabajo conjunto con el gobierno y otras organizaciones multilaterales, incluidas las agencias hermanas de Roma, para alcanzar los Objetivos Estratégicos que nos hemos planteado.

Mr Mogens KJORUP (Denmark)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries: Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Having read the Council documents, the Nordic countries have jointly reflected on gender issues regarding FAO and the Organization's work. We bear in mind the Conference decision on FAO's Policy on Gender Equality that, quote "welcomed FAO's ambition to become a model agency on gender equality, and at the same time expressed concern about the visibility and prioritization of the gender work", unquote.

Many efforts have been carried out such as FAO's work in the Rome-based Agencies' network, the engagement in the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Project, as well as other partnerships. However, in order for gender work to progress, we have come to the firm conclusion that it is necessary to emphasize the rights aspect, i.e. that women should be able to access resources, food, etc., in the same way as men, solely due to the fact that they constitute half of humanity. Too often the assumption is that women should only merit for equal access if they fulfil their traditional roles as caregivers to the next generation and the outgoing one, i.e. women as a means to an end, instead of basic human rights. This assumption is wrong, and in addition it undermines any hopes of eradicating hunger and poverty.

We emphasize the importance of cross-cutting gender work. One instance of this is the use of sex-disaggregated statistics for baselines and indicators in the Programme of Work and Budget across all strategic and functional objectives as well as enhanced external cooperation to identify sources of sex-disaggregated figures. The use of such statistics applies for all work. A recent example is in the Disaster Risk Reduction.

We support the two-track approach in FAO's gender policy – mainstreaming gender into all facets of FAO's work, complemented by implementing programmes and projects specifically targeting women when necessary. Keeping track of progress requires strong international vigilance and visibility included in the organizational chart, and leadership from the highest levels of the Organization. It must be supported by a measurable and concrete results framework with relevant indicators for all of FAO's Strategic Objectives, and use of a gender marker system to track resources allocated to gender. As a means to ensure this we suggest that:

- Gender work has to be put on a fast track, by for instance encouraging the appointment of women to FAO's regional offices (FAORs) and to higher positions in the Organization. Another example is to speed up work to translate the Gender Equality Policy into an organization-wide implementation plan, as pointed out in the recent follow-up report on the Gender Evaluation.
- Secondly, FAO should continue to include separate reporting on gender and other cross-cutting issues in the reports to the Council on the operational and results of the Programme of Work and Budget. Such reporting should include reporting on progress made in implementing FAO's gender policy on the basis of the accountability framework contained in that policy.
- Thirdly, FAO should report transparently on its progress towards implementation of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on gender.
- FAO should ensure that specific senior level responsibility for gender is identified within the Corporate Programmes Monitoring Board (CPMB).

We suggest that one of the informal consultations with Member Nations next year is dedicated to discuss status and progress of the implementation of FAO's gender policy.

In the continued work of gender issues, generic terms should be avoided. In reports as well as in the Strategic Objectives, there are often generic terms such as the "rural poor" and "stakeholders" and phrases such as "women and youth" and "indigenous peoples". These send a wrong signal. Women can, like men, be twice or three times disadvantaged by gender when they are also indigenous, young, and poor. In other words, women cannot be simply clustered together with youth. As for "youth", this is a gender-neutral term that masks the different socialization of young women and men.

In conclusion, Management must continue to support gender work fully, step up the pace of implementation and create a satisfactory mechanism of accountability.

Rest assured that the Nordic countries will continue to follow efforts closely to improve gender work.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Morocco)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Moroccan Delegation and of the Africa Group. I seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, for your inaugural Chairmanship of the Council and assure you of our large cooperation to achieve our common goals and endeavours.

Let me start by paying tribute to the Secretariat for the job done in presenting in a sound and transparent way the full set of adjustments needed to the PWB 2014-15 exercise. In backing and prizing these efforts, we are aware, in the Africa Group, of the challenging times that we are facing and of their impact on our individual and collective endeavour and capabilities in mobilising additional resources. We are very happy to see the Secretariat on our common road.

We prize the efforts made by the Management to identify the savings, as presented by our friend, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and we are particularly thankful to the Director-General for the voluntary way in which he conducted the mission that the Conference granted him. We, as the Africa Group, look forward to achieving more results in the resource allocation process aiming at reducing the overheads related to the human resources expenses, particularly through the ICSC review of the Staff salaries and benefits. We are very hopeful to see what we can extract from that core.

We take stock of work planning and implementation measures updated for the next biennium, in particular regarding decentralisation, gender, administrative streamlining and others. We most welcome the amended result-driven approach of the Reviewed Strategic Framework based on the new FAO results model. We are eager to see the outcomes of this new model and its impact on our common efforts to reduce the arrears.

We take note of the cooperated monitoring and evaluation framework being developed by the Secretariat. Here too, we are very eager to see to what extent we can harvest more crops when it comes to improve the management and the environment capabilities of the Organisation.

Our hope is to see the Secretariat deploying all his creative assets to keep heading toward the implementation of the priorities we agreed upon during the last session of the Conference. We are very confident in observing how these priorities are managed with some adjustments, but the Africa Group remains focused on decentralisation, technical cooperation, gender issues and resilience. These priorities are of vital importance for the African countries.

Before backing the different conclusions reached in the Finance Committee meeting, may I take this opportunity to praise the role of the Chairperson for his infinite patience and his contaminating self-control, the same sense to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee. Both of you created a wonderful atmosphere in our discussion and this was very important in very sensitive times.

So we still remain open to other efforts related to efficient human resources management and workforce planning. We understand the Director-General is ready to go beyond what was done until now and we are fully supportive of the next steps he may have to take.

Before I close my intervention, let me renew our availability at the Africa Group level to fully back the Director-General's and Secretariat's efforts and you, Mr Chairperson, for conducting our common works.

M. Patrick MVONDO NNA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Afrique. Cette intervention complète celle du Maroc, évidemment, sur la même question. Nous tenons particulièrement à féliciter le Directeur général de la présentation des nouvelles propositions que nous examinons en ce moment. En même temps, nous apprécions la présentation qui a été faite par le Secrétariat qui complète le document soumis à la session. Nous avons pris connaissance des discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier lors de leurs sessions respectives et conjointe de novembre 2013.

Nous tenons à féliciter les membres de ces Comités pour la qualité des débats et la pertinence de leurs recommandations qui servent à orienter l'examen de cette question par le Conseil. En révisant les orientations données par la 38^{ème} session de la Conférence sur les ajustements à apporter au

Programme de travail budget 2014-2015, notamment les mesures à prendre pour obtenir les économies et gains d'efficacité d'un montant de 36,6 millions de dollars, nous convenons avec le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier que celles-ci ont été parfaitement suivies dans les propositions du Directeur général.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie le dialogue engagé avec le personnel à travers leurs organes respectifs qui a permis un accord sur des mesures qui atténuent l'impact des décisions liées aux redéploiements, cessations de service, déclassements, abolitions de poste et autres prestations qui dépendent du Directeur général.

Nous attendons d'être informés sur ces coûts ponctuels et définitifs du processus de redéploiement et des cessations de service.

Nous prenons également acte de la configuration des coûts au sein de la FAO, la proposition la plus importante de ces économies et gains d'efficacité (d'un montant de 27,7 millions de dollars) a été faite sur les dépenses du personnel qui constituent, faut-il le rappeler, 76 pour cent environ des coûts totaux.

En ce qui concerne la portion relative aux coûts hors personnel d'un montant de 6,2 millions de dollars, nous apprécions les changements introduits en matière de voyages, d'utilisation du système électronique et de la renégociation des contrats en cours. Cependant, bien que convaincus qu'il s'agit ici d'un domaine managérial, nous encourageons l'équité, la probité et la rigueur dans la mise en œuvre de ces nouvelles mesures.

Il reste néanmoins à dégager des économies d'un montant de 2,7 millions de dollars sur des domaines déjà identifiés. Comme pour le cas des gains d'efficacité déjà mis en place, le Groupe Afrique réitère sa position plusieurs fois énoncée, à savoir que les programmes techniques et les bureaux décentralisés ne soient pas affectés par toute mesure liée aux ajustements du Programme de travail et budget.

Nous attendons donc que le Comité financier et que le Comité du Programme soient informés à leur session du printemps en 2014 des autres gains d'efficacité et d'économie y compris sur la base de l'examen complet des coûts liés aux indemnités des traitements des fonctionnaires actuellement en cours au sein de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale dans l'ensemble du régime commun des Nations Unies.

En ce qui concerne la planification et l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget, le nouveau modèle des résultats est conforme à l'esprit de la réédition des comptes sur la base d'un suivi annuel et du rapport qui sera dressé à la fin de la période de quatre ans couverte par le Plan à moyen terme.

Nous prenons note donc de ce que sur le plan opérationnel les équipes d'exécution seront mises en place au plus tard en janvier 2014 et que les plans de travail par pays seront finalisés pendant le premier semestre 2014.

Le Groupe Afrique prend également note des modifications à apporter au Programme de travail et budget sur la répartition des ressources entre les lignes budgétaires.

En ce qui concerne la parité homme-femme, nous entérinons cette répartition. S'agissant du cas spécifique des bureaux décentralisés, nous nous félicitons de l'examen qui a été fait sur la palette des connaissances au niveau des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux qui a permis de réajuster l'expertise technique tenant compte des besoins spécifiques des bureaux décentralisés.

Nous souhaitons cependant que lors des Conférences régionales, notamment la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique de 2014, que les cas des écarts en matière d'expertise soient apportés à l'attention des Membres.

Nous avons aussi examiné la proposition du Directeur général à la contribution partagée du système du coordinateur résident des Nations Unies telle que recommandée dans le rapport intérimaire de juin 2013 de l'examen quadriennal des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement. Puisqu'il s'agit de donner un caractère plus définitif à ce partage des coûts en abandonnant la méthode *ad hoc* actuellement en cours et, considérant que le montant exigé par la

FAO n'a pas été budgétisé en 2014-2015, nous approuvons la proposition du Directeur général de limiter la contribution pour l'exercice biennal 2014-2015 à 2 millions de dollars répartis sur les budgets des bureaux des pays.

Nous attendons de nouvelles propositions dans le cadre du budget 2016-2017, en examinant les ajustements apportés aux nombres de postes et à la répartition des virements des ressources entre les chapitres budgétaires, nous approuvons ces ajustements ainsi que la nouvelle proposition nette des crédits ouverts par chapitre.

Nous appelons le Comité financier, en tant que responsable et en conformité avec l'article 4.5 du Règlement financier, à examiner les autres virements budgétaires qui seront proposés dans la période biennale.

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this morning's session.

In the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting punctually. Please ensure that you are here in the Red Room on the times indicated in our Order of the Day, that is 14:30 hours.

May I also remind you of the invitation to attend the inauguration of the Chinese Agro-Ecological Painting Exhibition in the Flag Room, located in building B at 13.00 hours.

Before we break our meeting, there is an announcement by the Secretary-General of the Council, Mr Gagnon.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been asked to remind delegates that a reception will be held tonight at 19:30 hours in the FAO Cafeteria, on the eighth floor of building B, to celebrate the 40 years of collaboration between China and FAO. Invitation cards have been sent to the Representations' mailboxes and you are therefore kindly requested to check your mailboxes.

The meeting rose at 12:41 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.41

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 December 2013

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.31 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 31
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.31
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (continued)
3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 (suite)
3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2014-15 (continuación)
(CL 148/3; CL 148/3 Annex 5)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to continue with item 3. I still have a long list of speakers. I hope the speakers will not be taking long time for their interventions but will focus mainly on the points which are in the decision box.

Mr Hassab JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to make this brief statement on behalf of the Near East Group and also on behalf of my own country, Iraq. The Near East Group while welcoming this Report, which is excellent and extremely detailed in such a way that it is very easy to grasp its contents and the various aspects, we cannot fail to thank Boyd Haight for the presentation he gave us which focused on the salient points in this Report.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees. I would not wish to repeat what others have said before me. I shall confine myself to saying that we agree with many of the policies which have been adopted, especially in the area of decentralization.

It is important for us that the efficiency gains made and which are addressed in this document should not have an impact on the Technical Cooperation Programme, which FAO has scheduled for our region and which we greatly need. And indeed, it is one of the great achievements of this Organization.

So this document on the whole has taken on board the wishes of the Member Nations. The Director-General whom we all elected and who presented his programme for the next biennium told us in this regard that this programme had to be implemented even if resources were short.

What I wanted to say is not specific in this document. On the contrary, we welcome it on the whole. What I do wish to draw attention to is the language in which we communicate, with everything to do with clarifying implementation issues. I don't think dismissing staff in the Organization can be equated with an efficiency measure. It may be a necessary step but we do not think this can be equated to thereof economies or savings.

Some sort of other term or balance is required to describe the situation. Losing one's job, whoever the person in the Organization is, may entail suffering for the individual and for those close to them so I personally regret that some people have had to lose their jobs in order for these efficiency savings of some USD 37 million to be achieved.

We agree that it is a necessary measure as are the other measures detailed in the document, as this has been reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees. All of this has been geared to ensuring that implementation of the programme actually takes place in a transparent and efficient way but that doesn't stop us from taking into account the suffering such efforts may require. I cannot call those efficiency gains.

If we are going to talk about efficiency, then as a person spending his fifth year in this Organization and who has attended all its meetings, and who has heard lots of speeches about efficiency gains and the need to make savings, I have my own opinion on this. My view is that this doesn't mean that we have been completely inefficient in the past and made no efficiency savings.

We have always in the past endeavored to ensure that efficiency and economy prevail in all our endeavors, so I must press the point, we must find terminology which accurately reflects the real situation.

Another point to which I wish to draw attention and which is addressed in the document is that most of the staff that have been put on early retirement or whose post has been abolished should not fall in the category of technical cooperation.

It would suggest however that everybody not working in technical cooperation can be done without. In our opinion, there is no such thing as a first class and second class staff member. They all require and command the same respect and the same importance.

This is not something to be dealt with lightly suggesting that those who don't work in the technical cooperation field could be readily put on the dole. We know there are 100 posts that have been abolished, especially among the senior officials.

Now, I don't know if this is going to have an impact on geographical distribution and gender equality. Of course, we will find this out in due course however we welcome all of these efficiency savings. All efficiency savings not related to separations of staff can only enjoy our blessing.

We all know that the quest for efficiency savings will continue. If you think that you should always look in the area of separation of staff as the appropriate solution, then I am not convinced. I think we need to review that approach and put it right if necessary.

The Chairman of the Near East welcomes the emphasis placed in the Report on rural development and the fight against poverty. Here we would like to see the Organization playing an even greater role in our region because rural development is crucial in determining the level of harvest, especially among smallholder farmers.

As for gender equality, we duly appreciate the efforts of FAO to encourage the Member Nations to give priority place to this principle and to incorporate it into national policy.

We also welcome the importance the FAO places on creating conditions conducive to gender equality and equality of opportunity so that women may enjoy equal opportunity with men in the agriculture sector.

One last point. According to the database of FAO, we can see that this is a very important resource for Member Nations, who can fuel this database. In this regard, we urge FAO to endorse the efforts of Member Nations to coordinate their data and ensure that the data at our disposal is kept constantly up to date.

We also call on the Member Nations to exchange the most recent updated data be it in their own countries or in FAO and we need the updating of regional data. I know the sort of data we have in our region and I know such data need to be updated.

To conclude, the Near East Region very strongly welcomes this Report and we wish the Organization every success in pursuing the implementation of it.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La Delegación de Cuba quiere agradecer la presentación de los documentos por parte del Comité de Finanzas y el Comité del Programa.

Nuestro país reconoce los esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para poner en práctica las acciones solicitadas por los Estados Miembros para lograr mayores ahorros por eficiencia, fundamentalmente en lo referido a los gastos del personal. Por lo que apoyamos la aprobación de la nueva plantilla propuesta.

Igualmente, nuestra Delegación desea reconocer los resultados obtenidos a partir del análisis de eficiencia de los gastos de funcionamiento ajenos al personal. Instamos a la FAO a continuar trabajando, a fin de mejorar la gestión de la Organización, tanto en la sede como en las oficinas regionales, subregionales y en los países.

Estamos de acuerdo con la nueva distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulos presupuestarios, ya que la misma responde a los reclamos de los Estados Miembros de no afectar a los recursos destinados al Programa de cooperación técnica.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate the introduction by Boyd Haight and the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.

What I intend to say is to complement what my colleague from Iraq said on behalf of the Near East Group.

What I am going to say will be limited only to the adjustments and I will not talk about the Programme of Work and Budget, for that has already been approved by the Conference.

In their separate sessions, both the Finance and the Programme Committees have endorsed the adjustment of net appropriation by chapters, and the reduction of 102 posts funded from the regular programme. Both committees have welcomed the savings of USD 36.6 million from net appropriations, as well as its breakdown by staff costs and non-staff costs.

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees gave support to the position taken by the two Committees on the adjustment of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, and has reaffirmed that the adjustments reflected fully and accurately the decision of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

We support the views expressed by the two Committees and the Joint Meeting, as well as the adjustments in the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by Director-General.

Nevertheless, we wish to reflect on the following five significant features of the adjustments proposed by the Director-General.

One, the burden of savings and efficiency gains fall on FAO Headquarters: 92 percent of staff costs of USD 27.7 million and 82 percent of non-staff costs of USD 6.2 million. The burden on Decentralized Office is relatively mild.

Two, within Headquarters, the burden of savings is more on units responsible for administration and offsite function and not on units responsible for technical work.

Three, out of the reduction of 102 posts, 91 are from Headquarters. Four, there is no cut post in FAO Country Offices.

Five, there is no reduction in TCP which remains at USD 134.7 million or 13.4 percent of the total net appropriation of USD 1,005.6 million.

We support these five basic features. We also feel that in the implementation and monitoring of the results-based model, the Organization faces two challenges.

One, the horizontal nature of the results-based model for implementation is complex, especially how the coordinators of the five Strategic Objectives will orchestrate the contribution of 48 different cross-departmental and cross-territorial outputs leading into 17 outcomes.

This is particularly so because each output is actually the sum of individual outputs from CFS, regional and sub-regional initiatives. The monitoring and evaluation of the results-based model is based on a ring of outcomes and input indicators. The number is large and if my counting is correct, it consists of 32 outcome indicators, 51 output indicators for the five Strategic Objectives.

Each outcome indicator has its own targets and these amount to a total of 82. Then there are 35 performance indicators and 47 outputs. It is a demanding job for the staff and for the Corporate Programme managers created to achieve the work of the results-based model implementation.

It is not unlikely that experience from implementation may show the need for changes in the number of indicators, the number of outputs and the number of targets.

Sra. Alba COELLO (Ecuador)

Agradecemos la presentación del documento de Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2014-15, así como las presentaciones de los Informes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas cuyas recomendaciones respaldamos.

Acogemos con satisfacción que las orientaciones de la Conferencia se reflejen completamente en el documento presentado, particularmente en la identificación de medidas que permitirán realizar ahorros por el valor de 36.6 millones de dólares.

Mi Delegación toma nota de que el 76 por ciento del ahorro responde a medidas de eficiencia relativas a los gastos de personal, de acuerdo con la orientación dada por la Conferencia. Reconoce el hecho de que dichas medidas se identificaron luego de un examen crítico de las oficinas de carácter no técnico situadas en la sede, a fin de que no se afecte la implementación del Programa de trabajo de la FAO. Y sin que se disminuya la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas.

Este último aspecto, que para mi país es fundamental, si queremos alcanzar los objetivos del Marco estratégico revisado. Alentamos a seguir realizando evaluaciones para evitar duplicaciones, que se busquen sinergias y se simplifiquen las estructuras, ya que sus resultados no solo repercuten en la identificación de ahorros, sino particularmente en la eficiencia de la Organización.

En general vemos importantes avances en materia de géneros. Apreciamos que el tema de género forme parte de la metodología de seguimiento y evaluación de los Objetivos estratégicos, así como que se han reajustado los recursos en materia de género para que cubran todos los Objetivos estratégicos. Sin embargo, no dejamos de reconocer qué tratamiento del tema de género puede reforzarse a través de medidas como las recomendadas por el Comité del Programa.

En este sentido valoramos la voluntad expresada por la Administración de reforzar el tratamiento de la equidad de género en todos los ámbitos de trabajo de la FAO. Respaldamos el funcionamiento de la Junta de Seguimiento del Programa, ya que consideramos que esto permitirá la eficaz implementación del Marco estratégico revisado y del Programa de trabajo, así como garantiza la coordinación de los objetivos transversales.

En conclusión, consideramos que el documento refleja las orientaciones de la Conferencia y que los ahorros identificados garantizan la ejecución del programa. Finalmente, queremos resaltar lo mencionado el día de hoy por el Director General. Todo lo realizado tiene que ver con un trabajo necesario al interior de la FAO, pero lo importante es el trabajo afuera de la FAO, es decir, los resultados. Pasemos ahora a la implementación del Marco estratégico.

Ms Tehmina JANJUIA (Pakistan)

I would also like to congratulate you on your chairmanship of this Council. I would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Programme and the Finance Committees for their presentations made earlier.

We should thank the Secretariat for their presentation as well as the comprehensive documents regarding the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

The 38th Session of the Conference requested the Director-General to put measures in place to achieve efficiency gains and savings particularly in staffing related costs. The conference also emphasized that the savings should not be at the expense of the delivery of Programme of Work.

Bearing in mind this guidance, we welcome the proposed adjustments as they reflect accurately the decisions and the requests of the Conference. We also note with satisfaction that the required savings of USD36.6 million have been identified in line with the Conference's wish for the need to fully implement the Programme of Work in the most cost effective manner.

It is noted that savings in staff costs of USD 27.7 million represent approximately 76 percent of the overall saving targets of USD 36.6 million and are in line with the proportion of staff costs in the budget of approximately 75 percent.

I would like to take this opportunity to express a special appreciation for the staff of FAO and for the work they do in the field, as well as at Headquarters. FAO is a knowledge-based Organization.

We in Pakistan have benefited from the policy advice and the technical advice of FAO staff and its experts. We thank them for the efforts they make in all developing countries in particular and for the kind of knowledge and information they provide for countries that need it, especially those that have an agricultural base like ours.

We have a few points requiring clarification. Number one, we note that in arriving at the net abolition of 100 posts, a critical review seems to have been made of established posts in 17 non-technical offices located at Headquarters, particularly within the apex and corporate services department.

May we have some information as to whether the critical review referred to encompassed a systematic and comprehensive review of the business processes in these units with a view to the abolition of processes deemed unnecessary and redundant?

We also hope that the abolition of posts has not upset the regional balance in FAO.

Number two, a significant number of posts abolished are in the Information Technology Division, CIO. We note that among other measures put in place, there will be increased use of outsourcing of certain services. While we support the concept of outsourcing, we would also like some information on the funds retained for this purpose. What percentage would this represent of the budget of the CIO? And we would also like to know, where have these services being outsourced to?

Obviously, the focus should be on outsourcing to developing countries which can provide efficient and effective information technology related services. We would also like to know what procedures are being adopted in this regard.

Three, the document also envisages the possibility of further efficiency savings during the biennium by a broader review of IT capacity throughout the Organization which currently lies outside of CIO. Could the Secretariat clarify as to why this IT capacity which currently lies outside of CIO was not included in the present review? If it had, perhaps we could have identified further savings now at this time.

Four, the document classifies USD 2.7 million of savings as diagnosed but not implemented. Maybe you have some information as to the timeframe when information will be available regarding the specific areas these savings would come from?

As regards work planning and implementation arrangements, we welcome the update concerning the results framework and work plan for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the PWB2014-15.

Let me also stress that we are pleased to note that the gender-related issues are being mainstreamed in the results frameworks, resource allocations, and work plans of all five Strategic Objectives.

We support the five guiding principles as set out in paragraph 74 for identifying, prioritizing, and elaborating outputs. We also agree with the creative focus being given to FAO's work on statistics. As regards the decentralized offices, Mr Chairman, whilst we support the skills mix reviews undertaken by the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices, we have some concerns regarding internal control in the Human Resources area in the Regional Offices.

In conclusion, we endorse the revised budgeted post establishment as well as the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in the document.

Mr Mei Rochjat DARMAWIREDJA (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the well prepared document of Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and its Annexes with comprehensive and clear explanations.

Indonesia welcomes and supports the implementation of the decision of the 38th Session of the Conference with regard to the efficiency of the Organization. My delegation appreciates and supports the attempt to identify the efficiency gains and savings from staff -related costs without sacrificing the implementation of the Programme of Work. We believe that with this measure, FAO would become more efficient, more value-for-money, and more effective in the delivery of the Programme of Work.

With these adjustments, my delegation hopes that the delivery of the Programme of Work in the field will continue to be in line with the five Strategic Objectives of FAO.

My delegation also supports the implementation of the new work plan and budgetary model by the Secretariat in strengthening the internal governance arrangement through the change in more efficient work culture.

Mr Muthang SELEKA (South Africa)

South Africa would like to fully associate itself with the statement made by its Regional Representatives of Cameroun and Morocco on behalf of the African Group. In addition, South Africa would like to make a statement on behalf of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, the People's Republic of China and South Africa (BRICS).

BRICS welcomes the proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and notes that they reflect the decisions and requests of the 38th Session of the Conference to put measures in place to achieve further efficiency gains and savings with a particular emphasis on staffing costs. We welcome that in line with the production of staff costs in the budget, staff cost savings represents 76 percent of the savings that have been achieved.

BRICS carefully noted the Director-General's statement to the Joint Meeting of the 114th session of the Programme Committee and the 151st session of the Finance Committee held on 13 November 2013, and in particular two key issues raised by him.

Firstly, we note the challenges posed by continually having to do the same or more with less money, especially in view of increasingly stringent budgets over the past 20 years, which seen FAO's budget lose almost 30 percent of its real value. In this regard, we commend the Director-General and his staff for the way he has affected the latest round of savings without affecting the Programme of Work, as was also mandated by the Conference.

Secondly, BRICS knows that while staff costs have risen from 70 to 75 percent over the past 15 years, none of the significant decisions related to staff costs are under the direct authority of FAO Director-General, but that these decisions are bound by the UN common system and are made by the International Civil Service Commission in New York and decided upon by the UN General Assembly.

As noted by the Director-General in his intervention to the Joint Meeting on 13 November, the last Conference in its report appealed to the ICSC and the General Assembly and likewise urged the Director-General to make a similar appeal to consider the need for greater vigilance with regard to increases in staff costs across the UN common system, particularly within the context of the ongoing comprehensive review being undertaken by the ICSC.

In this regard, BRICS would like to assure the Director-General of their support in this process.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, South Africa, speaking on behalf of BRICS. It is the first time to have this group speaking in the Council.

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

Distinguished delegates and representatives of the Secretariat, Russia whole-heartedly endorses the statement made by the BRICS. Russia very positively commends the work of the Secretariat to implement the decisions of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference geared to enhancing the efficiency of the Organization's work and reducing the level of the budget and bringing it within the approved framework without detriment to programme activities.

Russia has an understanding as to the appeal of the Director-General to the Member Nations to strike a sensible balance in respect of the authority of the Governing Bodies of the Organization vis-à-vis the Secretariat. We are against micromanagement.

In this regard, we support the measures proposed to realign the staffing and structure of the Organization as well as the re-appropriation of resources within the various budgetary chapters. On the other hand, we are establishing effective cooperation with FAO and the various units of FAO, including at the working level, in order to better understand what is happening within the Organization and in order to develop the optimum best coordinated policies with the involvement of all interested parties.

Lastly, with regard to the unrelenting growth in staff costs in the UN system, Russia supports the appeal of the Director-General for there to be an unambiguous signal conveyed to the ICSC and we

are ready to cooperate with the Secretariat and all interested parties and Member Nationd in any format which will be effective and produce the desired result.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO e SANTOS (Brazil)

The Brazilian Delegation supports the document CL 148/3 and wishes to commend the Secretariat for the well-prepared report with which fully reflects the guidance given by the Conference, as reflected in Table 4.

The Brazilian Delegation fully endorses the intervention made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of BRICS. We recognize that staff costs are an important part of the budget, not only for FAO but in the UN system at large, and recognize the efforts of the Director-General in optimizing the use of the staff without sacrificing the Programme of Work and, as important, in showing a real interest in the welfare of the effected persons.

Ms Natalie Eugenia BROWN (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and like so many other delegates here today, I want to congratulate you and also acknowledge the hard work of the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

The United States concurs with the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 as detailed in Council document CL 148/3. As my delegation stated at the Finance Committee, we appreciate the identification of large portions of the cost savings mandated by the Conference. We also acknowledge that the Secretariat has incorporated Conference decisions related to the strategic workforce planning exercise and the mainstreaming of gender across FAO's work plan.

As we noted at the November meeting of the Finance Committee and as reaffirmed this morning by the Director-General, the Secretariat still needs to realize USD 2.7 million in efficiency savings, we understand primarily in procurement services, mail and distribution services, and security.

At the June Conference, when the United States agreed to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15, we requested that the Secretariat increase allocations of assessed contributions to line items addressing FAO's core competencies, that is, those items addressing food security, sustainable production, food systems, and resiliency. We repeat this request and urge the Secretariat to take this into account when preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium as well.

The United States would also like to comment on the results framework and output indicators contained in annexes 5 and 6. We recognize that the Conference had approved the Programme of Work and Budget with provisional indicators. As the outcomes, outputs, and indicators are still a work in progress as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee noted this morning, we would like to suggest in their finalization for right to adequate food which is used as a sub-indicator multiple times under Strategic Objective 1 either be removed or at least be modified to reflect that these indicators should only be applied to FAO's work in those states which have accepted such obligations.

It is the objective of the United States to achieve a world in which everyone has adequate access to food, but we do not treat the right to food as an enforceable legal obligation. Finally, we appreciate the extensive efforts made by FAO leadership and staff over the past several months to identify cost savings and work towards implementing the revised Strategic Framework. We are confident that FAO is moving in the right direction and we look forward to receiving further information and updates over the coming year.

Sr. Oscar GODOY ARCAYA (Chile)

En primer lugar quiero plegarme a las aceptaciones de gratitud hacia su conducción de esta reunión que esperamos culmine exitosamente. También quiero agradecer a los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa por la información que han puesto a nuestra disposición. He escuchado con mucho agrado la importante reducción de 36 millones de gastos que la Secretaría General ha logrado y que permite de algún modo culminar las actividades de los programas, adecuando el Marco Estratégico a la

ejecución de los mismos, sin problemas de financiamiento. Sobre este asunto se ha hablado abundantemente y todos los países han expresado su satisfacción.

Todavía querría referirme a algo que está relacionado con dos hechos ocurridos en el interior de nuestra Organización. El primero es que el GRULAC, cuando discutió el tema del presupuesto, tuvo el honor de recibir en su seno al Director General y se planteó con bastante crudeza una serie de problemas vinculados a los problemas estructurales; no solamente los problemas coyunturales sino la estructura misma del presupuesto de la FAO. He notado que el Secretario General hoy día se ha referido a este tema y ha invitado a los países a presionar a los Órganos de Naciones Unidas que tienen la responsabilidad mayor en ejecutar cambios en políticas de salarios y de beneficios al personal puesto que estos cambios se deciden en Nueva York y por lo tanto escapan a la jurisdicción del Director General y de esta Organización.

Cuando se planteó este tema en el GRULAC llegamos a la conclusión de que no podíamos traspasarlo como un veto o como una cuestión que enturbiase el profundo compromiso del GRULAC de dar apoyo fuerte y sostenido al Director General para la ejecución de su proyecto de reformas y de ejecución de programas en el Marco de un Nuevo Planteo Estratégico. Diferimos la posibilidad de referirnos a este tema a, por ejemplo, esta Asamblea.

En este sentido creo oportuno hacer las siguientes consideraciones: el Informe del Comité de Finanzas hablando del estado financiero, digámoslo así, presupuestario de la Organización, hace una serie de afirmaciones, entre ellas dos que a mi juicio son muy importantes.

La primera es acerca el flujo de dinero del que dispone la FAO y nos informa de que si se compara el año 2011 al 30 de diciembre con el 2012, se ha pasado desde 61.2 a 105 millones de dólares, lo cual permite autosatisfacernos, en el sentido de que nosotros, los Estados Miembros, hemos pagado más puntualmente nuestras cuotas y demás que hay cuotas que se han acrecentado y que ya empezaron a pagarse a finales del año 2012 y que por otra parte también se hicieron pagos liquidando deudas.

El Comité de finanzas afirma que en los últimos meses del año 2012 se advirtió una especie de baja del ritmo de ingreso de recursos frescos, lo cual indicaría, dice el texto, pondría al descubierto un estado vulnerable del sistema financiero y presupuestario de la FAO en el sentido de no disponer de un fondo de capital suficiente como para poder brindar a la Organización de las vicisitudes de los pagos a tiempo, etc. Por lo tanto, esta es la primera consideración estructural. La FAO carece de un fondo de capital adecuado a su importancia, adecuado a los proyectos que realiza, y al gasto enorme que representan la realización de estos proyectos.

El segundo tema lo suscita las obligaciones contractuales que tiene la FAO con su personal. Sorprendentemente, se nos dice que a finales de 2012 el costo de los cuatro programas de asistencia al personal (salud, fondo de liquidaciones, etc.), había llegado a 1.252 millones de dólares y que la FAO disponía solamente de 871.2 millones para satisfacerlos. Y agrega otros datos interesantes, como por ejemplo el pago de la salud de los funcionarios que dejan la Organización, o sea que cesan de su trabajo, ascenderían teóricamente, digamos así, porque no se van a ir todos de repente, a una cifra muy cuantiosa de algo así como 795.8 millones de dólares, y que estos montos gravitan fuertemente en el déficit que tiene el fondo general de la Organización. En este caso el Comité de Finanzas propone que se busquen vías alternativas para satisfacer este déficit de las obligaciones contraídas con el personal y especula diciendo, por ejemplo, que en 30 años, pagando una cuota de 26 millones, lograríamos quedar en una buena situación. Y respecto al fondo de liquidaciones, con 6.6 millones o algo así, en 15 años ocurriría lo mismo.

Todo esto indica de que estructuralmente tenemos problemas y me parece que la respuesta a la liquidez sea la puntualidad de los pagos. Eso no es suficiente. Obviamente es muy importante y hay que poner mucho acento en aquello; pero decir que hay que buscar vías alternativas u otras vías sin indicarlas, sin dar ejemplos cuáles son, a mí me parece que es muy insatisfactorio.

Es obvio que este problema de la gravitación que tiene el costo de personal para la Organización no se puede satisfacer autosuficientemente en la FAO, y hay que ir al sistema completo. Y en este sentido, yo quiero interpretar lo que dijo hoy día en la mañana el Director General, proponiendo que haya una decisión de esta Asamblea, en el sentido de que los Estados Miembros nos comprometamos a

promover en los distintos Órganos y Organizaciones de Naciones Unidas una misma posición: que se revise el sistema de salarios, que se revise el sistema provisional y de beneficios de que hoy día dispone el personal de todo el sistema. Es decir que si nosotros, pienso yo, piensa Chile, si nosotros, los países no nos comprometemos a una acción seria, coherente, persistente y firme para lograrlo, no lo va a lograr la FAO o el Director General.

Él lo dijo ya, lo confesó aquí en aula. El Director General dijo: “No, yo no puedo, nosotros no podemos. Son ustedes los que pueden”. Pues bien, por favor, recojamos el guante y aceptemos el desafío que nos ha puesto el Director General.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India fully endorses and supports the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the BRICS countries.

I have two specific points to make, one related to the savings and one related to outputs and indicators, so I'll be very brief regarding these. India welcomes and supports the efforts of the management led by the DG in delivering upon the commitment to the Conference and in defining savings of USD 36.6 million without affecting the Programme of Work.

However, we feel that these savings arising mostly out of staff redeployment and/or severance has costs associated with it and we would appreciate if the management could inform us at later stage about these costs.

The second point I wish to make is regarding the cross cutting themes. India is satisfied with the mainstreaming of gender and the Strategic Framework with gender specific outcomes and indicators along with USD 21.8 million allocated to gender related efforts within the PWB.

However, we find the details on the other cross cutting theme, governance a bit wanting and would request for more information on the development of outcomes and indicators, institutional capacity and resourcing for governance.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh welcomes the document CL 148/3 containing the adjustment of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. The document reflects the decisions of the 38th Conference of the FAO regarding efficiency savings.

We would like to highlight that we'd like to thank FAO management that has identified almost USD 36.6 million as efficiency gains.

We highlighted that in the Programme of Work and Budget, Table 4 of this document, we found that almost 11 chapters out of 14 have seen some sort of adjustment proposal. But, we have a small concern regarding chapter 3: 2,738 million are technical adjustments proposed; 1,138 million are efficiency gains. We are in doubt whether the FAO management would be able to provide the service delivery particularly on chapter 3 – actually this is the Strategic Objectives of FAO to reduce the rural poverty.

We all know that rural poverty is the key factor to challenge to overcome hunger and malnutrition.

Maintaining this figure in mind, Bangladesh endorses the document and looks forward to seeing the successful implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, without hampering the service delivery particularly in chapter 3.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan would like to join the previous speakers in appreciating the effort of the Secretariat for finding savings in response to the request of the Conference last June, and we agree with the proposal of the adjustment to the PWB 2014-15.

As the Director-General said this morning, implementing the plan is more important than planning and we hope that the PWB under the revised Strategic Framework will deliver good results.

We have two comments. Comment one, as the Chairperson of Programme Committee referred to, operational work planning process should be completed as soon as possible and baselines, targets and indicators should be finalized by the end of this year. These are the prerequisites for the staff to hit the ground running since day one of the next biennium. In that sense, Annexes 5 and 6 which are the integral part of the Medium-Term Plan and PWB should be finalized as soon as possible.

In this connection, we are a bit concerned that the work on the globally important agriculture heritage system, the work on GIAHS has been disappeared from Annex 5. It was one of the outcome indicators under SO2 in the previous version of Annex 5 but it is not explicit in the latest version which was delivered last week. We think GIAHS is one of the essential activities under SO2 as was discussed in the previous Council sessions and we strongly request that the GIAHS is placed properly in the work plan.

Comment number two, as the previous speakers stated, we would like to request that updated information on pending issues would be provided to the Programme and Finance Committees in due course. The information should include USD 2.7 million of savings which have not been confirmed, further possible savings as a consequence of the recommendations of the ICSC, and cost sharing of the UN Resident Coordinator System. We appreciate the latest information on cost sharing of the UN Resident Coordinator System was provided this morning in the presentation by the Secretariat and we would like to be informed when the savings for the cost sharing for 2015 is identified.

Having said that, we look forward to the implementation report of the new PWB next year.

Ms Eun Jeung LEE (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea appreciates the effort and the performance of the Programme and Finance and Joint Committees Chairs.

On behalf of the Asia Group countries we would like to make a short comment. First, the Republic of Korea commends the Secretariat for their effort in making adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 reflecting the guidance of the 38th Conference.

We appreciate the FAO's effort in trying to achieve efficiency gains and savings internally and particularly we welcome the savings related to staff costs.

Second, we would like to encourage FAO to continue its good work to identify specific measures for the remaining USD 2.7 billion for more efficiency gains and savings. The area of regional and country offices should be found in a manner of keeping FAO's decentralization principles the coming years.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Felicitaciones, Señor Presidente por esta conducción que está llevando adelante de la reunión. Voy a tratar de contribuir a que nos mantengamos en los tiempos previstos siendo breve. Y también quiero felicitar a los Presidentes del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa por el trabajo que hemos realizado y por la presentación que han efectuado. Voy a ser breve porque Argentina ya participó en estas reuniones y queremos solamente insistir en dos puntos que están relacionados con los anexos del documento. Desde ya, respaldamos al documento CL 148/3.

Con respecto a los anexos, solamente queremos destacar que entendemos que los indicadores de logros son un trabajo en desarrollo y que su versión definitiva debería tratar de reflejar, de manera integrada y balanceada, los tres pilares del desarrollo sostenible, es decir, los aspectos sociales, económicos y ambientales evitando que dichos indicadores se centren excesivamente en algunas de estas dimensiones como podría ser la ambiental. Está claro que los objetivos son bastante específicos, pero también constituyen una trama bastante compleja, como bien lo señaló la Delegación de Afganistán. Y en ese sentido nos parece que serían bastante útiles si conservan estas perspectivas, teniendo en cuenta los pilares del desarrollo sostenible.

Y el segundo comentario, y en complemento del anterior, es para insistir en la perspectiva de equidad de género, que ha sido mencionado por varias delegaciones y que nosotros también apoyamos en el marco del Comité de Programa y de la reunión conjunta de los comités. En ese sentido, también apoyamos la utilización de cifras y estadísticas desagregadas. Y finalmente no podemos dejar de

vincular los esfuerzos que está realizando la administración con el proceso general que se está llevando adelante en la FAO, y que nos está mostrando que es posible cambiar poco a poco la Organización, sus objetivos y sus métodos de trabajo.

En ese sentido, vemos con satisfacción que este Consejo se encamina a una resolución favorable de apoyo a los documentos presentados y eso nos parece sumamente satisfactorio y lo interpretamos como una clara muestra de respaldo de los Estados Miembros al esfuerzo que realiza la gestión del Director General y toda la Organización, incluyendo su personal.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMINÉZ (El Salvador)

Seré muy breve, siguiendo sus indicaciones de no repetir, haciendo más eficiente nuestro trabajo. Deseo expresar que mi Delegación comparte plenamente la declaración realizada por Sudáfrica, la cual refleja el punto de vista de mi país sobre el tema que nos ocupa. Damos un voto de confianza al Director General en sus esfuerzos por hacer más eficiente nuestra Organización, camino que no siempre será fácil y que indudablemente requiere de sacrificios. Apoyamos en consecuencia a los ajustes presentados al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2014-2015.

Deseamos compartir la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Chile, en el sentido de que nos comprometamos a realizar una acción conjunta, una acción común, ante los organismos competentes para solventar la situación y atender lo que esta mañana nos solicitó el Director General.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je serai également bref parce que nous partageons complètement l'intervention du Cameroun et du Maroc qui ont donné leur accord aux ajustements au premier budget présenté par la Direction. Je sais aussi que les actions sont toujours sensibles, mais qu'il faut renforcer l'action de la statistique, les processus de décentralisation, la parité hommes-femmes, et surtout l'action des indicateurs, qu'il faut trouver des indicateurs simples et tenir compte de l'information disponible. La planification et la programmation sont basées sur les résultats, l'évaluation et le suivi et même le rapport seront basés sur les résultats. Cela signifie qu'il faut une culture neuve, il faut l'information, il faut les connaissances, et je ne sais pas si elles seront disponibles tout de suite. L'action que je vais proposer porte précisément sur ce sujet : les bureaux décentralisés sont très importants pour le fonctionnement du Programme et je voudrais savoir s'ils disposent des capacités nouvelles nécessaires pour accomplir le Programme.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation. The Chinese delegation agrees with South Africa on behalf of the BRICS countries.

China supports the Secretariat on the adjustments made to PWB 2014-15 as well as the net appropriations by chapter, as the structural adjustments in the FAO, given difficulties in establishing indicators for monitoring at different levels and that the proposed indicators meant to be completed. We hope that the Secretariat can do all the work done and try to move forward a set of refined indicators for monitoring before the PWB is implemented.

China noted that Japan made a statement on the GIAHS. We support the statement made by Japan on GIAHS and hope that FAO will put emphasis on this work.

Lastly, I'd like to recall that in order to celebrate cooperation with FAO and extend our gratitude to all Member Nations for their support, this evening we are going to host a party and would like to welcome all countries to participate in this ceremony.

Mr Beda MACHAR DENG (Observer for South Sudan)

It's a pleasure and honour for me and the South Sudanese delegation to participate in the 148th Session of FAO Council.

The work done by the Council is well acceptable because FAO has supported the farmers in various agricultural sectors in the Republic of South Sudan.

This Ministry is continuing requesting and accepting the FAO to build some suggestions sea testing laboratory and a facility for livestock breeding and capacity building environmental protection and institutional development. We realize that there is need to replicate our research and learning institutions to help the minister upgrade its human resources.

The Ministry indeed and the Government recognize the FAO work in the country. However, we are particularly delighted that FAO accepted our membership in June 2013. We hope South Sudan as a new Member of the Organization will be exposed to FAO experience to build and shoulder its responsibility and utilize its resources to promote food and nutrition status within the country.

This ministry still hopes that FAO will upgrade its offices in the national capital and indeed in the state within the Republic of South Sudan.

We are hoping indeed that FAO will be with South Sudan for long time and we are hoping that the experience that has been with FAO will also be done within the Republic of South Sudan.

We appreciate the work done by the Finance Committee and the Chair in downsizing the FAO and we are hoping that also this downsizing will also expand the new nation, like the newborn country of the Republic of South Sudan. We are hoping that the people within South Sudan will extract more work and more effort and more support from FAO.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think that it is a pleasure to see that the discussions that we had in the Programme and Finance Committee went very well and reflects the views of the Council which hopefully means that we have been able to assist the Council.

I think the general message to take home is that we are very encouraged by what is happening and that we will follow the developments very, very clearly and we did have some new information from Mr Haight, which we were very grateful for. I think I will let him respond to the individual queries that were made by the Council Members.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Sincerely I wish to thank every member of the Finance Committee for the support and endorsement of our Report and all that was said including what was said by the Ambassador of Morocco to us. Cecilia and I appreciate that very much. We also appreciate everything that was said by the other members.

I will not be labouring too much on some of the issues that were raised, but let me only come back to one issue which I think many members brought up. I want to refer to the methodology that was used and the decision that was taken by management to use staff costs as the key element in support of the efficiency savings that were requested by the Conference.

I know in the previous exercise of this nature, other methodologies were used but I think it needed a lot of decision and courage at this point in time and I think it was not based from our point of view because we are a technical committee. We reviewed the arguments that were brought up by management on going through that direction and we used technical elements to assess why that decision was taken.

If we suggested the Council to endorse those elements, I think it was on technical grounds. I really would like that this issue be understood that way. I do not wish to be labouring on again on what was discussed in the Finance Committee per se. I really want to bring this matter up so that we understand that the Conference took a decision for asking management to come up with some suggestions and it was left to management as the managerial unit to deal with that.

The proposal that was brought before us, at this point in time, was to examine with technical resources and so on. I think that's what made us base our judgment which we brought before you. This is the only thing Mr Chairman I wanted to bring up to the members of the Council. I thank you very much and I will leave the answers to the most difficult and very technical issues to Mr Haight with his team.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman and thank you very much to the Members of the Council for the support to the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and also for recognizing that this is an ongoing process in terms of finalizing the results framework and moving into implementation, monitoring and evaluation, which is really where we need to be on 1 January 2014.

I would like to highlight five points that came up during the discussion. The first relates to the savings and indeed, we made a special effort to focus on staff costs as was requested by the Council. In the case of the Information Technology division, that means, as I said in my remarks and in the document, moving to a new business model, much more modern, with outsourcing and not so reliant on staff costs.

One indicator of that is the fact that we reduced the number of posts in the division of 45 percent but the level of resources is only down by 22 percent. That reflects in part that some of the resources from reducing posts will be used for outsourcing.

In doing the review of the business processes more generally of the 17 non-technical offices, Pakistan asked did we look at business practices. Well, yes, of course we did, particularly in light of the implementation of the Global Resource Management System which allows us to find efficiencies through automation but there are also other processes.

I will give you an example which affects many of us in Senior Management. As of the end of November, we no longer have cell phones or smart phones, provided by the Organization. That has allowed us to reduce at least one position in the Information Technology division that was devoted to managing those phones. Those are the types of processes that we looked at and those savings are not insignificant and they add up over time.

We will, of course, go back to the Finance Committee in its next regular session in May with an update on the measures we will have put in place by that time to achieve the final USD 2.7 million in savings and how that affects the services concerned. At that point we will also be able to report on the cost of separation and redeployment of those staff whose posts were abolished.

I will say that we are making every effort to redeploy staff with posts that are abolished and it is not just administrative staff who no longer have a function. There are several professional staff in these offices who have been reassigned to our decentralized offices in support functions and even some as FAO Representatives. This helps to also provide capacity in our decentralized offices and administrative areas. Not only do we provide training through GRMS, but also the sharing of experience moving out from Headquarters into the regions.

We will report on these costs to the Finance Committee as well as on the final carry over from the 2012-13 biennium and how that will be used to fund these costs and other transformational change measures.

The second area in our work efforts on work planning where we have the opportunity to continue to incorporate plans to ensure that gender and governance are mainstreamed across our plans to deliver the products and services, also to ensure that other crosscutting areas which are high on the agenda, such as nutrition and climate change, are addressed within the products and services, and of course the workforce review and skill mix that is necessary to achieve the products and services.

The third area relates to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and here I greatly appreciate the interest of the Membership in the frameworks as this is what we will use to hold ourselves accountable. There are indeed high expectations. Several delegates have mentioned this and it will be a challenge to implement but it is real. This is not something that is just done for window dressing. Although it may seem that there are a lot of indicators and Mr Ayazi was correct in pointing out that there were 48 indicators of the Outcomes, this number has come down. It is less than one third of the number that we had in the previous Medium-Term Plan of 170. We are being more rigorous about how we measure these indicators of Outcomes. We do have far fewer and they really are intended to measure change that takes place, they are not output indicators. Output indicators would be about

what FAO delivers. The outcome indicator is to measure the change, and we have also been learning from others on how to measure such change.

We have had some very good inputs from United Kingdom and their experience with working with indicators and also sharing experiences with other Organizations, particularly here in Rome with the World Food Programme and IFAD. In fact two weeks ago, several of my staff attended the UN Strategic Planning Network meeting that was held for two days at WFP and had the opportunity to exchange experiences with their colleagues from the other agencies. So we are not doing this work in isolation. We are sharing and learning from others.

The fourth is on the contribution to the UN Resident Coordinator System. Just to be clear on the cost share. A portion of the UN Resident Coordinator System budget is paid by UNDP directly and a portion is now to be shared among other UN agencies. For the next biennium, FAO's assessed share is USD 4 million. We had originally reallocated resources and the adjustments to pay for half of that, not having been able to budget that in the PWB itself. We have now made a commitment to pay the full amount and to seek efficiency savings to find the other USD 2 million and we are fairly confident we will be able to do that and, of course, we will report back to the Programme and Finance Committees, on the progress that we make, next year and in 2015.

Finally on gender for which the Nordics had a substantive intervention, and several others have mentioned, I would like to point out that there are two key performance indicators under Objective 6, under Outcome 3 on gender where we will be measuring our performance in terms of minimum standards and the UN swap on gender. Thus we have foreseen reporting on our performance directly. To the extent that we can find measures of the Strategic Objective and Outcome indicators that can be gender disaggregated, we will do so. However, I am told that this is not the easiest thing to do at the level of our indicators, but we will make every effort.

More generally on the indicators themselves, we appreciate the several suggestions that have been made by Argentina, by Japan and China, and by the USA, and we will take those into consideration when we finalize the indicators, baselines, and targets that will then be considered by the Programme Committee in May of next year.

CHAIRPERSON

After getting clarification and answering some questions which were asked to Mr Haight and to the two Chairs, let me conclude item 3 as follows.

