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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session • Cent vingt-neuvième session • 129° período de sesione

Rome, 16-18 November 2005
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 16-18 novembre 2005
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 16 de noviembre de 2005
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO

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(16 November 2005)

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(16 November 2005)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session Cent vingt-neuvième session 129º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-18 November 2005 Rome, 16-18 november 2005 Roma, 16-18 de noviembre de 2005</p>
<p>FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>16 November 2005</p>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la première séance de la cent vingt-neuvième session du Conseil. Je souhaite la bienvenue à tous les délégués et voudrais faire une brève annonce avant de commencer nos travaux.

La Communauté européenne participe à cette session conformément au paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. J'attire votre attention sur la déclaration de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres qui figure dans le document d'information CL 129/INF/4. Je voudrais maintenant passer la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général.

DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je voudrais tout d'abord souhaiter la bienvenue aux Membres du Conseil et aux autres participants de cette session. Votre réunion précède une Conférence particulièrement importante, et devrait contribuer à faciliter un ensemble de décisions fondamentales de la part des États Membres de l'Organisation.

Il y a deux points saillants à votre ordre du jour sur lesquels je voudrais faire de brefs commentaires. Le premier point a trait au Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain exercice biennal, en particulier aux réformes que je soumetts à l'approbation des organes directeurs. Le second est le rapport du Groupe de travail intersession pour l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, que le Conseil a établi pour définir les paramètres de cet important exercice de réflexion.

Qu'en est-il du Programme de travail et budget? Les propositions vous sont soumises en deux volumes. Le document principal est d'un type classique, fondé sur le sommaire qui vous a été soumis en juin, sans modifications majeures des programmes et des structures. Il développe trois scénarios: croissance réelle zéro; croissance réelle d'environ 2,5 pour cent par an; et croissance nominale zéro correspondant à une réduction réelle de 5,7 pour cent. Le supplément explique pourquoi j'ai cru bon de proposer des réformes visant à renforcer le travail et les structures de l'Organisation pour mieux répondre aux défis actuels et aux attentes des États Membres.

Deux documents additionnels ont été préparés pour apporter des éclaircissements sur des points précis et améliorer la compréhension des différentes facettes de ces réformes conformément à la demande du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

Comme vous le savez, au cours des nombreuses rencontres avec les Représentants des Etats Membres et avec le personnel, j'ai aussi tenu à expliquer directement et en toute franchise pourquoi je considère ces réformes non seulement nécessaires mais urgentes. Quelles sont les principales orientations des réformes? En premier lieu, j'ai proposé de renforcer les domaines où l'Organisation a un avantage comparatif évident et où l'on attend d'elle une action forte. Ainsi donc, les réformes mettent en particulier l'accent sur la coopération avec le système des Nations Unies pour aider à atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, à commencer par la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté en milieu rural. C'est là le but du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire aux niveaux national et régional qui comprend notamment les investissements pour la maîtrise de l'eau, les infrastructures ainsi que la transformation, le conditionnement et la commercialisation des produits. L'aide au redressement des capacités productives après les désastres ainsi que leur prévention et la réduction de leurs effets fait également partie de cet objectif.

L'échange et la diffusion des connaissances en développant les réseaux de connaissances thématiques et la collecte d'information sur les meilleures pratiques. Les activités de promotion en faveur du secteur agricole et de la lutte contre la faim et de la pauvreté, notamment à travers les alliances nationales et l'alliance internationale. La protection du consommateur par l'application des normes de qualité et de sécurité sanitaire des aliments dans toute la chaîne alimentaire.

Les réformes doivent aussi faciliter à accroître le travail interdisciplinaire sur des sujets et programmes horizontaux, tels que le renforcement des capacités, la parité homme/femme, les

ressources naturelles, les changements climatiques, le développement durable, la recherche et la vulgarisation. Les priorités reconnues par les États Membres sont bien entendu protégées et consolidées. Il s'agit en particulier de la lutte contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, et de l'application de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux, de la Convention de Rotterdam, notamment sur les pesticides, du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, du Droit à l'alimentation, du Codex Alimentarius, du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable.

Le développement de l'aquaculture, la gestion durable et la protection des forêts et des stocks halieutiques revêtent aussi une importance particulière.

Qu'en est-il des mesures de restructuration au Siège? Il s'agit de mieux faire correspondre les structures avec les principaux programmes. Les Départements au Siège à Rome continueront de travailler sur les problèmes globaux, d'assurer la collecte et le traitement des informations. Deux nouveaux Départements permettront de mener des actions à caractère horizontal, de générer des synergies et d'encourager des activités multidisciplinaires. Ils devront renforcer le rôle de l'Organisation dans la collecte, la gestion et la distribution des informations, notamment pour l'accroissement des capacités au niveau des pays et régions. Ils auront en outre à favoriser les partenariats et les alliances et, à ce stade, je voudrais encore une fois préciser que le passage de huit départements à dix n'implique pas une augmentation du nombre des Sous-Directeurs généraux. Il y a deux Sous-Directeurs généraux qui revêtaient essentiellement des fonctions de conseil avec un personnel réduit, et nous proposons de leur confier deux nouveaux Départements constitués par des Divisions qui existaient au niveau du bureau du Directeur général et dans d'autres Départements qu'il convenait d'alléger.

Comment renforcer la décentralisation? L'objectif est de rapprocher encore davantage les compétences et les services de la FAO des Pays Membres, là où se manifestent les besoins, en conformité avec les recommandations de l'Évaluation indépendante sur la décentralisation. Ainsi, seront mis en place des équipes multidisciplinaires au niveau des organisations régionales d'intégration économique pour assurer le soutien technique, l'appui aux politiques et l'augmentation des investissements. En outre, les Représentants de la FAO auront plus de pouvoir et un accès direct aux ressources opérationnelles. Ils participeront ainsi plus directement aux activités d'assistance en coopération étroite avec les équipes des Nations Unies dans les pays. Là aussi il convient de préciser que si nous allons augmenter le nombre des bureaux sous-régionaux à seize, ceci va se faire sans augmentation du nombre de cadres de l'Organisation, au contraire, cela va se faire dans le cadre d'une réduction de 122 postes du personnel de l'Organisation.

Cette proposition est importante pour l'efficacité de l'Organisation et pour diminuer les coûts. Il n'est pas normal que pour apporter une assistance technique des experts aient parfois à parcourir plus de mille kilomètres pour être auprès des pays qu'ils doivent servir. Depuis plusieurs années, nous avons des requêtes de plusieurs régions, sous-régions pour une présence effective d'équipes multidisciplinaires de la FAO, qu'il s'agisse de l'Amérique centrale, qu'il s'agisse de l'Afrique centrale, qu'il s'agisse des pays de l'Europe de l'Est ou des pays d'Afrique de l'Est qui sont servis par un Bureau qui travaille de l'Afrique du Sud jusqu'à Djibouti, qu'il s'agisse des pays de l'Asie centrale qui ont rejoint la FAO depuis la réforme de 1994, et qui n'ont pas été pris en compte dans cette réforme et je pourrais continuer avec d'autres régions d'Asie, où nous avons un seul Bureau à Bangkok qui sert toute l'Asie depuis les Philippines jusqu'au Pakistan et à en l'Afghanistan. Je en pense qu'il est temps que nous placions nos experts là où les États Membres ont besoin et là où ils doivent travailler pour les servir. Je rappelle également que nous avons proposé de le faire sans augmentation des cadres. Car, quelles sont les mesures de rationalisation et d'accroissement de l'efficacité? La simplification et l'informatisation des procédures, une plus grande délégation d'autorité et la réduction des contrôles préalables devraient permettre à l'Organisation d'être plus efficace. L'évaluation des agents, au regard de leurs résultats sera renforcée. Des programmes de formation et de mise à jour des connaissances seront aussi organisés. La structure hiérarchique sera aplanie en gardant inchangé, comme je le disais, le nombre des Sous-Directeurs généraux mais avec une baisse de 36 du nombre des Directeurs pour lesquels naturellement nous avons

prévu des mesures de redéploiement et de promotion qui permettront un meilleur usage, notamment en veillant à ce que chaque équipe multidisciplinaire soit dirigée par un D1.

Quelle sera la répartition des ressources du Programme ordinaire? Comme les Etats Membres l'ont demandé à différentes occasions, il convenait de mettre fin au déséquilibre souvent hérité du passé dans la répartition des ressources du Programme ordinaire pour améliorer la capacité opérationnelle et la flexibilité de l'Organisation. C'est pourquoi le pourcentage du total des ressources en personnel dans le budget sera ramené de 66 à 60 pour cent avec une diminution totale, comme je le disais tout à l'heure, de 122 postes permanents. Le nombre des cadres nationaux qui aujourd'hui existent dans les pays du tiers monde et qui sont compétents et capables, sera augmenté de 131 postes, ce qui comportera une réduction de 85 postes du cadre organique recruté sur le plan international. Le pourcentage des postes du cadre organique du Siège passera de 70 pour cent actuellement, à 60 pour cent en faveur des bureaux décentralisés. Il n'est pas normal, pour une organisation qui s'occupe d'agriculture, qui s'occupe d'alimentation qui s'occupe de la faim, que 70 pour cent de ces experts soient au siège, quand l'organisation compte ou va compter 190 pays. Le pourcentage des autres ressources humaines dans le budget passera de 17 à 21 pour cent entraînant une plus grande souplesse pour l'Organisation qui pourra alors faire appel à des spécialistes extérieurs selon les besoins. Une des grandes capacités et des potentialités de cette organisation c'est certes au niveau des experts que nous avons dans cette Organisation, et ils sont de qualité, ils sont engagés, et ils sont motivés, mais c'est aussi au niveau des experts qui sont dans les 190 pays. Il faut que nous puissions les mobiliser dans la lutte contre la faim. Le ratio des postes des services généraux par rapport à ceux du cadre organique passera de 1,25 actuellement à 1,09 en reconnaissance du fait qu'aujourd'hui de plus en plus de cadres de haut niveau travaillent directement avec des ordinateurs, contrairement à la situation antérieure où tout le travail de dactylographie, de frappe devait être effectué par le personnel administratif de soutien.

La part des dépenses non liées aux ressources humaines passera de 34 à 40 pour cent. Les moyens ainsi disponibles pour le matériel, les voyages et les opérations permettront une amélioration des prestations de service. Il ne sert à rien d'avoir des experts, des cadres qui ne disposent pas des ressources nécessaires pour travailler. Le redéploiement du personnel en fonction de la réduction des postes dans le cadre de la réforme se fera en consultation avec les associations de personnel. Au demeurant, nous sommes en contact et en dialogue continu avec ses représentants. Cet exercice sera grandement facilité par le gel du recrutement décidé depuis le mois d'août 2005 et par les départs prévus à la retraite. Ainsi 57 postes de Directeur, 252 postes du cadre organique et 211 postes de service généraux vont être libérés grâce au gel et au départ à la retraite nous permettant de redéployer le personnel de manière appropriée.

Qu'en est-il de l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO? Je voudrais dire que je suis très heureux de constater que le Groupe de travail intersession que vous avez établi il y a juste un an, et aux travaux auxquels ont pris part de nombreux Etats Membres provenant de tous les groupes régionaux, a pu conclure sa mission qui pourtant est fort complexe. Il a notamment fait des propositions détaillées sur la gouvernance, le mandat, le calendrier et le budget indicatif. Ces propositions vous sont soumises pour approbation.

Je voudrais pour ma part confirmer et reconfirmer de nouveau le plein engagement du Secrétariat à apporter son concours, sincère et franc, à cet exercice dans le respect de l'indépendance de ce processus. Je réitère ma profonde conviction que cette évaluation sera complémentaire aux réformes que j'ai proposées car les analyses qui seront faites permettront notamment d'avoir un impact dans la durée sur le moyen et long terme. C'est pourquoi, j'accueillerai avec la plus grande ouverture d'esprit les résultats de cette évaluation.

Enfin le budget. J'ai souligné que les réformes pourraient et devraient être mises en œuvre quel que soit le montant approuvé pour le budget du prochain exercice biennal. Néanmoins, la décision que prendra la Conférence à ce sujet aura sans aucun doute une incidence essentielle sur la capacité de l'Organisation à exercer son mandat et sur le processus et les modalités de mise en œuvre de la réforme. Votre avis à la matière sera précieux pour éclairer les débats de la

Conférence. De façon plus générale, une fois le niveau du budget connu, il sera possible d'établir un plan détaillé pour l'exécution des réformes décidées par la Conférence, qui sera présenté avec l'état d'avancement de leur mise en œuvre aux prochaines sessions des organes directeurs.

Les Etats Membre ont exprimé avec force une volonté de réforme du système des Nations Unies. Le Secrétariat de votre Organisation ne pouvait pas manquer le rendez-vous du changement pour mieux répondre à l'attente des affamés du monde. Il a donc pris l'initiative de vous présenter des propositions qui devraient permettre de placer la FAO à l'avant-garde du renouveau dans les activités de coopération internationale. Je suis sûr que les Etats Membres, comme toujours, sauront prendre les décisions courageuses qu'exige cette phase historique de la vie des Nations Unies en général et singulièrement de la FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de poursuivre nos travaux, je voudrais dire au revoir à Monsieur le Directeur général.

Nous allons passer à présent au premier point de l'ordre du jour "Adoption du l'ordre du jour provisoire et du calendrier" de la session tels que présentés dans les documents CL 129/1, CL 129/1-Add.1 et CL 129/11.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE

I. INTRODUCCIÓN - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 129/1; CL 129/INF/1; CL 129/INF/4)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 129/1; CL 129/INF/1; CL 129/INF/4)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 129/1; CL 129/INF/1; CL 129/INF/4)

Harold W. FORSYTH MEJÍA (Perú)

En nombre de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe quisiéramos sugerir la introducción en el Tema 5º, relativo concretamente a Otros Asuntos, la designación del año 2008 como el Año Internacional de la Papa. Repito que estamos haciendo este planteamiento en nombre de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Como usted sabe, la papa es un cultivo oriundo de la Región Andina, ha dado ciertamente un aporte muy significativo a la seguridad alimentaria global y se encuentra entre los cultivos protegidos por el Tratado Internacional para los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Esperamos con este planteamiento dar una señal de la importancia de la papa, de la importancia en la promoción de una mejor cultura de este cultivo y además un reconocimiento ciertamente muy oportuno.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que la proposition de Monsieur le délégué du Pérou a agréé notre assemblée? Oui? Très bien, donc nous approuvons la proposition du Pérou.

L'ordre du jour provisoire est constitué du document CL 129/1 qui a été envoyé aux Membres de l'Organisation en même temps que l'invitation à la présente session, ainsi que du document CL 129/1-Add. 1 communiqué aux Membres de l'Organisation par lettre circulaire du 25 octobre 2005. Comme indiqué dans le document CL 129/1- Add.1, la République Islamique d'Iran demande l'inscription d'une question relative à la représentation de la région Proche-Orient au sein du Comité financier. Cette question fera l'objet du sous-point 10.3 de l'ordre du jour "Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques". En outre, le Secrétariat m'a informé que les associations du personnel de l'Organisation souhaiteraient s'adresser au Conseil par l'intermédiaire d'un de leurs représentants. S'il n'y a pas d'objections à ces propositions, je propose que l'on considère le point concernant la représentation de la région Proche-Orient au sein du Comité financier ce matin en même temps que les autres sous points des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Par ailleurs, je propose que le représentant des associations du personnel de l'Organisation fasse son allocution jeudi après-midi lors de l'examen du point 12 de l'ordre du jour "Autres questions". Est-ce qu'il y a

des remarques à ce sujet? Non? Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé. Est-ce que nous pouvons considérer que l'ordre du jour est adopté? Oui? Merci. L'ordre du jour est adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le calendrier provisoire de la session se trouve dans le document CL 129/INF/1. Il vient d'être décidé, qu'un représentant des associations du personnel, s'adressera au Conseil demain dans l'après-midi, sous le point 12 de l'ordre du jour "Autres questions".

J'ai été prié par le Secrétariat d'avancer le sous-point 10.2 "Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation". Il devrait être examiné demain. Le calendrier proposé, avec la modification que je viens de mentionner, est-il approuvé par le Conseil? Très bien, le calendrier de la session est adopté.

Je profite de cette occasion, pour en appeler à votre coopération afin que soient respectés les horaires de travail, et qu'ainsi, nos réunions commencent à l'heure. Nous n'avons que deux journées, le Comité de rédaction devra faire son travail demain soir et vendredi matin. Permettez-moi, par ailleurs, d'attirer votre attention sur le document CL 129/INF/6 qui porte sur "l'Application des décisions prises par le Conseil à sa cent vingt-huitième session".

Nous passons donc au point 2 de l'ordre du jour "Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction".

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

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

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

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après consultation entre les groupes régionaux, nous disposons des propositions suivantes pour les trois postes de Vice-Présidents du Conseil: Son Excellence Monsieur Vali-Pekka Talvela de la Finlande, Son Excellence Monsieur Philippe J. Lhuillier des Philippines, Son Excellence Monsieur Adel Jalili de la République Islamique d'Iran. Est-ce qu'il y a des propositions? Non, très bien. Je voudrais féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction du Conseil, les groupes régionaux ont proposé Son Excellence Monsieur Francisco Eduardo Bonifaz Rodríguez du Guatemala comme Président. Les délégations suivantes ont été proposées comme Membres du Comité: l'Allemagne, l'Australie, le Canada, l'Indonésie, l'Italie, le Japon, le Mexique, l'Oman, le Nigéria, la République Islamique d'Iran, le Royaume-Uni, la Thaïlande et un pays africain, qui reste à désigner.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt)

The other Member for the Drafting Committee from Africa will be Eritrea.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien donc le pays africain sera l'Eritrée.

Y a-t-il des objections? Non, très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé.

*It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le sous-point 10.1 de l'ordre du jour concerne "l'invitation d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO" et le document pertinent porte la référence CL 129/LIM/2.

Je donne la parole à Monsieur Rouighi, Secrétaire général adjoint de la Conférence et du Conseil, qui va nous renseigner sur ce point.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

*10.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions CL 129/LIM/2
10.1 Invitation d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO (CL 129/LIM/2
10.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO (CL 129/LIM/2)*

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Une demande de participation aux travaux de cette session du Conseil a été reçue de la Fédération de Russie, et une invitation a été envoyée le 31 août 2005 sous réserve de l'approbation du Conseil. L'approbation du Conseil est donc requise pour que la Fédération de Russie puisse participer en tant qu'observateur à cette cent vingt-neuvième session du Conseil.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil est d'accord pour que la Fédération de Russie assiste à cette session en qualité d'observateur?

Il n'y a pas d'objection.

Très bien, donc bienvenue à la Fédération de Russie.

*10.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2005/10)
10.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 2005/10)
10.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2005/10)*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer maintenant au sous-point 10.2 de l'ordre du jour "Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation". Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 129/11. Le Conseil a déjà informé lors de sa cent vingt-septième session en novembre 2004 de la demande d'admission du Bélarus à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation. J'aimerais vous informer que le Directeur général a également reçu le 18 octobre 2005 une demande officielle d'admission de la Principauté d'Andorre. Le Conseil est prié dans le document CL 129/11 d'autoriser le Directeur général à inviter la Principauté d'Andorre à participer en qualité d'Observateur à des séances appropriées du Conseil, ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation pouvant l'intéresser. Y a-t-il des commentaires à ce sujet? Non. Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé. Je vous remercie.

Nous allons revenir maintenant au point que l'on a ajouté ce matin lors de l'adoption de l'ordre du jour "la Représentation de la région Proche-Orient au sein du Comité financier". Les contacts que nous avons eus avec les groupes régionaux relatifs à la proposition de la République Islamique d'Iran n'ont pas abouti à un consensus sur ce sujet. Je pense qu'il conviendrait de demander au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de se pencher sur la question lors de sa prochaine session en mars 2006. Comme vous le savez déjà, nous n'avons que deux journées pour nos débats et une journée pour rédiger et approuver le rapport étant entendu que la session de trois

jours du Conseil est traditionnellement réservée à des questions liées à la Session de la Conférence qui la suit.

Y a-t-il des commentaires à ce sujet? Non.

Je pense que le Conseil pourra revenir sur cette question lors de la cent trentéunième session en novembre 2006 et l'examiner au vue des commentaires du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO

3. Preparations for the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference (Recommendations to the Conference) (C 2005/12)

3. Préparatifs de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO (Recommandations à la Conférence) (C 2005/12)

3. Preparativos para el 33º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia) (C 2005/12)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point 3 de l'ordre du jour est intitulé "Préparatifs de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO (Recommandations à la Conférence). Le document pertinent est le C 2005/12.

3.1 Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and of the Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference

3.1 Nomination du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents des Commissions

3.1 Elección del Presidente de la Conferencia y de los Presidentes de las Comisiones de la Conferencia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons maintenant au sous-point 3.1 "Nomination du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence". Conformément à l'Article 24.5 du règlement général de l'Organisation, le Conseil propose les candidats à ces postes et soumet ses propositions à la Conférence qui décide. Après la dernière session du Conseil tenue en juin, et suite aux consultations entre les groupes régionaux, il est proposé que Son Excellence Monsieur Cao Duc Phat, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural du Viet Nam soit nommé au poste de Président de la Conférence. Son Excellence Victoria Guardia de Hernández, Ambassadeur du Costa Rica soit nommé au poste de Président de la Commission I. Son Excellence Monsieur Zohrab Malek, Ambassadeur de l'Arménie, soit nommé Président de la Commission II. Le Conseil approuve-t-il ces propositions? Oui. Très bien nous avons donc nos Présidents pour la Conférence.

Cao Duc PHAT (Vietnam)

As the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, I thank you very much for your confidence and support in electing me as Chairperson for the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure that, with your cooperation, the Thirty-third Session will be fully successful, as we all expect.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Représentant du Viet Nam et nous sommes très honorés de vous avoir comme Président.

Le sous point 3.2 concerne la nomination des trois Vice-Présidents de la Conférence. Suite aux consultations entre les groupes régionaux les trois délégués suivants sont proposés à ces postes: Son Excellence Monsieur Arefaine Berhe de l'Erythrée, Son Excellence Monsieur Romualdo

Bettini de l'Italie et Son Excellence Monsieur Abu Bakr El Mabrouk El Mansury de la Jamahiriya arabe libyenne. Y-a-t-il des objections? Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé.

Nous allons passer maintenant au sous-point 3.3 "Nomination des sept membres du Bureau de la Conférence". Il résulte après consultations entre les groupes régionaux que les sept États Membres suivants sont proposés à ces postes: la Belgique, la Chine, le Costa Rica, les États-Unis, le Koweït, le Mali et la Nouvelle Zélande. Est-ce que je peux considérer que le Conseil approuve ces propositions? Oui. Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé.

Avant de conclure sur le point 3 de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais vous donner des renseignements sur les événements spéciaux qui ont auront lieu pendant cette session du Conseil et de la Conférence. Une réunion ministérielle spéciale sur la sécurité alimentaire et le développement durable dans les petits Etats insulaires en développement se tiendra le vendredi 18 novembre de 9 heures 30 à 12 heures 30 et de 14 heures 30 à 17 heures 30 dans la salle de la Malaisie. Durant la Conférence les événements suivants auront lieu: un événement spécial intitulé "Egalité entre les sexes et l'accès au facteur de production", et une table ronde intitulée "l'eau à l'appui de l'agriculture en Afrique, au Proche-Orient et dans les petits Etats insulaires en développement" respectivement le 21 et 22 novembre 2005 dans la salle verte. En outre, le 23 novembre 2005 se tiendra une Réunion spéciale des Chefs d'Etats des petits Etats insulaires en développement. Le même jour se tiendra aussi un événement spécial sur la Grippe aviaire. Evidemment tous les participants au Conseil intéressés par ces événements sont invités à y participer.

Nous allons poursuivre nos travaux avec l'examen du point 5 de l'ordre du jour portant sur le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe.

Ernesto RÍOS LÓPEZ (España)

Lamento tomar la palabra en este momento para indicar que, debido a un error, en el Comité de Asustos Generales debe incluirse el Reino Unido en lugar de Bélgica. Ruego tome se nota de este cambio.

Ruego también introduzcan Canadá en lugar de Estados Unidos en el Comité de Asuntos Generales.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons poursuivre nos travaux avec l'examen du point 5 de l'ordre du jour portant sur le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, qui s'est tenue à Rome en septembre 2005. Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 129/2. Le Conseil a pris note que les deux Comités à leur session conjointe de septembre 2005 ont demandé au Secrétariat de préparer, pour leur prochaine Réunion conjointe de mai 2006, un document présentant des options permettant de rationaliser et d'améliorer le processus de planification de façon à faciliter l'ouverture d'un dialogue efficace entre les membres et décider qu'ils reviendront sur la question des sessions du Comité des produits et du Comité de l'agriculture, lors de la réunion conjointe de mai 2006 sur la base d'un nouveau document du Secrétariat.

Monsieur Wermuth Président du Comité du Programme qui a présidé la Réunion conjointe de septembre va introduire ce point. Je lui demande de ne pas présenter ces commentaires sur le programme de travail et budget 2006-2007 puisque celui-ci fait l'objet du point 4 de l'ordre du jour que nous examinerons séparément en fin d'après-midi.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

Good morning distinguished colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to report to you on the Joint Meeting of the 94th Session of the Programme Committee and 110th Session of the Finance Committee which I had the honour of chairing in September of this year. As requested, I will exclude the Joint Meeting's considerations of the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-2007, on which I will report when the Council takes up item 4 on this agenda later in the day. The report of the Joint Meeting is before the Council, but I would like to highlight the discussion we had on the Review of Programme Planning and Budgeting Practices and Experiences of other International

Organizations. I will say at the end a few words on Savings in Governance. On the eve of the Conference it is timely for the Council to recall that this Review was initiated to investigate the broad issues related to streamlining the overall programme and budget process within FAO. This would include exploring possibilities to, first of all, rationalize further the number, scope and length of planning documents and, two, more closely link the timing and level of the budget decision with a formulation of the corresponding programme of work. It has to eliminate the disconnect between substantial planning efforts and eventual decision on the budget level. The findings of the Review of Practices in other UN Organizations confirm that different management cultures result in diverse approaches to planning and budgeting. Furthermore, useful lessons could be drawn from simplifying FAO's planning and budgetary practices and enhancing the effectiveness of the related governance process. By way of next steps, the Committees requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for the next Joint Meeting containing possible options for a streamlined and improved planning process so as to facilitate initiation of an effective dialogue among members. They underlined their expectation that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO as commissioned by the governing bodies should also address these important issues. We had a continued discussion on Savings and Efficiencies in Governance: Assessment of the alternative arrangements for the meetings of the CCP and COAG. We agreed that we continue this discussion on further work by the Secretariat, and I'll take it that it will come back as an issue for discussion in our next meeting. This concludes my report, Mr Chairman, on the deliberations of the September Joint Meeting, and I am ready to respond to any queries you may have.

Victor C. D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States. The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania associate themselves with this statement. The main additional item falling to the Joint Meeting that was not handled separately by other committees is the amalgamation of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Commodity Programmes. This was a proposal of the European Union, and we continue to be of the view that the amalgamation of these two Committees is necessary to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO and of its governance systems. We have noted that the Joint Meeting of the Committees also discussed and welcomed the Director-General's reform package. We will speak on that issue under the agenda item related to the Programme of Work and Budget.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

Since the last speaker raised the question of the status of the Committee and Commodity Problems and the Committee on Agriculture, I was rather surprised to hear that because I thought I heard the Chairman of the Programme Committee say that this was to be considered again at the next Joint Meeting, so it seems to me the last speaker was a gratuitous opportunity to propose the merger. I would just like for the record to say that we are not in favour of such a merger. We think holding the meetings back-to-back but each Committee retaining their identity is useful, valuable and worth while. A paper has been called for about the costs of a merger or not, and I understand this paper showed that the merger would not result in cost savings. We have not seen any argumentation that would lead us to believe that a merger is in the interests of those two Committees or of the Membership, so we continue to believe that they should each retain their own identity.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, and we also want to support the new statement concerning the meetings of the Finance and Programme Committees and their Joint Meeting. This year the discussion on the budget of the Organization was focused on the Director-General's reform proposals. We would like to see a more thorough discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget in the Joint Meeting of these two Committees. The FAO reform proposal as well as simultaneous evaluation process offers a good opportunity to look at the structure and work of the different committees as well as their methods of working. We are pleased to hear that the investigation on the integration of the work of the Committee for Agriculture and CCP is being discussed. The Nordic Countries would be

prepared to go even further. We think that it would be fruitful to consider the Committees' structure as a whole. This would be explored in the Independent External Evaluation as one of the governance issues. Another governance issue to be assessed should be the improvements in the information sharing and ownership of the FAO processes. For example, the Finance and Programme Committees could consider a more open approach to their work — for instance through opening up meetings for observers to follow the process. This would facilitate the information flow and hence ownership of the planning and budgetary process of the membership of FAO.

We commend the Programme Committee for having reviewed the budgeting and planning procedures of other UN Agencies. We would like for the next Council to receive clear recommendations from the Programme and Finance Committees on how to improve the FAO procedures in light of its own experiences and procedures of the other UN Agencies. The problem of arrears and late payments has been discussed on so many occasions, but yet no real solution is presented. Yet, the reality is that late payments and arrears are putting the Organization's financial position at risk. Now it is time to start acting upon the reality. Everybody knows that the Organization runs the risk to exceed its borrowing capacity in this year's borrowing level if this year's borrowing level will continue in the future.

We appeal to each Member Nation to try their utmost to comply with their assessed contributions. We also appeal to those countries which have difficulties due to the different budgetary systems to find solutions to their systemic obstacles. It is in the common interest of us all that FAO's financial position becomes again healthy. The agreed attributions must be respected.

The Nordic Countries furthermore recognize that there exists a viable system of sanctions and incentives. We believe that they should also be applicable in practice and not only in theory.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

As stated by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and as described in paragraph 8 of document CL129/2, the Joint Meeting underscored the need for continued dialogue to achieve the reform of FAO. From this point of view, we welcome the establishment of an official Working Group on the Reform Proposal, and what is important for the Working Group is to identify what we could accept immediately in the proposal on a piece-by-piece basis rather than adopt it as a package. We believe continuous dialogue among and monitoring by the Member Nations if after the Conference are required from the view of assuring Member Nation ownership of the reform.

The Joint Committee also stressed the need for additional support information to deepen the understanding by the Membership. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat to reply to this request. However, not all information required has been provided. For instance, it is regrettable that detailed information is provided only with a Real Growth budget scenario and consequently, we cannot confirm if reform could be achieved with a more restricted budget level. As for the budget level itself, Japan will directly make specific comments in the discussion under agenda item 4.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

Brazil is following with interest the discussion regarding the Committees of Agriculture and the Committee on Commodity Problems. We are in principle favourable to the back-to-back arrangement and the maintenance of each Committee's identity. We would, however, like to see the conclusions of the Independent External Evaluation regarding this subject. Brazil also supports the idea of opening up the sessions of the Committees to the participation and observation of all Member States. We believe that that may contribute to dialogue among members and thus a better planning process and later decision process by all.

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

The Report of the Joint Meeting addresses three issues. The United States will comment on the Programme of Work and Budget under Agenda Item 4. I will make a brief comment on the Review of Programme Planning and Budgeting, and on Savings and Efficiencies of Governance.

With regard to the Review of Programme Planning and Budgeting, the United States appreciates the attempts in the Programme and Finance Committees to develop a more effective budget and planning process. Any proposal to streamline the budget presentation. However, should make the process of achieving an acceptable Programme of Work and Budget easier, more effective and less expensive rather than more so.

We look forward to reviewing the document which the Secretariat will prepare for the next Joint Meeting, obtaining possible options for a streamlined and improved planning process. We continue to believe that ZNG scenarios should be included in the proposed Programmes of Work and Budget. This makes the scenarios more realistic and allows the Organization to plan on how it will accommodate various scenarios.

With regard to Savings and Efficiencies in Governance, the United States is pleased with reduced and back-to-back sessions of the CCP and COAG, and believes this practice should be continued. Given the different mandates of the CCP and COAG, we do not believe in a merge of the two Committees would be effective. However, we will certainly review and consider the report that the Secretariat will prepare on this topic for the next Joint Meeting.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

We welcome the Report of the Programme Committee especially on the Review that was presented on the other UN Organizations. However, we have a big observation about the amalgamation of the two Committees, CCP and COAG.

At our previous meeting we expressed our concern that they should be maintained independently. As to the meetings, they should be back-to-back, rather than amalgamated. I really agree with the statement made by Brazil, and of course with most of the speakers, except one - that they should remain independent.

However, since the Independent External Evaluation Committee is going to deal with governance regarding the different committees and commissions, we will also see the conclusion regarding the amalgamation or keeping them independent.

At the same time, we can also see the same happening in the reform process since there are different restructuring of the different departments and how the different meetings will be handled. We should not rush now to say that they will be amalgamated. Further discussions will merit the issue.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie)

Permettez-moi d'abord de remercier le Président du Comité du Programme pour la présentation du rapport sur le Comité. Mon intervention se limite à la question du fusionnement du Comité des produits avec le Comité de l'agriculture. Je peux vous dire d'ores et déjà que ma délégation n'est pas favorable à un fusionnement de ces deux comités mais, néanmoins, elle est ouverte et disponible pour qu'un examen et qu'une étude soient faits sur ces questions liées aux fonctions de tous les comités.

J'attire particulièrement l'attention des Membres sur l'examen réalisé au niveau du Comité du Programme et au Conseil il y a quelques années qui a conduit à la suppression de certains comités et commissions régionales. Il s'est avéré par la suite, que ces comités étaient très utiles du fait de l'évolution de certaines situations.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

He pedido la palabra para manifestarme de acuerdo con lo expuesto por el distinguido Representante de Brasil, posición compartida por Argelia, Etiopía y otros. No creo sea necesaria la fusión entre los dos Comités.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

If there are no further speakers, I would like to take the floor merely to apologize to all Council Members for taking the floor when I did. I know this transgresses a convention that observers

speak after all Council Members, I mistakenly thought that the silence indicated that there would be no further calls for the floor. I was wrong and shall try not to let it happen again.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur Wermuth ou Monsieur Seminario, Présidents du Comité financier, souhaitent-ils répondre aux commentaires?

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

As no direct questions have been asked to me, as my capacity as Chair of the Joint Meeting, I take it that Council Members are looking forward to further discussions on both issues that I raised and we will report back to the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien. Donc ceci conclut le point 5 de l'ordre du jour.

Avant de passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais féliciter et remercier chaleureusement Monsieur Seminario et Monsieur Wermuth pour l'excellent travail effectué au cours du biennium.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le point 6 de l'ordre du jour concerne le rapport de la quatre-vingt-quatorzième session du Comité du Programme qui s'est tenue à Rome du 19 au 23 septembre 2005. Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 129/3. Lors de sa dernière session, le Conseil avait noté les vues préliminaires du Comité du Programme sur les définitions des priorités dans le cadre de la préparation des programmes de la FAO. Nous allons aujourd'hui prendre connaissance des conclusions tirées par le Comité du Programme lors de sa session de septembre 2005. Mais pour le moment, j'aimerais demander à Monsieur Wermuth, Président du Comité du Programme, d'introduire le rapport à l'exception de la partie portant sur le Programme de travail et budget 2006 – 2007, qui sera examiné en fin d'après-midi au point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

**III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À
L'ADMINISTRATION
III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y
ADMINISTRATIVOS**

**6. Report of the 94th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, September 2005)
(CL 129/3)**

**6. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-quatorzième session du Comité du Programme
(Rome, septembre 2005) (CL 129/3)**

**6. Informe del 94º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (Roma, septiembre de 2005)
(CL 129/3)**

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

The Committee also welcomed the use of modified criteria for the appraisal of all requests for TCP assistance whilst stressing the need for the Secretariat to communicate early to members how the criteria had been applied and their relationship with the Programme and Project Review Committee criteria. The Committee agreed on the proposed increase of the ceiling for all TCP projects with the exception of the TCP facility to up to US\$500 000 and that under normal circumstances 24 months should remain the maximum duration for TCP projects but that the duration maybe extended to 36 months when justified and on a case by case basis. I assume that the Council will share in our endorsement of all these measures.

The Committee welcomed finally the evaluation of the cross organizational strategy of communicating FAO messages. The evaluation highlighted the key role of communication in providing the Organization with legitimacy and visibility; conditions that were vital to its continuity and credibility and identified an inadequate overall understanding of, and commitment to, communication throughout the Organization and the relative fragmentation of effort. In this

regard the Committee agreed that more impetus and flexibility was required to encourage communication activities by staff in diverse for a and that appropriate training was essential to support this.

Several members felt that Organization's visibility had been declining and it was suggested that separate, although interlinked strategies, might be needed for advocacy, public awareness and fundraising with some members querying whether FAO should be putting limited resources into direct fundraising. The Committee agreed on the need for FAO to contribute to the development of the UN System-wide Advocacy and Communication Strategy which focussed on the international agreed development goals, in particular the MDGs.

The Committee was pleased to note that the implementation of some of the recommendations in the evaluation was already underway and had been taken into account in the context of the Director-General's reform proposals; although some Members felt that the reform proposals did not adequately address the need for integration of effort in communication through the proposed new institutional arrangement. By way of follow-up the Committee looked forward to the forthcoming evaluation of both the fundraising and advocacy dimensions of Telefood and a time bound implementation plan from management in response to the current evaluation and that of Telefood. The Committee could then also consider whether more in-depth study was needed on any other aspects of the Organization's Communication Strategy.

This concludes my report on the key points addressed by the Ninety-first Session of the Programme Committee and again I am ready to respond to any questions you may have.

As this is my last performance as Chair of the Programme Committee I would like to express my sincere and deep gratitude to my colleagues for the frank and open honest and very dedicated discussions and dialogue we had in the Programme Committee of the last two years. I would equally like to thank and compliment and commend the Secretariat for their excellent support to the Programme Committee at large and myself personally.

It was very cordial and very skilled, I do not want to signal out any of the member of the Programme Committee because I was convinced that each member of the Programme Committee of whatever region contributed to the work of the Programme Committee to his or her own ability. Having said that Mr Chairman, and as requested by you, I will exclude the Programme Committee's considerations of the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-07 which I will report on when the Council takes up Item 4 on its Agenda later in the day.

Therefore, I would like to highlight three items discussed in the Programme Committee. First of all the independent evaluation of FAO's decentralisation and its further management response, the policy and operational framework of the technical cooperation programme and the management recommendations and lastly the evaluation of the cross organizational strategy on communicating FAO's messages.

With regard to the independent evaluation of FAO's decentralization, the Committee emphasized once again its support of the evaluation recommendations and underlined in particular that the main purpose of decentralization which is to improve FAO's performance at country level especially to assist countries in achieving their targets of the millennium development goals.

We emphasize as well, sound national priority frameworks for FAO activities and transparent competency based selection, skills development and ongoing performance assessment and management of staff. Increase delegation of authority was emphasized accompanied by strict personal accountability, and hence staff mobility within the region to fulfill their duties and increased face to face contact with Headquarters and sound management with a move from a risk verse culture to exposed rather than exalt control measures within the working culture of FAO.

The Committee particularly welcomed the progressive introduction of national medium-term priority frameworks and underlined their importance as a critical instrument for prioritising FAO's work for aligning it with national priorities and for harmonizing it with the approaches of the other development partners as well as with the MDGs.

The Committee noted that a number of the evaluation recommendations had been incorporated in the Director-General's Reform Proposals contained in the supplement to the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-07, the implementation of which would depend on approval of the reform proposals.

