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Food and Agriculture
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Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

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<p>Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014</p>
<p>SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>5 December 2014</p>

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:36 hours
 Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
 Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
 sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
 Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.36
 bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
 Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

	Page
Item 19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO	
Point 19. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO	
Tema 19. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO (CL 150/INF/4)	3
<i>Presentation on "Ebola, Food Security and FAO's Response"</i>	
<i>Présentation sur le thème «Ébola, sécurité alimentaire et action de la FAO face à ces problèmes»</i>	
<i>Exposición sobre "El Ébola, la seguridad alimentaria y la respuesta de la FAO"</i>	22
<i>Debriefing on 2014 Field Visit by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations in the United Arab Emirates and Oman</i>	
<i>Compte rendu de la visite de terrain effectuée en 2014 dans les Émirats arabes unis et à Oman par des hauts responsables des bureaux des représentants permanents sis à Rome</i>	
<i>Reunión informativa acerca de la visita sobre el terreno realizada en 2014 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma a los Emiratos Árabes Unidos y Omán</i>	26

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the sixth meeting of the 150th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before going any further, may I remind delegates of the need to register for Council if they wish to be included in the list of participants of this session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to inform you that the Staff Representative Bodies have requested to make a statement to this session of Council.

As this request has been approved by the Director-General, may I take it that Council is willing to listen to the statement at this meeting? Thank you.

I would therefore like to invite Ms Susan Murray, General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff to deliver a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies.

Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

FAO Staff Representative

We express our appreciation for having been granted the opportunity to speak to you today. These words are a joint statement by the Association of Professionals-in-FAO and the Union of General Service Staff, delivered on behalf of all staff around the world working for FAO.

The staff that we represent are composed of hardworking and competent people, dedicated to the mandate and objectives of FAO. The dedication of FAO staff has been illustrated recently by the large number of volunteers who were ready to go that extra mile to make ICN2 a success.

We are all aware that FAO has been undergoing major changes over the last few years - A new Strategic Framework has aimed at making FAO's work more focused and effective. Decentralization has been part of a strategy of bringing FAO closer to people it serves. Efficiency savings have aimed at putting FAO in the position of using its resources more effectively. And all FAO staff have greatly contributed to this endeavor. It is thanks to the expertise and commitment of staff to Work as One, for example, that implementation of the new Administrative and Financial System, GRMS, in the field has been such a great achievement.

As staff representatives we are firmly committed to FAO's Decentralization Policy. In this respect, as it is already the case for the AP-in FAO, UGSS believe that it is of paramount important that the GS staff in the field have representation and look forward to seeing this project materialize in the near future.

The underlying purpose of the transformational changes has been to make FAO more effective in delivering its work and in fulfilling its mandate without waste of financial resources. What we fear that is being forgotten is the importance of the staff of FAO in this context. Ultimately, FAO's Programme of Work, its services to Members and the many global public goods that it provides will be delivered by the people working for FAO.

FAO needs enough staff, it needs the right staff and it needs motivated staff. In all three of these dimensions, we believe that there are reasons for serious concern. Current staff are both the historical memory and the key to the future of this Organization and we are eager to share our know-how with the new generations in order to maintain FAO's expertise and quality of service to a high standard.

Successive reductions in budgets have forced us to do much more with much less as posts have been abolished or downgraded or simply left vacant. However, the reduction in financial resources and number of staff cannot go on indefinitely. We believe we are close to a breaking point where further reductions may seriously damage the quality, as well as the quantity of outputs we are able to deliver. This has also been repeatedly stated by the Director-General.

We also believe that we have increasingly serious problems in terms of the composition of the workforce at FAO. We cannot continue – in the name of so-called “flexibility” and savings - the trend

towards abolishing posts and replacing experienced staff with non-staff human resources, without losing crucial capacities, experience and institutional memory. We are aware that this trend is not unique to FAO and is indeed common in the UN System. This, however, does not make it any less worrying. It is de facto creating a two-tier system with tenured employees with complete social benefits on the one hand and independent consultants with few if any benefits on the other. For the General Service category, the new policy on short-term contracts would seem designed to do away with the category altogether by creating yet more PSA and Consultant positions with little, if any, employment benefits.

This situation is not in keeping with international labor rights and the values promoted by the UN. We find that these policies are short-sighted, unfair, not in the best long-term interest of FAO and its Members and seriously detrimental to staff morale. We call for a more holistic view that takes into consideration the changes in the contractual market that are occurring in various European Member Nations seeking to reduce the number of temporary contracts and offering more job continuity. No society can continue to adopt austerity measures that do not afford people the possibility of investing in the future. We should not forget that sustainable job opportunities are vital in permitting human beings to have dignity in their lives.

We cannot but ask ourselves at this moment in time what is the route that the Member Nations wish to take and if there is room to promote a sustainable long-term human resources vision.

Dwindling staff morale in general may be the most serious concern we have. We perceive little recognition on behalf of Senior Management of the Organization of the competence, skills and hard work of staff. We are too often referred to as a burden or a cost, rather than an asset. We believe that this fundamental attitude has to change.

Proposals to eliminate the possibility of recognizing staff members who are making a contribution beyond their grade level through promotions will only make it even more difficult to progress and will eliminate incentives for them to make an extra effort, to develop new skills or take on new challenges.

We take serious issue with the calls on member countries to engage with the International Civil Service Commission and the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly to ensure a containment of professional compensation. We want to emphasize that the purpose of the ongoing review is not to reduce costs, but to streamline and simplify the overall professional compensation package while ensuring that it is competitive and meets the need of the Organizations in the Common System today. We are extremely concerned for any undue influence by different stakeholders on the International Civil Service Commission which is in fact an independent body of experts and should not receive instructions from neither Member countries nor the Common System Organizations.

Staff and their Representative Bodies are desirous of contributing to finding solutions to the challenges faced by FAO. Unfortunately, we do not always have the perception that our contributions and opinions are valued and given due consideration. We sincerely wish to see strong and effective Staff-Management relations based on mutual respect, good will, open dialogue, a true desire to listen to each other and to work in an environment where people can speak freely and openly.

We stand ready to do our part. Thank you for your kind attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Item 19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO**Point 19. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****Tema 19. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO***(CL 150/INF/4)***CHAIRPERSON**

We now turn to item 19 *Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/4.

The Council will be given presentations on important debates taking place in other international fora which are of importance to FAO's mandate. I should like to ask the Secretary-General to read the list of presentations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council will be given presentations on:

- Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Framework
- The 37th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, 14-18 July 2014)
- Global Health Security Agenda
- The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit (New York, 23 September 2014)
- Convention on Biological Diversity / Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing: International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Global Migration Group

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to inform Members that queries should be raised upon completion of all the presentations.

Our first speaker is Mr James Tefft, Senior Policy Officer in the Regional Office for Africa, who will make a presentation via a video link on: *Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework*.

Mr James TEFFT (Senior Policy Officer, Regional Office for Africa)

On behalf of Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Regional Office for Africa and Mr Lamourdia Thiombiano, Deputy Regional Representative, RAF is pleased to inform you of the achievements and future plans of the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa.

Back in November 2012, the Director-General of FAO, together with former President Lula of Brazil and Chairperson Zuma of the African Union Commission, launched this Partnership with the goal of eradicating hunger.

Around this time, the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger also made specific requests for assistance to FAO in this regard.

Today, we are very happy to report on the results that have been achieved to date.

In July 2013, the Renewed Partnership organized a High-level Meeting in Addis Ababa, leading to a Declaration and a Road Map to End Hunger by 2025.

This Declaration was subsequently endorsed by the African Union Executive Council in January 2014 and the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in May 2014 before being adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government as part of the Malabo Declaration.

FAO has accompanied the African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency throughout the process, culminating in the interventions made by the Director-General to Heads of State at both the NEPAD Consultative Committee Meeting and African Union Assembly in Malabo in June 2014.

More recently, FAO has been supporting African Union Commission and NEPAD in the formulation of the Implementation Strategy and Roadmap and working with development partners on new guidelines for support to this process.