The Council welcomed document CL 148/3 and in particular:

- a) welcomed the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and noted they reflected accurately and fully the decisions and guidance of the 38th Session of the Conference;
- b) appreciated that the required budgetary savings had been identified in line with the guidance of Conference for the need to fully implement the Programme of Work in a cost effective manner;
- c) supported the savings identified in staff costs, mainly from non-technical offices at Headquarters;
- d) requested further engagement with the International Civil Service Commission to stress the need for greater vigilance with regard to increases in staff costs across the Common System;
- e) encouraged further cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies in particular by seeking convergence on financial, administrative, and management systems and processes with a view to achieving further efficiency gains and savings;
- f) endorsed the total contribution of USD 4 million of the Organization's cost-share of the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in 2014-15 arising from the FAO country office network (USD 2 million) and through further efficiency gains and savings (USD 2 million);
- g) recalled the full managerial scope of the Director-General in implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15;

- h) welcomed the progress made on preparing the Results Framework and work plans for implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, including the additional information provided by the Secretariat;
- i) encouraged the Secretariat to maintain its efforts in identifying areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in work-planning and implementation;
- j) noted that progress on mainstreaming gender and governance are cross-cutting themes and stressed the importance of gender disaggregated data in indicators across all Strategic Objectives, as well as well-defined accountability mechanisms;
- k) approved the revised budget post establishment;
- l) approved the revised distribution of net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in table 4 of document CL 148/3;
- m) noted that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of planning, as well as from using the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation during the biennium. In this context, the Council recalled that within chapter transfers, and transfers from one chapter to another required to implement the Programme of Work and Budget during the biennium would be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5;
- n) requested that the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems be reinstated as an indicator for Strategic Objective 2;
- o) Last, expected to be informed in due course on the further efficient savings that have been diagnosed, but not yet implemented for a total of USD 2.7 million.

Ms Tehmina JANJUIA (Pakistan)

Thank you for that summary. We raised a number of questions, but we did not get responses to them. We hope that these questions will be reflected in the record of the meeting so that as the opportunity arises, we will get responses to these questions as well, because these were substantive questions that we raised and on which we hoped we would get some responses.

But anyway, not to spend more time on this matter, we would like to see these points reflected in the record and a continuation of discussion on these later on. We thank you again for the summary that you have made.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I have some queries about what you have just read out. One was about the UN Resident Coordinator. If you could just read out what you said there again just so that I fully understand. I think you referred to the upcoming biennium, if we could just get clarification on that.

Also, near the end of your summary you referenced to the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in terms of including it as an indicator for SO2. Could we just have some clarity about what is being proposed there?

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Similarly to the questions posed by Australia, I just wanted to ask, Mr Chairperson, if you could please repeat the line of your summary with regard to engagement with the ICSC.

I believe there were also considerable comments of agreement with the need for Member Nations to also be vigilant within the General Assembly, and we would prefer that this also be reflected in the summary.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me start with point (d) where I summarized: “requested further engagement with the International Civil Service Commission to stress the need for greater vigilance with regard to increases in staff costs across the Common System”.

I think this will be reflected to be for both the Management as well as the Members. Of course the Director-General has already raised this issue and maybe we will reflect it to show that also the Members would also be responsible on this item.

Point (f): “endorsed total contribution of USD 4 million of the Organization’s cost-share of the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in 2014-15 arising from the FAO Country Office Network, that is USD 2 million, and through further efficiency gains and savings of USD 2 million.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I just remembered for the Finance Committee, I think what the Secretariat was proposing was that in 2014-15 the Organization would find USD 2 million, but would not be able to meet the USD 4 million and that in the next biennium, they would be finding the full amount and Australia would support that position.

So our understanding is that the Secretariat was proposing that the Organization would be funding USD 2 million as part of the UN Resident Coordination Contribution for the next biennium and that there was an understanding between the International Organizations that would be manageable because of the late notice of this decision.

So I guess we are just a little bit surprised to hear the decision that now we are calling on the Organization to find the full USD 4 million for the next biennium which would require an additional USD 2 million worth of efficiency savings.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I think what you have said last is contained also in the Finance Committee.

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

If it would help you in your summing up, this morning in his speech and also my introductory remarks, we indicated that we are now proposing to go beyond the USD 2 million contribution for the 2014-15 biennium and pay the full contribution which would be USD 4 million. That is, USD 2 million is already provided for the in adjustments, and we will seek an additional USD 2 million in efficiency savings during the course of the 2014-15 biennium to be able to pay the balance of the contribution. Of course, that would then be reflected as well in the next PWB. So we are moving it forward and that is the understanding, I believe, that the Director-General conveyed to the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination last week in New York.

Now obviously if we can’t find those savings, we will not be able to make the contribution so that is the caveat. Mr Chair, I think your summary has captured that idea as long as the Council understands that it is the proposal of the Director-General.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Members for their understanding of the previous discussion – and I think you will be able to find further savings during the biennium in order to be able to pay this obligation.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Thank you for your taking on board of the point I made, but I wanted to be quite clear that it is not Member Nation engagement with the ICSC. That was the point I was making.

Very few of us have the opportunity to engage directly with the International Civil Service Commission. It is when those recommendations are brought forward to the General Assembly that Member Nations’ vigilance is required; FAO Member Nations and also those more broadly within the UN System.

So perhaps, just to be sure that that point is recognized, it’s not just engagement with the ICSC, but as part of discussions in the General Assembly that vigilance is required, if that is acceptable to the Council.

Ms Tehmina JANJUIA (Pakistan)

I am not clear what is being requested here. As FAO Council, we can request our Member Nations to show vigilance in the General Assembly, but we cannot ask the rest of the world to accept what we, as FAO Council, want, so I think we can say that FAO Council Members should show vigilance in the General Assembly, but can't go beyond it, if that is what I understand is being said.

CHAIRPERSON

Let's reflect on that. In the meantime, I was requested that the GIAHS be restated as an indicator for Strategic Objective 2. This is what is written, what I have concluded, and I think this was raised by Japan and China during their interventions. I don't see any objection to this being included in my conclusion.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

To go back to the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, before it is vested with formal status within the FAO Framework, we believe that a study be made by the Technical Committees. Of course the Finance Committee touched upon it, the Programme Committee also, but I don't think the Committee on Agriculture has done a study on it. We are not very informed about the technical programmes and the financial requirements of all of this before we recommend it to be vested in the FAO Framework.

So all the Technical Committees I mentioned should brief us, maybe an informal briefing to the Permanent Representatives. This is new to us and almost a surprise, but we should be well informed. This briefing should be made before it is vested in the FAO Framework.

CHAIRPERSON

I think this is already in the FAO Framework. It is also in the Programme of Work and Budget so it is not something new.

May I go back to point (d) of my conclusions?

(d) Requested further engagement with the International Civil Service Commission and vigilance from FAO Members in the General Assembly to stress the need for greater vigilance with regard to increases in staff costs across the Common System.

This also brings in what Pakistan has said.

Thank you so much and we come to the end of this Agenda item 3.

7. FAO's Work in Social Protection**7. Activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la protection sociale****7. Labor de la FAO en materia de protección social**

(CL 148/12)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Agenda item 7, "FAO's Work in Social Protection". Please ensure you have document CL 148/12 before you. The Council will recall the decision taken at its 147th Session in June to add this item to the Provisional Agenda for this session.

I should like to ask Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department to introduce this item.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

As you are aware, the FAO Conference endorsed the work to strengthen FAO's work in social protection to improve food security, nutrition and to reduce rural poverty as well as to promote agriculture and rural development.

It also asked the Secretariat to inform Council how it will implement the work on social protection in accordance with FAO's strengths and in collaboration with partners.

Why does FAO engage in social protection? As you heard at Conference, Professor Sen argued very eloquently that ensuring access to food is key to food security. Three-quarters of the poor live in rural areas mostly dependent on agriculture. Most rural poor lack any form of social protection.

For FAO, social protection is key as part of its two-track approach to ensuring food security to fulfill the right and to ensure access to food and also to stimulate food production and raise rural incomes. It's consistent with the rights-based approach to development advocated by the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also with various commitments to the right to food and the UN's social protection floor, which was endorsed by the General Assembly last year.

Social protection should not be seen simply as a cost to society, but rather as an investment, especially if it is well designed. The work of FAO has among other things emphasized the transition from protection to production, not only by providing income support but also in enhancing human capabilities, in stimulating agricultural production, employment and reducing poverty, helping to overcome liquidity constraints and improve risk management, and to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and to enhance resilient livelihoods.

FAO's strengths reflect the three aspects of the FAO: its role as the lead agency in rural and agricultural development; its role as a knowledge organization and a premier knowledge organization in this respect, and as a neutral convener of multi-stakeholder dialogues at both international as well as at national level.

FAO has been making a difference in very crucial ways, particularly with regard to the work I mentioned earlier from protection to production, which has significantly improved the design of social protection to strengthen the complementarities among food security as well as other rural development initiatives.

A particular programme called Purchase for Africans has been very important as well in linking small-holder production with local level procurement for school meal programmes. The latter has been part of the South-South Cooperation Programme which is currently implemented in five African countries.

The Medium-Term Plan captured in the priority areas of the PWB emphasizes our intention to step up policy support to countries, to scale up delivery as well as capacity through developing policy tools and to enhance capacity development, as well as to provide better and more extensive policy support.

In addition, a broad range of social policy tools are being considered, not just cash transfers. For example, with regard to the Indian experience, we find that public distribution systems which were later targeted as well as rural employment guarantees and the Right to Food Act all have important lessons for other countries as well.

Finally, it is very important as requested by the Conference for us to emphasize that the work of FAO in social protection is premised on partnerships. There is a particular challenge however which we must acknowledge and that is that agricultural ministries are rarely involved in social protection at the national level.

Instead, what we find ourselves doing is to promote a high level of commitment involving dialogue, cooperation and collaboration among various different national stakeholders and in this connection we work closely in partnership with others, especially the World Food Programme, IFAD, ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank.

It's also important to emphasize that it has been a very important feature of South-South Cooperation work which has been promoted significantly in recent times. For example, with the Brazil-FAO programme for international cooperation. Thank you very much for your attention.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

The Programme Committee looked at the document and welcomed it as a result of the request from the Conference.

We appreciated FAO's work with social protection for food security, but, at the same time, we found the document somewhat general and we would like to have more information on FAO's work in particular. We have had some more information now from Mr Sundaram.

We underlined the importance of working in a coordinated fashion with partners both in the UN System and outside, sharing knowledge and learning from Member Nations' experiences.

We recommended that FAO build an effective staff structure, ensure policy coherence between social protection and food security, and focus on policy-making for food security, as I understand now from Mr Sundaram's presentation, FAO is doing, and also to focus on small-scale production as well as avoiding generic terms. We underlined that FAO's work with social protection should be driven by FAO's comparative advantage.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I would like to ask you to please give the floor to Lithuania as the Presidency of the European Union.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We take note of the fact that social protection is incorporated in FAO's revised Strategic Framework and is aligned with the five new Strategic Objectives of the Organization. This helps ensure that the parameters for any work FAO does in this fair of social protection are clearly defined and maintain a clear essential link to FAO's mandate and core competency and food security and poverty reduction.

As stated in the report, we endorse FAO taking up some work in social protection as long as it is within its mandate, complimentary to the work of the other actors in the field and based on the FAO's comparative advantages.

We would also like to thank management for the note on social protection provided to the Programme Committee. However, as the note mostly dealt with the social protection in general, we request more information specifically about FAO's work in this area and its Strategic Objectives including proposed results and overview of the integration of FAO's work in social protection in some of the country programme frameworks as well as lessons learned and obstacles met during implementation.

Along with the Programme Committee, we underline the importance of working in a coordinated fashion with partners in the United Nations System and outside sharing knowledge and learning from Member Nations' experiences.

Furthermore, FAO's work with the social protection should be driven by FAO's comparative advantages. We underline the need for effective collaboration with the governments' external partners and other United Nations agencies given the existing expertise in comparative advantages of such partners and aspects of social protection.

We therefore commend the step already taken in this regard and encourage FAO to further pursue its collaboration with relevant partners and its participation in relevant mechanisms such as a social protection floor initiative led by ILO and WHO, and the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board jointly chaired by ILO and World Bank.

We take note that FAO is undertaking to partner with other United Nations agencies in/and the establishment of an inter-departmental working group. In that regard, we would appreciate more detailed information on these issues.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the following points. The cooperation in the field of the purchases for progress programme as a good example of inter-agency collaboration between FAO and WFP to stimulate local economies. We hereby underline the added benefit that local procurement has in supporting local agricultural production when integrated into school feeding programmes, especially in low-income countries.

The need for further efforts to give women and men equal opportunities. The need to help prevent protracted crisis and to build resilience.

We would like to receive more information on the steps FAO is undertaking within the framework of the CFS to work on the recommendation adopted by the CFS based on the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) report on social protection for food security in its 39th Session published last year.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO e SANTOS (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the document presented and strongly supports FAO's firm engagement in social protection policies and programmes as they are key to improve access to food, build resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

We concur with FAO's vision on social protection interventions, especially on their ability to translate into reality the twin-track approach to reducing hunger and poverty, immediately enabling access to food while addressing the root causes of hunger.

We believe that Member Nations can learn a lot from each other's experience in the area of social protection, particularly developing countries facing similar challenges and constraints. Therefore, South-South Cooperation within FAO can further be strengthened in order to design and implement social protection interventions more effectively.

Mr President, with the framework of the programme “Brazil without Extreme Poverty” we have been developing a wide range of social protection programmes with a three-fold objective of increasing income, improving access to public services, and promoting social and productive inclusion.

We reiterate our commitment and willingness to continue to share our experiences and learn from these two-way dialogues with FAO and other partners. The “Purchase from Africans for Africa” programme, PAA Africa, is an initiative of Brazil, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal jointly implemented by FAO and the WFP is an example of how we can further restraint in social protection interventions in partnership.

The PAA Africa was designed based on the national programme of local food purchase which aims to achieving a wide range of objectives such as the promotion of family farming, social inclusion, food supply and access, regional and local market networks, cooperatives agriculturally and organic productions among others.

Also in partnership with African countries, Brazil is negotiating a regional cooperation agreement with FAO aiming at strengthening fisheries and aquaculture in five African countries with a budget of around USD 5 million.

School feeding is another area which we believe can bear fruits with its mutual positive results which can lead to a virtuous cycle of insuring school attendance, improving children's cognitive ability, increasing family budget, avoiding or minimizing food crisis in periods of social and economic vulnerability, and promoting health and diversified diet for children.

That is why we are supporting school feeding programmes within the 2025 Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative in association with many countries. As we are joining efforts with many African countries, social protection intervention is therefore a cross cutting policy and it can contribute directly or indirectly to all Strategic Objectives of FAO.

We are convinced that FAO has the right expertise and comparative advantage to further contribute to build more solid social protection policies in partnership with local institutions and constituencies, partner countries, and other UN Agencies.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I am honoured to make this intervention on behalf of the Africa Group. The African Group acknowledges with appreciation the ambitious FAO approach to social protection, how it seeks to strengthen its capacity in the coming years and how it will engage with strategic partners to ensure effective support to Member Countries in the following five areas:

Providing direct income support, providing productive assistance or assets and tools, enhancing human capital, stimulating economic development, and supporting efforts for sustainable natural resource management.

We also note the great enthusiasm and interest shown by the Economic and Social Development Department to ensure delivery on all interventions, as set out in the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 with allocated incremental resources. This is a welcome approach.

The African Group believes that social protection measures can be variable means to develop, protect and restore resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods. This will require careful design and integrated policy of social protection in all development sectors with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

As has been noted farmers and rural households are often constrained by limited access to resources, low agricultural productivity and poor function markets, so this social protection can help to reduce such limitations.

WFP and IFAD have been working for many years on social protection. I would like to give an example of IFAD's work on social protection in my country. The project total cost was over USD 30 million and this was evaluated, monitored and it was showing a very good result.

Mainly, after independence many households were led by women and they didn't have assets so they were provided with small animals. And when we say careful design and study we mean that it was identified in collaboration with the local government of that area those people who had limited resources or tools and they were provided. And it has shown how they can stand during drought or low productivity. Their livelihood has improved during the last 4-5 years, which is the length of the project.

So this is a welcome approach and IFAD, I'm sure, has gained a lot of experience so the UN Organizations based in all the countries they have their own experience and this will be a successful approach. So we welcome this approach and thank you very much.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First, we wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by Brazil and by Eritrea on behalf of Africa. Considering the social protection policies as mentioned in paragraph 7 of the document, we give general support to the contents of sub-section A to E on pages 46 of the document.

Similarly, we subscribe to the notion that social protection intervention should be embedded into the twin-track approach which the three Rome-based Agencies support.

We support the mainstreaming of social protection in many, if not all, of the 17 outcomes of the five Strategic Objectives. This necessitates identifying which of the 48 outputs of the 17 outcomes ought to integrate social production in their design, and the relevant indicators to measure social protection and the means of verification.

This is not an easy job for FAO. It requires a strong database, adequate staff with expertise in social protection, capacity development at the country level, and plenty of coordination within FAO to put the various pieces together for obtaining a coherent picture of FAO's engagement in social protection.

Equally important is establishing synergies with other elements of social protection following within the mandates of other UN Organizations. Hence, partnership is vital for success. In this connection, we appreciate the subsection entitled 'Not Alone but with Partners,' paragraphs 37-44 and the examples given there.

Sharing knowledge with others is crucial and in this connection, we wish to refer to the World Bank Atlas of Social Protection with indicators of resilience and equity covering 55 – 56 developing countries.

Chairperson, we support protection to production projects, P to P, which is much broader than departures for progress allocated by WFP, and agree with the subset of section C on 'moving

forward', with high priority given to developing policy tools, strengthening capacity building in social protection and encouraging South-South Cooperation.

All this requires more resources. Chairperson, it should be noted that Strategic Objective 3 which is the whole of social protection in FAO has a cut of 6 percent in the adjustment which is in percentage terms, a much sharper cut compared to the other four Strategic Objectives. In absolute terms, the reduction is 4 million, from USD 66 million to USD 62 million.

Moreover, it should be mentioned that in relation to net appropriation, Strategic Objective 3 which, compared with the other four Strategic Objectives, has weak support from core voluntary contributions, as well as extra budgetary funded field programmes. On top of that, the organizational account 3.3 which deals exclusively with social protection receives only 6 percent of net appropriations of SO3. Eight percent of its core voluntary contributions are only 5 percent of its field programme.

So the need for additional resources in support of social production appears essential if we are to move forward. In the next biennium 2014-15, additional resources for net appropriations are not feasible, everyone knows that. So, additional resources must come from extra budgetary resources.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation highly commends the report from the Secretariat, as well as the work of the FAO in the field of social protection. We think it is topical to continue working in the FAO in this area in partnership with the specialized agencies of the UN such as the World Health Organization, the ILO and the World Food Programme.

We support the organizational measures taken by the Secretariat to strengthen work in this area, for example creating a social protection division, establishing an inter-departmental working group and other steps. In this regard, we would also like to draw attention to practical implementation of such work. As already pointed out by the representative of Brazil, one such area is school feeding.

For our part, the Russian Federation in cooperation with the World Food Programme is carrying out a project for creating a school feeding system in the CIS states as well as in the Middle East and Northern Africa to the tune of some USD 60 million.

We feel that the practical experience accumulated in this area could provide the basis for new projects in the FAO, the implementation of which would make it possible to step up efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 1, Combating Hunger.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

On behalf of the Asia Group countries, we welcome the document and are convinced that just production focused efforts will never be enough to eradicate hunger as the experience in many developing countries have shown. We have to pay equal importance and attention to the social protection schemes feeding into rural development, poverty eradication, and food security.

We thus feel that it is vital for FAO to play an enhanced role in social protection across the world in addition to its production and other related work. In this regard, it is necessary for FAO to build its own internal capacity to leverage its technical expertise for delivering on a social protection system.

The recent Brazilian experience has shown that it is both possible and desirable for developing countries to build a social protection system for all, which also works as an efficient poverty eradication tool. We recognize that FAO will not be directly implementing social protection schemes, but we look forward to taking a proactive role in providing policy advice and technical cooperation and working with other partners, NGOs, civil societies, the private sector, and other Rome-based Agencies.

Social protection, though important, has yet to get the place and prominence it deserves in FAO's plans in Programme and Budget. We strongly feel that this needs to change and we look forward to social protection evolving as a major activity within FAO.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, Venezuela desea expresar su apoyo a las iniciativas de la FAO orientadas a la promoción de política de protección social, que permitan contrarrestar los efectos de la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo con un enfoque orientado al desarrollo agrícola, a la seguridad alimentaria y a contrarrestar la pobreza rural.

Asimismo, considera que un plan eficiente en materia de protección social debe establecer, dentro de sus prioridades, estrategias de ayuda tanto en el aspecto financiero, ya que este permite dinamizar la economía local, como en la protección de la salud. Esto podría realizarse con el apoyo de socios como la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

Venezuela observa la necesidad de promover enfoques normativos que, más allá de enfrentar las situaciones de austeridad, permitan la creación de empleo productivo y de trabajo digno y decente en las comunidades más pobres, como una respuesta que trascienda el enfoque de la resiliencia y sea sostenible.

El Gobierno Bolivariano ha adelantado políticas destinadas al desarrollo de programas económicos y sociales que han generado un impacto importante en la disminución del hambre y la pobreza. Estas políticas van dirigidas a mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestra población a través de la creación de las misiones sociales en todas las áreas, así como a ejecutar proyectos dirigidos a la diversificación de la producción nacional, disminución del desempleo y redistribución equitativa del ingreso nacional.

En esta lucha, el Gobierno Bolivariano, en sus catorce años, ha centrado su atención en la inclusión y satisfacción de las necesidades de los excluidos, heredados de gestiones gubernamentales anteriores, en los cuales no representaban más que estadísticas, la mayoría de ellas negativas. Para ello, se emprenden programas económicos y sociales basados en una concepción humanista en procura de la construcción de un modelo integral de acuerdo a las estrategias contenidas en los planes de desarrollo nacional.

Es gracias a esto que hemos logrado cumplir los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio antes del 2015. Esta política ha quedado reforzada en el Plan de la Patria 2013-2019, que diseñara el Comandante Hugo Chávez como un proyecto denominado por él “Pueblo-Céntrico”, que coloca en el centro a la vida humana y a la satisfacción de las necesidades cada día más crecientes de la población.

Por ello, el 24 de octubre de 2013, el Presidente de la República, Nicolás Maduro, creó el Viceministerio de la Suprema Felicidad Social, el cual formará parte de la estructura del Ministerio de Despacho de la Presidencia y Seguimiento de la Gestión de Gobierno para reestructurar y fortalecer las políticas sociales que atienden a los sectores más vulnerables de la población. Ese nuevo despacho ejercerá la rectoría de políticas, planes, programas y acciones de prevención y protección en salud, educación, recreación e inclusión social, así como evaluación y seguimiento de estas políticas para abordar la problemática social que aún padecen venezolanos y venezolanas.

El Objetivo Estratégico de dicho Viceministerio será articular e integrar políticas de protección, atención e inclusión social de las familias, niños, niñas y adolescentes, personas en situación de calle, adultos y adultas mayores, personas con discapacidad, y todos y todas aquellas en condiciones de vulnerabilidad social.

Finalmente, con esta perspectiva integral y crítica, que se contraponen al modelo neoliberal imperante que reduce los derechos humanos que establece la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y demás tratados internacionales, los cuales nos comprometen tanto a la FAO como a los Estados Miembros a su debido cumplimiento.

Ms Tehmina JANJUIA (Pakistan)

We would like to begin by supporting the statement that has been made by India on behalf of the Asian Group. We would also like to thank Mr Sundaram for the presentation that he has made earlier, which explained in detail the role of FAO and its vision for its work in the area of social protection.

The document that has been presented to us has also been very informative and we thank the Secretariat for that. We note that this document responds to the request of the Conference and

provides information about FAO's approach to social protection, especially for food security and poverty reduction; as well as how FAO seeks to strengthen its capacity and how it intends to engage with its partners to ensure effective support to Member Nations.

It needs to be recalled that Member Countries are making increased use of social protection interventions to respond to development challenges and also to respond to the MDG's challenges as well, for which unfortunately a lot of have yet to be met. Such interventions have proven to be important in improving food security and nutrition and decreasing rural poverty.

In developing their social protection policies and programmes, many countries have relied on FAO's unique experience and comparative advantages. Here we would support the particular stress made by the Indian Delegation on behalf of the Asian Group that social protection should become a major activity of FAO. Human beings should remain at the centre of FAO's concerns.

The success of social protection interventions is leading to greater use by countries in their policy response to challenges relating to rural poverty, agricultural productivity, and food security. In this respect, we note from paragraph 14 the five fundamental roles that social protection plays in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework. These five roles will be central to how FAO, together with its strategic partners, will deliver its work on social protection in the coming years.

We are pleased to note FAO's commitment to significantly strengthen its work and capacity to be able to support Member Nations in the area of social protection. We support the measures set out in paragraph 30 through 44, which will assist in achieving the five roles referred earlier.

We also support the steps taken by FAO to ensure delivery of various aspects, i.e. it's allocated and committed resources in the PWB for social protection and the establishment of a specific Division to deal with social protection issues.

Here I take the opportunity to also fully support the statement made by Brazil whereby it underscored the importance of South-South Cooperation. South-South Cooperation, we believe, can help Developing Countries learn from each other's experiences in providing social protection.

Finally, we would like to underscore the importance of a focus on gender-related programmes that would ensure and would include social protection elements.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

En primer lugar, Argentina desea agradecer la elaboración del documento CL 148/12 y las informaciones allí contenidas. Las consideramos sumamente valiosas, ya que el tema de la protección social es clave. Fundamentalmente es clave porque se relaciona con las soluciones que debemos dar a las principales causas de la inseguridad alimentaria, que son la pobreza y la desigual distribución del ingreso.

No se puede avanzar con paso firme hacia la erradicación del hambre en el mundo si no le damos el debido lugar a la cuestión y al tratamiento de la protección social para la seguridad alimentaria. En este sentido, consideramos que es crucial sostener un enfoque integrado de la cuestión de la protección social para la seguridad alimentaria.

La protección social para la seguridad alimentaria responde a una aspiración profunda de justicia de todas nuestras sociedades. La protección social es también la base de las políticas de desarrollo económico porque permiten el fortalecimiento del capital humano en una sociedad. Debemos tener presente siempre que son hombres y mujeres que trabajan los que tienen la capacidad de generar riqueza.

La pobreza y la desigual distribución de la riqueza, como ya he mencionado, son las principales causas de la inseguridad alimentaria. Desde el Estado se deben promover políticas centradas en la reducción de las asimetrías sociales.

En la Argentina, el Estado está realizando un importante y sostenido esfuerzo a través de políticas sociales inclusivas para el desarrollo de las personas, su familia y su entorno. De esta manera, la asistencia social inmediata se combina con políticas para el desarrollo inclusivo, centradas en el empleo y los ingresos con el objetivo de garantizar la distribución y la equidad.

En este sentido, destacamos la importancia de la incorporación de la perspectiva de la protección social para la seguridad alimentaria en los marcos de prioridades por países. Apoyamos la profundización de toda la labor que lleva a cabo la FAO en este campo, ya que consideramos que la protección social debe estar en el centro de nuestra atención para dar respuesta a la inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

Ms Eun Jeung LEE (Republic of Korea)

Thank you, Mr Sundaram, for your presentation. On behalf of the Asia Group colleagues, I would like to say that FAO self-defined its role in the area of social protection as follows: assist the policy making and its implementations, provide knowledge and capacity building, facilitate and engage in partnership dialogue among the stakeholders.

Yet, the Republic of Korea would like to request the Secretariat for detailed information in the roles FAO plays in coordination with other partners. Social protection seems to cover a very broad field and we would like to request more specific details of FAO's work in this field in due course.

As the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, pointed out, to drive social protection by FAO's comparative advantages, we should share the definition and information among us all.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMINÉZ (El Salvador)

Permítame, en primer lugar, agradecer a la Secretaría el habernos presentado este documento, que fuera solicitado en la pasada Conferencia de nuestra Organización en junio pasado.

Para nuestra Delegación, Señor Presidente, la protección social debe ser un elemento fundamental en el trabajo de la Organización, debe de ser un elemento crucial para obtener la seguridad alimentaria, dado que sólo la producción de alimentos no basta.

Para el Gobierno de El Salvador, este tema reviste particular importancia, y muchos de los programas que se llevan adelante tienen como centro a la persona a través de programas de protección social ejecutados por la Secretaría de Inclusión de El Salvador.

Estimamos que esta Organización debe incrementar su capacidad en el área de protección social, ya que a través de este elemento podrá cumplir con mayor amplitud su mandato fundamental.

En este sentido, apoyamos las cinco funciones fundamentales de la protección social en el contexto del Marco estratégico revisado de la FAO. Apoyamos también, una mayor asignación de recursos en esta esfera.

El documento que estamos examinando menciona muchos ejemplos de cómo podemos trabajar en este campo. Estamos completamente de acuerdo con la frase señalada en el documento "con los asociados, en lugar de solos". Es necesario evitar duplicaciones y trabajar juntos. Por ello apoyamos que la FAO establezca asociaciones con otras Agencias de las Naciones Unidas, así como con los Gobiernos de los Países Miembros.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer a la administración por la presentación de este Informe sobre la labor de la FAO en materia de protección social.

La principal causa del hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria es la pobreza, la falta de acceso a los alimentos, al acceso equitativo a los recursos naturales e insumos productivos. Y en este contexto, el trabajo en materia de protección social proporciona a las personas pobres los medios necesarios para hacer frente a esas situaciones. Además, la protección social libera recursos para actividades productivas y reduce la vulnerabilidad ante los riesgos.

A entender del Ecuador, la protección social es un componente fundamental para alcanzar los Objetivos Estratégicos del marco revisado. Particularmente, de los objetivos 1, 3 y 5. Por tanto, apoyamos este enfoque y el reforzamiento de las actividades de la FAO en esta materia a la cual los Estados prestan cada vez más atención y que requieren la asistencia de la FAO en este campo.

En consecuencia, acogemos con satisfacción las medidas que se presenten en el documento. Particularmente, nos complacemos del fortalecimiento previsto de la asociación con el PMA, con el FIDA y otros Organismos Internacionales.

Creemos que la FAO tiene un rol importante que cumplir en esta materia. No podría ponerse en práctica adecuadamente el Marco Estratégico revisado sin que se aborde el tema de la protección social. Consideramos que no se trata de competir con el trabajo que realizan otros Organismos en este tema, sino el complementarse, y la FAO tiene competencias específicas en esta materia, como en el campo de las políticas agrícolas. Por esto, alentamos a la FAO a desarrollar su propia capacidad en materia de protección social.

Consideramos importante que se hayan establecido Indicadores de logros en esta materia, dentro del Objetivo Estratégico 3.

Agradeceremos que se mantengan informados a los Estados Miembros de los avances de la gestión de la FAO en materia de protección social.

Finalmente, el Ecuador respalda plenamente la labor de la Organización en este tema, que es clave para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y los demás objetivos de la FAO.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the management for FAO's work in social protection. We also support India for his statement on behalf of the Asian group. We also agree with Eritrea on behalf of Africa Group for his statement. We agree also with Brazil for its statement. Especially all these Countries have talked about how to increase South-South Cooperation.

Mr Chairman, social protection is closely linked with food security, poverty reduction, agriculture and rural development. Enhancing social protection is, therefore, very helpful to promote food security, poverty reduction, agriculture and rural development.

In recent years, FAO has done a lot of work in this area and we really appreciate this point. We agree with the Report and its Executive Summary for the five fundamental roles of social protection and we also agree with the four actions proposed by Management in implementing PWB 2014-15 and MTP 2014-17.

As for FAO's future work in social protection, China has three suggestions as follows. Firstly, in Chinese viewpoint it will be like setting up a complete team. This means that we should complete the staffing of the social protection team including Headquarters, Regional and Field Offices.

Secondly, we would put stress on social protection policy setting and coordination work related to food security and small farmers production. It is written in paragraph 34 meaning that this will involve organizing events to share knowledge, experience and good practices to increase influence.

Thirdly, enhance further cooperation with the UN Agencies, the World Bank, Regional institutions and Member Nations as it is written from paragraphs 37 to 44. We really appreciate these paragraphs.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Thank you to Mr Sundaram for this brief presentation of the document that was presented to the Council. Each time we get a response to our question for more information we learn more interesting things about the planning that is going forward in the social protection area.

Through you if I may, I would like to address two rather specific questions on this subject. We have heard today and in the document language regarding the transition from protection to production, resilience and livelihoods. As most of us know, at least the last two are also terms we hear frequently from the emergency and rehabilitation side of FAO. So I would like, if possible today, but if not in due course, to get some idea of the inter-relationship work, between the Social Protection Division and the Emergency and Rehabilitation's Division.

Secondly, we have also heard reference today to partnerships with WFP. In fact, in paragraph 38 of the document it is noted that FAO intends to build on WFPs strengths and logistics in the implementation of food based safety nets. We would presume that it would include school feeding

which has also been referred to today. So we would be interested in greater details on how FAO intends to build on WFPs work in school feeding, because we as many others have mentioned here, Canada also provides extensive funding to WFP in that area and we would like to have further details on what is planned.

Lastly, just a comment again not possibly for today but for the future, as the planning and projects roll out. We would be interested in an analysis on how social protection is designed for rural communities, which we understand would be FAO's particular added value and within its mandate. What will be distinguished from social protection for the broad population or that which covers urban populations as well, and how the two differ.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

La Delegación de México agradece el Informe y apoya ampliamente el tema de la protección social. En mi país, tenemos programas importantes de protección social y, en particular, de seguridad alimentaria, como el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria, el PESA. Asimismo, la iniciativa de nuestro Gobierno denominada Cruzada Nacional Contra el Hambre coordinada conjuntamente con la FAO. Además, hemos sumado esfuerzos y seguido recomendaciones, entre ellas de la FAO, para que haya más alimentos en la mesa de los hogares de nuestro país. Por lo que coincidimos en que la protección social es un tema imprescindible para la FAO por su particular importancia y apoyamos las cinco funciones en este ámbito. De esta manera creemos que es importante el impulso de este tema en el marco de la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Mr Adel Shaaban Abdel GHAFAR MOSTAFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I support the contents of this document because the issue of social protection is very important for all countries with regard to food security. We must ensure social security and that it be based on work which is performed by social networks in society.

In Egypt, there are a large number of projects aiming at guaranteeing social protection for the inhabitants of rural regions. I will not go into details regarding these projects because I believe we do not have enough time here for that purpose.

Mr Beda MACHAR DENG (Observer for South Sudan)

The issue of social protection that has been presented by the team on the podium is very important, but some other areas also need to be addressed.

The Republic of South Sudan has good grounds for developing the tourism sector. New infrastructures and investment influx are needed for this sector following an increased request from visitors and a growing middle class looking for entertainment and services, and developing opportunities relative to natural scenery, wild life and culture to increase tourism. This business activity sector in South Sudan is booming with a driving demand in tourism facilities

There is an estimated reserve of 5 billion barrels of crude oil driving investment in oil exploration, production and services. This means that the agricultural land is being encroached by oil production activities. A massive investment is expected in mining, oil and iron infrastructures, dams, roads and airports and agricultural serial farms, soil and oil mills. There is also a growing population, with an additional 300,000 people who are educated and have technical know-how as well as do-how, mostly in the capital. This needs to be protected.

There is also a need to protect the wildlife. It has been calculated that, since 2010, 1.3 million wildlife has entered the Republic of South Sudan. Especially this year, a huge return of the elephants has been noted, coming from the Central African Republic but also DRC, Uganda and Kenya.. FAO needs to support the development of South Sudan in protecting the wildlife and the community as a whole as well.

These are the areas which are very important and that need to be addressed. The need is therefore not only for social protection, but for the protection of the environment, of wildlife, of agricultural land, which has been encroached by most of the activities taking place.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I have a few brief remarks. I sense wide agreement in the room on the usefulness of social protection for combating hunger and poverty, by increasing resilience. So Member Nations will continue to follow FAO's work closely and look forward to being kept informed, and as Canada said, learn more at each stage.

I found it very generous of Brazil to offer to exchange experiences and I hope that we all can do that because I think that would create a lot of synergies, as well as working through partnerships.

Russia mentioned the WFP school feeding programme in the CIS states and Eritrea gave the example of a successful IFAD effort in that country. I think these are the things that will give concrete results at the end of the day.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development)

Mr Chairperson, allow me to thank those delegates who spoke on this subject matter. We very much appreciate the widespread support as almost 20 delegates spoke with strong support for the FAO's work on social protection.

Some specific details were asked for and we'll be happy to oblige by providing further details.

Let me simply emphasize that much of this work has really developed over the last year, and we appreciate very much the opportunity to share our experience, as limited and as modest as it may be, with you. We look forward to your continued guidance and support and, as Afghanistan correctly pointed out, that support will also involve resource support in order to be able to serve members much more effectively, particularly in this newly emerging area which is very, very widely appreciated.

I was going to ask the Director of the Social Protection Division to reply to some questions, with the Chair's permission. I would nevertheless like to thank you all once again for your support and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Social Protection Division)

Let me thank all of the delegations that spoke and provided the support for the work that we are engaging in at FAO in social protection.

For the sake of brevity, let me restrict to a few general points that were raised, particularly this concern that FAO's work should be within its mandates. I hope the document makes clear that's precisely the idea. We want to make sure that FAO's work precisely provides this connection between the twin track approach to food and nutrition security and also will engage in providing the synergies that social protection can give along the five rules as explained in the document.

How to measure the results? The EU expressed that concern. In the results based framework and in the monitoring framework, the outcome level is based on a set of indicators that will monitor our work and to measure the work moving forward.

We are already engaging in a range of partnerships with the ILO and we also participate in the Social Protection inter-agency Coordination Board, SPIAC-B, as already mentioned. We are also working with WFP, for instance, the Purchase for Progress: The programme is a good example where we are already engaging through an agreement with Brazil through the PAA Africa Programme in connecting school feeding programmes to small scale farmers in Africa through South-South Cooperation. So those are good examples on how we work with other partners as well as promoting South-South Cooperation.

With regard to the remarks by several delegates that FAO needs to strengthen its capacity, it is hoped, that the new resource allocation will allow us to achieve this goal. We have already developed a training course open to all FAO staff, particularly focused on those that have to support us in the field and at Headquarters. The first training course was held 10 days ago and several other training courses are planned in the coming months.

Let me close with two responses to the questions made by Canada which focus on how to specifically relate to the work in resilience and livelihoods. First, social protection is also part of our work in

support of SO5 which works particularly on resilience but also in transiting from emergency relief to rebuilding livelihoods and this is where the profound protection to production comes to the fore.

We have already worked with WFP and with our emergency Division, TCE, for instance in Somalia two years ago, with the Cash for Work programme and Cash for Food programme, which have helped combat the famine in Somalia at the time, and there are other examples that could be mentioned.

Finally, regarding the issue on how social protection of rural communities is distinct from broader social protection, I think providing social protection needs to be tailored to the conditions and the kind of vulnerabilities communities face. The role of FAO is in particular to address the specific vulnerabilities faced by rural communities and linking social protection measures, not only as a prevention measure after a drought or a flood following which people lose access to food and lose their livelihoods, but also as promotion functions that social protection can have in terms of promoting agricultural production and, through that, improving rural livelihoods.

So there are large similarities, but it has to be tailored to the specific types of vulnerabilities that rural agricultural populations face.

You asked me to be brief so I will not try and answer all the questions made but this hopefully provides clarifications and of course, we stand ready to provide you with any further information of our ongoing work, as well as on how we want to strengthen our work together with our partners and move forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Vos, for that additional information and in trying to answer some of the questions, particularly those asked by Canada.

Now, after this very fruitful discussion on item 7, my conclusions are as follows.

1. The Council welcomed to the document on social protection for food security, nutrition and agriculture in rural development, and noted that it responded to the request from the 38th Session of the Conference.
2. The Council underlined the importance of FAO's work in social protection in pursuing its goals of food security and poverty reduction, as well as in relation to its work in nutrition, agriculture and rural development.
3. Accordingly, the Council requested the Organization to build its internal expertise on social protection to ensure effective delivery against the Strategic Objectives, notably in terms of data base and staff.
4. The Council stressed the need for effective collaboration with Member Governments, external partners and other UN Agencies on social protection, and welcomed the focus afforded to lessons learning in the exchange of experiences among Member Nations through South-South Cooperation.

I don't see any flag raised, so we have come to the end of this item 7.

4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 114th Session of the Programme and 151st Session of the Finance Committees (13 November 2013)

4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (respectivement 114^{ème} et 151^{ème} sessions, 13 novembre 2013)

4. Informe de la Reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 114.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 151.º período de sesiones (13 de noviembre de 2013)

(CL 148/8)

CHAIRPERSON

As we are making good progress, and I see energy in your faces, I suggest we make use of the interpretation time available and continue with item 4: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 114th Session of the Programme Committee and 151st Session of the Finance Committee. The document before Council is CL 148/8.

Is it agreed at the opening of this session when the Reports of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting contain advice and comments on item 11, Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms or item 12, Progress Report on Multi-Year Programme of Work, Members are requested to refrain from making comments on this specific issues until we reach the items dedicated to these specific matters. This will help us focus our debate and avoid repetition.

Ambassador Nordin, Chairperson of the Programme Committee who chaired the Joint Meeting last month, will introduce the report.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As it has been explained, we will only deal with two items because the other items that we discussed in the Joint Meeting have their own Agenda points.

So in item 4, we will look at the enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which is the standing item, and then the report on the structure and functioning of decentralized offices. And as concerned the TCP, we commended the Secretariat for the document and we strongly supported the alignment of the Technical Cooperation Programme to the Strategic Framework as well as being integrated in the concrete programming frameworks with national priorities, and we recognize the TCP's central role especially for capacity building.

The harmonization of procedures and guidelines are essential as is the broadening of our perspective. TCP can and should play a catalytic role for gender, emergency, and social protection as well as for resource mobilization where the Technical Cooperation Programme Resources can act as seed funding.

However, we also wanted to see further efforts to shorten the appraisal and approval time for TCP projects. We also requested that the TCP projects be completed on time and that unspent balances be returned to donors. The budget sealing and the time limit should be exercised in a flexible manner with consideration paid to local conditions and we requested that this item would be on our agenda for updates on the implementation at our future sessions.

And I do hope that you've all read the report on the structure of functioning of decentralized offices network because it is a very informative report and we commended the Organization for the progress in performance, especially as concerns the establishment of Country Programming Frameworks. You will notice that almost all countries now do have a Country Programming Framework.

We also appreciated the new procedure for FAORs. The recruit now contains an independent assessment of their management and leadership qualities in order to get the absolute best people. We also appreciated the appointment of Deputy FAORs.

In order to further strengthen the Decentralized Offices Network, we encourage the Organization to adequately support the network as it concerns capacity building, staffing, and resources. And we suggested adding the speed of delivery and the level of staff satisfaction to future reports on this subject.

Future reports should also contain identification of crosscutting challenges and how to deal with these and regional and sub-regional offices should be integrated as well. We encourage and we see it necessary to further efforts for gender and the full use of national staff capacity and we saw the good and speedy implementation of the Global Resource Management System as vital to successful decentralization.

We emphasize the need to keep working on this issue which concerns particularly capacity building in the decentralized offices as well as identifying and dealing with possible weaknesses in internal controls. And also for this item, we look forward to receiving updates.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I would like to ask to kindly give the floor to the Delegation of Lithuania speaking on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU: Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the Chairs and the Members of the two Committees as well as their Secretariats for the efficient and results-oriented work of the meeting. The report fully reflects the discussion and its main conclusions. Therefore, we would like to limit our comments to the following points of the report CL 148/8: (i) Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme; (ii) report on structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network; (iii) Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms.

On enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme: we fully concur with the recommendation of the Joint Meeting and would like to stress once more that national priorities need to be well-reflected in the Country Programming Frameworks.

We underline the central role of the Technical Cooperation Programme for capacity building and would like to stress more that the alignment of the TCP to the reviewed strategic framework and to national priorities as reflected in the country programming frameworks is vital. Finally, the time taken to approve TCP projects needs to be shortened, as does the evaluation of such programmes.

On the report on structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network: we fully support the conclusions of the Joint Meeting and would like to suggest that reflections on the structure and functioning of the decentralized offices networks could be further refined on the basis of country needs and the overall United Nations presence in countries and regions, elaborate and provide global public goods, as well as policy advice. Furthermore, we are confident that with the speedy implementation of the Global Resource Management System, there will be one FAO in the field and this will contribute to achieving the agreed goals.

On Arrangements for an Independent review of Governance Reforms –

CHAIRPERSON

Excuse me. That is Agenda item 11

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

Okay, we will come back on it under item 11.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMINÉZ (El Salvador)

Agradezco la presentación que se ha hecho sobre el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Programa, realizada el 13 de noviembre pasado. Quería únicamente señalar, Señor Presidente, que no encuentro en la página web el documento en su versión en español, ni en francés, ni en árabe, ni en ruso, ni chino. Lo encuentro solamente en su versión en inglés. Comprendemos que la reunión ha sido hecha hace poco, pero nos gustaría poder contar con la versión en español de este documento.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la 114^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et de la 151^{ème} session du Comité financier et souscrit à ses recommandations et conclusions. Concernant le point relatif à l'amélioration du Programme de coopération technique, le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux recommandations de la Réunion conjointe, notamment l'alignement du PCT au Cadre stratégique révisé et, dans les cas de programmation par pays reflétant les priorités nationales, souhaite que d'avantage d'efforts soient fournis dans la promotion du rôle du PCT, dans le renforcement des capacités, la parité hommes-femmes, les interventions d'urgence et la protection sociale ainsi que la mobilisation des ressources.

S'agissant du rapport sur la structure et le fonctionnement du réseau des bureaux décentralisés, nous nous félicitons des progrès substantiels réalisés, notamment en matière d'amélioration de la performance des bureaux décentralisés, la réduction de la fragmentation et le renforcement de

l'intégration entre les bureaux et le Siège, la promotion des partenariats et les modifications survenues ayant créé la concrétisation de l'Objectif stratégique 5 qui porte sur la résilience notamment en matière des opérations d'urgence.

Nous encourageons la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts et à assurer le suivi des progrès réalisés; mais nous l'encourageons également à combler quelques lacunes, notamment en matière de parité, et nous sommes d'avis sur la nécessité de mettre à la disposition du réseau des bureaux décentralisés les ressources et les capacités appropriées.

Nous nous félicitons également des contacts entrepris par la FAO avec les États Membres qui ont sollicité une forte présence de l'Organisation dans leur pays et une expansion de son action, et nous l'encourageons à les poursuivre.

Des efforts supplémentaires doivent également être fournis en matière de planification des travaux au niveau des pays afin d'améliorer les effets et l'efficacité de la FAO à leur niveau. L'évaluation des bureaux décentralisés en Afrique a montré que les bureaux décentralisés dans cette région doivent fournir plus d'efforts dans la conception et l'exécution des programmes et sur l'appui technique. À cet égard nous invitons la FAO à y remédier car l'appui technique, comme nous le savons tous, est l'un des grands et importants domaines d'activité de l'Organisation dans les pays, particulièrement dans les pays en développement.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos a la Presidenta del Comité de Programa por la presentación del Informe de la Reunión Conjunta, cuyas conclusiones y recomendaciones respaldamos. Sin embargo, queremos resaltar algunos comentarios. Con relación a las medidas previstas para el mejoramiento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, queremos expresar nuestra satisfacción por los avances en la definición de los marcos de programación por países. Para el Ecuador, estos marcos en los cuales se reflejan las prioridades nacionales, deben ser la base para la programación de la cooperación técnica.

El enfoque de abajo hacia arriba que la Organización ha adoptado la apoyamos completamente. Sólo de esta manera se conseguirán los resultados que la FAO aspira. Consideramos también importante el uso de los fondos del TCP como capital semilla para potenciar las contribuciones voluntarias a nivel de los países. Este es un aspecto que, igualmente, respaldamos ya que consideramos que tiene un alto potencial y que podría ayudar a alcanzar más rápidamente los objetivos de la Organización.

Respecto al Informe que conoció la Reunión Conjunta sobre el funcionamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas, la Delegación del Ecuador acoge con satisfacción las medidas para el fortalecimiento de esas oficinas, la celebración de la rotación de los representantes de la FAO y la creación de cinco representantes adjuntos en el contexto de la integración de las responsabilidades de emergencia y rehabilitación a las oficinas descentralizadas. También reconocemos como muy importante la implementación del Sistema Mundial de Gestión de Recursos en todas las oficinas de los países. Consideramos que es un avance muy significativo el que se unifique el sistema de la administración en los ámbitos administrativo y financiero de la sede y de las oficinas descentralizadas.

Acogemos con satisfacción el hecho de que, conforme a la recomendación del Consejo, los marcos de programación por países, se han terminado en gran medida. Marcos que son un elemento clave para la descentralización y el mencionado enfoque de abajo hacia arriba que ha adoptado la Organización.

En conclusión, respaldamos los avances que se han dado en este tema y alentamos a la administración a seguir trabajando en este campo. La descentralización es uno de los pilares centrales del cambio transformacional que los Estados Miembros hemos aprobado.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

The update on the structure and functioning of the decentralized office network is well received by Australia. Australia on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, however, wants to stress the need for FAO to bring a stronger and more strategic focus to its decentralized office networks in the Southwest Pacific.

The Director-General has previously identified the need to increase resources in the Southwest Pacific and this was reflected in the PWB adjustments agreed to by Council 18 months ago. However, we are yet to see significant progress in this area.

We believe now is the opportunity for FAO to look at this issue closely. Currently there is an evaluation of the regional office based in Bangkok and so we understand that the findings from that review will be available shortly and so we would ask that the management consider the findings of that review and take those on board when considering the way forward.

In addition, we just had recently an FAO Permanent Representative field visit to the Southwest Pacific, and specifically a delegation visited three Pacific island countries, and so the delegation, again, will give a report on its observations to Council later this week.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation supports the report of the Joint Meeting. We have studied the plan for the implementation of measures to enhance the Technical Cooperation Programme with great interest. We believe it takes into account the various directions taken by the work and which we confirmed at the 145th Session of the Council.

In accordance with the approach in which the main role for developing the Technical Cooperation Programme at country level is based on the national priorities of the Member Nations governments as reflected in the Country Programming Frameworks. These are the basis for the determination of what their priorities would be in technical cooperation.

It also seems to us that what has been said about the tasks of the Country Programming Frameworks is quite correct because it is in step with the action plan to achieve the strategic goals of FAO and therefore we believe the link between the two is fully justified.

In this connection, we would urge the Secretariat to be a little more specific about how they intend to plan projects and monitor the contribution to the overall results, particularly in countries which do not have a Country Programming Framework.

We particularly appreciate the focus which has been placed on the Technical Cooperation Programme because we think that will help us to attract financing and resources in terms of partnerships for future programmes. Such practice fully answers to the principle of bringing down costs and of enhancing the effectiveness of expenditure when made.

We do not think that we should back away from technical cooperation from the regular budget funds available to the FAO. The Russian Federation welcomes the expansion of FAO's country presence, particularly in the region of Central Asia and the Caucasus which geographically speaking is very close to our country.

We announce with satisfaction that the process of developing a liaison office for FAO in Moscow is now reaching its concluding phase. We hope that it will be able to start its work as early as next year. We support the recommendations of the Joint Meeting about including in future reports an assessment on the work of regional and sub-regional offices as part of the decentralized network as well. Thank you for your attention.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I will leave it very brief and am happy that Australia mentioned it. We will have a possibility to listen to those among us who were fortunate enough to participate in the two field visits, one to the European Region and one to the Southwest Pacific, I believe on Friday. I think we would all learn much more about the Decentralized Offices and how they are working.

CHAIRPERSON

May I pass the floor to the Secretariat? A question was raised by El Salvador regarding the documents.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Indeed, we have to recognize that three language versions were not posted due to a problem with the link. I am told that they are now being put back online. We apologize for that.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, my conclusions on item 4 are as follows.

The Council endorsed the report of the Joint Meeting and:

- a) supported the alignment to enhance the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to the reviewed Strategic Framework and to national priorities through Country Programming Frameworks;
- b) emphasized the critical role of the TCP resource mobilization;
- c) welcomed the progress made on strengthening the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network;
- d) appreciated the successful application of the new procedure for the appointment and the assessment of FAO Representatives;
- e) welcomed the implementation of the Global Resource Management System across the decentralized network, and highlighted its value in the respect of internal control.