The Committee was however pleased to note that some of these recommendations stemming from the evaluation which fell within the Director-General's authority were already under implementation. With regard to the decentralized structure, the Committee was informed that expansion of the number of sub-regional offices was proposed to bring technical support closer to the countries where it was needed. Amongst other things, the Committee requested clarification on the role and responsibilities of the Regional Offices and Regional Representatives and on the reporting lines between Headquarters, the other layers of the decentralized structure as well as between decentralized offices.

The Committee was concerned with the proposed increase in Sub-regional offices and the possible increase in the number of FAO Representatives as well as the proposed technical contribution of FAO Representatives, thirty percent of the time to the multidisciplinary teams in Sub-regional offices. Overall, the Committee was satisfied with Management's response and concluded its review of this matter noting, however, that follow-up would be addressed in a context of the Director-General's reform proposals. For the sake of efficiency, I would suggest that Members of the Council be invited to address these issues in connection with Item 4 on the Programme of Work and Budget later today.

Now moving to the Management recommendations on the policy and operational framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), the Committee expressed general support for the recommendations. Regarding country eligibility, the Committee agreed that universality remained basic principle of the programme that all FAO members should be eligible for access to TCP assistance. However, the Committee recommended that special attention in the allocation of TCP resources be given to the neediest countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Low Income Food Deficit countries (LIFDCs) and that 15 percent of the TCP appropriation be earmarked for emergency projects, accessible to all Members.

Given the grant character of the TCP, the Committee indicated that access by high-income developing countries and developed countries to FAO technical assistance through TCP modality issued only is on a full cost recovery basis.

The Committee agreed that the programmes overall strategic direction should focus primarily on the World Food Summit target and the MDG consistent with the organization's strategic framework and its commitment to the MDG process.

The Committee further agreed that country level priority setting for the use of TCP resources should be fully integrated into FAO's national medium-term priority frameworks as they are put in place. As part of the ongoing process of FAO decentralization, the Committee agreed on the need for further delegation of TCP related responsibilities and authority to FAO Representatives, and welcomed the Secretary's proposal to delegate full authority to FAO Representatives for approval of commitments under the TCP facility up to US\$200 000 per biennium and per country as an immediate first step.

Regarding emergencies, the Committee agreed that the main emphasis of emergency TCP projects should shift on its technical assistance and away from the provision of material inputs with an indicative amount of 15 percent of the programme's resources being ear marked for emergency TCP projects.

Adel JALILI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Speaking on behalf of the Near East Group, and as representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the case of independent evaluation of decentralization, as mentioned by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Netherlands, country focus approach as has been mentioned in management's

response to the Report of the Independent Evaluation of Decentralization, should be considered as a main preferred strategy in FAO decentralization. In this case, enhancing the ability and capacity of FAO Representatives and FAO country officers would be less costly and more efficient, a more relevant approach in FAO decentralization.

In this regard, enhancing the quality of human resources, particularly on managerial positions and delegation of authority, are the main theme of reform in decentralization. The important subjects related to FAO mandates, such as MDG aims, poverty reduction, food security and rural development are country level issues and can be followed through FAO Representatives and FAO country officers.

Other global issues such as trade, climate trade, micro-ecosystem rehabilitation and cross boundary pests and disease can be followed through the Headquarters and the Regional Offices.

As the Report of the Independent Evaluation of Decentralization has revealed, some important weaknesses in established regional and subregional offices, particularly due to the inadequate interactive system for consolidated and other staff regional needs, unless the findings between regional offices and headquarters on one hand and between these officers and country officers on the other. Therefore, tackling these existing weaknesses are our primary concern before moving forward to setting up new subregional offices.

Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)

The United States of America would like to address two issues under this agenda item. Of course, the independent evaluation of FAO's Decentralization and the policy and operational framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Again, we will address the Programme of Work and Budget under Agenda Item 4.

Regarding follow-up to the independent evaluation of FAO's decentralization, the United States has welcomed the report of the independent evaluation of FAO's Decentralization since it was first presented to the Programme and Finance Committees in September 2004. We are pleased that the Secretariat has embraced the general thrust and most of the Evaluation's recommendations.

In particular, first, matching FAO's decentralized capacity to those countries and areas of work where it could expect the most impact. Second, increasing decentralization of authority to improve responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness while strengthening FAO's unity and coherence. Third, ensuring that international and national staff have the necessary competencies. Fourth, identifying areas of potential efficiency savings and, fifth, ensuring that decentralization remains compatible with FAO's normative work.

We share the Programme Committee's concerns with some aspects of the Secretariat's response, particularly the following: the proposed increase in the number of Sub-regional offices, the possible increase in the number of FAORs and the proposal to have ADGs report to a new coordinating ADG at headquarters rather than interacting more regularly and directly with their Headquarters' counterparts – empowerment is an important tool of Decentralization. Since these ideas are also included in the Director-General's reform proposals, we will be discussing them further during the Council and Conference.

Regarding the second agenda item, Policy and Operational Framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme the United States thanks the Secretariat again for its report to the Programme Committee on the Policy and Operational Framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We concur in the recommendations in particular; access by high income developing countries and developing countries to TCP assistance should only be on a full recovery basis. FAO should progressively shift the main emphasis of emergency TCP projects towards technical assistance and away from the vision of material inputs. The Secretariat should also explore opportunities for selective reimbursement of emergency TCP resources and co-financing and, lastly, there is a need to emphasize and assess impact and sustainability in project design, implementation and evaluation.

The United States believe that the criteria for TCP projects should reflect FAO's comparative advantage in transferring knowledge internationally and bringing high quality, unbiased advice to countries on request. The United States also continue to believe that FAO's unique and comparative advantage is in its normative activities and that additional funding for TCP projects should come from voluntary contributions.

Victor C. D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States. The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania and the candidate country to the European Union, Croatia, associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the Programme Committee's report. The Committee faced an unusually complex agenda and has given the Membership of FAO excellent advice on how to handle the issues before it in the Council and the Conference.

We note that the Committee expressed general support for the guiding principles underlying reforms but also that additional information was required on how the Secretariat planned to translate these principles into practice.

The European Union agrees with the Committee's view that consideration of the Director-General's Reform package must be kept separate from the overall consideration of the budget.

The Committee reported positively on the further management response to the independent evaluation of decentralization.

The European Union also agrees with the Committee that the functioning of the TCP stands to benefit greatly from more decentralization and, specifically, that there is a need for further delegation of responsibility to, and higher financial ceilings for, FAO Representatives in the field and that the TCPs of longer than 24 months are appropriate in some circumstances.

With regards to the content of TCP programmes we agree with the Committee that this must be increasingly in the form of technical assistance, to inform and be informed by, FAO's normative actions and that material assistance should decline. This is not where FAO's comparative advantage lies; indeed, the Committee should have gone further in their recommendations on prioritization in paragraph 39. The purpose that should be pursued through the TCP is the achievements of the MDGs. These require a focus on the poorest countries where there are large numbers of hungry people. FAO's TCP is a form of grant aid and it is appropriate to use grant finance to help these countries. It does not make sense to use these scarce grant resources in richer developing countries. We fully support the recommendations of the Committee on cost recovery.

The Committee rightly welcomes the introduction of national medium term priority frameworks and urge the Secretariat to formulate these quickly and with minimum transaction costs and without duplicating the existing planning documents. The European Union strongly supports this view. It is essential to FAO's continuing relevance and effectiveness that its activities at country level are aligned with national poverty reduction policies as set out in PRSPs, where these exist and are harmonized with other development partners, including other UN Agencies under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (the UNDAFs).

Section Five of the Committee's report deals with communication. Specifically, we agree that FAO need to define more clearly how its advocacy and communication efforts are designed to contribute to the achievement of MDGs and to measure how much better, how well each activity is contributing to this. We also agree that FAO should not engage in these activities on a stand alone basis and that FAO should contribute to the development of a UN System-wide advocacy and communication strategy and should ensure that all its efforts are designed in this wider context. We agree that World Food Day should involve a much wider range of institutions that just FAO and when celebrated at national level, it should be duly coordinated with the host government.

We share the concerns expressed by some members of the Committee that the efficacy of Telefood has not been demonstrated and that the case for FAO investing scarce resources in direct fundraising is weak. We await the findings of the evaluation of Telefood with interest.

The European Union shares the Committee's view of the importance of interdisciplinarity and endorses its recommendations on this, including that priority areas of interdisciplinary action should be addressed by the independent External Evaluation of FAO.

We also welcome the proposals for shorter and more focussed programme implementation reports and for the revised format of the Programme Evaluation Report.

In conclusion, the European Union would like to draw the Council's attention that the triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the Operational Activities of the United Nations System is relevant to many of the issues considered by the Programme Committee.

We believe that it is vital for FAO to be, and to be seen to be, fully engaged with the ongoing process of UN Reform lead by the Secretary-General. A draft resolution is under preparation by a group involving Member Nations of all regions, including by a number of EU Members. This calls upon FAO to link its operational activities with those of the rest of the United Nations for the greater benefit of all, including through greater contributions to nationally-owned poverty reduction strategies of Member Nations. This resolution has the full support of the European Union.

Gavindan NAIR (India)

We appreciate the meticulous and painstaking work of the Programme Committee and its succinct report. We commend the quality of the Independent Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization. The Management has responded competently to the conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation. We are happy to note that many of the recommendations are reflected in the Director-General's reform proposals. The introduction of the National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks will strengthen the partnership between FAO and national governments and other stakeholders and ensure that FAO's work is aligned to national priorities. We suggest that this process and the format of these frameworks should be kept as simple as possible so as to reduce the burden on national partners as well as transaction costs.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is the cornerstone of FAO's activities at the country level. We support all efforts to strengthen and streamline the TCP and we endorse the recommendations of the Management in this regard. The National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks will facilitate country-level priority settings for the use of TCP resources, and we look forward to operationalization of this initiative. We agree that all FAO members should have access to the knowledge and resources of the Organization and, thereby, be eligible for TCP assistance. However, special attention should be given to the neediest countries. As TCP resources are always likely to be in short supply, opportunities for co-financing and raising of additional resources need to be explored.

With the increasing frequency and magnitude of emergency operations, it should be ensured that emergency TCP projects do not consume an increasing portion of overall TCP resources. We support the proposal for further delegation of TCP-related responsibilities and authorities to FAORs and the proposed increase in the ceiling of all TCP projects. We support the attempt to ensure transparency through the modified criteria for the appraisal of TCP proposals. Impact and sustainability should be built into project design, implementation and eventual evaluation of TCP.

The Evaluation of Cross-organizational Strategy on Communicating FAO's Messages is interesting and informative. We agree that FAO's visibility has been declining and that special efforts are required to enhance its profile as the world's leading Organization in the field of agriculture. We are happy to note that many of the evaluations and recommendations are reflected in the Director-General's reform proposals.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

We welcome the report of the Programme Committee, especially on decentralization and TCP. I also join and support the statements made by India and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The reform proposal and the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation on Decentralization complement each other. Before I go to the TCP, once these recommendations on decentralization are implemented, there should be a review that could possibly take four or five years. It will depend on when it is implemented and a time is set of its review, maybe a five-year duration after its implementation may be adequate time to give you the hint so, in that aspect, we should also look at it, but we welcome the recommendations and the reform which are going on. They really complement each other.

On the TCP, we, the developing countries, recognize FAO through its activities done through its TCP, but the ceiling that FAO has been given was approved around 1989 or in the 1980s which is about 20 years ago, I think, or 18 years, so the proposal of increasing the threshold by 15 percent or above, about 200 000, is a welcome proposal, as it is very minimal. Somebody mentioned that the TCP should depend also on voluntary contribution. I totally disagree. It must depend on the regular contribution, because there is no guarantee of available contribution and countries depending on their political relation with that country that donates controls and dictates them. So this approach will not be welcome. It should be from the Regular Programme of FAO.

The duration of time, of course, for the TCP, two years, is also too little. It should be even higher but, at least, it should be a minimum of two years. I do not have to repeat. India has eloquently addressed all the necessary issues.

Seichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan appreciates the efforts made by the Chairperson and members of the Programme Committee. We share the interest and concerns of the Committee about programme and Priority settings described in paragraphs 16 to 18 and Organizational structure in paragraphs 19 to 22 of the Report. Regarding decentralization, Japan recognizes the necessity of strengthening the different decentralized offices for further delegation of authorities in order to better implement the mandate including TCP. Japan shares the Organization's view that discussion on budget and reform should be done separately.

Ms A. I. PEPPLÉ (Nigeria)

My delegation joins others in commending the efforts of the Committee and the quality of its report. We note that the Committee was faced with the abundant task of having to deal simultaneously with two documents. The main PWB and the Supplement which, even though shorter, is more complex and even more difficult to align with the main PWB. We further note with satisfaction that, in spite of this obvious difficulty, the Committee was able to come up with a set of coherent and succinct conclusions and observations which merit careful consideration. On the Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization, I would want to observe right from the onset that Nigeria embraces decentralization as a policy measure that would enable FAO to impact more effectively at the country level. We are, therefore, delighted that the Committee gave an authentic support to the far-reaching recommendations of the evaluation. We also note with satisfaction that a number of recommendations have already been implemented and that most others have been taken on board in the Director-General's reform agenda. The clarifications starting in paragraph 37 regarding delineation of rules, responsibilities and reporting lines between Headquarters and the other layers of the decentralized structure as well as between decentralized offices and the rural responsibilities of the regional offices and the regional representatives merit careful and in-depth analysis and consideration.

On the proposed FAO National Medium-Term Priority Framework, while Nigeria supports it, we hope this will indeed add value considering similar documents already in existence at the country level, although these may not be institutionally-linked as the one proposed here.

One challenge for FAO, therefore, will be to effectively harmonize this with the approaches of the other development partners at the country level. Furthermore, we urge that such a framework should be operationally simple and cost-effective.

My delegation further commends FAO in its efforts to strengthen the operational mechanism of the TCP which we consider as one of the most effective advocates for FAO's relevance in the current global and international development environments. We support the various recommendations of the Committee and its endorsements of the recommendations of the Secretariat, particularly in the following three areas: one, the country eligibility (paragraph 42), especially on concentrating the TCP resources to the most needy countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries, Small-Island Developing States and Low-Income Food Deficit Countries. Two, the increased delegation of TCP-related responsibilities to FAO country Representatives, Sub-regional and Regional Offices and the increased approval authority granted to FAORs in paragraph 44. Thirdly, and lastly, the increased ceiling for all TCP projects to US\$500 000 and the duration of TCP projects not exceeding 24 months, except under special circumstances when up to 36 months may be allowed.

With these comments, my delegation joins others in endorsing the reports. We will comment on the Programme and Budget reports later. I congratulate the Chairman and members of the Committee for the excellent work they have done.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

En primer lugar acogemos con beneplácito el informe presentado por el Comité del Programa. Queremos identificarnos con lo ya dicho por India, Eritrea, Nigeria y otros países, de que muchas de las cuestiones que se plantean aquí ya han sido recogidas por la propuesta del Director General.

Para los países en desarrollo, el PCT es un instrumento muy válido, al cual concedemos una particular atención. Ha sido un instrumento muy importante en nuestro programa de desarrollo. En primer lugar creemos que éste debe quedar en el Programa Ordinario de la FAO. Hay que tener mucho cuidado cuando se habla de "países más ricos", porque hay muchos casos frecuentes en que la diferencia entre más rico y menos rico es muy difícil de identificar. No quisiera que sucediera como en otros organismos, que por favorecer a los países menos ricos, a los cuales naturalmente va todo nuestro apoyo, se ha eliminado completamente de su Programa a otros países que también necesitan esa ayuda. Creo que el PCT debe ser de todos.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Nuestra delegación quiere agradecer a la Secretaría por el documento que nos ha presentado y referirnos a algunos aspectos muy concretos.

En primer lugar, nuestra delegación apoya el proceso de descentralización y el análisis que ha realizado el Comité del Programa sobre este proceso. Apoyamos también la decisión de reforzar la labor de la FAO y en ese sentido, la necesidad del análisis de un conjunto de propuestas de reforma, las cuales han sido ya presentadas por el Director General. Con respecto al PCT, apoyamos la intervención del distinguido Representante de Panamá y de las otras delegaciones que se han manifestado sobre el tema, en el sentido de que para garantizar la universalidad de los Programas de la FAO es necesario que todos los países beneficiarios tengan acceso a los recursos de PCT. Estamos de acuerdo también en que estos recursos, aunque estén disponibles para todos, se prioricen para los países con mayor necesidad. Consideramos que, teniendo en cuenta el aumento de las emergencias, es apropiado que una determinada cantidad de recursos de este Programa sea destinada a cubrir solicitudes de emergencia accesibles a todos los Estados Miembros. Consideramos muy importante que el PCT continúe siendo financiado por el Programa Ordinario de nuestra Organización.

Para terminar, apoyamos la recomendación de que sean delegadas mayores responsabilidades y se conceda mayor autoridad a las oficinas de la FAO en el terreno, muy especialmente en lo relacionado con la aprobación de determinados montos de recursos para ejecutar Proyectos de Cooperación Técnica.

Vladimir HERNANDEZ LARA (México)

Mi delegación desea agradecer el informe que nos presentó el Presidente del Comité del Programa y lo acogemos favorablemente. Dada la importancia de los temas de descentralización y del PCT, deseo simplemente señalar que mi delegación coincide plenamente con los comentarios que han hecho las delegaciones de India, Eritrea, Panamá y Cuba.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Ma délégation voudrait remercier très sincèrement le Président du Comité des Programmes et les Membres de son Comité, cela n'a pas toujours été le cas, pour ce travail que nous saluons pour sa clarté et sa précision. Nous nous réjouissons de voir dans ce document, et nous saluons le Comité et le Secrétariat dans le cadre de la proposition des réformes qui nous a été soumise. Nous pensons que ceci facilitera nos débats sur ce projet de réformes qui, pour notre part, vient à point.

Le Comité a soulevé un certain nombre de problèmes dont le PCT. Je ne reviendrai pas sur les déclarations de mes prédécesseurs mais pour bon nombre de pays, être Membre de la FAO c'est surtout bénéficier des PCT, c'est pourquoi il est important que le PCT soit renforcé. Qu'il soit renforcé par des ressources sûres ce qui voudrait dire que la FAO ait aussi des ressources sûres et davantage de ressources. Naturellement, des financements complémentaires par voie bilatérale sont toujours les bienvenus mais il y va du rôle de la FAO de garantir le financement des PCT.

Nous voulons qu'il soit concis et exécuté dans un maximum de deux ans mais qu'à cela ne tienne, il suffirait simplement effectivement d'assister les pays bénéficiaires des PCT parce que nous savons très bien, ce n'est secret pour personne, que dans bon nombre de ces pays il y a un problème de faiblesse institutionnelle d'où, dans le cas de la coopération internationale, il n'est que justice d'aider les pays pour pouvoir effectivement exécuter les PCT dans les délais que nous voulons fixer. Effectivement, exécuter dans les délais précis, c'est un gain de temps et aussi une économie.

Nous saluons aussi la concordance de vues sur la décentralisation. Nous la saluons d'autant plus la proposition qui nous a été offerte dans ce projet correspond parfaitement à ce que nous voulons, c'est-à-dire des représentants plus près des pays, des représentants avec davantage d'autorité et de pouvoir de décisions, parce que s'il faut toujours attendre effectivement que les réponses viennent d'ailleurs, même si le courrier électronique existe, il vaut quand même mieux que les décisions puissent être prises par ceux qui sont là et qui vivent sur le terrain. C'est pourquoi nous croyons que cette réforme va répondre vraiment à nos attentes.

Nous avons des aspects normatifs de la FAO. On ne veut pas ouvrir de grandes querelles ici. Certes, la FAO doit accorder une importance aux aspects normatifs. Mais la FAO a été créée pour nourrir des gens donc ce sont les aspects de production qui nous paraissent fondamentaux, même s'ils doivent être soutenus par les aspects normatifs. Il ne faut pas nous enfoncer encore dans des affaires purement normatives, accorder toute la priorité aux aspects normatifs parce que nous croyons que la FAO existe, a été créée pour aider à la production de nourriture, pour nourrir ceux qui n'en ont besoin. Nous voyons que malgré toutes les déclarations que nous avons eues à faire ici, malheureusement, faute de moyens, les objectifs qui ont été assignés à la FAO sont loin du compte, nous reviendrons donc certainement sur tous ces aspects là, mais ce matin, certaines déclarations nous ont donné une douche froide. Nous croyons que ce Conseil et plus tard cette Conférence constituent vraiment un cadre de discussions entre gens honnêtes mais il ne faut pas que l'on commence déjà à vouloir nous tirer vers le bas, d'examiner ce côté pessimiste d'un budget zéro négatif qui ne nous amènera nulle part. Il est temps d'être objectif, il est temps de se dire franchement que si nous voulons de la FAO, nous voulons une FAO qui puisse travailler, une FAO qui réussisse. Nous ne pouvons maintenir cette Organisation, depuis tant d'années, dans des contraintes financières qui n'ont pas de sens. Je voudrais vraiment que nous soyons positifs, surtout dans nos engagements ici, que nous pensions que ce Conseil, cette Conférence ne devraient pas être un Conseil et une Conférence comme les autres, cela devrait être le point de départ d'une nouvelle FAO, parce que nous tous ici, nous en appelons de tous nos vœux, la création d'une nouvelle FAO, une FAO qui gagne.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

Brazil also welcomes the report of the Programme Committee and would like to thank Ambassador Wermuth for the presentation.

We, like other delegations that have spoken before us – Panama, Cuba, India, Eritrea, Mexico and others – would also like to stress the importance of FAO's operational activities through the TCP.

We, in Brazil, recognize the value of the operational work of FAO, to which we gave as much value as the normative work. We will not go into this discussion, as there is no contradiction between the two, in the sense that the TCP helps and complements FAO's normative efforts.

We do support the prioritization of scarce funds to countries in greater need. We are, however, very concerned with the idea of funding the TCP through extra-budgetary funds only. We believe that that may lead to an excess of earmarked activities.

The TCP should be maintained under the regular budget of FAO. In other words, it should keep its multilateral nature. Technical cooperation cannot be bilateralized.

Finally, regarding the question of the technical cooperation in the UN system, Brazil is also ready to discuss the Draft Resolution, mentioned before by the United Kingdom delegate in the name of the European Union. We will go back to that subject later.

MA YOUXIANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We took a note of the Report of the 94th Session of the Programme Committee and especially the policy and operational framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme contained in the document.

The Chinese delegation, in principle, is in favour of paragraph 42, regarding the universality remained the basic principle of the Programme. At the same time, we hope the Secretariat will adopt concrete measures to adjust the resources and to increase the efficiency of the implementation of the project, as well as efforts in having the relevant resources used in the implementation of the projects without decreasing their efficiency or impact.

Aomar AIT AMER MEZIANE (Algérie)

Nous voudrions d'abord féliciter le Président et les Membres du Comité du Programme pour la qualité du travail réalisé et pour la clarté des Recommandations formulées. Notre intervention portera essentiellement sur le point 4 du document CL 129/3, relatif aux politiques et cadre opérationnel du Programme de Coopération technique. A cet effet, je voudrais, à l'instar de ce qui a été déjà dit par les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé, souligner l'importance des PCT pour le renforcement des capacités des pays en développement pour la concrétisation de l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Nous souscrivons à la Recommandation de reviser en hausse le plafond des enveloppes allouées aux PCT et nous saluons la proposition de déléguer davantage de responsabilités et de pouvoir liés aux PCT aux Représentations de la FAO. Cette décentralisation ne pourra que renforcer l'opérationnalité des projets mis en œuvre. Cependant, s'agissant de l'affectation des ressources PCT, comme souligné dans le paragraphe 42, les membres sont convenus que l'universalité demeurerait un point essentiel du Programme et ont donc appuyé la proposition à ce que tous les Membres de la FAO aient accès PCT. A ce niveau nous rappelons notre position, exprimée déjà lors de la dernière session du Conseil, au cours de laquelle nous avons souligné et insisté sur l'accès sans discrimination de tous les pays au bénéfice de ces PCT et nous réitérons donc cette position, à l'occasion de cette session de ce Conseil.

Raúl Añez CAMPOS (Bolivia)

Bolivia agradece el trabajo realizado por el Comité del Programa. Sin duda apoyamos la propuesta de descentralización y delegación de responsabilidades para hacer de la intervención en los países un trabajo mucho más eficiente. En cuanto al PCT estamos totalmente de acuerdo en elevar los techos de la intervención y por supuesto nos preocupa la idea y estamos de acuerdo en

proponer que esto pueda ser atendido con el presupuesto ordinario de la FAO. Apoyamos algunas iniciativas en cuanto a que la asistencia técnica no se debe bilaterizar y más bien debe obedecer a un aspecto multilateral.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to add my voice to what has been said by preceding speakers in extending words of thanks to the Chairman of the Programme Committee and to the members of that Committee for the quality of this Report, which fully bears witness to the importance of FAO in examining the various points of direct concern to us. Especially important points are decentralization – item 3 – and the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

I would like to tackle a certain number of points in the course of my statement, but I will take them in due time, under each individual agenda item. Having said that, I would like to make a comment on what we find in paragraph 34, regarding the Independent Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization. We read that certain recommendations, from the evaluation – falling within the Director-General's authority – were already under implementation. The first sentence in paragraph 34 bears witness to the importance of the Reform in most general forms and comforts and supports our conviction that this Reform should not wait.

Another point has to do with what we read in paragraph 37, regarding the request made by the Committee that further clarification be provided on a number of issues: ratio of staff to non-staff resources; delineation of roles responses; reporting lines between Headquarters and other layers of the decentralized structure; and the role and responsibility of the Regional Offices and Regional Representatives.

We feel that this request for clarification is most appropriate, especially when we consider what is said at the end of paragraph 34, where we read that good management makes it possible to ensure proper liaison between the field and headquarters.

My final point has to do with a point raised by a number of delegates thus far. The vast majority of those who have addressed this item bears witness to the special importance all of us allocate to this whole matter of the TCP. I am addressing to you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the African Group in this sense.

I am referring to TCP, as far as this programme is the most determinant and most important programme in the eyes of developing countries. Especially with respect to and as regards pursuing the MDGs, Food Security and others. When we do talk about the importance of TCP, in no way whatsoever are we talking about relativizing of normative activities. I would just like to point out that we have to find the proper balance between those two types of activities (that is normative activities and operational endeavours in the Organization's programmes and projects).

I would also like to address paragraph 42. This is one of the key paragraphs in this Report from the Programme Committee. This has to do with the TCP and country eligibility and the way in which beneficiary countries of this programme's activities and projects are determined.

It is recommended that 15 percent of all the TCP resources be earmarked for emergency projects. My question is how did they come up with this 15 percent figure and to what degree is any flexibility contemplated in setting this percentage? Certain regions, for example Africa and Asia, have been subject to a continuous succession of emergency situations. I also agree to what other colleagues have said, in the sense that we have to maintain the multilateral nature of this Programme. To that end it is necessary to continue to have the finance of the Regular Programme of the Organization and not through multilateral or bilateral extra-budgetary contributions.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Señor Presidente, es un placer saludarle con el afecto de siempre y felicitarle ahora que se acerca el fin de su magnífica gestión. Deseo hacer saber al Consejo y a los Observadores de mi personal satisfacción, así como del Gobierno de la República Dominicana, por haber recibido el encargo de pertenecer al Comité del Programa durante el bienio que está por concluir. En aquella oportunidad

recibí el apreciado endoso del GRULAC, así como el apoyo de Grupo de los 77 para ocupar la Vicepresidencia del Comité del 91° al 94° Período de Sesiones. Deseo también dejar constancia de mi satisfacción por haber tenido la oportunidad de profundizar mis modestos conocimientos sobre la Organización en el curso de los debates sustantivos del Comité.

Aprovecho la ocasión para congratular a mis colegas, el Sr. A. Ayazi de Afganistán, la Sra. J. Barfield de Australia, el Sr. J. Melanson de Canadá, el Sr. G. Nair de India, el Sr. F. Zenny de Jamaica, la Sra. W. Dikah de Líbano, el Sr. J. Rambli de Malasia, el Prof. G. Lombin de Nigeria y la Sra. M. Mohapi de Sudáfrica. Deseo también pedir a la Sra. Barfield que transmita un saludo al Sr. B. Hughes, al Sr. Melanson, al Sr. Blair Hankey, al Sr. Rambli y al Sr. R. Bin Khalid, sus predecesores en las primeras Sesiones del Comité en este bienio. Deseo también especialmente congratular a nuestro Presidente, el Embajador de Países Bajos, mi querido amigo E. Wermurth, un hábil diplomático y brillante intelectual quien ha dirigido las profundas discusiones con una visión global de la Organización, visión orientada siempre a su progresivo fortalecimiento. Mi agradecimiento también para la Secretaría en la persona del Sr. A. Quereshi y de su equipo de trabajo.

Por último Sr. Presidente, tengo que decirle que recibo con mucho agrado las manifestaciones de numerosos Miembros del Consejo sobre el PCT. Le diré muy brevemente que, como he dicho en reiteradas ocasiones a mis colegas en el Comité de Programas, el Gobierno de República Dominicana entiende que el PCT es el más importante de todos los Programas de la FAO; que si la FAO tuviese un solo Programa, ese debía ser el PCT, pues allí convergen las actividades de conocimiento, las actividades de campo y las actividades normativas.

Roberto VILLEDA TOLEDO (Honduras)

Queremos felicitar al Comité del Programa por su buen informe, sobretodo el trabajo desarrollado sobre los temas fundamentales de la Organización. En esta oportunidad quiero referirme a dos aspectos de manera general que trataré en su mejor oportunidad, cuando estemos abarcando el Programa de Reforma.

El primero se refiere internamente a la Organización y a la importancia de una evaluación apropiada de la institución antes de realizar las reformas. Hace una década el Director General inició, un proceso de reformas en el cual propusimos en este mismo Consejo, posiciones de las Américas adoptadas por los Ministros de Agricultura del Continente, para tratar de particularizar los mecanismos apropiados y hacer efectiva la cooperación técnica en las Américas. Se adoptó, tanto en el Consejo Regional de la FAO en El Salvador como en la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura de los Ministros en Paraguay, la realización de un estudio importante para lograr un mayor impacto de la FAO en el hemisferio americano. Lamentablemente el proceso continuó y hoy lo estamos reeditando. En su oportunidad, como dije, daré mas información sobre este tema. Pero el asunto general sobre el cual la delegación de Honduras siempre ha reincidido en los diferentes eventos internacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, es en relación a cómo vamos a lograr los Objetivos del Milenio. Los Objetivos del Milenio no son todos atribuidos a la FAO, tenemos que ver que el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas debe realizar un verdadero trabajo sobre mandatos a sus diferentes organismos, de manera que coordinemos mejor y especialicemos a las instituciones para que nos permita cumplir con esos objetivos.

Sergio INSUNZA BECKER (Chile)

Mi delegación también desea felicitar al Comité del Programa y a su Presidente por el excelente informe que nos ha presentado. Quisiéramos también adherir a las manifestaciones que otros países, en particular de América Latina, han hecho en relación con el PCT al cual nuestro país también asigna una enorme importancia. Quisiéramos ver convertido en realidad la intención de delegar a los Representantes de la FAO la autoridad necesaria para proceder con los Proyectos de Cooperación Técnica, teniendo en cuenta que ello debería ir acompañado de una más estrecha relación entre la FAO y los gobiernos de los Países Miembros, en cuanto a la definición de las prioridades y de los objetivos. Esperamos que esta intención de delegación de funciones pueda

producirse en forma natural y en beneficio, tanto para la FAO, pero sobretodo para los Países Miembros.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

There have been a number of issues raised especially on the Technical Cooperation Programme on which I would like to elaborate. I do recognize that the representative of the European Union expressed that the Programme Committee should have gone a step further on the issue of country eligibility of TCP resources. Whereas the Ambassador from Panama was pretty cautious in that respect, claiming that universality should be the principle to be applied here and explicitly mentioned the need for, I would say, lesser wealthier developing countries to be eligible and having access to TCP. So by and large I think the approach taken by the Programme Committee on this very difficult and contentious issue is endorsed by the Council and that we have walked the right avenue on this very thin line. Thank you for your endorsement in that regard, however, there is a misunderstanding and I refer to remarks made by the distinguished representatives from Eritrea and Brazil. The Committee did not and I repeat, did not consider that a TCP should be financed by extrabudgetary resources rather than the Regular Programme, that is a misunderstanding and I do refer to Paragraph 42 of our Report. It did however note that opportunities existed for expanding the use of TCP in cofinancing projects at the country level with other donors. So I just want to reiterate again, the Committee has not embarked on a discussion of considering that the TCP should be financed by extra-budgetary means only.

A second item that has come up and I refer to the intervention made by my dear friend from Egypt on the 15 percent earmarking for emergency projects. I should mention Ambassador that this is an indicative figure, it is not cut in stone. It will be kept under review by the Secretariat, that is what we explicitly requested. The main purpose of it is to ensure that even when there would be a heavy demand on TCP funds for non-emergency purposes there would still be funds set aside to respond to unexpected events. That is the directional behind it. It is an earmarking in a sense of indicating a budget so that there remain funds available when tragic and unexpected events occur to which FAO and the Membership need to respond. By having said that, I note that the Council generally not only welcomed, but endorsed the Report of the Programme Committee and I think on behalf of the members and the Council we are looking forward to implementation by the Secretariat.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Many opinions were expressed by members, particularly on the independent evaluation of decentralization and the TCP review. I recognize that discussions on the decentralization will continue under Item 4, the PWB, this afternoon. The Secretariat is most grateful for the support given by the Council to the Programme Committee's report and for the views provided today on these very important items. There were two requests for clarification.

Actually the first was perhaps just an observation made by the distinguished delegate from the United States of America which I would like to comment on. The Representative from the USA observed that there should be more emphasis on impact and sustainability of the TCP. I would like to underline the Secretariat support of that view. The earlier management recommendations on the TCP foresaw a regular auto evaluation of TCP projects and indeed also a periodic independent evaluation of the TCP programme which would of course contribute to an assessment of impact and sustainability. I should also like to draw attention to the intention to strengthen project design procedures to pay greater attention to sustainability of projects and assessments of impact. It is also intended to carry out an assessment of these features within three months of project completion. Still on this subject, the reform proposals include the creation of a monitoring and inspection unit in the new department for the outreach programmes. This will improve project design capacity, assessment of results and improved learning from successes and failures.

Regarding the second clarification, perhaps I could be permitted to elaborate on the explanations provided by the distinguished Chairman of the Programme Committee to the question raised by

Egypt. Indeed the flexibility does exist with regard to the 15 percent indicative figure for emergency projects. I should point out that when the Programme Committee reviewed this they had in front of them a table of the historic expenditure on emergency assistance. For your information, in 94/95 the percentage devoted to emergency assistance was 15.3 percent. Indeed, it has risen quite substantially more recently. In 2002-2003 it was only 13.8 percent, while the earmarkings for emergency assistance in 2004 were close to 27 percent. But as the Chairman of the Programme Committee mentioned, this is an area where flexibility does exist and will be kept under review. I should also point out that the Council is endorsing the possibility for the Secretariat to replenish the TCP through reimbursements of emergency commitments. This would also allow the 15 percent earmarking to go further than it does at present.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres commentaires? Nous avons terminé avec le point 6 de l'ordre du jour.

Nous reprendrons nos travaux à 14 h 30 et Monsieur l'Ambassadeur des Philippines me remplacera en début de session.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session Cent vingt-neuvième session 129º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-18 November 2005 Rome, 16-18 november 2005 Roma, 16-18 de noviembre de 2005</p>
<p>Second PLENARY SESSION Deuxième SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE Segunda SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>16 November 2005</p>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Mr Philippe J. Huillier,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Philippe J. Huillier,
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Philippe J. Huillier,
Vice-presidente del Consejo

**III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(continued)**

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

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

**7. Report of the 110th Session (Rome, September 2005) and 111th Session
(Rome, October 2005) of the Finance Committee (CL 129/4; CL 129/6)**

**7. Rapport des cent dixième (Rome, septembre 2005) et cent onzième
(Rome, octobre 2005) sessions du Comité financier (CL 129/4; CL 129/6)**

**7. Informe del 110^o período de sesiones (Roma, septiembre de 2005) y del 111^o período de
sesiones (Roma, octubre de 2005) del Comité de Finanzas (CL 129/4; CL 129/6)**

7.1 *Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 129/LIM/1)*

7.1 *Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 129/LIM/1)*

7.1 *Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 129/LIM/1)*

CHAIRMAN

Let me call this Second Plenary meeting to order. May I just remind you to observe our work schedule if we cannot start on time perhaps we can at least end on time. This afternoon we will start with Item 7 of the Agenda which is the Report of the Hundred and Tenth and Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Finance Committee. May I direct you to the following documents CL 129/4 and CL 129/6.

I would like to point out that questions requiring the Council's attention are outlined in a table at the beginning of the Report. Item 7 contains the following sub-items; 7.1 refers to the Status of Contributions and Arrears CL 129/LIM/1, subitem 7.2 refers to the Performance of the Split Assessment Arrangement, relevant document is C 2005/16, subitem 7.3 refers to After Service Medical Coverage Liability, finally sub-item 7.4 covers Other Matters arising out of the Report .

Allow me to introduce subitem 7.1 before giving the floor to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. This item is presented to the Council for information in accordance with the General Rules XXIV.3 (b) and XXVII.7(1) of the Organization, subitem 7.1 refers to the Status of Contributions and Arrears relevant document is CL 129/LIM/1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide the Council with an update of information contained in the Report of the Hundred and tenth Session on Contribution and Arrears as of 14 November 2005. At 14 November 2005 the Organization had received over US\$105 million and over Euro 121 million in respect of 2005 Assessments. This represents 62.32 percent of US dollar and 69.83 percent of Euros.

Receipts of arrear of contributions have amounted to US\$29.1 million and 5.4 million Euros, which is higher than the same time last year. It is regrettable that as of 14 November 2005, 59 Member Nations, over 31 percent of the Membership of the Organization, have not made any payment towards the 2005 US dollar assessment and 68 Member Nations, over 36 percent of memberships have not made any payment toward the 2005 Euro Assessments. Mr. Roberto Seminario Portocarrero, President of the Finance Committee will now introduce Item 7 as well as its subitems.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

Usted ya ha hecho un buen resumen del trabajo del Comité de Finanzas.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Armenia)

I would like to mention that Item 7.1 Status of Contributions and Arrears CL 129/LIM/1 is not available on the Internet, nor has it been distributed.

CHAIRMAN

I ask Mr. Seminario not to introduce the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-2007 which will be addressed by Item 4 later this afternoon.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

Me complace encontrarme con ustedes hoy a fin de presentar los informes de los dos períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas celebrados después del último período de sesiones del Consejo. Debo mencionar que los señores delegados que han venido trabajando conmigo en el Comité de Finanzas han tenido en este período mucho trabajo. Ustedes van a poder apreciar este trabajo en el informe que voy a elevar a ustedes.

El programa de nuestro período de sesiones ordinario abarcó una amplia gama de temas presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos relacionados con la situación general de la Organización, o que la afecta de alguna manera. Además del examen de la situación financiera de la Organización, el Comité también analizó cuestiones relativas a la supervisión y la gestión de los recursos humanos.

Comenzamos con el primer tema, el 7.1 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos. En el informe sobre el 110º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas se examinó el estado de cuotas de la Organización al 16 de septiembre de 2005. La Secretaría ha elaborado el documento CL 129/LIM/1 para brindar al Consejo información actualizada sobre la situación al 15 de noviembre de 2005. Tengo entendido que ahora los señores delegados tendrían copia de este informe.

