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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

2 December 2019

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:45 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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CHAIRPERSON

I call the first meeting of the 163rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

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

I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. Furthermore, the European Union will be participating in the Drafting Committee in accordance with the aforementioned paragraphs of Article II of the FAO Constitution and, on matters within its competence, will be exercising, on an alternative basis, the membership rights of the European Union Member States elected to the Drafting Committee.

The declaration made by the European Union and its member states is contained in information document *CL 163/INF/3*.

Allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, who is taking part in his first FAO Council after being elected by the Conference in June. Since he took office in August, there can be no doubt that we have all felt the positive energy that he has brought to the halls of FAO.

The recent meetings of Council committees have also displayed a new form of open dialogue, built upon the drivers of transparency, shared accountability and innovation. As a result, I am sure a positive sense of opportunity will also permeate our discussions during the Council.

Indeed, with regard to innovation, I am pleased to announce that for the first time at FAO, this week Council Members will benefit from information sharing by means of a new Mobile Application which has been developed by the Secretariat.

Dr QU is the fifth Director-General that I will have had the honour to work with over my 50 years at FAO. Already in his 100 plus days in office he has shown us his eagerness to engage with both staff and Members to understand their priorities and expectations of FAO. And has brought a much needed sense of renewal to the Organization – I would know; I've been here a long time.

It has been a remarkable start and I am certain that with his determination and relentless energy, he will continue to bring the constructive changes that the Organization needs.

It is my honour to invite him to address the Council. Director General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I welcome you to the 163rd Session of the FAO Council. It is my pleasure to be here with you today as Director-General of FAO.

Since being in this office, time has been busy and flying. Let me provide Council with a brief update on decisions, activities and initiatives taken in the past four months in office. Today is just the fourth month.

I will start with our biggest initiative, so far: the Hand in Hand Initiative. It is an evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, eradicating poverty and SDG 2, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition in the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, it also contributes to reaching all the other SDGs.

In addition to the Information Note and the Technical Document we made available, the Council will receive further explanations and clarifications about the different aspects of this Initiative during this Session from myself and my Senior Representatives.

Let me just share with you some fundamental points:

The Hand in Hand Initiative is fully in line with the UN Development System Reform (UNDS). The Initiative contributes to the integrated approaches of UNDS reform by achieving greater cooperation and deepening partnership among many actors across the UN system along with the private sector, civil society and academic institutions.

This is a logical consequence to the Initiative's vision of addressing areas of food and nutritional security, trade, agro-food systems and agro-value chains, as well as areas of protracted crises.

It provides a technical foundation by bringing in a full spectrum of tools for the UN to achieve what needs to be done.

The Initiative will complement ongoing major development activities and provide them with much needed data. In that aspect, we are already collaborating closely with some, like the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and Central American Integration System (SICA) and are talking to many others. Even the private sectors, they are really interested in what we are doing now and offer to them.

The Initiative needs buy-ins from countries and partners. That's why it is called Hand-in-Hand. FAO will gather and present all the necessary data and information as a seed to start a process. This will then evolve into a system of collaboration with countries and donors, so that everyone has access to and ownership of the information. FAO is ready and able to play the role of promotor and facilitator.

The Initiative is also an engine for internal change. Its successful implementation will require breaking down silos and increasing efficiency. It will be a tool to focus and sharpen FAO's existing work to be more tangible and results-oriented at the country level.

I am confident that this Initiative will unleash the immense power of FAO to push forward international rural and agricultural development through a comprehensive approach and multi-partnership.

A number of measures were taken internally that focus on improving FAO governance, modernizing our methods of work and boosting staff morale. After an in-depth review of internal FAO administrative procedures, I approved the delegation of specific functions related to clearance and approval processes to the Deputy Director-General's (DDGs).

The DDGs are my right and left hand, they should be empowered and also take responsibility.

I appreciate that you are willing to take on this role of responsibility together with me. As I said, FAO is not my own, it is owned by Member Countries and ran by my Senior Staff, and supported by all Staff.

This substantial delegation of authority is sound management. It introduces a much needed modern understanding of accountability to the Organization.

Accountability and transparency are two sides of the same coin. We have therefore worked hard at improving transparency within FAO, starting from a revamped web page, where all my meetings, interactions and speeches are already publicly available. In due time, within half an hour, or within one day for speech.

I will ask my senior staff to follow my lead as well, so that means D1 and above, all activities and travels, they should put their reports on the web later. Then you do not need to ask the Office of the Director-General Office (ODG) or relevant Departments for that.

You can search what they are doing and talking about, so it is visible to the Member Countries. This is what we call the Crowd Power, it is real power. All the crowds, all the Member Countries; the farmers, they can visit the website to see what they have done travelling to the Middle East for example, what they said and what they did there, and how many meetings they had there.

If one sleeps there, and has no meetings, then you will make an adjustment, and then we will have a real 360 degree evaluation by Member Countries. It is a big step to revamping the webpage.

So I am pleased to announce that the new FAO homepage was launched yesterday. If you visit the page today, it is different from others. We used interactive technology and there you can add more new information at a certain time. The information is automatically updated. December 1 is important for International HIV/Aids Day, but it is also important for the FAO website and it is the starting day of Digital FAO.

The new website, which will follow in the next months, will introduce FAO, its mandate and major

activities to the broad public in a more modern and attractive way along with more involvement and promotion of Member Countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all the Member Countries here, if you want to promote your products, your beautiful villages, your experience-sharing, or support documents with a beautiful photo, share them with the Office of Corporate Communications (OCC) and Information Technology Division (CIO) or ODG. They will put them up in a proper way. They will have a structure for you or room for you to promote and be involved.

To our Member Countries and other stakeholders, the website will offer transparency and accountability for many of the projects and programmes we are working on.

I will ask the Departments to publish their ongoing projects, and their progress. For many years, that is what Member Countries have asked for. To build up accountability and transparency. So you will make your own judgment, you have experts from your country, internationally and nationally. What programmes are really good? Tangible, or not? With defined budgets.

All the project managers at FAO, they have to think, they have to deliver, what they have done. The global eyes are watching them.

The website will also give visibility to FAO Senior Leadership at the level of Assistant Director-General and above. You see we will start publishing all CVs for DDG, ADG, as we start from the ADG and above. Maybe later we will bring in the D2s.

Being a D2 is a big honor and also a bigger responsibility. You have to be responsible for your international image. This is key to creating an organizational culture of accountability and transparency as One-FAO, both intra and inter.

Boosting Staff morale is another aspect I have been focusing on.

I have dedicated special efforts to ensure that the HR Senior Team is more professional, transparent and effective. You heard we have opened a Vacancy Announcement (VA) for Director of Human Resources (HR). It is at D2 level, I saw the shortlist and all of them at least 5 years of HR-professional experience.

Then we will have two P5's, P4's, so with six to seven people who are real professionals. I will really trust them, and they can build up a real professional career and the quality to make sure FAO is a professional Organization.

We will also have a thorough look at HR processes and procedures. FAO needs to become a merit-based Organization, where experience is valued and favored. If you don't have enough experience it is not good, it is not good for the Organization, and not for yourself. We need to make it clear to staff that working hard has its merits: work hard and you will be recognized.

Staff need to see that there are chances for Career Development and Internal Promotion. We adapted maternity leave to the duration recommended by WHO and aligned long-range duty travel conditions with those of the UN system. We specifically considered the implementation at WFP, for example.

Young people are our future. They are catalysts for changes and help build a more dynamic FAO. We have established a Youth Committee charged with tapping into the potential of young employees to create a more dynamic workforce. This volunteer-based committee of FAO Staff, from headquarters and field offices, is chaired by the Chief Economist, because he is the youngest senior. The Executive Chief is from my Office.

On the International Day of Rural Women we launched the first-ever FAO Women's Committee, providing an inclusive, safe space that reflects the diverse and energetic nature of FAO's female workforce. The Women's Committee is chaired by DDG, Madame Semedo. Its Executive Chief comes from my office too.

Both Committees will play an important role internally, but also serve as bridges and new platforms on policy consultations with our Membership, ensuring that FAO's work on women and youth is made more visible and more helpful and more tangible to individuals and to Member Countries.

For the first time in FAO history, we have introduced an annual recognition and celebration of the diversity of FAO employees and of their contribution to our work around the world. The Organization will recognize 100 Employees and 100 Young Employees, before Christmas.

The selection of these colleagues is done through a selection committee and a currently on-going inclusive electronic poll as a reference, for the entire FAO workforce. That not only includes staff, it also includes consultants and General Staff and National Programme Officers (NPOs). It is a very inclusive recognition.

I am looking forward to 18 December, when we will celebrate those who will be recognized this year. We hope to have the UN Secretary General, Mr Guterres with us at this event. We try our best, he will be here that week in Italy, in Rome and in other places. I am willing to try, because it will be the first time in the UN System.

We want to celebrate our team, recognize outstanding contributions by individuals, and stress that every part of the work force is important.

Excellencies, externally, we worked hard to strengthen collaboration with Member States, the private sectors, academia and civil societies; and to increase FAO's international engagement, visibility and reputation. Since 1 August, I have met global key players and leaders of Member Countries, either, here at FAO headquarters, or during my missions abroad.

In Japan, I attended the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development. I said to my friends, someone who helps Africa, is my real friend. That is why I made my first trip to Japan and where I met top Japanese officials and several African heads of state.

In Moscow, I met with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and other top officials and presented FAO's activities and initiatives. On the first day in history, Russia now they have the Russia-Africa Partnership, that is very good.

In Washington D.C., I had a series of meetings with national authorities including the US Secretary of Agriculture and his Senior Staff. In the same visit, I also met with the Administrator of United States Agency for International Development.