That concludes the item 4. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this afternoon's meeting.

May I remind those of you who have received an invitation to attend the reception to mark the 40th anniversary of China's cooperation with FAO, starting at 19:30 hours in FAO's cafeteria on the eighth floor of building B.

We will resume our work tomorrow at 9:30 hours sharp. I wish you a good evening.

The meeting rose at 18:12 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 12

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.12

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2013

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.42 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the third meeting of the 148th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before we begin our work this morning, I would like to inform the Council that a request has been received from the FAO Staff Representative Bodies to address this session of Council.

If Council is in agreement, I wish to propose that a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies make a brief statement under item 20 “Any Other Matters”, at the end of our substantive work tomorrow, Wednesday 4 December. Is the Council in agreement with this proposal?

It is so decided. Thank you.

Before we turn our attention to item 5, the first item on the Order of the Day, may I remind Permanent Representatives attending this Session to ensure that they have registered at the Turkish Registration Centre, otherwise their names will not be included in the List of Participants.

May I remind the Council that in keeping with our established practice, when the Reports of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting contain advice and comments on item 11, “Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms” or item 12, “Progress Reports on the Multi-Year Programme of Work”, Members will refrain from making comments on these specific issues until we reach the items dedicated to them. This will help focus our debates and avoid repetition. Thank you.

5. Report of the 114th Session of the Programme Committee (11-15 November 2013)**5. Rapport de la 114^{ème} session du Comité du Programme (11-15 novembre 2013)****5. Informe del 114.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (11-15 de noviembre de 2013)**
(CL 148/7)**CHAIRPERSON**

The first item on our Agenda this morning is item 5: Report of the 114th Session of the Programme Committee, which was heard from 11 to 15 November 2013. Please ensure that you have document CL 148/7 before you.

We will not reopen discussions on “Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15” nor on “FAO’s Work in Social Protection” as this has already been discussed under a separate item.

Discussions on the Multi-Year Programmes of Work of the Council and the Council Committees will take place under item 12 this afternoon. I therefore request Members to refrain from making comments pertaining to the MYPOW of the Programme Committee.

Ambassador Cecilia Nordin, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, will now introduce the Report of the Committee.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

First, I would like to thank the Chairperson specifically for his patience. I regret that I was not able to be here for the prompt start of the session and also contrary to Morocco's nice words yesterday, I have not yet myself been so patient so thank you very much.

I am very happy that we start with item 5 this morning. I hope we are all fresh and I hope also many of you have not only had the time to read the Report from the Programme Committee but also the very interesting document that was the foundation of our discussions, because this is actually the chance we have to look at what FAO has really done and the results.

We had two very interesting evaluations. You know evaluations are very good and well but you also need to see what happens after the evaluations have been done. So we have also two follow-ups to previous evaluations.

If we start with the evaluation of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices for Africa, you know this is number 3 in the series of regional evaluations. In order for Conference 2015 to receive a coherent document, we will have the remaining two evaluations during next year. It is fascinating reading

because it gives us an overview for the next Conference. We will have a synthesis document that will allow us to see what regions are doing really well and also what regions could learn from others.

We were very happy with this evaluation. We found it to be of high quality and many of the observations, interestingly enough, are valid for FAO globally.

We also agreed with Management's response and we were happy to note the efforts already underway to improve the decentralization efforts that we discussed yesterday.

We strongly encourage the Organization to further work on decentralization to get an effective, efficient, and honest decentralization where empowerment and resources go hand in hand with functioning, monitoring and accountability. Efforts must be global so that FAO can deliver as one in full participation with governments.

We emphasized that the roles of different levels must be clarified and communicated so that there are no overlaps or gaps. We thought that capacity building, full staffing, and required skills mix assessment and adjustment are vital for effective delivery.

Partnership is, of course, key and partnerships with regional communities, national institutions and the private sector etc. should be explored. As in so many other instances, gender work has to be put on a fast track. We look forward to see competent and capable female FAORs being appointed.

We also underlined, as we did yesterday, that the timeline between appraisal and approval of TCP projects should be further shortened.

Then we have the evaluation of the FAO's role and work in disaster risk reduction in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Again, the results are applicable globally and unfortunately this evaluation was most timely because the typhoon had just hit the Philippines and we much regretted that.

We saw it is essential that FAO move to a holistic disaster risk reduction, meaning that it will be incorporated into the Organization's core development based activities so that delivery can be faster. The inclusion on disaster risk reduction will also strengthen work of the Strategic Objective 5, assist climate and resilience efforts.

Again, capacity building is key. We recommended that FAO build on comparative advantages, especially its network, its technical expertise, its statistical databases and see to it that the disaster risk reduction work are built into the Strategic Framework and the Strategic Objectives.

We endorsed the distinct focus on gender, which should be apparent in all disaster risk reduction work and, as mentioned before, one aspect is the use of sex disaggregated figures.

We also encouraged the Organization to institutionalize field work. What do we mean by this? We mean building a structure that will allow the FAO to deliver at the same level irrespective of the staff that is in place, because staff will be mobile and move around. We would like to keep the level that each office has reached in order for good and consistent delivery.

And also, disaster risk reduction work must be followed up and lessons learned taken into account because disasters strike, unfortunately enough, and then hopefully we don't have one for several years but you need to continue to be ready for them to strike again. Much work, for instance, was done to combat the bird flu epidemic, and now you need to see that those structures are still there even if they are sleeping, so if something should happen, we can use them again, so we suggested follow-up on this work.

Then we had the two follow-ups here. One was FAO's role and work in nutrition, and we saw that nutrition has now been integrated into the Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget. We encourage further work on creating a common understanding of nutrition as well as communicating this vision so that FAO's work in nutrition will get the visibility it deserves.

We also said that there had been events such as International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition that some of you might have attended here in May. We also had World Food Day on

Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition and this should of course give fodder for the work on nutrition.

We also underlined that the ICN2, which will take place in November of next year, and the connected preparatory period is a good opportunity to further nutrition work while using FAO's advantage and expertise.

Again, partnerships are essential and we would like to see those enhanced both internally and externally. We reiterated the important link between gender and nutrition and requested further updates, which would take into consideration the national, regional work done on nutrition as well as detailing obstacles and setbacks and how the Organization has dealt with these.

The other follow-up was the Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work related to Gender and Development. We recognize the work that FAO has done in the Rome-Based agencies network, the engagement in the rural Woman's Economic Empowerment Project, and other partnerships and also the inclusion of gender in all the Strategic and Functional Objectives with indicator was applauded.

But, in order to implement the recommendations of the evaluation on both dimensions, much work remains, both in the Organization's activities and in the Organization itself. The Committee stated that women's empowerment is essential to reduce hunger and poverty while improving nutrition. Women's representation must increase at all levels. Gender capacity must be extended throughout the Organization, and gender must be part of all activities.

We come back to communication here. The visibility of gender must be kept high as to adequately reflect FAO's efforts in this area. So Management must continue to support gender work fully, step-up the pace of implementation and create satisfactory mechanisms of accountability. Again, we would like to be continually informed.

I would like to also say that we had a very positive result in the recruitment of the Director of Evaluation. We had two members of the Programme Committee, Argentina and Canada who participated in the panel and we are very grateful for that.

And there has now been an appointment of very experienced evaluator with experience from the UN evaluation group. He has been evaluation advisor to UNDP and I think, I don't know if I can say the name. Can I say the name? I see some hesitant nodding. Well, we hope to have him on board as soon as possible. Legal services say that I can indicate that Masahiro Igarashi has been approached and I think he has accepted this post for which we are very grateful.

And that concludes the items that should be reported under item 5.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

May I please ask you to give the floor to the representative of Lithuania as current Presidency of the European Union?

Ms Laima CIGRIEJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the able Chair and the Secretariat of the Programme Committee for the efficient and result oriented work of the Programme Committee meeting. The Report of the 114th Session of the Programme Committee fully reflects the discussions and its conclusions. Therefore, we would like to limit our comments to the following points of this Report.

The important Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for Africa, the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in disaster risk reduction in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition, and Follow-up on Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to gender and development.

Now I will speak about Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for Africa. This is the third in the series of regional evaluations which we find very important and look forward to the synthesis document of all regional evaluations which will be ready for the Conference in 2015.

The observations of this evaluation are valid for FAO's work globally, for the efforts to enhance decentralization are necessary in order to achieve an effective and efficient decentralization where empowerment and resources go hand in hand with functioning, monitoring and accountability.

Evaluation of FAO's role and work in disaster risk reduction in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean: The holistic DRR approach which is now adopted by FAO is vital for incorporating this work into core development based activities where capacity building is key.

Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition. In relation to the integration of nutrition to the reviewed Strategic Framework, which was welcomed in the Programme Committee, we would like to have further clarification about how this important issue is going to be mainstreamed and coordinated within FAO's work.

In reference to next year's Conference on nutrition, ICN2, we would be grateful to get some further information on the preparatory process and debate it during the present Council as ICN2 is supposed to agree on policy frameworks and international cooperation as stated during the Programme Committee meeting.

We believe that more emphasis has to be laid on that preparation of ICN2 and the communication with Members. We need concrete steps on how the process will move forward and concrete suggestions to define the outcome to develop a common political vision for ICN2 and to raise nutrition higher up in the agenda.

We also want to underline the need of full coordination with other sectors and organizations such as the health sector and WHO among others, and alignment with the work of the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

The ICN2 Secretariat has committed to prepare a roadmap for the next steps in the process of ICN2. We would like this roadmap to include a timeline and clearly indicate the expected outputs of the ICN2 meeting in 2014, and to describe the steps needed to attain these outputs between now and the event. We will appreciate to receive it during this FAO Council.

We also expect FAO to indicate how it will liaise with WHO as well as with the other agencies and international processes including those involved in the steering committee in order to insure a proper preparation process of the conference.

We ask for the setting up of an inter-governmental process in order to insure the preparation of the Conference, discuss the format of the outcomes and the content. This should be done in consultation with civil society and the private sector. We expected a draft decision to be put forward to this FAO Council in this regard.

We would be happy to hear from the Secretariat how they intend to have the process launched. We very much hope that ICN2 will produce clear recommendations notably concerning the role of agriculture, food production, and health systems in reducing the double burden of malnutrition. We deem relevant that 2014 Conference on Nutrition provides inputs on ongoing broader development processes in order to meet global expectations.

In particular the outcome of ICN2 should support the Post-2015 process of global sustainable development goals and feed with fact based knowledge and a sound long-term strategic view setting worldwide recommendations of the years to come.

We would also like to remind that Milan Export 2015 will provide a very relevant opportunity to amplify and promote messages and outcomes from ICN2.

Regarding Follow-up on Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to gender and development, we fully support the conclusions of the Programme Committee, but would like to stress for the importance of adequate capacity building within the Organization for mainstreaming gender in FAO's work. The visibility of gender must be kept high as to adequately reflect FAO's efforts in this area.

Management must continue to support gender work fully, speed up the pace of implementation and create a satisfactory mechanism of accountability. We are confident that the operational work plans will be more detailed in their articulation agenda and look forward to be periodically updated in the competent Governing Bodies on the progress.

We welcome the appointment of the new Director of Evaluation, Masahiro Igarashi who will be bringing essential experience from UN evaluation group with him and hope to see him soon in Rome.

Finally, we look forward to the discussion in 2015 on the findings of all regional evaluations of FAO's decentralized offices once the outstanding evaluations are completed in order to be able to improve the coherence of FAO's work.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan appreciates the excellent work and the report of the Programme Committee as usual. Particularly it is quite relevant that the evaluation takes a multidimensional approach which simultaneously this deals with region specific issues and cross-cutting themes such as gender and nutrition.

Among the important topics in this report, we'd like to make our observation on nutrition. Nutrition division is now placed under ES Department but as repeatedly referred to, the work on nutrition is, by its nature, highly cross-departmental and every department should make a collective effort to address this issue. At the same time, the nutrition is the inter-agency nature and cooperation with other agencies such as WHO and WFP is effective. FAO is the knowledge institution which has a comparative advantage in the normative work and it could and should contribute particularly in the overarching aspect of the work on nutrition.

In this sense, we think Lithuania, on behalf of EU member countries, has made a very pertinent comment on ICN2 and we would like to hear information on the roadmap to ICN2. Having said that, we again commend the excellent work of the Programme Committee and we look forward to the next report.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du rapport de la 114^{ème} session du Comité du Programme, et souscrit à ses recommandations et à ses conclusions. Notre intervention portera principalement sur les points relatifs à l'évaluation du bureau régional et des bureaux sous-régionaux de la FAO pour l'Afrique, sur l'évaluation du rôle et des activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la nutrition, et en matière de parité homme-femme et de développement.

S'agissant du rapport de l'évaluation du bureau régional et des bureaux sous-régionaux de la FAO pour l'Afrique, notre groupe se félicite de la qualité du rapport et souscrit aux conclusions et recommandations de cette évaluation. Le groupe exprime sa satisfaction au sujet des progrès enregistrés dans les bureaux décentralisés de l'Afrique, notamment dans la définition des priorités et la planification stratégique, la conclusion de partenariats, et la mobilisation des ressources.

Nous invitons les bureaux en Afrique, ainsi que le Siège à poursuivre ces efforts dans ce sens, et à assurer le suivi des progrès accomplis. Notre groupe apprécie les efforts en cours et encourage à poursuivre les activités liées à la décentralisation en vue d'assurer l'autonomisation et le suivi dans l'ensemble du réseau des bureaux décentralisés. Nous invitons la FAO à mener ces activités avec la participation active des gouvernements des États Membres, et nous l'encourageons à mettre l'accent sur le renforcement des capacités, la parité homme-femme et les évaluations, afin de garantir une exécution intégrale et efficace. L'évaluation a également démontré que les bureaux décentralisés en Afrique doivent fournir plus d'efforts dans la conception et l'exécution des programmes et l'appui technique. Le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à y remédier. À cet effet, il sera nécessaire de renforcer les structures décentralisées avec un personnel qualifié et des ressources financières nécessaires.

Concernant le point relatif au suivi de l'évaluation du rôle et des activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la nutrition, le Groupe Afrique remercie la FAO de l'importance qu'elle accorde à la question de la nutrition, et du suivi qu'elle assure quant à l'évaluation de son rôle dans ce domaine.

Nous félicitons l'Organisation pour les progrès réalisés, notamment pour l'intégration de la stratégie nutritionnelle dans le Cadre stratégique révisé, dans le Plan à moyen terme, et dans le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015. Nous sommes satisfaits de savoir que la FAO veille à ce que les activités nutritionnelles soient prises en compte dans les activités de l'Organisation, et particulièrement les activités visant les pays. Notre groupe est d'avis sur la nécessité de poursuivre les travaux visant à parvenir à une conception commune de la nutrition, et se félicite des activités liées à la nutrition au niveau national par la création de nouveaux postes spécialisés au niveau régional et sous-régional, et enfin exprime sa satisfaction quant à la nomination du nouveau Directeur de la Division de la nutrition.

Le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à tenir compte des recommandations et de la déclaration de la Conférence internationale sur les forêts au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition tenue à la FAO du 13 au 15 mai de cette année, et de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation tenue le 16 octobre dernier à la FAO. Le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à tirer profit de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, et de sa période préparatoire, pour faire avancer les travaux en matière de nutrition. À cet égard, nous invitons la FAO à nous faire part de l'état d'avancement des préparatifs de la CIN-2, et nous souhaitons engager un dialogue intergouvernemental afin de discuter de la voie à suivre jusqu'à novembre 2014.

Nous encourageons également la FAO à poursuivre ses activités en matière de renforcement d'une stratégie de communication et à continuer à collaborer étroitement avec les organisations qui traitent de cette problématique telles que le FIDA, le PAM, l'OMS et l'UNICEF, tout en évitant les chevauchements.

Le Groupe Afrique exhorte la FAO à promouvoir la recherche scientifique dans ce domaine, à tenir compte de la question de la parité homme-femme, de l'inclusion sociale et du changement climatique dans l'élaboration de projets intégrant la nutrition, à renforcer les capacités tant au niveau régional que sous-régional, et à encourager la collaboration régionale.

Enfin, s'agissant de l'évaluation du rôle et des activités de la FAO en matière de parité homme-femme et de développement, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la politique du Directeur Général dans ce domaine, et salue les progrès réalisés notamment dans l'intégration de cette question dans le Cadre stratégique révisé et le PTB 2014-2015, et invite la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts en la matière.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

Since this is the first time that the Philippines is intervening, allow us first to express utmost appreciation for the outpouring of support and solidarity being extended by the international community, including Rome-based Agencies and its Member Nations, to our country in view of Typhoon Haiyan.

We are deeply grateful for the moment of silence dedicated in memory of the typhoon victims at the start of this Council session and for similar manifestations of sympathy we received since the disaster occurred.

Turning to the agenda at hand, we would like to join other delegations in thanking the Programme Committee and its Chair, and the Secretariat, for the presentation of the comprehensive report on the discussion relating to evaluation and to programme planning and priority setting.

We wish to focus our intervention on two items; firstly on the evaluation of role and work in the disaster risk reduction or DRR in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean as described in the report and mentioned by the Programme Committee Chair. We concur that this evaluation is timely and it would be essential that FAO move to a holistic DRR approach. Interventions should be able to look deeper into the root causes of risks and structural food insecurity. It would therefore be important to build capacity in DRR, particularly at the country and regional levels.

We also go along with the observation that DRR inclusion will strengthen work on climate change adaptation and resilience efforts under Strategic Objective 5 that aims to increase the livelihoods to threats and crisis. Relevant to this, in a recent informal meeting convened by FAO concerning

Typhoon Haiyan, we were provided with a useful technical briefing on how SO5 principles and plans are being applied in FAO responses to this calamity that hit our country.

Our second point concerns nutrition. We also wish to emphasize on the importance on the follow-up evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition. We likewise welcome the recommendations put forth by the Committee, especially in encouraging further work on creating common understanding of nutrition and increasing the visibility of FAO's work in nutrition. We also support encouraging the institution to take the opportunity of ICN2 and the related preparatory period to further nutrition work.

Similar to the interventions and queries from the previous speakers; EU, Japan, and Algeria, we will be interested to know how FAO envisions the preparatory period and the process to be followed to ensure the sufficient and effective preparation for ICN2.

As mentioned by Japan, the work on nutrition and preparation to the said Conference should be a collective and inter-agency work. We also remind to take into account the discussion and results of the recent technical preparatory meeting for ICN2 held in Rome a few weeks ago.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Agradecemos la presentación y la elaboración del documento exhaustivo que fue expuesto por la Presidenta del Comité del Programa. Revisada la documentación presentada y en conocimiento de las discusiones llevadas a cabo durante el 114.º período de sesiones del Comité, tomamos notas de las recomendaciones que se realizan.

En cuanto a la evaluación de la función y la labor de la FAO en la reducción del riesgo de catástrofes en Asia y en América Latina y el Caribe, acogemos los resultados de la evaluación. Al igual que el Comité, consideramos esencial que la FAO adopte un planteamiento holístico con respecto a la reducción del riesgo de catástrofes y lo incorpore a las actividades principales de la Organización basadas en el desarrollo para acelerar su ejecución especialmente en el Objetivo Estratégico cinco.

También consideramos pertinente que la labor relacionada con la reducción del riesgo de catástrofes se integre en los marcos de programación de país. Como ha sugerido el Comité, exhortamos a proseguir la labor dirigida a establecer un entendimiento común de la nutrición y resaltar más las actividades de la FAO sobre el tema, mediante una estrategia de comunicación incluso a nivel nacional, ya que es una oportunidad para que la FAO y sus Miembros redoblen los esfuerzos en la lucha contra la malnutrición.

En cuanto a los preparativos de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición a celebrarse en 2014, creemos que la FAO debe reforzar su trabajo en materia de nutrición y utilizar las ventajas y los conocimientos técnicos y especializados que posee la organización en este tema.

Consideramos muy importante el trabajo realizado en cuanto a la evaluación de la labor de la FAO en relación con el género y el desarrollo. En este aspecto, es clave la ejecución de la política del Director General en materia de la igualdad de género respaldada por la Conferencia, por lo que apoyamos todos los esfuerzos de la Organización para que siga reforzándose el enfoque de género en todos los Objetivos Estratégicos.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais vous féliciter de la manière dont vous menez vos débats et vous assurer de tout notre soutien. Je m'exprime au nom du groupe ERG, le Groupe régional européen et je voudrais d'abord remercier la Présidente du Comité du Programme et l'ensemble du Comité du Programme pour le travail excellent qu'ils mènent au sein du Comité du Programme et enfin remercier le Secrétariat de son rapport.

Je souhaite aussi au nom de mon groupe relayer ce qui vient d'être dit sur la préparation de la conférence CIN-2. Le groupe ERG exprime sa préoccupation au sujet de l'état de préparation de cette conférence. Celle-ci va se tenir dans moins d'un an et nous n'avons pas encore décidé comment nous allions la préparer, quels en seraient le format et le contenu de ces résultats. Nous pensons, comme l'Union européenne et ses États Membres, comme les précédents intervenants que nous devons rapidement mettre en place un processus intergouvernemental de préparation, en lien étroit avec

l'OMS et sa gouvernance, et en consultation avec la société civile et le secteur privé. Pour cela, nous avons besoin que le Secrétariat prépare rapidement avec l'OMS, une feuille de route, et que le Conseil donne l'impulsion nécessaire pour lancer ce processus. Nous souhaitons donc savoir ce que le Secrétariat a prévu pour nous permettre de lancer et d'accompagner ce processus. De la même façon, Monsieur le Président, le groupe ERG a exprimé le vœu d'une réunion informelle de consultation avec les représentants permanents sur ce sujet, pas plus tard qu'en janvier et en lien avec l'OMS.

Monsieur le Président, vous pouvez compter sur le soutien du groupe ERG pour arriver à une conférence CIN-2 réussie et à une bonne mise en valeur de l'expertise et des travaux de la FAO sur ce sujet.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

My delegation endorses the findings and the recommendations of the Programme Committee on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, FAO's work in social protection, evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Africa, evaluation of FAO's role and work in disaster risk reduction in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the follow-up evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition, as well as the follow-up on the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to gender and development.

Indonesia supports the Committee's suggestion to follow-up to the evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition. In our view, this follow-up is very important since FAO will host the Second International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014. Indonesia would like to actively participate in this conference, since food and nutrition security is one of the priorities in Indonesia national development.

In this regard, my delegation encourages FAO to identify its role and work, and invite all stakeholders to be more focused in the formulation of the strategic programme to support sustainable food and nutrition security.

We also support FAO policies related to gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting theme in the reviewed Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, in which gender plays an important role, including in the development of marine and fisheries sectors.

In addition, we would like to support the ongoing discussion of the FAO Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, in which one of the issues discussed in the guidelines is related to gender equality.

The gender equality has become one of the important roles in supporting the development of marine and fisheries sectors in Indonesia, particularly for small-scale fishers in coastal areas.

Ms Candice VIANNA (Brazil)

I just want to make a brief statement regarding the ICN2 process. We concur with previous speakers with the need to further advance on the preparatory intergovernmental process for the Conference next year in order to ensure an ambitious outcome. This will be a valuable opportunity. It will make significant progress on tackling the heavy burden of malnutrition.

We share the concern expressed by France on the way forward and on the urgent need to establish this intergovernmental process. Brazil firmly believes that the ICN2 is an opportunity not only to revise and build some policies for enhancement of nutrition, but also to improve global governance on this issue, therefore we believe that the Conference should be built on a broad participation with the inclusion of the civil society organizations.

The fact of including the perspective of grass roots organizations and social movements means to give voice to the people most affected by malnutrition and to better understand their needs and context. Therefore, the multi-stakeholder model of the Committee on World Food Security provides an example of how inclusive platforms, besides the fact of being more democratic, are better suited to make more effective policies to address food insecurity, food security and nutritional issues.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that the ICN2 establish a multi-stakeholder mechanism for the participation of civil society organizations and we urge the Secretariat to make progress on the preparation of the road map to establish the way forward for the Conference next year.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Señor Presidente, le pido si puede ser concedida la palabra a la Delegación de Paraguay para que hable a nombre del GRULAC y cuando ella finalice le solicito también la posibilidad de tomar la palabra como Argentina.

Sra. Lorena PATIÑO CARDOZO (Observador de Paraguay)

EL GRULAC interviene en esta oportunidad sobre el proceso preparatorio de la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición. El Grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe igualmente reitera su compromiso con el éxito de la misma que veintiún años después examinará los logros alcanzados y propondrá los caminos a seguir para abordar los desafíos actuales en materia nutrición.

El GRULAC agradece los trabajos preparatorios conjuntos realizados por la Secretaría de la FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Salud, reiterando la importancia de la participación plena y activa de los Estados miembros, como también en la conducción de los trabajos para lograr el objetivo principal de esta Conferencia.

En este sentido, el Grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe solicita a la Secretaría de la FAO la elaboración de una hoja de ruta con una propuesta para los futuros trabajos que sea sometida a la aprobación de todos los Estados Miembros, teniendo en cuenta que nos encontramos a menos de un año de la próxima reunión. Y finalmente, solicitamos a la Secretaría de la FAO los documentos que puedan garantizar los resultados de la Conferencia.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Simplemente una referencia al tema que presentó Paraguay como presencia del GRULAC y con cuya declaración nosotros adherimos plenamente. Realmente compartimos la preocupación expresada por varias delegaciones por la situación en que se encuentra la preparación de la Conferencia sobre Nutrición. En ese sentido, estamos esperando la presentación, por parte de la Secretaría, de la hoja de ruta, que nos permitiera comenzar a conversar sobre las modalidades que tendría ese proceso.

Compartimos también el interés por tener una reunión informal de consulta con los representantes permanentes, pero entendemos que esa reunión debe ser el punto de partida para un posterior proceso formal conducido por los Estados y destinado a asegurar la Organización y los resultados de la Conferencia sobre Nutrición. En ese proceso es también donde veremos la definición de las modalidades del trabajo. Por supuesto estamos dispuestos a colaborar plenamente con este propósito.

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

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the submission of the Report of the 114th Session and we would like to say that we fully support the foreseen work in the area of nutrition.

For the Russian Federation the issue of nutrition is quite important including the poverty level countries. We support the need to make progress in this area reforming the UN agenda in the area of development in the post-2015 period, also as part of the implementation of the Secretary-General initiative of Zero Hunger.

We are in favour of further strengthening FAO's work in this area, with stressing some of the issues of its mandate. This would include a multi-lateral consideration of nutrition and world planning in this sector as well as creating sustainable food systems.

We support FAO's cooperation with other Rome-based Agencies in this area. We welcome the Report of the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013 (SOFI) looking at issues in the mentioned fields.

We fully welcome the conclusions of the Report regarding the progress of the preparation for the next International Conference on Nutrition, which is meant to take place in 2014 jointly organized by FAO

and WHO. We welcome the idea of a Preparatory Conference that was held in November this year. We also welcome the recent nominations in the Division of Nutrition.

We understand the difficulties linked with the restructuring of the sub-divisions of the Secretariat in the Headquarters. In connection with the November meeting on preparation for the above mentioned International Conference, a great deal of concern was expressed regarding this matter and we heard that we must pay attention to this.

At the same time, I would like to concentrate to give further impetus to the Secretariat in order to ensure that a clear roadmap be defined as soon as possible for the preparation of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), so as to insure a broader participation of the FAO Member Nations in this process.

We believe that there is a need for Member Nations in their turn to be prepared to work closely and be involved in this work. It is also important to insure effective cooperation among the Secretariat, WHO and FAO in this process. There should information timely provided to countries regarding the results.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to thank the presentation made by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee. As a member of the PC, China fully supports the presentation of the Report by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

Many Members have made comments on the preparation of ICN2, requesting the Secretariat to give some explanations on their active participation in this Conference. Here, we would like to request that the Secretariat give a presentation to the Council on the preparation of ICN2. In particular, on the difficulties faced in the process of its preparation and the need for the Council to provide guidance on the mentioned preparation. This way, concerned Members can get ready and promote the preparation.

Ms Shelina AFROZA (Bangladesh)

On behalf of 50 percent women of Bangladesh, I would like to congratulate FAO and the Programme Committee for their wonderful report. Especially, I'm grateful and thankful to FAO, besides their continued policy support in fisheries, livestock and agriculture sector, I find their programme is fully dedicated along with the Government of Bangladesh on gender equality and women's empowerment.

In this regard, I would like to share with you some information that in our country, poor families in the rural areas, 52 percent family earnings are coming from the poultry and agrarian agriculture which is generally taken care by women, but their contribution is hardly recognized.

In the Government service 10 percent quota is given, but sometimes it isn't fulfilled, so my request would be that the report should emphasize that policy implementation should be monitored properly. Like public sector, private sector should also be under a women-friendly policy and should be monitored properly.

Regarding FAO's role and work in Disaster Risk Reduction, the Pacific Island Countries they are also at risk and vulnerable to nature and disaster, so they should also be included.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Thank you for allowing me to take the floor again. Italy aligns fully with the position expressed by Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and by France on behalf of the Europe Regional Group.

In particular, we share the numerous concerns on the need to rapidly establish an inter-governmental process to ensure the preparation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition next November in Rome, as well as the expectations voiced by several delegates from various regional groups that FAO and WHO commit fully, also in financial terms, to favor the success of ICN2.

Member States also are called upon to participate actively to this extent. The Italian Government has therefore decided to contribute to ICN2 with an amount of 805,000 EUR which is approximately USD 1 million, through the FAO, which adds to the 150,000 EUR already granted through WHO.

We sincerely hope that this will be of inspiration for other Members.

Mr A. Ahmed SHALABY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I have a very brief comment to make which I would like to bring to your awareness. It regards the work of the Regional Offices of FAO. I would like to underline a pressing need to allow the Regional Offices to be able to continue with the work in an effective way so as to be able to ensure that these Regional Offices truly work in the interest of their Region.

In this regard, it is important to underline that the presence of the Regional Office in Cairo for our Region is something we believe to be very important. We also believe that the role of this office on behalf of the Organization's Region is very important too. Therefore, we are satisfied with the adjustments which were made to the functioning office bureau so as to ensure that the Regional Office works better in favour of Egypt. We hope this will give rise to positive changes in the working methods of this Regional Office.

So please allow me to highlight an issue which links to the possibility of a tri-partite cooperation between the Organization and Egypt in favour of Africa. We would like through this to find an agreement in order to welcome South-South Cooperation. We are currently working on this and we hope we will be able to submit it as soon as possible.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Norway)

We support the many comments that have been made regarding the preparations for ICN2. Time is getting short to prepare this important event and the preparation of a roadmap for the preparatory process is urgently needed.

We encourage FAO and WHO to intensify their cooperation in this regard and to insure that there is an inclusive inter-Governmental process established that ensures the participation and contributions also from civil society and private sector. And further to ensure also that other relevant organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, WFB and IFAD and others can also fully contribute and participate in the process and in the event.

We share the request from the EU and others for further information to this Council session on this important matter and welcome the proposal for an informal consultation on the matter early next year.

Mr Beda MACHAR DENG (Observer for South Sudan)

South Sudan delegation within this Summit has appreciated the work done by the committee and particularly the decentralization process, which is also part and parcel of the South Sudan Government, that is transparency, accountability for effective and efficient delivery of services to the people of South Sudan as a part and parcel of policies of decentralization within the country.

Number two, the Committee also has appreciated the emphasis made on gender mainstreaming. Republic of South Sudan has given 35 percent for women, 20 for youth and only 45 for men. Still, able women can compete within the 45 percent. This is the right of women, it is very important and what we only need is the capacity building of the women and especially the young girls, though they should grow into respectable ladies in the future.

And also on behalf of the Committee, I appreciate the emphasis suggestions, encouragement and appreciation and we are hoping in the future; particularly in the regional and sub-regional offices for Africa, we need more offices to be opened within Africa so these policies should be done to further side by side with FAO programme within the country.

Ms Abla MALIK OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to begin by protesting because I am the first amongst the non-Members of the Council who requested the floor. Apart from that, I would like to express my gratitude to the Programme Committee for the Report.

I would also like to join those who preceded me in supporting the proposal of France, namely having an informal consultation which will bring together with the Permanent Representatives in preparation for this ICN2 so that we can achieve the objectives which are fixed for it.

All countries, in particular developing countries, consider nutrition to be one of the most important concerns. Given the number of those who are not receiving the adequate quantity of nutrition, it is very important for them to participate so it is important to ensure the participation of relevant countries in the second Conference so that they can express their concerns and submit their proposals and share the reality in their countries.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Thank you, Council Members, for your kind words about the work of the Committee. Japan, you can rest assured that we'll do our utmost to provide what Indonesia said as a concise report and that is worth looking forward to.

I take your comments that the Committee has done its work since you endorsed the Report and its recommendations, such as the importance of advancing gender work. I would like to thank Indonesia for the good example of the importance of gender in fisheries as well as Bangladesh for the interesting information on household income. You can rest assured that we will continue to follow-up FAO's work both in evaluations and in their follow-up.

As we recommended that FAO should take the ICN2 and the connected preparatory period as a good opportunity to further nutrition work, I noticed a majority of Council Members being very much on-board to engage actively in the preparations for a successful ICN2 and Members wanted to know the way forward. I would like to hear from the Secretariat on that.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

First, allow me to thank the Programme Committee and its Chair for the evaluation of our work, generally in the Economic and Social Development Department, but specifically on a number of issues which have been raised, particularly on social protection, gender equality and work on nutrition.

And particularly also, I want to take the opportunity to thank Member Nations for your support in this area, and especially, I would like to draw your attention to the generous support from Italy for the work in connection with ICN2.

I should emphasize that this is the first contribution and I look forward to similar strong contributions to enable the process to go forward. As it will become evident, this has been a major stumbling block in the work which we have undertaken in relation to ICN2.

I also want to draw your attention to the very positive remarks made by the Bangladesh delegate, which concretely draws attention to the actual impact of our work on the ground as far as gender equality is concerned. I can think of no stronger recommendation. Thank you very much.

I should emphasize that information generally on the ICN2 and the processes are all available on the website. Some of you may have wondered why there has not been a Report yet on the website on the recent preparatory meeting. This Report was completed and approved by our colleagues in the WHO yesterday morning and I have sent it to our colleagues here before putting it on the website.

In general, there is a great deal of information which is currently available, and I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that, on Friday, I am scheduled to review recent international developments on nutrition, including the ICN2 but not exclusively the ICN2. As some of you have pointed out, there are a number of other recent major developments on the nutrition front, which we need to take account of and we need to position ourselves.

I would like to emphasize that FAO is almost unique among the international agencies, funds and programmes in emphasizing the role of agriculture and food production. Many of our colleagues who are very active on nutrition emphasize supplementation and I think you know the major agencies which are involved in nutrition supplementation.

But a long-term sustainable solution to the problems of malnutrition is in our view embedded in the challenges of agriculture and food production. So this is what we bring to the discussion.

But as you also know, much of the attention at the level of national governments directed to nutrition is usually through health ministries and hence our collaboration with the WHO is extremely important in this connection.

I would like to emphasize two major challenges. One, as I hinted earlier, is the problem of resource mobilization. The Organization has provided some funding and it was that funding which made possible the preparatory technical meeting. We also recently received some private philanthropic contributions, but they were modest and inadequate to realize fully our ambition for the preparatory technical meeting.

It was not possible, for example, to bring more participants, particularly from the least developed countries, where the problems of malnutrition are most acute, to participate in the preparatory technical meeting. It is not that they do not have the expertise. It is not that they do not know the problems, but they were not able to participate because of the constraints which we faced.

But let me come to the second and more daunting problem. Firstly, it involves the collaboration with WHO principally as well as with other organizations. First I think it is very important for us to recognize that the norms which have become common for us here in FAO, particularly in Rome rather, particularly through the CFS, in terms of the participation of civil society and the private sector are novel within the UN System.

No other UN body gives the same level of participation to civil society and the private sector as is done with the CFS which is a Rome-based agency-initiative. This, as you know, is relatively recent. It's about five years old, but this is certainly not the case as far as other organizations in the UN System are concerned. Particularly for our colleagues in WHO, this has been a major challenge, for example, in their campaign against tobacco. They had problems with strong corporate reactions from the private sector. In their campaigns against infant formulas, in their campaigns for breastfeeding, and a number of other campaigns, they have had major challenges.

It also has to do with the nature of the WHO as an organization where it includes, among other things, regional organizations which pre-date the establishment of the WHO. I am referring, for example, to the PAHO, the Pan-American Health Organization.

All of this introduces major challenges in terms of collaboration, effective collaboration, speedy collaboration with WHO. In deference, we tried to accommodate some of their concerns. In particular, the WHO norm is not to have what they call "non-state actors" participate in any policy discussions. For that reason, we struck a compromise and this compromise was not much appreciated by many of our delegations here in Rome. And on the second day of the preparatory technical meeting, we had an informal meeting with some delegates, some Permanent Representatives, as well as the WHO, where we persuaded the WHO to open up the meeting for the third day.

The compromise before that was to have civil society and private sector participate on the first two days. The third day was not going to involve the civil society and private sector. However, this prior compromise was reconsidered in this informal meeting on 14 November, and subsequently, we opened up the meeting on 15 November.

The other part of the compromise was that Agenda item 6 for the preparatory technical meeting was cancelled, because it would violate the norms established by the WHO. It is for this reason that this collaboration with WHO requires considerable flexibility. And last week, in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, we suggested that this matter, the question of the steps going forward, should be dealt with flexibly and as far as possible, informally by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on behalf of the Council. This was the understanding which we came to. So the Independent Chairperson of the Council has actually been quite proactive in this matter.

Considering the expressions of concern by Member Nations, allow me to suggest a decision which might be acceptable to address many of the concerns which have been articulated by delegates on the one hand, as well as the constraints which we face in our collaboration with the WHO.

If I may read, Mr Chair, the suggestion as follows: "The Council recalled a decision made by the 38th Session of the Conference of FAO, regarding preparations for the Second International

Conference on Nutrition and the outcome of the preparatory technical meeting held in Rome in November 2013.

The Council encouraged the FAO Secretariat to work closely with WHO in developing a roadmap, allowing for a member-driven intergovernmental process facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council in consultation with civil society and private sector organizations.”

The third and last paragraph (please note, the second paragraph refers to the FAO; the third paragraph refers to the ICN2 Secretariat which is a joint Secretariat):

“to this end, the ICN2 Secretariat is encouraged to prepare a zero draft Conference outcome document, reflecting current challenges on nutrition as emerging from the recently held preparatory technical meeting and consultations at national, regional, and international levels”.

I would like to think that this addresses most of the concerns but it cannot address all concerns because there are certain factors which are beyond us. We have to allow our colleagues in Geneva sufficient room in order to be able to come to a decision which is consistent with their own norms and standards in order for us to be able to ensure that this collaboration works. This is a challenge which rests before us.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

We would like to thank Mr Jomo Sundaram for the recommended decision. We would just like to seek clarification, particularly on the third paragraph because it alluded to an outcome document or a draft, a zero draft outcome document.

We realize the usefulness of such an outcome or a draft in the preparatory process or in the discussions among the involved parties, but however, we would just like to seek clarification because this now concerns not only the FAO but the ICN2 Secretariat, and that also involves the WHO and perhaps other agencies. If the Council will make a decision on this one, how would this be? First do we also need to have a consultation with WHO on this matter as it pertains also to such an organization? There are also some reservations on our part on kind of pre-empting some negotiation on the draft.

While we do recognize that the wording is encouraged, the word used is to encourage, this would also send a signal, and this would start a crafting of a document that we are not yet clear about and that, as you know, Members will have positions and will have to refer to capitals on such a document. So we would just like to seek clarification on the third paragraph but we find the first two paragraphs acceptable. It's just on the third paragraph that we have some concerns.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Compartimos algunas de las preocupaciones que ha presentado Filipinas. Gracias al Señor Sundaram por la propuesta que nos está presentando, pero realmente tenemos que considerarlo con cuidado. La propuesta es interesante y tiene puntos positivos, pero además de las preocupaciones que presentó Filipinas, nosotros también tenemos algunas preocupaciones y nos gustaría alguna clarificación respecto a cómo estaría encarado el proceso. Nos quedan muy claras las dificultades que se presentan para poder trabajar con la OMS, pero también estamos seguros de que el interés que hay en ambas Organizaciones para que la Conferencia sea un éxito va a contribuir a que se pueda avanzar. En ese sentido, también coincidimos en que es necesario ser flexibles al aproximarnos a esta Organización.

Nos interesaría algunas clarificaciones respecto al rol del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Creo que en la redacción propuesta se hablaba de facilitador, pero nos interesaría ver un poco más en detalle cuál es esa propuesta. Y también en relación al proceso que seguiríamos, porque si va a haber una elaboración de un borrador cero, lo cual ya es un paso muy importante en el proceso, ese documento, ¿ante quién sería presentado? ¿Sería presentado ante el Consejo en junio próximo, o sería estructurado algún proceso como nosotros entendemos conducido por los estados para que entonces ya estaríamos en una etapa de negociación, como bien lo presentó también Filipinas? Este es un punto importante para tener en claro cómo está estructurado este proceso.

Y también sería importante tener en claro cuál puede ser la participación de otras partes involucradas en este proceso, pero entendemos que eso también puede ser objeto de negociación y conversación para que pudiéramos tener la suficiente participación de otras partes interesadas pero sin comprometer el trabajo que queremos llevar adelante con la FAO y con la OMS.

Y, finalmente, quizás sería bueno también —no sé si eso es posible—, que el texto de la propuesta fuera de alguna manera circulado o colocado en la pantalla ya que lo hemos recibido en este momento. La propuesta tiene muchos elementos importantes y ya deberíamos tenerlos bien en claro para poder seguir con el tema.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Je remercie le Secrétariat des explications qu'il a données et M. Jomo Sundaram pour le travail qu'il a conduit pour la réunion technique dont les résultats ont été extrêmement fructueux en termes techniques.

Nous sommes conscients des difficultés d'un exercice conjoint avec l'OMS, et à cet égard je conviens de dire que nous, États Membres, il nous appartient aussi de faire notre travail à la maison et d'assurer la liaison avec nos capitales et avec nos collègues de Genève pour une bonne préparation conjointe. Je crois que nous avons besoin effectivement que le Conseil donne une impulsion et un coup de pouce à la préparation et conforte le processus en cours et fasse entendre la FAO. À cet égard, je crois que les deux premiers paragraphes que vous avez proposés vont dans la bonne direction et devraient nous permettre de tracer la voie à suivre en tous cas pour les semaines, et disons le mois ou les deux mois qui suivent. Je voudrais remercier le Président indépendant du Conseil d'avoir commencé à évoquer cette question dans sa réunion avec les présidents de groupes régionaux et les vices présidents. Bien sûr, nous ne pouvons pas aujourd'hui décider d'une quantité de questions qui ont été évoquées et y compris celles évoquées par mon collègue d'Argentine. Il y a des questions qu'il faut que nous décidions avec l'OMS, il y a des questions pour lesquelles nous avons besoin du Secrétariat, nous ne sommes pas en mesure aujourd'hui de finaliser l'ensemble du processus.

Mais aujourd'hui, nous pouvons dire que les États Membres de la FAO sont prêts à s'engager dans ce processus, nous pouvons lancer ce cadre, ce forum dans lequel nous pourrions commencer, nous à la FAO, à nous exprimer. Je rappelle aussi la demande que le groupe ERG a faite d'une réunion de concertation dès le mois de janvier, si le Président indépendant du Conseil la trouve possible. Donc je crois qu'il faut aujourd'hui que nous puissions nous mettre d'accord sur les éléments, y compris les éléments minimums, qui nous permettent, nous, Membres du Conseil de la FAO, de faire entendre notre voix, de faire entendre notre culture et de passer commande au Secrétariat de manière formelle, plus formelle que ce qui a pu être fait lors de la réunion du Président indépendant du Conseil avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux, et de nous engager nous États Membres, de manifester notre engagement, nous États Membres, dans le processus en disant que nous sommes prêts à commencer à travailler. Cela nous permettra aussi d'économiser du temps et de ne pas avoir à attendre le Conseil d'avril pour prendre des décisions.

Donc certes nous n'avons pas tous les éléments en main, mais nous pouvons déjà aujourd'hui donner une impulsion. Il y a des éléments sur lesquels les États Membres ne sont pas prêts à s'engager, et à cet égard j'ai bien entendu la remarque faite par le Représentant des Philippines, et nous les reporterons à la discussion qui va s'ouvrir dans les modalités où nous devons décider. Mais je crois qu'il est important aujourd'hui que nous soyons en mesure de donner le coup de pouce qui permettra de répondre aux préoccupations qui ont été exprimées.

Sra. Alba COELLO (Ecuador)

Mi Delegación quiere agradecer la presentación y respuestas dadas por la Secretaría. Tomamos notas de ellas.

Sin embargo, quisiéramos mencionar que al no ser este un tema de agenda realmente necesitamos mayor información, más detalles que podamos enviarlos a nuestras capitales para poder recibir las instrucciones debidas.

También quisiéramos expresar, Señor Presidente, un poco nuestra preocupación por su participación como facilitador que aquí se ha expresado. Teniendo en cuenta que es un tema de ejecución y que, además, podríamos estar enviando un mensaje equivocado, en tanto en cuanto habría un desencuentro con la OMS y de la información que nos ha dado el Secretario de que esto no es así, es cierto, que hay una serie de situaciones que contravienen a la normativa de la OMS aunque esto puede ser llevado o manejado en el transcurso de las diferentes reuniones.

Con estas premisas, Señor Presidente, creemos que el tema debería ser manejado directamente por la Secretaría y por el Comité del Programa. De esta manera estaríamos transmitiendo un mensaje mucho más positivo del trabajo de la FAO.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Mr Chair, allow me to first respond to the questions raised by the Philippines and Argentina. The intention of assigning the responsibility to the Secretariat to prepare a zero draft is to kick start the process, is to try to move the process forward. There is no intention to pre-empt anything else. It is a zero draft for the consideration of the inter-governmental process.

The problem right now is how do we set up the inter-governmental process. It is a “chicken-and-egg problem”. This is the problem and it is an unprecedented problem because when you normally have a Conference it’s usually organized by one. There is a just one organization and you follow the rules of that organization, but here we are working with two organizations which have different norms and standards. This is the challenge before us.

So the intention of the zero draft is merely to move the process forward, to get the Secretariat actually to work on something substantive besides procedural matters.

My concern is that if we slow down the substantive contributions and we concentrate on procedural matters and get bogged down with procedural details, we may lose a lot of months and we do not have a zero draft to work with and this can slow things down subsequently.

This is the only intention of the zero draft idea. I do not think it is helpful for us to start preparing the format of the meeting etc. This question of form and procedure is something which is likely to cause a lot of problems in trying to come to some kind of compromise with our colleagues in the WHO.

Now, the role of the ICC is to facilitate the process. This is the proposal: to facilitate the process. The WHO also has regional groupings. Unfortunately their regional groupings do not coincide with our regional groupings. They have at least one or possibly two more regional groupings than we do. So how do we decide if we, for example, agree that all regions should have a nominee for the purposes of negotiation on both sides? Is it acceptable to have one more on the side of the WHO, for example?

These are questions which we shouldn't try to specify. Once we try to specify this, it becomes very difficult for whoever is negotiating from our side. And whoever is negotiating from our side should be from Council Members. It should represent the Council. It shouldn't be somebody representing the Secretariat. The Secretariat is already moving ahead.

We need the Governments to have ownership of the process. I think it is very important to recognize that 1992 Conference was largely done by the Secretariat. Okay. There was a limited role for Member Nations. It made things easier perhaps but it also meant there was less ownership of the Conference and its outcomes.

In this way, we are trying to ensure a greater sense of ownership of Member Nations. This is the intent, but if we start specifying too much, we will run into problems.

One way of resolving this problem, if paragraph 3 is considered to be problematic, is to strike out paragraph 3 and simply leave it to paragraph 2. However, some of you have raised questions about the appropriate role for the ICC.

The ICC is to facilitate the beginning of the process. At the end of the day, the ICC may well nominate, or the negotiating group, may well nominate others to co-chair the process; one from WHO

and one from FAO, or perhaps one from the North and one from the South. There could be any number of possibilities.

If we try to specify too much now, we run the possibility of nothing happening because we get bogged down in procedural matters. That is why I am pleading for a flexible approach. If you think the third paragraph is problematic, and I recognize the concerns raised earlier, it can be struck out. The reason why I was proposing it is that it allows the ICN2 Secretariat to also engage with Member Nations, both here as well as in Geneva. This is the intent.

But I think drafting by committee, let alone drafting by the whole, is going to be hugely problematic. That is why I suggest dropping the third paragraph if that is problematic or offensive.

CHAIRPERSON

May I plead to you, dear Members, that we should not put this to a debate. If we put it to a debate, I think it will not end.

If you demand a document on this, it will need to be prepared, translated, sent to the Capitals, come back, and then issues will arise and you will have to refer again to the Capitals. And here we are saying that this issue is very important and it's very urgent.

So, we contravene in what we intend to do and in what we say. Therefore I plead with you, knowing this is a marriage which has already been blessed. What I mean is that this is a joint project between FAO and WHO. Therefore, it is very important that we work with this flexibility.

We have to move together, FAO has to move with World Health Organization so whatever will be negotiated and whatever the technical documents will be produced will be documents which have been discussed in precedence with both parties. And if the FAO Secretariat feels that there is a problem, then it will be a problem arising from that negotiation.

I am ready to facilitate this. I had a good discussion with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups, as the issue was: How do you launch this? Where is the starting point? The starting point was in fact, if we put it in inverted commas, that the Conference started the process when it signaled the importance of the preparation of ICN2, and it further went on to endorse the technical consultation process to take place.

Now it is the Council taking a decision on this issue. So, during the first meeting which I may call for the Permanent Representatives, it may be a time to facilitate the launching of the process. That is where all the questions which have been raised here could be answered properly.

I would urge you that for today we accept what has been requested by some of the delegates. If you allow me, I will make my conclusion on this item, but when I reach the conclusion on ICN2, I will read very slowly so that anybody who wants to make corrections can do so.

Is it possible to put that paragraph on screen, as it has been asked by Argentina?

Let me make a summary on item 5.

The Council endorsed the Report of the 114th Session of the Programme Committee and:

- a) welcomed the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional offices in Africa, and agreed with the management response. The Council appreciated the work undertaken on the decentralization in the African region, stressed the importance of appropriate skills mix and capacity, as well as gender mainstreaming. The Council also welcomed the successful use of partnerships in the region;
- b) expressed satisfaction with the evaluation FAO's role and work in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the management response, and noted that incorporation of DRR in the Organization's core development-based activities would strengthen *inter alia* work in climate change adaptation and resilience under Strategic Objective 5;

- c) commended the integration of nutrition in the reviewed Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15, encouraged further work on creating a common understanding of nutrition, and noted the importance of communication and partnerships in this regard;
- d) recalled the decision made by the 38th Session of the Conference of FAO regarding the preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the outcome of the Preparatory Technical Meeting held in Rome in November 2013. The Council encouraged the FAO Secretariat to work closely with WHO in developing a roadmap allowing for a Members-driven intergovernmental process facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council in consultation with civil society and private sector organizations. To this end, the ICN2 Secretariat is encouraged to prepare a zero draft outcome document reflecting the current challenges on nutrition as emerging from the recently held Preparatory Technical Meeting and from consultations at the regional and international level;
- e) appreciated the progress made in mainstreaming gender as a cross-cutting theme in the reviewed Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15, the inclusion of gender-specific indicators under all Strategic Objectives, and FAO's work with external partners on gender. The Council called for strengthened visibility of gender in FAO's work, notably by increasing gender capacity and gender balance at all levels; and
- f) welcomed the appointment of the new Director of the Office of Evaluation.