El Comité señaló que el déficit del Fondo General había aumentado hasta en 107,6 millones de dólares EE.UU. y que para el final del bienio aumentaría hasta 112 millones de dólares EE.UU. Además, seguía habiendo un nivel elevado de cuotas atrasadas de los Estados Miembros que ascendía a 64 millones de dólares EE.UU. y 12 millones de euros a mediados del 2005.

El Comité observó con preocupación que los dos principales contribuyentes y otros varios seguían adeudando pagos correspondientes a las cuotas del 2005. A fin de poder cumplir con sus obligaciones de desembolsos en efectivo, la Organización se había visto obligada a tomar préstamos externos con costo significativo. El Comité exhortó una vez más a todos los Estados Miembros a que pagaran puntualmente las cuotas asignadas para permitir a la FAO sufragar las necesidades de efectivo para el Programa de Labores.

En cuanto al tema 7.2 Resultados del sistema de pago de las cuotas en dos monedas, el Comité señaló que el sistema de pago de las cuotas en dos monedas no parecía haber alterado las pautas de pago de las cuotas. El Comité también advirtió que los gastos efectivos del bienio por moneda se ajustaban a la proporción estimada del gasto en dólares EE.UU. y en euros presentada en la consignación presupuestaria del 2003 para el período 2004-2005. El Comité observó que la práctica de imputar a la cuenta especial de reserva una suma equivalente a la diferencia entre los gastos de personal de la Sede al tipo de cambio presupuestario y a los tipos de cambio operacionales reales de las Naciones Unidas había pasado a ser innecesaria. Por lo tanto, el Comité recomendó que el Consejo y la Conferencia aceptaran la propuesta de excluir dicha imputación a la cuenta especial de reserva a partir del bienio 2004-2005.

Otro tema de gran interés para el Comité de Finanzas ha sido el pasivo del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio. Un tema que sin duda demandó el análisis de todo el Comité de Finanzas y se trató de manera extensiva. El Comité recordó que en el 2003 la Conferencia había aprobado una partida para financiar el pasivo del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio de 14,1 millones de dólares EE.UU. pasándose en la valoración actuarial de 2001. Según la valoración

actuarial del 2003, el pasivo del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio era mayor, lo que significaba un aumento de la amortización del pasivo del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio, por lo que se recomendó la asignación de fondos por un monto de 30 millones de dólares EE.UU. para el bienio 2006-2007.

A pedido del Comité de Finanzas se había realizado una nueva valoración actuarial al 31 de diciembre de 2004. Se estimó que el pasivo del seguro médico ascendía entonces a 467 millones de dólares EE.UU. comparados con los 313 millones de dólares EE.UU. al 31 de diciembre de 2003, por lo que la amortización del pasivo para el bienio 2006-2007 ascendía a 40 millones de dólares EE.UU. en comparación con los 30 millones de dólares EE.UU. correspondientes a la valoración del 2003.

El Comité examinó las alternativas de financiación de este pasivo y, en principio, se manifestó a favor de asignar fondos por el monto correspondiente para cada bienio con arreglo a la valoración actuarial más reciente. Sin embargo, teniendo en cuenta los problemas financieros y presupuestarios a los que se enfrenta la FAO, el Comité decidió que, en la práctica, recomendar al Consejo la financiación completa en 2006-2007 no era una alternativa viable. En este sentido, el Comité decidió recomendar al Consejo que para el bienio 2006-2007 se mantuviera la financiación del pasivo del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio, en el nivel actual de 14 millones de dólares EE.UU. El Comité también acordó en recomendar al Consejo que financiara el 40 por ciento del pasivo en dólares EE.UU. y el 60 por ciento en euros al tipo de cambio presupuestario acordado en el presupuesto para el bienio 2006-2007.

Otras cuestiones planteadas en el informe son el tema de las Transferencias en el programa y el presupuesto en el bienio 2004-2005. El Comité examinó las transferencias en el programa y el presupuesto en el bienio 2004-2005 señalando que la ejecución prevista en dicho período resultaría afectada principalmente por las retenciones de fondos con el fin de cubrir la variación desfavorable estimada de los gastos de personal y las consignaciones para gastos de seguridad no presupuestados durante el bienio.

A la variación desfavorable de los gastos de personal, que ascendía a 15 millones de dólares EE.UU. a lo largo del bienio 2004-2005, habían contribuido varios elementos, entre ellos los gastos superiores a los presupuestados en relación con las prestaciones después del cese en el servicio, los derechos de viaje, los subsidios de educación y las primas del seguro médico. La estimación de los gastos de seguridad no presupuestados había aumentado en 800 000 dólares EE.UU. desde mayo de 2005, ya que se proporcionaron recursos adicionales a las oficinas regionales y subregionales para hacer frente a las necesidades derivadas de las normas mínimas de seguridad operacional.

Con el objeto de aliviar en cierta medida la presión sobre el Programa de Labores para el 2004-2005, el Comité aprobó una consignación de hasta 2,8 millones de dólares EE.UU., procedentes de atrasos no comprometidos, con arreglo a lo dispuesto en la Resolución 6/2001, para hacer frente a los gastos de seguridad no presupuestados en el 2004-2005, en el entendimiento de que la Organización haría todo lo posible por absorber esos gastos en el Programa Ordinario.

Además, el Comité autorizó las transferencias solicitadas entre los capítulos presupuestarios por un valor máximo de 6 millones de dólares EE.UU. de los capítulos 1, 2 y 5 a los capítulos 3 y 6. El Comité señaló que el Director General informaría al Comité, en su primer período de sesiones del 2006, de las cantidades exactas de transferencia.

A fin de permitir el funcionamiento eficaz del servicio de gastos de capital, el Comité autorizó también la transferencia al servicio de todo saldo de los atrasos no utilizados al 31 de diciembre de 2005 con arreglo a lo dispuesto en la Resolución 6/2001.

Otro de los temas que abordó el Comité de Finanzas son los desembolsos relacionados con los gastos de apoyo y su recuperación. El Comité examinó el informe sobre los desembolsos relacionados con los gastos de apoyo y su recuperación y se mostró satisfecho de que durante el período examinado las tasas de gastos de servicios a proyectos se hubieran aplicado de conformidad con la política aprobada.

El Comité reafirmó el principio de que la tasa de gastos de apoyo que se cobraba a los proyectos de emergencia debía garantizar que las cuotas asignadas no subvencionaran tales proyectos. En consecuencia, respaldó la propuesta de modificar la política de la FAO en material de gastos de apoyo para garantizar que la Organización recuperara todos los gastos de apoyo indirecto de carácter variable que había afectado en relación con la administración y el funcionamiento de los proyectos de asistencia de emergencia.

Se informó al Comité de que los resultados del estudio de medición de costos realizados en el 2004 indicaban que ahora se requería un límite máximo del 10 por ciento para garantizar la tasa de gastos de servicio a proyectos adeudada a tales proyectos y que permitiría recuperar plenamente los gastos variables de apoyos indirectos de la FAO.

El Comité, por lo tanto, refrendó por unanimidad la elevación del límite máximo de la tasa de gastos de apoyo a proyectos de asistencia de emergencia del 6,5 al 10 por ciento.

En cuanto a la evaluación independiente de la descentralización de la FAO, el Comité de Finanzas recibió por parte de la administración un nuevo informe. El Comité acogió con agrado la tercera respuesta de la administración a las recomendaciones formuladas como resultado de la evaluación independiente de la descentralización de la FAO. El Comité apreció las tendencias generales y la visión del documento y acogió favorablemente la introducción progresiva del marco de prioridades nacionales a plazo medio. El Comité reconoció que la descentralización era un proceso continuo y dinámico y que, tal vez, deseara examinar los avances de su aplicación en un futuro período de sesiones.

En conclusión, los períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas fueron muy productivos y, en particular, considero que se pudieron abordar varias e importantes cuestiones de carácter financiero y presupuestario que tienen ante sí la Organización.

En nombre de los miembros del Comité, quisiera manifestar nuestro agradecimiento a la Secretaría por su ayuda durante nuestras deliberaciones y nuestra gratitud a los Estados Miembros de la FAO por brindarnos esta oportunidad de promover la importante labor de la Organización.

Tendré sumo placer en brindarles cualquier otra explicación que deseen con respecto a nuestro informe.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

First of all, as a member of the Finance Committee I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the Chairperson and other members of the Committee and the Secretariat who supported us.

From the discussion at the Finance Committee and its report it is clear that the major factors of the large deficit of the General Fund of the Organization are accumulated outstanding arrears and the increasing amount of After Service Medical Coverage liability.

As for the accumulated arrears, I would like to point out that more than 40 percent of Member Nations have outstanding arrears as stated in paragraph 13b of the Report. According to the latest data provided to the delegations arrears for 2004 and arrear assessments as at 14 November are US\$56 million, plus Euro 8 million. This is clear evidence that the budget level of this Organization exceeds the availability of the resources for the Member Nations. I would also like to point out that it is not sustainable to repeatedly draw on borrowing from external resources.

Regarding the payment of Japan's assessed contributions for 2005, the Government of Japan has been deliberating the timing of payment of its Assessed Contributions, taking into consideration its budgetary situation, as well as the progress of FAO discussions on the budget level for the next biennium and on the reform. Japan paid 50 percent of its Assessed Contribution or US\$17 million plus Euro 17 million in October.

Concerning further worsening the financial situation due to increasing external borrowing with interest I would like to welcome the thorough explanation and presentation by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I would like to make a small amendment regarding the Chairperson's

introduction; the recommendation on change of support cost rate was agreed, not unanimously but by consensus.

I will make a separate intervention on After Service Medical Coverage under the relativesub-item.

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

As this is my first intervention in the Plenary may I wish you every success in the challenging and interesting task you have in steering us through our proceedings.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania also associate themselves to this statement.

The European Union thanks the Finance Committee for its useful and clear report. It has identified a number of very serious risks to FAO. Some of these problems are not new and the Committee has drawn attention to them before. The European Union believes that the Membership of FAO can no longer ignore the Committee's warnings.

We note with great concern the Committee's findings on the Status of Current Assessments and Arrears in paragraphs 12 to 19 of the Report. 79 members, 42 percent of the Membership, are in arrears to FAO. The European Union also shares the Committee's concern that as at end September, and I know that we have updated information here, but as at end September many countries, including two major contributors, had not paid their 2005 contributions. As a result of some Members' late and non-payment of Assessed Contributions FAO has had to borrow to meet approved current expenditure. It is unacceptable that Members who pay on time, and that includes all EU Member States, have to pay a share of the costs of borrowing that has been incurred because other members have failed to pay what they should. Bad as this situation is, it will get even worse if nothing is done because FAO is close to the limits of what it can borrow. The Committee makes it clear that future cashflow problems, and I quote: "future cashflow problems could even exceed the Organization's capacity to borrow". This could well happen in the coming biennium and would force FAO to cut expenditure below the levels approved by Conference.

Council and the Conference must call upon late and non-paying members to pay immediately. In addition to the Finance Committee's comments, this is also the subject of a fundamental recommendation of the External Auditor. The European Union invites the Director-General to contact the authorities of the countries in arrears in order to exert all his influence and suasion in informing them of the negative consequences of their delays on the financial situation and on the programmes of FAO.

For the future, we suggest that a schedule for phasing members' contributions should be agreed at the same time as the budget for the 2006–07 biennium that will ensure that FAO does not have to borrow again next year and in 2007. We also recommend that at its next meeting, the Finance Committee should propose sanctions for non-compliance with this payment schedule. We also call on the Committee to review on this occasion the existing sanctions for late or non-payment and to make recommendations on how they can be made more effective.

A second item of great concern to the members of the European Union is the After Service Medical Coverage Liability dealt with in paragraphs 58–66 of the report. The latest calculation of liability shows an almost threefold increase. The measure proposed by the Committee to keep funding levels unchanged for 2006–07 can only be a temporary stopgap. It only postpones the need to begin adjusting funding levels each biennium in line with actuarial variations.

A third concern relates to the financial implications of the Director-General's reform proposals. The Finance Committee has welcomed these in principle and the European Union will comment on them in detail under agenda item 4.

The issues I have mentioned all relate to the key concern of the European Union over FAO's financial position. On other issues raised by the Committee, we note that progress on the introduction of an improved performance management system is behind schedule and endorse the Committee's request to the Secretariat to expedite this.

More positively, we note also that the Committee discussed the third management response to the Independent Evaluation of Decentralization and we understand that the Secretariat has produced a timetable for implementation. We welcome this. We also agree with the Committee's view that the progressive introduction of National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks should be endorsed. The proposals contained in the Programme of Work and Budget for efficiencies and productivity improvements are welcome. The associated paragraphs 101–137 of the PWB constitute an excellent framework for identifying and capturing efficiency gains. We note that the Split Assessment Arrangement appears to have been successful in increasing financial flexibility and we accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee in this regard. We also accept the proposal to raise the programme support costs rate ceiling for emergency assistance projects from 6.5 percent to 10 percent to ensure full cost recovery by FAO.

Aamir ASHRAF KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

Pakistan welcomes and endorses the report of the Finance Committee and we would like to highlight the following areas.

We express our concern at the deteriorating financial health of FAO. The General Fund deficit of US\$107 million and the depletion of the Working Capital Fund and Special Reserve Account are indeed alarming. In this direction, like the United Kingdom, we would like to accord appeal made by Finland also earlier in the day, to countries that have difficulties in making early payments due to constraints in their respective budgetary cycles, to find solutions to this problem.

FAO has had to borrow in the last two years, at a cost of US\$1 000 for every US\$10 million borrowed per day because of delay in receiving the larger assessed contributions. The cost of borrowing is an additional burden on declining FAO resources.

We do welcome the proposed study on this matter to be considered by the next Finance Committee session and look forward to a joint commitment of all Member Nations towards improving the financial health of FAO.

We strongly support the increase in Project Support Cost rate ceiling for emergency assistance projects from 6.5 percent to 10 percent which would enable FAO to cover its costs in implementing such projects funded from extra-budgetary resources.

We endorse that assessed contributions should not continue to subsidize projects funded from extra budgetary resources.

We support the Committee's recommendation to continue to fund After Service Medical Coverage funding for 2006–07 biennium at the previous level of US\$14.1 million pending a UN Report on this matter for a possible reconsideration of the matter in the future.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Je tiens aussi à vous féliciter pour la Présidence. L'expérience nous prouve que quand vous dirigez nos travaux, cela se passe très bien.

Le point de l'ordre du jour de cet après-midi est assez délicat parce que cela ne nous fait simplement pas honneur en tant que Membres de cette Organisation. Parce que nous pensons qu'être Membres d'une organisation cela donne des droits et des devoirs. Les droits nous en usons et nous en abusons suffisamment parce que nous venons dans cette maison, nous avons droit à toutes les sollicitudes, nous avons droit à faire toutes les déclarations les plus endiablées possibles mais le revers de la médaille c'est que le premier devoir des Membres c'est aussi de payer sa quote-part pour que la maison puisse être une maison saine.

Nous sommes dans une maison qui est obligée de s'endetter simplement parce que nous ne faisons pas notre devoir. Je regrette de le dire, je ne suis pas, je ne serai jamais solidaire de ceux qui ne respectent pas ce devoir élémentaire. On peut comprendre que des pays aient des problèmes, cela arrive. Beaucoup de pays, des nôtres, en situation difficile, de guerres fratricides malheureusement, ou bien des guerres même d'agression, cela arrive, on peut le comprendre mais pas quand un pays n'a rien de tout cela. Aujourd'hui nous avons Internet, nous avons la télévision,

nous voyons et savons en temps réel ce qui se passe dans différents pays, nous ne pouvons pas expliquer qu'un pays mette moins d'argent dans des projets pour nourrir sa population que pour acheter des armements pour tuer ses populations. Nous disons que c'est très sérieux et il faudrait que nous soyons suffisamment responsables. Nous voulons une FAO viable, nous voulons une FAO qui puisse répondre aux objectifs qui sont assignés par les plus grands responsables de nos Etats et il faudrait que nous soyons sérieux. Je souhaiterais donc, que nous demandions à tous les Représentants de la FAO, régionaux ou nationaux, là où ils sont, au niveau des pays qui ont des arriérés, d'en faire aussi une tâche quotidienne, discuter avec ceux, qui peuvent peut-être avoir des contraintes, par ailleurs. Mais nous Représentants de la FAO, je crois que nous devons les investir aussi de cette mission particulière, de discuter avec les pays où ils sont pour trouver des solutions à l'apurement de ces arriérés. Il n'est pas acceptable que la FAO continue à s'endetter uniquement parce que ses Etats Membres ne se mettent pas à jour. C'est pourquoi, je disais vraiment nous ne sommes pas fier de faire partie d'une Organisation qui ne respecte pas ses devoirs élémentaires et je ne succéderai jamais à la passivité sur ce plan. Vous comprenez bien que si je le dis aussi c'est parce que je suis à jour mais je le ferai toujours.

Govindan NAIR (India)

We found the Report of the Finance Committee informative and useful. It is indeed worrying that the general fund deficit has increased to more than US\$100 million mainly on account of the high level of arrears of contributions. The fact that FAO has resulted to borrowing on an unprecedented scale is a matter of serious concern. We are surprised to note from the Report, however, that certain countries in arrears of payment of regular contributions had nonetheless made significant voluntary contributions for extra-budgetary activities. We hope the Secretariat and the Finance Committee will be able to study the various aspects of the situation and propose options to improve the liquidity of the Organization.

In a situation of financial stringency that imposes constraints on FAO's activities, we encourage efforts of the Committee to review possible measures to improve financial management of matters such as staff cost variants. While we acknowledge the increasing need to ensure adequate security of staff and property, it is unfortunate if security costs eat into the Regular Programme of the budget.

We are happy to note that Member Nations have adapted easily to the new split assessment arrangement and that the initiative does not seem to have disrupted payment patterns. We endorse the recommendations of the external auditor for the preparation of guidelines for outsourcing, strengthening of the vendor database and improvements to technical specifications for local services and look forward to appropriate follow-up.

We are surprised to note that the Finance Committee has spent an inordinate amount of time in discussing the pros and cons of inviting private sector auditing firms to bid for the External Auditor. We do not see any particular merit in extending the bid to private sector audit firms. On the contrary, almost all Organizations in the UN System engage auditors general of Member Nations and this arrangement has generally worked satisfactorily, including in FAO.

We are happy to note the measures adopted by the Secretariat to promote a recruitment approach aimed at enhancing the geographic distribution of Member Nations. A pro-active strategy is needed to redress the existing imbalances. Among other things, the possibility of extending the Associate Professional Officers (APO) programme to candidates from all countries funded through the Regular Programme or a special Trust Fund needs to be explored.

Ms Wendy DRUKIER (Canada)

Canada would like to thank the Finance Committee for its work on this wide range of issues, we would also like to thank the Secretariat for the recently distributed updated Report on the Status of Contributions and Arrears. We would note that the state of late payment and non-payment of Assessed Contributions continues to be a major problem within FAO and kindly considers the debt owed by many Members a pressing issue. The debt of FAO must be lowered, it must be

eliminated. We call on all Members to honour their obligations and to pay their Assessed Contributions without delay.

As we know, this is causing a serious cash-flow problem for the Organization. We have all approved the Programme of Work and Budget for the Organization and we, as Members, must provide the resources agreed to be necessary to carry out that Programme. We do support the proposal made by the European Community that the Finance Committee review the sanctions on Members who have large outstanding arrears and that the Finance Committee look at new measures in this area.

In this vein, Canada does not support the proposal to have Member Nations pay their assessed contributions without first adapting forecast for miscellaneous income. Moreover, we note that the Finance Committee was not able to come to a consensus proposal on this issue. We feel that this should not move forward. While such a move would improve the cash flow of the Organization, the proposal ignores the fact that the cash flow problem is a direct result of late and or non-payment of Assessed Contributions by a significant number of members. Increasing the appropriation level in this way would penalize the members who do pay their assessments on time and, in effect, subsidizes the late payments by others.

We are pleased to hear that the use of the Split Assessment has made redundant the practice of providing charges to the special reserve fund account to cover variances on headquarters staff costs arising from differences between the budget rate and the actual UN operational rate of exchange. We support the Finance Committee recommendation to stop the practice from the current biennium.

We know and the Report confirms that establishing a split currency assessment does not resolve the issue of timeliness of payment.

On the issue of the After Service Medical Coverage liability, we note the recommendation by the Finance Committee on this issue. We believe these obligations have been issued for the Organization for several years and it is long passed time to deal with them and get them off the books. The After Service Medical Coverage liability, however, is a UN System-wide issue and we believe that Member Nations should all work towards resolving the problem. We would like to see a consolidated approach. We support the recommendation to review the expected UN Report on this issue in a system-wide manner, in order to determine the best course of action within FAO.

Vladimir HERNÁNDEZ LARA (México)

Antes que nada deseo agradecer la exposición que nos hizo el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas que fue bastante clara y explícita. Al respecto deseo sumarme a la preocupación que han expresado ya algunos delegados, en el sentido de que el problema del retraso en el pago de las cuotas pone a la Organización en una situación muy difícil y creo que debemos comprometernos a que en la medida de lo posible este problema se resuelva.

Al mismo tiempo desearía retomar la preocupación expresada por el delegado de Japón, en el sentido del tamaño de las cuotas que nos corresponden; entiendo que es un tema que no determina la FAO el de la distribución de las cuotas, por lo tanto quiero hacer un llamado a la Organización para que lo discuta justamente en el marco del sistema de Naciones Unidas, señalando que la metodología actual para la determinación de las cuotas nos está causando problemas, en el sentido de que está determinando cargas desiguales y desproporcionadas para algunos países.

La escala de cuotas que aprobamos en el marco del Consejo pasado, por ejemplo en el caso de mi país, significa un incremento, de un ejercicio para otro, de un 76 por ciento para mi país lo cual sinceramente es una cosa muy grave. México siempre ha sido un país muy comprometido con la Organización y no queremos que este tipo de situaciones, que nos sorprenden de un día para otro, complique nuestro firme apoyo a la Organización. Somos un país que cumple puntualmente con sus obligaciones y quisiéramos que este tema se revisara para evitar que se establezcan cuotas que no corresponden con la capacidad de pago de los países.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Panamá acoge con beneplácito y apoya el informe del Comité de Finanzas. Permítame agradecer al Presidente de este Comité por su clara presentación y también felicitarle y hacer extensiva las felicitaciones a todos los Miembros del Comité. Creo que el trabajo llevado a cabo es un muy buen trabajo.

Nuestro país está de acuerdo que para mejorar la situación financiera de la FAO es urgente que los países hagan un esfuerzo para el pago de las cuotas. Por ello, manifestamos nuestro apelo para que se hagan todos los esfuerzos posibles para pagar estas cuotas y evitar el endeudamiento de la Organización.

Mi país no tiene atrasos, a excepción de una pequeña diferencia en el coeficiente de transformación de euro/dólar y además nunca ha perdido su derecho a voto por incumplimiento de su compromiso. Sin embargo, creo que es importante resaltar que para los países en desarrollo nuestro pequeño esfuerzo es enorme, resulta enorme, en muchos casos resulta enorme para el pago de las cuotas. Nuestras pequeñas o grandes contribuciones, la de los países en desarrollo naturalmente, se equivalen y, en muchos casos, superan inclusive los esfuerzos de los países desarrollados.

Por lo que se refiere a las sanciones, yo creo que hay que ir con mucho cuidado porque habría que ver caso por caso; no todas las situaciones son iguales, entonces habría que hacer un estudio, habría que buscar un mecanismo para estudiar caso por caso.

Chang-Hyun KIM (Republic of Korea)

On behalf of Korea, I welcome and appreciate the Report of the Finance Committee. In addition, I would like to comment on the geographic distribution of FAO staff. We already expressed our serious concern of the issue many times and this is a very important issue for many countries such as Korea, Japan and China which are severely under-represented in FAO.

In the last Conference, we changed the methodology of determining equitable geographic distributions. Owing to this, the statistic measured some progress in the equitable geographic distribution and the Secretariat assured some efforts such as assessing recruitment missions to under-represented countries. However, I would like to point out there is still no tangible result. Again, we would like to ask the Secretariat to make a more concrete effort in improving the situation substantially and to produce a visible result in the future.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

We welcome the Report of the Finance Committee which was comprehensive and very broad. I will start with the After Service Medical Coverage payment of about 14 million per year, about 30 million per biennium. It seems that there is a reduction of about 10 million from previous payments. I remember when I was a member of the Pension Committee about three years ago, this question was raised several times for clarification. Why that much? Even in the disability claim of the Pension Committee of the UN Member Nations which are 19, FAO was found to pay the highest disability claim for job-related claims. This shows there is a stress on the job with the staff and you can see it is unnecessary and unacceptable, but what we can see is that the cost of the disability claim or the After Service Medical claim is as a result of that one and serious consideration should be given since it is too much.

The emergency assistance raise from six percent to ten percent is a welcome approach.

On arrears, more than one hundred million. What we can say is that we call for immediate payment, to respect their commitments to those countries that are not paying. However, surprisingly, those countries that are in arrears we find there at the top area of the extra-budgetary funds. This shows that they control the programmes themselves, not for the service of the Organization, but to dictate how the Organization is functioning. This is contradicting and our silence does not mean that there is a consensus on what they are doing, but we call on them to respect their commitments and just to give a little attention to the extra-budgetary funds.

The split assessment has shown that it is a success and it should continue. Therefore, we accept the recommendation.

Security budget is felt high and unnecessary. FAO is a non-political Organization. I feel nobody will aim at it unless by coincidence but they put a lot of unnecessary budget towards this. It should be reviewed, reduced and kept to the minimum.

Non-staff payment budget raised from 30 to 40 percent. If we allow one million dollars of the budget to go to non-staff consultants, it contradicts to the claim made that FAO is a knowledge Organization when the knowledge comes from the non-FAO staff. I would say this amount should be reduced to 20 percent rather than going up to 40 percent. To reduce it from 30 to 20 percent would be a welcome approach.

Regarding the geographical distribution of staff in the Organization – when we look at the bulletins that we get every month or every two months, about the equal-represented, under-represented, over-represented countries – developing countries are rarely represented or equally represented. Notwithstanding the new agreement made last year, or the year before, one hardly finds a developing country which is over-represented, but the contributed budget is going to their nationals and there is no representation of an even distribution of staff to the developing countries, while FAO is meant to help the poor countries. It is all over-represented by the main country donors. This is a serious consideration and should be put it on the reform programme to adjust and control this widely growing gap of representation.

Ms Hanadi KABOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

Would you be so good to give the floor to the delegate of Kuwait, who will speak on behalf of the Near East Group?

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Observer for Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Kuwait has two queries or comments:

The first one is on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group feels the liability on the after service medical care is great. By December 2004, it was estimated at US\$467 million. This will result in an increase in amortization for 2006-07, amounting US\$40.8 million.

The Near East feels that FAO should recognize the seriousness of this liability and its negative effect on the General Fund. We would like a comment from the Secretariat.

On behalf of the Near East Group, I would like to make this comment. When the Finance Committee met in September, we were told that it would submit a report on FAO's role as regards the funding issues in the Oil-for-Food Programme. We are still awaiting that report in order to know a little more about what went on.

Ms YAO XIANGJUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I should like to express my thanks to the Secretariat and the members of the Finance Committee for having presented this Report.

I have a couple of comments I would like to make.

To begin with, I would like to express our concern over the increase in commitments as regards the After-Service Medical Costs, as mentioned in the report. In principle, the delegation of China approves the view included in paragraph 65 of the said report. The Committee decided to recommend to Council to continue the SMC funding for the 2006-07 biennium at the current level of US\$14.1 million.

We also agree with Korea as to the representation of Asian countries on the staff of FAO. We very much hope that the Organization will be able to give importance to this matter and take measures to remedy the present situation.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

As I mentioned in my previous intervention, I thought I would make a separate intervention on after-service medical coverage under the sub-item 7.3. However, since many delegations have already mentioned this issue, I would like to follow my previous intervention with the point of After-Service Medical Coverage.

Japan expresses its concern about the fact that the large amount of after-service medical coverage liabilities provides a negative impact on the effective and efficient management of the Organization. We would like to urge the Secretariat to take fundamental measures – taking into account the response of the United Nations itself on this matter – including examination of appropriateness of subsidizing retired staff members for half of their medical expense and of the duration of the period to be covered by the subsidized insurance.

Please let me take this opportunity to follow my previous intervention regarding the reason for the arrears. Our concern is that if the budget available exceeds the availability of the nations, the assessed contribution will be high regardless of the Scale of the Assessed Contributions. Even if the scale is very small, with the high level of budget, assessed contribution for each country will be very high.

Aboubakar BAKAYOKO (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Côte d'Ivoire appuie la présentation de M. Roberto Seminario, Président du Comité financier, pour l'excellent travail qui a été fait au cours des derniers mois. Comme l'a dit Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Mali, tous nos pays doivent faire des efforts pour payer leurs contributions. Nous lançons là un appel solennel, à tous les Pays Membres, afin qu'ils honorent leurs engagements pour que l'Organisation puisse relever les défis, qui ont été exprimés lors du Sommet du Millénaire et lors des Sommets qui ont suivis. Cela n'exclut pas la possibilité d'examiner de façon objective les difficultés rencontrées par certains pays, notamment les pays en voie de développement, qui sont touchés par des crises et des conflits divers.

Par ailleurs, une implication plus grande des Représentants de la FAO dans nos pays est indispensable pour améliorer le taux de recouvrement des contributions. En ce qui concerne la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes, nous sommes d'avis que cette responsabilité revienne au Contrôleur général des pays membres comme l'a exprimé la plupart des membres de nos Comités.

En ce qui concerne l'évaluation indépendante sur la décentralisation, elle a mis en exergue la nécessaire présence de l'Organisation sur le terrain en y affectant des cadres compétents et en nombre suffisant. L'augmentation du nombre de bureaux sous-régionaux et le renforcement du pouvoir des bureaux décentralisés nous paraissent indispensables.

En ce qui concerne le PCT, nos pays en voie de développement, ont déjà exprimé le fait que cet élément est un élément précieux. Donc, nous sommes d'accord pour que l'orientation stratégique de la FAO, qui vise à accorder une attention particulière aux ressources affectées aux pays les moins avancés, aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, aux pays en développement sans littoral ou aux petits Etats insulaires en développement soient également pris en compte.

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

As a member of the Finance Committee, it is hard to over-emphasize the seriousness of the financial situation that the Organization now finds itself.

We note that a third of the Membership is in arrears and, of that one-third, half of those are in arrears to such amounts as to jeopardize their Right to Vote. Such a situation has definite economic and financial ramifications for the Organization but it also has immense political significance. It is important that, as we go about our work in the Organization through the Council and the Conference, we do not parcel off or partition off this situation thinking that otherwise things are fine and we will go ahead with our agenda without taking into consideration the dire

financial situation that the Organization finds itself in today. It has long-term implications and long-term structural elements to this problem, and it also has short-term.

The immediate problem that we face, of course, is liquidity and cash flow. We appreciate the cash flow and liquidity are among the largest challenges before the Organization. Nevertheless, payment practices and the large levels of arrears are not likely to change over the near future. In the Hundred and Tenth Session of the Finance Committee, we called on the Organization to develop a strategic approach aimed at mitigating or avoiding the financial crisis that FAO faces in the fall of each year. We would like to emphasize the continued importance of restricting the allocation of funds early in the year, especially with regard to discretionary spending. Due to the timing of payments from several large contributors, the Secretariat must adjust its spending pattern to account for payments received late in the year.

We encourage the development of a strategy to mitigate the impact on FAO's programme of work. We look forward to receiving this report, on this new approach, at the next Session of the Finance Committee.

With regard to arrears, the United States supports FAO's emphasis on increasing its collection of outstanding contributions. However, it does not support the implementation of any financial sanctions on Member Nations in arrears.

On other issues on after-service medical costs, the United States appreciates the Finance Committee's analysis of ASMC liability. At this time, we do not support funding the entire liability for the 2006-07 biennium, based on a 30-year amortization period, as estimated on 31 December 2004. Ideally, we believe that funding the ASMC liability should be put on hold pending a final review of the UN report dealing with ASMC liabilities. We do, however, support the US\$14.1 million allocated for the next biennium. We await with interest the UN Report because we believe that this is a UN system problem, a liability and a weakness in the system. It will definitely be easier in our capitals to deal with this problem on a global approach as opposed to piecemeal.

We support our regional colleague, Canada, in its position that miscellaneous income should be handled in the future as it has been handled in the past. This is consistent with UN practice in New York.

Finally, we also support Kuwait's and the Near East Group's for a request for a report on the implications or the results of FAO's operations in the Oil-for-Food Programme. I think this would be a useful piece of information for all Members of the Council and the Organization in light of the importance that this issue has had over the past.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr Nelson and Mr Juneja and their staff for dealing with a very difficult situation and the creativity they bring to this process and pledge our support, as best we can, in their efforts to deal with the financial situation the Organization now finds itself in.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I did ask for the floor and I would ask the permission of the Chair to pass the floor to my colleague, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe, who is a member of that Committee to make a number of remarks and observations on behalf of the Africa Group.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Observer for Zimbabwe)

We wish to comment the report that was made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the clarity with which he presented his ideas. As a member of the Committee, there were many issues on which we have discussed and registered our concerns in the Committee and which we wish to draw to the attention of the house.

We remain concerned with the deteriorating financial situation of FAO, particularly the deterioration of the financing of the Programmes, while at the same time it is increasingly been getting more responsibilities in the light of the many challenges that we are all facing in the world today. We feel that to deal with this situation we would like to urge our Membership to be more

realistic as we address the budget. We are going into the details of the budget when the debate is tabled in the next item, but for now we wish to register that the delay in payments is causing a lot of burden on all of us. The Organization, as highlighted by other Members, ends up having to borrow and the burden of the borrowing is carried by all of us. In Africa, we have taken stock of the situation. It is not that we do not have our own problems, we have taken stock, but we have realized that in most cases some of the Members in our regions that might not have paid are facing a situation of civil strife or other challenges that are known by all. So, in looking at the generality of our Membership, we have tried our best to pay and would like to urge our partners to try and do the same. We have witnessed with concern the extent to which the stronger Members of the group can bait the Organization into acceding to their wishes. The Organization has to respond to many demands – which it has responded to – but we do not find these demands being complemented with the required resources. We have all accepted to be members of this Organization and we know the demands of being in an organization. We are pressurizing our own Members to pay, and we would like to urge our colleagues in the other regions to do the same. It is something else if it is a Member Nation that we know that is going through difficulties and they can not pay, but it is another thing when we know that such demands are being caused by Members who can afford, members who are actually paying through other means in the Organization through extrabudgetary resources – meaning to say that they are not keen to pay into the Regular Programme. We find this a bit disturbing and would like to urge our Members to try and be more realistic and not to give this extra burden on us. The majority of us do not owe in millions – we owe in thousands – and the loans that we are talking about are going into millions, billions. We all understand the issue of financing and if we are going to be urging each other to pay, these are the figures that we have got to face. We saw the list that you have circulated, and many a times we have seen when a bigger nation has paid, but have we looked at what that demand has placed on the Organization? I would like to urge my colleagues that, as we talk about this burden to the need to pay, and we increasingly urge our Members to do the same, we would like to urge the bigger nations to do the same. We find the Organization increasingly being lumbered with more administrative costs at the expense of the Programme costs. I take, for example, the new costs that are coming up for the security arrangements in this building. We do not see commensurate rates of increase in other budget lines and would like to urge that if we are serious about this Organization – yes we want a secure Organization – but we also want a well functioning Organization, an Organization whose Programmes are functioning. Many Programmes are almost on suspension because they do not have the resources. What is the point of just having a clean house which is not functional? I am doing this in preface to the debate that is coming up in the Programme and Budget and my region will be coming up with a statement on this issue. For example, for us, we remain convinced that the issue of Technical Cooperation Programme financing is the cornerstone of our food programmes and would like that registered for when we come to the next topic.

The other elements are that we would like to feel that the assessed programme finances should not be overly overburdened with the non-assessed programmes. We should accept that the balance between our assessed programmes and the extra-budgetary programmes is not mingled unnecessarily because we have seen a trend where the extrabudgetary programmes are growing monies from the budget. Yet, we are saying in the programmes that we do not have enough. We would like to urge our colleagues that, at least when we come to the extrabudgetary programmes, let them be undertaken, but with the donors bearing the full cost. We have the issue of sanctions being added. Yes, but we must remember that this is not a one size fits all. We would like to urge that when these sanctions are being discussed, or even considered, we look at the capacity of the Member States in question to pay. If that Member Nation is at war, how do we expect them to pay? If they have been at war for 5 to 10 years or 15 years, how do we expect them to pay? For us in Africa, this is not a simple topic where we can just say let us include sanctions for those who are defaulting, but let us include the need to study the situations and treat the matters accordingly. I would like to rest my case at this point because there are certain matters pertaining to this topic which will come up in the Programme of Work and Budget, and we will be contributing when

that time comes. However, I would like to endorse the Report that was submitted by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and thank him for having prepared that Report for us.

Aomar AIT AMER MEZIANE (Algérie)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles exprimées par ceux qui m'ont précédés quant à la précarité de la situation de trésorerie de plus en plus difficile de notre Organisation pour honorer ses obligations financières. En effet, le paiement des intérêts qui seraient dûs, mille dollars par jour par tranche de dix millions de dollars, en cas de persistance de non versement des contributions dûes sur le montant total des emprunts projetés de 80 millions de dollars représenterait un montant équivalent à la contribution de plus d'une vingtaine de pays Membres. Aussi, mon pays qui a régulièrement honoré ses engagements vis-à-vis de l'Organisation et qui est à jour actuellement, je tiens à le souligner, tient-il à joindre sa voix aux autres Membres qui déplorent le fait que des ressources des Etats Membres soient utilisées à financer des intérêts dûs au lieu de les utiliser d'une manière autrement plus efficace. Nous demandons à ce que des efforts plus soutenus soient consentis par les pays Membres encore redevables en vue de verser leurs contributions et ainsi améliorer la situation financière actuelle de la FAO, situation plus importante au regard de l'engagement des réformes qui permettra à notre Organisation de relever le défi, de mieux soutenir et d'accompagner les actions visant la concrétisation de l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et de ceux du Millénaire pour le développement.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance)

I would like to make a general comment and then I would like to ask my colleague, the Director of Finance, to deal with the detailed question of the After-Service Medical Coverage. We have listened, with interest, to the interventions of the members of the Council. We have, particularly, noted their comments about the financial situation of the Organization and the non-payment of contributions. In this connection, I should like to assure Members of the Council that we do follow-up with Member Governments for their payments of contributions. This follow-up includes correspondence from the Director-General and his meetings with government officials at the highest level, but despite that, the arrears remain. There is also regular urging by the Finance Committee, the Council, to Member Governments to pay their dues. We also have tried an Incentive Scheme, whereby discounts were given to countries who paid by a certain date. There are also sanctions in the Basic Texts which come into force after payments have not been made for a couple of years – two years. There is the loss of seats in the Council; there is the effect of the voting rights at the Conference. Despite these measures, the arrears, as you can see from the LIM document which has been circulated to you remain at a high level. We noted your comments about extra efforts being made in this direction, and the Finance Committee would be coming back to this question at their next Session, so we will see what other measures we can suggest to the Finance Committee so that the contribution situation improves. I would like to ask the Director of Finance to deal with the After-Service Medical Coverage question.