In a historical first visit of an FAO Director-General to Belgrade, I met the Prime Minister of Serbia and several Ministers.

I also participated in the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo, where I had interesting exchanges with the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Aid, Fisheries and other Members of the Norwegian government.

In Beijing, I had a series of fruitful discussions with Chinese Ministers and Senior Officials, presenting our initiatives and exploring areas for future collaboration. Especially, we are designing COP15 next year, because, FAO was marginalized, and now we bring FAO back to that big stage.

I created a satellite meeting together with United Nations Development Program and others from biodiversity to food diversity. I want to create a dialogue with the Agricultural Minister of Food and the Minister of Environment, because that meeting is supposed to have 70,000 participants. FAO should be there.

FAO also enjoys excellent relations with its host country Italy. I was pleased to be invited by Italy's Prime Minister only four days after starting the job. Prime Minister Conte also honored FAO by delivering the keynote speech on FAO's Birthday and World Food Day.

A few days ago, I had the pleasure of being invited by Italy's President of the Republic, to his residence. President Mattarella accepted my invitation to mark the 75th anniversary of FAO and celebrate World Food Day next 16 October 2020 with us here at FAO headquarters.

I was also deeply honored by an invitation of the Pope to the Vatican, on my 100th day in office, where we had a very private inspiring conversation, looking eye to eye on so many issues that touch humanity as a whole. I felt energized and confirmed in my dedication to work and sacrifice for the noble goals of our Organization.

When I was participant at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, I was invited by the Chair Professor Von Braunto deliver a keynote speech. After that, the Holy Father had a special arrangement for me and it was very much appreciated.

I am happy to report that the Pope has accepted my invitation to attend the 75 year celebrations of FAO next year on FAO's Birthday and World Food Day. Because it is a big event for the UN to celebrate the 75th anniversary, of course for FAO it is also the 75th anniversary. We are planning ahead.

Concerning our relation with the United Nations, I have always believed in the importance of FAO's role within the UN family. I have therefore participated at a number of UN events, including the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, the Chief Executive Board, the World Cotton Day at WTO in Geneva and I will attend the Inter-Agency Standing Committee this week.

Together with Dan, we are travelling in the evening and we will come back the next afternoon, because I promised you I will cover all the major activities for the Council Meeting here. At the same time, I have also promised the Under-Secretary Lowcock, it is the first time for an FAO Director-General to attend that meeting, so I did my best to keep that promise.

During these events and others, I have met several times with the leadership and senior officials of the UN Secretariat and most Agencies and Organizations, including the UN Secretary General Mr Guterres, twice, and the Deputy Secretary General Ms Amina Mohammed.

In that respect, we are looking forward to playing a central role in the preparation for the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. I know a lot of Member Countries are interested and pay much attention on that. Still we are waiting for the announcement. Under the guidance of the UN Secretary General and in close collaboration with his Special Envoy.

As you can see, our outreach activities are energetic and fully engaged. Overall, I have met 20 Heads of State and Government, more than 40 Ministers, around 50 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, as well as about 40 Officials and Leaders of UN Agencies, and the Academy.

For FAO, this is an unprecedented number of meetings, interactions and encounters in such a short time span. A new wave from FAO has been emerging in the digital and the real world. That is why I want to send a signal to you. The new results-oriented business model of FAO puts emphasis on strong partnership with the private sector. This is clearly reflected in my strong engagement with the private sector since taking office.

On the margins of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, I met with representatives from major multinational companies, to outline the Hand-In-Hand Initiative, which foresees an important role for partnerships with private-sector players.

We hosted Bill Gates at FAO's New York Office for in-depth discussions on concrete collaboration. He expressed his strong support and the readiness of his foundation to partner with FAO, particularly around big data and innovation.

In our effort to partner with the private sectors and work together on improving food safety knowledge, and promoting responsible agricultural value chains for more sustainable food systems, we signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) such as the ones with the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank FMO, and with the Chairman and CEO of Danone, France.

During my participation at the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I met with the Private Sector Mechanism to discuss concrete proposals to translate the Hand-in-Hand Initiative into actions.

We are also working on strengthening the close links of FAO with civil societies, academia and research institutions. I had interesting discussions with my friend, Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the University of Columbia, who delivered a lecture at FAO headquarters.

Following excellent talks with Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum in Geneva, we are now preparing FAO's participation in Davos early next year.

I also had fruitful discussions with Dr. Robert Bertram, Principal Scientist of USAID on future

cooperation and potential synergy.

Since taking office, I met numerous academic and research institutions, including Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (CGIAR), the University of Wageningen, Mississippi University, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, as well as the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences etc.

At meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples, I underscored the importance FAO gives to learning from each other and working together. We welcome the initiative of Canada and other Members in creating the Group of Friends of Indigenous People and I reassure you of FAO's full support.

Raising FAO's profile as a knowledge center and promoting its global normative work on food and agriculture is among my top priorities. In New York, I signed a USD 28 million funding agreement with the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, to build more resilient food systems in protracted crises.

My visit to Washington D.C. was an occasion to hold a series of meetings with the World Bank Group and other International Financial Institutions to increase collaboration with FAO. These included the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Corporation, the Global Environment Facility, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In Oslo, I attended the signature of a EUR 40 million, five-year programme between the EU and the ACP, where FAO will boost the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, the Caribbean Region and the Pacific.

In Beijing, I attended the Second Philanthropy Summit for Sustainable Development, where FAO received a donation of USD 15 million from the Ningxia Yanbao Charity Foundation. The donation will be used to establish a joint FAO-Yanbao fund to support talent in agriculture and, in particular, facilitate research to achieve food security and nutrition.

As you can see, our outreach to the Private Sectors, Academia, and Civil Society is also an unprecedented approach for FAO, and we already see the first fruits of these concentrated efforts. We will definitely continue our outreach on an even larger scale, in line with FAO rules and guidelines.

Excellencies,

Allow me now to turn to the proposed Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). I have reflected the decisions and guidance of the Conference in the adjustments to the PWB 2020-21.

The proposed adjustments are based on the vision that I presented to you during my campaign, of building a dynamic, inclusive, transparent and efficient FAO, while remaining committed to the original aspirations, mandate and mission of the Organization.

As requested by the Conference, I have increased funding for FAO's work on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme for CODEX, on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Additional resources are dedicated for mainstreaming biodiversity at FAO.

I have proposed a new Office for Innovation to consolidate and strengthen FAO's innovative spirit, including innovation of policy, science and technology, innovation of cooperation models, and capacity building.

I would like to underline that the creation of this office will not further erode the capacity of FAO's technical departments. It will just team-up synergy by breaking small silos. We need a more comprehensive team to face the challenges by innovation, which can even strengthen the technical departments.

The proposal reflects sound budgetary management within the context of a flat nominal budget, and will result in cross-fertilization of new knowledge, approaches and ideas.

Having a dynamic pool of changing experts will create fertile ground for the development of innovative methodologies, approaches and programmes across disciplines and sectors. The new Office

will play a platform role to strengthen innovation of the FAO system, marshal international centers of excellence for innovation and build-up even closer cooperation with Member Countries.

There will be an increase and harnessing of FAO's knowledge and expertise, while promoting a more holistic and coordinated approach to addressing the complex and interconnected challenges facing agriculture and food systems, thereby facilitating the nexus approach to look at sustainability issues in an integrated manner. Through the rotating pool of experts proposal we will also create a growing number of "innovation champions" who foster, promote and incentivize innovations.

I have also proposed a new Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to ensure that the special needs of these vulnerable populations and countries are met.

This overarching structure is aimed at coordinating existing resources, cutting across all technical departments and decentralized networks to ensure comprehensive attention to and a coherent approach towards SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

The Office will unburden technical departments by allowing them to focus on their specific technical tasks related to SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, as the coordination, internal outreach and monitoring process across the Organization will be the responsibility of this new Office.

The two Committees that I have established, on youth and on women, will help drive women and youth career enrichment, engagement within FAO to achieve FAO's strategic objectives as well outreach to Member States. We can assist the Member States to establish a better policy on women and youth, especially in the rural areas.

I am also strengthening the Regional, Sub-Regional and Country Offices in knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, to help decentralized offices further adopt a programmatic approach in their work and unleash their potential for problem-solution oriented service for Member Countries through a 360 degree evaluation. I would take the first trial of evaluation at the country level for Representatives of FAO to see what the certification is from Member Countries, relevant ministers and also FAO Headquarters. That is a 360 degree evaluation.

These measures aim to empower country offices to rise to the challenge and increase their energy, efficiency and self-determination.

Of course, I am also ensuring that we have efficient and effective oversight functions in place, as well as strong financial control and human resource management. So on one hand, we offer decentralized offices empowerment, on the other hand we establish a modern traceability. It is a model for risk management.

This is why I have added additional resources to the Office of the Inspector General, strengthened the Finance Division, established a post for the Ombudsman role, and proposed moving the Office of Human Resources under the Corporate Services department.

I am pleased to report that the funding required for the proposed changes is covered from cost savings and efficiencies. Exhibiting better performance will attract more additional support from key-players for both voluntary contributions and donations.

No programmatic cuts were required nor is there any negative impact to the agreed programme of work.

Excellencies, I have presented to you my first set of proposals, and I look forward to Council approving the new organizational structure as well as the revised budgetary appropriations. In the next Council Session in June of 2020, an additional consistent proposal will be submitted containing further adjustments to the FAO Organizational Structure and the Programme of Work and Budget.

Allow me to stress that the reform of FAO management and structure is and will be crucial to the success of our mandate and mission.