That is the summing up. Thank you. We come to the close of this item.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

La Delegación del Ecuador pide la palabra con relación a la propuesta para el CN2 del proceso que estuvo en pantalla.

Entendemos que habría consenso sobre este tema, sin embargo, teníamos unas dudas dado que no quedaba clara la facilitación que había para el proceso del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Como está la redacción, se da a entender que tendría un rol igualmente no sólo al interior de la FAO, sino que también tendría ese rol de facilitación junto con la OMS, porque la redacción señala que el proceso de carácter intergubernamental sería a cargo de la Secretaría de la FAO y de la OMS.

De todas maneras, este tema podríamos trabajarlo en el Comité de Redacción, así como lo relativo a las consultas a la sociedad civil y al sector privado. Podríamos afinarlo de acuerdo con la Resolución que salió de la Conferencia para poder ajustarlo, pero, como he dicho antes, podríamos tratarlo en el Comité de Redacción para avanzar en los temas de esta agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

As I have already closed this item, I think we can continue to discuss it after this meeting between you and me, because these are issues which have already been expressed. This is going to be a joint project, so whatever we do will be only joint agreement between WHO and FAO.

6. Reports of the 149th (27-28 May 2013), 150th (21-22 October 2013) and 151st (11-15 November 2013) Sessions of the Finance Committee

6. Rapports des 149^{ème} (27 et 28 mai 2013), 150^{ème} (21 et 22 octobre 2013) et 151^{ème} (11-15 novembre 2013) sessions du Comité financier

6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 149.º (27 y 28 de mayo de 2013), 150.º (21 y 22 de octubre de 2013) y 151.º (11-15 de noviembre de 2013) del Comité de Finanzas
(CL 148/4; CL 148/5; CL 148/6; CL 148/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we now turn our attention to item 6, Reports of the 149th, 150th and 151st Sessions of the Finance Committee. Please ensure you have documents CL 148/4, CL 148/5 and CL 148/6, as well as CL 148/LIM/2 regarding the Status of Contributions and Arrears, before you.

I once again ask Members to not reopen discussions on “Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15”, nor to make comments at this time on the Finance Committee's MYPOW.

Document CL 148/LIM/2 sets out the status of contributions in areas as at 26 November 2013. As at 26 November 2013, the Organization had received over USD 182 million and approximately 159 million Euros in respect of 2013 assessments. This represents 72 percent of US dollar assessments and 83 percent of Euro assessments.

In 2013, approximately USD 32 million were received from Members in full settlement of arrears and USD 25 million were received for partial payment of arrears.

As of 27 November, 22 percent of the 2013 assessed contributions remain outstanding. This is lower as compared to the same period in 2012. While total arrears have dropped significantly to 15.8 percent, 37 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding from 2012 and previous years.

There is no decision to be made on this point, but the Council is invited to emphasize the importance for all Member Nations, irrespective of size, to honour their financial obligations to the Organization in order to enable it to continue to fulfill its mandate.

I now invite Mr Mougui Médi, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce this item.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Chairman, Finance Committee)

I am before you today to present a Report of the 149th, 150th, and 151st Sessions of the Finance Committee. As you can see, there are three reports, submitted to the Council in documents CL 148/4, CL 148/5 and CL 148/6. In addition, document CL 148/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update of the status of contribution in arrears as at 26 November 2013. This document was distributed this morning.

While the 151st Session dealt with FAO issues, the 149th and 150th Sessions were special sessions convened to deal with WFP matters. Our report on WFP matters has been submitted to the second regular session of the WFP Executive Board, for its consideration.

As agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you salient highlights of the Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee, except for those matters that he himself highlighted, which will be discussed under other items of the agenda.

I will not say that it will be very short because of the density of the items discussed during the session. The report as it stands now contains highlights on monitoring financial position of the Organization, budgetary matters, Human Resources, administration and information systems for work, oversight, and other matters.

Let me start straight with monitoring financial position. In reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee welcomed the improvement in the liquidity position driven by the timing of payment by Member Nations. The Committee urged all Member Nations to continue to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that FAO continues to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work.

The Committee noted that the level of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account were both below the optimal level to guarantee the financial stability of the Organization and requested the Secretariat to carry out a comprehensive review of the amount required for these reserves and other alternative sources of funding for these requirements.

The Committee concurred with the rate of 0.03 percent for USD and 0.01 percent for Euro assessments suggested by the Director-General for use in determining the amount of discount for each Member Nation that had paid its contribution in full before 31 March 2013 and noted that the discount earned would be created against 2014 contributions.

The Committee proposed to discuss the effectiveness of the scheme, including its cost at its next regular session in 2014. The Committee approved the audited accounts of the FAO Commissary for 2012, noting the external auditors' qualifying opinions on the account. It is within the mandate of the Committee to approve this account and so we did.

The Committee took note of the options presented by the Secretariat to address the funding of After Service Medical Coverage Liabilities and encouraged the Secretariat to further review these options and any other options in the context of the consideration of this matter by the UN General Assembly, emphasizing the importance of adopting a common approach to this issue by the organizations of the United Nations Systems.

Now let us turn to budgetary matters. The Committee reviewed the report on Programme and Budget transfer in 2012-13 biennium and authorized the forecast transfer in favour of chapters 1, 8, 9, and 11, in addition to previously authorized chapters 7 and 13, from other budgetary chapters 1 through 12.

The Committee reviewed the comprehensive report on FAO's support cost policy and welcomed the initiative to develop a comprehensive financial framework for cost recovery by FAO. The Committee agreed with the schedule of activities to develop the framework by the end of 2014 and look forward to early and ongoing consultations with members of the Committee in this regard.

The Committee reviewed the annual report on support cost expenditures and recoveries covering the period from 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2013 and noted that all trust fund projects open during the period under review had been charged at rates which fell within the presently approved policy. The Committee requested that future annual reports further break down the statistics on projects approved at their ceiling rate and at a non-standard PSC (project support cost) rate.

The Committee reviewed the annual report on the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) covering the period 1 July 2012- 30 June 2013 and appreciated the key role of the Fund in enabling FAO to respond rapidly in the critical early stages of an emergency and in the protection and restoration of livelihoods and welcomed in particular the quick use of SFERA in response to the impact of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Let us now turn to Human Resources. The Committee reviewed an updated progress report on implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Framework in Action Plan 2012-13 and took note of the progress with the Human Resources Initiative for which status reports and information were specifically requested at the 148th Session.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide an update on the revised Human Resources Strategy and related Action Plan for 2014-15 for review at its next session.

Following the General Assembly's endorsement of the International Civil Service Commission recommendations to raise the mandatory age of separation to 65 for staff recruited on or after 1 January 2014, the Committee concurred with the proposed amendment to Staff Regulation 301.9.5 as presented in paragraph 30(a) of document CL 148/6, and agreed to submit this to the Council for approval in accordance with Rule XL.3 of the General Rules of the Organization.

The Committee also requested that the Secretariat raise the matter of the high level of the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the United States Federal Civil Service, to be reviewed by ICSC in order to introduce mechanisms to ensure that the margin will remain within the desirable mid-range level of 115. With the approval of this report, I think we will also get approval as sought here.

Let us now turn to administrative and information systems framework. The Finance Committee reviewed an updated progress report on the Global Resource Management Programme and welcomed the successful completion of the deployment of the Global Resource Management System (GRMS) to FAO offices worldwide as planned.

The Committee noted the information provided on administrative areas where savings had already been enabled by GRMS and requested that the Secretariat provide information at a future session of the Committee on the additional benefits and savings achieved through the implementation of the GRMS. The Committee also requested that the GRMS chairing group give due attention to the critical task of ensuring that GRMS is working effectively.

Oversight functions within FAO. The Committee reviewed an updated progress report on implementation of the external auditors' recommendations which summarize the progress made by the Organization in implementing those recommendations which had not yet been implemented and closed at the date of the previous progress report presented to the Finance Committee.

The Committee welcomed the progress made in closing recommendations of the external auditors and urged the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to close the remaining outstanding recommendations. The Committee reviewed the current status of the Programme of Work of the external auditor for the biennium 2012-13 and appreciated the comprehensiveness and quality of the audit work.

The Committee looked forward to receiving the long form report of the external auditor for the biennium 2012-13 at its autumn session in 2014 and encouraged the Organization to address the system stabilization issues observed by the external auditor during the post-GRMS deployment period.

The Committee took note of the status of actions on recommendations of the FAO Audit Committee and looked forward to a further update on the progress made when the Audit Committee's 2013 annual report will be presented at the Committee's next regular session in spring 2014.

The Committee welcomed the approval of the vendor sanctioning guidelines and called on the Director-General's initiative to strengthen the implementation of internal audit recommendations, including further emphasis on managerial responsibilities and accountability, and consideration of resource requirements.

The Committee considered the progress report on the Financial Disclosure Programme and noted with satisfaction that the programme was now operational. The Committee noted that in the future, approximately 600 staff members would be included in the programme, strengthening the oversight of FAO's operations.

The Committee noted that the Director-General may renew the appointment of external members of the Ethics Committee, subject to approval by this Council, upon recommendation by the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

The Committee then recommended the renewal of the appointment of Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol of Chad, Ms Suomi Sakai of Japan, and Mr José Zalaquett of Chile as external members of the Ethics Committee until 31 December 2015 and look forward to the assessment of the workings of the Ethics Committee in 2015. The Committee noted that the CCLM had made the same recommendation and this is put forward to the Council through the approval of this report.

The Committee considered the progress made on developing an Accountability and Internal Control Framework, as well as on implementing enterprise risk management. The Committee agreed with the conceptual approach adopted by the Secretariat to integrate accountability and internal control with risk management and requested a further progress report on accountability and internal control at its session in May 2014.

The Committee considered the report on Status of implementation of Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), recommendations by the Organization and appreciated the overall rate of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by the Secretariat.

The Committee urged the Secretariat to work through the mechanisms of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination to address the recommendations with system-wide implications and requested an annual update of the Status of implementation of JIU recommendations of relevance to FAO.

Other matters: In keeping with the request made by the 38th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013, the Committee reviewed the adjustments to the allowance and conditions associated with the Office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The Committee recommended that the annual allowance of the ICC be adjusted to USD 23,831 in line with the ICSC consolidation percentage of 0.13 percent for 2012 and that the ICC be enrolled as a participant in the Basic Medical Insurance Plan (BMIP) with the cost for such medical insurance coverage to be borne by the Organization for a total amount of USD 3,336.48 per annum.

The Committee noted that the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reform to be undertaken in 2014 would consider the role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

In conclusion, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and in particular, thanks to the Members of the Committees, all the Members inclusive, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization, though sometimes discussions were tough and difficult. But I think all the Members worked very relentlessly. I think we could achieve the product disclosed to you today.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee, then, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations. I particularly want to thank the Secretary of the Committee, Mr David McSherry, and his entire team for the work well done and our gratitude, the gratitude of the entire Members – the membership of the Committee, also go to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us the opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may require regarding our report.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

C'est au nom du Groupe régional Afrique que la délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole sur ce point, non sans féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du rapport.

Le Groupe Afrique se réjouit de la qualité du travail fourni par le Comité financier et pour le désir collectif de résoudre les difficultés de notre Organisation. C'est avec soulagement que nous avons constaté l'amélioration de la trésorerie qui nous a fait l'économie d'une crise dont nous n'avons pas besoin en ces temps difficiles. Notre soulagement se conjugue cependant avec une attitude de prudence quant au caractère insoutenable du déficit du fonds général et du déséquilibre structurel du fonds de roulement. Le Groupe Afrique s'associe aux Membres qui lancent sans cesse un appel pour que les arriérés soient honorés dans les temps.

Le Groupe Afrique prend par ailleurs note des mesures d'incitation et de recouvrement rapide des contributions. Nous estimons que ces taux d'incitation retenus n'ont pas vocation à dégeler le *status quo* actuel. Une évaluation donc s'impose pour statuer définitivement sur la pertinence de la mesure.

Concernant le statut économique du Président indépendant du Conseil, le Groupe Afrique est d'avis de demeurer fidèle à la résolution de la 38^{ème} session de la Conférence et à son objectif qui vise à garantir l'indépendance du Président indépendant du Conseil et sa capacité à renforcer sa mission en le dotant des moyens nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de ses fonctions. Nous demeurons convaincus qu'avec davantage d'effort de part et d'autre, on saura donner sa substance et sa résolution définitive à cette question dans le cadre révisé de la gouvernance de la FAO.

Le Groupe Afrique par ailleurs se félicite de l'achèvement de la mise en œuvre du PAI et nous attendons avec intérêt de mesurer les effets sur l'efficacité du management dans notre Organisation.

Le Groupe Afrique prend également note des progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre du système mondialisé de gestion de ressources et son déploiement exhaustif au niveau des bureaux décentralisés. Nous restons attentifs à l'évaluation de son impact sur l'équilibre des ressources de l'Organisation.

Pour conclure Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique, qui est pleinement conscient de la volatilité généralisée des facteurs qui conditionnent aussi bien les objectifs et les programmes de l'Organisation, demeure mobilisé et attentif aux signaux que nous transmettra le management pour adapter d'une manière permanente notre gouvernance à l'impératif de résilience des priorités et de l'équilibre de financement.

Enfin, j'aimerais juste ajouter que le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux décisions et aux recommandations du Rapport de la 151^{ème} session du Comité financier et au travail accompli par le Comité financier. Je précise également que les commentaires qui reflètent les positions du Groupe Afrique sur la 149^{ème} et la 150^{ème} session seront présentés par l'honorable délégation de la Guinée.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer lugar, sumarme al reconocimiento que se le ha hecho al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por la presentación de los Informes que nos han llegado y por su detallada explicación, que nos aclara

tan difícil tema cuyo abordaje de este tema financiero, presupuestario, tanto en la FAO como en el PMA.

En primer lugar, quisiéramos realizar algunas observaciones u opiniones con relación al Informe del 149.º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, pero es en la misma dirección en que comentábamos el día de ayer. Ya hemos mencionado en el día de ayer algunas de esas recomendaciones, y que tienen que ver con la necesidad de reducir los gastos, los procedimientos administrativos y burocráticos, y con la rendición de cuentas, y que en este caso particular puede ser aplicada también para el Programa Mundial de Alimentos dado lo que se reporta en ese Informe que ya lo diremos más adelante.

Igualmente instamos, como ha señalado el Comité de Finanzas, a que se cumpla con el pago puntual de las cuotas para poder ejecutar íntegramente el PTP. También nos complacen los esfuerzos de la Organización para seguir trabajando con los miembros en situación de atraso en el pago de sus cuotas a fin de que podamos pronto revertir esta problemática.

Venezuela considera importante la simplificación tanto de los procesos como de los gastos administrativos y burocráticos, porque de esta manera los fondos derivados de los ahorros bien pueden ser redireccionados hacia actividades que redunden en un mayor rendimiento de la cooperación que presta el PMA. Es decir, en una reducción significativa del volumen de personas víctimas de hambre, desnutrición y pobreza.

En cuanto a la solicitud efectuada por el Comité de Finanzas, en el punto A, de intensificar las labores de promoción ante los donantes para que financien sus actividades, Venezuela desea expresar su preocupación para que estos mecanismos de financiamiento en el largo plazo no se comporten como esquemas que puedan afectar el objetivo que nos proponemos, que es ayudar a las poblaciones más vulnerables del mundo.

Sobre los puntos B y C referidos a la presentación, los ahorros monetarios y no monetarios realizados en el marco del presupuesto AP, coincidimos con lo que se señala en el Informe sobre la necesidad de expresar la cuantía y la fuente de los ahorros derivados de mayor eficiencia lograda y de las economías de escala realizadas por el PMA.

Venezuela insta al PMA a adoptar mecanismos de rendición de cuentas y transparencia de acuerdo a criterios similares a los de Dependencia Común de Inspección, así como aquellos que han sido aprobados en el marco de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, como parte del proceso de reforma del sistema ONU orientados hacia la búsqueda de una mayor transparencia, al mejoramiento de la calidad y eficiencia en el desarrollo de los programas y a la rendición de cuentas.

Por último, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela acoge con satisfacción las solicitudes realizadas por el Comité de Finanzas en los Informes de los 149.º, 150.º y 151.º períodos de sesiones.

M. Marc YOMBOUNO (Guinée)

Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite le Président du Comité financier pour la présentation des rapports de la 149^{ème}, de la 150^{ème} et de la 151^{ème} session.

La Délégation guinéenne intervient au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 6 de l'ordre du jour relatif aux rapports de la 149^{ème} et de la 150^{ème} session du Comité financier concernant l'examen des questions intéressant le Programme alimentaire mondial (le PAM). Les commentaires de la 151^{ème} session consacrée essentiellement à la situation financière de l'Organisation, ont été déjà faits par la Délégation marocaine.

Au titre de la 149^{ème} session le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux conclusions et recommandations de la dite session et se félicite que le Comité ait examiné plusieurs questions portant sur le Plan stratégique 2014-2017, les comptes annuels vérifiés de 2012, les rapports annuels du Comité d'audit de l'Inspecteur général et du Commissaire aux comptes. S'agissant du Plan stratégique du PAM 2014-2017, le Groupe Afrique approuve les quatre objectifs stratégiques qui orientent l'action du PAM pour atteindre ces objectifs et apprécie le cadre des résultats stratégiques élaboré pour évaluer le résultat de l'impact de la mise en œuvre de ce plan.

En ce qui concerne les comptes annuels vérifiés de 2012 nous prenons bonne note des recommandations formulées par le Commissaire aux comptes et de l'engagement pris par le Secrétariat pour donner une suite aux dites recommandations. Nous nous réjouissons de la qualité de ces comptes vérifiés pour lesquels les Commissaires aux comptes n'ont pas émis de réserve.

Quant au rapport du Comité d'audit le Groupe Afrique a accueilli avec satisfaction les avis favorables de ce Comité ainsi que les actions menées par le secrétariat du PAM pour renforcer la gestion des risques liés au prix des produits de base.

A propos de l'examen des articles 9.2 du Règlement financier concernant la modification de l'échéancier du Plan de gestion proposé par le PAM, nous retenons la recommandation faite par le Comité financier selon laquelle le Plan de gestion proposé serait distribué à ses Membres au moins trente jours avant la dernière session ordinaire de chaque année civile.

Par rapport à la 150^{ème} session du Comité financier tenue à Rome le 21 et 22 octobre 2013 le Groupe régional Afrique se félicite de l'élaboration du Plan de gestion du PAM 2014-2016 qui a fait l'objet d'un large processus consultatif. Nous prenons note que le PAM prévoit de porter assistance en 2014 à 96 millions de bénéficiaires et que cela correspondrait à des besoins opérationnels se chiffrant à 5,9 milliards de dollars américains, et qu'il est recommandé de tenir compte de la hiérarchisation des priorités et de combler le déficit de financement à travers l'appui des donateurs qui doivent être approchés par le PAM. Il est important de noter que le rapport donne des informations précises sur le Plan de gestion du PAM 2014-2016 qui prévoit au titre du budget administratif et d'appui aux programmes un montant de 281,8 millions de dollars pour 2014.

Le Groupe Afrique se réjouit des mesures devant être prises très prochainement dans l'examen du cadre du projet de financement en accordant la priorité aux pays nécessaires afin de permettre au PAM de mieux atteindre ses objectifs.

Monsieur le Président, notre délégation, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, soutient l'approbation des rapports de la 149^{ème} et de la 150^{ème} session du Comité financier par le Conseil, rapports déjà approuvés par le Conseil d'administration du PAM.

M. Luca FRATINI (Italie)

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole à la Lituanie en tant que Présidente de l'Union européenne.

Ms Laima CIGRIEJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We commend the work of the Finance Committee at its 151st Session, welcome the conclusion and advice to the Council as contained in the Report on this session.

We would like to limit our comments on some of the points of this Report. Looking at FAO's financial position, we welcome that the Organization's liquidity position has improved, mainly due to timely payments by most of the Member Nations.

We endorse the Committee's appeal to Members for prompt payments in order to ensure that FAO meets their operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work. Referring to the levels of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account, we endorse the requested comprehensive review of the amounts required for these reserves and of the alternative sources of funding for these requirements.

Firstly, our position on Member Nations' payment of contributions is clear. Member Nations should pay on time. It is unfortunate that we even need to discuss that issue.

Secondly, the review of the current incentive scheme for prompt payments of contributions demonstrates that the current processing costs of that scheme could be higher than the estimated total discount.

Furthermore, we strongly support the request that the Finance Committee discuss the effectiveness and the cost of the scheme at its session in spring. How to motivate more Members to pay their contributions in a timely manner and how to revise the current process for prompt payments should be reviewed.

We appreciate the Committee's conclusions on funding of After Service Medical Coverage liabilities and see the need to further review the options to address the After Service Medical Coverage liabilities.

We also see the need for the Organizations of the United Nations System to adopt a common approach to this issue in the frame of existing resources. FAO should continue to participate actively in the respective working group of the UN finance and budget network. In the meantime, FAO should continue its efforts to contain the costs of the current medical insurance plan.

Referring to FAO's support cost policy, we welcome FAO's initiative to develop a comprehensive financial framework for cost recovery, taking into consideration that development in other UN agencies and the changes in the operating environment, in particular those resulting from the global deployment of the Global Resource Management System (GRMS).

We are in favor of the Committee's recommendation to follow the decision of the International Civil Service Commission to raise the mandatory age of separation to 65 years for staff recruit from 1 January 2014 in order to align FAO's rules and the mandatory age of separation with those of the UN common system.

We note the progress in the implementation of GRMS and welcome its deployment in all FAO offices. We welcome the fact that savings have already been enabled by GRMS. We acknowledge that the first year of operating a new system provides particular challenges.

Therefore we ask that special attention be given to implementation issues surrounding the financial reporting, travel models and the enhancement of project controls in order to ensure that GRMS is working effectively soon particularly in capacity building.

Following some observations made during Membership field missions, we would welcome a policy document that explains FAO strategy and the criteria used for the closure of certain FAO offices and the opening of new FAO offices in the field.

We acknowledge that the Finance Committee deliberated the adjustments of the allowance and conditions associated with the Office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council following the request made by the FAO Conference at its 38th Session and endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan, as a Member of the Finance Committee, endorses all three Reports. We would like to echo the words of appreciation by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to the Secretary of Finance Committee, Mr McSherry, and his team.

We have one comment on the report of the 150th Session of the Finance Committee, which is regarding the work of WFP. Specifically regarding the timeframe of reviewing the ISC (Indirect Support Costs). It is already December and we are concerned about the limited time available before the WFP Executive Board in February next year, and we would like to request that WFP Secretariat provide well advanced information and an opportunity for consultation with Member Nations on the review of ISC.

Issues such as benefit of the past one-time expenditure and simplification of the PSA budget with non-recurring and recurring costs should also be considered in the course of the review. We are communicating with WFP Secretariat but we wanted to repeat it at this opportunity.

Before closing, as a Member of the Finance Committee, Japan would like to report to the Council that the 151st Session of the Finance Committee celebrated the birthday of the Chairperson, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI which was on 7 November and it was a one-time event with no cost implication.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GOMEZ (Cuba)

Agradecemos la presentación exhaustiva de los documentos realizada por el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas y apoyamos la aprobación de todos estos documentos.

En aras del tiempo, sólo nos referiremos a unos breves detalles con respecto específicamente al Plan de gestión del PMA 2014-2015.

Cuba acoge con satisfacción el nivel de financiación de las necesidades que ha alcanzado el PMA para este período. Deseamos destacar la importancia de que la Organización pueda atender todas las necesidades previstas y las que puedan presentarse en distintas regiones del mundo.

Por ello, instamos a los países donantes tradicionales a que incrementen sus aportes para que el PMA pueda cubrir sus necesidades identificadas en el plan de gestión. Igualmente, instamos a que se consideren otras fuentes de financiamiento procedentes de donantes no tradicionales y la potenciación de la cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular, así como continuar explorando mecanismos novedosos de financiación.

Finalmente, nuestra Delegación desea reiterar su disposición de continuar realizando donaciones de azúcar al PMA, así como colaborar por otras vías posibles.

Ms Abla MALIK OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his very effective role which has allowed us to have very successful work during the last session. I would also like to congratulate him for his excellent leadership and management and as Sudan is a member of this Committee, I just have a little question, or rather a remark, about human resources.

In the document which was submitted to us by the Secretariat, there is a mention of progress made as regards the improvement of the geographical distribution of posts among the various regions within FAO. Unfortunately, there are still some regions, particularly the Near East, which are under-represented in respect to certain posts in FAO.

So in the Finance Committee, we proposed that there was a need to try to explore means which would allow us to adjust this geographical distribution so as to ensure it was just and equitable between all regions. Countries should be informed by the Secretariat as soon as a post falls vacant and the Permanent Representatives of the countries need to be aware as things progress regarding vacant posts.

This would allow us to say that the responsibility falls on the countries who should encourage their citizens to apply to these vacant posts. Seventy percent of the under-represented countries are Near East countries which speak Arabic. So, there is a need for FAO to find the means to assist countries or encourage them to be represented in the Secretariat. Therefore, I repeat, there is a need to encourage countries to seek amongst their citizens the future civil servants of FAO.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je voudrais dire merci à tous ceux qui ont pris la parole ici, notamment à la Lituanie au nom de l'Union européenne, au Japon, au Maroc, au Venezuela, à la Guinée, et à Cuba pour les pays Membres, et au Soudan pour les Observateurs.

Je suis flatté par les mots aimables que beaucoup d'entre vous ont adressés à l'endroit du Président du Comité Financier mais je pense que ces mots aimables, je m'en fais le devoir de les transmettre à tous les membres du Comité. Parce que sans les membres du Comité et leur volonté de travailler on n'aurait pas pu faire le travail qui nous a été demandé parce que, vous le savez certainement et vous l'avez vu ici, il s'agit de questions très techniques, vraiment très techniques, qui demandent une certaine technicité et beaucoup de volonté, beaucoup de lecture et il faut pouvoir comprendre les questions pour pouvoir réagir. Je crois que si les Membres n'étaient pas suffisamment avertis on n'aurait pas pu arriver au résultat que nous avons aujourd'hui pour le bien de l'Organisation. Je voudrais donc transmettre ces mots chaleureux à tous les membres du Comité financier.

Je voudrais par ailleurs revenir sur quelques questions qui ont été évoquées par certaines délégations.

Continues in English

I would like to talk about the incentive scheme which is an issue of permanent discussion within the Committee. I think one of the arguments was that we revisit that in our next sessions and certainly we will come out with some recommendations for the Council on the way forward. So please bear with us. We work very closely with the Secretariat to come up with some recommendations on the incentive scheme.

The issue of the GRMS, Global Resource Management System, I think we agreed that it is very operational now and that the Secretariat will work on that and give us further reporting on its efficiency and efficacy and we are waiting for the report of the Secretariat on that issue.

I think Japan brought the issue of the time frame for revisiting the ICSC within WFP. Mr Chairperson of the Council, I think this is a matter for you to convey the message to the President of the WFP Executive Board, who can probably take up that matter within WFP.

The issue that was brought up by Sudan on the geographic representation of Member Nations within FAO, there is a formula to calculate that but I think she brought up the matter during our discussion and we felt that it is a general issue so it should not be just put at the level of the Near East Group. If you look at our recommendation, it is much more general than concerning one region, and I think it is a well noted issue and we're going to look at it in our subsequent meetings.

Mr David MCSHERRY (Secretary, Finance Committee)

I just wanted to thank the Members and say that we have already begun the work on the five or six fairly major studies that you have referred to during your debates ranging from GRMS, to support costs and we're continuing to work hard on the question of geographical distribution.

So in all of the areas the Committee has touched on and the Council has re-emphasized, we have already begun the work for your consideration next year to continue these processes.

CHAIRPERSON

Now, let me make a brief conclusion on this item before we break for lunch.

The Council endorsed the reports of the 149th, 150th and 151st Sessions on the Finance Committee, and in particular:

- 1) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payments of assessed contributions to ensure the Organization continues to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work;
- 2) noted that the Finance Committee had concurred with the rates of 0.03 percent of USD and 0.01 percent for Euro assessments suggested by the Director-General for use in determining the amount of discount for each Member Nation that has paid its contributions in full before 31 March 2013;
- 3) noted that the Finance Committee had authorized forecast budgetary Chapter transfers arising from implementation of the 2012-13 Programme of Work in favour of Chapters 1, 8, 9 and 11, in addition to previously authorized Chapters 7 and 13, from the other budgetary Chapters in 1 through 12;
- 4) approved the proposed amendments to Staff Regulation 301.9.5 in relation to the raising of the mandatory age of separation to 65 for staff recruited on or after 1 January 2014 as follows: "Staff members may not be retained in active service beyond the age of 65 years (65 years for staff members appointed prior to 1 January 2014), unless the Director-General, in the interest of the Organization, extends this age limit in exceptional cases. Normally, such extension will be up to a maximum period of one year at a time. Staff members whose participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund commences or recommences before 1 January 1990 may elect to retire at the age of 60 years";
- 5) endorsed the renewal of the appointment of Mr Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol of Chad, Ms Suomi Sakai of Japan, and Mr José Zalaquett of Chile as external members of the Ethics Committee until 31 December 2015; and

- 6) endorsed the proposed adjustment to the annual allowance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to USD 23,851 in line with the ICSC consolidation percentage of 0.13 percent for 2012 and the enrolment of the ICC as a participant in the Basic Medical Insurance Plan with the cost for such medical insurance coverage to be borne by the Organization.

With that, we come to the conclusion of item 6.

Ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this morning's session.

May I remind you of the Side Event on the Blue Economy concept entitled "The FAO Global Initiative in Support of Food Security, Poverty Elimination and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources", from 13:00 to 14:30 in the Iran Room.

We will resume our meeting at 14:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:49 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 49

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.49

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2013

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.37 hours

Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,

Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 37

sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,

Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.37

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,

Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Fourth Meeting of the 148th Session of the FAO Council open.

Before continuing with our work this afternoon, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, who has an announcement to make regarding nominations for the World Food Programme Executive Board. Mr Gagnon, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have an announcement to make regarding candidates for Membership of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016.

Notice of withdrawal of the following list B candidate countries has been received by the Secretariat. Bangladesh and Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, for list B there is now only one candidate for one seat, namely Saudi Arabia.

Item 15, "Election of Six Members of the WFB Executive Board" is scheduled for tomorrow morning. As a consequence of the aforementioned withdrawals, the Chairperson will submit to the Council that appointment of the six candidates be decided by clear general consent, and not by secret ballot.

9. Report of the 97th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-23 October 2013)

9. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-dix-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 octobre 2013)

9. Informe del 97.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de octubre de 2013)

(CL 148/2 [Rev.1 English only])

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 9, Report of the 97th Session of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters, which took place from 21 to 23 October this year.

The document before you is CL 148/2. Please note that the English version is found in CL 148/2 Rev.1.

This document includes two draft Conference Resolutions for endorsement by Council and submission to the Conference for approval. These are: a draft Resolution entitled "Amendment of Rule XII, paragraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization" regarding the procedure for election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council; a draft Resolution entitled "Amendment of Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization" regarding a unified procedure for multiple elections by the Conference or Council.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that the Report contains a third draft Resolution for submission to the Finance Committee setting forth the process of implementation of Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution on restoration of voting rights of Members in arrears.

Ambassador Ivanov, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, will introduce the Report.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I am indeed honoured to present the Report of the 97th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in the absence of the Chairperson, Ms Mónica Martínez. Unfortunately, she could not travel to Rome because of other commitments.

The 97th Session of the CCLM was held from 21 to 23 October 2013. The agenda was a rather heavy one, also because the CCLM considered a number of items which could not be addressed in the past few years.

The CCLM examined the document “Bureaus and Steering Committees of Technical Committees under Article V of the Constitution (Composition and Functions)”. The Committee noted that issues covered by the document were under negotiation by the membership of Technical Committees and decided to review any relevant legal issues that could arise at a future session.

The CCLM reviewed the Organization’s practice concerning acceptance of credentials of delegations for the Conference and endorsed a set of proposals aimed at streamlining the overall process of review of credentials. The proposals are described in the CCLM Report and involve increased reliance on electronic credentials and on communications received from Permanent Representations to FAO.

The CCLM approved the proposal: first, to discontinue the practice of establishing a Resolutions Committee of the Conference, noting that the editorial review functions of the Resolutions Committee could, if necessary, be taken over by an *ad hoc* committee established by the Conference or entrusted to the Secretariat; second, to accordingly amend the standard arrangements for the sessions of the Conference examined by the Council and the General Committee of the Conference; third, to maintain existing criteria for draft Conference Resolutions.

The CCLM examined a document entitled “Review by the Finance Committee of the situation of Member Nations in arrears prior to a Conference session – Amendment to the Basic Texts”, and endorsed a draft Conference Resolution setting forth the process for the implementation of Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution, on restoration of voting rights by the Conference of Members in arrears. The CCLM decided to transmit the draft Resolution to the Council and to the Conference.

The Council is also invited to consider whether the procedure could be applied on a voluntary basis prior to the forthcoming session of the Conference. However, this matter is still to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and the proposal is that the Council examine the matter at its session in June 2014.

The CCLM examined a document on “Voting procedures by the Conference (appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and election of Council Members) – Amendment to the General Rules of the Organization.

The CCLM endorsed an amendment to Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization on the possibility of electing the Independent Chairperson of the Council by general consent in situations where there is only one candidate for the office. The CCLM noted that the matter had been occasionally under discussion in the past.

The Committee also noted that the proposal involved political considerations and, except for one Member, decided to forward the draft Conference Resolution entitled “Amendment to Rule XII, subparagraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization” to the Council and to the Conference.

The CCLM also agreed with a proposal to introduce a unique simplified procedure for multiple elections by the Conference and the Council, i.e. in elections to fill simultaneously more than one elective place, and endorsed a draft Conference Resolution entitled “Amendment to Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization”, which it transmitted to the Council and to the Conference.

The Committee examined the “Preliminary review of participation of international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in meetings of FAO - Legal Aspects”, and concluded that it was essential to initiate a process for the reformulation of rules and procedures for the participation of NGOs and CSOs in meetings of FAO, with due regard being paid to the two recently adopted FAO Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and with the Private Sector, and emphasized that the intergovernmental nature of FAO's decision making process should be maintained.

The CCLM noted the need to facilitate the work of the Ethics Committee during its trial period, and recommended the renewal of the appointment of the current three external members of the Ethics Committee for a second term of two years until December 2015: Ms Sakai, Mr Mbaidjol, and Mr Zalaquett. The Finance Committee has made a similar recommendation.

The CCLM examined the document on the Global Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) initiative, and concurred with the recommendation that the GIAHS initiative be vested with formal status within the FAO framework, and endorsed the initiation of a process for the development of a draft Conference Resolution, as described in the CCLM Report.

The CCLM noted the information provided on the activities of the Development Law Branch (LEGN), including on collaborative initiatives with other partners, its involvement in work planning and the future implementation of the new FAO Strategic Framework. The Committee proposed that, as far as possible, it be provided with information reports on selected practical examples of activities undertaken by that unit at its future sessions.

The CCLM noted the information provided in document CL 148/10, "Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms" and considered that there were no issues of a legal nature which would require the advice or guidance of the Committee at this point in time.

The Committee endorsed the Progress Report on the Multi-year Programme of Work for the CCLM and, in that connection, reiterated the distinctive features of the Committee's work, in consideration of its nature and institutional mandate.

The CCLM noted the information provided on working methods of Regional Conferences and on the International Rice Commission. This is, Mr Chairperson, the Report that we submit to your consideration and I would invite the Council, through you, to approve the Report.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

La Delegación de Ecuador quiere agradecer al Vicepresidente del Comité por la presentación del Informe, pues conclusiones y resultados respaldamos, sin prejuicios de lo cual, queremos realizar algunos comentarios. Con relación al examen preliminar de la participación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Internacionales (ONG) y Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil (OSC), coincidimos en la necesidad de que la FAO cuente con un marco legal único respecto a la participación de estas Organizaciones, ya que actualmente existen dos modalidades. Por un lado la que establece lo Textos Fundamentales en relación con las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales y, por otro, la adoptada a través de prácticas y políticas establecidas en los últimos años, con respecto a la sociedad civil y el sector privado.

Consideramos importante y valiosas las contribuciones que esas Organizaciones puedan aportar a los temas de trabajo de la Organización. Sin embargo, esa participación no deberá menoscabar el carácter intergubernamental de los Órganos y Comités técnicos. Y menos aún, en cuanto al proceso de toma de decisiones. La necesidad de que la FAO aborde este tema y adopte un solo criterio respecto a los mecanismos de participación de las ONG, de la sociedad civil y el sector privado ha quedado evidenciado esta mañana, al surgir este tema nuevamente en cuanto al proceso preparativo que se recomienda para la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición.

Respaldamos la recomendación del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM), para que se inicie un proceso de redefinición de los procedimientos y normas aplicables. Tener en cuenta los reglamentos y prácticas del sistema de Naciones Unidas y previo un debate político sobre este tema.

Con respecto a las disposiciones de trabajo y procedimientos de certificación correspondientes a los sistemas importantes del patrimonio agrícola mundial, queremos resaltar la importancia de estos sistemas que constituyen un legado colectivo de importancia fundamental para la humanidad y el deber que los Estados y la FAO tienen para preservar, promover y proteger el patrimonio agrícola; así como los derechos y saberes de las comunidades rurales y pueblos indígenas. Por esta razón, respaldamos que se confiera carácter oficial a la iniciativa de los SIPAM, así como la recomendación del Comité para la preparación de un proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia en este sentido.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

My delegation wishes to commend you for the able leadership with which you have conducted this meeting thus far and also appreciates your time consciousness in various interventions.

Liberia is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and wishes to take this opportunity to commend the Chairperson of the CCLM, Ms Mónica Martínez Menduiño, all the Members of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Secretariat of the Committee, in particular the Legal Office for their hard work and their excellent and comprehensive Report as presented.

They expressed extreme patience during the deliberations and we want to thank them. The Africa group takes note that the CCLM examined and reviewed the composition and functions of the Bureaus and Steering Committees of the Technical Committee which is under discussion through negotiations by the Membership of Technical Committees and which decided to review the legal aspects at a future session.

The Africa group welcomes and endorses the recommendations by the CCLM. After reviewing the Organization's practice concerning the acceptance of credentials of delegations to the Conference, taking into account the practice used by other UN System Organizations. In particular, the Africa Group endorses:

- a) The overall view of credentials as streamlined in the CCLM recommendations and that if the current system of list A and B, be abolished, under the Credentials Committee follow the prevailing practice of the Organizations of the United Nations System that credentials in electronic form be accepted with the understanding that formal credentials of Members and Associate Members in original form are to be communicated to the Director-General in due course.
- b) That credentials be validly communicated. Through documents such as Note Verbales or Ordres de Mission and that general consideration be given to increased reliance on credentials issued by Permanent Representatives accredited to the Organization.
- c) That a Credentials Committee and the Conference should continue to follow the practice that issues of representation of Governments and Member Nations are to be dealt with by reference to the practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Africa regional group endorses the CCLM proposal to this Council to discontinue the Resolutions Committee of the Conference as its function has been limited to merely editorial matters.

My delegation wishes to underline here the recommendations of the 2005 Conference recommending that a normal course of action in respect of Member Nations in arrears should consist of encouraging them to submit an installment plan for the settlement of arrears for the restoration of their voting rights.

Countries who find themselves in crisis and natural disasters are faced with many challenges and therefore these challenges should be considered when adopting any resolution setting forth the process of implementation of Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

After reviewing the recommendation of the CCLM on the voting procedures by the Conference on appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and election of Council Members, the Africa Regional Group endorses the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix 2 entitled Amendment of Rule XII, subparagraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, including Appendix 3 entitled Amendment of Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization. Taking into account the political considerations and connotations, the Africa Group wishes to forward the same to the Conference for consideration.

In reference to the participation of NGOs and CSOs in meetings of FAO, the Africa Regional Group also notes and welcomes the comprehensive nature of the information provided, which is an essential starting point for the re-definition of procedures for the implementation of the recently adopted the FAO Strategy for Partnership with Civil Society Organizations and the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector in eradicating hunger.

We therefore welcome the need to initiate a process of establishing rules and procedures for their participation in meetings of the Organization securing food security and nutrition, bearing in mind the CCLM's emphasis in its Reports that the inter-Governmental nature of the FAO decision making process should be maintained.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the renewal of the appointment of the current three external Members of the Ethics Committee for a second term of two years. That is, up to December 2015. After which an evaluation report will be presented and reviewed to determine the relevance of such a Committee.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the CCLM recommendations on the certification procedures under the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System initiatives. And therefore recommends that the Committee of Programme, Finance and Agriculture be mandated to discuss and advice on relevant budgetary pragmatic and technical aspects of the GIAHS.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, the Africa Regional Group takes note of the information provided on the activities of the Development Law Branch (LEGN) of the Legal Office, including on collaborative initiatives with other partners.

Mr Chairperson, contributions from this specialized body should also be shared with the decentralized FAO offices for capacity building in the nearby future.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Lithuania speaking on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Laima CIGRIEJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the results of the 97th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, support in principle its recommendations and proposals to the Council and take note of the information provided in the Report of the Session.

With regard to the issue of the composition and functions of Bureaus and Steering Committees of Technical Committees, a high degree of consistency and harmonization is desirable and we encourage the Technical Committees to continue working to this end. We do not see the need of generic provisions on rotation of positions and want to reiterate the key importance of the merit-based approach as far as positions are concerned.

In a spirit of pragmatism, effectiveness, and rationalization of the work of the FAO Governing Bodies, we endorse their proposals to streamline the overall process of review and acceptance of credentials of delegations to the Conference and to discontinue the practice of establishing a Resolutions Committee of the Conference.

Regarding the review by the Finance Committee of the situation of Member Nations in areas prior to the Conference session, we support the CCLM proposal for the adoption of a Conference Resolution as well as its implementation on a voluntary basis prior to the forthcoming session of the Conference. This approach should introduce a high degree of clarity and effectiveness in the procedures and mechanisms and provide for more thorough and results-oriented examination of the Member Nations' requests and instalment plans. We hope for a positive impact both on the work of the Conference without prejudice to its authority for autonomous determination and on the issue of the areas as a whole.

We are of the view that there is a need and room for improving and streamlining the voting procedures of the Conference on the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and election of Council Members as well as the introduction of a unique procedure for multiple elections by the Conference and the Council. We are fully aware of the existing political sensitivities but they can be addressed in a pragmatic manner and not prevent us from taking this important matter forward.

The relevant draft Conference resolutions forwarded by the CCLM are a good basis for making progress on the issue of the Conference and Council voting procedures and we look forward to the further discussion and eventual adoption.

We support the initiation of a process for the reformulation of rules and procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in FAO meetings. The CFS mechanism of an Advisory Group could form a good basis in this regard. The involvement of the private sector is also highly important. The FAO needs adequate procedures and mechanisms for the implementation of its strategies for partnership with civil society organizations but also with private sector organizations such as the Global Food Partnership or Global Agenda for Action.

We have full clarity about the complexity of the issues involved and are ready to address them in a flexible, open-minded, and constructive manner.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Agradecemos la presentación del Documento CL 148/2 con las recomendaciones del 97 ° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela toma nota de los resultados del Comité, en particular el párrafo "G" del recuadro de los aspectos a ser considerados por el Consejo referido a la necesidad de reformular las normas y los procedimientos relativos a la participación de las organizaciones no gubernamentales y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

En línea con la recomendación del Comité, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha expresado en diferentes Órganos Rectores su preocupación por el debilitamiento del carácter intergubernamental de la toma de decisiones dentro de la Organización que podría otorgar un mayor rango de participación a las ONG y a la sociedad civil. Estas reformas, de producirse, deben orientarse hacia una renovación institucional para hacer más democrática la Institución y para promover mecanismos que no debiliten el carácter intergubernamental de la toma de decisiones establecidos en los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización.

Por tanto, sobre este tema debe prestarse debida atención a las dos estrategias de la FAO recién aprobadas, para las asociaciones con las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y con el sector privado que resguardan como lo ha dicho el CCLM, la toma de decisiones de los Estados Miembros.

El proceso encaminado a reformular las normas y los procedimientos relativos a la participación de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en las reuniones de la organización requiere de un mayor estudio. Consideramos que estas reformas deben, repetimos, estar orientadas a preservar la naturaleza intergubernamental del proceso de adopción de decisiones en la FAO. Por tanto, estaríamos disponibles a que se abra un proceso de discusión interna que nos permita establecer reglamentos para este tipo de participación, dado los resultados que han sido observados en los organismos de debate, donde están presentes dichas organizaciones.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La Delegación de Cuba agradece la presentación del Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. En específico nos referiremos a tres aspectos del Informe.

En primer lugar, nuestra Delegación apoya el proyecto de resolución para la Conferencia sobre el restablecimiento de los derechos de voto, garantizando que el máximo Órgano de la FAO, es decir, la Conferencia, tome decisión sobre este tema. En segundo lugar, apoyamos la propuesta para reformular las normas y los procedimientos para hacer efectiva la participación de Organizaciones Internacionales No Gubernamentales y de la sociedad civil en las reuniones de la FAO, según las estrategias aprobadas en la 38 ° Conferencia de esta Organización.

En correspondencia con las preocupaciones mostradas antes por las distinguidas Delegaciones de Colombia y Venezuela, también Cuba desea insistir en la necesidad de que los Estados Miembros contemos sistemáticamente con toda la información necesaria para dar un adecuado seguimiento a este proceso y asegurar su adecuada transparencia. De manera que se asegure el carácter intergubernamental de la toma de decisiones en la FAO.

Por último, manifestamos nuestro acuerdo con las dos resoluciones para aprobación de la Conferencia con propuesta de modificación de reglamento general con respecto a las elecciones múltiples en las

Conferencias y el Consejo y que simplifican los procedimientos correspondientes para las votaciones. Dicho esto, la Delegación de Cuba aprueba ambos documentos.

Mr Hassan JANABY (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I have a very brief intervention and this intervention will be on behalf of the Near East Group. First and foremost, I would like to thank Ambassador Ivanov for presenting this report and I would also like to pay tribute to the Secretariat for preparing this comprehensive and excellent report which clearly and truthfully reflects the deliberations of the 97th Session of the CCLM.

This Session was very intense. I chaired this Committee for two years and over those two years, the sessions were lighter so I would like to thank Ms Mónica Martínez for chairing this very important Session.

Mr Chairman, CCLM deals with constitutional and legal matters with regard to resolutions that are adopted by the Governing Bodies of this Organization. These procedures are debated within the Committees and within the Governing Bodies and as such, the CCLM cannot adopt a definitive position. This applies to the Steering Committees of the Technical Committees and we support the continuation of discussion of this issue in Technical Committees to be referred later on to the CCLM once the discussion in the Technical Committees is finalized.

We would also like to express support to the proposal related to the situation of Member Nations who are in arrears. The Member Nations who are in arrears should not be prevented from participating in the work of this Organization. On the contrary, we need to find an adequate mechanism that would provide for the effective and efficient participation of Member Nations and this can be done once this mechanism is adopted once and for all. And as such, we support the Draft Resolution which will be submitted to the Finance Committee and which is included in Appendix 1.

We seek a clarification with regard to the implementation of this recommendation on a voluntary basis. This was indicated in this Report. We seek a clarification about the meaning and implication of voluntary implementation of this Resolution or recommendation.

We also support the proposal that aims at the Conference for adopting a Resolution with regard to the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article V. So if the Conference which is the highest Governing Body in this Organization has the authority to take this decision, then we feel that the Articles of the Constitution should not be reviewed once and again and this should be done in the Conference and other Governing Bodies.

As for the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of Council, we are not used to a report being submitted to Council or Conference and that this report should mention that one Member of the CCLM did not agree with the proposal. I do not see the use and I do not see any benefit in such a reference within a report of the CCLM.

I think that we should have expressed this in a different manner. I don't think that this formulation is useful. I don't think that it is productive and if we continue and if we adopt this practice for other Committees, then we have to mention, in a different paragraph, that five Member Nations did not agree and so on and this is not useful. I would also like to point out that there are discrepancies between the Arabic and English text in this regard.

We also support elections by general consent with regard to the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. If there is one candidate, then we should not waste time by casting votes and ballots. We need to make the utmost use of our time. This is not an election to uphold the popularity of this candidate. Let us assume that the current Independent Chairperson of the Council had achieved or had obtained 50 less votes than the votes he obtained during the elections. This would not have changed anything. If we have one candidate for one position, then election should be done by general consent because casting ballots is a very costly process that takes up too much time. We need to respect the Constitution. We need to respect the various articles of the Constitution but the Constitution was adopted in order to facilitate the work of the Organization and not to further complicate it. As such, we support the proposal to amend paragraph 10(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

With regard to abolishing the Resolution Committee, we have no objection to this proposal because we are confident that this proposal has been reviewed thoroughly. However, what do we gain by abolishing this Committee? Was this Committee and the work of this Committee costly? Did it require lots of efforts? Was it a controversial issue? I think that the abolition of this Committee, the Resolutions Committee, will lead to an unusual state. We will have to resort to *ad hoc* Committees and this will lead to further complications.

I would like to seek a clarification with regard to the discussion that took place within the CCLM related to the abolition of the Resolutions Committee.

Our group, the Near East Group, also supports the extension of the mandate of the Ethics Committee provided that we review its work in June 2015. I think that several speakers expressed support for this and I also agree with previous speakers who mentioned the importance of preserving the intergovernmental nature and character of our Organization, especially when it comes to decision-making. While stressing the importance of partnership with NGOs and civil society organizations, our Organization is open-minded and is willing to cooperate with NGOs and civil society organizations. But this should not prevent it from undertaking its central role as an intergovernmental organization and if there are proposals that run contrary to this intergovernmental character of FAO, then we call for the revisiting and redrafting of these proposals by reviewing the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations.

And finally, we support the recommendation related to the specific nature of the CCLM and as such, we support the Multi-year Programme of Work for the CCLM and we welcome the Report of the 97th Session of the CCLM.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original Language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the report of the 97th Session of the CCLM. We would also like to thank the Vice Chairman of the CCLM for the presentation. The Chinese delegation supports CCLM's proposal to modify the practice concerning acceptance of credentials of delegations to the Conference. FAO should follow the prevailing practice in other Organizations of the UN System, Notes Verbales from delegations should be accepted as credentials.

As regards the proposed abolition of the Resolutions Committee of the Conference, amendment to the General Rules of the Organization concerning voting procedures by the Conference which is to say the appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and election of Council Members, since these measures aim to save resources and improve efficiency, the Chinese delegation supports these proposals from CCLM to streamline the voting process.

With regard to the participation of CSOs and NGOs in FAO meetings, given that now there are quite a few organizations participating in FAO meetings and FAO is an intergovernmental organization and the decision-making process is an intergovernmental process, the Chinese delegation agrees that FAO should draft a relevant document about the issue.

With regard to the granting a formal status to the GIAHS within the FAO's Organizational Framework, China speaks on behalf of the Asia Group. The Asia Group thinks the GIAHS is essential for sustainable agriculture, protection of agricultural biodiversity, ecological protection, and small holder production, and it is in line with FAO's mainstream work.

FAO should follow the practice of UNESCO which recognizes world cultural heritage, acknowledges global agricultural heritage. It should grant GIAHS the formal status within the FAO Organizational Framework. The Asia Group supports that FAO incorporates GIAHS within FAO's Regular Work Framework.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

Our delegation would like to thank the CCLM and its Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the Secretariat in their presentation of their Report on the Committee's work and recommendations to the Council.

We would like to briefly comment on a couple of recommendations which both concern rice. Firstly, on GIAHS, as just delivered by China on behalf of the Asia Group, we align ourselves with that statement and with other delegations including Ecuador in endorsing the recommendation that a process be initiated for the development of a Draft Conference Resolution on GIAHS. Many of you are aware that the Philippines is home to the Ifugao Rice Terraces, a highland mountain ecosystem and agricultural farming system that has been in existence for 2,000 years now.