Since becoming one of FAO's Regional Initiatives in 2014, the Renewed Partnership has helped to drive a coherent programme of work in the region, bringing together in a coherent and synergistic manner our strategic objectives, our Country Programming Frameworks, our programmes with regional economic communities and African Union institutions, and most recently through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund.

In 2014 in both Angola and Ethiopia, FAO collaborated with Governments and stakeholders to identify policy and programme implementation gaps, as well as to determine actions that are needed to enhance harmonisation, coordination and capacity building for improved delivery to achieve the goals established in these countries.

Our advocacy work is best exemplified in the successful collaboration with the Government of Angola to organize an International Conference on Family Farming for Food Security and Nutrition.

In Malawi, FAO has been partnering with the three main farmer organizations to foster the sustainable development of cooperatives and is collaborating with the Ministry of Finance and development partners to provide harmonized support to the Government strategy to enhance resilience.

Finally in Niger, we have collaborated with the '3N Initiative' to prepare their implementation strategy and have been working to develop the national capacities to deliver the programmes at district level, to strengthen the governance and coordination mechanisms, as well as results-based monitoring to enhance the delivery.

We have also been piloting home-grown school feeding programmes throughout the region with a view to expand them in 2015.

At the regional level, and following the Malabo Declaration, we have recently developed with AUC, NEPAD and Lula Institute a Regional Action Plan, centered on the following areas: to intensify our support to ongoing hunger eradication efforts in the focus countries; to establish at NEPAD an African Center for best practice, capacity development and South-South Cooperation; to organize think-tank events that bring decision-makers together to discuss strategic issues affecting programme implementation and delivery in these countries; and to enlarge the partnership to other organizations, actors and countries.

The issues of youth employment, service delivery to small-holder farmers – particularly women, social protection, accountability mechanisms and civil society engagement will be central focus areas in the coming year.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our excitement at the results achieved to date and our conviction for greater partnership and actions at country, regional and continental levels in 2015.

On behalf of Mr Tijani, I wish to thank you again for your support and we welcome your suggestions and guidance.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now ask Mr Tom Heilandt, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to introduce the first presentation under this item: *37th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, 14-18 July 2014)*

Mr Tom HEILANDT (Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in this forum to tell you about the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I will also tell you what we are planning to do in the future.

Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint FAO/WHO Body formed more than 50 years ago. We have 185 Member Nations and one Member Organization, the European Union.

With our two main objectives, to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade, we contribute mainly to FAO's Strategic Objective 4.

This year the Commission had a record attendance of 170 Member Nations and one Member Organization, plus 30 Observers. We have a very open system: we allow observers from industry, from consumers, to participate in the Commission as observers. They do not have right to vote but they can participate as much as other Members in other ways.

A new Chairperson was elected, Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet from Switzerland along with three Vice-Chairpersons from Brazil, Japan and Mali.

At every session of the Commission we adopt roughly 30/40 standards. I am not going to go into any detail of the standards we adopt, but I can tell you that they are meant to ensure safe and good food for everyone everywhere in the world, for example, by adopting maximum residue limits, codes of practice to reduce contamination, food hygiene standards or quality standards that describe the product and make sure that buyers and sellers can agree on what they order in the market.

In the future, we will of course continue with this work. We have started a major new work on spices which was requested very strongly, especially by developing countries. We will also make sure that Codex, that in the 90's was still known as a 'club of the rich countries', will continue to move forward full participation, as for us it is a major goal to have every country in the world being able to participate in this process.

For this reason, one of the major efforts we are going to do next year is to develop a trust fund successor initiative, because the trust fund that we have at the moment is coming to an end and it has been very successful in ensuring that the participation can grow and that developing countries can participate as much as other countries in the Codex.

Since there is always something that we should reinvent, we should be making new plans and re-look at our structure as well, so for this reason we have established the Strategic Plan 2014-19, that we will start monitoring during the implementation phase.

One of the things we established for next year is that we will look at the way we work because we think that we could do better. The standard setting could work faster and something could be improved also in the functioning and composition of our Executive Committee.

Concerning our budget, at the recent session of the Commission, Members have noted the need for the improved budgeting and work planning process to be more transparent, and in addition Members were invited to advocate for adequate budgetary allocation for the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO.

We appreciated the FAO/WHO scientific support and stressed the importance of funding to ensure the provision of scientific advice. This is sometimes overlooked, that all Codex standards for food safety have to be based on science and if scientific advice is not provided for lack of funds, Codex cannot take decisions.

We also appreciated the extra budgetary contribution by Members because the Codex programme is roughly to 50 percent financed by extra budgetary contributions from Members. These are the Governments that host our Technical Committees and provide at the same time the funds for the venue, for the interpretation, for the translation and other services. This does not come from the regular budget and it is roughly 50 percent of our budget.

As regards our future plans, recently I had the opportunity to see a presentation by a major CEO of a computer company and he said we have to plan to be in every home with our products, and I realized that Codex is already in every home: the food that you buy, the food you have in your refrigerator, etc. You already have Codex in your homes. So one of the major goals for us is to make that known, as Codex is not so well known outside this room and the Codex Committees, so we plan to work on a Codex communication strategy.

We will produce a further volume of Codex 'success stories' after the first volume last year. We are very happy that WHO has declared 2015 the World Health Day, and that the main topic is food safety.

We will contribute with our videos, with our material in the Expo Milano in 2015.

We also expect the recently concluded ICN2 to give input to Codex to develop new standards for nutrition and food labeling and possibly in other areas.

And last but not least, we want to make Codex more transparent for our Members to work online with systems for registration and for commenting, for document management, electronic working groups, regional websites and committee webpages. It is an ambitious work programme that we have for next year and we hope to be able to implement all of that.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division who will deliver the Presentation on: *Global Health Security Agenda*.

Mr Berhe TEKOLA (Director, Animal Production and Health Division)

The issue we are presenting now is related to the current and very important problem related to the day-to-day life and the way we focus to prevent things before happening and before managing the crisis related to global health.

The focus area of the Global Health Security Agenda is total red. The progress towards the world safe and secure from infectious diseases, threats and promote global health security are international secretary priority. This is led entirely by countries in collaboration with international organizations, both public and private, where stakeholders share responsibility bringing the health security and issues related to agricultural sectors together so as to have a common and shared action.

The major International Organization involved are FAO, WHO and OIE but they are not remitted to this, all in-line with the zoonotic diseases and other common health issues related. And What do we do here in FAO? We have our own tools which are based fully in prevention or prophylactic measure taking mechanisms and those are prevent, detect and respond. Why do we have to prevent? We have to prevent to reduce the livelihood of our threats, natural resilience or international related or global issues in order to avoid this type of crisis management activities.

To detect threat as heavily as saves lives, not only lives but livelihood and of course resources be it human resources or financial resources. The rapid and effective response requires multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and international coordination and proper communication. Communication at the right time and to the right people will tackle diseases at its source, that is the animal, and this is what FAO is striving to do.

Specific action packages are the antimicrobial resistance which all of us know and this is labeled to be the silent killer that we don't see immediately today but it can provoke some unmeasurable crisis in the future if we don't act immediately. Zoonotic diseases, we're not 70% of human diseases are generated in the animal, so unless we invest in animals today, then it's like managing the crisis at the end of the day dealing with human diseases. We need to increase biosafety, biosecurity and national laboratory systems because, unless we have strong diagnostic mechanisms, we cannot really detect them from the very beginning. Real-time surveillance and continuous workforce development, emergency operation centers linking public health to rules and laws, and multi-sectorial rapid response. This is in-line with our CMC Animal Health Center in FAO.

So why FAO is so enthusiastic to support the agenda? First of all, because we have very strong mechanisms at FAO and, as you can clearly see, FAO established the Emergency Prevention System in 1994 and developed the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases, ECTAD, which is not only limited to Headquarters but throughout our Regional Offices in response to the outbreak of H5N1, like ten years back, then other influenzas, even viruses and today Ebola; both with high impact introducing the risk of the animal and zoonotic diseases outbreaks.