Nicholas NELSON (Director and Treasurer, Finance Division)

Just comment briefly on, very briefly in fact, on the comments by the distinguished Representatives of Kuwait speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. She mentioned, and stressed that FAO needs to recognize the seriousness of the After-Service Medical Coverage liability and I would like to confirm that it is extremely serious, has been addressed in a very serious manner, and in fact, for the past three years, every Finance Committee Session, every Council Session has dealt on this topic, and in a crescendo of review of alternatives and options which have all been presented to the membership. I should recall as said in paragraph 63 of your Report that FAO is in the forefront of the Organizations of the UN System attempting to address accounting recognition and the financial funding of this liability. Paragraph 63 says it very clearly that there are five other agencies who have made progress and I would just, for your benefit, list them for you: UNICEF, UNDP, IFAD here in Rome and WFP here in Rome and the World Health Organization in Geneva. To one degree or another, these other Sister Agencies have either fully funded their liability or have partially funded their liability. It is also to be recalled that the UN itself, as the Finance Committee members know, is dealing with this After-Service Health

Insurance liability which is being calculated to the tune of US\$1.8 billion, and it is, of course, therefore a very recognized and serious UN-wide problem.

If I may, the only other actual question that I saw or remark that I believe should be addressed concerns the remarks of the distinguished delegate of the United States, who spoke about FAO should take a strategic approach to mitigate the effects which are considered now consolidated of a cash shortage developing in the third quarter of each year. First, as an initial reaction, from the Organization point of view, one should ask does it have to be that way because the obligations are stated as of January. A great many countries pay within a few months and well within the first half of the year. It is already a significant challenge for such a large and complex Organization to monitor and control the level of expenditures on a monthly basis. I am wondering if it is reasonable to even expect that one could adopt a sort of stop-go approach to spending. I would invite examples of large complex Organizations capable of adopting such an approach to address a cash shortage position which could be solved by commitments to pay.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

En primer término quiero agradecer a los señores delegados por sus palabras con respecto al informe que simplemente refleja el trabajo que han estado haciendo todos los miembros del Comité de Finanzas. Veo también que nuestro informe ha cumplido su misión que es llamar la atención a los señores delegados sobre la situación financiera de esta institución. En las varias intervenciones que hemos visto, vemos que se ha tratado y que hay una gran preocupación sobre el número de cuotas atrasadas, sin duda es un tema bastante complejo. Hemos tomado nota sobre las sugerencias hechas por algunos países con respecto a ahondar el estudio sobre este tema. Tomamos nota de lo sugerido por la Unión Europea con respecto a que se examinen las alternativas, sanciones, cómo hacer efectivo el pago de las cuotas pero también tomamos nota de que hay que ver el estudio caso por caso.

Vemos con agrado también que muchos países han llamado a pagar las cuotas atrasadas por algunos Miembros. Sin duda las obligaciones del pasivo del seguro médico es otro tema que nos preocupa, pero como se ha mencionado, debemos reconocer que esta Organización ha hecho considerables progresos en la cuestión del pasivo y que está dentro de las otras cinco Organizaciones que están a la vanguardia sobre este tema. Es un tema que continuaremos viendo en nuestro Comité de Finanzas.

Vemos que el tema del déficit del Fondo General ha sido también debatido ampliamente, el tema de la liquidez, el hecho de que esta Institución ha tenido que recurrir al sistema financiero para poder efectuar los pagos.

Vemos que el tema de la representación geográfica también ha sido puesto en evidencia en las deliberaciones. Tomamos nota de lo señalado por Japón, con respecto a que fue aprobada por consenso la elevación del límite máximo de la tasa de gastos de apoyo a proyectos de asistencia y emergencia. Hemos tomado nota de todas las intervenciones y han sido varias y numerosas, esto nos alienta a seguir trabajando.

CHAIRMAN

This concludes Item 7 of the Order of the Day. Before we proceed to the next agenda item, allow me to give the Chairmanship back to its real owner. It was a real pleasure to preside over this session if only for a short while. I have to take leave to run back to my Embassy and give the salaries of my staff, otherwise they might walk out of me which is getting to be a familiar sight here in Rome.

Mr. Aziz Mekouar, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair
M. Aziz Mekouar, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence
Occupa la presidencia Sr Aziz Mekouar, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je pense qu'il y a une question qui a été posée tout à l'heure par le délégué du Koweït. Il y aura une réponse. Le Secrétariat est en train de suivre l'affaire, donc je propose que nous continuions avec le point 8 et on reviendra à la question du délégué du Koweït plus tard.

8. Independent External Evaluation of FAO (C 2005/17)**8. Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO (C 2005/17)****8. Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO (C 2005/17)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Donc, nous allons examiner le point 8 de l'ordre du jour, relatif à "l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO" (EEI). Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 129/10. C'est avec satisfaction que j'ouvre ce point de l'ordre du jour. Il y a un an, le Conseil a décidé de lancer l'évaluation externe indépendante visant à renforcer et améliorer la FAO. Un groupe de travail intersession, (GTIS) du Conseil, dont j'ai présidé la session d'ouverture, a été mis en place. Ce groupe, auquel ont pris part de nombreux Membres de la FAO, provenant de tous les groupes régionaux, a travaillé tout au long de l'année sous la direction très compétente de l'Ambassadeur Perri du Brésil afin de préparer les propositions que nous avons devant nous aujourd'hui.

C'est avec plaisir que je demande à l'Ambassadeur Perri de présenter le Rapport du groupe de travail intersession.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Chairman, Inter-sessional Working Group)

It has been a privilege to Chair the Inter-sessional Working Group for preparation of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO on behalf of this Council. Looking around I see many of my colleagues in the ISWG present here today. Over 50 Member Nations participated in the ISWG Meeting. The Council presented us with a challenging task but a very satisfying one. We all embarked upon this work with a sense of commitment to design an evaluation process which would serve the interests of all members, but truly independent, truly professional, and above all, an evaluation which would assist us in making FAO an even more useful Organization to its Members in these changing times.

To the best of our knowledge we have embarked on a unique process. No other specialized UN Agency of FAO's size and complexity has undertaken a comprehensive External Evaluation of all aspects of the Organization and its usefulness to Members, commissioned by the Membership as a whole. It is thus with some considerable satisfaction I present our proposal to you as contained in our report which have the full support of the entire ISWG. This is not a compromise proposal as a result of negotiation, but a package we have developed together with the full ownership of us all.

We have had the benefit of useful external advice in a seminar we held, and more importantly, through the appointment of two senior external experts, Horst Breier from Germany and Dunstan Spencer from Sierra Leone. We have found the experience of other Organizations in conducting evaluations provides important lessons, but we have also designed distinct modalities to ensure: the ownership and oversight by the Governing Bodies; the essential independence; assurance of quality; professionalism in the evaluation; and a meaningful input from the Membership, the Director-General and the rest of the FAO Secretariat without compromising the independence of the evaluation.

As requested by the Council, our report covers: Governance of the IEE (Independent External Evaluation), and function of the IEE Council Committee; the role of the FAO Secretariat in the IEE; and an indicative budget of the IEE including the provision for support costs.

Most importantly it covers the proposed terms of reference for the Independent External Evaluation. These are for a fully comprehensive evaluation which examines the usefulness and relevance of what FAO does, its impacts and its processes.

The work has been divided into four major parts: 1) the technical work of FAO, which encompasses work in and for Member Nations. In other words FAO's development, emergency, normative, information, advocacy and policy activities in developing countries and at headquarters and in the decentralized offices; 2) management of the Organization, including budgeting and programme, human resource management and all aspects of finance and administration, FAO Governance including the organization and role of the Governing Bodies; and 4) FAO's role in the multilateral system, including the Organization's comparative advantages and the place of partnerships at all levels.

Allow me to quote paragraph 12 of our Report to the Council, where we state: "the Director-General has stated in his foreword to his current reform proposal: I seek neither to anticipate nor to prejudge the outcome of other processes underway, most notably the Independent External Evaluation of the Organization which the Council is undertaking. In fact, I believe that the implementation of my proposals now will create a more favourable context for such an evaluation".

"The evaluation will thus take place during a period of ongoing reform in the UN System and adjustment in FAO which may accelerate to the extent that the Conference mandates further changes following its consideration of the Director-General's proposals for reform. The evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the Organization's work and its existing strengths and weaknesses and, in formulating its findings and recommendations, relate them to the validity of, and need for, further adjustment in the process of the Organization's reform and its areas of priority."

It is my personal understanding that an immediate task of the Committee of the Council for the IEE in December next, will be to define how this is to be done. This would include definition of interim reports from the IEE and possible further definition of areas of focus for the IEE in the light of the agreed reform process.

The ISWG has also initiated the process of putting together the evaluation team with advertisement throughout the world for expressions of interest. As I speak these expressions of interest are being pre-screened to facilitate a selection process by the Committee of the Council for the IEE to be created and an early start-up of the evaluation. However, this brings me to an important issue, and I am going to speak frankly. The ISWG worked very well as a process between Member Nations and on the human level. It worked very well technically, designing the package we have put before you. But it had one major problem the very slow initial mobilization of funds for its work.

If the IEE is to maximize its usefulness in strengthening FAO, it must be completed in good time for the November 2007 FAO Conference. This can be achieved if it starts work early in 2006. But this can only happen if funds are available. In our Report, we have suggested that the FAO Evaluation Service should be budget holder for this evaluation. Here, I hope I will not embarrass them. They have said to me and I have heard them say to other ISWG members, that it would be irresponsible and they would not start the evaluation without about half the recommended budget actually received and the remaining funds clearly committed. It has become clear to all of us that for the evaluation to proceed in an efficient manner and secure the quality of expertise that we are seeking. There has to be an assurance of the full funding of slightly over US\$4 million. I am informed that in line with the request of the previous Council FAO has now established a Trust Fund for the IEE.

I thus draw your attention to the ISWG's suggestion in its report to the Council that the Council urge all members to contribute to the IEE according to their means in making this evaluation a true product of the Membership as a whole.

I thank all members of the ISWG. I thank the strenuous work made by Mr. John Markie. I thank the Secretariat at large for the support it has provided, thank you Mr. Chairman for the support you have provided for the initiation of the process. The ISWG recommends the Report to the Council for adoption.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Ce rapport Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Mesdames et Messieurs, bénéficie de l'appui du Groupe de travail intersession (GTIS) et aborde tous les points cités dans le mandat du Conseil. Il s'agit d'un document très complet, très équilibré et je pense que le Conseil pourrait approuver à l'unanimité toutes les propositions faites dans le rapport qui lui sera soumis pour l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO (EEI), notamment, gouvernance de l'EEI et fonction du Comité du Conseil pour l'EEI, Annexe 1 du rapport, "Mandat pour l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO", Annexe 2 du rapport, "Distribution et calendrier de l'EEI; Annexe 1 du rapport, paragraphe 69 – 73, "Rôle du Secrétariat de la FAO dans l'EEI; Annexe 3 du rapport, "Budget indicatif à signaler à l'EEI", englobant la fourniture d'un appui administratif centrale de la FAO "Frais de soutien", Annexe 4 du rapport, reconnaissant que l'évaluation telle qu'elle aura été décidé par le Conseil devra être financée par des contributions extrabudgétaire. Entre autre, j'attire l'attention sur la suggestion du GTIS faite au Conseil pour qu'il encourage vivement tous les Membres de l'Organisation à apporter leur contribution en fonction de leurs moyens pour faire que cette évaluation soit réellement le produit de tous les Membres dans leur ensemble. Les propositions faites par le GTIS pour la conduite de l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO sont approuvées par le Conseil. En approuvant ces propositions il nous faut insister sur l'importance de faire démarrer l'évaluation afin de contribuer au processus de réforme au sein de la FAO et afin qu'une discussion puisse avoir lieu au Conseil et à la Conférence en 2007. Le GTIS a largement contribué à ce travail préparatoire en lançant un processus de recherche de consultants potentiellement intéressés. Cependant, il sera impossible de faire démarrer l'évaluation si une mobilisation rapide de fonds n'est pas entreprise par les Membres. Ainsi, j'insiste à nouveau sur le fait que les Membres doivent contribuer très rapidement à l'évaluation. Avant de céder la parole aux Membres pour d'éventuels commentaires sur l'évaluation indépendante il est à présent nécessaire de désigner le Président du Comité du Conseil qui supervisera le EEI. Je voudrais savoir si il y a des propositions.

Govindan NAIR (India)

As the G-77 Coordinator in the ISWG, let me reaffirm the ownership that we all bear in developing this report and in the final outcome of the Report. We would like to compliment Ambassador Perri on the way he has taken us through this process, and I would like to place and record the appreciation for all the members of this ISWG and the collegial manner in which we have come to this stage in the Independent External Evaluation.

My reason for taking the floor was to propose the name of Ambassador Perri to chair the Council Committee for the Independent External Evaluation. As you know, he has done a yeoman job in the first stage of the evaluation process, and we believe that he will be the best person for the second phase.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien. Nous avons donc la proposition et je passe la demande à l'Ambassadeur Perri pour qu'il poursuive ses efforts et son travail à la tête du Comité du Conseil pour l'EEI. Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres propositions? Non.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Perri, on vous demande donc de prendre la tête de ce Comité, de poursuivre votre travail, je pense à l'unanimité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Chairman, Inter-sessional Working Group)

I have to tell you that this is not an easy task. It has been an easy task because I made friends, but some of them, and one in particular, discovered my nature. I was used to being called by my son, daughter and wife a dictator, and I have now a new member of the family in the person of the Ambassador of Egypt, who is used to calling me a dictator. I thank you very much but I will try to

be a little bit more democratic than you expected Ambassador. Thank you; let us start working as soon as we can.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien. Il ne reste plus qu'à déclarer l'Ambassadeur Perri Président et je lui présente toutes mes félicitations. Je suis certain que vous dirigerez l'évaluation comme vous l'avait fait dans sa première phase et comme le retient le Comité pour cette importante tâche au nom des Organes directeurs.

Le Conseil ayant approuvé tous les aspects nécessaires à la conduite rapide de l'évaluation, je cède la parole aux Membres afin qu'ils nous fassent part de leurs conseils et commentaires concernant l'EEI, en commençant peut-être s'ils le veulent bien par les Présidents des groupes régionaux qui ont été très actifs dans le processus du GTIS.

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 25 Member States and the acceding countries of Bulgaria and Romania and the candidate country to the EU, Croatia, also associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union has taken a deep interest in the Independent External Evaluation from the outset. The Inter Sessional Working Group, under the able Chairmanship of Ambassador Perri, has been a model of transparency and has achieved consensus around a highly complex issue. We are very grateful to him and to the members of this team for their work and may I add that we are also delighted that Ambassador Perri has agreed to be the Chairman of the Council Committee to take this work forward, otherwise known as the 'elected dictator'.

We are pleased that the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth session of the Council has now approved the modalities for the Independent External Evaluation, including the terms of reference.

The European Union believes that the Independent External Evaluation can make a crucial contribution to the future of FAO. We look forward to continuing to work with the other Members of FAO in a spirit of partnership to ensure that the progress made so far is maintained and that the evaluation report is of high quality and completed on time.

I would conclude simply by noting that some references have been made already and may be made under this item to the Director-General's reform proposals and the European Union will comment on those in detail under agenda item 4.

Vladimir HERNÁNDEZ LARA (México)

Antes que nada deseo agradecer la exposición que hizo el Embajador Perri en su calidad de Presidente de este grupo de trabajo de este período de sesiones encargado de preparar los Términos de Referencia para la evaluación externa independiente y también lo felicito por su reciente nombramiento. Veo que además de embajador es un dictador con un elevado índice de popularidad. Para exponer los puntos de vista del GRULAC desearía que se concediera la palabra al Embajador de República Dominicana quién coordina los trabajos del GRULAC para este tema.

Marcio ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Como coordinador del GRULAC para este tema, para darle seguimiento al tema de la evaluación externa independiente y delegado a la Mesa Directiva del Grupo de Trabajo entre Período de Sesiones (GIPS), deseo congratular a todos los participantes del Grupo. Como ha dicho el Embajador M. Perri y también el Embajador del Reino Unido, hemos trabajado en un ambiente de gran armonía y espíritu constructivo. Quiero agradecer, en especial, la colaboración de los colegas del GRULAC que me han acompañado, el Sr. Vladimir Hernández quien ha tenido la gentileza de permitirme hablar en este momento y su predecesor Sr. Víctor Hugo Morales y los Sres. Roberto Seminario y Osvaldo del Águila del Perú así como la Embajadora Victoria Guardia de Hernández de Costa Rica y todo su equipo de trabajo en la Presidencia del Grupo Regional.

Deseo también hacer especial mención al extraordinario trabajo realizado por el Embajador Flávio M. Perri, Representante Permanente del Brasil y Presidente del Grupo entre período de sesiones y que ahora ha sido elegido por el Consejo para continuar la segunda fase de este arduo trabajo. Diré sobre él lo mismo que ya indiqué esta mañana sobre el Presidente del Comité del Programa, que se trata de un diplomático de particular excelencia y de un brillante intelectual.

En su impecable labor al frente del GIPS, el Embajador M. Perri ha contado también con el apoyo del Sr. Hernaldo Fernández quien ya ha regresado a su capital y del Sr. Saulo A. Ceolín

Quiero también llamar la atención al Presidente del Consejo y los observadores del gran trabajo también viene realizando el Sr. Govindan Nair de India como coordinador del Grupo de los 77 en este tema y por supuesto felicitar al Secretariado en la persona del Sr. John Markie y de su equipo de trabajo.

Dicho todo lo anterior y como usted ha indicado, deseo hacer referencia a las palabras del Embajador M. Perri sobre un aspecto fundamental para mi país y para tantos otros de la región y del G 77 y ciertamente para todos los Estados Miembros, que es el tema que tiene que ver con los fondos financieros disponibles para el ejercicio.

Le diré que mi país inicialmente se sumó al consenso del G-77 de exigir garantía de la totalidad de los fondos antes de que el Consejo aprobase los Términos de Referencia. Esta posición fue, de alguna manera dejada de lado para no entorpecer las negociaciones sobre el tema y creo que este es el momento oportuno para recordar las palabras del Embajador M. Perri: *it would be irresponsible and they would not start the Evaluation, in reference to the FAO Evaluation Service without about half the recommended budget actually received and the remaining funds clearly committed.* Es oportuno recordar esto.

Para terminar, el documento CL 129/10 está disponible sólo en inglés y me han pedido explicaciones del porqué no lo tenemos en español.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I will just start by a general statement as to the issue of dictatorship. I did say that and I do believe I am older than Ambassador Perri so my view carries some weight Ambassador, and second, that was supposed to be a well kept secret within the G-77. He chose to put it in public.

On a more serious note, as a member of the ISWG and as I am speaking on behalf of Africa and I think I definitely express their views, and particularly the Ambassadors of Mali and Tanzania who are my colleagues, my partners in representing Africa. The whole process, to my mind, started with a sense of appreciation of the importance of the External Evaluation on one hand and responsibility on the other hand.

To me, this document, CL 129/10, is not the result of a compromise, and I do very much agree with what Ambassador Perri said on that. To me, it is an outcome of what was really maybe a very long and tiring process, but also a very educational and satisfying one, a process that was based on true partnership for all the member countries that took part in that, as well as transparency and shared views that helped us reach this stage.

I have one or two points to make on this.

One, I cannot stressed more the importance of the IEE in terms of its volume, its timing, as well as the impact it could have on the future of this Organization coupled particularly when it comes at a time – when it should start at a time – where we have also the package of proposals presented by the Director-General.

I know we will have a long discussion on maybe the inter-relation between these two, but I think that most of them should go on the same track at the same time.

The other issue, I did express that almost more than half of the meeting, as to the importance of having the necessary financial resources, not only to start but to carry out the IEE in a very smooth and efficient way to guarantee its success.

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

The United States joins the other Council Members in welcoming the Report of the ISWG. We did our work in a positive and collegial atmosphere. It prevailed throughout the ISWG process and it really was, I think, an example that was indicative of what the FAO and the Member Nations are the FAO can accomplish when we do our work in such a collegial atmosphere.

We express thanks to Ambassador Perri for the leadership he showed and the way he brought different together, so it was not really a bi-partisan effort. It was really a mono-partisan effort. We all worked together. We all recognized that we had a common interest in doing it. We express our enthusiasm in participating in the IEE process in the future and in working and supporting Ambassador Perry and our colleagues as we move forward into the next phase of this.

We also wish to thank Mr. John Markie, the Director of the Evaluation Service, for the valuable advice and help and assistance which he provided us well and above what might otherwise have been accepted. We appreciate that very much.

The success for completion of the ISWG's work in this spirit of consensus underscores the commitment of FAO's membership to a process of reform within FAO. The Council's decision last November to lodge preparations for an independent external evaluation also made clear its members' understanding that meaningful reform must begin with comprehensive and independent analysis of the Organization's strengths and weaknesses. Frankly, we need a baseline and we need a baseline of what the strengths and weaknesses of the Organization are so that we make the difficult decisions which we have failed to make as well as we should have in the past.

We can and we should continuously strive to make FAO a better, more efficient, and more effective Organization. Therefore, we welcome all proposals and suggestions for reform and improvement. We remain convinced that meaningful reform of FAO can only follow from the results of the IEE which must be carefully weighed by the Governing Bodies. We need a baseline to get by the difficulties we have had in the past and the IEE promises that and will give us the opportunity to make the decisions in the future that we need to make.

The Inception Report will provide the first opportunity for the Council Committee to receive the detailed proposals of the Expert Evaluators. This Report should provide a road map for the evaluation in light of any further refinements that may be necessary in the range of issues and in the indicative budget.

To safeguard the independence of the Independent External Evaluation, the Council agreed that the evaluation should be funded by voluntary contributions. We urge all members to join us in making contributions according to our abilities, however great or small, they all matter and all buy us ownership of this important process. We want the IEE findings to truly be the product of the entire Membership of the Organization. Something we all accept and feel comfortable with. We urge these contributions to be made promptly so that this work can begin quickly. The United States contributed US\$25 000 to the ISWG process and we are pleased to announce, today, that we plan an additional contribution of US\$225 000 for the actual Evaluation. We are also weighing a further contribution to the important reform effort that we have begun. We join all of you, our colleagues, in continuing this important work.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan welcomes the outcome of the Inter-Sessional Working Groups and celebrates Ambassador Perri to assume the Chairperson of the Council Committee. Japan understands the importance of Independent External Evaluation for the improvement of FAO in efficiency and effectiveness. Japan believes the selection of evaluators is extremely important for the success of the evaluation. Japan also believes IEE would provide a good basis for the Reform of FAO. This Evaluation should be taken into account in the process of FAO Reform.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

The Southwest Pacific Region supports reform of FAO. We have been active in seeking reform through our significant support and financial contribution so far to the IEE process. We look forward to the IEE providing clarification and guidance to better inform Members on the future focus of the Organization. We support the terms of reference of the IEE with its focus on examining impact and comparative advantage. The Southwest Pacific Region has been encouraged by the goodwill established and note that all Members have demonstrated a stake in this process. We especially appreciate the work of Ambassador Perri in driving the IEE process and warmly support Ambassador Perri's continuing Chairmanship of the Committee of the Council. It is important, therefore, that the IEE be able to undertake its mandate without its work being jeopardized by other reform processes. We look forward to the IEE commencing shortly and completing on time.

Aamir ASHRAF KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group. We appreciate the hard work put in by the ISWG and all our colleagues under the able chair of Ambassador Perri and we are happy to endorse and adopt the force of reports by ISWG, namely Governments' supply and functions of the IEE Council Committee, terms of reference for the IEE, the role of the FAO Secretariat and budget. We request all Members to support the process of IEE. We urge availability of adequate funds being provided by the Membership to ensure that the process of IEE is initiated immediately and sustained. We are very happy to see Ambassador Perri of Brazil heading the IEE Council Committee and we are certain that IEE will proceed smoothly under his capable leadership. We find the Independent External Evaluation a very important step in the overall reform process of FAO.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Je voudrais à mon tour féliciter mon ami Perri pour le rôle éminemment précieux qu'il a joué. Je voulais aussi en profiter pour remercier chaleureusement le Secrétariat de la FAO et surtout en la personne de Markee, qui a été d'une disponibilité et d'un support inestimables. Je pense que le résultat auquel nous sommes parvenu avec ce document CL 129/10, prouve en suffisance que dans cette maison quand on le veut on le peut.

Nous avons commencé, j'étais membre de ce groupe, d'une façon difficile, il faut le dire, avec un peu de scepticisme, vu la manière dont le problème de l'évaluation externe indépendante est rentré dans cette maison. C'est d'abord par petits clubs de copains qu'on chuchotait, mais après il est tombé vraiment là où il le fallait et l'ensemble des Membres se le sont approprié et c'est ce qu'il faut pour réussir. Je voudrais rappeler que nous avons travaillé au niveau de ce Groupe dans un esprit merveilleux tout en n'étant pas toujours d'accord peu s'en faut mais au moins nous avons travaillé dans le respect des uns des autres, nous avons travaillé dans l'écoute des uns et des autres et je crois que c'est cela qui nous a permis de réussir parvenir à ce résultat qui vous est aujourd'hui soumis.

Je voudrais préciser que quand nous commençons, certains avaient des appréhensions. Comme toujours nous avons des appréhensions quand il y a des problèmes. Personnellement, mon appréhension était de savoir où est-ce que l'on va enlever l'argent pour financer ce projet, puisqu'il était entendu que cela ne pouvait pas être sur le budget ordinaire de la FAO. Nous avons eu des apaisements, comme quoi cela ne causerait pas de problèmes, le financement ne poserait aucun problème. Et vraiment, de généreux Etats étaient disposés dès le début, et d'ailleurs je crois qu'il l'ont prouvé pour cette première phase, à mettre la main à la poche. Maintenant que nous sommes arrivés à cette seconde étape, je voudrais lancer aussi un appel à tout le monde, y compris les pays qui ont quelques difficultés passagères, pour s'approprier vraiment cette évaluation externe indépendante. Quelle que soit la modicité de la contribution, je crois qu'il serait bon que tous, les uns et les autres, nous puissions vraiment y contribuer. Mais je voudrais dire aussi que cette évaluation ne saurait mettre en cause les fondements de la réforme qui nous est proposée, bien au

contraire, et nous pensons que peu s'en faut, la maison ne doit pas s'arrêter parce qu'il y a une évaluation externe indépendante, bien au contraire, elle doit se mouvoir, et cette réforme rentre dans un processus dynamique de cette maison. C'est pourquoi que nous pensons effectivement que cette réforme peut être un grand jeu tout en poursuivant et tout en engageant aussi parallèlement cette évaluation externe indépendante. Je voudrais vraiment dire que si nous sommes tous animés de la même volonté qui nous a animé pour cette réforme, le prochain point de l'ordre du jour, j'entends par là le budget, le Programme de travail, etc., mais vraiment, au terme de cette Conférence, nous pourrions vraiment être fiers de ce que nous avons fait de la FAO et pour la FAO.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada commends the work undertaken by the ISWG and particularly the work of Ambassador Perri and supports the terms of reference that the ISWG has developed for the IEE. We are encouraged by the high degree of consensus that has evolved. We continue to believe that a well-conducted Independent External Evaluation will make key contributions to the increased effectiveness of FAO. My Government will shortly be making a contribution of US\$225 000 to support the work of the Evaluation. Lastly, we believe that the IEE will provide a strong basis for reforms to FAO.

Govindan NAIR (India)

As the G-77 Coordinator of the erstwhile ISWG, may I request you to give the floor to the Dominican Republic. I believe the delegate of the Dominican Republic wishes to make a clarification.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Dominican Republic)

I am going to use the English language to make a very brief clarification. When I took the floor earlier, I thought I was making myself clear. However, I have been made aware that some of the Members of the Council did not really understand what I meant.

I said that the Government of the Dominican Republic joined an initial consensus within the G-77 at the outset of the ISWG. The G-77 wished to demand that all funds for the External Evaluation had to be available, at hand, in order for the Council to approve the terms of reference. However, a long time ago the G-77 backed away from that proposition so as not to block the negotiations. So what I meant to say, speaking for myself and also for the Regional Group, was that we backed the words of Ambassador Perri when he referred to the fact that it was FAO, the Evaluation Service, that told him that it would be irresponsible to start such a complex process without having at least half of the funding available and a clear commitment for the rest of it.

Please convey to the Council that in no way did I mean to say that the Council should or should not take any decisions right now on the terms of reference or in fact on the whole matter with regards to totality of the funds. That is something that was shelved a long time ago.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Comme c'est la première fois que nous prenons la parole, nous voulons vous dire bienvenue à Rome et profiter de notre été qui se poursuit parce que ce n'est plus le même climat que vous avez là-bas.

Je voudrais, comme beaucoup l'ont dit avant moi, apprécier le travail qui nous a été confié par le Conseil. Je pense que sur ce plan, le Groupe de travail n'a pas failli. Nous rendons compte au Conseil, l'Ambassadeur Perri est venu vous rendre compte du travail du Groupe qu'il a présidé. Je pense que c'est ce que le Conseil avait demandé, il a fait du bon travail et nous sommes rendus au résultat d'aujourd'hui.

C'est donc, Monsieur le Président, le lieu pour moi déjà de remercier particulièrement le talent de l'Ambassadeur Perri parce qu'il a su mené à bon port toutes les négociations et toutes les discussions qui ont été générées au sein de ce Groupe de travail, et le processus sous sa conduite,

a été suffisamment bien guidé. Je dois vous dire qu'il y avait des décisions qui étaient difficiles à prendre mais sous sa bonne gestion nous avons pu les prendre.

J'ai aussi été témoin du travail que le Secrétariat de la FAO a apporté au processus et je pense pouvoir dire ici que c'était un apport incommensurable et nul ne peut, à partir de ce contexte précis, dénier le fait que la FAO apporte un soutien à cette évaluation. Nous pensons que le seul fait que le Secrétariat ait apporté tout ce qu'il pouvait apporter est déjà une orientation précise sur l'approbation par la FAO de ce processus de l'évaluation. C'est un gage, à mon humble avis, de support de cette évaluation.

Nous voulons ici, parce que nous avons également participé à la rédaction et à l'approbation des Termes de référence du Groupe de travail, proposer que le Conseil approuve ces Termes de référence de manière à ce que le travail se poursuive. Nous voyons que nous sommes déjà allés au-delà des Termes de référence, le processus de recrutement est déjà commencé et il est intéressant que déjà, compte rendu que c'est fait aujourd'hui, que le Conseil continue à donner son approbation sur les documents qui ont été produits.

Quant à ce qui nous concerne, le Cameroun, nous restons ouverts et prêts à travailler dans le cadre du Comité du Conseil et nous avons le plaisir ici de dire que nous serons également heureux de voir l'Ambassadeur Perri continuer le travail qu'il a si bien commencé. On ne peut pas s'arrêter en si bon chemin. Nous tenons également à mettre une emphase particulière sur le fait que nous avons besoin de fonds, cela a été dit par l'Ambassadeur Perri tout à l'heure, ils traînent à arriver, il y a eu des difficultés pendant le fonctionnement du Groupe de travail sur la libération des fonds et nous pensons qu'il est plus que temps que nous mettions tous la main à la poche pour que le travail commence effectivement et le plus tôt possible, sans délai.

Voilà, la contribution que nous avons apportée à ce débat, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a pas d'autres commentaires. Je vous remercie. Ceci conclut le point 8 de l'ordre du jour. Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Perri, je vous souhaite bon travail. Vous avez une lourde tâche devant vous mais vous allez la mener certainement à bien.

4. Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2006-2007 (C 2005/3)

4. Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2006-2007 (C 2005/3)

4. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto (PLP) para 2006-2007 (C 2005/3)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs passons à l'examen du point 4 de l'ordre du jour "Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2006-2007". Les documents pertinents portent les références: C 2005/3; C 2005/3-Sup.1; C 2005/3-Sup.1-Add.1; C 2005/3-Corr.1; C 2005/INF/19.

J'aimerais inviter Monsieur Roberto Seminario Portocarrero, Président du Comité financier et Monsieur Ewald Wermuth, Président du Comité du Programme à présenter les vœux des comités qu'ils président. Monsieur Manoj Juneja pourra également introduire ce point.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

El Comité de Finanzas examinó el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 2006-2007, así como el Suplemento al mismo con las propuestas de reforma del Director General. En el documento principal, el Comité hizo hincapié en el marco financiero y las propuestas presupuestarias para los capítulos 5, 6, 8 y 9. En el suplemento, el Comité centró la atención en el alcance de las propuestas de reforma y el Panorama general de los aspectos financieros y presupuestarios, el capítulo 5 y el programa 3I. Con respecto a la propuesta de establecimiento de un Servicio de gastos de seguridad, el Comité apoyó la propuesta del Director General, como forma de agrupar todos los gastos de personal y de otro tipo, directamente relacionados con la seguridad en la Sede, y sobre el terreno en un nuevo capítulo, el capítulo 9º del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto; y apoyó el correspondiente proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia.

El Comité reconoció la compleja situación de liquidez de la Organización. Asimismo reconoció el aumento del déficit acumulado en el Fondo General. Como medio para solucionar las dificultades mencionadas, todos los Miembros, salvo dos, manifestaron su apoyo a las propuestas del Director General y la resolución conexas de la Conferencia en la que se exige a los Miembros que paguen sus cuotas sin deducir las provisiones para los ingresos diversos.

El Comité consideró que los cálculos de aumento de gastos se habían realizado en consonancia con la metodología acordada. El Comité de Finanzas señaló que las estimaciones de los costos actuales de los servicios del seguro médico después del cese en el servicio, constituían un elemento importante de los aumentos de costos. Asimismo, el Comité tomó nota de los gastos de capital y las entradas de recursos previstos correspondientes al Servicio de gastos de capital.

El Comité de Finanzas, acogió con agrado el nuevo marco de eficiencias y mejoras en la productividad del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto principal y elogió los procedimientos adicionales simplificados, descritos en el proyecto de reforma. Asimismo, alentó al Director General a poner en práctica las medidas propuestas lo antes posible. En relación con el suplemento, el Comité agradeció al Director General que hubiera formulado unas propuestas de reforma de amplio alcance y reconoció que los principios esbozados eran constructivos, y, expresó la firme esperanza de que las propuestas de reforma se aplicaran de forma complementaria a la evaluación externa independiente.

En su examen del capítulo 5º, el Comité reconoció que las reagrupaciones de los Programas eran aceptables, pero no pudo hacer comparaciones directas de los recursos con los capítulos 5 y 6 del documento principal. Por otra parte, el Comité consideró que por el momento no estaba en condiciones de emitir un juicio completo sobre la estructura organizativa propuesta.

El Comité, reconoció que la Reforma no podría aplicarse inmediatamente y que el ritmo de la misma dependería de la cuantía del presupuesto. Pidió que se proporcionara información adicional sobre los gastos no recurrentes y los gastos de transición.

Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 69 al 78 del documento CL 129/4. Me sería muy grato brindar a usted y a cualquier Miembro, explicación adicional con respecto a nuestro debate sobre esta materia.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

My intervention is limited to presenting a summary of the views expressed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and the Finance Committee and by the Programme Committee itself, only on the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-07, including the reform proposals contained in this supplement.

The views on other items dealt with at the Joint Meeting and at the individual session of the Programme Committee have been taken up this morning.

As the report of the Joint Meeting, which is quite short – six paragraphs are devoted to the PWB proposals – it may be easier to present first the gist of the discussion at the Joint Meeting. We had the benefit of the presence of the Director-General, who provided a number of clarifications on substance of the reform proposals in response to queries made by the committees. These are reflected in paragraph 5 of the Joint Meeting Report.

As to the reform package itself, the Committees endorsed the timely initiative from the Director-General to present extensive reform proposals aimed at a stronger and more responsive Organization. They agreed with him, that of the proposed reforms and the independent external evaluation of FAO, should be mutually supported and both fit under a reforms umbrella. However, the Committees underlined that little time had been available to analyze the proposals with the required depth and stressed the need for additional supportive information to facilitate their consideration at the next Council and Conference. In effect, this request has been addressed by the addendum document before the Council today.

The Committees also underscored the need for continued dialogue and sharing of information, in a collaborative effort, with the Secretariat.

Finally, the Committees recognized that the pace and effectiveness of the reforms would depend upon the eventual budget level to be decided by the Conference and ways to meet the transition cost, as earlier mentioned by the Chair of the Finance Committee, Roberto Seminario.

Another important issue raised at the Joint Meeting was about the process for Members to consider and monitor the further developments and follow-up, including an implementation plan developed by the Secretariat to give effect to the decisions by the Conference.

I turn now to the views accepted by the Programme Committee on the Programme of Work and Budget. Of course, the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget and reform was more detailed than the Programme Committee. The conclusions are to be found in paragraphs 4—31 of the Programme Committee report. While we focused our discussion on the supplement, presenting the reform proposals, we also referred, as appropriate, to the contents of the main PWB document.

I intend to summarize this long discussion as follows: I invited first Programme Committee members to give an indication of eventual positions on the budget level for 2006—07, either individually or in relation to respective regional groups. These positions ranged from support for various growth scenarios, including 2.5 percent and 9.25 percent, as well as scenarios in the range of Zero Nominal Growth. By way of general reactions, these were positive as to the intent to strengthen the work of FAO at this critical juncture. In particular, it was felt that the reform package had the merit of consolidating action being discussed or contemplated on a number of fronts such as enhanced assistance to countries in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, more integrated country-level action for the whole UN system, follow-up to the evaluation on decentralization, streamlining of administrative processes and increased efficiency.

The relationship to the Independent External Evaluation and the revision of the Strategic Framework and the Medium-term Plan 2008—13 was also discussed. However, as recognized also at the Joint Meeting, the Committee stressed the limited time available for careful consideration and full analysis of the package of reforms. Therefore, we recognize the need for more information and dialogue to deepen understanding, ensure acceptance in capitals and facilitate discussions at the next Council and Conference.

At the end of our report we provided – I refer to paragraph 27 – a list of specific areas of needed clarification or supplementary information, which, as I mentioned earlier, have been addressed in the addendum. The Committee also stressed that aside from the eventual decisions to be taken by governments, adequate participation of staff, in both the formulation and the implementation of reform, was an important consideration to ensure their buy-in.

The Committee was in general agreement with the rationale given for the reforms in the supplement, subject to a few observations and also with the guiding principles, although it was not always clear to us how they had been applied concretely. The Committee noted that the Director-General had underlined that consideration of the reform package should not be linked to or dependent on a precise budget level. Nevertheless, it was clear to us – and, I presume, it will be clear to Council members today – that the implementation of reforms would be influenced by the total resources eventually available to the Organization for the next biennium, at least.

The Committee made a number of comments on key dimensions of the reforms, including: the new chapter structure and programme headings – which, we felt, presented a clearer indication on the main emphasis and priorities for FAO's work, while some members were not yet convinced of the coherence in the contents of several chapters; on the handling of main priorities and the new areas of emphasis while expecting that further information would enlighten the Membership on effective treatment of priorities and shifts in emphasis as related to the old structure of programmes; on the proposed new structure at Headquarters, with concerns raised on the number of departments and on the scope of several units; on the new field office structure, with concerns

expressed particularly on the large number of Sub-Regional Offices and an attendant risk of spreading limited financial and human resources too thinly; on the plans to streamline administrative processes and achieve further efficiency and performance gains, which were supported; and on the intent to seek voluntary contributions to cover the transition costs.

Finally, there was the same type of remarks as reiterated at the Joint Meeting on the need for further discussion among members and the process after the decisions of the Conference are known, both on the reform package itself and the budget level for the next biennium.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Allow me to clarify first the scope of the documentation concerning the PWB and the reform proposals and second, to draw attention to specific elements on which decisions will be required by Conference next week.