During my campaign I emphasized the need for FAO to focus on a number of actions.

Focusing on food security and targeted poverty eradication.

Focusing on weaknesses in tropical agriculture.

Focusing on bottlenecks by devoting more attention to dryland farming.

Promoting digital farming and digital rural development.

Promoting actions to improve agricultural environment for sustainable development.

All the actions, initiatives and measures taken so far as well as the proposals presented to you today are based on these fundamental goals. I already promised you what I read out in my campaign that I will take action to implement, step by step.

You will see, all in my scope. Maybe some is earlier and some is a little bit later. But sooner or later it will come. That is what your expectations are for me. All written down in my Manifesto, during my campaign. That Manifesto is not only my own, I consulted all over the world, about a thousand experts.

Now I can tell you, it is not my personal team, or idea. Because I know so many experts in the world. Personally, I got a lot of emails from them during my campaign. I also met 160 more Ministers and Vice-Ministers in the world, during the past four years. I have already talked to them about the concerns for your country and your area.

Together, we will eradicate hunger and improve the livelihoods of people through better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life. I am committed to improving our ways of working through even greater inclusiveness, efficiency and accountability thereby strengthening the Organization to serve member countries and work for consumers and farmers.

We are in the same boat. My success is your success and your expectations fuel my determination to achieve concrete results that bring real transformation in peoples' lives.

FAO's success means sustainable food systems, prosperity for farmers and a healthy planet for future generations.

Thank you very much for your attention. I am looking forward to your comments and suggestions any time during this week.

Thank you!

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director-General for providing us with a comprehensive overview of your vision and your objective of bringing improvements in the management and business processes of FAO, which would contribute, as you said, to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as well as introduce comprehensive accountability. Thank you.

I open the floor if Members have any comments or questions on the Director-General's statement. The floor is open.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

It is a pleasure to be here and a very warm welcome to the Director-General for his first Council. I will be very brief.

As you said, Independent Chairperson of the Council, it is very helpful to have the Director-General set out his vision and his plans. I wanted to focus on one particular part of that and his commitment to improved transparency and accountability, it is very welcome.

I very much look forward to reading about both his meetings and speeches and those of his senior staff. I would also like to request that FAO provides information on all of its projects, to make that more transparent as well. In particular we would very much welcome financial and performance information on all of FAO's projects and we would welcome that, if that could be published on FAO's

new website as well.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Quisiera agradecer al Director General por sus palabras durante su primera participación en una sesión del Consejo, y por haber compartido sus principales actividades en este lapso en su encargo. Su dinamismo y su ánimo de redoblar la lucha contra el hambre y malnutrición cuentan con todo nuestro apoyo. Las tareas en curso a favor del personal en cuestión de supervisión, la promoción de la tecnología en sus diversas formas y las iniciativas que ha propuesto, particularmente las de Mano de la mano, son elementos que refuerzan la confianza en la FAO.

Queremos que la FAO se mantenga como un referente en la lucha contra el hambre y en la promoción de la nutrición y las mejores prácticas agrícolas, y que ayude a los gobiernos a contar con las mejores herramientas para el cumplimiento del Objetivo de desarrollo sostenible dos de la Agenda 2030. También queremos que la FAO mantenga su universalidad apoyando a todos los países, desde los países en desarrollo, los países sin litoral, los pequeños estados insulares y también a los países de ingresos medianos donde existen enormes retos, sobre todo en el ámbito de la nutrición.

En estas primeras semanas en el cargo, hemos tenido un diálogo fluido con el Director General. Estamos seguros que esta nueva relación continuará. Juntos tenemos que abordar varios desafíos, no solo los relacionados con el hambre, la nutrición y los sistemas alimentarios, sino también el contar con una FAO que esté apta para alcanzar sus objetivos estratégicos que nos permita contar tanto con su asesoramiento científico y creación de estándares, al igual que sus valiosos programas de cooperación técnica. Y poder contar con el poder generar resiliencia ante situaciones de emergencia de diversa índole y que su personal sea el mejor calificado.

Estamos seguros que contaremos con espacios para discutir con el Director General y su equipo estos y otros retos.

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer la presentación del Director General en el que nos presentó sus iniciativas y actividades desarrollados en estos cien días de su gestión. Hacemos propicia la ocasión para expresar satisfacción por el documento de ajuste al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto que refleja las orientaciones de la membresía en la pasada conferencia, así como algunos de los compromisos asumidos con el grupo latinoamericano en ocasión de los encuentros que tuvimos en el proceso de elección del secretario.

Destacamos y alentamos a la Secretaría a continuar con la mejora de la transparencia, la gobernanza interna y el fortalecimiento de supervisión y rendición de cuentas. Haciendo énfasis en el tema de la innovación, acogemos con satisfacción la iniciativa de crear una oficina de innovación. Para la República Argentina es un tema esencial que, entendemos que, a través de esa oficina van a quedar reflejados todos los enfoques para alcanzar una agricultura sostenible en el marco de la FAO, y también todas las políticas e iniciativas para mejorar la moral del personal de esta Secretaría.

Por último, quisiéramos destacar también la última versión del documento Mano de la mano. Observamos con gran satisfacción que se ha incluido la mención a los países de ingresos medianos y que, en el futuro, se va a incluir a toda la membresía. Y eso nos parece, realmente, muy loable y muy importante para nuestra región y para Argentina. Argentina también ha informado su disposición a otorgar cooperación técnica triangular a un grupo de países de diferentes regiones. Así que, agradecemos los trabajos desarrollados hasta el presente por la nueva administración y manifestamos nuestra disposición para continuar colaborando en todo para desarrollar el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto.

Mr Dun NIU (China)(Original language Chinese)

We appreciate FAO's Director-General for his introduction and we appreciate the Director-General's systematic presentation about his thinking at FAO. He took office four months ago and we have been witnessing his increasing communication and engagement with Member States and his improving internal management.

Also, he proposed a hand-in-hand initiative and has been working hard to make the Organization more

transparent, accountable, inclusive and highly efficient. For this we really welcome all this and we will work together with all Member States to continue to support the Director-General and we will firmly support him to perform his work.

China has always attached high importance to the cooperation with the United Nations FAO and we will increase the strength of our cooperation with FAO in the future. China supports the 2020-2-21 PWB adjustment. We support to establish an office for Small Island and Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) as well as creating an office of chief scientists and innovation and biodiversity cluster as well as FAO's hand-in-hand and other practical cooperation initiatives.

We are willing to work with Member States to make greater contributions to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals such as zero hunger and poverty eradication. We hope that through further in-depth discussions in the Council we can build more consensus and we can ensure better implementation of FAO's work and achieve practical and concrete results.

M. Boumedienne MAHI (Algérie)

Ma délégation intervient à l'occasion de l'ouverture de cette session. Premièrement, pour vous remercier de l'excellente organisation de cette session et donner, je dirais, la bienvenue à Monsieur le Directeur général, pour la première fois à cette session du Conseil, et rappeler aussi que le Directeur général de cette Organisation a été élu sur la base d'un programme et d'engagements qui ont été révélés lors de la campagne électorale.

Aujourd'hui et avec grand plaisir, on assiste, après quatre mois depuis son élection, à un état des lieux ou une évaluation des premières décisions prises pour, premièrement, mettre en œuvre ces engagements, et deuxièmement, donner une orientation beaucoup plus efficace à cette Organisation, combien importante pour les pays en développement, notamment les pays africains et que ma délégation représente au sein de ce Conseil, aux côtés d'autres collègues africains; importante aussi pour mon pays, qui est pleinement engagé dans une réforme du secteur agricole, secteur primordial pour son développement.

C'est avec plaisir que j'ai suivi, comme tous les membres de cet auguste Conseil, les premières décisions qui, effectivement, sont révélatrices d'une très bonne orientation, que nous soutenons, et ce à travers Monsieur le Directeur général. Cette transparence donc, qui a déjà engagé une bonne gouvernance, instaurée dans le cadre de la gestion de son équipe, et la remobilisation de ses cadres à travers, comme il l'a si bien dit, leur responsabilisation.

Je dirais aussi que l'évaluation de tous les secteurs se base sur des critères donnant plus d'importance, dans la gestion interne, au mérite; de même, le renforcement du travail de la FAO avec les différentes organisations internationales, mais aussi avec le système des Nations Unies de façon générale. Toutes ces décisions, donc, s'ajoutent à celle de la création des deux bureaux auxquels Monsieur le Directeur général a fait référence, dont le bureau des petits États insulaires en développement (PEID), des pays les moins avancés (PMA) et des pays en développement sans littoral. Et je souhaiterais que Monsieur le Directeur général précise mieux si les pays en développement sont inclus dans ce bureau, ou si ce un bureau sera spécifique aux PEID, PMA et pays en développement sans littoral.

Ainsi, à travers toutes ces décisions, on ne peut que se réjouir et exprimer encore une fois notre soutien au Directeur général, en espérant que les jours, les mois qui viennent nous révéleront d'autres orientations et décisions en appui aux pays en développement.

Mon pays tient et accorde une très grande importance au travail de la FAO. Le travail que nous avons déjà fait avec elle à travers les différents directeurs généraux, notamment votre prédécesseur, Monsieur le Directeur général, a été un travail très important. Nous souhaitons renforcer encore plus avec vous ce travail de coordination et voulons vous dire encore une fois que notre pays vous assure de toute sa confiance et de son soutien. Je suis sûr et certain que tous les pays africains se félicitent des résultats atteints jusqu'à maintenant, qui ne sont que les premiers indices.