Again, in terms of communication and information delivery system, we have the so-called Global Early Warning System, GLEWS, and the Crisis Management Center working in close collaboration

with our key partners WHO and OIE. The GLEWS has got its own website which is managed by three of our partners, OIE, FAO and WHO, while EMPRES, animal, plant and environment are again under the Department of Horticulture and Consumer Protection.

FAO strongly embraces the approach known as One Health. One Health considers human, animal and ecosystem health so as to bring and protect the global common goals. Our work in FAO is very much focused on implementation and providing our Members with leadership to good emergency management practice. This is accompanied by innovative technology in the field, taking into account the collaborative activities and ownership of the people on the ground. That said, without the act and participation of the Regional Offices, this cannot be implemented at all.

Finally, this is the approach we are acting and not only for the so-called One Health, but of course the social equity and the environmental factors should come together in order to protect the global, public and common goals.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources, who will speak on: *The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit (New York, 23 September 2014)*

Ms Maria-Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I am very pleased to report on the outcomes of the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Summit that took place in New York on 23 September during the UN General Assembly.

The purpose of the 2014 Climate Summit was to raise political commitment for a meaningful universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015 and to join forces at global-level to reduce emissions and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Summit was attended by an unprecedented number of high-level leaders, including 100 Heads of State and Government and more than 800 leaders from business, finance and civil society.

What was the objective of this meeting? The Secretary General wanted to create a global vision for low-carbon economic growth and he called upon the leaders to advance on five fronts.

The first one was "cutting emissions." We need to cut emissions on all fronts in order in order to keep the climate increase less, or the maximum, of two degrees. And, I must say, that many leaders committed to reduce emissions, to increase energy efficiency and to help farmers to reduce emissions.

Second one was "Moving markets and mobilizing money". During the Climate Summit the Secretary General underlined the importance of mobilizing sufficient public and private funds for climate resilient growth and the result was a new coalition of Governments, finance, business and multilateral development banks and civil society. They announced their intent to mobilize over two hundred billions dollars to finance a low carbon and climate resilience development.

The third one was "putting a price on carbon" and we consider that this will provide markets with the policy signals needed to invest in climate solutions.

Fourth point concentrated on "strengthening resilience". The world Leaders stated that strengthening both climate and financial resilience is a smart investment in a safer and a more prosperous future. A variety of innovative resilience initiatives were announced during the Climate Summit in New York.

Last one was "mobilizing new coalitions". A different coalition was launched in in Forestry, Energy and Agriculture.

One of the major outcomes under Agriculture was the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture and the UN Secretary-General himself stressed the crucial role the Alliance could play, noting that "these efforts will improve food and nutrition security for billions of people."

The Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance on 24 September, brought together over 180 senior officials and high-level representatives from all regions and different stakeholder groups, among them the Prime Minister of Grenada, Ministers from Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Niger, Uruguay, Nigeria,

the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Head of NEPAD, Heads of Civil Society Organizations and the Director General of FAO.

We launched the Alliance and I am proud to announce that FAO will host the Facilitation Unit of the Alliance since 18 December. As of today it comprises of 72 members.

The First Working Meeting of the Members of the Global Alliance for CSA will be held on 17 and 18 December 2014 at FAO headquarters. Finally, the World Leaders agreed on the way forward that is: climate action should be undertaken within the context of efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and promote sustainable development. Second, to limit global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees. This is very important because we go more than two degrees the world won't be able to sustain this increase.

Finally, a meaningful, universal new agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP-21, in Paris in 2015, and to arrive at the first draft of such an agreement at COP-20 in Lima, in December 2014 and we hope what we can agree on the first draft agreement.

To conclude, the latest IPCC report makes clear that we have no choice but to act now and we need to act together.

CHAIRPERSON

I now ask Ms Linda Collette, Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to make a presentation on: *Convention on Biological Diversity / Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing*

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I am pleased to report to you on the outcomes of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the First meeting of the Nagoya Protocol.

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity for Access and Benefit-Sharing. The meeting took place in the Republic of Korea from 6 to 12 October this year.

FAO with its renewed reviewed Strategic Framework, particularly the Global Goal 3, as well as the Strategic Objective 2 on Sustainable Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, and the Strategic Objective for Agricultural and Food Systems, contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

There are 20 targets and some of them are particularly of relevance to FAO – and in fact FAO is key contributor on those – that is, Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture, Invasive Alien Species (with the IPPC), Genetic Resources (with the Commission on Genetic Resources and the International Treaty), Ecosystem Services, Restoration of Ecosystem and Access and Benefit-Sharing (again, with the Commission and the International Treaty).

FAO has also sent to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity FAO's biodiversity-related instruments and tools, and that was welcomed by the countries at national level. It helps countries to implement the Strategic Plan and to revise their own national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which takes into account the issues of FAO.

The collaboration and partnership that we have with the CBD Secretariat and others, such as UNEP, UNESCO, and UN family in the CBD are the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force, where we discuss the implementation of the Strategic Plan; the recently established Sustainable Ocean Initiative; the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species.

Regarding the meeting itself in October, the CoP has widely recognized the importance of food security and the key contribution of biodiversity to food security, and it has specifically acknowledged and made reference in their decision to FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework, particularly in

decision 12.6 and 12.5 were the target by the cooperation with the International Organization, as well as a decision on biodiversity and sustainable development.

When it comes to the specifics, there are, again, a series of decisions where the work of FAO is mentioned. Like in the cooperation with other Conventions, we have a reference to the work that FAO is doing in the preparation of the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

There was a decision on Ecosystem conservation and restoration, as I mentioned earlier, where the FAO Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism has been highlighted as a key contributor.

Another one was on bushmeat and sustainable use of biodiversity. There is a collaborative partnership on wildlife where the Forest Department of FAO is serving as Secretary to the group.

On Invasive Alien Species, I already mentioned IPPC. Then, on marine and coastal biodiversity, this is where FAO's work on vulnerable marine ecosystem is stressed and how it helps to develop strategy on marine and coastal diversity.

As regards the Nayago Protocol, the meeting was held two days within that week and I already mentioned that the Nayago Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity for Access and Benefit-Sharing.

At this stage 52 parties are parties to the Nayago Protocol, which entered into force quite recently, on 12 October. The Nayago Protocol made special recognition of the role of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly for food security, and it acknowledged the specific nature and the interdependency between countries when it comes to exchange of material.

It recognized the International Treaty as having a fundamental role to play and as a key component of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing. My colleague, Shakeel Bhatti, will say more about that as he attended that meeting and he will explain from his perspective.

When it comes to the Commission on Genetic Resources, some of you may know that we are now drafting elements for Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for different subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We had a meeting recently, and all the work that the Commission is doing, as well as the International Treaty, contributes to the implementation of the Nayago Protocol and it is very well recognized.

Among the several decisions taken, two are the ones where FAO with its bodies and the Treaty can contribute: the clause and Code of Conduct when it comes to Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Global Multilateral Access and Benefit-Sharing System.

Now the way forward. There is no doubt that there is a long-standing collaboration between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity, but there is an increased momentum since the Convention on Biological Diversity moves away from conservation only to address the issue of sustainable use.

At the next meeting of the CoP, which will be held in Mexico in November 2016, the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries, has been highlighted as one of the elements of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. So we do have major opportunities to continue to strengthen and support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as to the Aichi Target. We also offered the Executive Secretary to lead the Aichi Target 13 on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

There will be also a high level segment as part of the CoP and it seems, at this stage, that there is very high opportunity that the issues will be linked to agriculture, forests and fisheries and we would have an opportunity to express our views at that meeting.

Leading to CoP 13, there are a series of meetings that will be held. FAO will have an opportunity to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Secretariat to make sure that our views are expressed and taken into account in the development of their papers.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to make a presentation on: *Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing: International Treaty on Plant Genetic*

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to brief you on the developments in the context of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Last year in Oman, the Governing Body of the Treaty decided to launch a process to enhance the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing of the Treaty. And, as my colleague Linda Collette already mentioned, the International Treaty and the Multilateral System constitute a constituent element of the new International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing that was adopted in Nagoya by the Conference of Parties of the CBD.