The documentation before you today comprises four pieces: the main Programme of Work and Budget 2006—07; a Supplement to the Programme of Work and Budget and an addendum; and an information document entitled *FAO Reform: A Vision for the Twenty-first Century*.

The main Programme of Work and Budget 2006—07 presents proposals for three resource scenarios: Zero Nominal Growth; Zero Real Growth; and Real Growth of 2.5 percent per year, based on the present organizational and programme structure.

The Supplement to the main PWB document is entirely devoted to the reform proposals. It addresses the reform proposals within two resource envelopes: Real Growth of 2.5 percent per annum; and Higher Real Growth of 9.25 percent for the biennium, stemming from a specific request of the Council in June.

This documentation demonstrates that the proposed reforms are achievable at the 2.5 percent Real Growth level. The Director-General, in his foreword and this morning, described the rationale for presenting reforms at this juncture. He also emphasized that reforms are necessary and urgent, are not dependent upon approval of a particular budget level and will create a more favourable context for the Independent External Evaluation.

In reviewing the Supplement at their last sessions, the Programme and Finance Committees requested that additional information be provided on seven specific areas to enable Members to understand better the proposed reforms. The direct response to their request is provided in the addendum. Some of this information is quite technical, covering issues such as legal authorities, mapping tables of programme entities and expenditure breakdowns.

The Programme and Finance Committees had also underscored a need for continued sharing of information to ensure a better understanding of the reforms by the Membership, as Ambassador Wermuth had just outlined. Accordingly, an information document entitled: *FAO Reform: A Vision for the Twenty-first Century*, presents the reforms in a less technical and more reader-friendly fashion, also placing them in a historical perspective.

The Conference will be required to take decisions in a number of areas next week. The main PWB document contains two specific proposals not directly linked to reform, which were outlined by the distinguished Chairman of the Finance Committee.

In paragraphs 138-148, it is proposed to establish a Security Expenditure Facility in the form of Chapter 9 of the PWB and to amend the Financial Regulations accordingly. This will improve financial management, visibility and accountability for the security and safety of staff and assets and has been supported by the Finance Committee and the June Council. A draft Conference Resolution is presented immediately after paragraph 148 of the main PWB document.

The main PWB document also makes a proposal to require members to pay their contributions without deduction of forecast of miscellaneous income. In fact, under a previous item, the representatives of the United States and Canada alluded to this proposal. The proposal is made as a means to help address the difficulties of the cash flow situation of the Organization and the deteriorating accumulated deficit under the General Fund. The proposal has been discussed twice

by the Finance Committee and also the June 2005 Council. It has received broad but not unanimous support. A draft Resolution is presented after paragraph 203 of the main Programme of Work and Budget, to the effect that members fully fund the net appropriation from 2006-07 by temporarily suspending the application of Financial Regulation 5.2 (a) until such time as a cash surplus in the General Fund materialises.

Other key decisions before the Governing Bodies concern the proposed reforms and the budget level for the next biennium.

The Director-General seeks your support of his reform proposals in the Supplement and the Addendum, and as further described in the document: *FAO Reform: A Vision for the Twenty-first Century*.

The reforms provide a timely and holistic response to the challenges and opportunities facing FAO, including such matters as the MDGs, broader UN Reform efforts, the recommendations of the evaluation of decentralization and the review of the TCP. At the same time, they preserve the highest priorities identified by members, while introducing areas of emphasis such as: FAO as a knowledge Organization, capacity-building, increased inter-disciplinarity and partnerships with other UN and non-UN organizations; a new structure of Departments and Divisions at Headquarters will achieve a better balance and greater synergies both between and within departments; a revised decentralized structure will bring FAO's expertise closer to member's needs, as the Director-General forcefully outlined this morning, and ensure a more efficient use of resources; and extensive streamlining of processes and flattening of the overall management structure would achieve efficiency gains.

The budget level must be voted by Conference through a Conference Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations for 2006-07. The budget figures and the details of the resolution will no doubt depend upon the outcome of negotiations between Members during the coming days. In the light of the proposed new programme structure inherent in the reform proposals, the main document and the Supplement contain draft resolutions to that effect, but which differ with regard to the chapter descriptions.

In conclusion, the Council may wish to provide its views on the draft Conference Resolutions on the Security Expenditure Facility and Miscellaneous Income. The Director-General also requests Members' endorsement of the proposed reforms, irrespective of the budget level which will be decided by the Conference in a Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations by Chapter. I would also reiterate the Director-General's expression at his opening address of the Secretariat's sincere commitment to be a fully engaged stakeholder in the Independent External Evaluation of FAO so that it may reach a fruitful outcome in two years' time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien. Nous avons ici donc devant nous deux choses. Nous avons le Programme de travail et budget et nous avons la proposition de réforme que Monsieur le Directeur-Général a proposé. Ce matin au cours de mes consultations avec les Présidents des groupes régionaux, nous avons estimé que la meilleure des choses en ce qui concerne les réformes était de créer un groupe de travail, qui rapporterait ensuite à la Conférence. Ce groupe de travail, devrait se réunir à partir d'aujourd'hui et il a été convenu que le groupe serait présidé par moi-même. Ce groupe serait constitué de trois pays par région et j'aurais voulu, d'ailleurs on a vu les indications des pays, faire une proposition, je souhaiterais que l'Ambassadeur Perri fasse partie d'un groupe de travail puisque l'évaluation et les réformes sont imbriquées.

Donc, voilà ce que nous avons décidé ce matin ou voilà ce qu'auront donné nos consultations ce matin. Je voudrais maintenant avoir votre sentiment à ce sujet. S'agissant du débat sur le Programme de travail et budget, il est déjà 6 heures moins 10, il était prévu que la première réunion de ce groupe de travail aurait lieu cet après-midi à 6 heures je suggère donc que nous passions, que le débat général sur le programme de travail et budget ait lieu demain.

Maintenant je voudrais appeler les commentateurs.

B. B. Abdel Mohsin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

I wanted first to speak on the issue of the Programme of Work and Budget. However, since you postponed the discussion of this item, I shall ask for the floor tomorrow morning.

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

Could I just seek a clarification please? I had understood in our discussion this morning that we would have a first round in Plenary of statements or contributions on the Programme of Work and Budget before moving into the Working Group. Can you confirm please that that is still the case?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Et bien si le Conseil le souhaite bien entendu je serai d'accord. Donc j'ouvrirai le débat pour un premier tour.

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I did not want to speak out of turn, but I would like to say that I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and the acceding countries, Bulgaria and Romania, and the Candidate Country to the EU Croatia all associate themselves with this statement.

The Council always relies on the Programme Committee's analysis of the Programme of Work and Budget proposals in considering this item. We note that the Committee chose to focus on the reform proposals and did not, therefore, report as fully as usual on the Programme of Work and Budget itself. We agree with the Committee's recommendation that consideration of the Director-General's reform package must be kept separate from consideration of the overall level of the budget.

The European Union contributes around 40 percent of the Regular Budget, and does so in a timely way. We have a profound interest in helping FAO ensure that its budget is spent as effectively as possible and that its priorities are defined in a realistic and objective manner. We are pleased, therefore, to see the efforts that have been made to incorporate results based analysis of performance in the draft Programme of Work and Budget. We are also pleased to see that the growing use of auto-evaluation has been successful and is now mainstreamed in the budget.

At the June Council, the European Union asked that a Zero Nominal Growth scenario be presented at Programme level in the Programme of Work and Budget. We regret that this request has not been met. On page 46, and following of the Programme of Work and Budget, some general implications of a Zero Nominal Growth scenario were mentioned. We observe that some of the working areas that we identified as high priority areas at the June Council and the Committee meetings, for example, CODEX Alimentarius, IPPC, Work on Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, PAAT, EMPRES, FIVIMS, would be weakened under a Zero Nominal Growth scenario. We, therefore, reiterate that these high priority areas should be adequately funded even under a Zero Nominal Growth scenario.

As always, how the PWB will be taken forward will depend upon resources available. The Finance Committee in its Report on the 110th Session has identified issues of grave concern to the membership of FAO. We have commented on these and on the treatment of After Service Medical Coverage Costs and security costs in our statement on the Report to the Finance Committee. The EU recognizes the need for a core budget that is sufficient to enable FAO to discharge its mandate. Equally, we believe that there is still scope for efficiency savings. We look forward to discussing with other members to arrive at a satisfactory consensus on the size of the budget.

I should now like to turn to the supplement to the Programme of Work and Budget and the further information that has subsequently been made available. Reform is long overdue in FAO. The European Union has repeatedly called for it as have many other FAO members. We, therefore,

warmly welcome in principle the Director-General's initiative to table reform proposals that are designed to make FAO more efficient and effective, to enable FAO to rise to the serious new challenges it must face in a changing world, and to maximise its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Reform is necessary to ensure that FAO is in the mainstream of UN Reform, contributes fully to the development of country led poverty reduction strategies and further aligns its operational activities behind these strategies. We note that the reform proposals follow the publication of the discussion paper, *FAO and the Challenge of the Millennium Development Goals* in May 2005. These reform proposals have, however, been presented late, with insufficient prior consultation with Member Nations and FAO staff and in a piecemeal way. The Programme and Finance Committees, on which Members rely for guidance were unable to give a complete judgement on the merit of the proposals contained in the supplement to the Programme of Work and Budget, and these Committees have not yet had an opportunity to consider the additional information provided by the Secretariat, nor the paper *FAO Reform A Vision for the Twenty-first Century*. The Council, therefore, faces a very difficult task as it considers the material that is now available without adequate advice from these Committees.

We are also very concerned about the missing link between the reform package and the Independent External Evaluation. The EU remains deeply committed to the Evaluation and strongly believes that it can make a major contribution to the reform of FAO. We expect the Evaluation to provide an evidence base for important decisions on FAO's comparative advantage and on the priorities it should set itself, and hence on the work FAO should do, and the way in which it should be structured and staffed to do that work. Logically, therefore, the Independent External Evaluation should provide the evidence base for structural reform. Investment in changing FAO structures should therefore wait until we have the results of the Independent External Evaluation. We note that the Director-General has said that the reform proposals "seek neither to anticipate nor to prejudge" the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation. Conference must avoid taking any decisions that would do so.

We welcome many of the principles underlying the changes proposed at Headquarters, including the need for a flatter management structure, but we are concerned that the proposed new structure appears fragmented. It requires further consideration. Similarly, further reflexion is needed on the number of Sub-Regional Offices, the number of FAOR's and the reconfiguring of Sub-regions in accordance with the location of regional economic integration organizations.

The Membership needs to take a considered view of these proposed changes, and there needs to be a process through which it can give them the attention they deserve before taking major decisions on them. Such a process could include further consideration by the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council. Nonetheless, we find a number of elements in the Proposals that we welcome and believe should be implemented now. These include the proposed improvements in human resources and management, including in performance management of staff, and the proposals for simplifying and delegating decision making, and for the replacement where possible of ex-ante controls by ex- post controls. We also welcome the proposed introduction of the principle that FAO should meet the costs of Representatives in poorer countries while better off countries should pay for them. Further and stronger measures are needed to ensure that resources under the decentralized structure are concentrated where there are large numbers of hungry, poor people.

We look forward to working constructively with the Secretariat and with other members of FAO to ensure the successful reform of FAO.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

Finland speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, and we fully align ourselves to the statement by the United Kingdom held on behalf of the European Union on the Programme of Work and Budget.

The FAO Membership has called for different budget scenarios but at the moment there are effectively five of them to be discussed in the Council and Conference, these are the ZNG, ZRG and the RG scenarios for the Programme of Work and Budget and the RG and HRG scenarios for the supplement. Furthermore, the additional information provided on the reform package presents again a different budget scenario. Even though its total sum is based on the RG scenario, the budget structure is different to the ones presented in the Supplement.

The greatest problem with the budgetary scenarios, the numerous ones, is that even with additional information provided on the 24 October it is still difficult to compare the proposals. Hence, due to numerous scenarios and their structural differences, it is hard to see what the budgetary scenarios actually mean on the programme level. As laid out at the moment, I am afraid the original purpose for presenting the different scenarios seems to work against itself.

The Nordic countries have always put an emphasis on transparency of processes to guarantee a good outcome. With regard to the budgeting procedure of FAO, we once more we want to highlight the value of having thorough discussion in the Programme and Finance Committees like we have in the Technical Committees.

The importance of openness and dialogue in the process cannot but be stressed. This year the Programme and Finance Committee had too many items on their Agenda to discuss them all thoroughly, therefore the Committees focussed mainly on the reform proposals in their deliberations. The time seems to not have been sufficient for a thorough debate on the Programme of Work and Budget which is regrettable.

The Nordic Countries put added emphasis on Forestry, Fisheries, Gender issues, Genetic resources, Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention the IPPC as high priority areas in FAO's work. These operations must be sufficiently funded. We also believe that FAO has an important role to play in setting up international regulatory systems and distributing information. For instance, with the current outbreaks of the avian influenza, FAO is in a central role in both strengthening the national capacities for identifying the disease and taking necessary actions and in strengthening the information, reporting and networking capacity of the countries. FAO together with OIE and WHO, provide the central intelligence in the combat against further spread of the disease.

The Nordic countries feel that FAO is in an excellent position to stress the role of agricultural rural development as means to combat hunger and poverty. We feel that FAO should focus further on defining its comparative advantages and increase its cooperation with other international organizations to be able to fulfil its mandate and to take its rightful place in the international development architecture, and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In connection with the document the *Millennium Development Goals, the Road Ahead*, FAO emphasized the need for a uniform system where normative and operational activities complement each other. Unfortunately, this is not reflected enough as regards prioritization in the Programme of Work and Budget.

The extrabudgetary funding accounts to roughly half of FAO's budget, the Nordic Countries have called to FAO to openly plan and publicise the way in which the extra budgetary resources are being mobilised. The extra budgetary resources shape the work of FAO, the operations that receive extra budgetary funding tie up FAO personnel resources, hence they are also linked to the way the Organization can use its regular budget.

We are glad, therefore, to notice that in the current document the Programme of Work and Budget, the Trust Fund contributions are mentioned also on the programme level. This allows for a better understanding of the share of regular budget compared to extra-budgetary funds on the programme level. This is also a good start for further discussions on the role and mode of extra budgetary funding of the Organization.

The Nordic countries call for a political as well as technical decision in the coming days for finding a settlement on the budget. The agreed budgetary level should make it possible, within

reasonable limits, for the Organization to obtain an adequate match of resources and requirements. We believe that this requires a budget level in line with the Zero Real Growth proposal. At the same time the Nordic Countries want to see that, given their special nature the After-Service Medical Coverage liability and security costs are handled separately from the regular budget.

Finally, concerning the FAO Reform, we welcome the initiative of the Director-General. We also want to participate constructively in the process of building consensus on how to proceed.

The Nordic Countries are committed to the IEE process and we see it as a complementary to the reform as stated by the Director-General himself this morning.

B. B. Abdel Mohsin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

We have studied the documents with respect to this item, in particular we have looked at the three proposed scenarios for the Programme of Work and Budget. There are three possible scenarios either Zero Real Growth, Zero Nominal Growth or Real Growth.

The Council has already adopted an Independent External Evaluation and the Conference which will be beginning at the end of the week, is on the verge of adopting a package of reforms proposed by the Director-General so as to improve the performance of the Organization to make it more transparent, improve its programme delivery and also to improve the services it can offer member countries. Our Organization is facing major challenges, in addition to trying to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals, improving food security, the World Food Summit objectives and coping with increased requests for aid.

For over ten years, we have seen a steady reduction in the programme of work of the Organization and in its resources. The Organization has managed with such cuts, it has distributed its scarce resources with impressive realism and it has streamlined itself. Yet the world is attending to increase financial resources to other organizations in order to improve their efficiency, improve their working programme and increase it and that is the subject of serious study in other organizations including IFAD.

We think that the time has come for Member Nations to adopt a Real Growth Scenario for the Organization which would give the budget a boost and would go beyond the Zero Real Growth scenario that we have seen. That scenario would strengthen all the Organization's activities in particular it would strengthen the international convention, plant genetic resources, make it easier to implement the IPPC, animal health, aid to states so that they can implement trade negotiations, help in policy design and also help policies that will alleviate families suffering from HIV/AIDS. It would also help to improve all ecosystems, fisheries, the ecology in general and the environment.

These are all very important matters. FAO can offer all states enormous help and support and these matters of great importance to states, so I think that we should to adopt a Real Growth scenario for this Programme of Work and Budget.

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

My way of following your advice and in light of the time, we would not like to address the general budget aspects of the PWB but would reserve the opportunity for tomorrow morning's session where we can have a continued discussion of the PWB to do that, and we will seek the floor at that time.

However, we would like to address now the Reform Proposals, in light of the Chair's proposal to convene a Working Group this evening if possible, under his leadership. We welcome that Working Group and look forward to working with the Chairman in that capacity.

We believe the Director-General's Reform Proposals contain thoughtful and useful suggestions. We welcome his initiative to think creatively about reforming FAO and the spirit of candid and critical self-examination that prompted it. We especially are happy that he has taken the initiative to implement a process leading to reforms that we could put into place soon, rather than waiting for the results of the IEE, which we expect will be perhaps two years in the future.

We would like to offer comments on the following issues, however, that said, it seems to us premature to believe that we will be able to accept all of these Director-General's reforms at this moment, simply for the lack of time to process them.

We, therefore, look forward to the Working Group as a mechanism where we can discuss this and implement as many reforms as we possibly can where we can find consensus now.

First the budget level, the Reform Proposals documents sites a moderate budgetary increase of 2.5 percent real growth. However, the total net appropriation proposed in that document is US\$840 million a US\$90 million or 12 percent nominal increase over current levels. We do not agree with the notion that needed reform should be considered in the context of a Real Growth Budget Scenario. They should be considered on their own merit and potential budget implications thereafter may be considered.

We would like to reiterate the Ninety-fourth Programme Committee's note that the Director-General had underlined that consideration of the Reform Package should not be linked to or dependent on a precise budget level.

Second, substance. There are many suggested changes that we fully support, just to name a few: the less hierarchical nature; structure; the refocusing of FAO as a knowledge institution; the reassessment of FAO's comparative advantage; as well as, instituting majors aimed at improving staff motivation. Improving the selection process for FAO Representatives; and instituting a performance appraisal system; initiating a business process review to eliminate redundant tasks; and streamlining committee meetings.

One area that concerns us, is that the Reform Proposals seem to focus primarily on FAO's field work. We definitely want FAO's field work to be more effective and we are supportive of and it should be supportive of national, priorities. But FAO's unique advantage, a concept emphasized in the proposal itself, is its normative work and FAO has a unique not a comparative advantage in its normative work.

The Reform Proposals document recommends creation of eleven additional Sub-regional Offices, and movement of staff from Headquarters to the field. It acknowledges that training would be required, in that some of the staff would not have the requisite knowledge or expertise for the new positions.

First, we are not convinced of the creation of additional Sub-regional offices would be the most effective use of FAO's resources. Second, we believe it is too much of a gamble to create eleven new offices and hope that they will be adequately staffed and effective.

We thank the Director-General for the additional information provided in documents C 2005/3 Sup.1 Add.1. However, even with this additional information, it is difficult to compare how much would be allocated to programme under the new structure, compared to the 2004–05 Programme of Work and Budget.

One of the reasons for the difficulty is that the new structure is laid out only in terms of a Real Growth Scenario, a US\$90 million increase over the current PWB. Would FAO's normative work be fully funded under a less than Real Growth Scenario? In a world of scarce resources, we need to think in terms of trade offs, not increases.

We thank the Director-General for all of the additional information provided on the Reform Proposals. We would still find however, it difficult to make a decision at this point on the full range of proposals.

We appreciate the estimated one time transition cost presented by the Secretariat, but we believe that there must be ongoing costs which have long-term financial implications and these are not yet discussed. All types of costs should be identified in a consistent manner and presented to the Member Nations.

Third, process. The Finance Committee recognized that the pace of reform would depend on a budget level. It is normal for an Organization with many Members to require a process to discuss

proposals. If we are to move ahead we will need to fully view these proposals to decide, which proposals should be implemented now, which can be implemented with no additional cost, and which will have budgetary implications. We also need to look at how these proposals fit in with the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

We must keep in mind that reform is a process that proceeds with time. Some elements of the reform could be implemented now, others could be discussed and eventually accepted at subsequent Council meetings. We also look at the current set of proposals as a first effort of reform in the longer and broader process being laid out carefully by the Independent External Evaluation. This realization should be clearly marked in any eventual decision on the package.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

In principle, we support reform to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. We support those elements of the Director-General's proposal, which fall within the Director-General's authority, such as management and business improvement processes. We therefore support the good intentions of the Reform Proposal and acknowledge that many aspects align with our priorities. However, it has been difficult to consider proposals which were presented in a piecemeal process and without all budget scenarios to enable consideration of priorities at the programme level.

We strongly support the IEE and have been active in seeking reform through this process. We look to the IEE to provide a diagnosis to clarify, inform and guide the future focus of FAO, to ensure that the Organization focuses on its comparative advantage into the future. We, therefore, are concerned that some of the reforms, for example, the organizational restructuring would jeopardize, undermine or preempt the results of the IEE.

Restructuring the Organization is very dislocating, and the impact on staff and outcomes can have significant associated costs which need to be carefully considered by Members. For example, the US\$12 million quoted in the supplementary information has not been explained, particularly in relation to the gap between the costs of implementation and the amount being sought. Further explanation, for example, of the IT costs is required as they appear low at US\$2.1 million.

There is a possibility the IEE may suggest a different organizational structure from that proposed by the Reform Proposal. It is not clear how the IEE and the reform proposals can proceed in parallel.

We have concerns with expanding the numbers of departments and additional Sub-regional Offices which have considerable overhead costs, including costs associated with security. This is against a background of current difficulties in securing donor contributions. More explanation is needed on the authority, means of action and support to discharge responsibilities of Decentralized Offices.

On the issue of Decentralization, while we are strong supporters of Decentralization and see clearly the benefits in the South-West Pacific Region, however, the reforms present a complex and multi-layered arrangement involving FAORs, Sub-regional Offices and Regional Offices. More information about how these layers work in practice, what value they add to more effective delivery of FAO on the ground and on what basis their location will be decided is required. Related to this is the time needed to train staff in project management skills.

These comments raise the need for detailed consideration of individual elements of the reform proposals. Such consideration may identify elements which can proceed without adversely impacting on the IEE. Therefore, we support the proposal to form a working group to undertake this more detailed analysis and to report progress to Council.

We look forward to working constructively in this process.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

I recognize the time constraint. I would like to confine my intervention to the general observation on budget and reform. I would like to reserve to make an intervention in detailed points tomorrow morning.

Japan appreciates that FAO has been contributing to expanding world economy and ensuring human freedom from hunger as its fundamental objectives since its establishment. Japan is proud of contributing to FAO's accomplishment with one fifth of the total appropriation of more than US\$70 million per annum.

As the second largest donor to FAO, Japan is strongly interested in the efficient and effective management of FAO. From that point of view, Japan is concerned about the deteriorating financial condition of the Organization. According to paragraph 189 of the Programme of Work and Budget – the main document – the General Fund of FAO is suffering from an accumulated deficit of US\$90.1 million as at December 2003, or the beginning of this biennium. Due to such a large amount of deficient, the Organization is dependent on external funding. According to the Secretariat, FAO borrowed US\$15 million in October last year and afterwards around US\$40 million balance in August to October this year from external sources.

Such external borrowing incurs the payment of US\$1 000 interest per day per US\$10 million, even worsening the financial condition of FAO. According to paragraph 18 of document CL 129/4, the One Hundred and Tenth Finance Committee pointed out that future cash flow problems could even exceed the Organization's capacity to borrow externally.

Japan recognizes FAO's efforts to suppress expenditure through reduction of staff costs and the implementation of efficiency saving measures, but in spite of such efforts the financial situation of the General Fund is still worsening, accumulating a further US\$17.5 million of deficit, resulting in US\$107.6 million deficit at the end of June this year, according to paragraph 13 of the above mentioned document.

Further, the ratio of human resource costs in the FAO regular budget is higher than 8 percent, due to such high personnel costs. Substantial parts of regular activities of FAO are funded by voluntary contributions. In particular, the total amount of arrears is in a critical condition as we discussed under agenda item 7.

Such a situation of more than 40 percent of member countries having disparity in the payment of their assessed contributions is clear evidence of the fact that the size of the regular budget exceeds the resource availability of the Member Nations.

The Secretariat is proposing four budget scenarios for the next biennium. If After Service Medical Coverage liabilities and miscellaneous income are treated as recommended by the Finance Committee, each scenario needed to increase of the Assessed Contribution of each Member Nation regardless of the size of the scale, regardless if the scale is 1 percent or 0.001 percent, compared to the current biennium by 18.9 percent by High Real Growth scenario, 13.4 percent for Real Growth scenario, 9 percent for Zero Real Growth scenario and 1.2 percent increase even for Zero Nominal Growth scenario, respectively.

For example, with the real growth scenario, or so called 2.5 percent growth scenario, if a country pays US\$100 000 for 2005, it is expected to pay US\$113 000 for the next year. Given the above mentioned financial conditions under the difficult situation of the Membership to make full contribution, FAO is urged to restrain the size of the regular budget as low as possible and identify the priority areas of activities with comprehensive advantage in the UN System for the realization of efficient and effective management of the Organization. Therefore, it is a matter of financial conclusion that FAO has no other choice but to adapt below Zero Nominal Growth level for the 2006–07 regular budget. This is Japan's firm position in the Council as well as in the upcoming Conference session.

It is drawn to the attention of the distinguished delegates that Japan seriously seeks for reestablishment of sound finance of FAO and, in fact, we pledge to provide financial resources to fill; a large part of the regular budget.

As for improvement in the use of the budget, it is most for FAO to set and achieve concrete targets covering the following points: reduction of ratio of human resource costs including non-staff human resources in the total expenditure through reduction of posts for General Service staff, as well as for other staff; improvement of transparency by preventing expenditure for each and every activity; improvement of Field projects through better planning, monitoring and evaluation, and improvement of Council in the process of supervision of field projects, and improvement of efficiency through further delegation of authorities to the decentralized offices.

Regarding Miscellaneous Income, Japan observes that the fundamental reason for the financial deficient is the budget level exceeding a variety of resources for the Member Nations. We cannot accept such manipulation which does not address the root of the problem and increases assessed contribution of the Member Nations in vain.

Regarding the reform of FAO, Japan considers that it is an important issue to be addressed to achieve more efficient management, improvement in transparency and promotion of Decentralization in FAO. We recognize that some part of the proposal by the Director-General in the main body of the document and supplement and addendum go along with this concept of proposal. This includes the direction of separation of human resource expenditure, improvement in transparency and effectiveness of field projects and delegation of authority to the Decentralized Offices. However, it is regrettable that detailed information provided is linked to the Real Growth Budget scenario and consequently, we cannot confirm if these reforms could be achieved with a more restricted budget level. Furthermore, enhanced efforts are required to eliminate work on old-fashioned subjects, as described in paragraphs 34 to 37 of the additional information, of the redundancy and repetition of activities.

As for the reform of the organizational structure, which includes the establishment of 2 Departments and 16 Sub-regional Offices, the proposal would merely expand the organizational structure, both at Headquarters and Decentralized Offices and, at the same time, would cause fragmentation of Headquarters which would lead to further complication in liaison among departments and disburse the forecasts of FAO's activities.

We believe, given the limitation of available resources, what is needed for the Organization is prioritization of activities and thinning down of the organizational structure as a result of the appropriate prioritization. Regarding this point, Decentralization should be coupled with downsizing of Headquarters. In addition to this, since change of the organizational structure requires enormous efforts and resources, such changes, if required, should be implemented based on the results of the Independent External Evaluation, which is expected to be submitted before the next session of the Conference.

Finally, regarding security cost, since Japan recognizes the importance of security measures to protect human resources and assets of the Organization, Japan is ready to accept the Draft Resolution for the establishment of the Security Expenditure Facility, taking into account that the Finance Committee recognizes that acceptance of this proposal does not prejudice the discussions on the overall level of the budget.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada is a strong supporter of reform in the UN System. For that reason we are encouraged that the Director-General has taken the initiative to propose significant reforms to FAO. Canada views many of the changes proposed by the Director-General as positive and we support them. On the other hand, there are aspects of the Reform Proposals about which we continue to have questions. Some of these questions are captured in paragraphs 13, 14, 19 and 20 of the Report of the Programme Committee. For example: should the Organization, given its commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, be more selective rather than more expansive in its country and regional representation? As a second example, should the Organization increase its emphasis on

technical programming which helps countries develop concrete solutions to concrete problems rather than increasing its work in the area of advocacy?

With respect to the proposed organizational restructuring, we believe a more deliberative and evidence-based process will be necessary before we can come to firm conclusions. I will provide an example of the kind of issue which we think would benefit from further deliberation. The proposed new Programme 3H, Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building, is described in paragraphs 241--243 of the Supplement to the Programme of Work and Budget. Paragraph 242 indicates that, included in this new Programme would be: "FAO's Range of Library Services and the Global Information and Early Warning System". To our delegation, it is not easy to see how the analytical-based work of the Global Information and Early Warning System would fit with the service-based work of the libraries or the other activities grouped in proposed Programme 3H such as the identification of training opportunities mentioned in paragraph 241.

Finally, we continue to see opportunities for improving the linkages between the Director-General's reform proposals and the Independent External Evaluation, particularly as it concerns the Reform Proposals that, in our view, would benefit from further deliberation.

The suggestion of the Chairperson of the ISWG that the Independent External Evaluation undertake interim reports on some of the themes of the Director-General's reform proposals seems particularly interesting in this regard to us.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

I will try to be as simple as possible. I understand that we have two different levels of deliberation before us. One is this Council and the second is the Conference. Decisions to be taken about reform belong much more to the Conference than to this Council. I do understand that we have to take into consideration, of course, the Report by the Programme Committee which made very useful observations on the rationality for reform and guidance. This is positive. I also understand that if we have two levels from now to Friday 26 November, we should distribute our work in such a way not to mix both processes of decision. We have to decide what we are going to do here at the Council. Are we going to discuss the reform at length? Are we going to discuss every aspect of the reform? Are we going to discuss all the Reform, here, at this Council? Are we going to say no to the Director-General's proposal in this Council. I don't see this way as proper and desirable. I do think that we have to, of course, begin to consider the whole thing but at stages. And so, I agree with you in having a Working Group to discuss reform from now, through the Conference, and not to conclude our discussions on Friday, the day after tomorrow. My idea is that today we decide that the reform proposal by the Director-General is to be channelled to the Conference. We may decide that the guiding principles are acceptable. We may decide more than that. We may decide that we are in general agreement with the trend of the Director-General's proposal, but we are not going to discuss and decide here what kind of measure we are going to take during the process of reform, which is a process. It is not something to be decided at once, all at once. The reform process is a long process.

The Director-General mentioned the idea of having a kind of implementation plan. The implementation plan is essential for the consideration of the whole Reform because it will establish the pace of the implementation of reform. Of course, we will have, during the course of the process of reform, more than one Council. Next year we have a Council only in November, but we may provide that we have an Extraordinary Council in July, for instance, and then we may follow the pace taken by the Reform if we approve the general idea, the general trend, the guiding principles. And then, at the Extraordinary Council in July, we may discuss some aspects which are being applied, the effectiveness and the continuation of the process in aspects demonstrated in this implementation plan. Then, when we have a Council in November, it is a second opportunity to take into consideration measures already adopted at that time by the Director-General and the implementation plan. At the moment, we meet as a Council in November and so on.

What I am trying to say is, that we have to take carefully into consideration the idea of saying yes or no. My position and the position of Brazil is that we going to say yes. Yes, Mr Director-

General, the reform process is needed. We will be working in the next two years in a process of evaluation which, most probably, will have contributions to make on the process of reform. It is clear for me that both processes must go together, and, if we have a second Council, a third Council, and the process of evaluation is going on during this period, the process of evaluation will include progress reports on the evaluation, and so, most probably, we will have matters to consider in each of our next Council meetings. Then, the Evaluation performance will guide or will inspire this Council on what kind of suggestions we are going to make to the Director-General. How the Reform pace should be accelerated, adjusted or modified and so on. I think we should start now to say to the Director-General, yes Mr Director-General, we are going to adopt the reform as you proposed, but we need to consider its implementation during a period of time, and so let us give the Director-General as the Conference gave in 1993 the same opportunity to start his mandate with what he feels needed for this Organization. If we allowed him to start in 1993 a process of reform because he was arriving at his first mandate, I think it is our will to tell him that we are prepared to do the same now, because he has twelve years of experience, and most probably he has also the sensitivity to propose the Reform we need and we are in favour of reform. That is what I had to say. I hope I could help you in trying to arrive at a solution for what I think has to be decided in two different stages.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

One of the advantages of taking the floor last, is that one has a chance of listening to all the proposals and comments in favour or against. I believe that, at times, the situation can become even more confusing. Yesterday, a meeting was held and many of the colleagues present today also attended and, in one of my personal comments, I gave my views about the Independent External Evaluation saying that its end purpose was the reform of the Organization, as well as the improvement of the Organization's performance. But, of course, many reforms were involved. Today we have heard a number of important reports being introduced and we were given an account of the Programme of Work and Budget. The meetings of these committees in June had asked the Director-General to give his views about a major issue which is the Decentralization of FAO. Now, taking all these matters on board, and since we are hearing some people saying that it is not necessary now to discuss reform and actually to defer the matter to the next Conference, I believe that I should say that the Director-General has submitted this matter already a few months ago and the reports we have received cover the many discussions that have taken place.

I will not go into all the points contained in these consultations, however, they all shed light on a number of points and the issue of reform is still tabled and certainly a number of practical issues will stem from them as well as the impact on the social issues. By social issues, I mean the staff of FAO.

Among the matters submitted by the Director-General, there are many points that cannot be fully dealt with either today or tomorrow. Some say we should wait until we receive the results of the Independent External Evaluation and, on that basis, assess the proposal for the reform. That would leave the Organization in a great deal of confusion for programmes, for instance. Now I don't want to go into all the different budgetary scenarios. We have heard the Statement made by the Delegate of Japan who touched upon the problems confronting the Organization so I won't go into all these details. I believe that the level of the budget that we will be adopting will be such that its performance will be below of 2004 so we must be very wise in our adoption of the scenario. If we adopt the Zero Growth Scenario, our performance will be below that of 2004, and is that what we want for the Organization? How can we have such a contradiction in our attitudes. I believe that the whole matter of reform is quite simple. If we want to go for reform, there are many arguments in favour. But if we want to postpone this Reform endlessly, I am sure we will find arguments in favour of that too. I believe that our main goal should be to respond to the needs of Member Nations and also to consider the situation of the Organization both in terms of the natural resources and in terms of its staff.

By way of example, since we are speaking of financial issues, and considering that it is necessary to preserve the situation of the staff of the Organization, I think we should spare no efforts in

these areas. What about the After-Service Medical Coverage? Will the staff have to pay themselves to receive coverage. I believe that the Ambassador of Brazil was very wise in his suggestions. I think that between now and the end of the Conference, we should look into the reform and the Conference will be the sole body that will be able to rule on this matter. And I don't think we should defer this matter until the next Session because that will make the situation of the Organization even more difficult than it is right now.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Monsieur le Président, le Mali sera bref. D'ailleurs, honnêtement, quand vous avez posé la question de savoir si on allait aborder ce sujet ou attendre demain, nous étions de ceux qui voulaient effectivement que nous attendions calmement demain matin, mais un ami qui m'est très cher, le Représentant du Royaume-Uni, était déjà près à intervenir, par respect au égard à toute l'amitié que je lui porte, je me suis dit, il va certainement nous amener une très bonne parole et puis nous sommes rentrés dans cet engrenage qui va faire que l'on risque de ne pas dîner ce soir.

Je voudrais rappeler qu'au point 8 de l'ordre du jour nous nous sommes mutuellement réjouis du résultat auquel nous sommes tombé, pour la simple raison que le Groupe, Monsieur le Président, que vous aviez mis en place, a su se parler. Les divergences étaient aussi fondamentales au début mais les gens ont su se parler, les gens ont pu s'écouter avec beaucoup de respect, beaucoup de considération les uns pour les autres, et nous avons eu ce résultat. C'est pourquoi nous disions tantôt que qui le veut le peut.

Sur les deux points qui nous concernent, le point du budget rapidement. Comment pouvons-nous raisonnablement demander à une institution comme la FAO, depuis des années et des années, de faire plus, de faire mieux avec le même budget, comment est-ce raisonnable, avec tout ce qui s'est passé ces derniers temps, les mutations que nous connaissons, qu'on puisse demander à cette institution d'être plus performante, d'être plus progressive sans lui donner les moyens? Mais nous n'avons simplement qu'à penser à nous-même quand nous avons notre enfant que nous voulons l'encourager à mieux travailler mais nous lui donnons toujours quelque chose. Ce qui est valable au niveau personnel, au niveau familial, l'est aussi au niveau des organisations. On ne peut pas toujours continuer à demander plus et se fermer la poche. Donc nous pensons vraiment que c'est partie de grâce qu'on nous mette encore dans le même tourbillon auquel on a eu droit, en ce qui me concerne, lors des trois conférences précédentes et dire cela va aller comme cela. Monsieur le Président, c'est quand même symptomatique de voir qu'il faut absolument qu'il y ait une catastrophe, qu'il y ait calamité pour que les gens puissent avoir des émotions. J'ai l'impression que nous oublions ici à la FAO, que pendant que nous étions entrain de nous réunir, beaucoup de personnes sont mortes de faim mais il suffit que l'on nous montre ce soir des spots à la télévision de gens qui meurent de faim, tout le monde va s'émouvoir et donner de l'argent. On a vu une telle scène pour le tsunami car les gens donnaient tellement d'argent que l'on ne savait pas ce qu'il fallait faire de cet argent. Alors, n'attendons quand même pas que la FAO soit à ce stade pour sensibiliser les uns et les autres, de grâce!