Secondly, we welcome the update on the International Rice Commission or IRC. The Philippines, in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group and Vice-Chair of the IRC's Special Session, would like to emphasize that the decision to suspend the IRC's activities does not in any way imply the diminishing of importance accorded by FAO and its Members to rice in relation to its mandate to promote food security and nutrition.

In fact, it is envisaged that this commodity will be given more prominence and attention with the recommendation to put rice as a standing agenda item in the COAG and the CCP, as these Technical Committees involve a broader number of countries and at a more senior level than the IRC.

Again, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the IRC members, those who constituted the Working Group, the IRC Chair, and the Secretariat for the flexibility and cooperation in arriving at the decision on the status of the IRC.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

We just have one comment to make regarding this agenda item that we note from the papers that have been presented to the session of the CCLM, that FAO has had quite an extension previous involvement in the GIAHS work and that we are very much supportive of the proposal that has come forward to this Council resulting from the discussions in the CCLM on the GIAHS work, that it will ensure greater transparency and also accountability of FAO's work in this area.

We also recognize that some countries place a very high importance on the GIAHS work, given their national domestic agricultural circumstances and conditions. However, we do not believe that substantial FAO resources should be devoted to this work, but we would be comfortable if the current practice of extra-budgetary funding being allocated to this work would be continuing and that we would hope that FAO would be playing, in the most part, a facilitation role within this work, and we look very much forward to participating in the proposed future discussions on this matter.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I want to first thank all speakers who praised the work of the CCLM. Of course, it goes to all CCLM Members, some of which are present here and some that are not in Rome, but maybe the most important role is played by the Chairperson, to whom we will transmit the positive assessments and the general support, and it goes without saying that without the Secretariat and Mr Tavares we would have not been able to cope so successfully with the workload of this session of the CCLM.

I notice that there is general support for the recommendations and proposals made by the Committee. Of course, there are always issues left pending, as was noted in some interventions, but we believe we will be able to come to grips with them in the near future.

I will start with the comment about the intergovernmental nature of the decision-making process of the Organization. When we speak about the preliminary review of the participation of CSOs and the private sector in FAO meetings, which is quite a complex and sensitive issue, I think that we fully agree with the points made about their intergovernmental nature. If you look into the text of the CCLM Report and the session documents, this was the first premise on which we are building our work.

Definitely, this is only the start of a process which will unfold in the future. The idea is to bridge some gaps that have occurred in the process of developing the practices and adopting the strategies on which the existing legal basis normally has to catch up, as it was created quite a long time ago.

But this is just a first step, I believe, in the right direction, since nobody disputes the importance of the civil society representatives and of the business community for the work of FAO.

As regards the application of the proposed mechanism for Member Nations in arrears on a voluntary basis before the session, clearly this is an issue that should be addressed and agreed upon by the Conference.

The idea was to sound out whether there is a political will and readiness, I repeat, on a voluntary basis, to start applying this practice and, of course, before a Resolution is adopted by the Conference, it cannot be done but voluntarily. This is the logic. Nobody is talking of taking away any competence from the powers of the Conference.

As regards what was mentioned by Australia about the GIAHS, the resources and the preference for the funding mechanism to continue to be extra budgetary, as you can imagine, the CCLM has not dealt with the financial aspects, but only with the legal aspects of the issue. The idea would be to anchor more firmly and in a more clear and transparent way this successful initiative in the Organization.

The way in which the funding of the initiative will be continued will be clarified in further discussions, but as the current practices have proven to be successful so far, maybe this will remain unchanged. But this is a subject for a further process.

Regarding the abolition of the Resolutions Committee, I think that the practice has changed, especially since 1999, and the workload of the Resolutions Committee has diminished. That's clear for anybody who has a good knowledge of the history of the Organization.

If you ask me what we are saving by that, we are not saving money of course, because this is not a step in that direction. But if you look at the logic of the other proposals and recommendations by the CCLM, we are trying to save a more precious resource, time, and make the work of the Conference and of the Governing Bodies of FAO more effective as a whole, diminishing the burden when possible.

In the same logic we speak about the voting procedures and other CCLM proposals. We have the same approach to the proposal of the abolition of the Resolutions Committee: we are sure that this will simplify and make the mechanisms and procedures more flexible and more effective after all.

My last point is on the mention of the reservation of one of the Members of the Committee. It is maybe not the most elegant way in which we can express that, but we need to be absolutely accurate and fair in indicating that there was a reservation on that, and this is the only reason why this language was used in the Report.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I have nothing to add to the very convincing explanation of Ambassador Ivanov.

As he just mentioned, most of these topics have been on the table for many years now: the proposed abolition of Resolutions Committee, the streamlining of procedures to handle credentials, the improvement of voting procedures – and you saw at the last Conference that this is a topic that we need to address – as well as the participation of INGOs.

During this biennium we have not been able to address these topics and I think we have had now an occasion to make several proposals to the Council on these matters. I trust the Council will find these conclusions satisfactory and will be able to approve the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, my conclusions for item 9 are as follows:

- 1) The Council endorsed the Report of the 97th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.
- 2) In particular, the Council
 - a) noted that the issue of the composition and functions of the bureaus of Technical Committees under Article V of the Constitution was under negotiation by the membership and that its legal aspects might be reviewed by the CCLM at a future session;

- b) endorsed the proposals for streamlining the Organization's practice concerning acceptance of credentials of delegations to the Conference, as described in the CCLM Report;
- c) approved the proposals (i) to discontinue the practice to establish a Resolution Committee of the Conference, noting that the editorial review of functions of the Resolutions Committee could, if necessary, be taken over by an *ad hoc* committee established in accordance with the General Rules of the Organization or entrusted to the Secretariat; (ii) to amend accordingly the standard arrangements for the sessions of the Conference examined by the Council and the General Committee of the Conference; and (iii) to maintain existing criteria for draft Conference Resolutions;
- d) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix to this Report entitled “Amendment of Rule XII, sub-paragraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization”, regarding the procedure for the election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and decided to forward it to the Conference in June 2015;
- e) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix to this Report entitled “Amendment of Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization” regarding a unique simplified procedure for multiple elections by the Conference or Council and decided to forward it to the Conference;
- f) stressed the need to initiate a process for the formulation of rules and procedures for the participation of nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations in meetings of FAO, with due regard being paid to the two recently adopted FAO Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, and emphasized that the intergovernmental nature of FAO's decision making process should be maintained;
- g) approved the proposed renewal of the appointment of the current three external members of the Ethics Committee for a second term of two years until December 2015;
- h) noted the information provided concerning the operation of the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System, agreed that the GIAHS initiative be vested with formal status within the FAO framework and endorsed the initiation of a process for the development of a draft Conference Resolution, as described in the CCLM Report;
- i) noted the proposal that the CCLM be provided with information reports on selected practical examples of activities undertaken by the Development Law Branch at future sessions;
- j) endorsed the Progress Report on the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the CCLM;
- k) noted that the CCLM advised that there were no issues of legal nature arising from the document on “Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reform”, which would warrant the advice or guidance of the CCLM at this point in time;
- l) noted the information provided on working methods of Regional Conferences and on the International Rice Commission.

This brings us to the end of agenda item 9.

11. Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms

11. Dispositions relatives à l'examen indépendant des réformes concernant la gouvernance

11. Disposiciones para un examen independiente de las reformas de la gobernanza

(CL 148/10; CL 148/10 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the next item on our Agenda is item 11, “Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms”. Please ensure that you have documents CL 148/10 and CL 148/10 Add.1 before you.

In line with Action 2.74 in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), approved the FAO Conference in 2008, and following the recommendation of the 146th Session of Council, this document proposes arrangements for the conduct of an Independent Review of the workings of

governance reforms, including the role and functioning of the Regional Conferences to be undertaken in 2014, and is now before Council for discussion and decision.

I should also like to mention that the content of this document in draft form was presented to the Informal Meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Regional Groups in October this year.

Before calling on the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to take the floor, I would like to add that document CL 140/10 was reviewed by the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters, which noted that there were no issues of a legal nature that would require the advice or guidance of the Committee at this time.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Nordin, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to present the relevant section of the Report of the Joint Meeting of 13 November.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

The CCLM did not find any legal issues to discuss so the Joint Meeting looked at the proposal and we endorsed the proposed arrangements and we made the following comments.

The Independent Chairperson of the Council should have an oversight role, that the purpose of the review is to assess evidence based progress in governance reforms and to identify areas for further improvement. The working group should be an open ended working group and the use of the informal grouping of the Independent Chairperson's meetings with the Regional Chairs will be an exceptional measure. It will be properly scheduled and be prepared with translated documents.

The assessment should take into account translation, interpretation, timely documents and the management of intersessional meetings.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Gracias a la Presidenta del Comité del Programa por la presentación del Informe de la reunión conjunta.

Respaldamos las conclusiones del Informe de la reunión conjunta, pero queremos referirnos a un tema que el Ecuador lo presentó ya durante la reunión conjunta y que es relativo al alcance que tendría esta revisión.

Como está la propuesta, únicamente se incluyen a los Órganos rectores. Sin embargo, si revisamos el Plan Inmediato de Acción, cuando se habla de la reforma de la Gobernanza, incluye medidas tanto para los Órganos rectores como para los Órganos estatutarios de convenios, es decir, bajo el Artículo XIV.

Por eso consideramos importante que no solamente se ciña a los Órganos rectores, ya que no es una evaluación; es una revisión de los Órganos rectores y no de la Gobernanza de la FAO, como se plantea en el Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Si bien en principio eso podría tener un alcance jurídico en cuanto al alcance de Órganos, los Textos Fundamentales y el Plan Inmediato de Acción, también tiene un aspecto político en el sentido de que es importante que la FAO, al hacer esta revisión, tenga un panorama completo de la reforma de la Gobernanza en la cual se incluya los Órganos estatutarios, ya que tiene un trabajo y un rol fundamental dentro de actividades de la FAO.

Con lo cual, proponemos que dentro del alcance de este proceso, se incluyan también a los Órganos estatutarios de acuerdo con lo que establece bajo el capítulo de reforma de la Gobernanza el Plan Inmediato de Acción.

M. Marc YOMBOUNO (Guinée)

La Délégation guinéenne intervient au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, sur le point 11 de l'ordre du jour, traitant des dispositions relatives à l'examen indépendant des réformes concernant la gouvernance.

Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la clarté du contenu de ce document et pour la brillante présentation. Le Groupe Afrique note que l'examen des dispositions relatives à la gouvernance fait

suite aux recommandations du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO, approuvé par la Conférence de 2008. A cet effet, nous appuyons la décision de la 146^{ème} session du Conseil tenue en avril 2013 relative à la réalisation de l'examen indépendant, en 2014, de la gouvernance de notre Organisation.

Le Groupe régional Afrique estime que ce processus d'examen consistera à évaluer la pertinence et les résultats des réformes engagées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du PAI. Nous nous félicitons des dispositions prises pour conférer un caractère participatif et inclusif à toutes les parties prenantes durant l'exercice d'évaluation à savoir : les États Membres, les comités techniques, les Organes directeurs et les hauts fonctionnaires.

S'agissant de la supervision de l'examen indépendant par la Réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, le Groupe régional Afrique souscrit à cette proposition étant donné les rôles antérieurs et futurs de ces comités dans l'amélioration de la qualité de la gouvernance de l'Organisation. Ainsi, nous notons avec satisfaction les avis émanant de la dernière Réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du programme relatifs au document sous revue.

A propos du calendrier indicatif de l'examen indépendant, nous notons une cohérence entre les différentes étapes permettant de soumettre le rapport final à la prochaine Conférence. A cet effet, nous saluons l'initiative prise par le Secrétariat d'associer, dès le départ du processus d'élaboration des propositions, le Président et les Vice-présidents des groupes régionaux.

Le Groupe régional Afrique encourage la participation en 2014 de l'équipe d'examen en qualité d'observateur aux sessions des Conférences régionales, des comités techniques et des Organes directeurs de l'Organisation. Nous approuvons la portée exhaustive de l'examen qui analysera l'ensemble des décisions et des mesures découlant de la mise en œuvre du PAI en matière de réforme de la gouvernance, pour une plus grande visibilité des résultats de la FAO dans l'exécution de son mandat au bénéfice de ses Membres.

Nous prenons également note du changement du montant de la prévision budgétaire qui passe de 111 000 à 153 380 dollars.

Le Groupe régional Afrique appuie l'approbation par le Conseil des dispositions proposées relatives à l'examen indépendant de la gouvernance de la FAO.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I associate myself with the statement made by Guinea on behalf of the African Group. The need to make assessment of the implementation of the Governance Reform was recognized by the Conference in 2008. This was in line with the recommendation of the Independent External Evaluation that after six years, a comprehensive review of progress of Governance Reform and their effectiveness be made.

The Conference in 2015 will assess and consider the working of the Governance Reforms, including the role and function of the Regional Conferences, as an input to the process. Now, in order for this recommendation to take place, it was recommended that the Secretariat arrange for an independent review of the working of the Governance Reform to be undertaken in 2014.

Also, this Council, the 148th Session, is requested to establish the specific modalities for the review. Therefore, the proposed arrangements as outlined in the documents: to review support of the Office of Evaluation; two small working group be established to facilitate the consultation; the Independent Chairman of the Council to call for meetings and play a proactive role in the process; the Programme and Finance Committee to provide an oversight review of the exercise.

We welcome the indicative timetable for review, the terms of reference set out in Annex 2, approach in methodology, and team composition set out in the document. We endorse the arrangements being proposed and we believe an independent review is not needed because it was asked if Member Nations need an independent review, but we believe that an independent review is not needed.

The management and Members will be in a position to give assessment themselves. So we appreciate the document presented which is well informative and well presented.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Agradecemos la presentación del documento CL 148/10 con las disposiciones para un examen independiente de la reforma de la Gobernanza.

De acuerdo a lo aprobado por la Conferencia de la FAO en 2008, la medida 2.74 del Plan Inmediato de Acción establece que la Conferencia evaluará los trabajos de la reforma de la Gobernanza, incluidas la función y el funcionamiento de las Conferencias Regionales con un examen independiente como aporte a este proceso.

Desde sus inicios en el año 2007, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha apoyado el proceso llevado a cabo en la FAO para su renovación institucional y el fortalecimiento de su democratización. Esta evaluación constituye un mecanismo apropiado para medir la eficiencia y eficacia de la reforma de la FAO y de sus avances alcanzados.

Como nos ha sugerido en la reunión conjunta, respaldamos las recomendaciones para que el Presidente Independiente del Consejo se encargue de la supervisión de este examen que debe estar fundamentado en datos objetivos sobre los progresos alcanzados derivados de las reformas de la Gobernanza prevista en el PIA para determinar las esferas que se podrían seguir mejorando y ajustando.

El mecanismo previsto de reuniones a ser convocadas por el Presidente Independiente con los Presidentes y Vicepresidentes de los grupos regionales para hacer seguimiento a este tema nos parece un formato de consultas adecuado que debe ser lo más incluyente, crítico y objetivo posible.

Con estas observaciones y comentarios, damos por aprobado el Informe presentado.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Lithuania to make a statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Ms Laima CIGRIEJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries, Iceland, Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the launch of the independent review of governance reforms which is one of the last IPA measures. We trust that this work will take good account of FAO's strategic priorities as we are now and that it will be completed in a prompt and efficient way.

However, we're a bit concerned with the increased budget which we believe should be covered from existing resources in a contentious and transparent manner. Looking forward, benefits must be clarified and actions which have no end date such as culture change must continue to retain momentum.

One of the key lessons from the IPA process that the FAO must not ignore is the need for continuous efforts to improve gender balance. As a result of the review, we also expect suggestions for further improvements in the efficiency of governance. It should also include an assessment of the multiplicity of tasks and requirements of the role of the Independent Chair and provide relevant recommendations.

Finally, we look forward to the benefits in terms of efficiency gains and transparency approach and the framework of the independent review being achieved in a comprehensive way.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GOMEZ (Cuba)

La Delegación de Cuba apoya la realización durante el 2014 del examen independiente en consonancia con el mandato otorgado por la Conferencia, así como las modalidades específicas de este examen y el calendario propuesto.

Suscribimos los comentarios realizados por la distinguida Delegación del Ecuador, en cuanto a no incluir sólo a los órganos rectores por las razones ya expuestas por esta Delegación.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Chairperson, we reviewed this in the Joint Meeting so I do not want to make comments on the substance, but I have a few questions to raise. Question number one: will there be a management response to this review? I presume not, but I want to be sure whether there is or not.

Question number two, and this was also raised by the EU: there is a budget deficit of 42 thousand because the Council approved 111 and the cost is more than that? Now from where is this deficit going to be financed? Is there going to be any contribution from the budget of the OED for this?

In annex 3, provision is made for an evaluation analyst with a total cost of USD 11,700. Is this evaluation analyst the contribution of OED to the review and, if so, will the cost be borne by the OED?

My third point is, box 2 of annex 2 provides for a timetable. In this timetable, the Joint Session is supposed to look at this review three times. In May 2014, it reviews the preliminary findings. In November 2014, it reviews the draft report. In March 2015, it reviews the final report. The final report is, of course, essential. All these times are the formal reviews of the Programme and Finance Committee. So I was wondering if, in a formal session of the Programme and Finance Committee, we should be reviewing preliminary findings and all of that. It is possible to do it informally, not formally.

My last point is, when we reviewed this in the Joint Meeting, there were no candidates put forward. Now we have two candidates put forward. Both candidates have impressive CVs and expertise in evaluation work and they are very capable people, but somehow none of them have the in-depth knowledge of the review of Governance.

I raised this issue in the Joint Meeting, and I am afraid I was ignored, but it may be advisable that one of the consultants is a person who has an in-depth knowledge of the role. Such a person can only be, she or he, who had former association with FAO. There are retirees who can do this work. In fact, I see one retiree sitting there who can do it.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Chair, also for your leadership on this item, and thank you to the Senior Evaluation Officer for the work on the FAO Office of Evaluation on this item. The United States supports moving ahead with the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reform, as stipulated in the IPA Action 2.74.

We approve of the proposed role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council as facilitator of the process and focal point for the Review Team and that the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees oversee the process.

As noted already, we appreciate the support and involvement of the Office of Evaluation. We would caution, however, that the use of the Independent Chairperson of the Council's informal meetings with Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs as, shall we say, inter-sessional fora for the Review Team and the Regional Groups, must be seen as one-off meetings that will be limited in number, scheduled well in advance, and covered by existing funding.

In terms of funding, as Equatorial Guinea and others already noted, we note the upwards adjustment of the budget projection from USD 111,000 to over 150,000 to accommodate two reviewers and an evaluation analyst. We would note as well that it has also been suggested that there will be an additional tens of thousands of dollars necessary for meeting interpretation and document translation costs and we understand and expect that these extra costs will be covered either by OED, Office of Evaluation, or by carried-over IPA funds.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan very much thanks the assistance of the Secretariat for making the proposal for the review of the governance reform, and we endorse the arrangement presented by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

Mr Chair, just one point. We share the concerns expressed by Lithuania, Afghanistan and the United States about the cost of the review. We, Members, have to remind ourselves that the review process should be economical because we are considering the way for further efficiency of the governance.

While we accept the latest cost estimate, we should keep wise resources management in our mind during the review process.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia is supportive of the proposed independent review of the governance reforms undertaken as part of the IPA. We believe that it is important to assess the effectiveness of these reforms and to identify areas of improvement.

We would note, however, similar to a number of other countries' interventions this afternoon, and as we have previously noted in the informal discussion between the Regional Chairs and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, that we do have a concern about the increase in the budget associated with what is now a very comprehensive consultative analysis process.

We note that the proposed consultative process with Members is extensive, and we very much hope that all Members will take advantage of the opportunity to add value to the review. In a culture of continual improvement, we must examine all of FAO's work and all of the governance reforms, including the role of the Independent Chairperson of Council, and we believe that the independent review of governance reform is an important opportunity to do this.

Similarly, therefore, we support the Finance Committee's recommendation that the review consider the role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Australia looks forward to participating in consultations and deliberations on the independent review.

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

We have studied document CL 148/10 on the arrangements for an independent review of governance reforms with interest. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support to the work being done to boost efficiency in governance of the Organization.

We would like to see FAO continuing to make positive changes to the way in which the Organization works, because we think that would be helpful in assisting us to achieve our goals within the IPA. Furthermore, we would like to underline one point from this document that we think would be very important and that is the one about avoiding overlapping and having a clear and relevant definition of priorities.

If we really want to contribute to improving the situation and carrying out efficient reforms so that we can have our resources used in an optimum way without having a negative impact on programme activity, this is essential. Our group would like Council to include in its work programme issues of possible duplication when it comes to the carrying out of the IPA.

Furthermore, we would like to repeat our agreement in principle with the provisional schedule for discussions provided. We are of course taking into account changes made to the dates for the next regional conference for our region.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I'm sorry. I raise this flag to come again to raise a question. When I heard several interventions, there is some confusion. Not to differentiate the assessment needed to be made is for what is implemented in the governance reform, but not for a comprehensive review of the governance itself, which is not implemented and doesn't include. So can you please clarify what review is needed? Is it only that which is implemented as it is recommended in the words accepted in the 2008 Conference and it was recommended to review when it was decided to include the regional conferences to be as an input, also part of the governance. So that is what is implemented.

But as I said, a comprehensive review of governance is needed. So you can differentiate. Is it only those which are implemented to be reviewed or comprehensive governance review?

Mr Neil FRASER (Observer for New Zealand)

We would like to get clarification on a couple of matters in box 2. On two or three occasions, this Draft Report or Final Report is submitted and it does not say to whom it is submitted. For example, the submission of the Draft Independent Review Report of 30 September 2014 – to whom has it been submitted?

Then two boxes down, the submission of the Final Independent Review Report to FAO – what does FAO mean in this context? Does this mean Management or does this mean Members?

And the box below that, presentation of final independent review report due in March 2015, presumably that is cancelled in June 2015. Maybe, that would refer to the Conference, but it might be useful to clarify to whom the mentioned Report is being submitted at these points.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I would just like to say that it is very encouraging that we have now come to this stage of the evaluation of the Management reform in FAO, which is one of the major reforms of the UN System. And the questions that are raised here today, which are very pertinent precisely to show that it is very difficult, because we, who are being evaluated, we are also part of the process.

I would like also to ensure Afghanistan that we always listen with the greatest of attention to your interventions, because we know that there is a lot of study behind them and a lot of analysis, so we will never ignore you.

I just wanted to say that the difficulty here is, of course, that we will be the ones, are going to appraise this evaluation, but we will also be the ones to profit from it. So I hope that we will be open enough for this exercise and also show wise resource Management, as Japan showed us.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will answer the questions of a more general nature. I would like to thank Afghanistan in particular for the very relevant questions and perhaps leave the various aspects of the evaluation itself to Tullia to address.

Now, starting with the last question raised by New Zealand, the document is clear on this. It is a Members driven process, so the evaluators will definitely report to the Members. This evaluation will feed into the assessment of the governance reform to be undertaken by the Conference in June 2015. The Conference will have to decide how it will act upon whatever recommendations may be made by the evaluators, but this will definitely be under the purview of Members. We have made this very clear from the outset, and the role of the Secretariat in that process is to provide support.

Eritrea asked a question about what reforms we are talking about. Here again, I believe it is clear from IPA Action 2.74. It refers to the actions that were listed in the IPA adopted by the Conference in November 2008, and we are talking about the changes introduced as part of the IPA.

As a matter of fact, most of these, if not all of these actions, have been implemented. And the purpose, as foreseen in 2008, and even before by the IEE itself when it tabled its report in September 2007, was that after a period of approximately six years there would be an evaluation of what went well, what went wrong, as the case may be.

Ecuador raised the question of what do we mean by “governance”, whether it includes governance of Article XIV Bodies or not. I have to say that from the outset, they were excluded. As a matter of fact, when you look at the list of actions under the IPA, there was under Action 2.69 a review specifically foreseen for Article XIV Bodies, a review which has taken place and which was the subject of extended discussion in the CCLM.

Let me read it to you. Action 2.69: “Undertake a review with a view to making any necessary changes to enable those statutory bodies which wish to do so to exercise financial and administrative authority and mobilise additional funding from their Members, while remaining within the framework of FAO”.

To my sense, this established a different track for Article XIV Bodies from what is foreseen under IPA 2.74. Also, without getting into all the legal intricacies that Article XIV Bodies are known for, I

think that there is a difference, legally speaking, between the FAO *in se* and Article XIV Bodies, which are created by different legal instruments. And I will stop here.

But I think it is clear that no Article XIV Bodies were meant to be covered by this Independent Review. I may add, on that score, that if we included them, of course it will enlarge the scope of the review, with all the financial consequences that this may impart.

Ms Tullia AIAZZI (Senior Evaluation Officer)

I will try to be as much concise as possible. It is correct to reply to the question raised by Afghanistan. This review is not supposed to have a Management response from the Secretariat unless, and this is my personal opinion, the Members ask the Secretariat to provide a Management response. As Mr Gagnon has just said, this is a Member's led process so it is in the hands of the Members to decide whether a Management response by the Secretariat would be required, based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review.

Equally, the possibility of a Joint Meeting for the Members to review informally the various deliverables from the review is up to the Members themselves to make it. It is not something on which we have an opinion. It is up to the Member Nations to decide how best to handle the process.

As for the search for the profiles, the suggested Team Members have been circulated in a document and distributed to the Council. OED went through an extensive selection process based on personal knowledge of potential candidates. We searched through the network of the United Nations Evaluation Offices for potential candidates.

We retained ten possible candidates, selected them tentatively, including retirees with various levels of knowledge of the Organization, of its governance mechanism, of evaluation techniques, and sufficient levels of independence. In our opinion, the two persons who have been suggested are the best candidates that we could find.

I apologize for some candidates, as there is a gender imbalance in favour of women. I thought that we could live with that.

With regard to funds, OSP guaranteed that funds would be carried over from the IPA in 2014. And the budget that you have in front of you should be covered by those figures. OED will provide resources in kind through staff time. If necessary further support in terms of research, evaluation assistance, research assistance will be provided as needed, to ensure the speedy and smooth implementation of the mentioned review. We would like to follow up the whole process from the beginning to the end.

I think that the above deals with all the points pending.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Me parece que la pregunta que hizo el delegado de Eritrea es clave para entender esto: qué es lo que vamos a evaluar si una era exhaustiva o es las medidas que establece el Plan Inmediato de Acción. Nos parece que ha quedado claro que lo que se va a evaluar son las medidas específicas que establece el PIA en el capítulo de la reforma de la Gobernanza. En ese capítulo se establecen medidas específicas para los Órganos rectores, el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, las Conferencias Regionales y Comités técnicos y los Órganos estatutarios y convenios. Me parece que estos últimos desarrollos estatutarios no están fuera de la reforma de la Gobernanza.

De hecho, la medida 2.74 establece que se haga la evaluación de la reforma de la Gobernanza y no señala nada de los Órganos rectores. Lo que entendemos es que el espíritu del Plan Inmediato de Acción es evaluar todas las medidas que en materia de Gobernanza aprobó la Conferencia pero, al mismo tiempo, conservemos que sería lamentable que se deje de lado a los Órganos estatutarios que, como señalamos, tienen un rol importante en las actividades de la FAO y cuya Gobernanza es importante evaluar.

No creo que sea labor nuestra ahora de juzgar si se ha completado, si ha sido abordado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, sin dejar justamente a este proceso independiente que evalúe si las medidas que en materia de Gobernanza se han señalado para los Órganos estatutarios y convenios se han cumplido y con qué medida queremos insistir en que se considere la necesidad de

que haya obviamente un panorama completo del trabajo que está haciendo la FAO. Siempre son la base de las medidas que están establecidas en el PIA.

CHAIRPERSON

I take note of your concern, Ecuador. This issue is raised for the first time. This is the third time you raised it during the meetings I held with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the Programme Committee. I recognize your concern on this issue. It is very important.

Let me assure you that this review will be guided by the Conference Resolution made in 2008, and then by the IPA Actions regarding the Governance Reform.

Let me recall what was on the governance reform. I will not go into detail, but I would like to inform you that the governance reform issues were discussed in Working Group II, which dealt specifically with governance reform, and fortunately we still have the Chairperson of that group. I think it should be a good one to make us remember what we did when we come to the actual work.

What I should assure you is that I think the team will have mapped all the governance reform actions. If statutory bodies are part and parcel, then they will be included, so you should keep settled that your issue will be taken on board, but according to what was the Conference Resolution and what is contained in the IPA Actions.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

I have a question about the cost of the review process. If I understand the explanation provided by Ms Aiazzi correctly, part of the costs will be covered by carried-over IPA budget. We discussed this issue in the Finance Committee and according to the explanation given by OSP, the budget allocation for the IPA for this year will be fully spent by the end of this same year. So, I am a bit confused about it. I do not need an answer at this moment, but please keep that question in your mind.

Mr Hassan JANABY (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I did not get an answer for the question that was asked by New Zealand. I did not hear the answer to this question, unless I was not paying attention and I was not able to hear the answer to this question.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The question asked by New Zealand was to whom the Report would be made and I believe I have answered the question by saying that, as explained in the document, this is a Members driven process and the Report will go to the Members.

It will be discussed first in the open ended informal meetings between the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, then in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees followed by the Council and the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me make my conclusions for item 11, which has benefited a lot from the comments made:

1. The Council endorsed the proposed arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance, and noted that:
 - a) the Independent Chairperson of the Council will have the oversight role of the Review;
 - b) the purpose of the Review is to carry out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms and to identify areas for further improvement and adjustments;
2. For the purpose of the review, the Independent Chairperson of the Council will convene Informal Meetings of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, which will be (i) open-ended; (ii) properly scheduled and well prepared; and (iii) provided with translated documents, which are issued on time. The Council noted that any increase in the budget level from that considered at the 146th Session would be carried from existing sources.

The Council endorsed the selection of Ms Nadia Hajib and Ms Maxine Estelle Olsen to the Review Team.

Thank you. Item 11 is now concluded.

12. Progress Reports on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the: Council; Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters; Finance Committee; Programme Committee; Regional Conferences; and Technical Committees

12. Rapports sur l'état d'avancement des programmes de travail pluriannuels du Conseil, du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, du Comité financier, du Comité du Programme, des Conférences régionales et des comités techniques

12. Informes sobre los progresos relativos a los programas de trabajo plurianuales de: Consejo, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, Comité de Finanzas, Comité del Programa, conferencias regionales y comités técnicos

(CL 148/9)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on our Agenda is item 12: Progress Reports on the Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOW) of the Council, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees. The relevant document is CL 148/9. Please note that the MYPOW for the Council for the period 2014-2017, is set out in Annex I to this document.

In compliance with the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA Action 2.71) the Council, Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees each prepare a Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW) of at least four years duration once in the biennium.

A report of progress made compared to the Programme of Work is to be submitted every two years for review by the Council, as contained in the IPA action 2.72. The document you have before you, CL 148/9, comprises progress reports on the MYPOWs of all FAO Governing Bodies prepared by their respective Secretariats, which is effectively the first progress report of Governing Body MYPOWs, and it is submitted to the Council for review.

As the Council is aware, this is the first time this planning tool is being reviewed by the Council and, as such, should perhaps be considered as work-in-progress with room for improvement. Indeed, this item gives Council an excellent opportunity to provide inputs on how this planning tool can be put to optimal use and applied effectively in the future.

Certain Governing Bodies, such as the Council and its Committees meet more regularly than others, such as the Regional Conferences for example, and obviously this has permitted them to develop their MYPOWs more fully.

In considering the Progress Reports, Council has the opportunity to identify areas for improvement which the Independent Review of Governance Reforms during 2014 would take into consideration as part of the review process.

I am joined by the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee and I would now invite them to share the experience of their MYPOWs tool.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just would like to speak very briefly, saying that of course the Programme Committee's work is based on the Basic Texts. These are the texts that we are following. On those texts, the MYPOW is based and I would like to say in order for the Programme Committee to perform its duty to support the Council with relevant and effective recommendations, we need to work as a cohesive team.

You start with highly qualified people and through working together during several sessions, discussions become useful, responding to needs, and I would like to thank Member Nations for nominating excellent people to the Committee and the Council for electing them.

It is not easy because being in the Committee entails much work and outreach to the relevant regional groups and beyond and I have the greatest respect, especially for smaller delegations who commit to Programme Committee work, and I would like to thank you all very much.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

As noted in document CL 148/9, the Finance Committee approved its MYPOW for 2010-2013 at its 135th Session that is in October 2010.

This was subsequently endorsed by the Council at its 140th Session in November/December 2010. The MYPOW of the Finance Committee has been regularly reviewed by the Finance Committee and updated and refined to reflect the observations of the Committee members, taking into account the chocked nature of the agenda of the Finance Committee at every single meeting.

At its 143rd Session in May 2012, the MYPOW was further revised to consolidate the objectives for the Finance Committee related to FAO and the World Food Programme matters into a single document and enhanced by the addition of a roadmap outlining when specific issues will be considered by the Committee.

The roadmap is updated for each session of the Committee and has been welcome by members as providing a useful overview of the scheduling of agenda items over a biennium. We continue to revisit it at every session of the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to suggest that the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees present at this session and the delegate from Italy, Mr Luca Fratini, for the CFS MYPOW, intervene during the debate from the floor if they so wish. For those Committees whose Chairperson is not present at this session of the Council, and should there be points raised during the debate which require response, I will invite the relevant Secretary to speak from the podium, as required.

As regards the Regional Conferences, Ms Yuriko Shoji, Director of the Office of Support to Decentralization, will answer any points raised during the debate.

M. Jean-Lucien DOUMBENY (Gabon)

Alors, je dois avant tout vous remercier pour l'occasion que vous me donnez de pouvoir m'exprimer devant cette assemblée au nom du Groupe Afrique et vous féliciter de la manière dont vous conduisez les débats de cette 148^{ème} session du Conseil.

En ce qui concerne le point 12 que nous examinons en ce moment, le Gabon au nom du Groupe Afrique approuve dans son ensemble le document CL 148/9 et se félicite du travail accompli par les différents comités qui apparaissent tout au long de ce document-là.

Deuxièmement, je rappelle tout l'intérêt que le Groupe Afrique porte à ces questions et exprime donc le souhait que les mises à jour régulières y soient faites et communiquées aux États Membres en temps opportun.

Troisièmement, le Groupe Afrique reprend à son compte les recommandations relatives au processus de préparation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et émises en séance plénière ce matin, et nous souhaitons qu'elles soient intégrées au Programme de travail pluriannuel au titre des mises à jour.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate your introduction, as well as the introductory statements by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. We appreciate this consolidated progress report on MYPOWs of the FAO governing bodies put together under your leadership. It is a good beginning with a hope for further improvements in the future.

We wish to make the following observations of the document. One, we underscore the rolling nature of MYPOWs which brings out the highlights of achievements. We would favour that this pattern be maintained.

Two, the three Governing Bodies that, in our opinion, have shown greater progress in MYPOWs are the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on World Food Security. We understand that due to its unique *modus operandi*, it is difficult for the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to adhere to the rolling nature of MYPOW.

Three, the MYPOWs of the four Regional Conferences reflect variations in diversity of tasks pertaining to each region, coordination with regional bodies and linkages with other regional and sub-regional initiatives, but it is clear from all the four Regional Conferences that they want more from MYPOW in terms of specificity and performance indicators.

Point number four, it is clear from the progress report that for the Regional Conferences, a major issue is better clarification regarding essential meetings during the inter-sessional periods and their financing. This is a key outstanding problem to be resolved and calls for having a clear set of criteria in deciding on the choice of inter-sessional meetings and possibly seeking partners.

Point number five, with respect to CCP, COAG, COFI and COFO, one can say that MYPOWs are progressive, but it will take some time before these MYPOWs reach the progressive level of the CFS.

Point number six, we approve the proposed MYPOW 2014-2018 and note that it is the same as MYPOW 2013-2016 with the exception of slight modification in section 2D and two new additional outputs under section 2F. We appreciate the update on the outstanding Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) actions.

IPA actions 2.18, 2.100 and 4.4 which call for a decision by Members remain unresolved. We wonder what could be done by Members in 2014 to come to a final decision on these three IPA actions.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Please allow me to first as Italy, Member of the Council, to give the floor to Lithuania as the Presidency of the EU, and then I would kindly request to have the floor as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Programme of Work Priorities of the CFS.

Ms Laima CIGRIEJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the document CL 148/9, Progress Reports on the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Council; Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters; Finance Committee; Programme Committee; Regional Conferences and technical Committees.

We note that the MYPOW reflects the overall objectives as well as expected results of the actions in the Immediate Plan of Action, including strategic prioritization, regular monitoring of decisions on governance matters and FAO reform process, as well as legal, ethics, and financial systems. We consider this document a good planning tool for the work of the Council for the coming years.

We would like to stress the importance of the real added value identification of the planned sequence of the Regional Conferences. The rationality of events planning and impact of regional featured experiences should be indicated as matched planning targets. An outreach of such events and clear visibility of FAO umbrella should be ensured as well.

Having the opportunity, we would like to express our appreciation of a balanced and constructive dialogue in the inter-sessional work that was done by the Independent Chair of the Council (ICC). The substance of meetings held by the ICC helped to maintain a good exchange of views between the membership as well as regional groups and the management.

Finally, we endorse the MYPOW of each Governing Body for the period 2014-2017.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je m'associe entièrement à la déclaration du Gabon, mais j'aimerais soulever des questions importantes en ce qui concerne les Conférences régionales, et en particulier, ce qui me semble tout aussi important, au sujet de la Conférence régionale africaine.

La première concerne l'action du budget de la Conférence. Nous savons que la Conférence est la base de la préparation et de la définition des travaux de la FAO. C'est pour cette raison que les textes disent qu'il faut mobiliser des ressources. Je pense qu'il faut peut-être considérer dans le budget ordinaire les montants nécessaires pour la réalisation des Conférences.

La deuxième question concerne la participation de la société civile. Nous savons que dans la Conférence, il y a une partie pour les experts et une deuxième partie pour les ministres. Je pense qu'il faut établir un règlement sur l'action de participation, sur le choix de participer à la Conférence au niveau expert et au niveau ministériel.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

As I said, I have the honour to address you as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group of CFS on Programme of Work and Priorities. In the previous biennium, this group, Chaired by Ms Christine Ton Nu of France who I may wish to commend, has finalized the Multi-year Programme of Work for the years 2014-15, approved by CFS 40 last October, outlining the major tasks to be carried out by CFS until its 42nd Session in 2015.

These briefly include two major work streams, responsible agricultural investments, and the agenda for action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises. Once these two are over, there is a preparatory phase in implementing post-2015 agenda in food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture which will probably kick-start in 2015.

There are then other work-streams of CFS: the ordinary work-streams such as the group I have the honour to Chair, but also monitoring rules and procedure, communications, and then specific sessions such as one in 2014 about 'Right to Food: 10 years later' and a Round Table on building knowledge, skills, and talent development during CFS 42 in 2015.

There is then a High-Level forum on 'Connecting small holders to markets' in 2015 which can be considered as a follow-up to the excellent High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report of 2013.

We then have already in the current MYPOW, two HLPE reports, both for 2014, one on food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems, one on the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. Finally, there is a high-level forum on water and food security which is planned for 2015, so a very intense agenda.

Attached to the MYPOW is also a guidance note indicating the steps needed to identify future priorities including major CFS work-streams and HLPE reports for the biennium 2016-17. The proposed work plan of the Open-ended Working Group will be presented at its first meeting on 13 January 2014, here in Rome.

Our first task is to hold a series of regional multi-stakeholder dialogs back to back but independently from each of the FAO Regional Conferences. That is between February and May 2014. These dialogs will be led by the Chair with the support of the CFS Secretariat.

This exercise will result into a list of priority themes, up to three per each regional group, to be brought to the attention of the next CFS plenary in October. I sincerely count on the active support of the CFS Secretariat of the Rome-based United Nations Agencies and on members for the success of the process which I have described.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Afghanistan, as usual, had very relevant points to make which are duly noted, one of which was what to do with the three pending actions listed in the appendix to the MYPOW for Council.

The three actions which are marked for attention by Members have to do with the Council making a clear recommendation on the level of the budget before the Conference every two years; whether or not desirable qualifications for the post of Director-General should be developed; and the long-standing issue on the size of the FAO Council. These are the three actions marked as pending.

On this, I can only reiterate that they are for Members to advise upon. This is, again, an area where they are absolutely sovereign and I will only observe, as was mentioned before, that some of these

issues may be addressed in the context of the Independent Evaluation of Governance Reform which is about to start.

CHAIRPERSON

Is there any Chairperson of the Technical Committee who wants to make a comment on their MYPOW? I don't see any. Let me therefore conclude on item 12 as follows.

The Council reviewed the progress reports on the Multi-Year Programmes of Work of the Council, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, the FAO Regional Conferences, and the Technical Committees.

The Council recognizes that:

- a) the MYPOW mechanism was at an early stage and would benefit from further elaboration by concerned Bodies, which had primary responsibility for their own MYPOW; and
- b) the Independent Review of Governance Reforms to be conducted in 2014 would evaluate the use made on MYPOWs to date.

The Council approved its MYPOW for the period of 2014-2017.

With that summing up, item 12 is concluded.

14. Report of the First Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (Rome, 11-12 June 2013)

14. Rapport de la première réunion de l'Assemblée plénière du Partenariat mondial sur les sols (Rome, 11 et 12 juin 2013)

14. Informe de la primera reunión de la Asamblea Plenaria de la Alianza mundial sobre los suelos (Roma, 11 y 12 de junio de 2013)

(CL 148/13)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now proceed to item 14, Report of the First Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership, which took place from 11 to 12 June this year. At its 147th Session, the Council agreed to add this item to the Provisional Agenda of the current Session. The relevant document is CL 148/13.

I am joined on the podium by Mr Chandarasrivongs, our representative of Thailand to FAO and Chairperson of the Global Soil Partnership Assembly held in June this year.

Before passing the floor to Mr Olcay Unver, the Deputy Director of the Land and Water Division to introduce the Report, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General to provide clarification regarding document CL 148/13. Mr Gagnon, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In relation to document CL 148/13 pertaining to item 14, Report of the First Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership, I wish to draw your attention to an error in Annex I of the document containing the list of participants. The Permanent Representative of Slovakia, Ms Marieta Okenková, was listed by mistake under Non-Governmental Organizations and should be included under FAO Members. The web version of the document has been amended and future printouts will be rectified.

Mr Olcay UNVER (Deputy Director, Natural Resources and Land)

I'm honored to be able to present you the Report of the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership.

The Global Soil Partnership plenary assembly took place in June 2013 in Rome at FAO Headquarters, with the participation of 142 participants of which six were FAO Members and 21 partners.

The next plenary assembly has been scheduled for July 2014 and the Chair will be his Excellency the permanent representative of Thailand to FAO.

We are very grateful to Ambassador Mario Arvelo from the Dominican Republic who chaired the first plenary inaugural session.

We expect the attendance to the second plenary to increase significantly as its scope will be more about substantive issues rather than the procedural aspects as was mostly the case for the first session.

I would like to list some of the important decisions that were taken at this first meeting. The rules of procedures of the Global Soil Partnership were approved. The establishment of Inter-governmental Technical Panel on Soils or ITPS has also been approved, and this panel, ITPS, had its first working session in July in which Dr. Luca Montenerila was appointed as Chair. Among other decisions, the Members of the ITPS decided to produce the first ever World Soil Resources Report by 2015.

Another result in the agenda item was the support towards the celebration of the World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils for 2015. We are hopeful that the negotiations ongoing at this stage in New York at the UN General Assembly will bear fruit very shortly.

Another agreement was for the establishment of a healthy soils umbrella programme in this meeting and this umbrella programme will serve as a dedicated financial facility to support global soil partnership activities and ensure concrete outreach to the field level.

In the first Plenary Assembly there was a request for the development and implementation of comprehensive plans of action under the five global soil partnership pillars and these are currently under formulation and will be ready for formal approval by the next Plenary Assembly.

Another result was the support of the Plenary Assembly to the establishment of regional soil partnerships and a request was issued for an update of the world soil charters that was adopted by the FAO Conference as far back as 1981. Currently a working group of ITPS is working on this.

As mentioned in the documents that you have, the Council is expected to be kept informed of GS peer related developments through the Committee of Agriculture, COAG, to reach future reports of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly will be submitted.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Chairperson, Global Soil Partnership Assembly)

Let me start by saying that soil is the foundation for food security. Each natural resource has its own position agenda but we must be ensured that the common approach is sustainable development for all and by all.

We strongly believe in joining forces through partnership and that is why FAO and its Members have promoted the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership.

We now have an SNGO mechanism in place as the Deputy Director Land and Water Divisions just mentioned. For example, the inter-governmental technical panel on soils, the GSP panel assembly is in place, along with a number of components just as the regional soil partnerships and GSP plan of actions.

Therefore, let all of us maximize the benefit from these mechanisms and bring them into action now. I also would like to encourage Member countries to consider developing their national soil agenda as contribution to regional and global actions.

As you know, FAO Conference resolutions on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils is currently under consideration in the United Nations, UNGA and we wish that in these coming weeks that you will have a good and positive decision.

In this regard, I kindly invite you to play an active role in implementing actions towards awareness rising and sustainable soil management. We make all the effort to reflect soil for food security in the ongoing dialogue of the sustainable development goals.

Besides that, I also would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to join the World Soil Day side event in the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 13:00 to 14:30 hours and also joining a cocktail to celebrate the World Soil Day at 18:30 hours in the Aventino Room, on the Eighth floor, organized by the Global Soil Partnership and FAO on 5 December, the World Soil Day.

Lastly, on behalf of the Chair of the Global Soil Partnership Assembly, I would like to thank especially to the GSP Secretariat, FAO Member countries, and all partnerships for their kindly support to my work and implement action set by the assembly. No soil, no food. Healthy soil, healthy food.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Chandarasrivongs. We congratulate you for the good work you have done. The floor is now open to the Members.

Ms Narumon WIANGWANG (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Director of Land and Water Division and the Chair of Global Soil Partnership Assembly for presenting comprehensive GSP Report and compliment the effort beyond the call of their duty in supporting soil element.

Thailand would also like to join other FAO Members on supporting GSP and echo the importance of soil resource for food security, as well as to express our gratitude to FAO Member countries for appointing the permanent representative of Thailand as the Chair of Global Soil Partnership Assembly when it was first established in June this year.

Thailand agrees with the Chair and the Secretariat of GSP that benefit of GSP mechanisms such as ITPS, Regional Soil Partnerships, GSP Plan of Action, World Soil Day and International Year of Soils should be maximized and brought into action together with all FAO Members.

Finally, as the Chair of GSP had informed all Members that a draft resolution on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils has been introduced at the second committee of UNGA since 6 November.

By the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, New York Chapter and is now being discussed in the second committee. The decision is expected to be made by the middle of December this year.

To join hands with other FAO Members, Thailand once again kindly invites all FAO Members to convey their message to the meetings in New York in order to support this Resolution in UNGA 68th session.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Thank you also very much for the presentation that was given on the Global Soil Partnership.

The Southwest Pacific region recognizes the critical role of soil for food security and improved agriculture productivity including the quality of crops grown. Our region welcomes this good progress made at the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership.

In particular, adopting the rules of procedure is an important step for any organization or group and we particularly welcome the establishment of the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel on Soils and the appointment of its 27 Members including Dr. Neil McKenzie from Australia and Dr. Marta Camps Ovastane from New Zealand, which are two representatives from our region.

This group will have an important role in providing scientific and technical advice to the Global Soil Partnership. Australia has made a number of in kind contributions to the Global Soil Partnership and we consider that FAO is uniquely placed to lead and coordinate the Global Soil Partnership and we look forward to ongoing involvement with the partnership including through updates from the Committee on Agriculture.

M. Gianni GHISI (Italie)

Je vous demanderai de donner la parole à la délégation de la Lituanie qui prononcera une déclaration au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

Ms Laima CIGRIJUTE VITKAUSKIENE (Observer for Lithuania)

I will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. Iceland, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We are glad to note the good progress made at the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. We think that the GSP could improve effective collaboration between FAO Members and the various stakeholders towards global soil protection.

We recognize that soil resources are limited and of crucial importance for achieving food security and maintaining key ecosystem services.

Voluntary partnership of Members and stakeholders genuinely committed to reduce ongoing soil degradation processes and implementing sustainable soil management practices is in our view the most effective way to achieve results in the near future.

These results should include strengthening soils as our common resource base and increasing agriculture productivity, and should contribute to the climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as to supporting other essential ecosystem services.

We welcome the effective establishment of the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel on Soils that will assure the highest scientific standards for the future GSP activities.

We consider as solid scientific basis for implementing the goals of the GSP as of crucial importance and therefore encourage the development of synergies with other related panels and initiatives, like the Inter-Governmental Panel on climate change, the Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the recently established Science Policy Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Diversification in order to complement their activities with a necessary soil science expertise and knowledge.

We note that the implementation of the proposed pillars of actions of the GSP could be channeled also through regional soil partnerships and therefore welcome the first steps taken by European GSP partners during the Global Soil Week 2013 towards the establishment of an effective European Regional Soil Partnership.

We look forward to the full development of the plans of action for each of the five pillars of action of the GSP to be endorsed at the next year's Plenary Assembly.

We take note of the establishment of the Healthy Soils Trust Fund and encourage GSP partners and other donors to provide contributions to the fund for the implementation of the planned GSP activities.

We look forward to the full development of a GSP roadmap and encourage FAO as the GSP Secretariat to come forward with concrete and results oriented proposals at the next GSP Plenary Assembly.

Finally, we believe it is important to underline that the success of the GSP will strongly depend on the efficient organization of the GSP Secretariat as well as on solid governance. We recognize the remarkable efforts made by FAO in the early phases of the GSP establishment, but are concerned on the need to assure a long-term viability to the operational work linked to the day-to-day management of the Secretariat of this important initiative.

Mr Mhutang SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is presented on behalf of the Africa Group. The Report of the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership held in Rome from 11 to 12 June 2013 is of considerable interest to our region.

We note that the Plenary Assembly addressed important dimensions of the Global Soil Partnership, including the plans of action under the five pillars and the progressive establishment of regional soil partnerships. We appreciate that the development made necessitate the establishment of a dedicated budget facility and we trust that such resources may also be acquired through extra-budgetary contributions.

The Africa Group acknowledges the importance of evidence based soil management. Africa soils are varied and to-date, we have a 6,711 unique soil profiles on record. Variability applies to the climatic

and socio-economic conditions under which soils are managed and to insure food security and ecological balance.

Soil management options such as fertilizer application, soil organic matter management, use of legumes and tillage operations in our farming systems lend themselves to pillars of Global Soil Partnerships.

We are a continent that operates at different scales and we envision a responsive approach by the Global Soil Partnership. We trust that this partnership will acknowledge regional and national scenarios and furthermore, add synergy to other initiatives such as the Conservation of the Natural Resource Management Programmes of Regional Economic Bodies, the Global Integrated Africa Soil Information Service Office Project, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, CAADP, and the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa, FARA amongst others. Notwithstanding the important contributions of non-governmental organizations and the donor community.

In view of the importance of soils to agricultural production and the management of ecosystem services, the Africa group supports that the Council, one, takes note of the good progress made at the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. Two, notes that the current and future Reports of the Plenary Assembly shall be reported to the Committee on Agriculture COAG, which would advise the Council on any recommendations adopted by the GSP that may have policy implications of which could affect strategic programmes of the FAO as specified in the GSP rules of procedures.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

This is a general comment. Japan welcomes the progress made in the first Plenary Assembly of the GSP and we appreciate the leadership of the first Chairperson Ambassador Mario Arvelo. We have made a first important step of activities and we expect the activities of the GSP will be thriving.