As you are aware, the Multilateral System creates a gene pool of more than 1.6 million samples of plant genetic material currently documented, which the 133 contracting parties of the Treaty collectively manage as a global public goods for food security.

Presently, the system legally regulates access to and benefit-sharing for about 600/800 accessions that are being transferred per day worldwide. As you are also aware, the Multilateral System in the architecture of the International Treaty is intrinsically linked to other core mechanisms of the Treaty, namely the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Multilateral System and the Global Information System of the Treaty. And in order to give you a full picture of the developments under the Treaty, I will briefly update you in these three parts.

The first part is the enhancement of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body decided to enhance the Multilateral System by undertaking measures to achieve two objectives. First, to increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty, and second, to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System through additional measures such as, for example, by increasing the crop coverage of the Treaty by adding additional crops to the system.

We began the enhancement process with the First meeting of the Working Group that was constituted for this purpose. It consists of a wide range of representation from all stakeholder groups, including civil society, farmers' organizations, private sector, and, of course, the contracting parties, as well as the CGIAR. The Working Group held its First meeting in May, and will have its Second meeting next week in Geneva, followed by its Third meeting in April 2015. I would like to acknowledge and thank Brazil for hosting the Third meeting of the Working Group and also the Netherlands and Switzerland for supporting this meeting of the Working Group next year.

The results of the First meeting of the group were highly encouraging. The Group undertook a range of initial discussions on identified innovative approaches to enhance user-based payments to the Multilateral System and to the Benefit-sharing Fund and it requested an extensive set of economic research and consultations to be undertaken in preparation for the Second meeting next week. That research has now been completed and it is available on the website and will be discussed next week.

The second mechanism that I mentioned, which has made also extensive progress under the guidance of the Bureau of the Governing Body for its Sixth session, is the Benefit-sharing Fund where the third round of the Benefit-sharing cycle is now underway. The kinetic focus of the Benefit-sharing Fund, as you might be aware, is to support high-impact projects and programmes that enhance food security by helping farmers to adapt to climate change through conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The funds that are currently being dispersed in benefit-sharing projects are more than USD 10 million. And I would like to wholeheartedly acknowledge and thank the European Union and Norway for their major contributions to this round of benefit-sharing.

The current round of benefit-sharing is structured in two financing windows. The first one consists of immediate-impact projects which range up to approximately USD 800,000 for a four-year duration. The second is up to USD 500,000 for a three-year duration and is a window about partnering and

creating partnerships for co-development and transfer of technologies, in particular information technologies that enhance the use of plant genetic resources.

As the benefit-sharing cycle has been progressing, we received more than 390 pre-proposals from all around the world; 188 of those were considered eligible by an independent panel of scientific and technical experts. The Bureau of the Governing Body then invited a number of those to develop full proposals in supporting applicants, especially from developing countries and least developed countries, to develop high quality project proposals.

The Benefit-sharing Fund foresees the organization of a help desk which organized three Regional workshops in Ecuador, Egypt and Malaysia to support 64 applicants in the development of high quality proposals. The deadline for the submission of these proposals is actually today and we have already received quite a significant portfolio of high quality proposals, from which approximately 30 projects will then be funded, again, appraised by the Independent Panel of Experts.

Let me come to the third mechanism that I mentioned, that is the implementation of the Global Information System of the International Treaty under Article 17. Here, the Governing Body decided to activate the implementation of the system under this provision in its last meeting and the Governing Body here was implementing a twofold rationale.

First, that there is a great opportunity in increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability in food crops by integrating the product development chains that are based on plant genetic resources. This can be done by better connecting the upstream uses of genetic raw material, germplasm, from on farm or gene banks to the downstream uses with more advanced technologies being applied. And the second rationale is to address what I would describe as the dematerialization of the use of genetic resources. This is a summary of a set of different technological trends for the information content of genetic resources to be sequenced and processed and exchanged in its own right, detached from the physical plant genetic material.

I would just like to show you, for example, the costs of genomic sequencing technologies and its rapid decrease over the past four or five years. As you can see with the drop in costs of whole genome sequencing technologies, there is ample opportunity to enhance and speed up the breeding process in order to actually then develop more climate-resilient and productive plant varieties.

So in recognition of these trends, the Governing Body decided to initiate a global consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources. We will hold the First meeting of the Consultation in San Diego next January, back-to-back with the Plant and Animal Genome Conference, the PAG.

The objectives are, first of all, a needs assessment and to identify priorities where exchange of information on genetic material may be enhanced; secondly, to review major ongoing initiatives and then to identify gaps and to develop best practices for the improved use of the Global Information System, all culminating in a vision paper to be presented to the Governing Body.

The Information System has three broad data domains. The first one is accession level data which describe the genetic material at the level of the seed, through the data generated by the Multilateral System and contained in gene banks. The second one is the data domain we describe as the 'omics', which is genomics, phenomics, proteomics, metabolomics and so on. The third one is geospatial and environmental data. And the Global Information System is seeking to connect and increasingly make interoperable the use of these different data domains.

In the second domain of the 'omics' we have been working on a particular initiative together with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIR and the Global Plant Council. The concept here is to connect the accession level data with molecular sequencing data and with phenotypic data. In the last months we have already received expressions of interest from 66 partner institutions, including world's leading universities, genomic research centers, agricultural research systems and gene banks, as well as observers from the private sector.

I would like to conclude with the point which Linda Collette has already mentioned, namely the work that we are doing with the CBD to implement the Nagoya Protocol harmoniously and in direct and close collaboration with the implementation of the Multilateral System.

The Conference of the Parties of the CBD and the CoP of the Protocol have recognized and strongly encouraged the continuation of this close collaboration. We are doing this in the context of our memorandum of cooperation and our joint initiative with the CBD, and it is also further enhanced through the Biodiversity Leaders Group of Conventions, which the Treaty has recently chaired.

In summary, the progress in the Treaty context has been quite extensive this year under the guidance and leadership of Matthew Worrell, the Chairman of our Governing Body. And in the next year we will see the Sixth Session of the Governing Body taking place in the first week of October here in Rome.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker and I welcome Mr Boubaker Ben Belhassen, Deputy Director of the Trade and Markets Division and FAO Focal Point for Post-2015, who will make a presentation on: *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*

Mr Boubaker BEN BELHASSEN (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division and FAO Focal Point for Post-2015)

I'm pleased to present you the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Open Working Group outcome Report, which was released on 19 July, was brought to the attention of the General Assembly in September. The General Assembly adopted the resolution stating that the Open Working Group will form the basis for negotiation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Open Working Group Report included a short chapeau, highlighting that eradicating poverty and hunger remains top priority for the next 15 years, and a set of 17 goals and 169 targets covering a wide range of issues and addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

Each goal has a number of targets and a set of means of implementation. The document is the result of five months of intensive inter-governmental negotiations, with the participation of non-state actors and the technical input and support provided by the UN System in a coordinated manner.

The overarching priority continues to be the eradication of poverty. In fact, Goal 1 expands the definition of poverty far beyond the USD 1.25 a day, and recognizes the importance of other critical dimensions for its eradication, including social protection, the poor's access to land and other productive resources, and resilience.

FAO co-led technical inputs three goals: Goal 2, Goal 14 and Goal 15, and had contributed to several others, including Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 5 on gender, Goal 6 on water, Goal 11 on human settlements, and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

Since 2012, the Rome-base Agencies (RBAs), following an agreement by the three heads of these Agencies, have worked together to promote an ambitious and comprehensive vision to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture, very much in line with the Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN Secretary-General.

Close collaboration with Member Nations both in Rome and New York ensured that the vision was reflected in the final formulation of the goal and the targets included in the Open Working Group Report.