Les réformes, qui sont proposées, répondent à des quêtes des Etats Membres. Depuis que nous sommes là, à toutes les réunions auxquelles nous avons eu à assister, des voix autorisées se sont levées pour demander des réformes pour cette Organisation. Nous entendons aujourd'hui tout le monde dire mais c'est très bien, nous-même pensions aux réformes, nous-même nous souhaitions une réforme, mais il a fallu que le Secrétariat nous propose un projet de réforme. C'est déjà de cela qu'il faut nous réjouir et alors si vous attendiez quelque chose qu'on vous propose, n'en différez pas la discussion, n'en différez pas l'approbation. Je pense que ce projet de réforme doit être dûment discuté et doit faire l'objet d'une approbation consensuelle. Il ne faudrait pas nous faire le coup aussi au Conseil de sécurité, qu'on a voulu réformer sans vouloir réformer, parce que dire à tout un continent comme l'Afrique, "venez on va réformer le Conseil de sécurité mais attention vous êtes petits, vous n'avez pas droit à la parole, vous ne pouvez pas vous opposer à nos décisions" mais c'était déjà trop tard pour le Conseil de sécurité. Ici ce n'est pas le cas, nous avons tout un tas de réformes qui correspondent à nos attentes, qui sont clairement posées. Ce qui m'étonne, c'est que des personnes intelligentes, ici, qui ont tenu des propos d'une cohérence

inouïe, auraient eu depuis le mois d'août l'occasion de dire exactement pour eux ce qui pouvait empêcher d'aboutir à une telle réforme. Jamais nous avons eu des réunions entre nous, nous avons eu des réunions avec le Directeur-Général, nous avons eu toute sorte de réunions: NON! Nous, nous pensons! Mais quand on pense, on l'exprime, alors nous disons que parole soit donnée à ceux qui ont de réels, je dis bien de réels problèmes de fonds qui les empêchent d'approuver une réforme par cette Conférence afin que l'on puisse démarrer, sinon, vraiment nous ne leur ferons plus confiance. Il est bon que dans cette maison nous nous fassions confiance mais il est surtout bon que dans cette maison nous pensions aussi que nous sommes là pour représenter des pays, des pays responsables et que le rôle de la FAO ce n'est pas simplement de palabrer mais c'est surtout concrètement de travailler sur le terrain pour qu'il y ai moins de personnes qui meurent affamées, qui meurent le ventre vide. J'estime que la nuit porte conseil Monsieur le Président et que vraiment nous devons nous tous, chacun faire un examen de conscience, réfléchir, le minimum de contribution complémentaire que l'on demande aux uns et aux autres est salulaire si nous ne voulons pas effectivement une popularisation de la FAO. Voilà mon appel Monsieur le Président.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

According to the Provisional Timetable circulated today, I think we are scheduled to have a morning session from 9:30 to 12:30 to continue on the Programme of Work and Budget. I would propose that we continue this tomorrow in order to give time for the Working Group. Otherwise, we start at 8:00 or 9:00, and it is practically useless to do so.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons donc la proposition de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur d'Egypte de suspendre nos travaux ce soir et de réunir notre groupe de travail immédiatement, enfin dans un quart d'heure, vingt minutes.

Est-ce que tous ceux qui ont demandé la parole acceptent le principe d'attendre demain pour continuer les débats?

Je lève donc la séance et la réunion du Groupe de travail aura lieu dans la salle du Liban.

Je dirais à 19 h 30, le temps que les gens se préparent car il y a une réunion du Groupe 77.

Je rappelle qu'il y aura une réunion des Présidents de Groupes dans mon bureau, demain matin à 9 heures.

The meeting rose at 19.05 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.05 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session Cent vingt-neuvième session 129º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-18 November 2005 Rome, 16-18 november 2005 Roma, 16-18 de noviembre de 2005</p>
<p>THIRD PLENARY SESSION TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>17 November 2005</p>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vice-président du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

**III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(continued)**

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

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

4. Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2006-2007 (C 2005/3) (continued)

4. Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2006-2007 (C 2005/3) (suite)

4. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto (PLP) para 2006-2007 (C 2005/3)(continuación)

CHAIRMAN

We will now take up Item 4 of the Order of the Day, Programme of Work and Budget 2006–07. I will remind you that the relevant documents which are referred to are the following: C 2005/3, C 2005/3 Corrigendum 1, C 2005/3 Supplement 1, C 2005/3 Supplement 1 Addition 1, and C 2005/INF/19.

We will continue with our list of speakers at the point at where we stopped yesterday and the first speaker this morning on my list is Eritrea.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Just for the record I would like to voice my position to the level of the budget, and I only support the minimum is a real growth, nothing less. I was tempted to say the higher real growth, but I would like to join the majority of those who are in favour of the Real Growth. So that is the level of the budget.

As to the reform, it seems that we have come to realize the importance of the Reform. The reform of the UN System started in 1996 and the credit goes to the Government of Sweden and to all the Scandinavian countries. I participated in meetings after the World Food Summit when they introduced the reform to the UN – not to FAO – but the whole UN System. When the Ambassador of Sweden came to FAO and presented the Reform, I thought it would never happen, nobody would listen to him. However, now most of the UN Organizations have gone through all this reform process, and the credit goes to the Government of Sweden, supported by all the Scandinavian countries. Now it has reached our house, and it seems that we have realized the importance. The documents and different scenarios presented are convincing evidence that FAO is ready. We give the full support of this important issue. Of course, all these ideas will be revealed in two years' time during the Conference 2007, and in that time it will be open to scrutinization and finalization, but this time we are in the process of discussing within the Council to enable implementation. Therefore, this is a welcome approach.

Romeo S. RECIDE (Philippines)

Philippines would like to join the rest of the delegations in expressing appreciation for the very hard work the Secretariat has put into the difficult task of preparing the three documents on the Programme of Work and Budget presented before us. In expressing our comments on these documents, we would like to focus on the proposed reforms, as they underpin the nature and direction of the Programme of Work.

We believe, like everybody here, that reforms are necessary for an organization to adjust to new demands generated by new environments. Structures and processes do get outmoded, and people need new skills to perform new tasks.

These reforms are welcome and laudable, but this only so if they are based on solid grounds. We acknowledge that the principles as outlined in paragraphs 26 to 39 of the Supplement are constructive and useful as a general basis for formulating reform proposals. We believe, however, that specific reforms should be based on specific reasons.

Our main concern as a developing country is that implementation of the Reforms should not disrupt the delivery of services to Member Nations whether on the field project level or in the normative function level. We have to ensure that the delivery of such services do not suffer as personnel are moved, removed or retrained. In this respect, one strategy we propose is to implement reforms in stages. We believe for instance that Reforms during this biennium can start with FAO's Decentralization, principally because it is already supported by an analytical evaluation that ensure that the envisaged benefits are well founded, the impacts are well anticipated and the requirements are well addressed. We point out some refinements, though; we think that the decentralization should come with proper delegation of authority. We wish that the level and amount of authority to be given to field offices were explained in more detail in the documents. We had wanted to see greater authority granted to the FAORs in disbursing more than the proposed US\$250 000 cap for each FAOR. This would grant flexibility to the field offices in responding to the needs of countries, especially in times of emergency.

Speaking of TCPs, we can only join the strong advocacy expressed by member countries, not only for retaining but expanding and strengthening the TCP as indeed, the Programme is FAO's cornerstone for improving the food and agriculture situation in countries. In this connection, we recommend that the parameters for processing TCPs, they revisit it, with the end of making them more facilitated. Moreover, we support the proposal to maintain the budget level of TCP at 17 percent of total budget and recommend that all efforts be exerted to protect this allocation during the reform process.

While reforms in the field may be set in motion based on the evaluation of FAO decentralization, reforms in other areas of FAO may need to be considered more carefully. Certainly providing normative functions will continue to be a major mandate of the Organization. Consideration has to be given to defining the mechanisms for delivering this function while encouraging more decentralized operations. In this light, we see the extreme importance of waiting for the results of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, for which the Council yesterday has given the go-signal to be undertaken assuming that appropriate budget is made available for its conduct.

We have been informed that various evaluations have been done in the past on specific sectoral and functional concerns of the Organization. There was, for example, the Review of Management and Administration in the Food and Agriculture Organization conducted by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2003. The evaluation of CODEX done in 2003 also, the Independent External Evaluation of the Special Programme for Food Security done in 2002, and there were many other such piecemeal evaluations. We believe, however, that only a comprehensive, global and transparent evaluation such as that envisioned in the Independent External Evaluation of FAO can provide a rational basis for a comprehensive, global and acceptable reform in the Organization.

Finally, the Philippines believe that reforms on governance of the FAO should also be pursued vigorously alongside other reforms. The Reform Package seems to gloss over these governance issues in this Organization.

Vladimir HERNANDEZ (México)

Antes que nada deseo agradecer la presentación que hizo ayer el Dr Diouf en relación a su Propuesta de Reforma, no solamente por su contenido sino también por el entusiasmo con el que lo ha expuesto, ya que consideramos que eso refleja el compromiso del Director General para dar a esta Organización el impulso, que de una u otra manera, todos hemos expresado aquí. En este sentido deseo hacer algunos comentarios generales de mi gobierno en relación a esta propuesta.

El Gobierno de México considera que las propuestas de reforma presentadas por el Director General son positivas, ya que están orientadas a dar a la FAO la capacidad que requiere para responder a las necesidades y expectativas de sus Miembros, tomando en consideración un ambiente internacional que cambia constantemente y que nos confronta con nuevos desafíos y oportunidades.

Mi gobierno considera que es muy importante que esta reforma refuerce el carácter multidisciplinario en la labor de asistencia técnica y de políticas tanto a nivel central como

descentralizado. Ello permitirá a la Organización estar en mejores condiciones de brindar apoyos y cooperación técnica de mayor calidad que permitan generar impactos favorables entre los Estados Miembros. Es relevante el planteamiento de reforzar la función de la FAO como organización de conocimientos. La generación y difusión de conocimientos es una actividad de cooperación fundamental en el apoyo a los Programas de lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, como vía para cumplir con los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio. La tecnología de la comunicación brinda nuevas oportunidades para que la FAO sea más eficaz en este sector, en particular captando y difundiendo rápidamente las mejores prácticas que emergen del intercambio de expertos y otras instituciones a través de las redes temáticas y de la experiencia de los propios programas de la FAO en los Estados Miembros.

En este contexto, mi gobierno solicita que se impulse una mayor cooperación técnica hacia los países con economías en desarrollo, sin demérito de la debida atención que se debe prestar a las necesidades de los países menos adelantados, de los países sin litoral en desarrollo, los pequeños estados insulares en desarrollo y los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit alimentario.

Al respecto, mi gobierno considera que es necesario orientar los esfuerzos de los programas técnicos hacia las principales esferas de interés de los Países Miembros, bajo un esquema de funciones centrado en el intercambio de conocimientos, asistencia en materia de políticas y creación de capacidades.

Estamos de acuerdo en que se debe fortalecer una mayor coordinación entre los Órganos Rectores de la FAO, los organismos especializados del sistema de Naciones Unidas y los Países Miembros, ya que ello permitirá identificar posibles duplicidades y contribuir a optimizar la eficacia y eficiencia del sistema de Naciones Unidas en su conjunto.

Mi delegación considera que, para enfrentar los retos del cumplimiento del objetivo de disminuir el hambre y la pobreza, la FAO debería enfocarse cada vez más a temas alimentarios y de capacidades básicas. Las estrategias de reducción del hambre deben desarrollar programas alimentarios que mejoren la situación de carencia en la que viven los hogares pobres, así como las redes de protección social para los sectores que no tienen condiciones de producir o comprar alimentos.

Asimismo, el proceso de reforma de un organismo como la FAO no debe dejar de lado la capacitación y actualización del personal a todos los niveles a fin de que éstos puedan contar con mejores herramientas para desempeñar su labor de una forma eficiente y que puedan contribuir al objetivo de la Organización.

Por último, creo que hay dos aspectos también que debemos subrayar: el primero es que con el diálogo entre nosotros debemos encontrar un equilibrio adecuado entre la Evaluación Externa Independiente de la Organización y la Propuesta de Reforma del Director General. El segundo es el saber que vamos a contar con un plan de ejecución de la Propuesta de Reforma, en el que veremos cómo se va a implementar nuestra reforma y cómo debe ir ajustando a la realidad y a los intereses de los Países Miembros.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Creo que todo lo que tenía que decir ya ha sido dicho, como dije ayer al Embajador de Egipto, es una de las ventajas de hablar por último. Me identifico plenamente con las intervenciones de los Embajadores de Brasil, Egipto y Malí. Creo que es una oportunidad que nosotros no podemos dejar pasar. Es todo lo que quería decir.

Ms A. I. PEPPLÉ (Nigeria)

My delegation commends the initiative of the Director-General in proposing the reforms, and has no difficulty in supporting its main principles and major thrusts for two main reasons. Firstly, my country, one of the major beneficiaries of FAO Field Programmes believes that some reform of FAO's operational structure is not only necessary but overdue in order to further enhance its service delivery to the Member Nations.

Secondly, as mentioned in the Report, the reform package will no doubt help consolidate some of the important processes such as the strengthening of the TCP delivery mechanism, as well as the follow-up to the reports of the External Evaluation of FAO Decentralization.

We also note with satisfaction, that the general thrust of the reform proposals are largely in line with the road map chartered by the Director-General in the Annex to the Document *FAO and the Challenges of the Millennium Development Goals - Road Ahead*, distributed to members earlier in the year.

My delegation fully endorses the Committee's emphasis on the need to ensure full harmonization of the implementation of the proposed changes in the 2006-07 biennium with the Independent External Evaluation of FAO scheduled to begin in early 2006.

However, my delegation wishes to caution that in so doing, care must be taken to ensure that the integrity and independence of the exercise are not in any way compromised or undermined. We appreciate the time-constraint faced by the Committee but we still feel that it did a fine job. In our view, the Reform Proposals is a commendable bold step worthy of support.

That said, we must admit that there are some important grey areas that will need to be addressed. It is gladdening to note that the Committee fully endorsed the rationale and guiding principles of the reform. It, however, expresses some concerns in several areas, notably: i) the de-linking of the reform package from any budget level, considering that the implementation of reforms of the scale proposed would invariably be influenced by the resources available to the Organization; ii) the reliance on extra-budgetary funding of US\$12 million to part-finance the transition costs of the reform. We can only hope that the Director-General already has some concrete sources in mind. A host of concerns on the organizational and programme structure as captured in paragraphs 13, 16, 18 and 19 of the Report.

My delegation notes the clarification provided by the Secretariat in document C 2005/3 Sup.1 Add. 1. This document has attempted to clarify some of the issues that initially appeared somewhat unsettling, but, my delegation also notes that several other issues of concern to members as captured in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Programme Committee Report, were not addressed, particularly the issue of the organizational structure and the programme re-configuration.

One agitating question in spite of the Director-General's assurances in his opening address yesterday, is this: considering the financial stringency being currently faced by the Organization and considering the job content of the proposed ten Departments, could we not do with the eight departmental structure and still be able to accommodate all the activities? The justification for splitting the work on livestock production and animal disease control, the placement of gender equity in the Department for Alliances and Rural Livelihoods rather than in the Economic and Social Development Department, creating a whole Department for Alliances and Advocacy Initiatives have all been queried by the Committee. The point being made is that although the Reform Proposal is welcome, there is still considerable room for finetuning it, and Council needs to assure itself that this will be done.

My delegation views the absence of any concrete proposals in the reform package on the governance structures and procedures in FAO a major gap in the Director-General's proposal. We hope that the IEE will help out on this and other grey areas pointed out already by various speakers. We would go along with the suggestion that a broad implementation plan for the reform be worked out when the budget level is known, but we would suggest that the Council be delegated the responsibility of overseeing the final process of implementation through the appropriate Council Committee.

In this connection, my delegation wishes to re-echo the position taken by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees (document CL 129/2) that " the Membership would need to ensure a process to consider and monitor further developments and follow-up actions including an implementation plan covering financial, programmatic and organizational aspects as well as timeframe developed by the Secretariat to give effect to the decisions of the Conference".

While I have the floor, may I make a few comments on the Programme of Work and Budget? The Programme Committee rightly focussed its discussion mainly on the supplement document C 2005/3-Sup.1 and requested for further information and clarification on the reform proposals as they relate specifically to programme formulation alignments and priority-setting, but did not have the opportunity of a further review of the Secretariat's response as captured in document C 2005/3-Sup.1-Add.1, to enable to advise Council appropriately. Be that as it may, my delegation with our understanding of the reform package we wish to make the following brief remarks:

On programme thrust and priorities, we applaud the efforts of Management in not only preserving but proposing to strengthen those programmes that not only meet the priorities of Members but also are within the ambit of clear comparative advantage for FAO. Such areas include the Technical Cooperation Programme, Standard Setting, Codex, IPPC and so on knowledge generation on management institutional capacity-building policy advice and advocacy. This is without prejudice to our comments on the concerns expressed by the Programme in paragraphs 13, 16, 18 and 19 of their reports.

My delegation commends the Management for the continuous set for efficiency savings as outlined in paragraphs 101 to 137 of the main Programme of Work Report and paragraphs 105 to 131 of the supplements.

Striving for efficiency and productivity gains is obviously a continuous process that obviously the scope will be declining with time. My delegations appreciate the clear analysis of risk inherent in the proposed Programme of Work.

In addressing the problem within the context of the difficult cash flow situation of the Organization, the Director-General has proposed that Member Nations be required to pay their assessed Contributions without deductions of miscellaneous income. We support this proposal as well as the accompanying resolution for adoption by the Conference. On the proposal for the FAO security expenditure facility, my delegation supports the proposal but we continue to hope that this will not have a major impact on the resources available for Programme implementation. We further support the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference. On the budget level, Nigeria is delighted to note that a majority of members of the Programme Committee favour a real growth budget. However, as the Finance Committee observed, a 2.5 percent growth budget coupled with additional US\$14.1 million ASMC would result in an overall increase of Assessed Contribution of over 12 percent. This no doubt, will place considerable stress on some countries, including my own. But the increased demand for FAO services makes such increase inevitable if these demands are to be met.

My delegation, therefore, supports the Draft Resolution in Annex I of the Supplement Document C 2005/3/Sup.1.

Aomar AIT AMER MEZIANE (Algérie)

Mon intervention qui sera brève, portera sur le point lié à la réforme que le Directeur général a eu l'heureuse initiative de proposer pour permettre à notre Organisation de s'inscrire non seulement dans le processus des réformes engagées dans le système des Nations Unies, mais aussi et surtout de recentrer les activités de la FAO en se concentrant sur les domaines présentant un avantage comparatif, pour mieux aider les pays Membres à réaliser les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Il n'est pas nécessaire de rappeler ici, le contenu détaillé des propositions de réforme, le Directeur-Général ayant, dans son intervention à l'ouverture de nos travaux, clairement présenté le pourquoi et le contenu de cette réforme.

Nous sommes tous convaincus qu'il ne s'agit pas là d'une proposition unilatérale de sa part, mais elle découle de la large concertation qu'il a engagée avec les pays Membres, et répond à la plupart de leurs préoccupations et de leurs attentes.

Nous ne pouvons donc que soutenir le Directeur Général dans sa démarche pragmatique pour la concrétisation des propositions pertinentes qu'il a formulées, que ce soit en matière de hiérarchisation des priorités, de restructuration du Siège, de renforcement des Représentations régionales et sous-régionales, de décentralisation de la décision de suivi, d'évaluation, de contrôle, et j'en passe, pour mieux rapprocher les compétences de la FAO aux pays.

Comme l'a si bien dit son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, et nous le rejoignons tout à fait, ce n'est ni aujourd'hui au Conseil, ni la semaine prochaine à la Conférence, que nous allons examiner et statuer sur le contenu détaillé de cette réforme.

C'est un processus dynamique qu'il faudra accompagner et l'évaluation externe indépendante y sera d'un apport certain.

C'est à l'élaboration du programme d'exécution de cette réforme que nous devrions accorder une attention particulière. Je terminerai par l'aspect financier, lié à cette réforme, qui a priori ne nécessiterait pas de fonds additionnels substantiels; le Directeur-Général l'a d'ailleurs clairement souligné dans son intervention. Donnons-lui donc le feu vert.

Nous réitérons ici l'appel lancé en direction des pays Membres qui n'ont pas encore versé leurs contributions, à consentir les efforts nécessaires pour améliorer la situation financière de la FAO, et contribuer ainsi à l'engagement de cette réforme dans les meilleures conditions.

YOUNG-GU LEE (Republic of Korea)

We would like to appreciate the Secretariat for the huge efforts in preparing the four budget scenarios.

As the tenth largest contributor to FAO, the Republic of Korea supports the Zero Nominal Growth scenario for 2006-07 budgets.

Even the Zero Real Growth scenario proposed by the Secretariat means 7.8 percent budget increase which is very difficult for us to accept.

Domestically, we are suffering from the continuing economic depression, and there has been a significant increase in assessment from various international organizations in recent years, and in short-term, it is difficult for us to meet these increasing demands for assessment.

We also would like to point out that the financial situation of FAO is deteriorating, considering the increasing arrears from Members and the General Fund's deficit.

Having said that, we would like to ask FAO to focus on efficiency savings rather than try to enlarge the size of the Organization, especially, we ask FAO to present concrete target in efficiency savings, and to develop indicators for monitoring the progress and comparing its performance with other international organizations or private sectors.

Regarding the reform proposal, we welcome the proposal in that the Organization needs to adapt itself to the environmental change, and we believe it is right time.

We would like to emphasize that the reform should be focused on improve efficiency and effectiveness in addressing the Members' needs.

In this context, we agree with the reform proposal that the FAO needs adjusting the programme structure, strengthening the partnership with other organizations and a reinforcing monitoring, evaluation and oversight system. However, we have concerns over the Reform Proposal in some aspects.

The reform proposal is based on a real growth budget scenario, which surely is lead to burden much cost on member countries, and we believe it is not what we want. Again, I would like to emphasize that the reform be focused on efficiency improvement.

Increasing the number of headquarter departments and Subregional Offices may disperse the Organization's limited resources and may result in the cost increase.

Finally, we need more time to review the reform proposal. The reform should be made after sufficient consultation with member countries. In addition, the reform should consider the on-going Independent External Evaluation. Therefore, we need to wait the results of the Independent External Evaluation.

Tony HALL (United States of America)

The United States of America remains a very strong supporter of FAO and its vital mission to address global hunger and sustainable development.

Throughout my lifelong work in helping people overcome poverty and hunger, I have often reflected on what individuals and organizations can do. I think it is important for each of us to focus on those areas in which we can have the most impact.

The United States of America believes that FAO can make the greatest contribution to global food security through its normative work, where FAO has a unique advantage. These areas include the standard setting bodies on food safety and plant health, which facilitate trade and protect consumers, as well as FAO's comprehensive data for all agricultural commodities, forest and fishery products, which represent the latest analyses on major areas within FAO's competence. FAO also plays a unique role in helping countries control pest outbreaks, animal diseases, and recover from natural and other disasters.

Just last night I returned from Guatemala from a very short visit where I travelled with the FAO Representative, and I saw how he was teaching the indigenous people of Guatemala how to grow better crops to get more yield, and this is what FAO can do well, and something that they should continue to focus on.

The main topic we are addressing under this agenda item is the budget level for the 2006–07 biennium. The budget which we adopt for FAO should be scaled to Members' ability to pay. Currently, 64 FAO Members (about a third of the Organization's Membership) are in arrears. For 2005, 59 countries have not made any of their Dollar payments to FAO; and 68 have not made any of the Euro payments. For our part in the United States of America, we have not yet received our appropriation from Congress, so we have not been able to pay our full Assessed Contribution for 2005.

Arrears for 2004 and earlier, total US\$65 million; this is equivalent to approximately 8 percent of the budget for the current biennium. The payment of these arrears would represent an 8 percent increase in assessed payments.

The Organization faces a chronic situation of pervasive late payments and arrears, and after a US\$100 million budget increase in the 2004–05 biennium, it is clear that we need a pause in budget growth in order to give members a chance to catch up. We do not believe it is realistic to adopt a growth budget, particularly since members are having difficulty paying their current assessments.

My Government continues to advocate budget discipline, accountability, efficiency and prioritization of the activities of international organizations and we continue to support a Zero Nominal Growth budget. In this respect, it is important to keep in mind that voluntary contributions represent about half of the resources available to FAO, and that voluntary contributions are continuing to rise.

The United States of America continues to support the work of FAO, but we believe the Organization and Member Nations must be realistic about what is possible. It is not healthy for FAO to attempt to operate under virtual budgets that cannot be fulfilled.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

J'aimerais d'entrée vous dire que je n'interviens pas ici en temps que spécialiste de la finance mais pour associer ma voix à tous ceux qui croient en l'existence de notre Organisation commune. Le point en débat est un point capital. Se taire serait vouer au suicide, se taire serait ignorer aussi l'existence des affamés de par le monde. Le fondement de mon intervention est ici et maintenant,

l'appel pressant que nous souhaiterions lancer à l'ensemble des Membres du Conseil. Depuis tant l'on prescrit, les discours foisonnent de partout au sujet de la sous-alimentation de la pauvreté extrême des populations vulnérables mais la réalité concrète est qu'aucune sensibilité ne se fait montre de façon fatale face à ce désarroi au quotidien. C'est le lieu par excellence d'affirmer avec force qu'il s'agit là d'un discours trompeur, car comment comprendre qu'au moment où l'Organisation doit aller de l'avant, on assiste de plus en plus à des inégalités les plus criantes. Comment comprendre, que les objectifs du Millénaire que nous devons farouchement concrétiser soient délaissés en second plan par manque de volonté politique des États Membres. Comment comprendre que les Etats qui ont des arriérés, puissent rester indifférents face aux nombreux appels de détresse de l'Organisation. Rappelons- nous encore aujourd'hui que 815 millions de personnes souffrent encore de sous- alimentation à travers le monde, notamment, dans les pays en développement. Souvenons-nous des images affolantes sur la faim et la pauvreté qui sont régulièrement projetées par les medias. Souvenons-nous des signaux forts du Comité financier qui attire notre attention sur la situation financière de l'Organisation qui peut s'empirer si l'on y prend garde. Sommes-nous fiers d'appartenir à une Organisation qui s'endette désormais à un rythme effrayant à cause des égoïsmes de certains Membres. Sommes-nous sérieux? Et quelle honte si une évaluation externe de la FAO demandait à corps et à cris en rassurant que des moyens substantiels soient assemblés en un lieu sûr puissent aujourd'hui marquer le pas avec un avenir non rassurant à cause d'une mobilisation initiale lente de fonds.

Le moment est venu d'être franc avec nous-même de nous déterminer avec franchise et respect pour que l'universalité, ce principe cher qui doit prévaloir ici, soit une réalité concrète. Monsieur le Président, j'ai suivi avec un intérêt tout particulier le discours du Directeur général hier au sujet du Programme de travail et budget. Il a été clair. Trois propositions de scénarios sont soumises à notre appréciation. La croissance réelle zéro. La croissance réelle selon lui avec une augmentation de 2,5 pour cent par an, la croissance nominale zéro avec une régression probable de 5,7 pour cent. Si nous sommes déterminés à enrayer la faim dans le monde, pourrions-nous hésiter de porter notre choix sur le scénario le plus approprié, c'est-à-dire celui de croissance réelle qui doit permettre à l'Organisation d'honorer ses engagements vis-à-vis de ses États Membres avec dignité et détermination. De manière sincère, la croissance nominale zéro est-elle la voie de sortie idéale pour l'Organisation quand on se réfère à la masse critique exercée sur ces résultats? La croissance réelle zéro adoptée depuis toujours à chaque Conférence, plonge visiblement aujourd'hui l'Organisation dans un processus infernal d'endettement. Saurons-nous encore aujourd'hui, de façon sincère, au vue des exigences de l'Organisation et des réformes que l'on entend mener, reconduire ce scénario qui a déjà montré ses limites.

Monsieur le Président, si nous sommes sérieux et sincères avec nous-mêmes ne serait-il pas plausible qu'une croissance réelle acceptable par tous, avec un impact visible à la hauteur de nos aspirations soit approuvée pour permettre à l'Organisation d'aller de l'avant. C'est le lieu de déclarer haut et fort que ne pas le faire serait nier notre propre existence, et au-delà accepter de façon tacite que tout ce qui est prononcé comme discours pour le bien de l'humanité n'est que démagogie trompeuse. Notre appel se fonde sur le fait que tous ensemble, en rangs serrés, écoutant les cris et le désarroi des 815 millions d'affamés, tous ensemble, Monsieur le Président, acceptons de donner vie à l'Organisation avec des moyens conséquents pour lui permettre de réaliser au mieux ses nobles missions. Tous ensemble, rejetant les égoïsmes, rejetant la vision de gérer avec efficacité dotons des ressources requises l'Organisation si la personne de notre obédience est placée aux affaires. Cette vision hautement fatale ne pourrait que compromettre notre avenir commun.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

I gave Canada's comments on the Director-General's reform proposals yesterday. I will restrict my comments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation first wishes to thank the Secretariat for the work it has done in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget itself and we compliment the Secretariat on the high quality of the document.

We found the presentation of the various budget scenarios extremely helpful in consulting within our Government and developing our views.

Canada supports the work of FAO and recognized that a solid FAO programme is important to developed and developing countries alike.

With respect to Canada's priorities within the Programme of Work and Budget, we have set these out in our interventions at the meeting of the Council in June and these continue to be our priorities.

With respect to the overall budget level, Canada is comfortable with proposals for modest levels of additional resources which focus on allocating resources to areas which are core to FAO's mandate.

We also welcome the continuing focus on obtaining efficiency savings that can be reallocated to priority areas and we will participate actively in further discussions on how we could contribute to its success.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

Thailand commends FAO in its efforts to restructure itself in the attempt to meet changing needs of member countries and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The FAO Reform Package, as has been designed, will undoubtedly have strong repercussions, not only within the Organization, but also in its works in Member Nations.

A couple of years' ago, Thailand launched a bureaucratic reform within the government machinery. One of the preconditions was that there was no increase in the number of staff and the overall expenditure on salaries and wages. The reform in Thailand has not been completed yet; it is an ongoing process. I suggest that in the implementation of the FAO reform, attention must be paid to the level of the budget available. Reform and budgeting are closely linked and cannot be considered separately.

Through reform, certain segments will be given more emphasis, whereas others will become less important, or even obsolete. Setting priorities in terms of targets and goals with a new vision into the future is of course needed to realign ourselves to meet customers' needs, in our case, the member countries. What is more challenging, however, is how to carry out the reform process effectively and efficiently, without a drain on our scarce development resources. For example, we may ask ourselves whether the resources required for new country offices and Sub-regional Offices will deprive those countries of the chance to get more resources for their development projects. Will our investment in IT and human resources development lessen the need for more country offices? We need to look into these questions more closely.

Within the Organization, staff redeployment is inevitable under the reform. For those who remain, they must be trained and retained; for those leaving, reasonable financial and non-financial benefits need be offered, taking into consideration their devotion and services and to the Organization.

With all these comments, in addition to the forthcoming study of the Independent External Evaluation Team and the report by the Working Group, the FAO Reform will certainly meet its objectives and goals.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland)

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, I wish to commend you, Chairperson, for the usual able manner you are directing this meeting.

I also thank the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the Secretariat for the excellent introduction to the discussions of the 2006–07 Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation wishes to confine its comments on three issues, namely the proposed reforms, the budget level and the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

With respect to the reforms, my delegation is, in general, supportive of this programme. An organization which cannot respond to changing needs and challenges of our time, may ultimately find itself obsolete and irrelevant. However, we believe, as other delegations which have spoken before us, that more details still need to be provided on this item.

It is against this background that we support the Committee established yesterday under your Chairmanship and further hope that through its initiatives, more clarity will be provided on such reforms. However, our hope is that such reforms will translate into more efficient delivery by FAO, particularly with respect to achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

We are also encouraged that the survey conducted by FAO earlier this year, as reflected from paragraphs 42–46 of the main PWB document (C 2005/3), closely adheres to the intended achievements of the MDGs. Like others who have spoken before us, we call for complementarities between the reform process and the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

The issue of the budget level is normally a source of protracted debate. One wonders why this has become a ritual in our deliberations. I say this because while we do realize that resources are always limited, it cannot be true that all of us here do not acknowledge the enormous challenges currently facing our agriculture and the precarious food situation in many of our countries. There is widespread hunger, poverty, as well as a high incidence of chronic diseases such as HIV/AIDS. It is only agriculture, through efforts of our member countries and FAO, which can offer pragmatic and tangible solutions to these problems. This option will, of necessity, call for more resources to be pumped into agriculture.

How then can we expect our Organization to face up to these challenges without a realistic budget support? In paragraph 215 of document of C 2005/3, we are told that security expenditure alone is fast becoming unsustainable, within the current static budget. This excludes normal cost escalations and arrears. It is against this background that my delegation implores this meeting to adopt a 2.5 percent increase in our budget, which translates to a Real Growth Scenario. Otherwise, my delegation believes that it would be unfair to continue to request the Secretariat to make analysis of the various scenarios if we know that, at the end of the day, a Zero Nominal Growth scenario will prevail.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). My delegation fully subscribes to the statement made by the Africa Group yesterday. We strongly support this programme, as it has made a very significant and positive impact on our agriculture and food security in my country, Swaziland. Therefore, we support the suggested improvements, as reflected in paragraph 459 of document C 2005/3.

Kaman NAINGGOLAN (Indonesia)

My delegation appreciated the FAO Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the Report.

My delegation also fully supports the reform, as proposed by the Director-General, but we should not forget that FAO should focus on its commitment to halving hunger and poverty by 2015, which is one of the most important of the Millennium Development Goals.

Perhaps, FAO's work should focus on the extension and spreading out of the previous and current success pilot projects to reach more hungry and poor people.

Capacity building for Member Nations, especially developing countries, is important in order to make activities – initiated by the Organization to Member Nations – sustainable and have greater impacts.

Indonesian experience in implementing one of the programmes SPFS, for example is a good example on how this programme helps alleviate hunger. This effort must also be followed by a vision monitoring system. In this context, we support the idea of Independent External Evaluation.

In view of increasing efficiency and reducing costs, one alternative that we are thinking about is that FAO could use available domestic resources, especially in employing experts. FAO should be

able to reduce costs on personnel, as well as to increase budget for programme purposes. Of course this is a difficult situation due to the budget constraints FAO is now facing.

While the introduction of new departments within the Organization, for example, could strengthen Organization professionalism and its services to other member countries, on the other hand, it could bill more expenditure to the Organization. Therefore, balancing expenditure and professional services should be considered thoroughly.

Allow me to take this opportunity to inform you regarding the outstanding obligation of Indonesia. Due to some circumstances that have affected the country, especially in our fiscal difficulty; as you all know Indonesia was hit by the Tsunami in Sumatra and recently influenced by the increasing price of oil which, of course, will affect the Government's fiscal budget. Nevertheless, we will make an effort to handle our obligation.

Adel JALILI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of the Near East Group and Member Nations in the Region, I would like to express our concern in giving an even lower profile for some important subjects such as: horticulture; water; and rangeland management.

As we know, horticulture and rangeland plays an important role in rural economy, food production and, most importantly, as a biodiversity resource.

We are so surprised to see that in an institution with main responsibilities of food production, genetic resources conservation and ecosystem rehabilitation, such an important subject as rangeland management, within its current programmes, and even its proposed structure, are gradually eliminated.

As we know, two major ecosystems – forests and rangelands – in parallel and, somehow, interrelated, do play an important role as a source for food production as a future genetic resources and a key role in climate balancing. As we know, all crops that feed us today are part of rangeland ecosystems.

Fortunately, forestry has captured a good ground within FAO programmes and its structures, but for rangelands issues there is not such an optimistic direction.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación de Cuba desea plantear sus comentarios y sus puntos de vista sobre el PLP y la Propuesta de Reforma del Director General.

En primer lugar, agradecemos a la Secretaría por la elaboración de un PLP más pequeño que en años anteriores aunque consideramos que esta Organización debe seguir trabajando para lograr un documento aún más reducido que permita una mejor comprensión y análisis por parte de los Países Miembros. Reconocemos que es un inconveniente el análisis de cuatro hipótesis de presupuesto para el bienio y recomendamos trabajar para lograr que en el futuro la propuesta de presupuestos de esta Organización sea única. También mostramos nuestra preocupación, al igual que lo han hecho varios Países Miembros, acerca de la situación financiera que viene presentando la Organización en los últimos años, corroborada por el Director-General en la presentación de este PLP donde se dice que en los últimos doce años la financiación proporcionada por los Estados Miembros ha disminuido en un 24 por ciento en cifras reales, lo que contrasta con un aumento de la demanda de servicios solicitados por los propios países que componemos esta Organización.

Llamamos la atención acerca de la tendencia que nos presenta el PLP en el párrafo 94 sobre la concentración de los proyectos de campo de la FAO en un número limitado de países y esferas técnicas y, en ese sentido, deseamos recalcar la importancia y que los recursos extra-presupuestarios de los cuales disponga la Organización puedan ser utilizados en cualquier país donde sea necesario poner en práctica la acción de la FAO.

Mostramos también nuestra satisfacción por lo planteado en los párrafos 95 y 97 referente a que la FAO debe encaminar sus esfuerzos no sólo a movilizar recursos para programas y proyectos en ejecución sino además que se desempeñe una función catalizadora en el incremento del flujo global de recursos para el sector agrícola así como el reforzamiento de su colaboración con otras agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, especialmente en acciones en el terreno.

Sobre la decisión de presupuestos que se adopte, la delegación de Cuba desea llamar la atención lo siguiente: la decisión de aplicar una hipótesis de crecimiento nominal cero para el presupuesto del próximo bienio, tal como se aplicó en el actual, traerá consecuencias significativas para la mayoría de las actividades que realiza la FAO y la imposibilitará de cumplir eficazmente con su mandato tal como ha sido puesto en el documento del PLP, en los párrafos del 2.48 al 2.58. Por lo tanto, y en este sentido, apoyamos la aprobación durante la próxima Conferencia de una hipótesis de crecimiento real que permita conceder a todos los programas de la FAO una financiación más acorde con los objetivos planteados por los órganos de esta Organización.

Respecto a la Propuesta de Reforma del Director-General, nuestra delegación quiere plantear su total apoyo a este proceso y desea también apoyar la intervención realizada ayer por el distinguido representante de la Delegación de Brasil acerca de que debemos otorgar luz verde al Director General para aplicar esta reforma e igualmente iniciar un proceso de diálogo entre todos los miembros de esta Organización desde aquí hasta la Conferencia e incluso después de la Conferencia en períodos ulteriores de los órganos de esta Organización, para ir canalizando estas propuestas de reforma para lograr mejores resultados y mayor eficiencia.

Nurul ALAM (Bangladesh)

I would like to support the reform programme the Director-General has put forward. Reform is necessary for improvement of any dynamic organization for addressing changes that are needed to face the challenges.

I would like to emphasize on FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme. With TCPs, the countries like Bangladesh benefit from the programme because they are implemented and address the field problems. However, there are some setbacks and weaknesses in the programme: they are very short; sometimes provisions for consultants consume most of the funds or even the FAO high overhead cost consumes the funds of the TCP.

As I said, TCP has very important programmes for agricultural growth and solving problems. I should like to emphasize that TCP should address regional problems such as resource management, because natural water resources are common rivers and water bodies which pass through several countries in the region. A common programme coordinated by FAO, I am confident, will bring benefit to the farmers and people of the region. Similarly, common regional natural programmes on pest management and quarantine matters, genetic resources and biotechnological products and the currently GMO R&D type of programmes will help the regional countries in improving their agricultural growth.

TCP may create Trust Funds for a sustainable programme development and implementation in a meaningful way, since the life of a TCP is short. I would to emphasize to consider continuing the life of TCP based on the nature of the programme.

TCP should not have too many foreign consultants but should provide human resources development for national capacity-building through training programmes.

Reform is necessary for increasing effectiveness and efficiency and technical quality of FAO's output. I would like to emphasize that the reform should consider the suggestions I have made regarding the TCP.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

Brazil has intervened on this item yesterday but focused on the question of the Director-General's Reform proposals. I would like to address now a few other issues regarding the Programme of Work and Budget.

We commend the Secretariat's continued efforts to implement further efficiency savings, nevertheless and being merely realistic, we must recognize that we are closely stretching the Organization's resources to unbearable limits.

FAO has been operated under budget reductions for a period of over 10 years now, longer than any other Agency in the United Nations system. On the other hand, as many speakers have pointed out before, the demands on FAO's capacity to fulfil its mandate are ever-increasing including expansion of work towards fairly new grounds which have called for and deserve the consideration of the world community, such as aquaculture and support to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. New goals and priorities have been proposed, most importantly those related to the implementation of the MDGs but without the resources to match.