Particularly, we are in the process of developing the Plans of Action and FAO Regional Conferences will be one of the good opportunities to provide an input for the formulation of the Plans of Action.

We also believe that the newly established Inter-Governmental Technical Panel of Soils (ITPS) will make a significant contribution to the process.

We thank Dr. Rapihat Chandarasrivongs for reminding us that the day after tomorrow is the World Soil Day and that the International Year of Soils in 2015 will be endorsed by UNGA shortly.

We appreciate the initiative of Thailand for establishing these two important events and we hope that the Global Soil Partnership will be evolved in tandem with these two international events. In this light, we look forward to working with the new Chairperson of the GSP, Dr. Rapihat of Thailand.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia approves the adoption of the Report of the first Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. We welcome the full scale launch of this initiative, which should draw attention to the problem of soils around the world.

We consider the partnership to be a good mechanism for building the capacity of Member Nations and for exchanging experience and information on soil resources, which will allow leading representatives of international academia to be involved in the work of FAO.

We hope that the Global Soil Partnership will facilitate the conduct of scientific research, improving the statistics and monitoring available in the area of soils through growing investment.

We value what was adopted at the June session of the GSP, the rules of procedure for the GSP. We particularly welcome the use of all six languages of FAO within the GSP. This is of particular significance for the work of country specialists with the use of specialized terminology.

We welcome the formulation of the ITPS and the clarification of the process for nominating its members. We would also like to say that on 20 November this year in Moscow, there was an international conference on the issue of food security and the problem of soils organized by the European Centre for Food Security, FAO, and the World Bank.

Some three dozen participants took part from countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Balkans. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the Global Soil Partnership, at the end of the meeting, the Euro-Asian sub-regional soil partnership was founded in the framework of the European Regional Soil Partnership.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to also underline the support for the General Assembly's decision to declare an International Year of Soils and an International Soil Day.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for having presented the outcomes of the first Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. We would also like to thank the Chair of the first session of the Global Soil Partnership Assembly for his excellent work.

We would also like to congratulate the representative of Thailand on having been elected as Chair of the second session. We are sure that it will be a very successful session, especially under his able Chairmanship. I would like to actually take this opportunity to go back to the statement that was made by Thailand on the work of the partnership and on the World Soil Day as well as the International Year of Soils.

Earlier on, the Secretariat presented a report of the first session of the Global Soil Partnership Assembly that was held in Rome in June of this year, 2013, as well as the results that were achieved during that session. Now, this first session adopted the internal regulations of the partnership as well as a plan of action for the five pillars as well as the budget.

In the course of the session, an Intergovernmental Technical Panel of soils was also established, as well as a roadmap on soils and sustainable development goals for soils as well as the world charter on soils.

It was also agreed that data would be collected on world soils and to establish a mechanism for the sustainable management of soils and an overall global assessment of soils. Additional activities were also agreed upon, hence the importance of soils, the soil question in relation to food security and food protection.

It is for this reason that the Chinese delegation welcomes and appreciates the work done by FAO in this area and we certainly hope that the Secretariat will continue to support the work of the partnership.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

First of all, we would like to welcome the first Report of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. In this regard, we would like to reiterate our thanks and gratitude to King Bhumibol of Thailand for initiating this issue before us, resulting in the adoption of the proposal to declare 2015 the International Year of Soils and 5 December as World Soil Day by the FAO Conference.

We all know how important is soil for a small country like Bangladesh, which has more than 150 million people. We need to produce a huge amount of food to feed our population while maintaining the soil quality. So in this regard, Bangladesh welcomes the initiatives for making the awareness to maintain the good soil quality all over the globe. We support this initiative that was started by Thailand and endorse all the initiatives initiated by Thailand, and we expect that the Resolution will be adopted in the 68th UNGA very soon.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to join the earlier speakers in thanking and congratulating the current Chairperson of the Global Soil Partnership, Minister Chandarasrivongs, and the Secretariat for the presentation of the Report of the first meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the GSP.

We would also like to commend the Chairperson of the inaugural session of the Plenary last June, Ambassador Arvelo. We are likewise grateful for FAO's continued support to this initiative. The milestones achieved during the Assembly by way of the approval of the GSP rules of procedure and

establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Soils are clear evidence of the successful conduct of the activity and represent significant progress in raising awareness on the importance of soil.

We welcome the thrust on the establishment of regional soil partnerships, not only for operational strengthening but more specially in relation to enhancing food production and sustainable development.

We reiterate our support towards the celebration of World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils in 2015 and have accordingly advised our concerned authorities in the capital and representations in New York and we look forward to a favourable outcome of the negotiations in this regard.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La Delegación de Cuba también agradece la presentación de este importante tema y apoya la aprobación de este Informe, pues incluye temas relevantes para la Alianza Mundial sobre los Suelos y, en especial, la solicitud a los asociados para que se aporten fondos extrapresupuestarios o contribuciones en especies destinadas a apoyar las actividades de la Alianza a nivel mundial, regional o nacional.

Tengo el agrado de informar a este Consejo y a los Miembros que participan en él acerca de que entre los días 30 de septiembre y 3 de octubre pasado, se realizó en La Habana una reunión de Centroamérica y el Caribe para el lanzamiento de la Alianza con participación de representantes gubernamentales y no gubernamentales alcanzando muy buenos resultados. Los asistentes a dicha reunión identificaron las prioridades de la Alianza sobre los Suelos en Centroamérica, México y el Caribe.

En el evento se propuso un Plan de acción para la implementación de la Alianza en la región con el cual se pretende coordinar las iniciativas que conlleven a asegurar que el conocimiento y el reconocimiento de los suelos estén adecuadamente representados en los diálogos y los procesos de toma de decisiones en relación con el tema, enfatizando la necesidad de coordinación y colaboración para crear una voz unificada y reconocida para los suelos y así evitar la fragmentación de esfuerzos y el buen uso de los recursos.

Sin duda, las iniciativas que puedan producirse a partir el lanzamiento de esta iniciativa para nuestra región necesitarán del apoyo de la Alianza y de la FAO. En particular, Cuba está en disposición de cooperar con las actividades de la Alianza y poner a su disposición también la experiencia profesional de los expertos en este tema que puedan brindar aporte a la región o a otras partes del mundo.

Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh AL ARGAN (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to speak to you on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. I would like to thank all of those who participated in preparing this document which we have before us.

I would like to say that the Global Soil Partnership and the aims for which this partnership was established, as well as the essential aspects of this partnership, in particular the conservation of soils, the exchange of information about soils, and maintaining soil fertility and the sustainable management of soils, all of this is very important.

In the Near East, we support the efforts undertaken to ensure that this Global Soil Partnership is crowned a success and we will make every effort to ensure that this partnership is a great success. I hope that this partnership will play an effective role in contributing to expand the skills base which exists in our region in the area of soil sciences. This will be beneficial for farmers because it will improve soil fertility and productivity. This will also have a positive impact on food security locally and globally.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Gracias Presidente y gracias a quienes han hecho uso de la palabra para mencionar mi nombre y el aporte de mi país como primer Presidente de la Alianza Global para los Suelos. El éxito de esa primera sesión se debió a la colaboración de todos los grupos regionales de los sesenta países que participaron y los veintidós asociados. Celebraremos ahora esta semana, junto a nuestro nuevo

Presidente, el Día Mundial de los Suelos y en su momento también celebraremos el Año Internacional para los Suelos.

El suelo es el lugar donde ocurre la vida. Es esa capa frágil de tierra donde crecen las plantas, donde ocurre la agricultura y de la cual dependen la seguridad alimentaria y la vida humana. Es ese universo productivo donde el reino vegetal puede existir, florecer y dar frutos y que se reduce a menos de la mitad de las tierras de nuestro planeta que emergen de los mares. Esos suelos se enfrentan a numerosos retos: la salificación, la erosión, el avance de los desiertos, el cambio climático e incluso el uso mismo de los suelos en la agricultura porque las prácticas agrícolas intensivas, especialmente las técnicas para satisfacer las necesidades de las granjas de gran escala, terminan por erosionar el terreno y, en algunos casos, destruirlo.

Cuando el suelo se degrada se entra en un círculo vicioso que destruyen los ecosistemas circundantes. La acidificación y la polución generadas por el hombre aceleran ese proceso. Y a medida que aumenta la destrucción de esa frágil capa vital, las soluciones para mitigar y revertir su pérdida se hacen cada vez más costosas en términos humanos, sociales y financieros. En los primeros once meses de este año, las pérdidas de masa forestal y el avance de los desiertos suman doscientos mil kilómetros cuadrados de nuevos suelos degradados. Esa es un área igual, para ponerla en contexto, a la de todo el Reino Unido. En esa área de nuevos suelos degradados caben cincuenta de los Estados Miembros de esta Organización.

Quiero aprovechar mi intervención para unirme a quienes han felicitado a nuestro Presidente de la Alianza, Sr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs de Tailandia. Quiero también mencionar, junto a otros, el extraordinario aporte que hace el Secretariado de esta Organización y mencionar por su nombre a una persona clave en este proceso que es el Señor Ronald Vargas.

De nosotros, de nuestro trabajo en esta casa depende crear las condiciones para que el mundo provea comida abundante y nutritiva para toda la humanidad. Esto solo es posible protegiendo el suelo, dándole un uso responsable y un uso sostenible. Dejar el suelo a la suerte de los elementos, explotarlo sin detenernos a pensar en la herencia de nuestros hijos es un crimen moral.

Ignorar el suelo, ese lugar sagrado de donde hemos surgido y adonde regresaremos y que hoy necesitamos para seguir existiendo, nos lleva a un camino del que no hay retorno. Con el lanzamiento de la Alianza Global sobre los Suelos, la FAO, nosotros, sus Estados Miembros y esta Institución reafirman su relevancia como creador de bienes públicos globales. Y este es un bien público global clave para la seguridad alimentaria.

Mr Beda MACHAR DENG (Observer for South Sudan)

South Sudan adopted a decentralized system of governance to enable people to participate in development to ensure efficient and effective delivery of service to the people of South Sudan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources, Cooperatives and Rural Development is one of the largest ministries following the last reshuffle of some two months ago.

The Ministry's fundamentals are to formulate policies, standards, and plans for agriculture and forestry, livestock, and fisheries development and other sectors. While the Ministry is pursuing agricultural development, but mindful of the status of the environment, we want to avoid fundamental degradation.

To promote scientific practices of land management which is of paramount importance, we need efficient production and marketing of agriculture, forest, livestock, and fisheries for products.

A great majority of the people live in the rural areas deriving their livelihood from agriculture and livestock. Ninety-five percent of the South Sudan territory is considered as arable land and about 50 percent is prime land suitable for various crops. Unfortunately, only 4.5 percent is being utilized for the crops production such as cereals, root crops, pulses, and other oil crops within the country.

Since two percent is covered by forest, all farm operations are done with the simple, traditional tools. Farming is rain fed. This means when the rain pattern changes, its frequency has a negative impact on

the farming communities. South Sudan is both uni-model and bi-model rainfall pattern. The bi-model covers some areas within the three states. The uni-model covers some parts of the old Southern states.

These rainfall patterns enable growing seasons ranging from 280 to 300 days in bi-model in which the farmers can plant and harvest twice in a season, 130 to 150 in uni-model where farming is done in a single season. Nearly 78 percent of the households are engaged in agricultural production in a farm size of one to two hectares. This is on the soil.

A majority are subsistent farmers, cultivating on home consumption and little quantity use the market using traditional tools. In some areas, progressive farmers use tractors and animal traction for land preparation, they use improved and certified seeds.

The Ministry effort to support our farmers is very limited in providing tractors, higher services, and some inputs and have some challenges. The main crops cultivated, as I mentioned before, were the sorghum as part of the cereals, root crops like sweet potatoes and cassava, and high value fruits and vegetables.

In this sense, agriculture is the backbone of the country. People believe that there is no indication other than agriculture for the world within the Republic of South Sudan and this is known mostly using organic farming. The people never use fertilizers because fertilizers are not there but they are practising organic farming because of the fertility of the soil.

So you see the importance of the soil to the people of the Republic of South Sudan and we actually need the modern technology to support the Republic. Should the NGOs and known agencies and UN agencies operating in food security in the Republic of South Sudan help the people to maintain that soil status within the country.

Sra. Stella Maris CHIRINOS LLERENA (Perú)

El Perú agradece la presentación del Informe efectuado por la Secretaría y sobre todo quiere realzar el empeño y compromiso de la Secretaría de la FAO para llevar adelante la Alianza Mundial sobre los Suelos. Asimismo, agradece a aquellos países que de alguna manera han contribuido en este proceso.

El Perú es un país que enfrenta una gran erosión hídrica y salinización en los suelos de la costa y la sierra peruana. Estas dificultades nos han hecho tomar conciencia de la gran importancia de este recurso.

Por lo cual, apoyamos plenamente este Informe y los procesos llevados a cabo en la FAO, a fin de realzar el papel del suelo para la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, el Perú reitera el apoyo al proceso en Nueva York para la adopción del el Año Internacional de los Suelos y del Día Mundial del Suelo.

El Perú considera que una vez aprobadas en Nueva York ambas fechas conmemorativas, tanto la FAO como los Estados Miembros deben iniciar a difundir, a través de la realización de diversos eventos, la importancia de los suelos con la finalidad de crear conciencia sobre la importancia de cuidar este crucial recurso que, como todos sabemos, no es renovable inmediatamente.

Mr Olcay UNVER (Deputy Director, Natural Resources and Land)

All I heard was support and good wishes so we are very grateful for the support that we have received, both today and in the process, and certainly we look forward to a very productive period of establishment and implementation of action plans that are under production right now.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Chairperson, Global Soil Partnership Assembly)

I want to say that we really appreciate the support of all Member Nations for the Global Soil Partnership as a mechanism for promoting soil for food security.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Here are my conclusions for item 14:

- 1) The Council acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership and requested that subsequent Plenary Assemblies make regular reports to the Committee on Agriculture on the implications of their main decisions and recommendations.
- 2) The Council welcomed the adoption of GSP Rules of Procedure, complimentary to the existing Terms of Reference, as well as the establishment of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.
- 3) The Council noted that the Plenary Assembly had discussed development of Plans of Action for the GSP Pillars and the progressive establishment of Regional Soil Partnerships.
- 4) The Council further noted that the Plenary Assembly had requested in particular the establishment of a dedicated facility as FAO's to facilitate collection of extra budgetary contributions to approved activities and projects in a transparent manner.

This concludes item 14. I thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this afternoon's session. We will resume our work tomorrow morning at 9:30 on the dot with item 15, WFP, and sub-item 15.1, "Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board", followed by sub-item 15.2, "Annual Reporting of the World Food Programme to ECOSOC and the FAO Council".

I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 18:17 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 17

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.17

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
4 December 2013

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

15. World Food Programme
15. Programme alimentaire mondial
15. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

15.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board
15.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM
15.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA
 (CL 148/11; CL 148/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Meeting of the 148th Session of the FAO Council to order.

The first item on the Agenda this morning is Sub item 15.1, Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are CL 148/11 and CL 148/LIM/3.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the WFP Secretariat members, Ms Elisabeth Rasmusson, Assistant Executive Director, Partnership and Governance Services Department and Ms Erika Joergensen, Secretary to the Executive Board.

The Secretary-General will now read the list of candidates, which was published in CL 148/LIM/3 last week. Council will recall the Secretary-General's announcement of two List B candidates at the opening of the fourth meeting of Council, which took place yesterday afternoon.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For List A we have two candidates for two seats to be filled: Equatorial Guinea, South Africa.

Following the withdrawal of Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran, for List B there is one seat to be filled and one candidate: Saudi Arabia.

For List C there is one candidate and one seat to be filled: Colombia.

For List D there are two seats to be filled and two candidates: Canada, Germany.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for Lists A, B, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

Is the Council willing to elect six candidates: Canada, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Saudi Arabia and South Africa by clear general consent?

Thank you, it is so decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

Congratulations to the Members Council has just elected to the WFP Executive Board.

I would like to inform Council that a letter was received from Ambassador Thomas Wriessnig of Germany, Convener of the WFP List D, in which he requested that Members be notified of the agreement reached within List D regarding the rotation of seats. As Belgium and Sweden, have stepped down it is proposed that Australia and Luxembourg would occupy these seats for 2014.

May I take it that Council wishes to elect Australia and Luxembourg to the List D seats vacated by Belgium and Sweden for the period 1 January to 31 December 2014?

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

15.2 Annual Reporting of the World Food Programme to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the FAO Council

15.2 Rapport annuel du Programme alimentaire mondial à l'intention du Conseil économique et social et du Conseil de la FAO

15.2 Informe anual del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas y el Consejo de la FAO

(CL 148/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to sub-item 15.2, Annual Reporting of the World Food Programme to ECOSOC and the FAO Council. This item is presented to Council in line with the Resolution adopted by ECOSOC in July 2013 which requested United Nations funds and programmes to consolidate their current annual reporting cycles in line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Before Council is document CL 148/LIM/6 which sets out the background to this matter.

I will pass the floor to Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov, President of the WFP Executive Board, to introduce this item.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (President, WFP Executive Board)

I would first of all like to thank the FAO Council Members for accepting to consider this additional item under an already heavy agenda and also thank you and the Chairs of the Regional Groups for holding informal discussions with members of the WFP Board Bureau prior to this Council Session.

As highlighted by the Chairperson, the ultimate goal of the decision to be taken today is to align WFP annual reporting with the one of the other UN Funds and Programmes, following the requirements of the ECOSOC resolution which addresses the QCPR implementation, as decided by the UN General Assembly.

This decision of the FAO Council will enable the WFP to harmonize the Annual Reporting. The issues and requirements given by the QCPR have been and still are under discussion in the Executive Board of WFP.

In relation to the simplification of the Annual Reporting, Board Members have in particular highlighted that they expect the coverage of the reporting to meet the present standards.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I will now pass the floor to Mr Antonio Tavares, Legal Counsel, to explain further what Council is being asked to take a decision on, and why.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Indeed, I wish to provide a few clarifications on this matter, also because this item was, as pointed out by the Chairman of the Executive Board, presented at a late stage.

ECOSOC requested WFP, as well as a number of Programmes and Funds, to make a number of changes in the way in which they report to it. WFP is an autonomous joint subsidiary Programme of the United Nations and FAO, and the status of WFP is defined in the General Regulations which are adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by the Conference of FAO.

Whenever there is a need to modify or to take a number of decisions affecting the status of WFP and its reporting, this is done by parallel resolutions of the UNGA and the Conference of FAO, or more generally by the two Organizations, and it could also be by the ECOSOC and by the Council, as is the case at present.

ECOSOC has requested that a number of changes be made to the manner in which WFP reports to ECOSOC, also to bring this reporting into line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review cycle. The operative part of the ECOSOC Resolution is reproduced in document CL 148/LIM/6 and the Council is invited to take a decision parallel to that taken already by ECOSOC.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I can now say that we have come to the end of this item and let me go to my conclusions.

May I take it that Council endorses the proposed text for a Council decision on the consolidation of WFP's annual reporting, which is given after paragraph 4 of document CL 148/LIM/6?

Thank you. It is so decided.

13. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 146th Session of the Council**13. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 146^{ème} session****13. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 146.º período de sesiones**

(CL 148/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 13: Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 146th Session of the Council. The relevant document is CL 148/LIM/4.

As foreseen in the Multi-Year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note the information on the implementation of decisions taken at its last session. In addition, document CL 148/LIM/4 also contains an update on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 145th Session of the Council held in December 2012, for which actions had not been completed by the time of the 147th Session of Council in April 2013.

The document is self-explanatory. I will now open the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We very much appreciate this status report. We think that the format of the table has been improved with ingenuity and the table clearly shows the status of implementation. We very much appreciate the effort made by the Secretariat.

We have two small comments for consideration by the Secretariat. We are not requesting revision of the document.

One is about number 10, which regards adequate funding for GIAHS. We already made a comment on this issue under item 3, the adjustments to the PWB, but according to this document, the issue is completed, but the funding for GIAHS is still under consideration, that is our understanding.

The second point is about number 16, the Implementation Report of the Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector. According to the document, Mr Rakesh Muthoo is designated as the Reporting Officer, but I suppose Ms Marcela Villarreal is the appropriate Reporting Officer.

We think it is better that the Reporting Officer is assigned according to the required action rather than the Agenda item under which the decision was made. As for number 22, the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations, the Reporting Officer is Ms Villarreal, we think that in line with this, number 16 should also be borne by her.

Again, we are not requesting revision of the document, we reiterate our appreciation for the work made by the Secretariat.

Mme Josiane RATSIMBAZAFY (Madagascar)

Monsieur le Président, étant donné que c'est la première fois que je prends la parole devant cette session, j'aimerais tout d'abord vous féliciter pour la manière dont vous conduisez nos travaux et vous pouvez compter sur le plein appui de la délégation de Madagascar.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation intervient sur le point 13, document CL 148/LIM/4, sur les questions relatives à la gouvernance, et nous remercions aussi le Secrétariat pour ces travaux. Ce document traduit au mieux les importants efforts menés par l'Organisation pour exécuter les décisions du Conseil, organe exécutif de la conférence de la FAO. Le Groupe Afrique, au nom duquel je

m'exprime, note avec satisfaction que les décisions prises par le Conseil dans sa 146^{ème} session ont été prises en compte par le Secrétariat. La présentation de l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre de chaque décision à travers un tableau synoptique permet d'avoir une visibilité plus claire des actions menées au sein de la dite Organisation. La structuration des actions sous la forme achevée, en cours, ou pas encore commencée, nous permet de donner des statistiques sur l'état d'exécution des dites décisions. Sur l'ensemble que vous voyez sur le tableau, et sur les 35 décisions prises lors de la 146^{ème} session, 20 ont été effectivement achevées soit une réalisation de 58 pour cent, 13 sont en cours d'exécution soit 37 pour cent, et deux n'ont pas été encore commencées, soit 5 pour cent.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe régional Afrique attend avec beaucoup d'intérêt la mise en œuvre effective de toutes les décisions, notamment celles relatives au rapport final de la Direction sur la mise en œuvre du PAI et le processus de réforme de la FAO. Après avoir apprécié l'état d'avancement de l'exécution des décisions de la 146^{ème} session, ma délégation, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, invite tous les Membres du Conseil ici présents à adopter les informations contenues dans le document CL 148/LIM/4.

Mr Oleg KOBIAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)¹

We thank the Secretariat for the report on the Status of implementation of decisions taken at the previous sessions of the Council. In this connection we would like to refer to paragraph 19, dealing with the increase of the number of FAO products translated into Russian.

The Russian Federation welcomes continued efforts of the Secretariat in this important area as demonstrated by a 45 percent increase of the number of FAO products in Russian in 2012-13 biennium.

We are satisfied that the major part of the recent documents, including FAO publications, is available to Russian-speaking readers. The share of documents in Russian in the FAO Document Repository has increased in the current biennium by half. We especially note that the Terminology Portal of this Organization has been quite substantially enriched by Russian equivalents.

Still, we would like to be able to judge the increase of the publications in Russian not only in terms of share of the previously published documents, but also in terms of a tangible growth in their number.

We have noted that 44 publications were published in Russian in the current biennium. For comparison's sake, in 2010-11 FAO published 1.3 thousand products (only 4 percent of those in Russian).

Unfortunately, a vast body of historical publications of specific interest to our country's experts and to experts of a number of countries of the Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus is not accessible to Russian-speaking audiences.

We would like to recall in this connection a conclusion of a recent Independent Evaluation of the Regional and Sub-regional offices for Europe and Central Asia that the lack of documents translated into Russian may become a major obstacle for the enhanced use of FAO products in the Region.

We welcome and support the Secretariat's work with a view to expanding the use of the Russian language in all the Organization's activities in accordance with the UN policy of multilingualism. We encourage maintaining and enhancing a positive momentum in this area.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, my conclusions for item 13 are as follows:

The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 145th Session, held from 3 to 7 December 2012, and its 146th Session, held from 22 to 26 April 2013, and requested that they be implemented effectively and rapidly.

Item 13 is concluded.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

16. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-15**16. Calendrier 2014-2015 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales****16. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2014-15**

(CL 148/LIM/1 Rev.2)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on our agenda is item 16: Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-15. The relevant document is CL 148/LIM/1 Rev.2.

FAO produces this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP to avoid overlapping of meetings. To facilitate matters, the three Rome-based Agencies have launched a "common calendar" on the web, which is updated by all three Agencies and can be consulted by all Members online.

The address to access the site is given in the document before you that is CL 148/LIM/1 Rev.2.

The schedule of meetings for 2014 is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for information, are indicated by an asterisk.

Council will note that the dates of the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East have been modified to Monday 24 to Friday 28 February 2014. The Regional Conference will be held in Rome.

Do delegates have any queries or comments?

Mme Josiane RATSIMBAZAFY (Madagascar)

La délégation de Madagascar intervient au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 16 que vous avez présenté et relatif au Calendrier 2014-2015 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales.

La FAO a établi ce calendrier en étroite collaboration avec le PAM, le FIDA pour éviter les chevauchements. Le Groupe Afrique a apprécié grandement l'amélioration du système actuel grâce au calendrier commun mis en ligne sur le site et consultable à tout moment par tous les responsables des trois organisations chargés de la programmation des réunions, ainsi que par les représentants permanents. Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite ainsi le Secrétariat de la FAO pour les efforts consentis en vue d'une meilleure coordination des réunions des trois agences des Nations Unies ayant leur siège ici à Rome grâce à la mise en ligne d'un calendrier commun.

Le Groupe régional Afrique prend ainsi note du calendrier 2015 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales et approuve les dates de réunion pour 2014, ainsi que les quatre modifications apportées par le Secrétariat.

Pour terminer, le Groupe Afrique invite tous les Membres ici présents à en faire autant.

CHAIRPERSON

By approving the calendar for 2014, Council has decided that its next session will take place from 16 to 20 June 2014.

Item 16 is concluded.

17. Provisional Agenda for the 149th Session of the Council (June 2014)**17. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 149^{ème} session du Conseil (juin 2014)****17. Programa provisional del 149.º período de sesiones del Consejo (junio de 2014)**

(CL 148/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to Item 17: Provisional Agenda for the 149th Session of the Council in June 2014. The relevant document is CL 148/INF/2.

The Council is requested to consider the draft agenda for its next session and propose, if necessary, matters for inclusion.

I see no comments on this item.

I can therefore conclude that the Provisional Agenda of its 149th Session in June 2014 has been endorsed.

19. Working Methods of the Council

19. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

19. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 19, Working Methods of the Council.

I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of initiatives to improve our working methods.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

To further improve secretariat services provided to Members, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- A briefing session for new Council Members which offered the opportunity to discuss the role of the Council was held on 24 September 2013. This is in keeping with a request made by several Members at the last session of Council in June this year;
- The publication in July this year of the document “An Introduction to the FAO Council”, which can be downloaded from the Council Web page and from the “Key Documents” page of the Permanent Representatives Website;
- Work on setting up of a new electronic voting system for the Plenary Hall is going ahead. The new system will have the following features:
 - The names of the countries voting will be displayed on large plasma screens on either side of the Plenary Hall, and will be clearly readable by all participants;
 - On a roll call vote the vote of each Member will be known immediately;
- A link giving access to a list of upcoming and recent Governing Body meetings and related documents has been added to the FAO Home page;
- All Conference Resolutions from 1945 to 2013 can now be accessed conveniently through the Governing and Statutory Bodies Website. This link is given on the Council Webpage and is also mentioned in today’s Order of the Day.

Sr. Benito Santiago JIMÉNEZ SAUMA (México)

Agradecemos la información proporcionada por el Secretario de la FAO y agradecemos también la respuesta que han dado a nuestros llamados en sesiones anteriores para actualizar el sistema de votación electrónica. Esperamos que éste sea implementado y que sea similar a como se usa en otras sedes de Naciones Unidas. Agradecemos la descripción que se ha hecho y también saber si este sistema incluye la transcripción por escrito de los resultados y su distribución en papel.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Merci Monsieur le Président, et merci également à Monsieur Gagnon pour la mise à jour du document sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil. Nous pensons que les nouvelles propositions qui viennent d’être présentées sont entérinées par le Groupe Afrique que j’ai l’honneur de représenter ici.

Je souhaiterais juste rapidement demander pourquoi ce document n’a pas de cote ? C’est le seul document dans toute la documentation que nous avons reçue qui n’a pas de cote. Il faudrait peut-être trouver le moyen d’en mettre une ?

Sinon nous entérinons tout ce qui a été demandé, je vous remercie.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you for your interventions, your feedback is very much appreciated.

Regarding marking the document on Methods and Work of Council, this is more or less a standing document, but the point is well taken and the Secretariat will find a way to make it more easily accessible, because indeed it is used at each Session of Council and it is certainly a very useful reminder on the governance principles as they apply to Council. We will look into this matter without delay.

Regarding the question asked by Mexico, I should recall that we are changing the screens, but the software supporting the system will remain the same. With the available budget, it is not possible to go further and change the software. I am talking of the electronic system available at the seat of each Delegate, when a vote is taking place.

This improvement will probably take place when eventually the Plenary Hall itself is renovated. With the new installation, we should be able to generate results on a piece of paper much more easily than it is done now, as with the current system it is not immediately clear, at times, whether there is a majority, and what is the final result.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. I can now conclude on item 19 that the Council welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to improve the methods of work of the Council, and encouraged further improvements.

Item 19 is now concluded.

20. Any Other Matters

20. Autres questions

20. Asuntos varios

20.1 Proposed Technical Consultation on Low Levels of Genetically Modified Crops in International Food and Feed Trade

20.1 Proposition relative à une consultation technique sur les faibles proportions de cultures génétiquement modifiées dans le commerce international des produits d'alimentation humaine et animale

20.1 Propuesta de Consulta técnica sobre niveles bajos de cultivos modificados genéticamente en el comercio internacional de alimentos y piensos

(CL 148/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to the last item on the Agenda, Any Other Matters, which has two sub-items. Sub-item 20.1 concerns a proposed Technical Consultation on Low levels of Genetically Modified crops in International Food and Feed Trade. The relevant document is CL 148/LIM/5.

Council is asked to review the proposal to convene a Technical Consultation to facilitate international dialogue on levels of Genetically Modified crops in international feed trade in early 2014.

Since the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology was discontinued in 2008, FAO has not provided an international forum to discuss this issue, and the proposed meeting sets out to address this.

I should like to point out that Council is being asked to give a decision on the convening of a Technical Consultation of FAO Members next year rather than enter into the substance of the proposed meeting.

Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, will present this item. FAO Legal Counsel, Mr Antonio Tavares, has also joined us for any questions of a non-technical nature which may arise.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you Mr Chairperson for the opportunity to present this important proposal.

It is a great pleasure for me to make this short introduction of the proposal for FAO Technical Consultation on Low Level Presence of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops.

First of all, we all observed an increase of international trade in agricultural commodities, and particularly in grains, and that also leads to the observation as requested by Member Nations on the fact that trace level of GM can lead to trade disruptions.

For example, a shipment of exported grain by an exporting country supposed to be a non-transgenic crop arrives at the port of an importing country and it was detected on a trace of micro level transgenic crop non intentionally mixed in that shipment, because of the regulations there is a whole cargo of shipment stuck at a port or be rejected. We can see that that has a quite significant economical implications or consequences. Such incidents can occur at a trace level of transgenic event has been approved or, in other cases, the approved shipment contains a particular event as we call it of a transgenic progress, crop. At arriving at a port, if there is a detachment of a non-approved event by certain importing countries, that cargo may also be rejected.

There is such low levels of GM crops or the problems may happen because of the increasing of volume of transgenic crops are produced and in a gage as we noted and has been reported that about 170 million hectares of transgenic crops produced or planted worldwide. As I mentioned unintentional mixing in the storage or transport or particularly, at a different timing of approval what we call asynchronous approval. In some cases, in different countries timing of approval is different and also diverse transgenic regulations among countries or because of labelling requirements and regulations are different. All of this, could cause such a problem to occur.

The CODEX *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Bio-technology successfully completed its work in 2008 and was dissolved. The elaborated principles and guidelines for scientific assessment for safety of food derived from bio-technology. At the moment there are no relevant international standards in establishing acceptable low levels of transgenic or genetic modified crops as a result of unintended presence. There has been no request for further work in CODEX on the GMOs or on this issue as we call it the low level presence since the ad Hoc Task Force was dissolved in 2008.

Under the request of the member countries, FAO conducted a study/investigation to gain a better understanding of the extent of the potential trade disruption and to understand what is the nature of this issue. EST division has conducted an international survey. A questionnaire was sent to all FAO members with 64 responses, 38 percent response rate. We should point out that 60 percent of the responses were from developing countries.

This study raises the questions to ponder, such as Is the issue of low levels of GM crops widely considered to be a significant problem? What is the nature and extent of the problem? Who are most affected? How will this issue evolve in the near and medium term future? What are the implications to food security, global agriculture trade, food prices and food safety for instance?

We would like to propose FAO to convene a Technical Consultation on the topic in early 2014. We believe that this is really one of FAO's core functions to convene such a dialogue. As this is going to be the first time, the scope would be technical and exploratory, simply to provide a forum for FAO members to initiate dialogue involving the exporting and importing countries as well as other stakeholders.

The Technical Consultation is not intended to be an event to reach any policy agreement or a position of FAO on this. The expected results of this consultation includes awareness raised on the issue and surrounding factors and possible impacts on food security; to gain Improved understanding and recognition of various points of view from relevant stakeholders; and, hopefully to reach an agreement to work collaboratively to further discuss the issue.

The financial implications for holding such a consultation dialogue is USD 250,000 based on the anticipation that this Consultation is open to all FAO Members. Financial support will be provided to selected developing country delegates (through a transparent selection process based on pre-established criteria). We received offer received to provide extra-budgetary funds by the Government of Canada to cover most of the costs.

In order to organize this Consultation would primarily be intended for national trade and food regulatory policy officers. It would also involve NGOs, civil society organizations, international partner organizations, private sector bodies and academia. The initiative follows the approach of the previous project on the same topic, namely the development of the FAO GM Foods Platform, which was well received, balanced and evidence-based dialogue.

What we seek from the Council is to review the proposal, and we hope you endorse to convey such a dialogue.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Wang. I now give the floor to delegations who may wish to speak on this item. May I remind and request you that you should not enter into the substance of the proposed meeting.

Mr Mhutang SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is presented on behalf of the Africa Group

While the production and use of genetically modified crops for food security is a subject that we may not always agree upon, GM crops and the international trade thereof is a global reality and an important global economic activity. However it is important to separate the debate on the production and use of GM food from the issue of their handling in global trade. And we therefore appreciate that some FAO Member Nations have requested the FAO to facilitate technical consultations on the low-level presence of genetically modified crops in international food and free trade as a step towards addressing the potential trade disruptions.

We support this proposal and trust that such dialogue will be inclusive, transparent and guided by scientific evidence.

Sra. Alba COELLO (Ecuador)

La Delegación de Ecuador desea plantear que se actúe con precaución en el tema para no invadir competencias de otros foros, que en este caso sería la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Esta Delegación considera también que esta reunión tendría, y lo queremos enfatizar, un carácter exploratorio y que no busca iniciar un proceso ni tampoco sacar recomendaciones consensuadas para los países.

Sobre esta base, apoyaríamos que se denomine reunión técnica y no consulta técnica porque el termino "consulta técnica", como todo sabemos, en el ámbito de la FAO, es empleado para procesos que han tenido como finalidad la adopción de un instrumento o políticas comunes, como es el caso de la consultas tecnicas realizadas en el Comité de Pesca.

Por lo tanto, reiteramos que se hable de una reunión técnica y no de una consulta técnica. En fin, queremos saber si el Consejo va a dar un mandato al organismo responsable de llevar a cabo esta reunión técnica.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

En primer termino, queremos respaldar la intervación que acaba de hacer la Delegación de Ecuador. Nos sumamos a la preocupación que ha sido mostrada por esta Delegación con relación al foro competente que debe tratar esta materia. Como ya anteriormente dicho por mi Delegación en distintas reuniones de la FAO, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela no acepta los Organismos Vivos Modificados (OVMs) en su territorio, a pesar de que la utilización de los mismos y su uso regulado están contemplados en una ley nacional sobre gestión de la Diversidad Biológica y el Marco de Bioseguridad, ya que la inocuidad de éstos alimentos sobre los seres humanos no está comprobada.

Venezuela en diferentes foros ha demostrado su desacuerdo con la aplicación de los Organismos Vivos Modificados en la agricultura; ya que existen estudios que dan cuenta de los desastres por la contaminación causados por estos sistemas de cultivo, y también hemos realizado una fuerte denuncia sobre los procesos de patentamiento de semillas, que afectan el desarrollo de sistemas agrícolas ecológicos que promueven los campesinos y los pequeños productores.

Este tema, como ya lo ha expresado el coordinador para Recursos Naturales, ha sido agotado en el Codex Alimentarius y, por otro lado, como apunta Ecuador, sería adecuado tratarlo en la Organización Mundial de Comercio. También deseamos llamar la atención sobre el procedimiento seguido para el examen de este documento en la agenda del Consejo.

Consideramos que dato el componente técnico y político que tiene esta materia, la misma debería ser tratada previamente en otros foros antes de ser colocada en la agenda del Consejo. Esperemos que esta situación no se repita en el futuro. Dato esta argumentación, nosotros no estamos en condiciones de respaldar la convocatoria de esta consulta. Solicitamos que esta declaración repose en las actas taquigráficas de esta sesión, y de ser posible, en el Informe.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We support the proposed technical consultation on low-level genetically modified crops in international food and free trade.

As set out in the document, this technical consultation is not intended to reach any policy agreement by Members or to establish any GM policy by FAO. In trade, low level refers to the incidental presence of GM material in food, trees or grains that are consistent with the generally accepted agricultural facts.

It is true that the concept of low level may not be very clear and it is hoped that this consultation will clarify what is meant by low-level presence. It is also hoped that this consultation will find a way to reduce if not eliminate the obstacles to trade from low-level GM crops.

Finally, we thank the Government of Canada for funding most of the costs of this consultation.

Mr Amr Mostafa Kamal HELMY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

As far as the presence of low-level genetically modified crops in international trade in human and animal foodstuffs is concerned, we support the organization of a Technical Consultation with the presence of Members States and experts, and we hope that it could hold discussions on what is, after all, a very important issue that has real impact on agricultural exports. It would help if we could get to a common viewpoint on this issue.

We know that there are new types of genetically modified organisms that are appearing more frequently on almost a daily basis. We also know that some countries are participating in the development of these GMOs, and therefore their presence in the consultation would be essential.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Argentina apoya plenamente la realización de la consulta, y esto por una serie de motivos, los cuales fueron muy bien expresados por el Señor Wang, cuya presentación agradecemos por su precisión y claridad. Una precisión y claridad que también tiene el documento que estamos considerando, realmente nos parece que está suficientemente explicado, tanto el origen del problema como la propuesta que se nos presentan de realizar una consulta técnica en este sentido. Coincido plenamente con lo que manifestó Sudáfrica, hablando en nombre del Grupo Africano respaldando la celebración de la propuesta. Tenemos que distinguir entre el tema de los organismos genéticamente modificados que no estamos considerando en esta instancia, y los problemas que se presentan en cuanto al comercio internacional; una realidad que no podemos negar y que es creciente, como muy bien quedó reflejado en la presentación del Señor Wang. Reitero, no estamos hablando aquí de organismos genéticamente modificados. Es cierto que este tema ha sido considerado en el Codex, pero no creo haya sido agotado. Al contrario, nos parece que se justifica realizar esta consulta porque el tema ha

sido insuficientemente considerado en el Codex y estamos ahora ante la necesidad de enfrentar una nueva realidad que se nos presenta con estas dificultades para el comercio internacional.

Me refería a la claridad del documento que tenemos delante de nosotros e insisto en que el mismo presenta un proceso para la consulta que es abierto y participativo. La consulta que va a ser convocada será abierta, incluso desde el proceso de preparación, a los Miembros que estén interesados, y la consulta en sí, va a estar abierta a Organizaciones No Gubernamentales, al sector privado, y a organizaciones internacionales con competencia en la materia. No parece que estemos invadiendo la jurisdicción de ninguno de los organismos. Argentina, como política, es muy celosa de defender las atribuciones que tiene la FAO y de defender las atribuciones que tienen cada organismo y cada instancia de negociación. Y en este caso no vemos superposición. No lo vemos porque consideramos que, justamente, la consulta que tiene que ser llevada a cabo, va a brindar los elementos necesarios para analizar estos puntos y encontrar, quizás, maneras de trabajar para poder solucionar los problemas que también, entendimos, la consulta, ayudará a precisar.

No avanzar en este tema va a implicar perpetuar un problema que tiene consecuencias, no ya sólo económicas porque esto no es una cuestión que estamos viéndolo desde el punto de vista de los negocios. Este tema tiene también consecuencias para la seguridad alimentaria mundial porque afecta a flujos del comercio de granos y otros derivados.

Han sido planteados también algunos aspectos de procedimiento en cuanto al tratamiento de la consulta. Y quizás sea oportuno considerar esas cuestiones. Este tema ha sido presentado y considerado en el marco del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, y quizás sea oportuno, que los resultados de la consulta técnica, sean presentados a ese Comité, de forma tal que sus Miembros, y obviamente, todos los Miembros de la Organización, estén al tanto y lo reciban formalmente bajo este procedimiento. Creemos que eso es una vía adecuada para encaminar los resultados de una consulta que esperamos sea participativa, activa y sobre todo, exitosa desde el punto de vista de comprender, entre todos, mucho mejor este problema y encontrar soluciones para ello.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Mi país agradece el documento aquí presentado respecto al cual tenemos los siguientes comentarios. Actualmente el número y la dificultad de los cultivos modificados genéticamente se están desarrollando en todo el mundo y van en aumento cada año. En este sentido es necesario promover directrices internacionales que permita a los países avanzar en la armonización de criterios para enfrentar nuevos desafíos derivados de la implementación de tecnologías agrícolas innovadoras, y resultan particularmente relevantes al considerar que existe consenso en que los países se encontrarán cada vez más a menudo ante situaciones en las que será necesario determinar las políticas y acciones a tomar dentro del comercio internacional de granos en situaciones de bajos niveles. En ese sentido se destaca la necesidad de establecer un sistema internacional de intercambio de datos, en que los gobiernos pudieran obtener información sobre el estado de situación de aprobaciones comerciales en estudio que se estén realizando en otros países.

Por lo anterior, consideramos que se debe desarrollar un entendimiento común entre los países en el tema de bajos niveles en el comercio de granos para alimentos, forraje y procesamiento, y comenzar a construir un consenso sobre la necesidad de abordar este tema a nivel internacional. En este ámbito, es importante la intervención de la FAO para convocar una consulta técnica con el propósito de promover el diálogo internacional sobre bajos niveles de cultivos genéticamente modificados en el comercio internacional de alimentos y piensos. De ser así, consideramos que los países valorarían la oportunidad de iniciar un trabajo conjunto que permita intercambiar información y discutir sobre el LLP.

Por lo cual, mi país respalda ampliamente la convocatoria de una consulta técnica para tal fin a principios del 2014 y a trabajar conjuntamente para hacer frente al riesgo de interrupciones en el comercio derivadas de situaciones de LLP, así como facilitar el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas mediante el desarrollo de métodos prácticos que incluyan tanto a los alimentos como a los piensos.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India fully supports the proposal and aligns with the views expressed by South Africa and Argentina to differentiate between GM crops and what is in the proposal, that is a technical consultation on low-level on genetically modified crops in an international food and feed trade.

India also wishes to go along with what the Assistant Director-General mentioned, that this is a core mandate of FAO and feels that FAO, which is often referred to as a repository of knowledge in this regard, would suffer if we do not allow such consultations.

Such a repository needs to grow, the bank of knowledge needs to grow. And no matter how controversial the matter, consultations and meetings must be allowed in order to come to an agreement or come up with various ideas. So India fully supports the proposal.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO e SANTOS (Brazil)

Brazil also fully support this proposal, we also align ourselves with the statements made by South Africa and Argentina, we understand that the definition of a reasonable and scientific based limits of the low level presence is a very relevant theme and we understand that it must be very well discussed to come to the necessary conclusions.

We fully support this Consultation to be held in early 2014.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I also associate myself with the statement made by South Africa and all those countries which support the consultation to be conducted.

We think that the best place to hold the consultation is the neutral organization which is FAO, a knowledge organization and for its neutrality, full participation would be reached and neutral in nature. Or else if you go to another Organization for example WTO which is dominated by mainly only few countries that have a business interest in it.

Regarding the wording if it is a consultation or a meeting, the legal advisor should give his advice on this.

Ms Shelina AFROZA (Bangladesh)

GM technologies opened up enormous opportunities in ensuring food security, but there are still some challenges to be faced yet. Bangladesh has lack of exporting and laboratory capacities, but we fully feel some way forward.

We are building GMO technologies, capacity building and exporting development, political commitment and integrated approach in GM adoption, certification in international trading of GMO, we fully support and welcome international dialogue, Bangladesh would like to participate in this dialogue and we support the proposal and we really appreciate Canada finding support in this very time bound and sensitive issue.

Ms Dorothee ANDRÉ (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU (Iceland, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) align themselves with this statement.

As a start we would like to note that the European Union's legislation on Genetically Modified Organisms provides that GM food and feed can be imported in the European Union only after having been authorised, following a thorough high standard scientific risk assessment. This policy of pre-market authorisation, with no tolerance as regards unauthorised GM material, is a founding principle which has been adopted by the European Member States and the European Parliament.

We consider important to underline that we have implemented several actions to address this complex issue, by adopting national and EU measures, participating to activities of Codex work, and maintaining constant dialogue with our main trading partners, and we will continue to do so.

We acknowledge that international dialogue should play an important role in increasing common understanding of the issue, to better anticipate its possible evolution and to work collaboratively to further discussion, whilst fully respecting actions taken by countries or group of countries autonomously and in compliance with their rules and standards.

Regarding the proposal by FAO to host and facilitate a technical consultation on low level presence of GM crops in international Food and Feed Trade, we want to stress that no policy agreement on acceptable low levels of GM crops in traded food and feed as a result of unintended presence should derive from this consultation. Therefore, we support the scope outlined in the paragraph 7 of the proposal and the principle that it will be the prerogative of FAO Members to utilise the findings for relevant policies. In this regard, we wish to be involved in the preparatory process for the technical consultation and its follow-up.

Mr Oleg KOBIAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Delegation has very carefully studied the document which has been proposed by the Secretariat on the need for the holding of a technical consultation on low levels of genetically modified crops in international food and feed trade.

We have also listened to Mr Ren Wang and we have listened to our colleagues. We have listened to the arguments they have put forward, both for and against, on agreeing to this format for work in the future on what is a very important issue.

As experience shows, including in FAO, considering any question related to genetically modified organisms is a question which has many facets and it is certainly one which can have a lot of resonance, a lot of echo, and not all aspects of genetically modified organisms as an issue actually get the same reaction from all Member Nations. There is no particular sign of consensus on this one.

This is an important question and it is also a multi-sectoral issue. It actually goes beyond the competence of the Food and Agriculture Organization and I think it also falls to a certain extent within the mandate of WHO, not to mention the World Trade Organization. Maybe we need to remember that putting the question in its current state is not a discussion of the possibility of accepting GMO organisms in food products, it is a question of a certain content in trade that can be considered as a contaminant at various levels, whether you are talking of hormones, antibiotics, pesticides and even mechanical contaminants.

It is a very narrow, strictly applied thing when you are talking about international trade. This being the case, we think this needs to be discussed within the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission. That is where the discussion should take place because that is where you have both the correct mandate and a sufficient quantity of expertise, including in respective international trade. And we think the best body would be the Sub-Committee on Food Contaminants. Work on this has previously been done in Codex and we do not see any particular reason for taking it away from Codex and doing it somewhere else now. Furthermore, in order to ensure that we have a competent and well-informed decision taken on the holding of the consultation, taking into account the opinions of the Membership of FAO, we would like to consider what the Secretariat has proposed in more detail.

Today we are not satisfied with the basis for all the content of the document prepared by the Secretariat. My Delegation cannot therefore offer its support to the idea of holding such a technical consultation. Of course, taking into account the fact that the decision in this very important forum is presumably going to be taken by consensus, blocking a consensus is something that we do not intend to do. We therefore support those Delegations, including I believe the Delegation of the European Union, saying that this should have a strictly technical nature and any outcome should not be in the form of any mandatory guidance, not guidelines, not recommendation, not any other form of soft law either. It could be just a seminar.

Russia does realize and does understand the importance of the problem of GMOs when it comes to solving problems of food security and eradicating hunger but nonetheless I do not think we should try and “put the camel through the eye of the needle” so to speak.

Sr. Antonio BAYAS (Chile)

Nos parece que es necesario conversar y debatir sobre este tema fundamental para la agricultura.

En este sentido, apoyamos la realización de esta Consulta y compartimos plenamente lo expresado por la DELEGACIÓN de Argentina y de México sobre este relevante asunto.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

As has already been said by several Member Nations, Japan has no objection to holding a Technical Consultation on Low Levels of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops in International Food and Feed Trade as long as the consultation deals only with technical aspects of the issue and this consultation will not make any particular agreement or recommendation. This has been said by other Member Nations, and Japan would like to support these comments.

And on this occasion, with respect to the acceptable low levels to determine whether or not approved GM crops can be accepted in importing countries, Japan would like to point out that there has never been international consensus that we must establish such a threshold or low level of acceptance of GM crops.

In this context, I would like to point out that paragraph 3, the last sentence of the document is rather tricky and might lead to confusion in consumers. The last sentence reads: “Although these guidelines are available, there are no relevant international standards establishing acceptable low levels of GM crops in traded food and feed, as a result of unintended presence”. This sentence gives the impression that there has been an agreed consensus as to the establishment of an acceptable level. Japan would like to point out that there has been no such an international consensus, whatsoever so far.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation thanks the Secretariat for having prepared this document on a consultation on low levels of genetically modified crops and international food and feed trade. If the FAO as a technical, knowledge-based Organization undertakes an international dialogue on low levels of genetically modified crops and international food and feed trade then this could be useful in order to resolve the trade disruptions which may arise as a result of such low levels. So China does not object to the idea of organizing this technical consultation.

Nevertheless, it is our opinion that in the future, this sort of technical consultation should be consistent with the rules and procedures and the results should be discussed in the Technical Committees, for example the CCP or the COAG before being considered by Council or Conference. We would also like to stress that this consultation is of a technical nature and it should not affect political decision making with respect to issues of trade.

Lastly, we would like to stress that in paragraph 6 where it says: “The results of FAO technical analyses on the topic, including economic and trade-related policy analysis will be presented for discussion”. On this paragraph we would like to receive such a document as soon as possible reflecting the results of such technical analysis. We would also like for the document to be made available in the six official languages of the Organization and the subsequently it could be forwarded to specialists in our capitals so that they can be well prepared for the consultation.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GOMEZ (Cuba)

Agradecemos la presentación del documento con las propuestas respectivas.

Nosotros deseamos expresar nuestras preocupaciones en la misma línea que las que planteaba la Delegación del Ecuador, en cuanto, básicamente, a tener en cuenta los mandatos de las organizaciones que se ocupan específicamente de los temas de comercio, en especial la OMC.

Por otro lugar, queremos expresar que la realización de una consulta técnica sobre este tema no debe originar ningún acuerdo político —aunque lo dice el documento, deseamos precisarlo—, ni tampoco debe precisar ningún instrumento como directrices u otros similares que establezcan compromisos para los Países Miembros.

Al mismo tiempo, deseamos proponer que se evalúe la proposición que hacía la Delegación de Rusia en cuanto a considerar al Codex Alimentarius como el marco más acorde y más adecuado para hacer un análisis de este tipo. Y consideramos también que, sobre la base de lo planteado anteriormente, solo podríamos aceptar la realización de esta consulta si el objetivo claro de ella es solamente establecer un debate eminentemente técnico a todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO y aumentar el conocimiento sobre esta problemática internacional.