It is particularly important that in Goal 2 the term 'food security' was re-included in the final formulation of the goal. This is a substantial improvement over MDG-1, which only contained one target on hunger, not allowing for a comprehensive and holistic approach to food security.

From an FAO perspective, we think that some targets could be better formulated to ensure that progress can be monitored in the implementation phase. However, in general, targets also reflect the ambitiousness and comprehensiveness of the approach promoted by the three RBAs.

Consistently with the Zero Hunger Challenge, a target on food loss and waste was originally included under Goal 2 but was later transferred under Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

FAO is concerned that the limited number of Means of Implementation (MoI) currently listed for Goal 2, while important, do not probably cover many of the key enablers that would lead to a transformative agenda for the eradication of hunger and food insecurity. The current formulation also does not reflect the evolution of discussions among Members and a variety of stakeholders as captured in the outcome document of the High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition, that took place in Madrid in April 2013.

Moving to Goals 14 and 15, overall natural resources have become a much more central focus under the SDGs than was the case with the MDGs, which only had one goal (number 7) related to the environment, skewed towards conservation and isolated from the rest of the MDG agenda.

In particular, since the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, FAO has strengthened the link between food security and the environment, all while maintaining the balance between the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. It has promoted awareness that ecosystem services and natural resources are continuously used in different food production systems and that not only conservation but also restoration and sustainable use are fundamental. This idea has now been comprehensively articulated in the Open Working Group Report.

Besides Goal 2, the aim of sustainably managing and efficiently using natural resources is covered by two standard goals: Goals 14 and 15 which deal exclusively with the management and use of natural resources, the first addressing oceans and aquatic resources and the second addressing ecosystems and biodiversity, forest and mountains and land and soils.

FAO's perspective on sustainable management, on the centrality of sustainable natural resource use for rural livelihoods, on the critical role of small-scale food producer as agents of change and managers of natural resources, are strongly reflected throughout the Open Working Group Report.

In the process, FAO has shown its role as a sustainable development agency in addition to food security and nutrition related issues.

Only yesterday the UN Secretary-General briefed Members on his synthesis Report, and an advanced copy of the Report was released. The full Report in all official languages will be made available by the end of this year. The Report was entitled "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet". The Report places people and the planet at the centre of debate by Member Nations.

The Secretary-General Report is complimentary to the Open Working Group Report. In his briefing, the Secretary-General sees the possibility to maintain all of the 17 goals but rearrange them in a focused and concise manner.

He also identified six elements as essential for a sustainable Development Agenda as follows:

(1) Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities; (2) People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children; (3) Prosperity: to grow to a strong, inclusive and transformative economy; (4) The Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children; (5) Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions; (6) Partnership: to capitalize global solidarity for sustainable development.

The Secretary-General has emphasized the importance of mobilizing the necessary Means of Implementation for the successful implementation of the new Development Agenda, which are: financing; technology, science and innovation, and bridging the technology gap; and human and institutional capacity building. The Report also covered the issues of data, monitoring and accountability.

Where do we go from here? The Post-2015 Agenda will be endorsed at the dedicated Summit of Heads of State and Government in September 2015, less than one year from now. The final negotiations, starting in early 2015, are expected to consolidate a "post-2015 package", including, first and foremost, a set of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets largely based on the Open

Working Group Report. The UN Secretary-General Report will also be an important input in the process.

The “post-2015 package” will also include inter-governmentally negotiated decisions on: development cooperation and means of implementation, the elements of which will be discussed and decided at the third Conference on Financing for Development, which will be in Addis Ababa in July 2015; it will also contain elements for the renewed Global Partnership for Development, supporting the implementation of the agenda through, among others, science-based and traditional knowledge, technology transfer and information sharing, and capacity development.

Also containing elements of the monitoring and accountability structure, in particular the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC. To complete the package, the UN statistics network, in close collaboration with experts appointed by the Secretary-General, will consolidate a set of indicators very likely to be reviewed and approved by the UN Statistical Commission. Work on the indicators is expected to take place between February and April 2015.

In conclusion, in FAO we are generally pleased with the outcome of the Open Working Group Report and we are committed to continuing our engagement in the process and to support Member Nations for the crafting of a transformative ambitious yet workable agenda.

There are, of course, concerns about the Means of Implementation. We hope that things will clarify in July at the Conference on Financing for Development.

On the indicators, it is still a work in progress because if we think about the MDGs where we have 8 goals, 18 targets and there were some issues in fact about the monitoring and the indicator, in this case we have 17 goals, 169 targets, so we have to see what to do about the indicators. In fact, some studies just did some estimation to look at how much it will cost probably if we want to be very comprehensive in monitoring the agenda.

Some studies are talking about fully dedicating the full amount of ODA for two to three years just to develop an effective monitoring system, so this is a huge exercise. In FAO we are working at least on the relevant goals we have hoping to see part of the development of realistic indicators.

We also stress that the collaboration with Member Nations both in Rome and New York, the Capitals and with all other stakeholders as we have been doing, this is very important in order to ensure the solid ownership of the Development Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker is Mr Rob Vos, Director of the Social Protection Division, who will speak on: *Global Migration Group*

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Social Protection Division)

I am happy to inform you about the Global Migration Group that FAO recently joined. Over the last decades, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of migrants across the globe. There are an estimated 200 million international migrants, and more than 700 million internal migrants people that move between areas within the borders of countries, particularly from rural to other rural areas and from rural to urban areas.

Migration decisions are complex and driven by a variety of factors, including poverty, food insecurity, inequality, poor income-generating opportunities and increased competition for scarce land and water resources. More often than not, these factors are linked to agriculture and poor living conditions in rural areas.

Consequently, the root causes of migration are closely linked to FAO’s mandate. As long as these root causes remain unaddressed, migration will remain a key component of rural household livelihood strategies to escape poverty.

Through its work, FAO aims to leverage the potential of migration for reducing rural poverty and improving food security and nutrition. In doing so, we take an integrated approach for action, which

includes: sound diagnostics, fostering policy dialogue, promotion of investment, and technical support and skills development. We foresee activities to promote policy dialogue between governments and rural stakeholders; facilitate innovative mechanisms that leverage remittances and foster migrant investments in agriculture and rural areas; and develop skills of youth, who are the most likely wanting to migrate.

Such an integrated approach requires working together with others and better international cooperation. This is why the Global Migration Group is important to FAO.

What is Global Migration Group?

In June 2014, FAO became an official member of the Global Migration Group (GMG). The GMG was established in 2006 and it represents the main body for dialogue on migration issues at global level. It is composed of 18 entities, including 16 UN agencies, as well as the WB and IOM. Its key priorities include: (i) promoting the application of instruments and norms relating to migration; (ii) encouraging the adoption of more effective approaches for coordinated response to the challenges and opportunities arising from migration, in particular, in the coordination between UN Agencies.

The GMG comprises the Heads of all participating agencies. The present Chair is the Director-General of ILO. It also has several technical working groups in which FAO participates actively at the working level.

GMG also contributes to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is a main intergovernmental process for cooperation on migration and development.

WHY FAO has become a member of the GMG?

As said, GMG membership is crucial for implementing FAO's integrated approach to migration.

By being a member of GMG, FAO will be able to participate more effectively in global initiatives on migration and to contribute to relevant normative work at global level.

FAO will also gain the necessary visibility and recognition to expand work in this thematic area, especially in terms of evidence building, knowledge products and guidance materials. For instance, GMG will be a crucial forum through which FAO can disseminate lessons learned and policy recommendations of our country work in relation to migration.

FAO will also bring significant value added to this Group through its expertise and country level presence. Thematically, FAO will add focus and attention to the specific factors that drive rural migration, not just international migration, but also seasonal agricultural, rural-rural and rural-urban migration. These dimensions are essential to understand the implications of migration on rural poverty and food security and nutrition.