No International Organization can be treated as an enterprise. The business it does and the product it offers are of a different nature. FAO's business is development which reflects in the short-term as its most urgent tasks of both alleviating global poverty and extraneously combating hunger. Its main product is technical assistance to developing countries, in particular those in greatest need. FAO does not buy and sell, does not operate in the market. FAO's noble task is to combat hunger and promote development.

On the normative side, FAO is doing fairly well and we should recognize in this particular area, the extraordinary confidence of its Secretariat, helping the entire community of nations in a world increasingly complex, where norms are an essential instrument to avoid disaster. FAO is and should increasingly confirm its nature as a multi-lateral agency which will be based on and follow the decisions taken by its Member Nations for the realization of the common good.

Brazil strongly favours a Real Growth Scenario for 2006--2007. Against this background, Brazil reiterates its concern with the ever-growing tendency to inflate FAO's extra-budgetary funding. It is a trend whose practice may put at risk and even goes counter to the Organization's multilateral nature. In this regard, Brazil aligns itself with the statement of Finland that spoke yesterday on behalf of the Nordic countries. It is correct to say that extra-budgetary funds are welcomed but their application should follow general political instructions emanated from the whole membership. Brazil calls to FAO to openly plan and publicize the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources.

As has been noted, the extra-budgetary funding ties up FAO's staff and resources, thus encroaching on the Organization's ability to use its regular budget in accordance with the framework of decisions taken by all Members. The multilateral nature of the Organization needs to be safeguarded. FAO cannot become a simple agent for the implementation and administration of interest of a few donors, usually developed countries. Greater transparency, particularly in the Programme of Work and Budget would be an excellent first step towards further discussions on the role and modes for the more proper application of extra-budgetary funding of FAO.

Transparency in the use of extra-budgetary funding is also central when it comes to FAO's studies and publications. The Organization's credibility and impartiality as a key provider of technical knowledge in its mandated areas may not be put at risk.

As a matter of fact, in the recent past, FAO has granted its seal to some studies financed by extrabudgetary resources which have not respected its international nature and risk to jeopardize developing countries' interests in trade disputes. As dispute settlement within the mechanisms of WTO grows in importance and number, FAO should double its concerns with neutrality and properly use its widely respected name and logo.

In the name of transparency and for the benefit of the Organization itself, FAO should urgently revise its policy regarding sensitive studies and publications. Visible and clearer disclaimers must be accompanied by adequate information on the source of financing for studies in politically sensitive fields, so as to allow readers to evaluate their neutrality or eventual doctrinal inclinations.

Finally, as many Members have expressed their views on programmes to which priorities should be given, we would like to state for the record the fundamental importance of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programmes. We emphasize the complementary nature of normative and operational activities and regret that FAO's Technical Cooperation work is not given first priority and growing strength. It is in the highest interest of developing countries that we stress here the importance of this particular field of FAO's activities.

Brazil supports measures that enhance FAO's effectiveness in new fields such as the implementation of the right to food, organic and family farming, as well as the continuation and greater attention to capacity-building in the various areas of interest to the developing countries.

Rajiv DOGRA (India)

In reference to your advice to restrict observations to a minimal, we would only like to confine ourselves to the issue of reform and, at the very outset, one would like to join the various other predecessor countries in supporting the Reform. It is in the right and responsibility of any management to adopt and adapt the Organization to the changes and we feel that we need to endorse this strongly.

Subject to that, there are only two issues one would like to mention to seek some clarification and elaboration from the Secretariat. One is the Subregional set-up. A considerable role is assigned to the FAO Representatives. It is our understanding that so far the country representatives have reflected a large resource pool. Now the point we would like to be reassured on and clarified is that the resource pool will continue. It will not become a mechanism to insist on specific areas of specialization for various regions because that will only restrict the choice of the appointing authority, in the sense that in every region you will have to have representatives from various specialities, in order of complementarity. We hope that this aspect has been given due attention at the formulation stage.

The only other thing we would want the assurance that the reform process will not be so rigid as to rule out adaptations and corrections in the light of the Independent Evaluation Report.

Ángel SARTORI ARELLANO (Chile)

Quiero referirme específicamente al tema de la reforma. Para nuestro país esta Organización ha tenido una importancia relevante para los logros que el desarrollo agrícola manifiesta en Chile, y como nos preocupa y nos interesa que la Organización cumpla con cada uno de sus mandatos de la mejor manera posible, consideramos que el proceso de reforma es un proceso más que necesario, ineludible. Sin embargo, los procesos de reforma de cualquier institución deben ser procesos permanentes para adaptarse a las necesidades cambiantes que toda organización sufre, y es necesario que se hagan con la mayor participación, que haya un trabajo estrecho entre la propia Organización y, en este caso, los Estados Miembros.

En Chile está la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Nuestro país está comprometido con los programas de esta Organización. Ha hecho suyo el Programa de Cooperación Sur Sur. Nos interesa participar en estos programas y poder entregar y recibir la experiencia de otros países. Por lo tanto, nos interesa también que el proceso de reforma sea un proceso participativo y tengamos la visión de los más amplios sectores. En esto es necesario también definir con claridad qué es lo que hace la FAO, cuáles son las ventajas y cuáles son los apoyos que la FAO debería dar a sus Estados Miembros. ¿Es normativo? ¿Es exclusivamente de cooperación técnica? ¿Se debería promover la investigación silvoagropecuaria? Hay una serie de temas realmente importantes y que deberían ser abordados en una reforma seria y profunda que responda a las reales necesidades de la actualidad.

Ciertamente, mejorar las capacidades de los Estados Miembros para afrontar los problemas de la producción, el desarrollo rural, el comercio agrícola, y poder reforzar las capacidades propias es muy importante. ¿Cómo no va a ser interesante el tema de poder reforzar todo lo que significan los controles de las enfermedades transfronterizas? Hay temas en los que esta Organización tiene ventajas sobre otros organismos multilaterales. Por lo tanto, nuestra delegación comparte las

preocupaciones de una reforma profunda que responda, reitero, a las necesidades actuales, y considera que la evaluación externa debería ir muy estrechamente relacionada con los procesos de modificación de la Organización. Que sean simultáneos y que tengan grados de articulación con el propósito de que ambas iniciativas se potencien y finalmente entreguen un producto que nos permita disponer de una Organización capaz de responder a los desafíos actuales. Esta es nuestra preocupación, nos interesa un reajuste de la Organización en los términos más modernos posibles. Se ha hablado de eficiencia, eficacia, poder focalizar los recursos limitados a las necesidades de los países que son francamente ilimitadas. Tendríamos que priorizar. Se han mencionado una serie de programas y actividades que marcan las prioridades de los países. Nuestro compromiso es participar en la Organización, participar en los reajustes organizativos necesarios, pero llamamos a una participación activa de todos los Estados Miembros y a la evaluación externa, procesos que finalmente confluyan a entregar una Organización que responda a los desafíos actuales.

Yasser SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to ask for your permission to give the floor to Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on this regard.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Observer for Zimbabwe)

Allow me to align myself with statements that have been made before, in particular by the Chairman of the Africa Group and the Ambassador of Egypt and those that were made by Brazil, India, Mali, Congo, Bangladesh, Finland in respect of items such as the extra-budgetary resources, TCP, decentralization, reform and the resource allocation for the Organization.

The Government of Zimbabwe fully appreciates and agrees to the basic principles and proposals for the reform of FAO. The reality we face, particularly in Africa, is that poverty continues to increase and the absolute number of malnourished is projected to increase. We need to reform organizations such as FAO in order to focus our efforts to areas that will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the commitment that were made under the World Food Summit. In this respect, the Government of Zimbabwe is willing to engage the Organization further in the reform process to ensure the Reform succeeds and delivers the deserved results among the people. We would want to appeal to the general membership of FAO to support the reforms, both in principle and with the adequate resources that are required to ensure the one-term transitional course.

Many questions have been posed by the members. In general, we were encouraged to find that Members are not questioning the reforms, but Members are talking about the how. We begin from the premise that there can not be any singular formula to embark on reforms but that the objective must be deemed to bring about improvement in the operation of the Organization. We therefore wish to commend the Director-General for having tabled a document. After consultations with Member Nations and the staff, a process which we believe will continue to progress as this process continues. He has sought to address some of the concerns that have been burning in this Organization, to the extent that we have over the years requested the FAO to embark on varying forms of management tools to try and improve the operations of this Organization. For example, we have asked the Organization to look at efficient saving measures. We have urged the Organization to embark on the resource based management, auto-evaluation, to undertake various studies of which some of the resources are at our disposal, particularly that one from the independent evaluation of the decentralization and that of the TCP. All these efforts will be rendered as cosmetic, unless we address the real issues facing the Organization that are commensurate with a changing environment in a changing global system. This calls for a new management structure, new management approaches and systems. We are encouraged that the proposal has given us the opportunity to examine these issues in depth. For us, reform is a process in which the Secretariat and ourselves should fully appreciate our roles. Our predecessors have made this job easier for us. They have clearly articulated roles of the Conference, the role of Council and the role of the Secretariat. Conference is the top most governing body will consider and approve the programme and budget. As Council will continue to oversee the implementation through the appropriate organs and in this we know we already have appropriate organs that have

already given us some preview to these reforms, that is, the Programme and Finance Committees. This is an approach that we have used over the years and that I can see can still continue to be used. We, therefore, do not see it is a duty of the Members to seek to micro-manage the Organization. We believe that the recommendations to the Conference should guarantee appropriate space to our own various players or else we become dictators. If, as Members, we seek to be seen to displace the Secretariat by doing some of his job. We seek to see more visibility of this Organization in our countries in the field. So the issue of Decentralization is critical, and for us it is long overdue. We are encouraged to hear that those elements that do not require the authority of the Conference are already being considered by the Organization. Just as we would like to see in the improved positioning of FAO within the UN family, we also wish to see FAO coming closer to the people. In fact, having multi-disciplinary teams at the disposal of the regions and the countries will bring capacity-building in normative and food operations closer to the people. True, we realize that this can not be achieved overnight, but we are patient enough to be able to see it through. Even the Director-General's paper is not presumptuous. I see here he has recognized the fact that we need to phase this out, and he has even given some of the timetable starting after the budget has been approved to come up with a plan of action which we would all look at. We are prepared to contribute to the discussion in this area as we believe that we would all be executing our duty to improve the operations of the Organization. However, we strongly believe that, like any manager, the Director-General is the man in the driving seat, he is negotiating with care because of the implications it has on the staff, on the programmes and indeed on the Organization itself. We cannot, therefore, seek to hold the steering wheel at this point in time. I would like to share with the perspective that was put forward by Brazil. Really, I think Brazil has thought through this idea. Our rule is to approve the principles, and then we can work together the transitional process with the Organization through the normal processes that we have set for ourselves.

On Decentralization, I simply wish to indicate that the Membership commissioned this study to implement as a result is an imperative, and I recall having sat on the Finance Committee, listening to the members in June, urging the Organization that the implementation was overdue. We need to be able to separate what will remain as the global issues for the Organization to handle here at head quarters and what is supposed to be moving to the regions in country offices. Indeed, this will call for capacity-building on those issues because at the moment we do not have that calibre of staff at the regional country level, and we would appreciate this strengthening of the staff at various levels. I am glad to note that this is a matter we can still talk about within this Membership and that the Secretariat had already anticipated this fact.

Regarding the relationship between the Independent External Evaluation and the Reform Process, we believe that the IEE is a tool set to help us take stalk of all our work, but not to freeze our operations until it has come up with results. So whilst we appreciate that the IEE has a role to play in the these reforms, we would like a balance to be drawn so that the implementation of the reforms will be seen through and that the IEE will help us take stalk of how those implementations will have turned out. It can not be a tool for day-to-day management of the reforms; otherwise, it will have moved away from the objective and the mission that we had already set out for it. We do agree that there is a need for interface, and we would hope that during the course of this Council and Conference, a clear way forward will be agreed among the membership to enable the Secretariat to move with clarity.

On the issue of the budget, I do agree with the many delegates who have spoken on the need to view why we need to come up with a realistic budget. Canada, for example has indicated the need to be able to resource the Organization in realistic terms. Most of our delegates from the developing world have even put a plea to indicate to how we see this budget impacting on our programmes. I would like to appeal to this house to look at the report that was tabled by the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. There were many new elements that were introduced into this year's budget, and I notice that the Membership endorsed all this new elements without exception. There was no cavia whatsoever.

Just to recap, we are introducing a new Chapter on Security. It will require financing. We are going to repay our After Service-Medical Coverage expenses. This will require financing. In fact, there is a notorious study that is still being undertaken, the figure might be even more than the US\$40 million that we are looking at. So, if we say we approve all this, then we go back and we say, yes go ahead, but we are not going to meet—what are we saying? We should be responsible for our actions. We have also approved the improvement of administrative systems, computer systems, financial management systems, if only to improve other sides within the Organization. I applaud this decision by the Membership. Should the group adopt a Zero Nominal Growth, which I have heard many people putting across, we would not view this as nominal. It is a Zero Negative Growth because where are you going to remove the nearly US\$50–100 million that you are expecting the Organization to meet? The Organization would have no other resource to resort to, except to cut on programmes.

Yet, we are also saying that Organization should help us meet the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those one and two that fall under our purview. Reduction of hunger and poverty, but we are saying we want to reduce the resources that we empower the Organization to achieve that objective. I am not a good mathematician, but my math tells me otherwise. We are speaking in folk terms. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, we have all accepted the new additions to the budget; we have all accepted the responsibilities that we are giving the Organization. So, for me, even with the barest minimum, a Real Growth scenario is an imperative. If we take all that we have said we want, we want, we want, and we add the Secretariat were to add all this for us you would find that it is more than the 2.5 percent Real Growth we are asking for near zero growth scenario.

Some even talk of prioritization. If that were to be adopted, then our attention from the developing world would be to put those into the areas of greatest need. You know our needs in the least developed countries, in the Low Income Food Deficit countries, in the Small Island Developing States and the like. While we appreciate normative work, it can only function when we are eating. In principle, we appreciate normative work, but we would push for improved Field Programmes in Technical Cooperation Programmes, because this is where our food comes from.

Against this background, my delegation recommends that the Conference should go ahead and give a green light to the Director-General to prepare an implementation plan for consideration and to embark on the process, together with us, through the normal organizations that we already have approved in this Organization, and in which we all participate through Council. My delegation wishes to support the proposal from the Director-General and to underscore our view on the real growth budget scenario for this Conference.

CHAIRMAN

For your information and for the benefit of the smooth-running of this meeting, I will read the list of speakers that I have taken up here. After this, we will continue with Pakistan, Bolivia, Australia and Japan, and then I will turn over to the observers in the following order: Saint Lucia, Switzerland, Zambia, Honduras, Benin, Kenya and IFAP. So for the benefit of us all, please try to be as concise as possible. I add to the list of the observers as the last speaker, Senegal, so if we get through over there in due course, that should conclude our list of speakers, but now we continue and the next speaker will be Pakistan.

Aamir ASHRAF KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

I will just very briefly touch on the reform proposal, because I do not think that it will add value to our discussions by taking up the subject here and it has already been discussed elsewhere through a process which has strong backing from all of us.

We do not find any conflict between the simultaneous process of reform and IEE. We feel that these are mutually-supportive processes. We feel that reform is urgently needed in FAO, and that *status quo* is not an option. We are quite ready to discuss the details of the proposal made by the Director-General in order to come to a consensus on this.

Relating to the budget level, I would just like to make three brief points.

Firstly, as it has been mentioned time again in this house, we do feel that successive budget cuts in preceding biennia has made it increasingly difficult for FAO to discharge its mandate to the satisfaction of the Member Nations. We understand that FAO budget has decreased by 24 percent in the last eleven years in real terms, and we feel that this trend must be reversed now, in conjunction with the approval of Reforms within FAO.

Secondly, we find it very strange that where the other sister UN organizations, specially those at Rome, are looking at vastly enhanced budgets running at about ten percent increase per annum, we are grudging FAO any growth at all. We find that FAO is as an important Organization as any other food and agriculture organization within the UN family.

On the particular question of arrears, we do not feel that arrears is a problem which has any serious implications for a possible real growth in FAO's budget. If we just scratch the surface, of the arrears question, we see that 70 percent of the arrears are housed only in a handful of countries. Obviously arrears and the ability to pay is a problem restricted to a very small club of countries, the Members Nations of FAO, and it is not a potential track for increasing the budget level of FAO.

Raúl AÑEZ CAMPOS (Bolivia)

En representación de mi país quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para referirme al proceso de reforma. Creemos que este proceso, así como el presupuesto de la FAO, debe obedecer a las necesidades que tienen los países para solucionar, de forma práctica y eficiente, los problemas de pobreza y hambre que nos aquejan. Mi país en los últimos tiempos y durante muchos años ha recibido, y aún recibe, cooperación técnica muy valiosa por parte de la FAO que ha servido para solucionar y resolver problemas con relación a la productividad y a superar los problemas del hambre. Tenemos ahora muy claro que la FAO debe entrar en un proceso de modernización y debemos avanzar en una reforma que logre intervenir en cada uno de los Países Miembros de manera más eficiente, y por lo tanto, consideramos que el proceso de descentralización es muy importante. Creemos que se le debe otorgar mayor poder de decisión a las Representaciones de la FAO en cada uno de los Países Miembros, para que de esta forma puedan apoyar de manera efectiva a los gobiernos de los Países Miembros a ejecutar estrategias de desarrollo agropecuario y rural, y que de manera definitiva estén orientadas a disminuir la pobreza y erradicar el hambre en cada uno de nuestros países.

Apoyamos en ese sentido la propuesta de reforma presentada en principio que, sin duda, puede ser enriquecida con mayor detalle con un plan de ejecución.

Mrs Fiona CORNWELL (Australia)

We support a conservative approach to the Programme of Work and Budget, with a focus on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization.

Against this background, our preferred scenario is ZNG and we encourage the FAO to allocate this budget to activities in which it has a comparative advantage namely; CODEX, IPPC, including support for capacity building and also capacity-building to support developing countries participate in trade negotiations. I would also like to mention the importance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Codes of Conduct and Regional Forums for Sustainable Fisheries and Forestry activities.

We note that any budget is in the context of ongoing budgetary difficulties due to the substantial unpaid contributions by some Members and also the costs associated with Security and After-Service Medical Coverage.

We agree to change the treatment of the Miscellaneous Income, in view of the Organization's ongoing cash flow difficulties, but we do recognize and make a point that this does not address the Organization's budget difficulties.

While we recognize the security of FAO staff is absolutely paramount importance, we are concerned about the impact on Member contributions of security costs, particularly given the prospect that these could significantly increase under the Reform Proposals expanded regional presence.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Having listened to many voices from developing countries, I would like to make a brief supplementary intervention on the budget.

Recognizing the fact that 850 million people in the world face hunger and malnutrition, Japan fully supports the MDGs especially the target one addressing the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger.

There is no doubt, in the point, that we need to make efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. A question in front of us is if an increase of FAO's regular budget is the best way to achieve the target. As I mentioned in my previous intervention, human resources expenditure, including both staff and non-staff human resources, occupies 80 percent of the total expenditure of FAO's regular budget, meaning that only less than 20 percent is used for implementation of substantial activities including equipment and operational costs of TCP. This indicates, I am afraid, that the benefit for developing countries through FAO's regular budget or TCP is small, while the burden on Member Nations is large.

Another question is how many of us could cope with the increased burden of contributions if the assessed contributions increase equally for developing and developed countries. Japan is very happy to participate in the international efforts to help starving people in the world and we seriously think about how we could and should do so.

CHAIRMAN

That concludes our list of speakers from the Council Members. Before we move over to the observers, I have a short announcement, concerning the candidates for the Programme and Finance Committees.

Please note that the deadline for submissions of nominations for the Programme Committee and for the Finance Committee is 12:00 tomorrow, Friday, 18 November 2005, so at noon tomorrow. Nomination forms are contained in document CL 129/7, and these forms are available at the Documents Desk.

Martin SATNEY (Observer for Saint Lucia)

We need to send the right message and signals to our Director-General and the Secretariat. We need to ask ourselves, do we really need reform or simply, do we want to see reform for reform sake? In this respect, I make the following observations. I refer specifically to some of the observations made last evening, in particular that made by Brazil in regard to the Reform Proposals outlined by the Director-General and the possible implications for the IEE and the Organization in general.

Saint Lucia emphasizes the fact that we ought to appreciate that the reform we seek is a process and not an event, it is not making a cup of instant coffee. Further, we recognize that the Working Group will deliberate on these issues and therefore will report to Council in Plenary subsequently.

I therefore suggest that we adopt a greater level of flexibility in our considerations, given both, the proposed Reforms by the Director-General and exercise an opportunity to feed off each other, in this regard, it may be worth considering piloting some of the reform proposals being more practical, expedient and feasible as a pragmatic option. In other words, there will be useful lessons to be learned from both processes, prior to throwing ice-cold water on the reform proposals. Indeed we are all interested in ensuring that the operational effectiveness and efficiency levels of the Organization are improved.

Ms Barbara EKWALL (Observer for Switzerland)

My delegation would like to focus its intervention on three issues; the reform process, the discussion on normative versus operational work and operational activities at country level.

Switzerland fully supports the IEE. In our opinion, the evaluation should be given first priority. As far as the FAO Reform Process is concerned, we welcome the initiative taken by the Director-General. The reform process should be promoted along a clearly defined roadmap. The work on the IEE should not prevent FAO from advancing on those areas of the reform proposal where there is consensus among Member Nations and this without delay. We are ready to contribute in a positive manner to this work.

We are convinced that both operational and normative activities should be an integral part of FAO's programme of work. They are interdependent, mutually supportive. We think we should go beyond the debate, operational work versus normative works and approach FAO's work in an integrated manner.

FAO has an important mandate and crucial contribution to make to achieve the MDGs. Our discussions here in the Council show that there is consensus about the need to increase efficiency and to achieve a greater impact, qualitatively as well as quantitatively at country level.

The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review Resolution of the UN General Assembly (TCPR) reflects the consensus reached among Member Nations of the UN on how to achieve this greater impact within the UN development system.

With respect to FAO, better impact at country level can only be achieved by integrating the Organization's operational activities into those of the UN family. Recent documents show that FAO is moving into this direction, and we welcome this. These orientations must yet translate into concrete action and be further strengthened on a priority basis.

Based on these considerations, Switzerland fully supports the draft resolution on the implementation of TCPR mentioned by the EU and Brazil yesterday. In our view, this is an important and necessary tool for strengthening the Organization and its operational work.

Julius J. SHAWA (Observer for Zambia)

My delegation congratulates and commends the Director-General for successfully undertaking, what is obviously, a very difficult task. This task is like asking a surgeon to perform a painful operation on oneself. But, indeed, the Director-General and his team have come out quite well in this exercise.

The Director-General's reform proposals provide a basis upon which other initiatives, such as the Independent External Evaluation, could be anchored. In other words, the IEE should, in our view, address and deal with any potential or possibly evident grey areas that are in the Director-General's proposals. The IEE should compliment the Director-General's proposals.

It is in this context, that we fully share the views expressed by earlier speakers, that the Director-General's reforms should be looked at in the framework of a continuing process that would provide us with an opportunity to "fine tune" the proposals along the way. My delegation, therefore, fully supports the Reform Proposals, to the extent that they will be complimented by the IEE.

In particular, my delegation is happy to note the reforms will ensure that priority areas will be protected. Some of the priority areas of interest to my country are the Right to Food; the Code of Conduct for Responsible and Sustainable Fisheries; control of transboundary pests, plant and animal control and disease; and investment for water control.

Furthermore, my delegation is happy to note that the Reforms proposed to bring FAO's expertise closer to member countries and to the grassroots. Indeed, this is most welcome, as my country,

and I am sure as is the case with many other developing countries, would like to accelerate the pace of development in the key priority areas identified above.

My delegation also supports the proposal that will entail that FAO Representatives will work in close collaboration with the UN country teams. This in line with what we are doing in my country, in Zambia, that is the thrust to harmonize the donor assistance in various sectors, including agriculture.

My delegation, therefore, endorses the need to see more resources going to priority areas. This is what we are trying to achieve; this is what we are trying to see, even in our national budgets. We, therefore, endorse the proposals of the Director-General.

Roberto VILLEDA TOLEDO (Observador de Honduras)

Voy a referirme específicamente a la reforma del Director General y al trasfondo del Crecimiento Nominal Cero. Deseo enfatizar que consideramos que nadie pone en duda la reforma de la FAO ante las realidades de esta Organización. Debemos tomar en consideración que los resultados que tengamos en este Consejo, tendremos que utilizarlos adecuadamente para el proceso de Evaluación Independiente que sigue y que será de suma importancia para los Ministros de Agricultura para que puedan tener la seguridad de actuar sobre realidades. Debemos considerar que el proceso de participación, al que se ha hecho referencia aquí por parte de la delegación de Chile, y la propuesta de la reforma como un proceso que mencionó Brasil, son elementos fundamentales para que esta evaluación externa sea una realidad. Lo principal ahora es cómo logramos que la Dirección General de la FAO pueda contribuir a ese proceso participativo que se requiere como resultado de las conclusiones del presente Consejo. Es aquí donde debe ponerse especial atención, de ser posible establecer un calendario apropiado para que la consulta a los países y a los mecanismos sub-regionales facilite ese trabajo de alimentar con insumos prioritarios al proceso de Evaluación.

Mme Medina SEPHOU (Observateur du Bénin)

La délégation de mon pays, le Bénin, adresse ses félicitations au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier pour la qualité du rapport qui a été présenté.

Nous voudrions attirer l'attention des Membres sur la noble mission assignée à la FAO. Les Membres que nous sommes, devons assumer de manière responsable nos obligations et nous donner la main, pour assurer la protection des priorités reconnues de la FAO, qui devra faire face à de nombreux défis et de nouvelles demandes à satisfaire. Mon pays par ma voix, se joint à tous les pays qui soutiennent qu'il faut mettre à la disposition de la FAO, les moyens nécessaires pour l'accomplissement efficient de sa mission dans un environnement en mutation rapide.

Les problèmes à résoudre par la FAO sont importants et énormes. Pour cela, il lui faut assez de moyens que la Croissance Nominale Zéro et la Croissance Réelle Zéro ne permettent pas de garantir. Il est question pour nous de prendre les décisions justes pour les impacts palpables sur le terrain. Il y va de la pertinence et de la crédibilité de notre Organisation.

Pour ce qui concerne la réforme proposée par le Directeur Général de la FAO, mon pays le Bénin pense que c'est un bon moyen, même si cela est venu avec retard, pour accroître l'efficacité de la FAO et lui permettre d'atteindre les objectifs que les Chefs d'Etats des Pays Membres se sont fixés lors des importants Sommets où ils se sont retrouvés.

Le constat est que notre Organisation doit être plus efficace sur le terrain pour induire un impact plus fort et visible. De sérieux problèmes de faim et de pauvreté se posent encore dans plusieurs Pays Membres de notre Organisation. La proposition de réforme initiée par le Directeur général de la FAO, est une opportunité à saisir, afin d'améliorer de façon substantielle les performances des activités de notre Organisation, qui ne doit pas se dérober aux défis majeurs du vingt-et-unième siècle.

Wilson SONGA (Observer for Kenya)

I would like to start by saying that Kenya is in total agreement with the sentiments as presented by the distinguished delegate of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

I would like to re-emphasize the following, in support of Reform Proposals by the Director-General

Kenya supports the view that Reform is a process and indeed some of the proposals may be implemented without necessarily waiting for the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). For example, Kenya would wish the Council, to give the Director-General the go ahead, to start putting in place those issues that will enable the Headquarters of FAO to deal with the global issues and global programmes.

Kenya would like to see the green light given for the Decentralization of offices to the regions, so that they can do the shaping, providing, channelling responses to demands of regions, Sub-regions and the countries. I do not see how some of these really require the outcome of the IEE.

Kenya would also like to see FAO priorities on areas where the Organization makes a unique contribution, such as, the IPPC, Codex Alimentarius and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and in particular, these priority areas should be those that address the attainment of the MDGs.

In particular, the TCP Programme, which has been reported here by many delegates and particularly by the Africa Region, for having been very successful. I would like to point out, that probably by Decentralization to the regions, this TCP Programme may even achieve more. A good example is the current success of the export of horticultural products from Kenya. This can be attributed mainly to the close collaboration of FAO in the area of IPPC.

It is no wonder that the current Chairman of the IPCM is from Kenya. I can see Decentralization encouraging regional cooperation, which would enable such activities to be realized at even higher levels.

I would like to state that Kenya strongly supports the Director-General on the Reform Proposals.

Moussa BOCAR LY (Observateur du Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je crois que le Représentant du Groupe africain et la Représentante du Groupe des 77 ont déjà donné la position de ces Groupes sur la question des réformes et sur le budget.

Permettez-nous seulement de jeter un éclairage sur les propositions de réforme du Directeur Général.

Déjà, lors de son premier mandat en 1993, quand la Conférence et nous même l'avions élu, nous avons demandé au Directeur Général, dans le cadre du budget qui était déjà voté par la Conférence, sur lequel il n'avait aucune prise, de faire des propositions de réforme. Propositions qu'il a faites en 1994 au Conseil de la FAO de juin 1994, et que le Conseil, dans l'unanimité, a adoptées.

Ces propositions de réforme tournaient autour de la décentralisation et autour de l'identification de deux programmes prioritaires: l'EMPRES (Système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes), c'est-à-dire la lutte contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières, et ici nous relevons la question du cricket pèlerin, et le programme spécial DESA (Alerte à la sécheresse en Afrique Australe) de sécurité alimentaire. Hors, onze ans après, n'est-il pas juste et normal que, de nouveau, le Directeur général s'adresse à nous pour nous faire des propositions de réforme. Qui plus est, ces propositions s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la réforme du Système onusien dont la FAO fait partie intégrante. Du reste, la FAO est déjà en processus de réforme, car, comme vous le savez Monsieur le Président, nous avons accepté tous ensemble, de limiter désormais les mandats du Directeur général de la FAO, mandats

qui étaient illimités. Désormais, ils seront limités à deux, un de six ans qui ne peut être prolongé qu'une fois de quatre ans. N'est-ce pas déjà là une réforme?

C'est donc fort de cela, que nous appuyons les propositions de réforme du Directeur général qui visent à mieux répondre aux besoins des pays en développement. Je pense que le Directeur général n'a pas oublié les répercussions humaines de ce processus inévitable, dans la mesure où d'ores et déjà il a gelé des postes pour tenir compte de cela et fait savoir que le redéploiement du personnel se fera en conformité avec des postes libérés pour permettre que le personnel ne soit pas lésé dans ce processus inévitable de réforme.

S'agissant, à présent, du niveau budgétaire, nous pensons qu'après le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996, après le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après de 2002, après le Sommet du Millénaire plus cinq, des ressources accrues doivent nécessairement être données à la FAO pour lui permettre de répondre aux nouveaux défis que nous, États Membres, aussi bien à New York qu'à Rome avons placé sur ses épaules. Et donc, le fait de penser à un niveau de croissance nominale zéro, ne prend pas en compte ces évolutions que je viens de tracer. Aussi, comme dans d'autres pays en développement, nous appuyons la croissance réelle et nous militons pour un niveau bien supérieur à 2,5 pour cent, dans la mesure où les demandes à l'Organisation se font de plus en plus pressantes et de plus en plus nombreuses.

David O. O. OBONG (Uganda)

I appreciate being given the floor, although very late. It was not of your making.

Uganda is in total agreement with the submission made by Zimbabwe regarding the position of the Africa Group on the proposed Reform Process.

We would like, particularly, to commend the Director-General for the FAO Reform initiative. This is indeed a very welcome and bold innovation. As quite often, self reforms are a hard choice to make due to the expected loss. It is not unusual, under the Reform Process, for those to be affected to downplay the likely benefits of the Reform. Quite often, the question being posed is: will it work? I think this is the current focus under the Reform Process.

We are fully in support of the reform agenda, in the context of the rationale for the Reform, its guiding principles, areas of focus and the streamlined processes for achieving efficiency and performance gains, without compromising the mandate of FAO.

We are excited by the focus of the Reform on the Decentralization of FAO activities to Regional, Sub-regional and Country Offices. However, our caution is that, for the Decentralization to work and to succeed, clear emphasis will have to be made in the following areas – which, from our own perspective and experience on the Decentralization, make Decentralization work – one, funds must always follow functions decentralized to Regions, Sub-regions or Country Offices; two, there must be a clear definition of roles and responsibilities – I note that in the document this has been made, but there should be no room for vagueness, because vagueness would set a basis for non-action in certain areas; three, there is a need for a clear central Headquarters-level relations – in this context, between FAO Headquarters and the decentralized units; four, there should be requisite personnel availed to the various levels to ensure that the portfolio mandated at those levels are effectively carried out; five, there will be a need for continuous maintaining of the decentralized units to enable them to pick on their mandates and provide the required support to the countries that are within FAO; and last, but not least, there will be a need from Headquarters for regular support supervision – not for fault-finding, but to help the decentralized units to do better within the context of their mandate.

On the personnel arrangements of the reform process, our view is that there could be a multiplicity of our projects explored, including: one, fast-tracking those activities which must be undertaken in kick-starting the decentralization processes, or the reform process; two, identifying those activities which are fully embraced by the reform process and are also contained in the preliminary findings of the Independent External Evaluation team. These activities could then be implemented without jeopardizing the actual finding of the Independent External Evaluation.

There will be need to reorient and retool the staff to be deployed, once the agreement for Regional and Subregional Offices have been taken onboard. There will be need for periodic review, of the progress, on implementation of the reform process, to enable us to make adjustments on trouble spots identified and making sure that the process goes unhindered.

On the Programme of Work and Budget for 2006–07, we are in full support of the Real Growth scenario. This is because it is very rare for a reform process, of the multitude being envisaged by the Director-General, to be implemented with a Zero Growth budget. This is a reality which must be recognized and a way forward must be agreed upon by the Council so that the Director-General can then initiate the reform process.

In conclusion, we once again express Uganda's support for the Reform Process and we are confident that it will work. This is because of the consultative nature in which the Reform Process has been subjective and it has set a basis for a firm honorship of the outcome of the Reform by the Member Nations and, indeed, the Secretariat of FAO.

Nils FARNERT (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). Our Federation has a membership more than 500 million family farms.

We welcome very much the FAO reform as the decentralization brings FAO closer to our family farms and others in farmland. This is very important to us, with the background that half of the almost one billion people starving are farmers. Additionally, almost one quarter are other people, like farm hands, in rural areas.

IFAP wishes to collaborate closely with the Secretariat and give all possible assistance in the executions of the plans for reform.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the Director-General for his initiative and we wish him all possible success in implementing the reform.

CHAIRMAN

That concludes our discussion on item 4.

I wish to thank you for a lively discussion.

Now I will turn the microphone over to Mr Juneja, the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation. He will reply to the questions raised and he will also present his conclusions to the Council, in the light of our debate.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I should like, at the outset, to thank Members for their open and constructive comments.

A number of substantive questions have been raised. They are timely and I am very hopeful that the discussion among Members and clarifications from the Secretariat, over the coming days, may lead to a positive outcome.

Of course, the Working Group that has been established by Council, will provide a precious opportunity for substantive discussions and I will limit my intervention to responding to five common questions that have been raised by Members.

First, what is the link between the Director-General's reforms and the Independent External Evaluation (IEE)? Several questions and comments were made by the United Kingdom regarding a missing link); there was a comment from Canada to ensure linkages; and others were underlining the need for complementarity.

The Director-General has reiterated the Secretariat's sincere commitment to be a fully-engaged stakeholder in the IEE.

In response to a question from India, reforms do not rule out adaptation and adjustment, following consideration of the IEE findings.

The Director-General has emphasized that there are challenges which cannot be ignored and opportunities that should not be missed. The whole UN System is mandated to reform, and FAO has an opportunity to lead rather than follow.

The first area of complementarity between the reforms and the IEE, might be that reforms would allow FAO to act now, whereas the recommendations of the IEE only become operational from 2008.

The second area of complementarity is in their scope. The reforms propose many new ways of working, and would impact on the relevance and delivery of future outputs. But the Reform Package does not overthrow overall priorities. The IEE would have a different scope. The Philippines, for example, mentioned that the Director-General's reform proposals gloss over Governance. This is an example of complementarity, because the IEE would do that. We have, in fact, seen how laborious change in this area can be, from the repeated discussions, proposals and counter-proposals to merge the CCP and COAG or to hold back-to-back sessions. So, the IEE could perhaps guide the formulation of a new Strategic Framework, build consensus on future priorities – which could be reflected in a future Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget in three years' time; come up with a revised and revamped planning process, as well as revised Governance arrangements.

A second common question was whether priorities included adequate protection for FIVIMS, IPPC, and CODEX and the Philippines suggested that the TCP should be increased to 17 percent of the budget. TCP was also supported by the Representative from Swaziland.

The principles for managing overall resources and for priority-setting for technical activities were established by the Hundred and Tenth Session of the Council. It is indeed appropriate that the process is established by the Governing Bodies, as are the priorities. A recent Joint Inspection Unit Report, which was transmitted to Council at its last Session, recommended that Member Nations should focus on providing resources commensurate with approved programmes and/or giving clear guidance on programme and resource allocation priorities where sufficient resources cannot be provided. The modalities for providing clearer guidance than what exists at present, might be a thrust of the IEE.

Pending those specific findings and in line with the Council's previous guidance, the philosophy that has been followed is to: first seek efficiency savings and productivity improvements; second, reduce administrative costs; and third, cut programmes, preserving highest priority programmes as much as possible.

All programme entities are assessed according to a set of established criteria. The highest priority programme entities include those where FAO is assessed as having a comparative advantage and where Members have expressed a priority.

Priority areas receive targeted and well-focused increase in funding under the Real Growth proposals. They are laid out in the main Programme of Work and Budget in paragraphs 212-259. The reform proposals preserve all those priorities and are substantiated in paragraphs 22-27 of the Addendum. Even under Zero Real Growth there is some reallocation towards higher priorities. However, efficiency savings and reduction in administrative costs will not provide all of the savings necessary under a less than Zero Real Growth scenario. Programme cuts would be necessary, even in high priorities. I might add that the high priorities are manifold because Members have expressed many high priorities.

The third area concerned the scope for further efficiency savings. The Secretariat agrees that there is always scope for further efficiency savings and is committed to pursuing efficiency and productivity improvements. I cannot stress that enough. Areas of efficiency savings have been listed in paragraphs 101-137 of the main PWB. Further measures are described in paragraphs 105-131 of the Supplement.

In reviewing efficiency savings and productivity improvements at the Finance Committee in September, I thought I should share with you the United Kingdom Representative's comments at the Finance Committee.

He referred to this as a historic piece of work in FAO. He added that it was rare for any public sector institution to approach the matter in the manner in which FAO had done. I think this is a vindication of our commitment in this area.

I will not dwell on the many measures that have been laid out in the documentation, but I would like to request that your expectations on efficiency savings should not be set too high. I would recall the caution of the Programme Committee in its May report, which is provided in Council document CL 128/11 paragraph 17. I quote: "The Committee recognized that major savings had been achieved in the recent past and it, therefore, requested that efficiency savings targets for 2006–07 should be realistic". At the same time, the Finance Committee has, I quote, "stressed that internal financial controls should not be weakened at any budget level". The reference is CL 128/13 paragraph 66.

In fact, at a meeting a year earlier, the Finance Committee asked the Secretariat to reinstate - to put back in the budget - half a dozen posts that had been abolished in the Finance Division. We, therefore, need to heed the advice from delegations, on delegation of authority, with caution.