Nous ne sommes pas encore dans le cœur de l'action, car vous êtes au début de votre mission, mais nous espérons que la FAO continuera d'appuyer et sera toujours d'un grand soutien aux pays africains qui vraiment ont besoin d'elle. Ma délégation sera sûrement appelée à intervenir lors du programme de

ce Conseil. Il s'agit des premières informations et déclarations que nous avons voulu communiquer pour ce premier travail que vous avez accompli, Monsieur le Directeur Général.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Egypt would like to express its gratitude and appreciation for the detailed statement delivered by Dr Qu after assuming his duties and also in the first FAO Council after his election as a new Director-General of FAO.

Egypt would also like to assure you of our commitment to work closely with you hand in hand to fulfil your vision to make FAO a more dynamic transparent efficient Organization to better serve Member States in their endeavours to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 and SDG 2.

We would like also to support our Egypt support for your initiative hand in hand including we would also to welcome you Mr Director General in Egypt very soon.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

We are also a Member of the Council as the European Union, thank you very much for giving us the floor. Good morning everybody. Good morning Director-General and we wish you a very successful first council.

We were also very pleased with the record of what you have been able to achieve within the first months of being in office. I wanted to touch upon the issues that several colleagues have already being addressed. This question of transparency.

The question of transparency it is fine, very welcome for every single what has already been done. We would also add to this transparency the need to publish all the country programs and memoranda of understanding with different organizations including the private sector. But it will be also good to have a look into what are the upcoming events.

The transparency does not only refer to past events, but also to have a kind of a vision what you wish to do in coming weeks, what are the visits that you are planning and engagements that you are about to take.

The second point that I wanted to touch upon is the question of FAO's strategy. We have been in a strategy that ended up in 2019 extended to 20. We should be engaged in elaborating the new strategy for the FAO for the coming two years. It would be good that we engage rapidly into this work and we try to align the FAO strategy with Agenda 2030, with SDGs and to see how we collectively could contribute to the success of this global endeavour to eradicate hunger and to fulfil what we have agreed all upon in the United Nations under the SDGS.

Therefore, welcome and thank you very much for your presentation and we are looking forward to a successful Council.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Nigeria)(Observer)

We thank you Director-General for all you have been able to do since your arrival in Rome. The first 100 days, and the account you have given, gives us a clear understanding of what you want to do. Like you said, we have to do it together to succeed.

Your success is our success and we all want to succeed. FAO has come to a point where we must constantly remember that we are working for millions of people out there. The smallholders, the fisher folks, name them so as to get a better life.

On behalf of the African Group we want to fully support and appreciate knowing fully well all the necessary elements that will make us successful in Human Resources, in the centralized offices here at headquarters. You have put in place some additional things that needs to be done and you have enabled to get from the system some savings.

We therefore support you fully for the proposed PWB adjustment 2020/2021. We support the Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Country Office to give a better life to more people ahead. The Hand in Hand Initiative is also new and without that it is getting better understood and in all probability it shall work into FAO programmes and all of us will see a better FAO.

It is very appreciated and in line with what is going on in the world to digitalize FAO in all aspects. Doing that means a new culture and a new attitude. Director-General, it is important like you have said to transform biodiversity into food diversity. Getting the Ministers of Agriculture, Ministers of Environment and Water Resources into a dialogue, so that we can get a better world.

Finally, we want to support and appreciate all that will be done in the different new committees you have established and of course, at the end of the day, the United Nations System, the SDGs, should be the success of all of sum.

The African Regional Group is in full support of what you are proposing and working together determined to do.

Mr Ringson CHITSIKO (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe would like to thank the Director-General for not forgetting his promise during the campaign for election.

It is always the case with many people that campaign for office to immediately forget that once they are elected into those particular positions, certainly the call for an inclusive participatory and transparent Organization going forward is a position that is strongly supported, like the others have said, also by Zimbabwe.

Thank you very much Director General and we are together going forward.

Mr Vincent Frerio BAMULANGAKI (Uganda)

I bring you greetings from Uganda. I want to use this opportunity to thank the Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu for hitting the ground running and for the innovativeness he has started with at FAO. We appreciate his vision and the focus on building a dynamic FAO for a better world while remaining committed to the original aspirations mandate the mission of FAO.

Uganda welcomes the allocation of more funding to FAOs work on the international plant protection convention and on the joint FAO/World Health Organization Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and the Ministry of Biodiversity at FAO.

We are glad that the guidance that we provided at the conference in June has been incorporated in the adjustments to the programme of work and budget. We thank you your Excellency Director-General.

Uganda welcomes the structure and the programmatic adjustments presented to this Council. We appreciate the importance given to innovation as depicted in the creation of a new office for innovation. And this will, we are sure that it will be headed by a chief scientist.

There is no doubt that our world today has been connected to become one village by the driving force of science and innovation. It is science and innovation that is bringing us together more closer. We are glad that FAO is moving further to unleash the massive benefits and solutions that come with innovation.

Uganda commends the creativity of establishing an office for air disease on the small island developing countries. This office will go a long way in enhancing FAOs ability to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals especially Goals 1 and 2, and of course on this point, when I get a change later on during the course of the Council I will expand on it.

As I conclude, I want to make it clear that the few issues above which I have just highlighted do not diminish the importance of other issues presented by the Director-General.

Mr Hee-seog KWON (Republic of Korea)

My delegation wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu for his comprehensive presentation on the main programmes and the important housekeeping matters.

This is your first Council session since your assumption of the Director-General position. We recognise that thus far you worked with the enthusiasm to improve the modus operandi of the agency and instil transparency accountability as you set out in your presentation. You also brought in the new idea of the hand in hand initiative to help achieve zero-hunger of sustainable development goals until

2030.

We commend your noble efforts on this. Given the multifaceted and complicated nature of this important endeavour many Council Members have been seriously deliberating this important issue. We hope that we could find an optimal fast forward on this important project in due course.

My delegation is confident that with your outstanding leadership this Council Session will be productive and fruitful.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (South Sudan)

South Sudan would like to appreciate the diligence of the new Director-General to manage his proposal within the overall approved budget label with regards to proposed adjustments to the PWB 2020 - 2021.

We note that the establishment of the office of innovation may provide FAO with an educated structure to deal more consistent and coherent with scientific with advanced based approach to agriculture in their complex relations with the different realms such as with healthy diet, sustainable food system and climate change.

We support hand in hand initiative which is designed to accelerate the importance of the 2020 as most of the developing countries are behind this schedule. Director General, thank you very much for your support and your plan for 2020 and 2021.

CHAIRPERSON

I have no other request for the floor. I thank the Members and pass the floor to the Director-General for any comments he may have. Director-General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to start by saying thank you all for your questions, some guidance for me to go further and your encouragement for me to work hard for you.

It comes to the transparency as some Ambassador's asked me, from the United Kingdom, from the European Union and others. For me I am a very transparent person. I want to build an FAO that is more transparent, by more traceability, by innovation, by digitalization. You will see how transparent.

Of course, we will start from the project, justification, implementation, project efficiency or assessment and then clean the whole story. Not only Memorandum of understanding (MoU), you say you sign so many MoUs, but nothing is happening. I will put all the MoU on the web and after two years nothing is happening. Maybe the reason is we did not prepare well, or maybe you did not commit.

Therefore, it is bilateral. MoU with other organizations, with the private sector, should be traced a bit. Not 100 percent I know for sure, but we will push them to deliver and to do concrete things. As I said repeatedly, we design bigger and do concrete and better. That is always my philosophy.

Second, thanks for your support for the two offices. An Office for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Land Locked, and also, food crises countries. We said that we are starting with the Hand-in-Hand.

Hand-in-Hand, we are starting with vulnerable people in vulnerable regions first, and then we can come and move to the middle income, and then we can move to the Europeans. I said I want to build One-FAO. It is not just words, we can share a lot. Even European, United States of America, what is the future in 20 years later, for rural development. We need to learn from each other. Among Europeans, among OECD or among others. For that we have a lot to share.

Two years ago we had the cherry production farmers from the United States of America and Chile. They came through e-commerce, for export to China. In China, they consider cherries a very special fruit. They are willing to pay four times as much compared to orange or apples. Different culture and food culture, they have different values. We can create those kind of complementary arrangements through FAO.

That is why next year we will speed up the process of digitalization of FAO. Not only by e-commerce, also by governance and also by digital farming and digital rural areas. As I said, the digital world is composed of three parts. Digital governance, digital economy and digital society. These three parts will fit well with FAO's mandate and business.

The third issue, I also appreciate that we are ready to improve the Codex and IPPC, and others. Because all the developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, you need to upgrade your economic growth. For middle-income, for developing nations, you have to upgrade your growth. What is the most powerful engine of reversed power? We call it reversing power. We have to introduce, adopt, international standards or national standards, or entrepreneurial standards.

We have to learn from the developed nations. They have already accumulated a lot of experience. Of course, we have to be ready, preparing ourselves with the assistance of Europe, United States of America, from new emerging countries that can offer capacity building for developing nations in Africa, in Asia or Latin America. We need to build up, also, some Hand-in-Hand Initiative in Codex, or IPPC and even for transboundary disease.

That is why we are going to have a satellite meeting for Fall Armyworm Action Plan. I will Chair that Committee. Together with Semedo and others from different regions.

We really wanted to have something real happening, tangible results against transboundary diseases like fall armyworm. I wish you can support through voluntary contributions. We got support from the United States of America, from China, from EU. Two days ago, USD 4 million was allocated. I think that is very good for 70 countries, and most important is 30 to 40 countries for fall armyworm. I am just taking this as an example, also others, foot and mouth disease, PPR and others. We have to start one by one.

With a concrete Action Plan we can have tangible results within years or months. As I said, again, let us learn together, work together and contribute together.