Ms Abla MALIK OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We agree with the findings of this document. GM crops can be a useful means to combat food insecurity and hunger, which we are facing increasingly because of climate change and other natural phenomena. This does not mean that we don't need regulations to deal with these GM crops; so we do support the holding of technical consultations in which experts and stakeholders in this field can participate. We think that it would be appropriate for experts from ministries also to attend these consultations. We need to reach an international consensus based on scientific findings in order to regulate this issue and increase transparency with regard to the protection of consumers, and also to uphold international food and feed trade so as to provide the international community with adequate food and food products.

Therefore we need coordination at the international level, we need consensus and we need to adopt measures in this regard, but we fear that these technical consultations will be restricted to certain countries and that important countries and countries that receive food aid, such as my country, will not be able to participate in these technical consultations. Therefore we call on the participation of experts and stakeholders from developing countries in particular in these technical consultations on genetically-modified crops, so as to be acquainted with the latest developments in this field and build a database on which we can rely in dealing with genetically-modified crops. This will also facilitate exchange of experience and knowledge between different countries and different scientific institutions.

We need to have a legal framework for such cooperation between developed and developing countries, and in particular countries that export GM crops to developing countries receiving food aid. We believe that such a legal framework will further enable a transfer of knowledge and technology and will provide developing countries that receive food aid with the adequate mechanisms and will enable these countries to adopt national consumer-protection laws.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you all for your excellent and very analytical comments. First of all, I would like to appreciate very much the high interest that delegates have shown on this topic. I don't think it is necessary to respond to all of the excellent comments, many of them are very fact-illustrating. I wish to respond with three or four key points.

There were a couple of delegates suggesting that we should have deferred such an issue to WTO. I wish to respond to that comment or suggestion that we actually have been in close consultation with WTO on this issue, on the idea of this proposal for a technical consultation. We have also been in consultation with other UN agencies, such as WHO and UNEP, that are all supporting the idea of FAO convening such a dialogue. Particularly, the Secretary of WTO indicated that they would be closely following our convening of this technical consultation and agreed that FAO would be an appropriate platform for convening such a dialogue.

We also believe that as several delegates pointed out, it is exactly one of the core functions of FAO to convene such a dialogue, to initiate discussions of different stakeholders to recognize and to gain better understanding of the issue. WTO Secretary also recognizes that FAO has the right expertise of cross-disciplinary nature in dealing with such issues and WTO actually rely on our expertise, just like it very much cooperates with FAO and rely on FAO's expertise as the organization hosting the IPPC, for instance, and the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat, which provides strong technical support to WTO. So we believe that FAO is the right place.

The second point is in response to the EU delegate, calling for careful consideration of the scope of the Consultation and also wishing to be involved in the preparation of the Consultation. First of all, we very much appreciate the EU delegation's support in convening the Consultation and welcome its involvement or participation in the preparations of the Consultation – perhaps offline we could identify a focal point with whom we could closely work together.

China also made a particular emphasis on receiving the results of the FAO study. In fact, one of the main purposes of convening the Consultation is to present the outcome or the results of the FAO study. We would certainly be happy to provide you and all member countries the results of the FAO study in due course.

Finally, I would like to respond to the comments that we need to limit the scope of the Consultation to a technical nature and not to more guidelines and to China's request to follow the processes and procedures. Let me assure you that we are very much conscious of that and this was exactly the point I highlighted in the proposal. It is very much a technical consultation for the first time and that is our intention, also to distinguish this consultation from debates on GMO issues.

Mr Handi GOU (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you Mr Wang for your feedback. The Chinese delegation wants the results of analysis in advance, this is what I said, I am not asking to get the document at the meeting, we want to have it in advance so that we can send it to our experts in the country and they can study it beforehand. That is what I said.

And we guess the document will be translated in the six official languages?

LEGAL COUNSEL

Just a point regarding the reference to the title of the Technical Consultation.

In our practice, at FAO, it is true that sometimes Technical Consultations have been convened to prepare regulatory instruments, but the fact is that this designation does not imply any regulation. It is a neutral and generic designation, it will not change the fact that the meeting will be of a technical, exploratory and preliminary nature.

So the designation as "Technical Consultation" does not imply any change in the nature of the consultation, as we have proposed to the Council.

I hope this will clarify our position on this topic.

CHAIRPERSON

After this very interesting debate, I understand that we are coming to a good consensus. I would like to draw my conclusions for this item as follows:

1. The Council reviewed the proposal to convene a Technical Consultation to facilitate international dialogue on low levels of Genetically Modified crops in international food and feed trade.
2. The Council noted that FAO had conducted technical analysis on the topic, including economic and trade-related policy analysis and that the results would be presented for discussion at the proposed Technical Consultation.
3. The Council also noted that the Technical Consultation will not be considering standards or other types of norms.
4. The Council supported the convening of such a Technical Consultation in early 2014.

This concludes item 20.1.

*20.2 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies**20.2 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO**20.2 Declaración de un delegado de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO***CHAIRPERSON**

We are now moving to sub-item 20.2.

At the request of the Staff Representatives Bodies, and with the approval of the Director General, a statement will be made to Council by a Staff Representative, as announced at our third meeting, yesterday morning.

Ms Susan Murray, General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff, you have the floor.

Ms Susan MURRAY (FAO Staff)

Mr Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues.

It is 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. But before we enter into this discussion, we should first like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Dr. Graziano Da Silva, for once again allowing us to voice our concerns and observations at Council regarding the recent developments within the Organization.

As staff members of FAO we are dedicated and committed to the achievements and success of this Organization as much as anyone. For many of us, we have spent our entire professional careers working for, with, or in support of FAO and its mandate to reduce and eliminate hunger from this world. The work of the Organization matters to us enormously, and we want to see it thrive and grow.

We are all aware of the pressures which have come to bear on the Organization to find ever greater savings and achieve ever broader goals. We know that FAO is not alone in facing these pressures, which are now affecting every part of the United Nations System, as well as national governments and the private sector. The global economy continues to rumble on with difficulty, through challenging times and intractable problems. As such, we understand the efforts of Management to trim waste, focus more narrowly on achievable and measurable objectives and eliminate non-productive activities and units wherever possible.

We must point out, however, that the pressures to reduce costs and increase outputs are nothing new to FAO. This trend has been going on here in Rome for more than 30 years. However, this does not make the current cut-backs less painful or less difficult. On the contrary, having lived through such a long period of retrenchment, in wave after repeated wave of budget reductions, the FAO community has come to a point where further cuts are increasingly difficult to find, and as indicated by the Director General, increasing difficult to enact without jeopardizing the Organizations Programme of Work. At this point, we can say that every cut hurts.

In this most recent of harsh autumns, the Staff Representative Bodies have made every effort to work together with Management and the administration to find new ways to identify savings, to collaborate in making the difficult decisions and to confront the painful choices facing us. While we are still some way still from getting through the storm, we think that we can say with some pride that Management, together with the Staff Representative Bodies, have managed to find a way to meet the challenges and forge ahead. Out of several dozens of encumbered posts eliminated this year, we have collaboratively worked to redeploy a large majority of those staff members who wished to stay and we are down to little more than a dozen outstanding cases to resolve. It is our firm hope and expectation that Management will continue to work with us to resolve these last cases rapidly, so that the affected staff members can go home to their families for the holidays without worries for what the next year will bring.

But we would also like to focus on some very positive achievements to date. We have reached agreement on the long envisaged Mobility Policy for the Organization in order to better assist those people in the decentralized locations who need us the most. Along the same lines, we are working closely with Management to ensure that both the Professional Staff Selection Committee and Junior

Officer Professional selection processes are based on merit and fully transparent. This will ensure that colleagues selected for the advertised positions will necessarily be the most qualified, and will certainly assist the Organization in the completion of its mandate for years to come. The Staff Representative Bodies are also working closely with Management to fine-tune the Redeployment Guidelines that have proved to be so successful over two decades, as well as the relevant Manual Sections to ensure that proper mechanisms are in place in the event that the Organization is once again faced with the need to abolish posts in the future. We are also working on completing the Performance Management System with a rebuttal procedure to ensure fairness and objectivity. Finally, we are confident that Management will fully engage us in the selection of the Ombudsman/Ethics Officer position, as we firmly believe that an autonomous authority is required in organizations such as FAO to resolve conflicts before they reach non-negotiable levels. This, more than any other position in the Organization, is one which FAO staff members are awaiting anxiously.

With regard to the future, we are convinced that if FAO is to get through the latest difficulties and go on to thrive, we need to be able to work as a team, Management and staff members through their representatives together. We need to strengthen trust and recreate the spirit of collaboration and joint endeavour which characterizes every leading enterprise. We can only achieve this by adopting greater transparency, more fair and democratic processes with respect to staff issues, by including the non-headquarters General Service staff in the consultative process and adopting more progressive approaches to work planning and management which involve all levels of staff as participants. We need to foster a culture that encourages staff to be innovative and take risks, to feel secure enough to venture that extra step, and to be willing to speak up and voice their views and objections.

We would like to once again thank the Director-General for allowing us to address this Assembly, for giving us the opportunity to express our concerns, as well as our profoundest wish that we will be able to work closely with Management to resolve any issues that could impact on staff member welfare.

Staff is the most valuable asset of this Organization, and as such, also the vehicle with which it can achieve its noble mandate.

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes item 20, including sub items 20.1 and 20.2, and our Agenda for today.

Before concluding, I would like to remind Members that a Side Event on “World Soil Day: A Platform to Raise Awareness on the Importance of Soils”, will take place tomorrow afternoon in the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 13.00 to 14.30.

Following the end of our meeting today, Members are invited to attend the Side Event on “Open Data in Agriculture and Food Security”, which will take place in the Iran Room from 13.00 to 14.30.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we shall meet again on Friday morning at 09.30 sharp for agenda item 18, presented to the Council for information, on “Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO”.

The meeting rose at 11:38 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 38

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.38

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 December 2013

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.44 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 44
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.44
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

18. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO
18. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO
18. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO
(CL 148/INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like to propose that we stand for one minute of silence in tribute to Nelson Mandela, who passed away in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mr Mandela was a towering international figure whose extraordinary life sets a timeless example for our global community. Please stand for one minute of silence.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Thank you. I call the sixth meeting of the 148th Session of FAO Council to order.

Before starting item 18, I would like to inform the Council that on Wednesday 4 December a written statement on item 13 "Status of Implementation of Decisions Taken at the 146th Session of the Council" was submitted by the Russian Federation for insertion in the Verbatim Record of our last meeting, on Wednesday morning.

I would also like to inform the Council that South Sudan has submitted a general statement for inclusion in the Verbatim Records. I propose that this statement be included at the end of the Verbatim Record of this meeting.

We will now turn to item 18, Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO", which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 148/INF/4.

The Council will be provided through the following presentations with information on important debates taking place in the other international *fora* which are of importance to FAO's mandate.

The following presentations will be made: Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Outcomes of the recent United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP11); Sustainable Energy for All Initiative; Post-2015 Development Agenda; International Developments in Nutrition; Global Ocean Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth; International Conference on Forest for Food Security and Nutrition; and International Year of Family Farming 2014.

I would like to inform Members that queries should be raised on completion of all the presentations.

I will now ask Mr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to introduce the first presentation under this item: "Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture".

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

It is a pleasure for me to brief you on the developments in the context of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, especially the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, which met in Oman, Muscat, from 21 to 28 September this year.

The Governing Body met after an intensive inter-sessional period, with multiple subsidiary committees of the Treaty reporting their work to the Governing Body for approval. The session of the Governing Body was hosted generously by the Sultanate of Oman, together with a Ministerial Conference for the Near East and North Africa region and five previous hosts of Governing Bodies of the Treaty, on the topic of water and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The outcomes of the session are a major breakthrough for the Treaty, as was also generally and widely reported in the Report and in the press. The Treaty, through the decisions taken by the Governing Body, entered into a new phase of its implementation.

Through the resolutions that were adopted, the Governing Body has now completed the start-up phase of the core systems of the Treaty, in particular the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing and its benefit-sharing fund, and is entering a second new phase that the Governing Body has, in various resolutions, called the enhancement phase.

This phase is focused on three main developments or directions. First, to enhance the functioning of the multilateral system itself by increasing benefit-sharing, both monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, and by enhancing the functioning of the system through additional measures such as exploring the possibility of covering additional crops or uses, etc.

Secondly, the Governing Body has also identified several new areas for active implementation, and those are going into an enhanced inter-sessional process as of next year. These are the areas of Article 9 of the Treaty which recognizes farmers' rights. Thirdly, the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture established by Article 17 of the Treaty.

Article 6 relates to the sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources, and for which the Governing Body adopted a Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, developed by an inter-sessional committee in close cooperation with relevant colleagues in-house working on the Strategic Objectives, in particular SO2, as well as new and extensive work on non-monetary benefit sharing, in particular relating to exchange of information on Plant Genetic Resources and co-development and transfer of technology related to or making use of Plant Genetic Resources.

In addition to bringing these additional provisions of the Treaty streamlined into the implementation process, the Governing Body has also put an additional emphasis on increasing and further expanding the partnerships with both existing partners and with new partners.

One of the main outcomes and major steps forward for the Treaty in this session of the Governing Body was the creation of the ad hoc working group to enhance the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing. This is the process which the Governing Body has now initiated to achieve two objectives.

First, to increase user-based payments and contributions to the benefit-sharing fund through what has already been developed in this past biennium as innovative approaches for user-based payments. These are seven approaches for new forms of facilitating revenue streams within the multilateral system to the monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Secondly, these measures would be complemented by additional measures to enhance the functioning of the system through exploring possible forms of enhancement and expansion of the system such as options that were discussed for increasing the crop coverage, increasing the membership of course, increasing legal certainty and increasing the use of the Standard Material-Transfer Agreement of the multilateral system.

The working group is a very robust structure and process. It will of course be composed of regional representatives with up to five nominated representatives from each region and with strong representation from all stakeholder groups. The working group will hold at least two meetings in the coming biennium. Those two have also been incorporated into the core work programme and budget which the Governing Body adopted.

In addition, as I mentioned, the Governing Body has also adopted new decisions and resolutions in relation to Article 9 for an expanded participatory process on the implementation of farmer's rights. This will be oriented towards gathering further information on national practices in the implementation of Article 9 given that Article 9 is subject to national law and policy, and to the development of best practices for such implementation.

Thirdly, the Governing Body has initiated a major consultative process, a consultation, on the implementation of Article 17, the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources which is established under that provision to promote and facilitate exchange of information on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Here we are already collaborating closely with a number of partners to initiate that consultation. The area which is now also entering into practical implementation is Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources.

Here the Governing Body under Article 6 had requested in this biennium the development of a new Programme of Work on this provision and this Programme of Work was produced as requested, and was then presented and adopted by the Governing Body.

It foresees a very broad and active implementation of a number of measures to ensure sustainable use by a wide range of stakeholders. First and foremost the Contracting Parties themselves, but also FAO and in particular its technical services who have done extensive work with us, and they have been facilitating and leading the development of the technical work for sustainable use of PGRFA.

The Work Programme also foresees close collaboration and consultation with other bodies from the Global Forum on Agriculture Research, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Commission on Genetic Resources, the Global Co-diversity Trust and so on.

Finally, the Governing Body took the decision to launch the third call for proposals for the Third Round of Benefit-sharing in the multilateral system under the Benefit-sharing Fund. I'm pleased and grateful to say that at the Governing Body session, the Kingdom of Norway pledged seven million dollars for this call for proposals.

We are very grateful to Norway for this continuing huge commitment to the Treaty, through which they have matched and co-financed a grant from the European Commission of approximately the same scale. Therefore, the next round of benefit-sharing will include between USD 11 and 15 million that will be dispersed for benefit-sharing projects for farmers in developing countries who conserve plant genetic diversity.

Already after the Second Round of Benefit-sharing we have more than 100 organizations in all developing regions, from farmers' organizations, NGOs, research and think tanks and universities working with the Benefit-sharing Fund to assist farmers to cope with the impact of climate change on their plant genetic resources.

This third round will have two funding windows. The first one will relate to the so-called immediate impact projects. These are projects that directly assist farming communities to cope with environmental and climatic stress and to conserve further the genetic diversity under those stresses.

Secondly, a window on co-development and transfer of technology which will allow stakeholders in developing countries to also access technologies for utilizing their plant genetic diversity.

This call for proposals, we hope, will be launched early next year.

Finally, and I would like to highlight the successful results of this meeting and to thank the Sultanate of Oman as the host Government for this session of the Governing Body, who also hosted an important Ministerial Conference for the NENA Region, together with the previous host Governments for the High-level Round Tables on the International Treaty, and the previous host Governments of the Governing Body, who contributed to the success of the Treaty.

The discussions in the Ministerial Conference led to two major outcomes and major documents that were adopted by the Ministers. The first one is the Muscat Ministerial Declaration on Water and Drought as Agricultural Challenges in the NENA Region and beyond.

The second one is a specific action oriented framework action plan to address water scarcity and drought in relation to plant genetic resources under the benefit-sharing mechanisms of the International Treaty and the benefit-sharing fund above all, with the focus not only on the region, but also on an inter-regional and global scale.

I would also like to express our wholehearted thanks to the enormous effort and commitment of the Sultanate of Oman for having hosted this session of the Governing Body in such a generous and hospitable way which ensured that the session led to very productive and far-reaching outcomes.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Moujahed Achouri, Director of the Land and Water Division, who will make a presentation on: “Outcomes of the recent United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of Parties to the UNCCD (COP11)”.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I will be brief on presenting the outcomes of COP11. As you know the 11th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification took place in December 2013 and made some comments which are of relevance to FAO.

The first outcome is the establishment of the policy interface, and this is to enhance UNCCD as a global authority of desertification, land degradation and drought. FAO welcomed the recognition by the COP of the role of intergovernmental technical partners on soil of the Global Soil Partnership in providing scientific and technical advice to the UNCCD process through interaction with a referred science policy interface.

The second outcome is the establishment of a scientific knowledge-brokering performance and this is to enhance management and the progress made on a performance and progress indicated methodology.

FAO Members may wish to consider how FAO's knowledge management work can more effectively contribute to UNCCD knowledge activities. In particular, substantive work towards Strategic Objectives on sustainable land management in the range of productive systems as well as on statistics, information systems, and assessments in relation to food and agriculture including natural resources and food security programmes on best management practices and information systems on natural resources.

The third outcome is the housing of the Global Mechanism in Bonn. The Global Mechanism will be hosted in Bonn with a support office or liaison office in Rome. This will strengthen the cooperation between the Global Mechanism, UNCCD Secretariats and the Rome-based Agencies.

FAO has indicated its agreement to host a substantive technical office of the Global Mechanism to facilitate and increase finance and investment in the management of capital, improved land and food security, integrated landscape approaches, and improved positioning of sustainable land use and the international development agenda.

With regard to considered progress on follow-up to Rio+20 outcomes, FAO Members wish to encourage continued work with countries to emphasize the vital importance of soils, water and forest in the development of the sustainable development goals.

For the next steps, FAO and UNCCD will review and update the 1998 Memorandum of Cooperation to strengthen their collaboration. On the basis of these developments, FAO Members may wish to suggest that the FAO and UNCCD Secretariats review, and, if required, update the existing Memorandum of Cooperation dated 1998 to reflect FAO's new Strategic Framework and to strengthen collaboration in support of other goals and targets. I thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Olivier Dubois, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, who will make a presentation on: “Sustainable Energy for All Initiative”.

Mr Olivier DUBOIS (Senior Natural Resources Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)

I am very happy to inform you about the UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and how it is relevant to FAO's mandate.

First of all, on the global picture on energy, I think everybody would agree that we need to end the energy poverty and generate equitable growth as energy is key in that respect, but also, energy is both part of the problem and the solution in terms of environmental aspects and in particular for climate change.

In 2012, the UN General Assembly declared 2014-2024 the Decade of Sustainable Energy for all. In that respect, the UN Secretary-General launched what is called the Sustainable Energy Initiative whose goal is to achieve sustainable energy for all by 2030. It intends to do it through three targets.

Firstly, ensuring universal access to energy services. Secondly, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Thirdly, doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The relevance to FAO's mandate is in the three above mentioned aspects. Energy is closely linked to food security and nutrition. It is needed at every stage of the agriculture food chain. There is no doubt about this. Yet, there is a huge challenge because the conventional pathway to develop agriculture food chains is heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

I would say that this has given great results in the last decade in terms of improving production and productivity, but now we need to think differently. This is because the high price of fossil fuels means that it has an impact on the cost of inputs, and to some extent to the price of food. Besides, we are now also faced with climate change challenges. This is linked to food prices and energy prices also exacerbated by the development of bio-fuels.

So the first challenge here is to disconnect the development of agri-food chains from the use of fossil fuels in a gradual way. The second challenge ahead of us in relation to energy and food security is what we call the water energy food nexus.

In the next decades, there will be a huge and simultaneous increase in water needs, water use, energy needs and food needs, if we continue doing business as usual. This is very difficult to achieve also given that we already have over-used natural resources. For instance, 25 percent of available land is already degraded, but we also, as I was mentioning before, have to consider the climate change issues that complicates the picture on these matters.

We cannot continue in that way and therefore FAO has actually proposed a programme called Energy Smart Food for People and Climates. The three objectives of this programme are, along the agri-food chains and also in terms of rural development, to improve energy efficiency, to gradually use more renewable energy and to improve access to modern energy. These three objectives would include the principle of integrated food energy production in the land or in the farm.

The relevance of this Energy Smart Food Programme to the new five Strategic Objectives of FAO is relevant to a series of Strategic Objectives. For example, SO2 promotes the role of access to modern energy in the sustainable production of goods and services which is important with regard to better energy efficiency, more renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy. In that respect, FAO has developed a sustainable bioenergy support package.

As for Strategic Objective 3, it is obvious that access to modern energy services is important to allow people to improve their livelihoods.

Concerning SO4, the role of Energy Smart Food is important not only for the gleanings of agri-food chains, but also for the energy or lack of energy that is often the cause of food losses. However, energy is also part of the solution to reduce food losses in post-harvest technologies.

With reference to SO5, this is an area where it is important to realize that energy is very important in emergency and rehabilitation situations. Hence, we have some ongoing work on that issue. FAO is currently contributing to the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. We co-lead two components that are called High Impact Opportunities of the Sustainable Energy for All Programme.

One is related to water, energy and food in excess, which we co-lead with Germany. The second one is on sustainable bioenergy, which FAO co-leads with the IUCN and also the company "Novozymes". Last but not least, FAO was asked to develop some energy and food security indicators in the context of the SDGs and post-2015 discussions, linking the targets of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative with the targets of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, who will make a presentation on: “Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to make a brief presentation on the post 2015 UN Development Agenda. It is useful for us to begin by distinguishing two intergovernmental processes which have already begun. The first one is the follow-up to the Rio+20 Summit at the end of and in the middle of last year. The second one is a process involving preparations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is expected that the two mentioned processes will converge.

It is also useful to recollect that among priorities identified by Member States, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture enjoyed the greatest support among Member States, who expressed their opinion in a survey, about a year ago.

In April this year, there was a high-level consultation hosted by the Spanish and Columbian Governments held in Madrid and at this meeting it was argued that Hunger, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition can be ended sustainably within a dozen years – in others words by year 2025.

In June this year, the high-level panel led by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom presented its report and identified twelve goals, all of which are relevant to FAO. Four goals are highlighted here for your attention.

On our part, FAO has identified fourteen areas where we are able to provide global leadership. These have been identified to the Open Working Group, which has been leading the discussions on the post-Rio process, and much of this has been incorporated by the Programme of Work, with some notable exceptions.

The Open Working Group has already met several times since the second quarter of this year and we, as FAO, have been prominent in participating in many of its activities. There will be a meeting next week on the means of implementation. Another meeting is scheduled in the second week of January 2014 on sustainable production and consumption, as well as on disaster risk reduction. Also, in February 2014 a meeting is planned on oceans, forests, biodiversity and on gender.

There are several recent events that have been relevant to the Post-2015 discussions and I have identified these issues in this slide. However, there are also some major milestones ahead for your consideration. From March to August 2014, the Open Working Group in New York will start negotiating on the discussion of the new SDGs and in September 2014 the Working Group will submit its report to the UN General Assembly.

At the end of 2014, the Secretary-General will provide a synthesis of the report of all the inputs to the Post-2015 process. From September 2014, there will also be negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda. In September 2015, a Summit is expected to adopt the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

The challenge before us is to know how to work together most effectively to ensure that the subjects of concern to us here in Rome are prominently captured by the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. It is important to remember that this is essentially a Member Nations driven process and so far there has been commitment to the Sustainability Principles, as well as the Universality Principles.

It is also important for us to recognize the challenges of communication between Rome and New York. Particularly for Members, the challenges often involve communications through capitals and often communications between Agriculture and Foreign Ministries. I would like to assure you that FAO has been very active in the Post-2015 process both in Rome and in New York so far, and will continue its involvement.

As for the commitment to the vision of Build the World Free from Hunger and Malnutrition, FAO will continue to support work, especially in those priority areas, which have been identified, as well as on the other areas that have not been singled out thus far.

For instance, the work on Women will greatly benefit from our focus on the challenges for Rural Women and on Agriculture. Likewise, great attention will be paid on the discussions of Governance, as well as other areas or matters of concern to us.

We count on your continued support for this work.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Sundaram will also introduce the next presentation on “International Developments in Nutrition”.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

By way of background, allow me to remind you of various decisions which have been taken here in Rome, and particularly I would like to focus on questions relating to the new Strategic Framework which seeks to mainstream Nutrition within the Reviewed Strategic Framework. This has been well captured in all of the Action Plans of the various Strategic Objectives, and the Strategic Objectives have all embraced the main nutrition enhancing activities.

Work in most technical areas is now nutrition sensitive. The human resources situation has been difficult, to be blunt about it. Although FAO has long been committed, as you know improving nutrition is FAO’s first commitment in its Charter, we have nonetheless seen a decline in staff dedicated to nutrition over the decades.

There has been however, I am pleased to say, a significant reversal over the last year and a half or so. Staff, unfortunately, over the years have been mainly funded from extra-budgetary resources and on a short-term funding basis. Resources remain rather insufficient and regular programme posts have been rather limited.

The emphasis, I would like to mention, in the recent reorganization is on developing nutrition positions in the decentralized offices, particularly in the Regional and certain Sub-regional Offices. I am very proud to mention that as of October of this year, we have a director, Dr. Anna Lartey, who is over in the corner sitting near the door. Anna, would you please stand up?

The international nutrition work of the FAO is a long-standing work. It involves a number of different arrangements and partnerships which have evolved over many years and we have become much more active in these arrangements and partnerships in the recent period.

Our emphasis however, as I mentioned earlier, is to ensure that nutrition is prioritized at the country level and this is especially challenging for us because nutrition is not normally seen as a priority of agricultural ministries.

We are also very proud to announce that the number of decentralized nutrition officers has gone up from three in 2010 to 11 currently, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There are also a number of partnership examples with which I could go on in great detail, but I have been reminded to keep my presentation to five minutes so I won’t go into great detail except to emphasize that the Zero Hunger Challenge at FAO is very much involved. In fact, the Director-General is leading the Zero Hunger Challenge work.

The SCN – there is a typographical error – the Standing Committee on Nutrition in the United Nations (UNSCN), the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement, and the recently established UK government-sponsored global panel are all or some of the activities with which FAO is engaged.

The burden of malnutrition for our societies is a very major burden. It is a burden on health systems because it raises health costs in very important ways. It also affects the social, cultural and economic fabric of our nations. It is a major impediment to development and of course to the realization of human potential.

Unfortunately progress since the first International Conference in Nutrition held here at FAO in 1992 has been modest and there are many details here. I won't go through all of them in the interest of time.

As you know, in November next year, FAO together with the WHO will host the Second International Conference on Nutrition which will address all the major dimensions of nutrition, in other words: hunger, mainly defined in terms of dietary energy; micro nutrition deficiencies, which are often referred to as hidden hunger; and a major new challenge which has not been given much attention before, which are the problems related to non-communicable diseases and obesity.

We hope to develop a flexible policy framework because we recognize that no one size fits all and to promote better international collaboration and cooperation. The organizers are identified here for your attention. The preparations are moving ahead well and I would particularly like to express appreciation to all of those who have been able to get very strong support and participation in terms of country papers and country case studies which were very important for the Preparatory Technical Meeting and other processes related to this.

The ambition, as I mentioned earlier, is to ensure a successful High-level Intergovernmental Meeting from 19 to 21 November next year and the purpose has been discussed with you several times before, but particularly I would like to emphasize the need to generate a higher level of political commitment, particularly because nutrition is a bit of an orphan among ministries. Most ministries do not deal with nutrition and the few ministries which deal with nutrition are usually not related to food. This is a problem in terms of trying to address the problems of nutrition, so ensuring greater policy coherence and greater international cooperation are among the priorities in this connection.

We have a great ambition, of course, for the outcome related to the purpose and I won't get into that except to mention that we also see the outcome of the conference as influencing the work connected with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as various other initiatives, including the work going on for Expo Milan and other initiatives all over the world.

The way forward, if I may conclude on this, obviously involves intergovernmental process and I want to express my great appreciation to Member States for their understanding of the complexities of organizing this particular conference together with another international agency which operates on different norms and standards.

I also want to highlight the resource mobilization challenge which lies before us and particularly to acknowledge that despite its fiscal constraints, the Italian Government's generous contribution announced earlier this week is very much appreciated and helps us to move along in terms of the preparations for this conference.

Finally, I want to emphasize that the FAO's views on the participation of non-state actors will certainly be emphasized in our dealings with the WHO as you have reminded us very often. I want to thank you very much for your support and your continued cooperation.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker, Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, who will make a presentation on "Global Oceans Actions Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth".

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

Council will recall that the Global Oceans Actions Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth was originally scheduled from 9 to 13 September 2013 in The Hague, Netherlands, co-organized by the Government of the Netherlands and the World Bank, as well as FAO.

Discussions in Rome between FAO and the Netherlands during September 2013 led to a review of the summit objectives and the broadening of the Summit organization core group. As a result, the Global Oceans Actions Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will take place in The Hague, Netherlands, from 28 April to 2 May 2014, co-organized by the Government of the Netherlands, FAO, the World Bank Group and partner countries: Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway and the United States of America.

Today, the world faces one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century, how to feed nine billion people by 2015 in the face of climate change, economic and financial crisis, and the growing competition for natural resources.

The multiple challenges of food insecurity, climate change, degradation of ecosystems and economic recession require an integrated response and an urgent transition of the world economy towards a sustainable, inclusive and resource efficient path.

The natural systems aren't opening, the health of the oceans are changing at the rate and scale not seen since the rise of modern civilization. Three key threats to ocean health: overfishing, habitat change and pollution are the symptoms of increasing demand due to population growth and the growing global middle class, technology improvement and introduction of failures.

Collectively, this contributed to the tensions between growth and conservation, between private sector interests and equitable benefits for communities and between E sets and AB and J framework policy frameworks for effective resource management.

The big question is how these various issues can be reconciled to ensure maximum contribution from sustainable Blue Growth to feeding nine billion people by 2015. Participants at the summit will include global leaders, ocean practitioners, scientists and representatives from governments, business, civil society and international organizations, who will come together to develop action-oriented partnerships, governance arrangements, investment frameworks and new financing vehicles to restore the health of oceans.

The content for the Global Oceans Actions Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will emphasize three thematic areas with a view towards breaking down competing silos in a world of ocean policy. Competing thematic areas that can benefit from shared understanding of success include: growth versus conservation, private sector versus equitable benefits for communities, and AB and J versus E sets. Success stories will be a major feature of the summit with win-win success stories in the three thematic areas to demonstrate that a competing interest in each thematic area can be reconciled.

Finally, actions going forward is seen as a key criteria to be addressed. The summit will deliver action oriented partnerships, frameworks for existing and new financing mechanisms, as well as models for good governance.

Moreover, the summit will take stock of previous important regional and thematic ocean conferences and deliver a pathway towards prime positioning for the oceans on the international development agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, who will make a presentation on the "International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition".

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

It is a pleasure to be here with you today in the Council and allow me, for keeping the UN linguistic diversity, to address you in Spanish.

Continúa en español

Los bosques suministran muchos alimentos, sea en forma de hojas, semillas, miel, frutos, hongos, insectos y animales silvestres, y han sido cruciales para la nutrición de millones de habitantes a lo largo de miles de años. Suministran una importante fuente de ingresos para la población rural y, especialmente para las mujeres, y el suministro de alimentos de sus familias. Suministran también forraje para los animales silvestres, especialmente en la época seca, y también, fundamentalmente, la leña con la que cocinan más de dos mil millones de habitantes, y que es una contribución crucial para la seguridad alimentaria. También el alimento procedente de los bosques tiene un alto contenido de nutrientes que complementa otro tipo de suministro alimenticio y, por lo tanto, el aspecto cualitativo es también crucial. Pero no podemos olvidar las contribuciones indirectas de los bosques, como son

los servicios ambientales que proveen, y que también refuerzan, no solo pero también, la producción agrícola.

Los bosques son la fuente del agua en muchos lugares, especialmente en ecosistemas de montaña; protegen en suelo y ayudan a su desarrollo y fertilidad, regulan el clima, contribuya establecer el hábitat para polinizadores silvestres y, evidentemente, también son muy importantes en la lucha biológica... y además son los grandes lugares de preservación de la biodiversidad terrestre.

También hay que recordar el importante rol de los manglares como ecosistemas costeros, tanto la función protectora como en la función de refuerzo de la producción pesquera y de marisco, igualmente los bosques de rivera. Intentando resumir estas contribuciones, podemos destacar esta contribución directa alimenticia muy importante en elementos como la miel, o sea, los azúcares a través de la miel, las vitaminas de las hojas y los frutos y, evidentemente, la proteína animal, sea de origen pesquero en zonas muy forestales como el Amazonas o el Congo, o sobre todo, de origen animal a través de la caza, la contribución indirecta que comentábamos de plantas medicinales, leña, muy importante, el mantenimiento en las épocas secas a través del ganado, a través de los árboles y arbustos que mantienen las hojas mucho más tiempo que la hierba, los ingresos, el material de apoyo a la agricultura, o incluso hasta el tema del material de los elementos basados en pasta de papel que permiten una mayor preservación de los alimentos en buen estado y al final de la cadena alimenticia. Y finalmente, evidentemente, los servicios ambientales que comentaba antes.

Todo esto supone una visión mucho más sistémica en la cual no solo está la contribución directa en términos de calorías, la cualitativa, la indirecta y, evidentemente, la de los servicios ambientales tan crucial. Evidentemente estas contribuciones, que son mucho más sistémicas y complejas que simplificadas, han sido tradicionalmente infra estimadas y, por lo tanto, no han sido suficientemente reflejadas en las estrategias nacionales de seguridad alimentaria y de nutrición, e incluso en las estrategias de desarrollo.

Por esta razón, la FAO organizó, el mes de mayo pasado, una Conferencia Internacional sobre Bosques y Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición con un doble objetivo de reforzar la comprensión del rol crucial de los bosques, los árboles fuera del bosque, y los sistemas agroforestales para asegurar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, y proponer vías para integrar este conocimiento en las Divisiones políticas a nivel nacional e internacional; sin obviar que evidentemente se reconozcan otras contribuciones de los bosques que van más allá de la directa contribución a la seguridad alimentaria. Esta conferencia fue organizada como un esfuerzo compartido de diferentes unidades de la FAO y de *partners* externos como biodiversidad y Kraft Oxford y con el apoyo económico del Banco Mundial y de los Gobiernos de Noruega, Alemania, Reino Unido y Estados Unidos. Fue atendida por más de 400 personas de más de 100 países, representando una amplia variedad de actores. La Conferencia fue inaugurada por el Director General y contó con importantes ponentes, como el Emisario Especial del Secretario General para Seguridad Alimentaria, Sr. David Nabarro; el Secretario Ejecutivo de la Convención de Biodiversidad, Sr. Braulio Días; y la Presidenta del Foro Permanente de Pueblos Indígenas, Sra. Mirna Cunningham.

Permítanme que comparta con ustedes los principales mensajes. El primero es la necesidad de asegurar el acceso y la tenencia de los recursos forestales. El segundo, un aspecto clave que ya ha sido destacado por el Señor Sundaram, la necesidad en los aspectos nutricionales de seguridad alimentaria de un trabajo mucho más interdepartamental e intersectorial; asegurar el acceso a los créditos, a los mercados, a los seguros, especialmente a los pequeños productores y a las comunidades indígenas y locales gestoras, en muchos casos informalmente o legalmente, de estos recursos naturales, los aspectos de igualdad de género en las políticas y en las estrategias de inversión; y finalmente, la necesidad de disponer de mucha más información que nos permita tomar las decisiones políticas adecuadas a los niveles adecuados, y que esta información sea realmente distribuida ya que este va a ser uno de los elementos fundamentales del próximo SOFO del Estado de los Bosques del Mundo, que se presentará en el COFO en junio próximo.

Como actuaciones próximas, evidentemente entendemos que la conferencia no fue un acto puntual y único, sino que además de su impacto requerirá actuaciones posteriores. Los participantes apreciaron especialmente el enfoque interdisciplinario y recomendaron que sus principales recomendaciones

fluyesen en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en el siguiente SOFO y, especialmente, en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición que ha presentado el Sr. Sundaram hace unos minutos.

Las recomendaciones han fluido de una forma muy proactiva y completa. El Objetivo Estratégico Uno que ustedes conocen, las seis Comisiones Forestales Regionales que se están reuniendo en este momento, y la semana que viene será en Europa, están discutiendo en cada una de ellas los principales resultados de esta conferencia. En el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria se organizó el evento especialmente destinado a la función de los recursos naturales en la seguridad alimentaria. La FAO ha publicado una *policy brief* sobre las principales recomendaciones y conclusiones de la conferencia y, finalmente, dos subregiones, África Central y América Central, dos zonas eminentemente forestales, han expresado su interés de lanzar una iniciativa regional con otros *partners* para reforzar el rol de los bosques en la seguridad alimentaria y en la nutrición.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker is Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, who will make a presentation on the “International Year of Family Farming 2014”.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnership, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

Thank you very much, Chair, and as the last speaker for today, allow me to join my voice to the tribute that you gave to Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela was a source of inspiration for me, but I think that is not very original because actually he was a source of inspiration for not millions but for billions of people as a true world leader. He is a person who stood up for the values that I think we're all here for, the UN values, and it's up to us to make sure that these values will be continued in the years to come, and the generations to come.

I think those values are very pertinent to the topic that I'd like to address this morning with you, which is family farming. You all know that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 as the Year of Family Farming. This was thanks to a global campaign done by a number of different actors, including the World Forum, so this is a year that has a lot of its roots in civil society organizations, with of course a very strong participation from Member Nations, many of them represented here in this room today.

Now, the Year of Family Farming is about looking at family farming from all of its different contributions. Of course, family farms are central to food production and in many countries they produce up to 70 percent of food production necessary to food security, but family farming is about much, much more than that. It is central to preserving the world in its future dimensions, like for example preserving biodiversity. We heard today about plant genetic diversity and how important it is for food security and for sustainable development.

Family farming is a key to inclusive rural development. It is a key motor. It is an engine of economic development in rural areas, so it is a key for rural development, and, therefore, it is a cornerstone of food security, both for production, but also for the ability to access food in all of its forms. It has a number of values and it is more than just a way of farming. It is more of a way of producing food. It is actually a way of living, a way of life and livelihoods.

We are well underway in the preparations for next year. There has been an internal taskforce that has been meeting for almost two years. It adopted a logo in a very democratic way, we looked at the partners participating in choosing that logo. An international steering committee has been established and has been meeting regularly. It has approved a master plan. We have opened a multi-donor trust fund, developed a communication strategy, including a website which you can easily find in different languages, and a number of regional dialogues on family farming are ongoing. I'll come back to that.

The official launch of the year was on 22 November this year in New York, with the participation of our Director-General. At that time, there were three special Ambassadors for the Year that were nominated: one for Africa, one for Latin America and the Caribbean and one for Europe. Those for Asia and the Pacific, Near East and North America will be nominated soon.

As I said, a number of regional dialogues are ongoing. We have already completed those for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Near East, Asia and the Pacific, and just next week we're going to have the one for Europe and Central Asia, and in spring next year for North America.

These dialogues are multi-stakeholder dialogues with a broad participation of course of family farms and family farmers, but also civil society organizations of different kinds and the private sector, as well as governments. So, the conclusions that are coming out are quite interesting.

There has been a lot of debate on the actual concept of family farming and many regions have put in their final recommendations. We want family farming to be seen not only as a way of agriculture, a way of doing agriculture in producing our food and earning our livelihoods, but also as a way of living, as a way of sharing a number of values.

It is strategic for food security and sustainable development, specifically when there are appropriate policy environments. This is something that we will be working on throughout the year. What is an appropriate policy environment and how can we sustain the Member countries in order to develop these policy environments and to adopt them, to implement them in a way in which family farming is going to be able to thrive.

There is a lot of diversity, of course, in the concept of family farming. When we talk about family farming, it is a way of agriculture that is done where the primary source of labour comes from the family, but this can be very small as is the case in most developing countries, but it can also be very big with very big farms which are highly productive with a lot of output and production. So there is a huge amount of diversity and there is of course a very important need to have policies that are able to understand this diversity and to provide the appropriate incentives for family farming to thrive.

There is an important recommendation regarding setting up national registries of family farms. This is an idea that comes from experience that is already ongoing in countries like Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, where national registries of family farms allow the governments to cater to the needs of the family farms in terms of policies and also to better implement the policies and to monitor their impact.

The recommendation was to be able to identify the criteria of what kind of information needs to go into these national registers in order to set them up for effective policies.

Another important recommendation was about establishing permanent policy dialogue platforms which would include naturally a possibility of dialoguing between the family farmers and the governments, but it would also bring in a number of other different actors.

Very important is the support to family farming through responsible investment and to bring the Voluntary Guidelines to the center of the Year of Family Farming and all of the activities of the Year of Family Farming.

Very important, of course, is also empowering women and gender equality within the family farms. There is a lot of ongoing discussion and several regions have had discussions on the issue of gender equality and relations within the families.

We tend to say families are fantastic and look at the family as a unit, but within the family we also need to see what are the power relations and how those can be led to more equality, which we know from our studies and from the SOFA on gender equality that the more gender equality there is the better for productivity and production and food security - so this is an important topic.

We also received a number of requests from different Member countries to continue the support very specifically on family farming throughout the year in terms of technical assistance. What are the policies that need to be set up? Which ones are the policies that work? What is the context needed for those policies to work and so on, which of course we are developing. As this is the focus of the International Year, this is going to be a main part of the legacy of the Year into the future: setting up a good policy environment for family farming.

The International Steering Committee requested FAO to include family farming in the programmes of the FAO Regional Conferences which will take place next year, and up to now, it has been included as a topic in the formal agenda of both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The International Year of Family Farming is our year, your participation is essential. Of course, from the Secretariat, we are ready to provide all the necessary support, but I would like to make a very special call on you with regard to the multi-donor trust fund. We have a really good master plan. We have a number of very, very important activities already set up, but without the funding, we won't be able to implement them in the way in which they can come up to their full potential.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Pour commencer, la délégation de l'Angola présente ses profondes condoléances à la délégation de l'Afrique du Sud. Monsieur Nelson Mandela était un symbole, un exemple pour l'Afrique et pour le monde entier.

Monsieur le Président, au nom du Groupe africain je tiens à féliciter la FAO pour sa participation active aux différents événements internationaux liés à son mandat. Nous soulignons la particulière importance de certains de ces événements, notamment la cinquième session de l'Organe directeur du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture tenue à Oman. Cela a été une réunion bien organisée et participative. L'Organe directeur a adopté plusieurs résolutions, comme souligné par le M. le Secrétaire, dont et par ordre de pertinence, la résolution sur le droit des agriculteurs, le programme pour une utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques et la question du Groupe de travail spécial chargé d'améliorer le fonctionnement du système multilatéral d'accès aux ressources de partage des avantages qui en découlent. Ce groupe spécial devra aider à résoudre l'un des problèmes majeurs du fonctionnement du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui est le partage des avantages. Les pays en développement ont mis leurs ressources à la disposition des signataires du Traité, mais ils ne se sentent pas à leur aise avec les avantages qui ont été en retour de leur fournir des financements pour les petits agriculteurs, des transferts de technologie et de connaissances, et des formations. Nous encourageons la FAO qui accueille le secrétariat du Traité à continuer à fournir l'assistance nécessaire pour atteindre les objectifs du Traité.

En ce qui concerne les programmes de développement pour l'après 2015, les discussions se poursuivent au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Le Groupe Afrique en appelle à la FAO afin qu'elle continue à travailler en étroite collaboration avec le FIDA, le PAM et les autres organismes intéressés, pour être en mesure d'inclure parmi les objectifs de développement durable de l'après 2015, l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, et la gestion durable des ressources naturelles. La prise en considération de ces points est essentielle pour que l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire restent sur l'agenda international, et pour donner à la FAO les ressources nécessaires pour aider à éliminer le spectre de la faim dans le monde.

Les pays Membres portent de plus en plus leur attention sur l'action de la nutrition en raison des avantages qu'elle apporte au bien-être des personnes dans le monde. Sont à souligner les efforts déployés par la FAO pour appuyer les plans de travail lancés au Kenya et pour se préparer adéquatement et de manière participative à la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui se tiendra en novembre à Rome. Nous avons eu l'opportunité d'analyser cette question de la nutrition dans les points de l'ordre du jour et des recommandations ont été faites, notamment sur la collaboration avec l'OMS. Elles ont une importance toute particulière si l'on souhaite couronner de succès cette conférence. Nous considérons comme pertinentes les recommandations du Comité du Programme sur le thème de la nutrition, elles devraient être prises en compte dans les travaux préparatoires de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies a défini l'année 2014 comme «Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale». Le Groupe Afrique soutient l'initiative d'inscrire ce thème à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence régionale et demande à la FAO l'assistance technique aux pays afin de renforcer les politiques nationales et régionales et d'améliorer les niveaux d'organisation et la productivité de l'agriculture familiale.

Pour finir, Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à continuer de participer activement aux réunions internationales directement liées à sa sphère d'action et à les coordonner, tout en collaborant avec des organisations connexes pour éviter des chevauchements.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

On behalf of the Near East group, I wish to associate ourselves with what my friend from Angola said about Nelson Mandela.

I have only three questions and these questions are not on behalf of the Near East, but my own. The first one is on UNCCD, the second one is about Sustainable Energy and the third one about Post-2015.

On UNCCD, we all know that it is not only FAO that is involved, it is also IFAD and WFP. FAO has five Strategic Objectives, WFP has four and IFAD has five, in addition there is the CGIAR involved, especially ICARDA. I was wondering what these three Rome-based Agencies, including Bioversity, could do to assist UNCCD in its own work which also has four Strategic Objectives with specific outcomes. I think we require a Rome-based attitude to this.

On Sustainable Energy, it is quite clear that access to Sustainable Energy empowers the rural poor. There is no doubt about it, but eventually it comes to a question of investment and I did not hear from the speaker how FAO especially, together with all the Rome-based Agencies, can link up with the financing institutions.

For instance, there is a mode already through the African Development Bank, a programme called African Hub for Sustainable Energy For All Initiative. I know myself that the Asian Development Bank has a programme called Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility.

Then there is the APEC Fund who recently announced one billion dollars for rural energy, and now, how do we link up with these things? Could you please clarify?

My last question is about Post-2015. The way Mr Sundaram explained it to us, we have two milestones. One milestone is September 2015 where the UN General Assembly will finally approve the Post-2015 and maybe a Plan of Action. The next milestone is September 2014 where the General Assembly discusses.

I'm not clear, what will the General Assembly in September 2014 discuss? What parts of Post-2015 will be discussed? And, since it is coming in September, ECOSOC I understand also discusses it in July. So the preparatory work must be finished before July. Can you confirm that all the preparatory work, not only the preparatory work concerning the consultation on food security and nutrition, but all the eleven consultations, will be finished?

Mr Harry SANTOSO (Indonesia)

As regards item 18.2, Indonesia welcomes the results of the UNCCD of 11 September 2013 in Namibia, particularly with respect to the Rio+20 outcomes to be acted upon by FAO in cooperation with relevant countries in emphasizing the importance of the role of forest, soil and water related SDGs. Indonesia expressed interest to participate in it because it is in line with our national policies and programmes.

In order to foster obligation to the owners or land users in implementing soil and water conservation in every area of the land, the Government of Indonesia has prepared a draft law on soil and water conservation, which is expected to be issued in mid-2014.

As regards item 18.6, Indonesia supports the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth which will be held in The Hague in April-May 2014. Indonesia expects the support of FAO Member Nations for the Bali Communiqué, which is the result of the Asian Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth held in June 2013.

Related to the food security and nutrition issues, Indonesia has decided to promote the mainstreaming of ocean-related activities at the APEC Senior Officials meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 1 and 2 October 2013, to advance our efforts in achieving sustainable and inclusive development in the Asia and Pacific Region, and to reaffirm the commitment to seek a balance between growth and sustainability, development and protection of the environment. Given its nature as a cross-cutting issue, with ties to food security, nutrition and trade, this would reinforce cross collaboration.

As regards item 18.7, Indonesia welcomes the recommendation of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition, held in Rome in May 2013, especially with relation to the recommendation to increase the contribution of forests for food security and the need to strengthen the relevant database.

With particular regard to the need to render forestry mainstreaming into national development policies, especially those related to food security and nutrition, our experience shows that the national observation of the World Food Day of mid-October every year is the best opportunity. In Indonesia, the event is always prepared at a scale of presidential presence, so the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Marine and Fishery Affairs are intensively involved in many months of preparation leading to a series of events in October each year.

We have annual inter-sector food security seminars, technology displays, expo, diplomatic tours, community support programmes and best practice awards, all culminating in a presidential inauguration.

Currently the contribution of the Indonesian forestry sector in the procurement of food production is equivalent to 2.1 million tons per year of paddy rice or approximately 3.1 percent of national food production target in 2012.

The contribution comes from people forests, community forests, village forests, community based forest plantation, industrial plantation forests and community based forest management in the state owned forest areas in Java.

In order to achieve the surplus of rice of 10 million tons in 2014, the Government has reserved an area in converted production forest of about 307,700 hectares located in the Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan and West Kalimantan.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO, Jr. (Philippines)

At the outset, on behalf of the Asia group, we wish to join the Council Members, the previous speakers and everyone here in expressing sincere condolences and in paying tribute to the honorable Nelson Mandela.

Our group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of the document on Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO which we believe in general has faithfully reflected the progress in a number of important areas and events relevant to FAO's work.

Switching my hat as Philippine representative, we wish to provide comments on the International Year of Family Farming celebration in 2014, which was very well presented by Director Villarreal.

Firstly, the launch of the IYFF in New York was indeed successful and thanks to the webcast provided by FAO, we were able to watch it live. We appreciate the unwavering support of FAO including the presence of the DG and congratulate the special Ambassadors nominated during the event.

Secondly, as mentioned, there were four regional dialogues already completed, particularly for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and the Near East.

Upcoming regional dialogs will be for Europe next week and for North America in April 2014. We also wish to inform that the EC Conference on Sustainable and Resilient Family Farming in Europe and the World was likewise successfully conducted in Brussels last week.

As Chairman of the International Steering Committee, the Philippines, thirdly, appreciates the active participation and contribution of the Committee Members, enabling us to meet at least five times since its establishment in November last year.

As also mentioned, it has crafted a master plan for the IYFF celebration and is now monitoring and guiding the establishment of regional and national committees. The committees will be supported by a task force and Secretariat based in FAO and involves other Rome-based agencies.