For all these reasons, participation in GMG constitutes a great opportunity, in partnership with other UN Agency and International Organization, to better address migration issues within FAO's mandates.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I have a curiosity about the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is 17 goals, 169 targets and a number of indicators we still do not know. But it seems from the scale that the work indicator is delegated to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Correct me if I am wrong, as far as my knowledge goes, the UN Statistical Commission Membership is only countries. I don't think the UN Specialized Agencies are included in the Membership of the Commission. Can you explain on this?

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

I will make my remark on the Ebola situation. The Government of Liberia is making a tremendous progress in combating the Ebola virus disease, yet there is still a lot of work to be done and therefore President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has urged Liberians to maintain practices that have been put in place to ensure that Ebola virus is conquered.

On behalf of my Government and the people of Liberia, I would like to thank all of our partners, in particular the United Nations and its Agencies, the African Union and Member Nations, the Government and people of the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, who was the first to have intervened by bringing in the first load of protective equipment onboard Air China, the European Union and its Member States, Cuba with the technical assistance of medical doctors, Brazil, Venezuela, Japan, and many others for their great support to the three countries worst affected by the Ebola virus disease. As a result of their strong support, we have been able to make the progress that we have made thus far. I thank you all.

Currently as we speak, the UN Ebola Coordinator and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Dr David Navarro, is visiting the three worst affected countries and is presently in Liberia. President Sirleaf briefed Dr Navarro on the current state of Liberia's fight against the further spread of the disease and expressed satisfaction with the progress we are making. She also attributed the progress to the combined efforts of the Government, the people of Liberia and the countries, many partners including the United Nations. President Sirleaf has informed the UN Ebola Coordinator that Liberia has set an ambitious goal of 'zero new cases' by Christmas this year. She underscored and stressed the need for a common reporting and information sharing system among the three worst affected countries.

Despite the progress, Liberians are avoiding complacency, controlling the anxiety and very cautious of the risk factors. Regional coordination is necessary now more than ever before in the war against Ebola and we therefore request the UN System in separating Liberia's recovery plan as Ebola is being defeated for post-Ebola epidemic crisis for education, food and nutrition.

We would like to particularly thank the efforts made by the United States which are well in the right direction to contain the spread of the Ebola virus, and we therefore commend them. We thank the United States President Barack Obama who has renewed his request to the United States Congress to approve USD 6 billion in emergency aid to fight the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa; a call made during his recent visit to the National Institute of Health where he congratulated scientists on work towards a vaccine.

Even though Liberia is making all these strives and efforts, the existence of cases of Ebola in our neighboring counties is also a threat to all. We appreciate the work of the medical charity *Medecins Sans Frontières* who has been there for the people of West Africa in the fight against this epidemic. The MSF has called on states who have biological disaster response capacities to help.

Most recently, Dr Joanne Liu, the MSF International President, said in a statement: "it is extremely disappointing that states with biological disaster response capacities have chosen not to deploy them".

Earlier this week, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said that stigma against travellers from Ebola-infected countries was hindering the fight against the disease by discouraging Western medics from helping.

On this issue, I will briefly read a letter from our Foreign Minister before ending my remarks.

The other forgotten dimension of the impact of Ebola in West Africa, we have over five million children out of school in West Africa due to Ebola. Some five million children are out of school in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone because of the deadly Ebola outbreak, a call into a report by the Global Business Coalition for Education.

Schools and other public buildings have been closed because they are believed to increase the spread of the virus. Many of the schools are now used as holding centers for Ebola patients. Being out of school can have a crippling impact on vulnerable children, especially girls who are most likely to face high risk situations as a result, including early marriage and pregnancy. If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty with devastating consequences for their health and economic development.

Please allow me to quote what the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown has said: "With children out of school definitely, Ebola threatens to reverse years of educational progress in

West Africa where literacy rates are already low and school systems are only now recovering from years of civil war”.

If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty, as I have stated earlier.

All three countries have some of the lowest primary school completion rates in the world. According to World Bank figures, in Guinea, 61 percent of children complete primary school, in Liberia, 65 percent, with Sierra Leone doing marginally better at 72 percent. Many children are less likely to return to the classroom if they have been out of school for a year. According to the report, Ebola emergency, restoring education, creating safe schools and preventing long-term crisis.

As I said earlier, let me read a short portion of the letter from my Foreign Minister, His Excellency Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan of Liberia.

“Let it be noted that citizens and residents of Ebola-affected countries have already been victimized by the deadly virus, so it is unfair and unconscionable for us to be doubly victimized by actions that are not necessarily aimed at attacking the disease but rather attacking the fact that we hold a particular type of passport.

This current Ebola outbreak is not only a problem for Liberia and other worst hit countries; it is also a test of human solidarity amidst human adversity. Ultimately, and as it has been repeatedly stated by the World Health Organization and other experts, the most effective way for governments across the world to deal with the Ebola menace is to stop the transmission at the source by assisting Liberia and other Ebola-affected countries to quickly eradicate the disease.

To reiterate, we hail the many countries big or small that have rendered exemplary assistance and empathy to Liberia since the outset of the Ebola epidemic in March of this year. These countries deserve tremendous credit for the progress we are beginning to register in our fight against Ebola. At this advanced stage in the fight, it will be extremely sad were they to allow the solid moral high ground on which they have stood and for which they have won commendation and appreciation from Liberians and people of good conscience from across the globe to cave into an unfortunate undercurrent of hysteria and paranoia that could lead to their joining the league of countries that have instituted measures that border on stigmatization and contradict international commitments.

While we appreciate the numerous assistance from governments and other partners from across the world in our fight against Ebola, it should be noted that no amount of external assistance can be more appreciated by the Liberian people in these trying times than to be treated with respect and dignity.”

Let it be known that we are all affected but we are not all infected. I thank you.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ante todo, expresar la solidaridad del Ecuador con los países afectados por el ébola y queríamos referirnos a las presentaciones que se han hecho sobre los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO. Agradecer también las presentaciones que se han hecho sobre estos importantes temas, señalar que coincidimos con las primeras recomendaciones que ha hecho el Equipo Independiente de la Reforma de la Gobernanza en el sentido de que este tema de la agenda es sumamente importante y que se debería encontrar un espacio que tenga una mayor relevancia dentro de la agenda del Consejo.

Por otro lado, quisiera hacer un comentario con respecto al Grupo Global de Migración. Ante todo, queremos expresar nuestra complacencia de que la FAO se haya unido a este Grupo por el impacto que tiene la migración en la agricultura y en la seguridad alimentaria y la relevancia de las actividades de la FAO en este tema. En ese sentido, el Comité del Programa ha expresado la importancia del tema de la urbanización y la migración y el que se aborde de manera integral este aspecto, y este mismo tema ha sido igual motivo de debate en este Consejo.

Queremos además, como señalaba el Director General, en el sentido de que el aporte que podría dar la FAO a este Grupo tiene que ser más allá de la migración internacional, sino de aquella que va dentro del propio país, lo cual por supuesto que coincidimos, pero quisiéramos señalar también que nosotros consideramos que la FAO tiene un rol importante en la migración internacional. Recordar que la

mayor parte de los flujos migratorios son Sur-Sur, no son Sur-Norte, la mayor parte son Sur-Sur, lo cual implica grandes desafíos para los países emisores y para los receptores de la migración.

Querría señalar el rol que tienen los migrantes en la agricultura y en la seguridad alimentaria, porque de los países o de los lugares donde sale la emigración son justamente otros migrantes que vienen a ocupar los lugares en las zonas rurales donde la agricultura ha sido abandonada, y digo estos nuevos migrantes vienen a ocupar un rol importante en el tema de la agricultura y su contribución a la seguridad alimentaria. En ese sentido, por ejemplo las Directrices Voluntarias para la pesca a pequeña escala reconocen justamente la contribución de los migrantes en la pesca a pequeña escala.

Con eso queremos enfatizar en el rol que sí tiene la FAO también en la migración internacional y en los posibles mecanismos de protección social que se podría brindar a los migrantes en el ámbito de la agricultura y de la seguridad alimentaria. Y con esto solamente terminar nuevamente reconociendo el hecho de que la FAO se haya unido a este Grupo Mundial de Migración.