Thank you for your support and for your suggestions.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director-General for your responses to the comments made by Members.

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

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

(CL 163/1; CL 163/INF/1; CL 163/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, we can move on Item 1. The first item on the agenda is the "Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable" as set out in documents *CL 163/1*, *CL 163/INF/1* and *CL 163/INF/3*.

Before moving to adopt the agenda, I should like to propose the addition of three sub-items under item 16 Any Other Matters.

I should like to propose sub-item 16.1 "Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee", as one seat has become vacant due to the departure of one member.

I should then propose to add the third additional item "Statement of a Representative of the FAO Staff

Bodies”.

If the Council is in agreement, each of these items could be addressed on Wednesday morning under item 16, as per the Provisional Timetable.

There is one more item and that is item 16.2 “Appointment of the Deputy Director-General”.

This would all be for discussion on Wednesday morning.

With regard to the Provisional Timetable, I would like to draw the Council’s attention to my pre session letter of 28 November proposing that item 3 “Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21” be deliberated under its own item and not when we consider the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, or of the Joint Meeting.

For ease of reference, the relevant paragraphs in the reports of the Committees are included in the Provisional Timetable under the respective items.

With these comments, may I take it that the Council approves the Agenda and Timetable for the session?

There is no comment, so the Agenda and Timetable are adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

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

Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

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

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice Chairperson have been received:

- i. Ms Ananga Messina Clémentine of Cameroon;
- ii. Mr Hisham Mohamed Badr of Egypt; and
- iii. Ms Marie Therese Sarch of the United Kingdom.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Now we move on to the membership of the Drafting Committee. The Regional Groups have proposed:

Ms Delphine Borione of France as Chairperson,

and the following countries as members:

1. Afghanistan
2. Angola
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Canada

6. Dominican Republic
7. Egypt
8. Finland
9. France
10. India
11. Japan
12. Russian Federation
13. Viet Nam
14. Zimbabwe

Are there any objections?

Thank you, it is so decided.

Before we move to item 3 of the agenda, I wish to remind Members to submit a copy of their statements in advance, if possible, to assist the interpreters and verbatim reporters. Statements should be submitted to the email address projected on the screen behind the podium.

I also wish to remind Members that following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session.

In this regard, in line with the practice implemented at our previous sessions, the draft conclusions will be projected on the screen behind the podium after the close of the discussions on each item.

This will enable Council Members to see the draft text while it is being read out and react with comments more easily. Non-English speakers of Council will be able to follow and provide comments through interpretation.

In this regard, I wish to emphasize that my conclusions will be concise and focus on decisions by the Council, with some flexibility afforded to the Drafting Committee in finalizing the draft report, while not re-opening substantive discussions which remains the prerogative of the plenary meeting.

With this we can move on to Item 3.

Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020 21

Point 3. Ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 2020-2021

Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21

(CL 163/3; CL 163/3 Information Notes 1; CL 163/3 Information Notes 1; CL 163/3 WA 2; CL 163/3 WA 3; CL 163/3 WA 4; CL 163/3 WA 5; CL 163/3 WA 6; CL 163/3 WA 7

CL 163/4 - Report of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee (paragraph 5)

CL 163/5 - Report of the 178th Session of the Finance Committee (paragraphs 12 and 13)

CL 163/6 - Report of the Joint Meeting (paragraph 6))

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentleman, we begin our substantive work this morning with *Item 3: Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020 21*.

Before we start our deliberations I wish to urge that Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, with preference given to Regional Group statements rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

I noticed in your earlier interventions that you did comment on some of the issues on the budget adjustments and we have got a record. So, perhaps they don't need to be repeated again.

For this Item, the documents before the Council are *CL 163/3, CL 163/3 Web Annexes 2 to 7 and CL 163/3 Information Notes 1 and 2*.

I will now invite Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to present the report.

Ms Crawford, you have the floor.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

I will go briefly into the main elements and through an also focus on what is required in Council in the meeting. The Conference reviewed the Medium-Term Plan 2020-21 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 (PWB) (C 2019/3, C 2019/LIM/4 Rev.1).

That Document outlined the Strategic Programmes of the Organization and in particular the priorities and focus for 2021.

It outlined the results framework, in particular the outcomes and outputs under your results framework.

It outlined implementation arrangements, including the Organizational structure, positions, resource levels and this was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Session in March and by Council in April of 2019.

The Conference in June 2019 approved the programme of work and the budget of USD 1.56 billion and provided some additional guidance, which is found in the report of the Conference, so the documents before you, the adjustments to the PWB 2020-21 is the last item in that series of proposals that come before you. Before we move into the new biennium 2020-21.

The adjustments to the PWB reflects adjustments arising from Conference decisions and guidance provided in June, it reflects initial adjustments in line with Director-General's vision, as we have just discussed, it provides an update of cost increases and efficiency savings and it provides an overview of the updated results framework, including outputs indicators and targets.

This document was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting in November this year, last month before you including with the guidance of those two committees.

The Conference, in its decisions and guidance in June of this year, appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objects with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Conference, also supported the areas of de-emphasis and the priorities and resource allocations. It requested increased funding for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and FAO and World Health Organization (WHO), the Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and requested increased resources for Biodiversity, requested we continued monitoring assumptions behind the cost increases and continued to review any further opportunities for savings and efficiency measures.

Welcomed the flat nominal budget level including the share of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) at 14 percent of appropriation approved the Programme of Work and the budget level proposed by the Director-General with this guidance.

Overview of what is specifically in the adjustments to the PWB.

The first two sections provide the background that I just gave to you and section three focuses on structural adjustments and programmatic adjustments (Section III)

The Structural adjustments are also shown in Annex 1, which is the organigramme of the Organization and I also would like to highlight and emphasizes that we have information note 1 which provides further detail on these structural adjustments that are being proposed.

Those adjustments are the following Office for Innovation which is headed by a Chief Scientist is one of the key changes proposed by the Director-General to make the Organization more open, inclusive and flexible.

This Office will further consolidate and strengthen FAO's innovative ethos, producing tangible results and issue-based solutions. Next item, new Office for Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC).

These offices proposed as one of the Organization to strengthen the coherence of FAO's work in supporting these countries that are vulnerable to unique and complex food security and nutrition challenges that transcend any one specific strategic objective.

We have also established the new Biodiversity Cluster in the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department: just to highlight again the Information note presented provides further detail in three areas, for example in the Biodiversity Cluster it outlines the scope and functions of the biodiversity cluster, its links with the Biodiversity Strategy and its place in the Organization.

Two other changes that you will see in the organigramme in Annex I is that Office of Human Resources has been moved from Apex to the Corporate Services Department, and the Legal and Ethics Office that previously was one office has been is now split into two offices, the Legal Office and the Ethics Office.

These are the changes to the Organizational structure that the Council is requested to endorse at your meeting this week.

The Programmatic and operational adjustments have already been mentioned, they were the increased resources for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Food Safety Scientific Advice, has requested by Conference.

Strengthened the regional Office with additional monitoring and evaluation initial position in particular to support Country Offices.

We have a New Ombudsman position, in the PWB that went to Conference we had resources for an Ombudsman, now we have also established a post for that position and we strengthen the Office of the Inspector General which additional resources and the Finance Division which an additional position.

The Youth Committee and Women's Committee has also been established and explained in that section.

In Section IV, which outlines cost increases and other efficiency gains and savings, there we highlight that indeed we will continue to monitor the assumptions behind cost increases for in June. We are now recording a downward adjustment in those cost increases of USD 5.4 million compared to what went to you in June, so cost increases went to from USD 20 million to USD 14.4 million is the estimate for the biennium.

This reduction is mainly from changes in staff cost elements and the detail for that can be found in Web Annex 2.

This was of course reviewed by Finance Committee at their session last month. We have also found other efficiency gains and savings partly thought the increase in support cost recoveries partly thought some streamlining of posts in non-technical units which together provided an other USD 4.1 million in savings.

Section V Overall summary of the proposed adjustments. The total cost of the proposed adjustments is USD 9.5 million for the biennium; this is visible in the Table of the document.

We are pleased to report through the additional savings that were found under the cost increases. As well as increase of income of streamlining of non-technical units these addition cost of USD 9.5 million are fully covered by these cost savings and efficiencies, are managed within the approved overall budget level and there is no negative impact on the agreed programme of work.

These Adjustments are reflected in the budgeted post establishment (Table 2, Web Annex 5), the Council this week is asked to endorse this budgeted post establishment.

The budgetary chapter distribution of net appropriation has also been realigned based on these proposals (Table 3) – the Council is requested to approve the budgetary chapter distribution of net appropriation.

Section VI outlines the results framework.

In Web Annex 4, the output indicators and targets - this is new information that was not available at the time of Conference but is provided to you now, this will provide the framework this we will monitor and report to you during the 20-21 biennium.

We have also provided additional information on antimicrobial resistance and gender under the Strategic Objectives (SOs) and we have outlined how they are measured under the Strategic

Objectives.

New Key performance indicators (KPI) on harassment, sexual harassment and Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) that was also reviewed by the Finance Committee.

In Summary Mr Chair the decisions required this week (Section VII).

The Council is requested total note that the guidance and decisions of the Conference have been implemented.

Take note of the programmatic and operational adjustments.

The revised cost increase and the further efficiency savings; take note of the results frameworks the Council is requested to endorse the revised budgeted post establishment (Table 2 and Web Annex 5) and structural changes (Annex 1, organigramme); approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 3. And note of the updated estimates of extrabudgetary resources for the next biennium and encourage Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work.