The Organization is moving to a less risk-adverse culture. In fact, the Governing Bodies are asking us to do that and have supported us in that endeavour, but delegation to field is fraught with certain risks, with internal control issues, and requires certain prerequisites to be put in place, including adequate training. It may require some patience and it is essential that the Organization finds a balance.

The fourth area concerned transition costs. Voluntary funding for restructuring is not uncommon. Other organizations, such as WHO, have obtained such support in cases of restructuring. Adjusted for inflation, it has been for a similar amount. Also, at WHO, previous restructuring costs had far exceeded the amount of voluntary funding and the difference was met by the Organization. Also in FAO, budget reductions had previously been facilitated by funding outside the budgetary appropriations, from US arrears contributions - US\$12 000 000 in 1998-99, US\$9 000 000 in 2000-01 and US\$4 000 000 in 2004-05.

In response to a question from the distinguished delegate of the United States of America regarding the ongoing costs of reform, the Real Growth reform scenario covers all ongoing costs of the new structure for an entire biennium. Incremental ongoing security provisions for the new Sub-regional Offices have not been added because they could be covered by the Host Governments.

Considering that the costs are included for a full biennium, some transition costs can be absorbed because of the natural lead time required to establish the new structure (for example, negotiations with Host Governments to establish new offices). We have also had a freeze on recruitment for several months and the substantial vacancies provide flexibility in meeting the transition costs.

We cannot guess how we would do what under different scenarios. The final estimate for transition costs and the approach for meeting these costs would be developed as part of an implementation plan, obviously also in the light of the decision of the Conference on the budget level.

Finally, there were several interventions regarding the Draft Conference Resolution on Miscellaneous Income. This proposal was first put in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. In May 2005, the Joint Meeting agreed to transmit it to Council. It is now before you again.

At every Finance Committee, especially recent sessions, Members have been sharing their serious concerns about the deteriorating cash flow situation of the Organization and the accumulated deficit. As Canada and Japan, among others, mentioned, late settlement of Assessments is a major factor contributing to our cash flow difficulties. It is not, however, the only factor. At present,

when the Conference approves a budget of US\$100, members are asked to pay only US\$99. This situation also contributes to our cash flow difficulties. In fact, our accelerated rate of TCP expenditure, which was done at Members' requests, also contributes to our cash flow difficulties. My point is that all these factors add to our cash flow difficulties. The distinguished Representative of the United States noted that it does not support the proposal because the United Nations in New York has a system of deducting miscellaneous income in arriving at Assessed Contributions. However, the ILO and UNESCO do not apply any deduction in arriving at Assessments. FAO needs to act on the basis of its own analysis and on the basis of its own challenges.

The Secretariat can make proposals to improve the financial management of the Organization. The decision is entirely with the Membership. I appeal to Members to further review the proposal in the hope of finding common ground.

CHAIRMAN

This concludes item no. 4 of the Order of the Day. We have managed our timetable in a very good fashion this morning. Our afternoon meeting will start at 14:30 hrs. We ask you to be punctual. We have a long list ahead of us.

The morning session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session Cent vingt-neuvième session 129º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-18 November 2005 Rome, 16-18 november 2005 Roma, 16-18 de noviembre de 2005</p>
<p>Fourth PLENARY SESSION Quatrième SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE Cuarta SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>17 November 2005</p>

The fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.25 hours
Mr Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 25
sous la présidence de M. Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15.25 horas
bajo la presidencia del Veli-Pekka Talvela,
Vice-presidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

Dear friends, it gives me great pleasure and it's an honour to chair this part of the session, since we will now unveil the Chairperson's portrait. May I ask you to remain seated for the ceremony. May I also invite the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr Aziz Mekouar and the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Mohammed Rouighi to join me for the Unveiling Ceremony in front of the Portrait, the Portrait which has been executed by Mr Paolo Pietrangeli of Rome. The Director-General will now address the Council.

Unveiling
Inauguration
Decubrimiento

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

J'ai le plaisir de participer à cette cérémonie qui marque la fin du mandat de Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Aziz Mekouar qui a si bien rempli le rôle de Président du Conseil durant les quatre dernières années.

Je le remercie d'avoir pris à cœur ses responsabilités et lui suis également reconnaissant d'avoir mis ses talents de médiateur à la disposition de l'Organisation à maintes reprises. Ceci a été hautement apprécié par les Membres du Conseil et par moi-même. Je suis donc heureux que l'on ait pu dévoiler aujourd'hui ce portrait qui le représente et qui restera dans la salle rouge comme témoignage d'une grande présidence.

Je souhaite donc, au nom du Secrétariat et du Conseil, réitérer au Président Mekouar ma gratitude pour ses efforts. Encore une fois tous nos remerciements pour le travail bien accompli.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Mr Ambassador, Aziz Mekouar, dear colleague, and if I may, friend of us all. This small ceremony has been organized to thank you warmly for the four years you have shared with us during the Council meetings of the FAO. We know that dividing your time between FAO and Washington D.C. where you serve your country as Ambassador has not been easy. However, you have managed marvellously and we, the Members and Observers of the Council, have benefited from it. You have our high respect and admiration, especially regards of your negotiating skills and a tender yet determined way you have led us in the Council meetings. Please accept our humble gratitude for the work you have done with us.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Aziz MEKOUAR (Président indépendant)

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mohammed, qui est Monsieur, le Secrétaire général, à Monsieur le Vice-Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Vous savez, dans des cérémonies comme celles-ci, on a souvent beaucoup d'émotions et donc on ne parle pas toujours avec beaucoup d'éloquence. Mais enfin je vais tâcher d'exprimer ce que je ressens. Il y a quatre ans donc j'ai été élu Président du Conseil. C'était une fonction dont je n'envisageais pas, qu'elle ferait partie de ma carrière et finalement cela est arrivé parce que j'ai travaillé dans cette Organisation pendant deux ans avant d'être élu. J'ai rempli quelques fonctions ici mais surtout, je connais la FAO depuis très longtemps, j'étais en poste à Rome dans les années quatre-vingt et je venais très souvent à la FAO. Donc il y a un attachement particulier avec cette Organisation.

Je voudrais exprimer tout simplement un sentiment personnel, lorsque je faisais mes études, que je pensais à mon avenir, une des choses que j'avais évoquée, que j'avais envisagée pour ma future carrière c'était justement de travailler au sein de la FAO. Je me disais la FAO c'est quand même une Organisation internationale, c'est extraordinaire, elle s'occupe d'agriculture, de soulager les pauvres gens et surtout de donner à manger à tout le monde et sincèrement, c'était une des carrières que j'avais envisagée avant de faire autre chose. Et bien voilà, j'ai quand même atterri ici comme Président et c'était donc un grand honneur.

Ce que je voudrais dire également, c'est que pendant ces quatre années, nous avons pu travailler tous ensemble pour le bien de l'Organisation, mais surtout pour ce que fait l'Organisation. Et je dois dire que ces quatre années ont été extraordinaires pour moi, parce que j'ai pu voir combien lorsqu'on s'assoit, lorsque l'on parle, lorsqu'on veut simplement essayer de comprendre ce que veut l'autre et bien on peut aboutir à des résultats extraordinaires. Je pense que, et pour cela je voudrais remercier, mais remercier du fond de mon cœur, tous les Membres, tous les Représentants, ceux qui sont ici et ceux qui étaient ici pendant toute cette période, je voudrais les remercier, combien ils se sont dédiés à leur travail et surtout combien ils ont accepté de venir avec moi pour rencontrer l'autre. Je pense que nous avons fait un bon travail et cela grâce à cette volonté de travailler ensemble.

Je voudrais également remercier, bien entendu, Monsieur le Directeur Général, nous avons travaillé ensemble pendant ces quatre années. Nous avons essayé de faire au mieux. Monsieur le Directeur Général a bien sûr la direction de l'Organisation et je pense, qu'il veut le bien de l'Organisation et surtout que cette Organisation mène à bien son mandat. Nous avons essayé de travailler ensemble et de faire en sorte que tout se passe au mieux et nous continuerons.

Je voudrais remercier bien entendu, tous les membres du Secrétariat de l'Organisation avec qui j'ai travaillé, sans eux mon travail n'aurait pas été possible.

Le travail du Président du Conseil, est justement, enfin moi je l'ai conçu au départ comme une fonction qui servirait à amener les uns et les autres à une position commune et j'ai l'impression qu'aujourd'hui on travaille la main dans la main, il n'y a pas de séparation et de division entre un groupe et un autre. Je pense que tout le monde travaille dans le même sens et essaie d'arriver à un consensus et d'ailleurs nous avons toujours travaillé sur la base du consensus. Je pense que c'est cela l'avenir de notre Organisation

Je voudrais remercier infiniment bien sûr le Secrétariat, et tous mes amis au sein du Secrétariat. Je me suis fait vraiment de très bons amis dont je me souviendrai toute ma vie.

Voilà, je vous remercie c'est une occasion unique, je suis extrêmement honoré. J'ai été très honoré de remplir cette fonction de Président et bien entendu je suis très honoré d'avoir mon portrait ici, et je voudrais remercier d'ailleurs le peintre Pietrangeli pour le travail qu'il a effectué. Je n'ai jamais posé pour lui. J'ai simplement fait une photo que je lui ai remise, ce qui a été beaucoup plus simple pour lui et pour moi d'ailleurs.

Alors je vous remercie infiniment. Bien entendu, je resterai très attaché à la FAO, aux gens de la FAO, à vous-même. Monsieur le Directeur-Général si vous avez besoin de moi à Washington ou ailleurs, je reste à votre disposition et vous remercie encore une fois infiniment.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for your kind words. Dear friends, we still have some work to do so I will now give the floor back to the Chairman himself.

Aziz Mekouar, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Aziz Mekouar, Président Indépendant du conseil assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Aziz Mekouar, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien avant de reprendre, pour quelques heures encore, je vais présider ce Conseil et nous allons terminer nos travaux avec un certain nombre de points de l'ordre du jour que nous avons encore à aborder. Je vous prie de m'excuser une seconde, je voudrais voir quelque chose avec le Conseiller juridique.

Nous allons passer au point 9 de l'ordre du jour intitulé "Rapport de la soixante-dix-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques" (CQCJ). Le document relatif à ce point porte la référence CL 129/5. J'attire notamment votre attention sur les Annexes de ce document. Elles contiennent les projets de résolutions qui seront soumis à la Conférence. Le Comité a tenu sa soixante-dix-neuvième session. Le rapport de cette session est soumis pour examen aux décisions du Conseil.

Lors de sa session, le Comité a examiné des questions relatives à des amendements aux statuts de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius, au statut du personnel des fonctionnaires de l'Organisation aux fins du versement des prestations, au dispositif devant permettre les dépenses de sécurité, amendements au règlement financier et à la restriction de la participation du Grand public aux réunions de l'Organisation et à l'accord entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle (OMPI).

Monsieur Adam Maiga Zakariaou, Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques va maintenant présenter le rapport du Comité.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (continuación)

9. Report of the 79th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, October 2005) (CL 129/5)

9. Rapport de la soixante-dix-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, octobre 2005) (CL 129/5)

9. Informe del 79º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, octubre de 2005) (CL 129/5)

Adam Maiga ZAKARIAOU (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

C'est ainsi qu'à sa vingt-huitième session tenue à Rome du 4 au 9 juillet 2005, la Commission du Codex Alimentarius est convenue et sans débat sur les fonds, de recommander à la Conférence de la FAO et à l'Assemblée mondiale de la santé que l'Article I de ce Statut soit révisé de façon à abolir la procédure d'acceptation.

Après examen des amendements proposés qui figurent à l'Annexe 1 du présent rapport, le CQCJ (Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques) a conclu qu'ils sont valables du point de vue juridique et convenu de les transmettre au Conseil pour soumission aux fins d'approbation par la Conférence.

Le CQCJ a, par ailleurs, noté que l'Assemblée mondiale de la santé examinerait lesdits amendements à sa session du printemps 2006. Statut personnel des fonctionnaires aux fins du versement des prestations. Il convient de rappeler que l'examen de ce point fait suite à la demande formulée par le Conseil à sa cent vingt-huitième session tenue en juin 2005. Après avoir examiné la question, le Comité a recommandé que le Conseil adopte la décision figurant dans le présent rapport, avec toutefois une petite correction à apporter à la version française du rapport: notamment à la première phrase du projet de décisions qui commence par l'ordre de l'examen du rapport de la soixante-dix-huitième session, en fait il s'agit de la soixante-dix-neuvième session, donc j'invite les Membres du Conseil à procéder à la correction: soixante-dix-neuvième au lieu de soixante-dix-huitième session.

Dispositif pour les dépenses de sécurité, amendement au Règlement financier:

Le Comité a examiné le document relatif à ce point qui contient un projet de résolution pour adoption par la Conférence. Ce projet contient également une proposition d'amendement au Règlement financier par adjonction d'un nouvel alinéa point 12, à la fin de l'Article VI. Il convient de rappeler que ledit projet de résolution a été examiné et appuyé par le Comité financier à sa cent dixième session en septembre 2005. Au terme de l'examen de ce point et, après quelques rectifications rendues nécessaires, le Comité a conclu que le libellé du projet de résolution et du nouvel alinéa 6.12 joint en Annexe 2 du présent rapport est conforme aux Textes fondamentaux de la FAO et présentés sous une forme juridiquement appropriée.

Le Comité a ainsi recommandé que le texte soit transmis à la présente session du Conseil en vue de sa présentation à la Conférence pour examen et adoption.

Restriction de la participation du Grand public aux réunions de l'Organisation:

Le Comité a examiné un document ainsi qu'un projet de résolution de la Conférence sur des amendements limités à l'Article V, paragraphe 3 et de l'Article XXV, paragraphe 9© du Règlement général de l'Organisation, autorisant le Directeur général à restreindre l'accès du Grand public aux sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil.

Dans ce contexte, le Comité a noté que, conformément à une tradition du Système des Nations Unies, les séances des principaux Organes directeurs de la FAO sont publiques, sous réserves néanmoins des règles applicables à un certain nombre de comités à composition limitée. De même, le Comité a noté que certains faits nouveaux sont survenus depuis l'adoption de ces dispositions et que les questions de sécurité ont pris une grande importance comme en témoigne le dispositif pour les dépenses de sécurité.

Le Comité a aussi pris note que la nouvelle situation nécessite une approche qui concilie mieux les principes de la transparence, de l'ouverture et de l'accès du public aux séances des principaux Organes de l'Organisation et les responsabilités du Directeur général en tant que premier responsable de la sécurité, en consultation avec les autorités compétentes du pays hôte, si nécessaire, à la fois au Siège et dans les pays où peuvent se tenir des réunions de la FAO.

Le CQCJ, après avoir souscrit à une proposition d'amendement au texte du projet proposé de la résolution de la Conférence, est convenu d'envoyer ledit projet, reproduit en Annexe 4 du présent rapport, au Conseil en vue de sa transmission à la Conférence pour approbation. Ce faisant, le Comité a souligné que les amendements proposés étaient sans préjudice du principe selon lequel les séances plénières de la Conférence et du Conseil sont publiques, qui demeure clairement indiqué dans le Règlement général de l'Organisation et que les conditions d'accès des représentants de la presse et d'autres organes d'information resteraient inchangées.

Enfin, le CQCJ a noté qu'un processus d'adaptation des règlements intérieurs des Organes établis en vertu des Articles V, VI et XIV de l'Acte constitutif, serait progressivement mis en œuvre compte dûment tenu de la situation spécifique de chaque organe.

Le dernier point examiné par le CQCJ porte sur l'accord entre la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle (OMPI). Le Conseil se souviendra qu'à sa cent vingt-huitième session, tenue en juin dernier, il a demandé que cette question fasse l'objet d'un nouvel examen par le CQCJ. C'est dans cette optique que le Comité a réexaminé le projet d'accord et conclu qu'il était conforme aux Textes fondamentaux de la FAO. Le Comité a donc recommandé que le projet d'accord entre la FAO et l'OMPI, joint en annexe au présent rapport, soit présenté au Conseil à la présente session pour approbation et puis à la Conférence pour confirmation.

Excellence, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, avec la présentation du rapport de la soixante-dix-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, le Niger achève sa permanence de quatre ans au sein dudit Comité. C'est le lieu pour moi de remercier très sincèrement le Secrétariat pour l'appui et le soutien constants qu'il m'a toujours apportés durant mes mandats à la Présidence de ce Comité.

Je voudrais également exprimer ma profonde gratitude aux Membres du Comité pour leur collaboration franche et constructive qui a permis au CQCJ de s'acquitter au mieux de sa tâche afin de répondre aux attentes de ses Organes de tutelle.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Just for clarification concerning the Draft Agreement between FAO and WIPO submitted to the Council for approval and subsequently to the Conference. Since this is an agreement between FAO and WIPO, it would be appreciated if the Council could be informed of the progress of procedure of the WIPO side.

Luis BOMBÍN (FAO Staff)

En efecto, el texto que se discutió y que fue presentado a la anterior sesión del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales ya había sido negociado de forma preliminar entre los dos Secretariados: FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual. Uno de los problemas que nos hicieron posponer el tema fue precisamente que la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual pidió otras modificaciones de modo que hemos estado en constante comunicación con ellos y el texto que ustedes tienen ahora delante ha sido, en principio, ya aceptado por ellos, de modo que hemos incluso aceptado alguna nueva modificación que ha sido presentada a la última sesión del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc, je souligne qu'en approuvant ce rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, le Conseil envoie à la Conférence pour approbation à des projets de résolution et décisions annexées au rapport.

Ceci conclut le point 9 de l'ordre du jour.

Nous allons passer au point 11 de l'ordre du jour intitulé "Calendrier révisé des sessions des organes directeurs et des autres réunions principales de la FAO 2005-2006". Le calendrier qui se trouve au document CL 129/INF/8-Rev.1 indique les sessions déjà tenues en 2005 ainsi que les sessions prévues pour 2006.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

11. Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2005-2006 (CL 129/INF/8)

11. Calendrier révisé des sessions des organes directeurs et des autres réunions principales de la FAO 2005-2006 (CL 129/INF/8)

11. Calendario revisado para 2005-2006 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 129/INF/8)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce qu'il y a des commentaires à ce point de l'ordre du jour? Non, pas de commentaires?

Très bien. Je vous remercie et en examinant le calendrier contenu dans le document CL 129/INF/8-Rev.1, le Conseil note que sa prochaine session se tiendra le 28 novembre 2005, immédiatement après la Trente-troisième session de la Conférence.

12. Any Other Matters**12. Questions diverses****12. Otros asuntos****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, le dernier point inscrit à l'ordre du jour de la session, est le point 12 intitulé "Autres questions". Une délégation souhaite-t-elle prendre la parole ? Je laisse la parole à la délégation du Pérou.

Julio Miguel ESCUDERO MEZA (Perú)

Tal y como manifestó ayer el Sr. Embajador de Perú, nuestro país en nombre de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe desea proponer la designación del año 2008 como el Año Internacional de la Papa. Como ustedes saben, la papa es un tubérculo oriundo de la región andina y ha formado parte de la cultura de nuestros pueblos desde época milenarias. Las civilizaciones que se desarrollaron en América del Sur antes de su descubrimiento ya habían domesticado este producto que era parte de la dieta diaria de nuestras poblaciones. En el devenir de la historia del mundo hemos visto que la papa ha sido un importante apoyo de nuestra región para la alimentación global y ha contribuido de manera significativa a la seguridad alimentaria constituyendo junto con el arroz, el trigo y el maíz uno de los cuatro cultivos básicos en la alimentación universal. El Perú y la Región Andina como zona originaria de la papa, posee una importante diversidad genética en este producto que ha sido conservada gracias a la existencia de instituciones científicas como el Centro Internacional de la Papa con sede en Lima. Este prestigioso centro de investigaciones ha rescatado numerosas variedades de papa que con el paso de los años venían desapareciendo y es poseedor de una innumerable cantidad de material genético. Sólo en el Perú existen más de 3.800 variedades de estas papas ancestrales que son únicas en el mundo.

Finalmente es importante señalar que la papa es uno de los cultivos protegidos por el Tratado Internacional de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación que aprobamos en la Conferencia General de 2001.

Por todo lo expresado, presentaremos a la Conferencia General un proyecto de resolución para designación del año 2008 como el Año Internacional de la Papa.

Agradeceremos que este tema quede recogido en el Informe Final del presente período de sesiones del Consejo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Est-ce qu'il y a des commentaires?

Mesdames et Messieurs nous avons examiné l'ensemble des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la session. Je voudrais passer la parole à Monsieur Muñoz Castaneda, Président de l'association du personnel du cadre organique qui va maintenant s'adresser au Conseil.

Giovanni MUÑOZ CASTANEDA (Delegado de los órganos de representación del personal)

Es para mí un honor y un privilegio dirigirme a ustedes en nombre del personal de la FAO. Estamos agradecidos al Director General y la Presidente por permitirnos dirigirnos al Consejo. Se distribuirán también copias de nuestra declaración para su información.

Los presentes períodos de sesiones del Consejo y la Conferencia representan indudablemente una encrucijada para nuestra Organización en la medida en que cada vez se presta mayor atención a la mitigación del hambre y la pobreza como lo refleja el Compromiso del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en general con los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio. Un gran número de personas hambrientas del mundo vive en condiciones de pobreza abyecta en los países en los que por una diversidad de razones, ya sean naturales o provocadas por el hombre, la base agrícola de la que dependen su misma existencia está amenazada. A este respecto la esperanza es que la FAO desempeñe un papel fundamental con miras a conseguir los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio.

Nuestro papel es fundamental en relación con muchos de dichos objetivos. Nosotros, en cuanto funcionarios de la FAO somos plenamente conscientes de nuestras responsabilidades.

No obstante, a lo largo del último decenio hemos asistido y sobrevivido a una disminución progresiva de los recursos que se ha traducido en una reducción del más del 30 por ciento de los puestos y ha hecho que el presupuesto del Programa Ordinario en cifras reales haya quedado reducido a una fracción de su nivel anterior.

Por otra parte la demanda de nuestros servicios por parte de los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización para hacer frente a problemas ya existentes y a otros nuevos, no solamente no ha disminuido sino que está aumentando.

Hasta agosto del año corriente todos nosotros estábamos ocupados preparando el Plan a plazo medio y el Programa de labores y presupuesto como es habitual usando diferentes hipótesis presupuestarias. De repente llegó a nuestro conocimiento que estaba desarrollándose un proceso de preparación de lo que al final resultó ser un conjunto de propuestas de una reforma bastante radicales. En septiembre se presentó al Comité de Programas y al Comité de Finanzas un esbozo de las propuestas y para mediados de octubre toda la documentación estaba lista para su presentación al Consejo y la Conferencia.

La reacción de la mayoría del personal a estos hechos fue una muestra de ansiedad, incredulidad y, sobre todo, insatisfacción y frustración debido a que no se les había informado suficientemente ni habían tenido la oportunidad de contribuir aprovechando su vasta experiencia colectiva. Ello quedó patente en una asamblea extraordinaria de todo el personal como resultado de la cual se aprobó una enérgica resolución en la que se expresaba esta insatisfacción y se pedía un aumento de las consultas en relación a la reforma. Posteriormente los órganos de representación del personal elaboraron un documento en el que se exponía su posición sobre las propuestas de reforma. Creemos que muchos de los aquí presentes habrán leído el citado documento en el cual hacíamos hincapié en que todo proceso de reforma debería: primero, prever tiempo suficiente para poder realizar una planificación, reflexión, consulta y debates adecuados; segundo, ser transparente e incluir estrategias eficaces de comunicación y gestión del cambio, y tercero, comprender una participación apropiada y respetuosa del personal.

Apreciamos y deseamos agradecerles que algunos de ustedes aprovecharan la oportunidad de reunirse con la delegación de la Federación de Asociaciones de Funcionarios Internacionales (FICSA) a fin de intercambiar ideas sobre el documento en el que se exponía la posición del personal.

Por medio de las conversaciones celebradas recientemente con la administración superior en las que ha participado en ocasiones el propio Director General, hemos llegado a un acuerdo para establecer un Comité consultivo conjunto especial sobre la reforma de la FAO, con objeto de ayudar a determinar y abordar las preocupaciones del personal y de que éste participe en el proceso de reforma. También hemos pedido formalmente al Director General que tenga en cuenta el descontento del personal y que establezca un foro y canales para permitir al personal expresar e intercambiar opiniones sobre los méritos técnicos sobre las propuestas de la reforma.

Sin embargo, esto llevará tiempo y tememos que si el conjunto de propuestas de reforma es aprobado en su forma actual se perderá una gran oportunidad para reformar de manera adecuada la Organización. No deberían empezar a aplicarse las propuestas actuales apresuradamente, ya que muchas de ellas deben ser elaboradas y, en general, no se ha contado con la colaboración del personal en su preparación. Muchos funcionarios tienen amplia experiencia en la planificación y ejecución del trabajo de la Organización. Lo que es aún más importante, serán los funcionarios quienes deberán aplicar los posibles cambios. Para aplicar estos cambios, el personal tiene que estar comprometido con las propuestas, y ello puede lograrse únicamente sabiendo que el personal de todos los niveles y en todos los lugares de destino ha contribuido de modo efectivo a las propuestas de reforma. El "consenso" del personal sobre la reforma es esencial para su aplicación eficaz y eficiente.

A modo de indicación concreta de nuestra posición sobre algunos asuntos, desearíamos señalar diversos puntos relacionados con las propuestas, puntos que apoyamos y puntos sobre cuya viabilidad y aceptabilidad albergamos algunas dudas.

Los órganos de representación del personal apoyan:

La revisión de los objetivos y la redefinición de las prioridades con concentración en las ventajas comparativas, pero si esto se hace teniendo en cuenta el proceso más amplio de reforma de todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Igualmente apoyamos la delegación de mayor autoridad y un refuerzo de la rendición de cuentas, haciendo mayor hincapié en los resultados que en el control del proceso. Para ello, no obstante, es necesario mejorar los procedimientos de selección de los administradores, aumentando la transparencia y la atención tanto a las competencias técnicas como a las competencias administrativas. Acogemos con satisfacción el concepto de una delegación de mayor autoridad administrativa en los oficiales técnicos para la ejecución de los proyectos sobre el terreno y del trabajo en el marco del Programa ordinario. La prioridad debería ser en los resultados y sus repercusiones.

Apoyamos un mayor hincapié en la interdisciplinariedad para abordar cuestiones intersectoriales.

Apoyamos también el aumento de los recursos distintos a los del personal pero si por ello se entiende más recursos para las actividades enmarcadas en el Programa Ordinario y no el aumento de los recursos humanos no funcionarios, o sea, contratistas, a costa del personal financiado a cargo del Programa Ordinario.

Por otra parte, los órganos de representación del personal están preocupados por diversos asuntos, entre otros, la descentralización tal y como está planteada. Su resultado será fragmentar la Organización de demasiadas partes pequeñas, la creación de muchas dependencias subregionales sustraerá personal de la Sede, donde muchas dependencias técnicas ya se encuentran por debajo de la masa crítica. Las oficinas regionales perderán la mayor parte de su personal así como su función de centro de coordinación técnica encargado de prestar apoyo en relación con una amplia gama de disciplinas técnicas y serán reemplazadas por las oficinas subregionales que dispondrán de competencias mucho más limitadas. En muchas esferas de trabajo de la Organización, hoy en día, se cuenta solamente con uno o dos especialistas técnicos. ¿Cómo pueden compartirse estos recursos entre muchas oficinas Sub-regionales si se traslada a esos funcionarios a una de ellas? Los oficiales técnicos que permanezcan en la sede no podrán realizar las tareas a ellos encomendadas, es decir, la supervisión de todas las dependencias nacionales y subregionales y la ampliación de la base de los conocimientos de la FAO.

Consideramos que el establecimiento de Oficinas Sub-regionales debería basarse en las necesidades y no en una fórmula estándar que prevea tres o cuatro funcionarios por Sub-región.

Nos preocupa, además, la suposición de que será posible redistribuir a la mayoría, si no a la totalidad, de los funcionarios cuyos puestos serán suprimidos, destinándolos a otros puestos vacantes en la Organización.

Nos preocupa también la escasa importancia asignada al mantenimiento de la administración pública internacional, la suposición de que los recursos humanos no funcionarios, como los suscriptores de acuerdos de servicios personales, los voluntarios y los jubilados, puedan reemplazar a los funcionarios de plantilla, y realizar sus funciones, esto es una falacia y ello, sin duda, iría en detrimento de la Organización.

Nos preocupa el concepto de la utilización generalizada de profesionales de contratación nacional en las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales en lugar de oficiales técnicos de contratación internacional. En términos generales, ello reducirá la autonomía y la imparcialidad de la Organización.

La subcontratación y la deslocalización, incluida la tarea de crear un centro de servicios compartidos en otro lugar, son también cuestiones preocupantes. Entendemos que las esferas de

trabajo a las que este concepto podría aplicarse se determinarán en un estudio de viabilidad que se realizará próximamente. El personal opina que no debería darse por descontado el resultado de un estudio antes de que éste haya comenzado.

Nos gustaría que se llevara a cabo un análisis serio y en profundo de los costos ocultos en relación con cada esfera propuesta.

Nos preocupa el uso de razones arbitrarias como indicadores, por ejemplo la razón entre el personal de cuadros de servicios generales y personal profesional, la "razón óptima" del cuadro no es constante y cambia de una dependencia a otra. No existe una razón óptima, válida, para toda la Organización.

Si hacer la estructura de la Organización más "plana" significa eliminar o reducir un estrato excesivamente burocrático, entonces estamos plenamente a favor. Sin embargo, la eliminación de los puestos de categoría D-1 en los casos en que éstos proporcionan experiencia y dirección técnica de alto nivel esencial, es una estrategia muy cuestionable.

En resumen, nuestra posición es que esta política no debe aplicarse de forma indiscriminada sino que cada situación exige una evaluación individual pragmática.

Resulta asimismo claro que toda reforma con el objeto de mejorar los servicios que la Organización proporciona a sus Estados Miembros tiene un costo. El personal de la FAO, por medio de la Resolución aprobada el 15 de noviembre, hace dos días, pide a los Órganos Rectores que: 1) aprueben un aplazamiento de la aplicación de la propuesta de reforma en conjunto, hasta que las propuestas no se hayan presentado en forma completa y el personal no haya contado con tiempo para dar a conocer sus opciones sobre el alcance, la secuencia y los plazos de las diversas propuestas, y tengan en cuenta las conclusiones de la inminente Evaluación Externa Independiente de la FAO; 2) proporcionen financiación suficiente a un nivel de Crecimiento Real, de 2,5 por ciento como mínimo, y recursos adecuados para financiar los costos de transición conexos para que la Organización pueda poner en práctica cualquier reforma de manera eficaz y significativa y, en caso contrario, convengan en aplazar la reforma general hasta que no se disponga de fondos suficientes.

Señor Presidente, distinguidos delegados, colegas, señoras y señores, en nombre del personal de la Organización en la Sede y del personal en el Terreno, les agradecemos esta oportunidad de dirigirnos al Consejo.

Distinguidos delegados, en los próximos días adoptarán ustedes decisiones en relación con la Reforma de la FAO y el presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Estamos seguros de que su interés principal es velar por una organización eficiente y en condiciones de cumplir con su mandato. Gracias por su atención.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Hemos escuchado con mucha atención las declaraciones del honorable Sr. Castaneda, y al agradecer la declaración del Representante del Personal Orgánico de la FAO, deseamos manifestar que la Representación de Panamá, y estamos seguros que también gran parte de los países en desarrollo, siempre hemos estado y estaremos muy atentos a todo lo que se refiere a las cuestiones humanitarias y seguramente tendremos en cuenta estas preocupaciones. No obstante, de la manera más cortés pero conscientes de nuestras responsabilidades para con la Organización, y siendo las cuestiones programáticas y de organización responsabilidad y potestad exclusiva de los Estados Miembros de la FAO, le rogamos que nos permita trabajar para llegar a conclusiones equas.

Del resto, quisiéramos resaltar que ya el Director General en reuniones con ustedes, tal como consta en los documentos que han sido hoy distribuidos y en las declaraciones públicas y privadas, nos ha dado garantías para ello. Por favor, entonces, pedimos que nos dejen trabajar, con la seguridad que trabajaremos por el bien de ustedes.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

We appreciate the presence and the presentation of the Staff Union and took note of their request and we believe there are very serious and critical issues which requires or merits further discussion and we agree also on some of the points which in our discussion we have already indicated to the Council.

We recommend to the Director-General, as already indicated in the document on human resource aspects of the reform, and at the same time we believe that the Union should not interfere in issues which are the responsibilities of Member Nations.

We appreciate also the Director-General's several and regular consultations with the Heads of Departments or Senior Management. He has not done this all alone by himself. We learned that there were more than 28 meetings with the Seniors or Heads of Departments and that is also really to the appreciation that the consultation has been done and he gave us enough documents also to address the different issues.

In respect of the decision-making authority on the major facets of the reform proposal in areas of staff implications falls within the authority of the Director-General in accordance with Staff Regulations.

Also it should be noted that it is with legal requirements that authority must be given by the Conference to the Director-General for the establishment of posts. It is also noted that if the Conference has not given such authority, there is a provision for the Council to review action by the Director-General in regard to new posts established in the Professional category of staff.

Regarding the deployment exercise, it may be carried out under the authority of the Director-General in accordance with the Administrative Manual. This information is the background which I am reading, was in our discussion and was in the documentation in C2005/3 Sup. 1 Add. 1, that supplements the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2006–07 Reform Proposal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Y a-t-il d'autres intervenants? Non. Très bien. Je vous remercie.

Maintenant avant de conclure je voudrais vous rendre compte des travaux du Groupe de travail qui a été constitué au sujet des Propositions de Réformes du Directeur général. Le groupe de travail s'est réuni hier et aujourd'hui et est arrivé à un consensus sur un texte que je vais vous lire en anglais et je propose que ce texte soit renvoyé directement au Comité de rédaction.

Ce texte est un texte de consensus auquel nous sommes arrivés avec tous les pays représentant chacune des régions. Donc je vous lis le texte: (*suite en anglais*) "The Council shared in the Director-General's assessment of the need to enhance the Organization's ability to fulfil its mandate through its normative and operational activities, including through concrete contributions to the well-recognized challenges, such as assisting Members in implementing the MDGs. The Council recognized the need to respond to the renewed commitment to rural investment by all interested partners and ever-growing opportunities for harnessing knowledge for agriculture.

Taking into account the ongoing reform across the entire UN System, the Council welcomed the initiative of the Director-General to submit to the Conference reform proposals regarding the programmes, structures and way of work of the Organization.

The Council expressed general support for the rationale and guiding principles underlying the reforms as a basis for further discussion of the Director-General's reform proposals and implementation of the Reform of FAO.

The Council was mindful of the necessarily dynamic nature of the process of adaptation to changing contexts and new demands and stressed that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the reform proposals should be mutually supported." (continues in French).

Je soumets à votre attention le texte de consensus auquel le groupe de travail est arrivé tout à l'heure avant la session du Conseil cet après-midi. Ce texte sera envoyé au Comité de rédaction et sera repris tel quel par le Comité de rédaction.

Mesdames et Messieurs nous avons examiné l'ensemble des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la session. Le Comité de rédaction va se réunir ce soir et demain matin afin de préparer le projet de rapport de la session. Nous nous retrouverons demain après-midi à 19 heures pour adopter le rapport de la session.

Veillez également noter que l'échéance pour la soumission des nominations pour le Comité du programme et le Comité financier a été fixée à midi demain. Les formulaires de nominations sont inclus dans le document CL 129/7, qui est disponible au bureau des documents. Je vous souhaite une excellente soirée. La séance est levée.

Avant cela, je voudrais vous dire que le Comité de rédaction se réunit à 18 heures à la Salle du Mexique. Par ailleurs, je souhaite préciser que l'événement ministériel sur la sécurité alimentaire et le développement durable dans les Petits États Insulaires en Développement, se tiendra demain de 9 heures 30 à 12 heures 30 et de 14 heures trente à 17 heures 30 dans la salle verte.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, we would like to thank you for your wisdom and diplomacy, for your assistance to the members of the Group. We wish you the very best for the future.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session Cent vingt-neuvième session 129º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-18 November 2005 Rome, 16-18 november 2005 Roma, 16-18 de noviembre de 2005</p>
<p>FIFTH PLENARY SESSION CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>18 November 2005</p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 20.30 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 20 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 20.30 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons procéder à l'adoption du rapport de la session.

J'invite les Membres du conseil à s'assurer qu'ils ont bien les différentes parties du rapport. Il y a sept parties, qui portent les références CL 129/REP/1, CL 129/REP/2, etc, jusqu'à CL 129/REP/7.

J'aimerais demander à l'Ambassadeur Rodríguez, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction, de présenter le rapport.

**DRAFT REPORT - PARTS 1 – 7 (CL 129/REP/1 – 7)
LES PROJETS DE RAPPORT – PARTIES 1 – 7 (CL 129/REP/1 – 7)
LOS PROYECTOS DE INFORME, PARTES 1 – 7 (CL 129/REP/1 – 7)**

Francisco Eduardo BONIFAZ RODRÍGUEZ (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Me es grato presentar al Consejo el Informe Final de los trabajos, realizado por el Comité de Redacción en torno al Informe del 129º Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Se trabajó arduamente en dos sesiones largas los días 17 de noviembre por la noche y el 18 todo el día y, en el mismo, a pesar de los difíciles temas que teníamos por delante se trabajó en un espíritu de equipo, de colaboración y de entendimiento y fueron tomadas nuestras decisiones por consenso. El resultado es este informe, el cual tienen en sus manos, estamos seguros recoge y refleja lo discutido por el Consejo durante todos los días de deliberaciones.

Quiero agradecer, aprovechando esta oportunidad, el apoyo de todos mis colegas Miembros de la Comisión, de la Secretaría y de los asistentes que procuraron que el trabajo fuera más fácil y lo lleváramos a feliz término en el tiempo que nos habíamos propuesto.

Por todo lo anterior, sugiero que el mismo sea apoyado en bloque por todos los Miembros del Consejo tal y como fue apoyado en su momento también por los Miembros del Comité.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, je voudrais vous remercier ainsi que les membres du Comité de rédaction pour le travail magnifique accompli.

Je voudrais demander aux délégués, qui souhaitent introduire des changements relatifs à la traduction de les communiquer directement au Secrétariat et de ne pas soulever de question pendant la séance, afin de gagner du temps.

Est-ce que le Conseil souhaite adopter le rapport en bloc? Oui, très bien approuvé.

Monsieur le Directeur général, à vous la parole.

*Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos*

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, je pense qu'à cette heure-ci, le mieux que je puisse faire c'est vous remercier pour votre contribution à ce Conseil et permettre naturellement aux délégués de rentrer chez eux.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie. Nous avons bien travaillé. Ça été efficace puisque nous avons adopté notre rapport en bloc.

Je remercie tout le monde pour le magnifique travail qui a été effectué, le Secrétariat pour l'aide qu'il nous a apporté et, bien entendu, les interprètes.

Merci beaucoup et à demain pour l'ouverture de la Conférence.

La Malaisie souhaite prendre la parole.

Ms Lily ZACHARIAH (Malaysia)

I have the pleasant task on behalf of all the Member Nations to thank you, as the Independent Chair, for having done an excellent job. On this day, your last day, I have been asked to offer you a bouquet as a token of our appreciation for having acted as the Independent Chair.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci beaucoup. Je suis extrêmement ému et touché.

Merci pour les fleurs et pour votre amitié.

Monsieur le Directeur général, bonne continuation et bonne soirée. Je crois que nous avons mérité d'aller dîner maintenant. Merci.

The meeting rose at 20.40 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.40 horas