Mme Diane Mariam KONE (Mali)

La Délégation du Mali remercie le Secrétariat Général de fournir toutes ces informations aux Membres du Conseil.

Il est bien vrai que le Président vient de nous informer qu'il faut attendre l'intervention sur l'Ébola. Le Mali veut dire qu'il appuie la déclaration du Libéria, et que son pays a été également touché par Ébola, mais que pour le moment nous maîtrisons la situation.

Nous attirons l'attention des Membres du Conseil sur la nécessité d'appuyer la demande de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius en faveur d'une allocation adéquate des ressources budgétaires pour une production alimentaire de qualité.

Nous appuyons également le renforcement du Programme d'action mondial en faveur de la sécurité sanitaire pour une santé humaine, santé animale dans un environnement sain.

Enfin, nous avons noté et appuyé le plaidoyer en faveur d'un personnel de qualité à la FAO, aussi bien à la Direction que dans ses représentations, compte tenu des exigences des résultats demandés à cette Institution

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Firstly, I just wanted to thank the presenters for their excellent and informative presentations. We find this session very useful to get a quick snapshot on various developments that either FAO is directly involved in and contributing to, or are relevant to the mandate of FAO.

I just wanted to touch briefly on a couple of matters. It is more for informing the Council about some other relevant developments. One was just to note there were some meetings held earlier this week hosted by the OECD in Paris that also relate to Global Agricultural Policy and Food Security, i.e. the Global Forum on Agriculture and the OECD Committee on Agriculture. I will just speak briefly about the former.

The Global Forum on Agriculture is an annual event and was held this year with the focus on agricultural trade policy, and the countries that were represented there were not just OECD Members but in fact a number of countries that are here in this room.

This event was particularly timely given the very recent positive developments in Geneva to do with the WTO and the agreement on agriculture and the broader trade agreements. The Forum basically was looking at a couple of things. One was some of the main features of the structural market and policy shifts that have been occurring since the launch of the Doha Negotiations and clarifying some of the implications for future domestic and trade policy making. It was looking at some of the existing knowledge and analysis that already exists about the impacts of different trade and industry policy instruments, and it was looking at the important issue of food security and the role of trade, and about looking at some of those non- or minimally-trade distorting ways to achieve food security. I will just mention that FAO had a representative there and participated very constructively in those discussions.

I also wanted to briefly mention the G20. Australia was honored to host the G20 during this year. We appreciated the valuable input and expertise contributed by the FAO and other international organizations to the work of the G20 over the year and we thank all FAO Member Nations who participated either as G20 members, G20 guests, APEC economies or in our other consultations.

During Australia's G20 presidency, we worked to continue to strengthen some existing G20 food and agriculture initiatives, and these included the Agricultural Market Information System, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists, and the G20 instigated OECD Framework for Analysing Policies to Improve Agricultural Productivity Sustainably.

At the Brisbane Leaders' Summit in November, G20 leaders agreed on the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, which will strengthen growth by lifting investment in food systems, raising productivity to expand food supply and increasing incomes and quality jobs. This Framework is a response to a review that was offered by FAO and the OECD looking at the opportunities for economic growth and job creation in relation to food security and nutrition.

Australia greatly appreciated the contribution and work of FAO and the OECD on this review. Australia will continue working with FAO and other partner countries to encourage agricultural sector reforms using some of the products that have come out of the year.

It would be remiss, I guess, not to give a plug to the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I think the Treaty Secretary gave a very good overview of some of the current developments. I hope you got the impression that there are a real lot of positive things happening in the Treaty at the moment and there are a real lot of opportunities there for further growth. I just encourage those countries in the room that are not one of the 134 signatories to the Treaty to come on board.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

I would like to focus on one particular issue that I believe is of great importance for FAO and for all of us, that is the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Allow me first to say that I was privileged to be in New York until the last two years when the Sustainable Development Goals were being negotiated, and I also was one of the Delegates who could have assistance from FAO when FAO was there. So I really saw FAO and the Liaison Office in New York work on an issue which I believe was not only helpful for the Member Nations there, but also for the Agency itself.

I am happy to see that we are briefed on what has happened, but I would like to ask the Secretariat to brief us on what are your plans now, which is equally important. And before I come to my exact question – just to make the importance very clear, there is a train leaving this station on 15 September next year and it will come again after 15 years, so where is FAO going to be and how are you going to be on the train station for the next 12 months while we decide on the future? I think it is of major importance for FAO, its relevance and convening power to be there.

I do regularly read the documents in New York with the glasses from FAO. I have been here in my earlier work and I see very often that things are not covered in accordance with their relevance and importance.

In the Strategic Objectives we have here, the key words there are not always equally represented. And I encourage you also to read the Synthesis Report from the Secretary-General with those eyes.

But my direct question is: where is FAO going to be for the next 12 months when we come to the Post-2015 New Goals, the New Agenda?

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je prends la parole surtout pour féliciter le Secrétariat du Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques, pour les démarches réalisées pour éclairer la liaison entre le Traité et les protocoles de Nagoya, et souligner la volonté de continuer à renforcer la coordination entre les deux instruments.

J'encourage également le Secrétariat et son Secrétaire, à continuer à travailler pour améliorer le Système multilatéral d'accès et de partage des avantages, et à résoudre en particulier les problèmes sensibles et

que vous connaissez très bien, de l'insuffisance des contributions financières des utilisateurs au Fond Fiduciaire.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Permettez-moi de poser une petite question sur le Groupe mondial de la migration. Il nous a été fait part d'une démarche conjointe de la FAO et du FIDA à l'intention de l'Union Européenne, sous forme d'une fiche technique conjointe, pour essayer d'attirer l'attention des responsables européens, sur les flux migratoires et leur impact sur la sécurité alimentaire, et spécialement, la migration de l'Afrique vers le continent Européen.

Ma question : est-ce que c'est la seule note technique que la FAO et le FIDA souhaitent envoyer aux Pays du nord, et je me demande pourquoi on ne généralise pas cette démarche aux autres continents, notamment les continents Américain et Asiatique, qui connaissent eux aussi des phénomènes de flux migratoires. Est-ce que cela veut dire que la FAO et le FIDA considèrent que dans les autres continents, la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas menacée ?

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I would like to concur entirely with the statement made by our Chairperson, Matthew Worrell, and also to say that we will strongly take up the recommendation made by Angola.

Mr Boubaker BEN-BELHASSEN (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division)

Two questions were raised on Post-2015: the first one relating to the work on indicators, asked by Afghanistan, who mentioned specifically the UN Statistical Commission.

Let me say that is actually the process. It is still a little bit uncertain how the work will be framed for the identification and approval of the development of the indicators. The UN Statistical Commission is a commission that assists ECOSOC in all the statistical related works. That's why probably there is the idea that the Commission will lead or at least at the end will discuss and approve a more specialized commission on the statistical related work. The Commission is composed of about 24 countries elected and those are usually assisted by the National Statistical Offices, so they have statistical background. But as I said, we are still uncertain on the process.

From the FAO perspective, we are being proactive and we have been in fact with working jointly with the RBAs already on indicators and their goals, but also under Goals 14 and 15 and some other related goals. We are trying to be strict probably in the next phase of the work in the sense that there are, as we mentioned, 169 targets on the work of the indicators.

The FAO post-2015 team is working very closely with our chief statistician, Mr Pietro Gennari, to come up with a stricter list of more realistic and measurable indicators, for which we will have a baseline by 2015 against which we will measure progress.

On the second question from Iceland on where FAO will be, I think I will ask Mr Sundaram to address that.

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

Allow me to respond to Iceland's very encouraging comments. We are very appreciative of the support received from Member Nations.

As you know from earlier briefings on the Post-2015 process, we initially identified 14 themes, 12 and a half of which were taken up by the Open Working Group. All of this has been well-reflected in four of the goals which have been identified so far by the Open Working Group, as Boubaker mentioned earlier in Goals 1, 2, 14 and 15, although you may find some elements in other goals as well.