We look forward to the IYFF related activities in the coming year and this would include the Regional Conferences in which we would like to thank also FAO and the Director-General for facilitating this

request that it be considered in the Regional Conferences' agenda. Aside from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, we wish to add that family farming is also being incorporated in one of the agenda items in the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. We also welcome the support expressed earlier by Angola on behalf of the African Group that this issue of family farming will also be included in their Regional Conference.

Another important event that we look forward to is the IFAD Governing Council in February which we understand plans to have Smallholder Family Farming as its theme.

There are also global dialogues in Budapest in March and in Rome in October next year together with the World Food Day celebration in October.

Finally, Mr Chair, we encourage Members to maintain active participation in the IYFF activities and strongly support the goal to extend more contribution to the multi donor trust fund to help ensure that something concrete will be derived from the IYFF celebration that would benefit the billions of family farmers, smallholder farmers and fishers all over the world.

It is our fervent hope that the importance and recognition to these sectors go beyond 2014.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We join the Delegation of Angola, who spoke on behalf of the Africa Regional Group to express our condolences to the Delegation of South Africa on the death of Nelson Mandela. We further align ourselves with the statement made by Angola on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Having said that, we have a couple of questions: one to the Assistant Director-General Jomo Sundaram and the other one is to Director Marcela Villarreal. We commend Mr Sundaram for his very concise presentation on the International Developments in Nutrition and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Our question is the following: how is FAO, perhaps together with partners, managing to convince the Open Working Group in New York in drawing up the Post-2015 Development Agenda? What are the challenges FAO is facing in this regard?

My question to Director Marcela Villarreal, who made a commendable presentation of the International Year of Family Farming 2014, is that you mentioned it is part of the Regional Agenda of some of the Regional Conferences, but we have not had all of the Regional Conferences if it is going to be part of our Agenda. For example, you did not mention the Africa Region. Is there any reason for that?

Sra. Alba COELLO (Ecuador)

En primer lugar, quiero tomar la palabra a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano para sumarme a todas las expresiones que se han dado aquí por la pérdida del gran Nelson Mandela y rendirle nuestro tributo y nuestro homenaje a esta gran figura de la paz para el mundo entero. En segundo lugar, quiero agradecer las presentaciones que han hecho cada uno de los representantes de los foros, que son, para mi Delegación, muy importantes, y las quisiéramos resumir en dos términos. Primero, que hay mucho trabajo por delante que realizar, y segundo, que hay grandes objetivos y metas a conseguir para lo cual, pues mi Delegación espera sumarse, y tener una participación muy activa.

Finalmente, creemos que es importante que el Consejo conozca las actividades que se han realizado en ocasión del Año Internacional de la Quinoa que acaba de terminar. Por eso pediríamos que si la Secretaría está en posibilidades de hacer una presentación a este Consejo, pues lo haga y lo apreciaríamos mucho.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Una breve referencia a toda la información que hemos recibido hoy, la cual agradecemos a todos los expositores y reconocemos el esfuerzo que se está realizando por parte de la FAO. Por supuesto, estamos siempre dispuestos a colaborar en todos estos procesos para contribuir a su éxito.

Me sumo plenamente a lo que acaba de expresar Ecuador a nombre del GRULAC en efectuar un reconocimiento al Presidente Nelson Mandela que, al igual que en todo el mundo, es una persona

respetada y muy querida en la Argentina, donde, además, tenemos hoy el honor de que una de sus hijas, la Señora Zenani Mandela Dlamini, es la Embajadora de Sudáfrica en Argentina.

El Presidente Mandela estuvo solo una vez en la Argentina en 1998, pero fue una ocasión muy importante porque fue invitado a participar en la Cumbre de Presidentes del Mercosur, y su participación es recordada por sus exhortaciones a fortalecer la Cooperación Sur-Sur y, en particular, las relaciones entre América Latina y África. Y en ese camino hemos tratado de seguir trabajando, y seguiremos haciéndolo, teniendo presente siempre su referencia. Por eso reiteramos que compartimos el dolor y el pesar del pueblo sudafricano, pero mucho más, nos sentimos unidos en el respeto y la admiración por el Presidente Mandela.

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

Russia particularly appreciates the participation of the FAO Representatives in the issues we discussed during Russia's presidency of the G20. We had Think 20 with young people and we also had a seminar on promoting food security through risk management and social protection. Then there was a third meeting with leading specialists on agriculture held in Moscow in May and June this year.

The question of food security was given a special section in the report on accountability in the Developmental Promotions Group and in the St Petersburg Development Strategy. The latter includes the main areas of the work done by the G20 on development in developing countries.

We know that providing appropriate nutrition is a food security issue and particularly relevant. We hope that the issue of food security will continue to be retained as one of the world's main priorities, particularly on the agenda during Russia's Chairmanship of the G8. We hope that in the future global Post-2015 Development Agenda, it will also have a leading place.

The Rome-Based Agencies will, we hope, do this, and we hope it will be done by the Secretary-General of the UN as well. Russia supports FAO's role in the global dialogue on food security, agricultural development and nutrition. We hope to see greater coordination between the various multi-sectoral formats dealing with food security and we hope there will be further coordination between the Rome-Based Agencies, the G20 and the G8.

We welcome the work which has been done already. We hope that a great deal more will be done during the Year of Soils and the Year of Family Farming, as well as a result of other events which have been proclaimed and decided upon by the UN System.

Mr Balazs HAMAR (Hungary)

We also would like to underline that we will miss the great person Nelson Mandela and we really appreciate the moment of silence at the beginning of this session.

I would like to thank Marcela and also my friend from the Philippines for their summary of all of the International Year of Family Farming and as the delegate from Philippines mentioned, we are holding a global forum and expo on family farming in Budapest and I also would like to draw your attention to this which will be held in Budapest from 4 to 7 March 2014 that aims to contribute to the International Year of Family Farming global dialogue and debates and on policies and programmes that affect family farming at a national, regional and global level.

We did send out the invitations to all of the Permanent Representations here in Rome and we also did send the invitations and the Concept Note through our diplomatic channels in the world, so we really look forward to welcoming you in Budapest.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

My delegation would like to join the previous speakers, in particular the Delegation of Angola, and aligns itself with all that has been said. My delegation wishes to express sincere condolences to Africa for the loss of a great African icon. His loss will not be only felt from his native country, South Africa, but the rest of the African continent, and I would like to read a note that has been sent to me in these few moments by Liberia Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, a woman advocate. She has asked me to read this, which I will do.

“Africa has lost a great leader. The peace movement has lost a great mentor. The political leadership of Africa has lost an icon. Nelson Mandela’s passing has left a vacuum in the hearts of all who knew him. He epitomizes the spirit of generosity which is what the world’s soul needs to feed its people.

Let us mark his passing as a moment of reflection on how to transform a pool for revenge into the triumph of reconciliation. He has already shown us the way. May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him. Africa, don’t sleep, wake up. Nelson Mandela is alive in the hearts of each and every one of us Africans.” End of quote.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

In 2004, President Mandela said: “Hunger is an issue of social justice and not economics. Our economic approach to food and its distribution reflects our basic moral values. There are relatively poor countries where almost everyone is reasonably fed and richer ones where there is widespread malnutrition.”

The economic systems in these countries vary. Those who have succeeded have done so because they have made it a priority to end it. Hunger is a moral issue. Goodbye Madiba.

I would now ask you to please pass the floor to Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

We also enjoy what was said by Italy about the honourable Mandela.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the results of the preparatory technical meeting held from 13 to 15 November 2013 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, in advance of the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition. The preparatory meeting has been a good opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, private sector, and a large number of experts to discuss the state of the art knowledge and global challenges in nutrition.

In particular, the discussion around the importance of promoting nutrition sensitive approaches in the areas relevant to food security and agriculture and integrated multi-sectorial approaches have been instrumental in the life of the forthcoming ICN2 in November 2014.

We are strongly committed to nutrition and have recently developed a policy framework for nutrition in development policy that is structured around three strategic priorities.

First, the mobilization of political commitment and the strengthening of the governance for nutrition. Second, the need to scale up investments where we need not only to fund the right nutrition intervention but make sectors such as food security, agriculture, water and sanitation, health and medication do more for nutrition. Third, promote a joint effort to increase the knowledge based on nutrition for policy makers in development and improve the cost effectiveness of our intervention addressing malnutrition.

The three priorities are the key areas to attain the global nutrition target announced in 2012 by the World Health Assembly in which the EU has aligned, including the target by the European Commission to reduce the number of stunted children under five by seven millions by 2025.

We expect that ICN2 will produce clear recommendations notably concerning the role of agriculture, food production, and health systems in reducing the double burden of malnutrition. The simultaneous presence of both under nutrition and obesity in low, middle, and high income countries confirm the high priority that nutrition policies require.

We encourage FAO within its mandate to draw up a clear vision of a nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems in order to ensure that agricultural production provides food that meet consumers’ dietary requirements and preferences.

Finally, as we already said on Tuesday, the outcome of ICN2 should support the post-2015 process of our global sustainable development goals. We would also like to reiterate that the Milan Expo 2015 will provide an excellent opportunity to amplify and promote messages and outcomes from ICN2.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Felicito y agradezco a todos los expositores por los informes presentados.

Al igual que Ecuador y Argentina, estamos preparados para trabajar en esa larga agenda y en los diversos temas, para cooperar con los Estados Miembros en el desarrollo, el avance y el progreso de las mismas.

Tengo la oportunidad de hablar a nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo venezolano, para sumarnos a las palabras de condolencias que han expresado en esta sala, en la mañana de hoy, iniciando por Usted, Señor Presidente, e indicando que en el día de ayer el Presidente de la República de Venezuela, el Sr. Nicolás Maduro decidió, a nombre de toda Venezuela, decretar tres días de duelo en toda nuestra patria por el fallecimiento del líder sudafricano Nelson Mandela. Precisamente ayer, cinco de diciembre, se estaba conmemorando los nueve meses de la siembra del Comandante Hugo Chávez, líder de la revolución bolivariana. Quisiera pues expresar, a través de la Misión de la Representación Permanente de la República de Sudáfrica ante de la FAO y los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas, estas sencillas palabras y esta conmemoración que hará el pueblo venezolano por tan sentido fallecimiento.

Quería además informar que en el año 1983, estando aún Mandela en la cárcel, se produjo la primera versión del Premio Simón Bolívar que, en su primera entrega, fue otorgado a Nelson Mandela. Ese premio tiene por objeto recompensar todas las actividades meritorias que, de conformidad con el espíritu y el pensamiento de nuestro libertador Simón Bolívar, contribuyesen a la libertad, la independencia, la dignidad de los pueblos y al fortalecimiento de la solidaridad entre las naciones; favoreciendo su desarrollo y facilitando el advenimiento de un nuevo orden internacional económico, social y cultural. Este premio se otorgó desde ese año, 1983, año del bicentenario del natalicio del libertador Simón Bolívar, hasta el año 2004. No es cualquier cosa que nuestro país se lo otorgase en su primera edición al Presidente, hoy fallecido, Nelson Mandela.

Finalmente quiero también reconocer a una extraordinaria mujer que fue Representante Permanente de Sudáfrica hace poco tiempo. Una mujer que mucho contribuyó al trabajo de esta Organización. Quiero hacer llegar a ella las condolencias de todo mi pueblo al Gobierno de Sudáfrica y a todos los integrantes de la Misión Permanente, querida Embajadora, Sra. Nomatamba Tambo, por esta irreparable pérdida.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnership, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

I would like to thank the Council for their comments regarding the International Year of Family Farming and I'd just like to reassure the region of Africa that it is within our plans that technical assistance on the issues of family farming and family farming policies is going to be enhanced throughout the year, and of course after the year.

So the Year of Family Farming is a very good opportunity to exchange knowledge, understanding and create awareness of what policies do work in what context to learn from each different context and each different region. There are some regions that are far down the road in terms of family farming policies, others that are somewhat less and so there is a very, very big opportunity for learning. So of course, we will enhance that knowledge sharing and the technical assistance that goes with that one.

Regarding the issue raised by Ethiopia on the Regional Conference and would family farming be a topic in the African Regional Conference? This basically depends on dialogue that takes place between the Regional Office and the regional group of Africa and I understand that conversation is well underway for Africa. So we could expect that this will be a reality, as well as what the Chair of the International Steering Committee mentioned also is the case for Asia.

I would just like to reassure the Council that we are taking every possible step to address family farming issues using of course the year almost as an excuse, as a good opportunity to ensure that we are addressing family farming issues throughout a number of different events and opportunities that are rising including in forestry, including throughout Expo Milan and a number of others. So we believe it's going to be a very rich year.

I would like to also take the opportunity to thank both Hungary and the European Commission for having hosted in the second case and will be hosting in the case of Hungary global dialogues, which will of course be contributing to all of the objectives of the year: sharing understanding, creating awareness, contributing to the enabling environment in terms of policies that will make family farming reach its potential in terms of food security and sustainable development.

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

I would like to acknowledge Indonesia's comment on the relevance of forest and food security and international experience, and second, the comment done by Italy on the relevance of highlighting the potential of Expo 2015 in the conference ICN2 to be held next November and any other opportunity that may be in the way to Expo.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I would like to acknowledge Lithuania's suggestions on ICN2 and I want to emphasize that at the Preparatory Technical Meeting that the European Commission was the only Member represented on the podium in the opening session.

The Director was invited to the podium for the opening session. This was a very important acknowledgement of the very important role the European Commission has been playing in furthering work on nutrition particularly in this region but also beyond.

Ethiopia has raised the question of FAO's role in influencing the OWG, the Open Working Group. I must say that very fortuitously, we had a number of meetings in late 2012 and early 2013 and we were able to put off all the 14 items identified.

I would say that about 12 and a half of them were put on the agenda of the Open Working Group. The only exception was the question of land tenure, which they did not see as a priority for them, although I understand that it might come up in the discussions of inequality, and secondly, they did not include mountains, which was also another proposal which had come from us.

But having said that, we have been successful so far. It's not a guarantee that we will continue to be successful, and I think we will need to continue to work hard in order to influence the agenda, and the people who are involved in setting the agenda going forward will not necessarily be the same people who we have been working with in the past.

We have also brought one of the co-chairs, Ambassador Kamau, who was here during CSF week and also before that we have had very strong support from the other co-chair of the OWG, the Ambassador from Hungary in New York.

Afghanistan has raised the question of the confusion which I probably contributed to and I regret that I was trying to rush through a lot of information very quickly. Allow me to clarify that in September 2014, in other words, in about ten months' time, the process of negotiations will begin. That process of negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda will, we hope, build on the negotiations which will begin after February 2014 in the Open Working Group.

The Open Working Group nominally has only 13 Members, but in fact many of the seats are occupied by more than one country, so in fact the Open Working Group formally has about more than 70 Members. In fact, however, all meetings of the Open Working Group are open to everybody so there is full participation of the Membership so the Open Working Group is actually quite inclusive in terms of its participation.

So the crucial part of the negotiations on the part of the Open Working Group begins from March 2014. Their work will conclude before September. They will submit a report by September. At the

same time, in September 2014, a distinct process for the Post-2015 agenda will formally begin at the General Debate in 2014 and that will conclude in September 2015, hopefully with the broad consensus on the acceptance of the new Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. I hope this has been helpful. If there is any lack of clarity, I will be happy to speak to anybody concerned after this. Thank you very much for your interest and attention.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I noted the question and comments made by Afghanistan and the comments from Indonesia. With regards to coordination with the Rome-based Agencies, I would like to mention and highlight that there are already ongoing activities that are in large scale and with the new management in UNCCD, I would like to outline that a meeting took place a few weeks back in FAO with Ms Monique Barbut to coordinate activities between FAO and UNCCD, as well as with IFAD and WFP.

In addition to this, myself and my colleague Elisabeth Barsk, we met with the global mechanism maybe two weeks back and we identified already areas for coordination, for implementation as well with IFAD and WFP. So there is an ongoing discussion and I would say that maybe this new liaison office, they would like to call substantive office, is to really look into programmes for implementation between the Rome-based Agencies.

And as I mentioned, identified areas already have been discussed and the concept note was already drafted and discussed for such collaboration.

With regard to the comments made by Indonesia, we really would like to thank the offer made for to support programmes related to land and water and FAO stands ready to provide assistance and support for such programmes. Thank you.

Mr Olivier DUBOIS (Senior Natural Resources Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)

I would like to acknowledge the request for clarifications by the delegate from Afghanistan on the way the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative works. It has basically one demand side which is the country programmes and about 80 countries so far have engaged in this initiative and they are developing their country programmes.

At the same time, you have a supply side which is the global action agenda, with the high impact opportunities that I mentioned before and we need to match both from the energy side within countries as they need to acknowledge the links with other aspects such as health and food security for example.

So the purpose of the guidelines that are being developed for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and country programmes is to reach out to other relevant sectors. On the side of FAO, we have to do the same in the sense that in developing our Country Programming Frameworks, we have to highlight the fact that energy is an enabling factor in agri-food chain development. This has started.

Now, the hubs that you were mentioning, they are the places where the supply and demand needs to be operationalized and the initiative has started last year, but in terms of the operational structure it is very recent. It has been very recently put into place and they are still working out how to make all of these things work and you are right, the regional banks have been considered as the right hubs for the global agenda of this initiative.

As regards the APEC Fund mentioned, they have a very large loan programme and a smaller grant programme and FAO has already received some support from the APEC grant programme regarding the development of, let's say, an information brochure for governments and operators in terms of this energy, food, water nexus on how to approach that, and also how to provide some guidelines on how to approach that. So there is already some collaboration and some support from APEC in that respect.

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

Thank you for the comments related to the Governing Body meeting of the International Treaty, particularly by Angola. I would like to acknowledge the encouragement and suggestions made by

Angola in support of FAO for achieving the next phase of the work of the Treaty and for achieving its goals, in particular the importance of the benefit-sharing provisions and goals.

We will certainly be working intensely towards those goals and to implement a new Programme of Work and, in particular, also a new Working Group process that has been decided by the Governing Body.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank the presenters for their excellent papers and the way they were presented.

This brings us to the conclusion of item 18 on our Agenda.

The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the Permanent Representatives Website at the end of this meeting.

Sra. Gladys Urbaneja Durán (Venezuela)²

Agradecemos la presentación del documento CL 148/INF/4 con las Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO.

Al igual que otras Delegaciones que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra felicito a los expositores. La información que han aportado es de gran utilidad para el avance de las iniciativas presentadas.

En nombre del Pueblo y Gobierno Venezolano, deseo expresar que nos unimos al profundo pesar que hoy embarga al mundo por la desaparición física del Ex Presidente Sudafricano, Nelson Mandela hecho ocurrido el día 05 de diciembre, cuando se cumplían nueve meses del fallecimiento del Comandante Eterno, Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías.

El Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro ha decretado tres días de duelo nacional por el fallecimiento del Ex Presidente Mandela, quien como todos sabemos fue un gran luchador por la libertad en su país y promotor de las causas más justas en favor de la humanidad.

Deseamos recordar que por su invaluable aporte a la lucha por la libertad y la democracia, el Ex Presidente Mándela recibió en 1983 el Premio Internacional Simón Bolívar, galardón otorgado por la República Bolivariana de Venezuela para recompensar una actividad meritoria que, de conformidad con el espíritu del Libertador Simón Bolívar, haya contribuido a la libertad, la independencia y la dignidad de los pueblos, al fortalecimiento de la solidaridad entre las naciones, favoreciendo su desarrollo o facilitando el advenimiento de un nuevo orden internacional económico, social y cultural.

Hacemos extensivas estas condolencias al Gobierno, al pueblo, a la familia del Ex Presidente Mándela y a todo el personal de la Misión Permanente de Sudáfrica ante la FAO y demás Organismos con Sede en Roma.

Asimismo, deseamos destacar el trabajo que hemos realizado con la Embajadora Nomatamba Tambo y su antecesora al frente de esa Misión Diplomática siempre enalteciendo los valores democráticos entre nuestros pueblos. Reciban en estos momentos difíciles nuestro apoyo y solidaridad.

Mr Beda MACHAR DENG (Observer for South Sudan)³

It is a pleasure and honor for me and the South Sudan delegation to participate in this 148th Session of the FAO Council.

FAO has supported farmers in various agricultural sectors, including some agricultural projects, namely: the launching of agricultural development project in collaboration with the state Government; food security information and agricultural commercialization; formulation of a project to track South Sudan's food production; support for a women and youth programme in capacity building in environmental protection.

² Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

³ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

The National Ministry of Agriculture requested FAO build a seed testing laboratory, a facility for livestock breeding, and capacity building in environmental protection and institutional development. We realized that there is need to rehabilitate our research and learning institutions to help the Ministry upgrade its human resource cadres.

The Ministry of Agriculture and indeed the Government recognize the work of FAO in the country. We are particularly delighted that FAO accepted our Membership in June 2013 we hope South Sudan, as a new Member of the Organization, gets exposed to FAO experiences to be able to shoulder its responsibilities and utilize its resources to promote food and nutritional status of our country. The Ministry of Agriculture hopes that FAO will upgrade its offices in the national capital and indeed in the states in order to increase its services to our farmers.

In South Sudan we fought a war of liberation for several decades, now we are confronting or fighting a new war of food insecurity so that we can free our people from the bondage of poverty and to become food secure in our country. It is a difficult undertaking but we are determined to reduce the food gap and become self-sufficient in agricultural production and productivity. We remain hopeful that FAO and others give us a hand of support to achieve our goals. War devastated our agricultural infrastructures so there is need to rehabilitate our infrastructures and all the national agricultural projects so that our people can realize peace dividend.

The Republic of South Sudan got its independence in July 2011. The country's land area is 644,000 square Km with a population of 8.2 million, the country is borders with Sudan in the north, Uganda and Kenya in the East, Ethiopia in North East and the Democratic Republic of Congo in South West. South Sudan adopted a decentralized system of government to enable our people participate in the government to ensure efficient service delivery.

Allow me to give you brief account of the work of the Ministry.

Agriculture and Forestry sectors

The *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources, Cooperative and Rural Development*, is one of the largest ministries following last reshuffle some few months ago. The Ministry is divided into three sectors: the Directorate of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperative and Rural Development; the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries; and the Directorate of Tourism.

The Ministry's fundamental role is to formulate policies, standards and plans for agricultural and forestry livestock and fisheries development and other sectors as well. While the Ministry is pursuing agricultural development, but mindful of the status of the environment, we want to avoid environmental degradation, We also want to promote scientific practices of land management, regulate efficient production and marketing of agriculture, forest, livestock and fisheries products.

The great majority of our people live in the rural area deriving their livelihood from agriculture and livestock. Ninety-five percent of South Sudan's territory is considered as arable land and about 50 percent is prime land suitable for various crops, but unfortunately only 4.5 percent is being utilized for crop production and 62.6 percent is covered by forests. All farm operations are done with simple traditional tools, the farming is rain fed this means when the rain pattern changes its frequencies it has negative impact on the farming communities. South Sudan has both unimodal and bimodal rainfall patterns, the bimodal pattern covers Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states and the unimodal covers some parts of Northern and Eastern Upper Nile areas. This rainfall pattern enables growing season ranging from 280-300 days in bimodal in which farmers can plant and harvest twice in a season and 130-150 days in unimodal where farming is done in a single season.

Nearly 78 percent of the households are engaged in agricultural production. An average sized farm is of one to two hectares. The majority of farmers are subsistence farmers, cultivating for home consumption and only a small quantity is for the market, using traditional tools. In some areas progressive farmers use tractors and animal traction for land preparation, they use improved or certified seeds. The Ministry's effort in support of farmers is very limited in providing tractor hire service and some inputs and extension packages.

The main crops cultivated include sorghum, maize, cassava, millet, sweet potato and horticultural crops. In 2012 the net cereal production was 761,378 MT and the projected yield for 2013 is 1,132,368 MT the deficit in 2013 will be 370,991 MT however the combination of drought and flood is likely to reduce crop harvest drastically, thus the Government and the partners will be obliged to provide emergency support to rescue the vulnerable population. It is worth to note that agricultural production in South Sudan is low despite the enormous agricultural potential in the country. The average yield of the major cereals maize, sorghum, millet and rice is less than one metric ton per hectare, whereas in South Africa is 6 tons per hectare.

Livestock and Fisheries Sector

The Government of South Sudan is making an effort for service providers to shift from emergencies to Sustainable Development. It is a high time that our farmers transform their mind set from producing for domestic consumption and selling only small surpluses to generating their income through expanded agricultural and livestock production. There is a need to improve the performance of the livestock and fisheries sector in the country through capacity building to improve infrastructure animal health and accessibility to markets.

Comprehensive Agricultural master plan (CAMP)

The Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal resources Cooperative and rural development is in process of formulating road map so that we are able to follow right path in order to render development with a clear set of mind. This vital programme is supported by JICA it is government led and it is being formulated by our local experts and Japanese consultants. The final working document is expected to be ready by December 2014.

The main objectives are as follows:

- To formulate a comprehensive agricultural development master plan with an irrigation component. Which will identify the potential of different products all over the country
- Spell out the clear roles of different stakeholders participating in Agricultural Development programmes in the country.
- To strengthen the capacity of the national task team through this process for developing/formulating other related policies and plans for the respective ministries.

The investment potential and opportunities in agriculture in South Sudan

South Sudan is blessed with abundant natural resources, the South Sudan Government has many competing priorities, so South Sudan has made investment very attractive, to countries of the world also through the effort of the private sector. Currently the Government of South Sudan in collaboration with development partners is organizing a South Sudan Investment Conference in December 2013. The main objective of the Conference is to advertise the investment potential of the country. This is a showcase to local, regional and international investors. There are business opportunities in agriculture, forestry livestock and fisheries, mining and petroleum, pipeline, refineries, petro chemical complex, infrastructures such as: roads, transport, electricity, telecommunication etc.

Challenges affecting Agricultural production in South Sudan.

There are a number factors responsible for low yields in South Sudan, this includes low genetic potential, the pressure of pests and diseases, declining soil fertility. Budgetary limitations, droughts and floods, insecurity in some locations, unfavorable climatic conditions, low human capacity of extension workers and farmers, poor physical infrastructures and poor institutional frame work.

The Ministry of Agriculture, with the support of some NGO's and the Development Partners (DP) has played a positive role in organizing farmers into groups, the formation of cooperative movements, farmer field schools. Rendering support to organized groups enables the farmers to learn from each other and able to access the market with bargaining power to negotiate market prices.

Way Forward

The Ministry of Agriculture expects that the Development Partners, the NGO's and the investors work in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to adhere to the guidelines in the Policy Document.

The formulation of a Comprehensive Agricultural Master Plan (CAMP) which is likely to be out in December 2014 will be a road map to direct all of our efforts to promote Agricultural Development in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a policy on Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries therefore those working in different sectors of Agriculture must note and adhere to its content.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the work of this morning's session. We shall meet this afternoon for the adoption of the report at 14:30 hours. The meeting stands adjourned. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 11:50 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.50

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session Cent quarante-huitième session 148.º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-6 December 2013 Rome, 2-6 décembre 2013 Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2013
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 December 2013

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Debriefing on 2013 Field Visits by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations
Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en 2013 par des hauts fonctionnaires des
représentations permanentes à Rome

Reunión informativa acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas en 2013 por altos funcionarios
de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the seventh and final meeting of the 148th Session of the FAO Council.

Before considering the draft report of this session, we are going to be debriefed on a field visit undertaken last September in Turkey and Kyrgyzstan, by senior officials of the Permanent Representations based in Rome.

As mentioned in the Order of the Day, a field visit was also undertaken in the Southwest Pacific last October. However, further to a request from the participants in this field visit, the Southwest Pacific field visit debriefing will take place at the next session of the Council in June 2014.

I now have the pleasure to welcome to the podium Ms Debra Price of Canada, who will debrief the Council on the recent field visit in Europe.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We hope we have prepared an interesting briefing for you this afternoon. This field visit took place in the European region, specifically Turkey and Kyrgyzstan from 22 to 28 (or 29 depending if you count the day we took to come back) of September this year.

As foreseen by the IPA, field visits have been proven to be very useful to Member States to familiarize themselves with the work of the decentralized offices to understand the decentralization process as a whole and the challenges that FAO faces in the field to support countries in their agricultural, developmental and humanitarian efforts.

While the field visits are definitely not an inspection or evaluation mission, in the view of the team of representatives, of which I was one, who participated in the field visit to the Europe region, they are both information gathering and information exchange missions whose findings and ideas are to be both shared with the Member States and may help FAO in strengthening its decentralized network. We present our report to as the Council today with these goals in mind.

The participating countries were in alphabetical order; namely, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Mozambique, The Philippines and Yemen representing five out of the seven regional groups. Our report covers several points, which you see on one of these slides that are going shown behind me and then offer some conclusions.

With regards to the mission preparation, some of our views on this topic are not new and were already highlighted in the report of earlier field visits. This indicates that it would be timely to review with OSD, the Office of Support to Decentralization, the common lessons learned with regard to planning and organization from all the field visits to date.

We suggest that aspects to be improved would include OSD to take full responsibility for all organizational questions, including support for the participating members for self-organizing given that the group is not normally a structured one before the trip; provide timely, at least one week before the trip starts, concise and complete information for participating members about the political and economic situation including food security, poverty and structure of agro-business; structure of the FAO offices, FAO's activities in the region and country and the institutions or organizations to be visited, in particular their relation to FAO and the reason why they are proposed as part of the programme.

Another aspect that could use some work is to provide better guidance for regional and country offices regarding the primary purpose of the field visits, which is the exchange of information with FAO staff and building awareness among field visit team members in order to familiarize with the work of the Decentralized Offices.

And also better guidance on the question of scheduling in order to allow sufficient time for comprehensive briefing at the outset with the FAO Representative and staff members; adequate and realistic time for travel and breaks; and allowing enough time for meetings and prioritizing them in this regard as we found that schedule was in many cases too full for adequate discussion.

We also suggest that FAO Representative accompany participating members in the meetings with the aim of introduction and moderating the discussions. Purpose of the visit also needs to be more clearly communicated to those outside the FAO office with whom the team will meet, providing prior information for partners and institutions to be visited about FAO's structure, such as the Governing Bodies and the Membership, and the role of Permanent Representations to FAO is needed.

I just depart from my prepared text with apologies to the interpreters to say that, on most occasions, we were asked whether we were there to provide funding for the offices or sites we were visiting, and which it was clearly a case of mistaken identity.

Another suggestion for improvement is to thoroughly review the subjects for discussion and be selective of meetings, prioritizing in particular the Rome-based Agencies in view of delivering as one and the one UN initiative. Joint meetings with several institutions could be appropriate.

And finally, we suggest they should allow sufficient time for a debriefing and exchange of views with the FAO Representative on the findings of the mission.

Now we move on to the mission itself. FAO has two types of representation in Turkey; a Sub-regional Office which I will refer to as the SEC for sake of brevity, and a Country Office, the CO, where the SEC is responsible for the Central Asia Sub-region, including Turkey and the CO is responsible for FAO activities only in Turkey. They are both located in the same building in Ankara and share administrative and financial services.

The FAO Country Office was established in 1982 and it has since then been a driving factor in the agricultural and rural development of Turkey. The office provides technical assistance and advice on national policies, and provides capacity building.

The current FAO focus in Turkey consists mainly of forestry, fisheries and organic farming. Several meetings were organized for the team to discuss their cooperation with FAO and with the relevant ministries as well as with the European Union.

At the country office level, there is currently only one FAO project worth 2.6 million US dollars which is, we were told, in its final stages.

In our meetings, the team was also briefed that Turkey is an important donor country, which is active in almost 100 countries through its development agency known as TIKA, and aims at delivering Turkish expertise with a focus on central Asia and Africa. TIKA's projects cover all areas of development and support also FAO projects in the countries under the SEC's mandate.

We were informed that TIKA has a substantial budget which amounted to one billion two-hundred seventy three million US dollars in 2011, much of it dispersed through in kind contributions, although cash transfers are foreseen in the future.

The SEC itself was established in 2006 as part of the decentralization process and covers seven countries in the sub-region; Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

At the SEC level, there are 7 Sub-regionals, 11 multi-countries and 11 national projects for a total of USD 10.1 billion through the Turkey FAO Partnership Programme, FTTP, 2007 to 2013, which covers seven countries.

A new partnership agreement through 2019 is currently underway, building on Turkey's interest in sharing its experience within the region and potentially enlarging the area of coverage of relevant projects to other countries in the Europe Region, for instance Georgia and Armenia.

Turkey is a very active supporter of FAO's regional work, in particular through the Partnership Programme, with a total budget of USD 10.1 million for 2007 to 2013. This programme both

enhances the visibility in the region of Turkey's experience as a developing country, and allows the mobilization of Turkish expertise, strengthening the institutional capacity of beneficiary countries.

The team members appreciate the triangular and South-South Cooperation initiated by Turkey. Indeed, the country can play an important role now and in the future, delivering its expertise to the region. TIKA also has an agreement with FAO in order to enhance cooperation in the future on a demand-driven needs-based approach. In this regard and in the view of the team, it therefore seems reasonable to review the status and activities of a Country Office in Turkey, utilizing much needed FAO resources, with Turkey being at the same time an important and much appreciated emerging donor country.

It appeared to the team that the FAO Representative in Turkey now carries out functions more in line with those of a Liaison Office. This seems to be redundant with his/her original task or could be done even by the FAO Representative at the regional level.

In our meetings, we learned that some of the main challenges in the sub-region low agricultural productivity are: to move from centrally governed to market economies; trans-boundary issues, for instance, animal and plant diseases and water; major ecological problems, such as that of the RLC; and institutional issues such as weak private sector and civil society organizations, and lack of farmers' organizations; the lack of private investment and inadequate public investment in the agricultural sector; and lengthy administrative procedures.

We found the SEC to be well-staffed with technical experts and assisted by junior experts seconded by the Turkish Government, which we thought was definitely a good practice. Its main work is in analysis and policy advice, for instance on land reform and technical assistance and capacity building, training, exchange of experience and provision of FAO publications.

In the view of the team, this is in line with the normative role that FAO plays and the guidance expressed by Member Nations regarding support to countries and policy formulation in the areas of livestock and crop production, access to markets and sustainable management of fisheries, forests and land amongst others, and with a special attention to gender.

In its work, the office is in this way also following the six priorities identified by the 28th Regional Conference held in Baku in 2012. FAO is currently present in all of the seven countries of the sub-region and through the SEC provides direct support to the fully fledged Kyrgyzstan Country Office and other FAO staff in the region, with backstopping being provided by Headquarters and the Regional Office in Budapest.

The team appreciated in that regard the delegation of authority from FAO Headquarters and the Regional Office and the full integration of the SEC into GRMS.

It is the view of the team that the SEC office seems to be well-established in the Turkish and wider regional environment. However, we noted that some institutional challenges for the office exist. For instance, the ongoing need for greater resources, the lack of support from Headquarters regarding advisory tasks by extension services, and, on the human resources level, some vacant positions which are on hold that much needed for instance the investment officer.

The role of FAO in providing policy advice and capacity building and in its support to global public goods is best understood in the technical ministries and the Organization is a well-appreciated partner. There is however at the moment no formal donor coordination platform.

Finally, in our meeting in Ankara, we were also were informed by the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the government of Turkey is proposing to establish a UN hub in Istanbul. We were told that UNDP has already decided to move its regional centre from Bratislava to Istanbul.

With regard to FAO Representation, it was suggested by the representatives of the MFA that the move of the FCC to Istanbul could be a first step with the ambition to move the Regional Office to assemble at a later stage.

On the Kyrgyzstan country field programme, the opening of a fully-fledged Country Office in Kyrgyzstan in 2012 has undoubtedly yielded a positive effect on resource mobilization for Kyrgyzstan. Indeed, the programme budget increased from a mere USD 200,000 in 2007 to over five million in 2013.

FAO interventions in Kyrgyzstan concerned mainly livestock and agricultural development, forest resources, as well as aquaculture and fisheries departments. Several informative meetings for the team were organized with relevant ministries, as well as with UNDP, WFP, UN Women, World Bank, IFAD, and on the donor side, Germany and the European Union.

The team found the work of the Country Office in the FAOR highly relevant and well recognized at all levels of government and with donors which had definitely contributed to fund raising efforts. Also, the Country Office was well supported by the FCC in Ankara. The team appreciated also the intensive and clearly effective communications and outreach work of the Country Office on its own and also together with other UN Agencies present in Bishkek.

On a notable number of occasions during our visit, the local farmers and agricultural workers we met mentioned that they were encouraged to approach FAO to start new initiatives by TV and press reports on FAO and the country programme.

The team is fortunate to be able to make site visits to projects in Chuy and Issyk Kul Provinces. We gained a great appreciation for the work of the country office through these site visits and met with different stakeholders such as cattle breeders and aquaculture associations, as well as a private seed producer.

Although it was too early in the life of the Country Office and the time was too restricted for the team to get more than a basic understanding of FAO's actual work in the field, it was clear that despite the partnerships being relatively recent, the role of FAO and the Country Office was well appreciated by the Kyrgyz people and the Government. The scope for the country office to continue to expand its programming was also clearly evident.

A few words on the UN and donor coordination we observed. In overview, the team had the impression that donor coordination with FAO is clearly well established in Kyrgyzstan, but not so much existent in Turkey.

Overall, cooperation between the EU and FAO in both Turkey and Kyrgyzstan seemed rather limited although relations were quite positive. This appeared to reflect the fact that the EU programming in both countries was prioritized in areas relating to EU accession in Turkey and to peace and security in democratic development in Kyrgyzstan, and this was not directly related to the work of FAO.

FAO programming in Kyrgyzstan appeared to be fully integrated into the UNDEF. Cooperation among UN agencies is well established and is particularly reflected in the work being done to implement the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative where Kyrgyzstan is one of seven pilot countries.

On civil society and private sector, we observed that in Kyrgyzstan, there was no meeting with civil society or private sector as such apart from the recently established associations that were done with the support of FAO.

As noted earlier, civil society organizations in Kyrgyzstan are not as yet well developed in the areas of FAO programming. Private sector interests are also very limited although the UN Agencies, including FAO, WFP, and IFAD, were engaged in trying to identify appropriate private sector partners. A visit to the site of a private farm producing seeds and meeting with the farmer was part of the programme and gave the team some interesting insights.

In Turkey, we did not meet with civil society or private sector partners in the strict sense of the term, but we did have an excellent opportunity to speak briefly with a group of representatives, professional associations, and a research policy group. We found this was a bit of a gap in the programme and was one of our recommendations to be kept in mind on another field visit.

And finally, our conclusions and recommendations. Clearly the decentralization process is well underway in this Sub-region. The FCC plays an important role in coordinating FAO and FAO related projects in Central Asia. It was clear to the team that the Turkish funded partnership programme is the main FAO programme in support of the Sub-region and is of high relevance for the beneficiary countries. We believe it might be appropriate to look for other donors that are willing to establish similar regional programmes.

Attention to gender issues was quite visible to the team in both the FCC and the Kyrgyzstan Country Office, both in programming and in staffing. The staff member acting as gender focal point in the FCC appeared very knowledgeable and had been given extensive training.

The team was informed that recruitment of female local experts in the agricultural sectors was, however, a challenge, even in Turkey, reflecting a need for further efforts to establish and attract women to agricultural education programmes. Attention to gender balance with the FAO offices was noted but ongoing efforts will be needed to ensure FAO policies are effectively implemented.

The team considers that it was a good decision to establish a fully-fledged FAO Country Office in Kyrgyzstan and this should be supported in the future also in Tajikistan. This contributed to resource mobilization while the programme and projects fit well with FAO's Strategic Objectives and the needs of the agricultural sector in the country. Clearly, the Country Office and the FAO Representative were well recognized and appreciated by public sector representatives, as well as other stakeholders, including the EU, UN Agencies, the World Bank, and the beneficiaries themselves.

The Country Office in Bishkek is well integrated in the international donor community and cooperates closely with other relevant UN organizations and development agencies. The team particularly appreciated the work and the high level of motivation of the FAO Representative and of all the staff in Kyrgyzstan and in Turkey, both in the FCC and in the Country Offices.

However, it is noted that some of the work of the FAOR in Turkey seems to be duplicative of the work or could be carried out by the FAO's Regional Representative. The team also observed with great interest the role of the FCC as a catalyst for South-South Cooperation and in particular, as I mentioned, through cooperation with TIKA.

The FAO Representation and programming in the two countries visited by the team shows clearly the distinction between a mature relationship which had evolved well beyond the purposes of its original country level mandate in Ankara and taken on a new regional mandate, and the establishment of FAO as a new, critically important actor at country level in Kyrgyzstan with much room to expand and contribute to development and economic growth.

In the view of the team, there seems reason, therefore, to believe that there is an imbalance between the continuation of a Country Office in Turkey with Turkey now being at the same time an important emerging donor. We encourage FAO Management and Member Nations to reflect further on the need for criteria to address the evolution of the role of FAO offices, including exit strategies where appropriate.

As witnessed by the team, the secondment of staff from national government ministries is a good practice and is encouragement for consideration by other FAO offices.

Finally, referring to my original comments on the preparation and organization of the field visit, we greatly appreciated the support extended to us travellers and we believe the accountability of Headquarters in that respect is sufficient but could still be strengthened as, as mentioned in the beginning, there are some aspects still for improvement.

In this relation, we think clear guidance from the Governing Bodies and Member Nations, the ICC, and other relevant authorities should be helpful.

That concludes our recommendations and I just want to repeat again our thanks to all of the staff that were from the three offices, the OSD here and everyone else involved in our visit. We had an excellent visit and we much appreciated all of the work. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Price, for this debriefing to the Council on the field visit in Turkey and Kyrgyzstan. Your comments will certainly help improve future FAO field visits.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we will proceed with the adoption of the report. Please ensure that you have the relevant document before you, that is CL 148/REP.

I now invite Ambassador Neil Briscoe, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the Report.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Mr Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, I am pleased to present this Report to the Council on behalf of the Drafting Committee. It reflects the outcome of discussions that lasted nearly 12 hours yesterday.

I should like to pay sincere tribute to the members of the Committee for the serious, professional, and collegial approach with which they approached their responsibilities.

They showed a genuine commitment to conclude a document that we believe faithfully reflects the Chairperson's summaries and the spirit of the debates in the Council.

Discussion of some items took several hours but negotiations throughout the day were characterized by respect for divergent views and a willingness to give and take and compromise when necessary to reach consensus.

I should also like to pay tribute to the thoroughly professional and efficient contributions of the many members of the Secretariat who supported our work, in the meeting room, in the interpretation booths, and in the nerve centre behind the scenes.

Personally, I was honoured to be associated with this endeavour. As one of our colleagues stated in Plenary, we are witnessing genuine and positive change in FAO. This will be the final Council Report before the new biennium and the full launch of FAO's new Results Framework, Programme of Work and Structure.

As a result, the Drafting Committee was helping prepare the record of a moment of transition towards the new FAO. In that spirit, I am pleased to commend the Report to the full Membership and to convey the unanimous hope of all members of the Drafting Committee that it can be adopted *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador Briscoe. I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the members of the Drafting Committee for their good work done over the past two days.

It appears that the Report of this Session may be approved in block. Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat in order to be included in the final Report.

Does the Council wish to adopt the Report in block?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Sra. María Eulalia JIMINÉZ (El Salvador)

Estamos muy agradecidos con el trabajo del Comité de Redacción sobre este documento. Quisiera únicamente, aunque me imagino que eso será tomado en cuenta por la Secretaría, llamar la atención sobre la importancia de que se refleje en este Informe, el homenaje que esta mañana hicimos a Nelson Mandela, ya que él no está en este documento que tenemos.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

I wanted to add what has been just said, that the tribute that we paid this morning to the late Mandela be included in this Report.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

Once again, we would like to express our deepest respect, honour and tribute to Nelson Mandela for his work, especially in the area of equal life of the human being.

Mr Chairperson, we are almost at the end of this Council, we appreciate your excellent performance in handling the whole Council and we welcome the Report of this 148th Session. We thank the Chairperson and all the members of the Drafting Committee for their hard work.

I would like to highlight some points that came out from this Council session. The enhancement of the budgetary allocation participatory for the next biennium, this will actually help to increase the agriculture production and finally help to secure food security. We thank FAO Management and Finance Committee for this enhancement.

We appreciate the Director-General and the Management for achieving USD 33.9 million efficiency savings and we expect that another USD 2.7 million savings will be insured in due course.

We appreciate the efforts in engaging in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and in the Latin America and the Caribbean, and we also expect that it will be extended to the Pacific Island countries, as there is also a vulnerable situation in that region.

We thank again the Council for underpinning the Report of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership and we expect that this initiative will help to raise awareness to maintain the soil quality.

We are enthusiastic to see the work of FAO in social protection. We have some pre-initiatives in our country pertaining to social protection in the field of food security but we are expecting that these initiatives of social protection of FAO will also increase in other areas, particularly nutrition and gender empowerment.

We deeply appreciate the endorsement of the Report of the policy on biofuels and food security and investing in small-holder agriculture. We particularly look forward to see more investment in small-holder agriculture, which will lead to improve the agriculture production in small farming.

We also appreciate the joint initiatives to improve nutrition by FAO and WHO, and look forward to seeing the successful ICN2 next year.

We are very happy to see the launching of the International Year of Family Farming 2014. Bangladesh has already initiated “One Family, One Farm” programme as an integrated approach to address food security, poverty reduction, gender empowerment and employment generation, particularly in the agricultural sector. “One Family, One Farm” has contributed to increase the family income and create access to the agricultural market for the small family farms.

And finally, we appreciate the initiatives of beginning the Technical Consultation on GM crops in international food trade.

Bangladesh thanks everybody who have collaborated for the successful accomplishment of the 148th Session of Council. Thank you, all.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Ante todo, mis felicitaciones al Embajador del Reino Unido, el Señor Neil Briscoe y a todos los demás integrantes del Comité de Redacción, por el excelente trabajo y minucioso trabajo que realizaron durante tantas horas el día de ayer. Lo que conduce que aprobemos en bloque este Informe que efectivamente demarca un punto fundamental en el trabajo que vamos a desarrollar a partir del siguiente bienio.

Quisiera sumarme a la propuesta que ha hecho El Salvador para que la Secretaría pudiera encontrar la manera de que en este reporte se indique que en esta sesión del Consejo se rindió un tributo al Presidente Mandela, por la pérdida irreparable del Presidente de Sudáfrica y gran hombre. Digamos

que toda la humanidad ha perdido un hombre de esa estatura. Creo que éste Organismo, modestamente, pudiera dejar sentado en el Informe, ese humilde tributo que le rendimos en la mañana de hoy.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the interventions and I think this is the wish of the Members that this tribute to Nelson Mandela should be added to our Report. This is possible as we already have tribute to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

This is how it will read: “Tribute to Nelson Mandela” - The Council observed one minute of silence in the memory of Nelson Mandela, who passed away on 5 December 2013.

That will go into our Report. I think it is accepted by all the Members. Thank you.

The Report of the 148th Session of the Council is adopted. Thank you.

I will now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Ministers, Members of the Council, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to begin by paying tribute to Nelson Mandela, a giant of our time.

I express our condolences to the people and government of South Africa.

Madiba, as he was known with respect and affection, left us yesterday. But his life, dedicated to elevating the condition and dignity of the oppressed, the marginalised and the voiceless, will always inspire all of us.

Members of Council, I want to congratulate all of you on the conclusion of this successful meeting. In particular, I wish to applaud Mr Ngirwa for the skilful conduction of his first five-day Council session and thank Ambassador Briscoe for the successful report proposed by the Drafting Committee.

As I told you on Monday, our corporate focus is now shifting from preparation to delivery. We are already fully concentrated in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, built from the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

The PWB represents your collective will. It is what we will implement. There is no room for individual agendas anymore. We will report to you at the next Council. We will inform you of ongoing work in our informal seminars. We will continue to be as open and transparent as we have been until today. I ask you to trust us in this implementation process.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to take this opportunity to thank FAO staff for the efforts they are putting into this process, for their dedication and hard work.

I also want to acknowledge the more constructive attitude that staff representative bodies have shown of late.

Let me thank Members for accepting, again, my request for Staff Representative Bodies to be heard at the Council.

I have to say that I was happy to learn that I am no longer considered, and I quote from the statement they delivered out to the last Conference; “unethical, cold-hearted, and exploitative.” End quote.

To be respected, one must first show respect. The statement delivered this week is a concrete sign that they are willing to act in a respectful manner. On Management’s behalf, let me assure that we will continue to engage with the Staff Representative Bodies.

This engagement has given positive results. The FAO Corporate Mobility Scheme was published this week. The redeployment process is progressing well.

We are also close to finalizing changes to the internal Professional Staff Selection Committee, the PSSC. Today, there is one PSSC for all of FAO. It is a centralized and time consuming approach that

creates several bottlenecks in the recruitment process. We have lost more than one good candidate because of this.

We will now move towards a decentralized, more technical and efficient approach, with no longer one PSSC, but PSSCs at the departmental and regional levels, with observers from the Staff and Human Resources.

This will raise the value added of the selection, speed up recruitment, and ensure the highest degree of transparency.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the future we want, of a world free of want, does not have to remain a dream forever. It is true, we are being ambitious. But we are also humble enough to know that FAO cannot make it all alone.

We need to work in true partnership to reach the goals that we have set: partnership with the Rome-based Agencies, the UN System at large, other international and regional institutions, civil society, private sector and research institutions. And with you of course, the Member Nations.

And that brings me back to something that I have said many times before: we will not be able to do anything except what we can do together.

I wish you happy holidays and look forward to continuing with you next year. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General. Before bringing down the gavel on the 148th Session of the Council, please allow me to make a few closing remarks.

I wish to thank the Director-General for his words of welcome at the outset of this session.

Mr Graziano mentioned the important changes that have taken place over the last two years, including work planning for the next biennium. Clearly, the focus is now on implementation.

Naturally, I also have a debt of gratitude to you, the Members, for your constructive engagement with the important issues that we had before the Council this week. This was my first five day Council since becoming Independent Chairperson, and I very much appreciated your spirit of cooperation, good time management, and punctuality. This allowed us to avoid lengthy evening sessions and to finish our substantial work by lunch time on Wednesday. I hope this sets a precedent for the future sessions.

Good use of resources such as interpretation and other staff costs has to be a concern for us in times of budgetary restraint.

That said, there are also priceless resources we need to recognize and nurture, such as the spirit of trust and good will that have characterized our deliberations this week.

Trust is an essential and precious commodity that enables us to carry out our work effectively. Let us build on this spirit of trust that has been so tangible this week as the Council continues to strengthen its role in giving guidance on governance matters.

My sincere thanks also go to Ambassador Briscoe of the United Kingdom for piloting the draft report through a long day of Drafting Committee work yesterday. Ambassador Briscoe's impartial and good natured leadership enabled the collective good will of the Drafting Committee members to prevail. We are grateful to you and, indeed, all the members of the Committee for taking into the account the summing up of each item.

I would also like to thank the Management for their commitment to servicing the Council. I followed the monitoring of documents dispatched for this session, and I was glad to see documents being issued on time.

I have been assisted by a reliable and dedicated Secretariat, the majority of them working behind the scenes, such as interpreters, translators, facilities staff, security personnel, room messengers, the printing group, the verbatim hub and the reports office. I am grateful to them all for their long hours of work and dedication to getting the job done.

I would also like to recognize the willingness of FAO staff, expressed through the intervention of the Staff representative on Wednesday, to do their part in moving the reform forward.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend my greetings to you all for the end of the year celebrations and for a bright start of the New Year, with renewed commitment and vigour as we enter the 2014-15 biennium.

To those of you who will be travelling home to your families, I wish a safe journey and thank you all once again for your contribution to the 148th Session of the Council.

I would like to remind you that the next session of Council will take place from 16 to 20 June 2014.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, with this, I close the 148th Session of the Council. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 15:39 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.39