As the Director-General also said, the governing bodies will have the opportunity to consider a broader review and adjustment to the implementation of the PWB, at your next session in June 2020.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson of the Programme Committee and of the Joint Meeting, to report on the discussions on this item during the 127th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)(Chairperson, Programme Committee)(Chairperson, Joint Programme and Finance Committee)

As you are aware, this topic was discussed separately in the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as together by the two Committees in their Joint Meeting.

I was honored to chair the Joint Meeting of the two Committees, which looked at the overall context of the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020-21.

I think it was a very positive setting a meeting of the Joint Committees. We saw renewed energies, not only from the Director-General, but also from the Members of the Programme, and the Finance Committee. This new energy is necessary as we are working for the implementation of the Agenda 2030, and especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We know that everything we do here, not only within the Council, but also all the Governing Bodies and Committees, is about implementing the SDGs, the Strategic Framework, and Objectives of FAO, as they are all related within the framework of the SDGs. We also know that we are lacking far behind the implementation of the SDGs, and especially SDG 2. So we know that we have to step up our efforts, certainly not only here in Rome, but especially at the country level.

With this context, the Joint Committee addressed several items on the Agenda related to the PWB.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the initial adjustments proposed by the Director-General, and appreciated the stronger focus on scientific and evidence-based approaches.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the additional resources allocated to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme, named CODEX, and to mainstreaming biodiversity.

It appreciated in principle the establishment of the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Country (LLDCs); highlighted the need for innovation and appreciated in principle the establishment of an Office for Innovation and the position of a Chief Scientist. But also, the Joint meeting requested more information about these Offices which are now reflected in the INF documents, and of course, the INF documents couldn't be discussed in the Joint Meeting of the Finance or Programme Committee.

The Joint Meeting also highlighted the need that FAO works for all countries, least developed countries (LDCs), but certainly also countries including middle-income countries and upper-middle income countries. It is appreciated and welcomed the establishment of the Women's and the Youth Committee and aligned to the need to avoid duplication of work and also stressed that these Committees have no programmatic responsibilities.

The Joint Committee also noted the clarification for the Biodiversity Cluster, especially on its role and function in a position of the Organization in starving. Also for this item, we have seen an INF Document, which clarifies this much more.

The Joint Committee noted the updated organizational structure and the revised budgeted post establishment and supported the revised distribution of the net appropriations by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 3.

The Programme Committee contributed from its review with additional guidance. We took up the issues, which are reflected already yet when it comes to the IPPC, CODEX and biodiversity; about the Office for SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs; as well as the Innovation Office, as well as the Biodiversity Office, but added some extra guidance.

The Programme Committee endorsed the output indicators and targets for 2020-21 as presented in Web Annex 4, and emphasized the need to strengthen the visibility of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and welcomed the agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan results framework in FAO's strategic results framework;

The Programme Committee looked forward to examining the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Report 2019, and stressed the importance of the evaluation of the TCP.

It also welcomed the support for FAO's activities to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, and encouraged that FAO supports countries in implementing sustainable food systems where necessary.

The Finance Committee focused on the financial structure aspects of the adjustments and my colleague of the Finance Committee will inform you about these aspects.

I really would like to thank all of my colleagues in the Joint Committee Meeting as well as the Programme Committee for their dedication, energy, support, but also for their critical questions and remarks, because we need them all – positive and critical remarks to bring a better future for FAO, but certainly for those who need it the most.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite, Ms Imelda Smolcic, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to report on discussions on this item during the 178th Session of the Committee.

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas)

Me complace presentar las deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas en su 178º período de sesiones sobre los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2020-21. Las deliberaciones del Comité están se exponen en el documento CL 163/5, en los párrafos 12 y13.

El Comité expresó su satisfacción por el hecho de que los ajustes propuestos se gestionarían sin superar la cuantía global del presupuesto aprobado mediante el ajuste de los aumentos de los costos y eficiencias, sin afectar negativamente la ejecución del Programa de trabajo acordado.

El Comité acogió con beneplácito los recursos adicionales asignados a la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y el Programa conjunto FAO/OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos.

El Comité solicitó que en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2020 se le presentara un nuevo indicador clave del rendimiento reforzado en relación con el Logro 10.3.E CL 163/5 7 (Dirección) respecto del acoso sexual.

El Comité hizo hincapié en la necesidad de destinar financiación suficiente a la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG), dentro de los recursos existentes, para hacer frente al mayor volumen de trabajo y

solicitó que se le otorgara prioridad en los futuros ajustes o transferencias presupuestarios que se presentaran al Comité de Finanzas.

El Comité examinó los ajustes propuestos a la estructura orgánica y la plantilla y tomó nota de que la estructura orgánica actualizada (Anexo 1 del documento CL 163/3/Rev.1) y la plantilla presupuestada revisada (Anexo 5 para la Web del documento CL 163/3/Rev.1).

El Comité recomendó que el Consejo aprobase la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulo presupuestario presentada en el Cuadro 3 del documento CL 163/3/Rev.1. Deseo señalar el excelente clima de trabajo y de confianza mutua en que se trabajó en el Comité de Finanzas. Espero que ese mismo espíritu de trabajo y colaboración y transparencia se mantenga en futuras sesiones. Quedo a disposición de los Miembros del Consejo para proporcionar cualquier aclaración o explicación adicional.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor to Members for their comments on this item.

Ms Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA (Cameroon)

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the Members of the Council and particularly the Africa Regional Group for my action as one of the Vice-Chairs. It is a great honour for myself and for my country, Cameroon.

Cameroon, together with Cape Verde speak on this agenda item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Our Regional Group welcomes the preparation of document CL 163/3, including the two information notes and the seven Web Annexes. It is a comprehensive document in itself in that it provides information on both the international context in which FAO operates, as well as the planning and monitoring framework for FAO's work. It provides information on what needs to be done or actions already taken to strengthen the delivery of the programmes. It provides also detailed information on adjustments to the PWB 2020-2021.

In the document, the Director General has responded to the request and guidance of the 41st session of the Conference in June 2019.

We welcome the reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee whose guidance is essential to the Council's decision-making process. We therefore take note of their comments.

The Africa Regional Group notes that the guidance and decisions of the June 2019 Conference have been widely considered in the adjustments to the 2020-2021 Programme of work and budget, including priority and de-emphasis areas that are revised within the context of efficiency and cost savings. We have also thoroughly examined the additional proposals in the PWB put before the Council for approval.

For Africa, the priority remains the three Regional Initiatives, namely:

- i) accelerated action by member countries in the fight against hunger (Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025);
- ii) promotion of sustainable proven innovative practices and principles of production and post-production processes (Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa) and;
- iii) strengthening of resilience among vulnerable farming communities and pastoralists.

We also reiterate the priorities set by the 30th Regional Conference for Africa that took place in February 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan, as summarized in the Ministerial Declaration contained in the report of that Conference referring to:

- i) commitment to achieve Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 and continue to pursue policies and programmes that will redress the deteriorating trends in undernourishment and

malnutrition in all its forms in Africa;

- ii) Welcomed the engagement of an FAO dedicated programme in addressing the needs of SIDS and;
- iii) Supported further action to address the needs of landlocked food-deficit countries.

We further stress the importance of addressing the issues of the employment of young people in agriculture, urbanization and migration, intra-regional trade, equitable development, climate change and resilience to shocks, sustainable intensification of production and development of value chains, and building resilience in arid areas.

With regard to the updated organizational structure, we take note of the fact that no major changes will be made to the apex except the slight but necessary adjustments, and that the Office of Human Resource is moved to the Corporate Services Department to bring the full range of HR management and servicing functions together under one department and ensure better integrated services.

We endorse the idea of the creation of a Chief Scientist and Office of Innovation headed by an Assistant Director General, as well as the additional Office for Small Islands Development States, Least Developed Countries and Land-Locked Developing Countries and the Biodiversity Cluster to mainstream biodiversity in all sectors of FAO.

We continue to stress the importance of having a relatively wide network of decentralized offices in our region, fully staffed and sufficiently resourced.

We therefore support in the Regional Office for Africa, the creation of a Monitoring and Evaluation position, which could be based either in a Sub-Regional Office or in a Liaison Office.

We understand two committees, Women and Youth, will be established within the Office of the Director General. We await to get more information on the functioning of these committees.

On the Hand-and-Hand Initiative, we take note of the deliberations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on the matter and look forward to receiving detailed programmatic proposals on the way forward considering FAO's mandate.

With regard to Programmatic and operational adjustments, we support the proposed work and budget increase for the International Plant Protection Convention and on the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme.

Considering the update of cost increases for 2020-21 and other efficiency gains and savings, we take note of updated estimate for 2020-21 of total cost increases of USD 14.4 million, and a total estimated savings of USD 29.7 million. We salute efforts made by the Secretariat to find supplementary savings of USD 2.2 million and encourage further efforts as long as the technical programmes are not negatively impacted.

We approve the new budgetary chapters redistribution revised on the basis of the Conference approved net appropriation.

We also note the updated version of the results framework and output indicators and targets for strategic objectives and expect their impact to be reported as part of the programme evaluation in 2020.

We also take note of the updated estimates of extra-budgetary resources, while encouraging Members to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the programme implementation and achievement of strategic objectives.

In closing, we look forward to consider a broader review and adjustment to the implementation of the PWB during 2020, including at the 164th session of the Council in June 2020.

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Agradecemos la elaboración del documento que se está considerando ya que refleja los ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el período 2020-2021. Argentina valora positivamente el establecimiento de una oficina para la innovación, ya que se espera que esta consolide y fortalezca el

espíritu innovador de la FAO, en particular, la innovación en los ámbitos del pensamiento, los modelos de cooperación y la aplicación de la digitalización.

Se aprecia que esta oficina ayude a garantizar la aplicación de la ciencia y tecnología modernas, así como la adopción por parte de la Organización de enfoques innovadores a la hora de afrontar nuevas situaciones y desafíos.

Los enfoques innovadores cumplen una función central en el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, siendo la tecnificación de la agricultura y la inversión en diagnósticos, por ejemplo, de la calidad de los suelos y de los eventos climáticos, algunas de las herramientas necesarias para incrementar la producción y la productividad al mismo tiempo que se conservan los recursos naturales. Por tal motivo, resulta relevante que la FAO apoye las iniciativas de los Estados Miembros y los esfuerzos de estos por mejorar los sistemas productivos y alimentarios actuales, por ejemplo, impulsando la sostenibilidad a través de una agricultura que fomente y adopte las buenas prácticas agrícolas. Entre ellas, cabe mencionar la siembra directa en combinación con la rotación de cultivos, el muestreo y monitoreo de suelos para ajustar los manejos agronómicos, la nutrición balanceada de cultivos a través de la fertilización para mantener y mejorar la fertilidad de los suelos.

Consideramos que la revolución en materia de tecnología agrícola es clave para que la agricultura dé un paso fundamental hacia adelante y en particular resaltar el rol que desempeña la biotecnología. Esta herramienta permite reducir costos y mejorar la eficiencia, lo cual coadyuva a un uso más sostenible de los recursos, la prevención de riesgos y el aumento de los volúmenes de producción como la calidad del producto final. De esta forma, la biotecnología tiene un papel de gran relevancia en los esfuerzos en pos de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, la biotecnología tiene un rol central en términos de preservación del medio ambiente. En muchos casos, los cultivos mejorados no requieren la aplicación de agroquímicos, lo que implica que tampoco resulta necesario el uso de maquinaria para su aplicación reduciendo así las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Asimismo, la biotecnología posibilita un mayor uso de bioinsumos que reemplacen a los agroquímicos.

Se aprecia, además, que el documento señala la importancia de incrementar los recursos en el próximo Programa de trabajo y presupuesto en lo que se refiere a la labor de la FAO en relación a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y al programa conjunto FAO-OMS de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos, ya que permitirá a la organización avanzar la labor normativa en estos importantes aspectos. Asimismo, consideramos de manera positiva el incremento de los recursos destinados a incorporar la biodiversidad en la Organización, destacando la importancia de contar con la referencia clara dentro del organigrama de la FAO, en cuanto a la responsabilidad de implementación de estos trabajos.

En lo relativo al incremento de las actividades que aceleren la transformación hacia sistemas alimentarios más sostenibles, resilientes, sensibles a la nutrición e inclusivos, quisiéramos mencionar que referirse a la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios puede entenderse en el sentido de que resulta indispensable pasar de un sistema alimentario a otro. Premisa que no necesariamente se aplica a todos los casos, ya que muchos sistemas alimentarios ya son sostenibles en sus tres dimensiones.

En este punto, quisiéramos hacer propicia la ocasión para señalar que, en el documento de Ajustes del Programa de trabajo y presupuesto, se remite a la nota al pie 8 al programa de trabajo aprobado en la Conferencia. Y en este solo se alude a la promoción de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles, resilientes y diversos y no a la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios. Entonces, desearíamos, por favor, que la Secretaría tome nota de este señalamiento que fue resaltado en el Comité del Programa atento a la importancia que reviste utilizar conceptos acordados por todos los miembros de la Organización y reflejados en este documento oficial de la FAO.

Ms Helena MALIKYAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan has the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group welcomes the adjustments proposed by the Director-General and wishes to underline the following points.

One, increases in Net Appropriation for Strategic Objectives 2 and 4, to the tune of USD 4.5 million combined;

Two, mobilization of additional USD 50 million in voluntary contribution.

Three, maintaining the level of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) unchanged, at USD 140.8 million. However, it should be noted that the demand for TCP assistance is likely to increase due to new starters like Innovation, Hand-in-Hand Initiative and requests addressed to the new office for Small Islands Development States (SIDS), Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

Four, the nine proposed adjustments with a combined Net Appropriation of USD 9.5 million as per table 1, paragraph 67.

Five, the creation of the Office of Innovation and the Biodiversity Cluster from which both developed and developing countries can benefit.

Six, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the Committees for Youth and Women; looking forward to receiving additional information about its conceptual make-up and its linkage with the Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

Seven, welcoming the creation of the committee for youth and for women in the Office of the Director-General;

Eight, the transfer of the Office for Human Resources to the Corporative Services Department.

Nine, although the overall increase in posts is small seven posts, there has been a notable increase in the number of posts at Director and Professional level, 25 posts or an increase of 1.6 percent before the Adjustment), and the bulk of the increase is for HQ units.

Finally, Mr Chair, the Near East Group wishes to seek clarification on three issues.

First, there is no clear statement in the adjustments on FAO's strategy for intervention in middle income countries, despite the fact that the majority of the rural poor live in lower-middle-income countries and there are pockets of poverty in several the upper-middle-income countries.

Second, the terms of reference of the new Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, and its linkage with other UN agencies where such programmes exist such as the Vienna Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action for the LLDCs as well as the work done by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Third, the modus operandi of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative within the result-based framework of FAO and its interface with the new Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

Chairperson, with these observations, the Near East Group endorses the Adjustments to the PWB 2020-21 as submitted by the Director-General for the approval of the Council.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

Malaysia has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia Regional Group.

Asia Regional Group supports all effort to improve FAO's work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. As such, we welcomed the Director General's proposed adjustments to the PWB 2020-2021 that aim to improve inclusiveness, implementation, delivery of programme, and better results to end global hunger while remaining committed to FAO's mandate and missions.

In terms of structural adjustments, we welcomed the establishment of special setups to coordinate specific focus of the Organization.

The Office of Innovation is important to promote and integrate innovative approaches to improve our delivery and quality of our deliverables.

We also appreciate that FAO is giving emphasis to vulnerable populations with the establishment of the Office of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC).

Some of these countries are located in Asia, and continue to face challenges in realizing food security

and nutrition, among others caused by climate change. Therefore, the establishment of a new office could strengthen FAO's effort to help these countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 and 2.

We also hope that these two new offices would be provided with adequate support, human resources and expertise they need. In addition, we request FAO to ensure appropriate reporting line and to avoid adding layers to decision-making process, for example, GIAHS under the Office of Innovation.

The introduction of a Biodiversity Cluster is important as a functional group, to mainstream biodiversity in FAO's work. This is also timely, with the finalization of "FAO strategy of Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture" sectors as a guiding document. Asia group supports the idea and look forward to receiving more information on the operational aspect of this cluster.

With regards to the programmatic and operational adjustment, we welcome the additional funding to IPPC and Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme. We also appreciate the strengthening of oversight function with the additional funding and the new post for Ombudsman under OSP.

Asia Group supports additional posts for monitoring and evaluation at regional offices to improve implementation of our programmes and activities. On the relocation of regional auditors back to headquarters, we hope that the support mechanism from the headquarters is strengthened to avoid adverse effect to the work at decentralized offices.

We welcomed the formation of Women and Youth Committee under the Office of Director General, to provide platforms for dialogues with these groups, with the aim to address their needs and increase their contribution to FAO. We view that the groups can also assist FAO in sharing ideas to increase women and youth involvement in FAO's programmes and activities.

Overall, we find the adjustments responding to the Conference's decisions and guidance from member countries. There are a number of transformative moves in the adjustment, which we hope could make FAO more effective and adaptive to the changing environment. We support FAO's plan to manage these adjustments within the approved budget level through cost savings and efficiency measures, as well as adjustments to existing posts.

With these comments, Asia Regional Group supports the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2019-2021.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

As the executive body of the FAO Conference, the Council has a key function to provide oversight and strategic guidance to FAO's work. With a number of important items on the agenda, we very much welcome your presence Director-General, Mr Qu, at the opening of this Council session and during our discussions on the key agenda items throughout the week.

We welcome the adjustments that the Director-General has proposed to FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021. We see these adjustments as a clear acknowledgement of the importance of the scientific basis of FAO's work and we would like to thank the Director-General for that.

We appreciate the increase in core funding for FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and for mainstreaming biodiversity. It is important to ensure that these additional resources are sustained beyond the 2020-21 biennium. We expect FAO to deliver additional results with these additional resources. Furthermore, we welcome the management's commitment to address the food safety scientific advice backlog and we look forward to further information on the scheduled activities in this regard.

We welcome and encourage FAO's Tripartite collaboration with its partner organizations, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and their work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We also welcome the management's agreement to add an indicator to FAO's strategic results framework for the 2020 to 2021 period, reflecting FAO's work within the

Tripartite. We would appreciate further information regarding the timeline for this indicator to be set.

Regarding the proposed new Office for Innovation, the Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) as well as for the establishment of a Biodiversity Cluster, we welcome the Secretariat's note with additional information and clarifications, as requested by the Programme Committee. The new information about the proposed staffing of the two new offices raises, however, concerns with regard to the proposed secondment of 7 to 8 professional staff from the technical divisions. Those secondments would come on top of the existing secondments to the Strategic Programme Teams and would result in the further erosion of the technical capacity of the technical divisions. These concerns should be addressed.

Furthermore, we fully support the request for a new, stronger Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 10.3.E related to sexual harassment.

Finally, we strongly support the Committee's request to ensure adequate funding, within existing resources, of the Office of the Inspector General and look forward to the presentation of respective budgetary adjustments to be presented to the May 2020 Session of the Finance Committee.

With these comments, we endorse this part of the Programme Committees (PC) report.

Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)(Observer)

Thank you very much for allowing me to step in in Finland's shoes and speak on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement.

A particular strength of FAO is its normative and standard setting mandate, which provides a shared framework for action and links to its technical cooperation. Therefore, we particularly welcome the increase of the budget for the IPPC and the Codex Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, and for mainstreaming biodiversity.

Regarding the establishment of a Chief Scientist, an Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, and an Office for Innovation, we underline that the staffing of the two offices must not lead to an erosion of technical capacity in other parts of the Organization.

We note with great interest the establishment of a Women's Committee. We expect the Committee to be a tool in improving gender mainstreaming both in the Organization itself and in its activities. Its membership should include key staff representatives – women as well as men - who are in a position to make change possible. Equality in an Organization is a matter of both the right to equal opportunities and a stamp of quality. Within the Organization, particular attention should be given to gender parity at senior staff level and management.

The Nordic countries would like to express serious concern about the negative trends with regards to hunger and all forms of malnutrition. We strongly welcome the Food System Summit in 2021 to raise alarm about the lack of progress, the challenges in reaching the relevant SDGs and to provide guidance for the transformation needed. We stand ready to engage and contribute to make a true difference.

Supported by a strong and coordinated UN-system, it will be up to Member States, alongside local actors, the private sector, academia and international and civil society organizations, to follow up the practical and bold commitments that we hope to see take shape ahead of the Summit.

We believe that an inclusive planning process strengthens the ownership and possibility of having a transformative impact. The Nordics would like to hear management's initial views and ideas on how FAO should work to ensure such a process. We also welcome a close cooperation between all the relevant UN entities, including the Rome-Based Agencies, in the preparations of the Summit.

Sr. Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO (Perú)

El presente período de sesiones reviste especial importancia, en tanto nos permite examinar las propuestas iniciales del Director General, para hacer de la FAO una organización más dinámica, eficiente y transparente. Mi delegación ha venido examinando con atención a partir de su consideración en las recientes reuniones del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanzas y en la

Reunión conjunta de dichos órganos.

El Perú quiere expresar su apoyo a los Ajustes propuestos al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto, pues se enmarcan en el mandato de la FAO, así como con la Agenda 2030, en particular con relación a los ODS 1 y 2. Somos conscientes que, ante la brevedad del plazo para cumplir con los ODS, se deben desplegar todos los esfuerzos posibles y plantearse superar retos ambiciosos, aunque ello signifique asumir compromisos firmes por parte de todas las involucradas.

Saludamos también el cuidado para que las medidas propuestas no tengan un impacto en el presupuesto ya aprobado por la Conferencia y apreciamos los esfuerzos de la nueva administración para mejorar la eficiencia, buscando la aplicación de enfoques innovadores y sostenibles en la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios.

Entre los retos más ambiciosos propuestos por el Director General, destaca la Iniciativa Hand-in-hand, que ha establecido una lista priorizada de países que necesitan de un mayor apoyo para no quedar rezagados en el cumplimiento de los ODS 1 y 2, bajo el compromiso de “no dejar a nadie atrás”. No obstante, debemos reiterar que los países de renta media alta requieren también de una atención particular que no puede quedar de lado.

Estimamos importante que el equipo a cargo de la Iniciativa, haya sostenido reuniones con los diferentes grupos regionales y con el G-77 más China para ofrecer mayores alcances. Sin embargo, hubiéramos deseado disponer con mayor anticipación el documento que se presenta en este Consejo como Nota Informativa de la Iniciativa, la cual ofrece información más precisa sobre las prioridades, enfoque, criterios e implementación. En particular, es nuestro interés conocer el papel de los países de renta media y media alta en la Iniciativa.

Para el Perú, como país de renta media alta, sigue siendo de particular importancia el apoyo de la FAO, dado que aún existen situaciones de alta vulnerabilidad que pueden conducir a grandes retrocesos en la senda de los ODS.

De otra parte, en el marco de dicha Iniciativa podremos realizar una valiosa contribución en términos de capacidades técnicas, redes de protección social y resiliencia al cambio climático. Cabe mencionar que en el ámbito de la Cooperación Sur-Sur, el Perú viene ofreciendo asistencia técnica a algunos países de la región de América Latina y el Caribe que han sido considerados en la lista priorizada de beneficiarios de la Iniciativa.

El Perú cree firmemente que el desafío de la seguridad alimentaria debe enfrentarse preservando los recursos naturales; adoptando medidas para promover la agricultura, la alimentación, el manejo forestal, la pesca y la acuicultura; mejorando los mercados alimentarios - integrando a los productores de alimentos en el suministro nacional y mundial y en las cadenas de valor- y reduciendo la pérdida de alimentos.

El Perú es uno de los 10 países megadiversos del mundo, con 71 por ciento de los glaciares tropicales, con 84 de las 104 zonas de vida identificadas en el planeta. No solo el cambio climático está afectando gravemente esta mega biodiversidad sino que existen otras amenazas que afrontar y el Perú requiere para ello el apoyo de la FAO. En este sentido confiamos el que establecimiento del Grupo sobre Diversidad Biológica fortalecerá la labor de la Fao en esta materia de suma importancia tanto para la agricultura como para la seguridad alimentaria.

Igualmente señor Presidente, deseamos destacar la creación de la Oficina para la Innovación que favorecerá la transversal en la labor de la FAO. La innovación es, sin duda, un elemento clave para responder mejor a los grandes desafíos que tiene hoy el sector agroalimentario. Por ello recomendamos aprovechar la experiencia de cada uno de los actores en la cadena alimentaria, promoviendo el intercambio de conocimientos en todos los niveles.

Para concluir, consideramos fundamental que la FAO siga haciendo esfuerzos por trabajar en línea con el reposicionamiento en marcha del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo que tiene por objetivo garantizar un mayor nivel de coherencia, de rendición de cuentas y eficacia en apoyo a la Agenda 2030. En ese sentido instamos al Director General y la FAO a continuar trabajando con las demás Agencias con sede en Roma de manera coherente, coordinada y conjunta.

Mr Dun NIU (China)(Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents. China supports the joint statement by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Group. China noticed that the Secretariat has updated the 2020/2021 cost increase and through effective cost saving measures ensured all the structural and pragmatic adjustments are managed within the approved budget level.

China encourages the Secretariat to continue to monitor measures of costs increase and saving to further expand resources channels and save expenditure to improve the capacity of resource mobilization and business delivery to ensure all the output indicators and targets of 2010 and 2021 be realized as scheduled.

China appreciates those technical work as a global knowledge forum. The most significant outcome of this work reflected in the publications, reports, books, policy suggestions with the flagship publications as the mainstay.

We have noticed many of the outstanding outcomes of FAO has not yet been benefitted to the mass of farmers who need help the most. Why? Because most of the publications only have the English version or the translation in one or two languages. These publications have not been translated into all United Nations official languages. For these work outcomes since their value could not be fully tapped because of the inaccessibility of the translation resources.

So, we need to pay high attention to this issue, therefore, I suggest adding the following sentence in the report that, the Members of the Council emphasizes the importance of the translation of the publications of this Organization and encourage strengthening related work.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En relación a los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el bienio 2020-2021, permítame hacer los siguientes comentarios. Agradezco a la administración que, dentro de los límites presupuestales aprobados por la Conferencia, se haya podido asignar recursos adicionales para la labor de la FAO en relación con la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, el Programa conjunto FAO-OMS de asesoramiento científico, así como a la integración de la biodiversidad. Apoyamos la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulo presupuestario presentada en las sesiones conjuntas y las del Comité de Finanzas.

La Reunión Conjunta solicitó más información sobre las propuestas para establecer la Oficina de innovación y para el puesto de Científico en jefe. También pidió aclaraciones acerca del grupo transversal sobre biodiversidad. En este sentido, agradezco la Nota Informativa número 1 que contiene la información solicitada, la cual es de suma utilidad y hubiera sido un excelente insumo durante la Reunión Conjunta de hace unas semanas.

Respecto a la Oficina de innovación, parece muy interesante en cuanto a que la innovación es fundamental para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, y la propuesta de valor de esta oficina es ambiciosa. A partir del carácter neutral de la FAO, esperamos que esta oficina base sus trabajos en la ciencia, pero también incluyendo distintos enfoques agrícolas sostenibles como los mencionados en el párrafo 12 de la nota informativa.

La información respecto al grupo transversal sobre biodiversidad aclara varias de las dudas que teníamos como las funciones que tendrá y el personal en este grupo; pero, falta aclarar la relación con el trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Además, si bien se aclara que este grupo reportará directamente al subdirector general del Departamento de Clima, Biodiversidad, Tierras y Aguas, ¿sus integrantes estarán ubicados dentro de este mismo departamento? ¿Nos podrían dar un poco más de información sobre el grupo de trabajo interdepartamental que apoyará a este grupo mencionado en el párrafo 33 de la Nota Informativa?

En suma, agradecemos la información recibida y esperamos que facilite la aplicación de la estrategia para la integración de la biodiversidad en la FAO. De igual manera, apoyamos la conclusión de la Reunión Conjunta en el sentido de que la FAO debe tener en cuenta las prioridades de todos los países, incluidos los de ingresos medios y los países de ingresos medianos altos. Finalmente, apreciamos los recursos adicionales destinados a la Oficina del Inspector General, pero como se

mencionó en la Reunión Conjunta, quizá estos no sean suficientes por lo que esta cuestión se debería revisar en la siguientes sesiones del Comité de Finanzas y del Consejo.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is 12.30 and we still have a long list of speakers. My suggestion would be to suspend our discussions for the moment and to break for lunch. We will continue our deliberations in the afternoon.

The Council will resume at 14.30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30