This process of clustering in 17 goals which have been identified so far is probably likely to continue. I don't think anybody is committed to the 17 goals as they have been specifically articulated, and there may be a preference for clustering further and to reduce the number of goals to something like 8, 10 or 12. We will work to ensure that none of the major FAO concerns which have been reflected so far are lost in the process as we go forward.

The major challenges besides the question of the indicators which will be selected are several, but on the question of indicators, let us assume that there is one indicator per target and so far we have 169 targets.

The current estimate for the cost of monitoring is well over double the existing ODA budget. Just to give you a sense of how much effective monitoring of all the indicators would be on the assumption of one indicator per target. Obviously we need to reduce the number of indicators but I think it is very important to recognize that not all targets are easily measurable and that the loss of an indicator does not mean that the target is lost. This is something which I think will be very important for Member Nations to recognize as we go forward.

The second major challenge is the question of the Means of Implementation. The OWG in its wisdom included some Means of Implementation, but in my view there will be the need to further discuss them. However, a decision was made recently to integrate the decision of Means of Implementation with the Financing for Development Conference.

One of the problems which we need to consider is that not all Means of Implementation are strictly speaking related to financing issues. But, with this association, it then becomes important for us to recognize that there are two *fora*: the New York *forum* which will be discussing the Sustainable Development Goals for the Post-2015, and the *forum* for discussion on the outcome documents for the Financing for Development Conference that will now include Means of Implementation for the Post-2015 target.

It is important for Member Nations to be fully aware that there will be these simultaneous discussions going on and to keep in mind that Means of Implementation which are not financial are likely to be missed out if we do not take care to ensure that they are attended to.

There is a final discussion going on largely within the UN System among the Chief Executives of what is called Fit-for-Purpose. Is the UN Fit for Purpose? This is a discussion within the UN System among the various Agencies, Funds, Programmes, as well as in the General Assembly and ECOSOC. It will be very important to remember that this process is going on as we craft the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your keen interest. We have been updating you over the last two years, as Iceland correctly pointed out, and this communication with Capitals and with New York have been extremely important in ensuring that about one-quarter of the identified sustainable Development Goals which have been proposed by the OWG reflects FAO concerns. This would not have been possible without your support.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Social Protection Division)

There were two questions about the Global Migration Group from Ecuador and Morocco. On the comments made by Ecuador, I think we are fully on the same page. First, I am aware of the discussions in the Programme Committee so we see very clear linkages between the challenges posed by urbanization processes to food security and how this links to migration.

We are working on a follow-up to that discussion on a vision paper in the broader context of securing food security and better nutrition. We should address the challenges but also the opportunities provided by urbanization processes, and in that context also address the migration issue.

I fully agree that both international and internal migration are important. The reason I stressed internal migration as an FAO contribution within the Global Migration Group is that so far that was the main concern of the Group. The larger number people moving is internal migrants, most people moving from rural areas, as I said from one rural area to the next or from rural areas to cities, small or large cities, and sometimes moving abroad. So it is not one or the other.

Regarding the issues raised by Morocco, it is not dealing with migration from a food security or agriculture perspective that we want to stop migration, but it is about making sure that the first challenges posed by migration in some contexts where labor shortages emerge because young people are not willing to stay in agriculture and they don't see enough opportunities to work there, is need for

FAO to make sure that we do have sufficient labor and entrepreneurship in agriculture apart from providing skills development.

At the same time, doing the same thing also facilitates the opportunities to move, when they move to other areas and the opportunities actually not fall into other forms of poverty when moving to cities or abroad. So from that angle we look in a holistic and integrated way at the issues. That also means that we are not just concerned with movements in Africa or from Africa to other parts of the world but also in other regions where migration is an important issue.

I hope that satisfies the questions raised. It is a very complex issue and we are aware of the complexities but in dealing with them we think it is necessary to look at them in an integral way and address the challenges posed, as well as seize the opportunities that can be seized from migration flows.

Ms Maria-Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I would like to mention again the on 17 and 18 December we will be holding the first meeting of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart.

The first day will be open to observers and we intend to have a debriefing with Member Nations on 18 December on the outcomes of the meeting.

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

There was no question addressed to me but I would like to take the time to invite Members to attend the 15th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources which will be held from 19 to 23 January next year, as well as a special event on Friday 16 on Food Security and Genetic Diversity.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 19 of the agenda. The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the Members' Gateway at the end of this meeting.

Presentation on "Ebola, Food Security and FAO's Response"

Présentation sur le thème «Ébola, sécurité alimentaire et action de la FAO face à ces problèmes»
Exposición sobre "El Ébola, la seguridad alimentaria y la respuesta de la FAO"

CHAIRPERSON

Now a brief presentation will be made by Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, on *Ebola, Food Security and FAO's Response*

M. Dominique BURGEON (Directeur de la Division des opérations d'urgence et de la réhabilitation)

En complément de l'intervention du Représentant du Libéria, ma présentation de ce matin visera à vous apporter des informations complémentaires sur l'impact de l'épidémie de la maladie du virus Ebola sur la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays affectés en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Je résumerai également les efforts déployés par la FAO pour contribuer à la sauvegarde de la production agricole et des moyens d'existence des familles vulnérables et inviterai la communauté internationale et les pays membres à poursuivre leurs efforts pour éviter que les conséquences de l'épidémie aient des impacts dramatiques à long terme sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages et leurs moyens d'existence – ainsi que sur les économies rurales, nationales et régionales, voire mondiales.

Comme vous le savez, l'épidémie de la maladie à virus Ebola, qui sévit en Afrique de l'Ouest depuis mars – est sans précédent – de par son ampleur et de par sa répartition géographique. La Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone sont les pays les plus touchés et il convient de noter que les zones à forte prévalence de malades atteints du virus Ebola figurent parmi les régions agricoles les plus productives de ces pays. Le Mali est également affecté depuis quelques semaines alors que le Nigéria et le Sénégal ont pu s'en libérer.

A ce jour, le nombre total de cas d'Ebola se monte à 17,290. Depuis mars 2014, Ebola a emporté plus de 6,100 personnes.

Même si la croissance du nombre de cas n'est pas aussi rapide que nous ne le craignons, la transmission de la maladie à virus Ebola se poursuit à un rythme inquiétant, en particulier en Sierra Leone.

Il est clair que la priorité absolue – de la FAO et de tous les partenaires du système des Nations Unies, dont la Mission des Nations Unies pour la lutte contre Ebola (UNMEER) – est de stopper l'épidémie et la perte de vies humaines.

Outre son coût en vies humaines, cette épidémie a un impact sur l'ensemble des sociétés, comme l'a souligné le Représentant du Libéria dans son intervention. Le secteur agricole n'est pas épargné. L'épidémie a déjà sérieusement entravé le secteur agricole de la Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Dans certaines régions, l'épidémie réduit considérablement les capacités de production alimentaire des ménages. Les restrictions de mouvements et la peur de la contagion ont en effet limité la capacité des populations de travailler dans leurs champs.

Dans les pays affectés, les activités agricoles ont été perturbées, parfois fortement, principalement par un manque de main-d'œuvre, et ce sur l'ensemble du cycle agricole. En particulier, les activités de préparation des sols, les semis, l'entretien des cultures (tels que le désherbage ou l'application d'engrais) et les récoltes ont été affectées, bien qu'à des niveaux différents selon les zones. La production de riz, principale culture de base dans la région, a été la plus touchée.

Selon les estimations du Système Mondial d'Information et d'alerte Rapide, en cours de validation, la diminution de la production de riz serait de l'ordre de 4 pourcent en Guinée, de 8 pourcent en Sierra Leone et de 12 pourcent au Libéria.

Le niveau relativement modéré de l'impact de la maladie sur les productions agricoles nationales prévues cette année ne doit cependant pas en masquer l'impact sur la sécurité alimentaire et la production agricole dans les zones les plus durement touchées. Ainsi, les pertes de riz dans les comtés de Lofa et Margibi, par exemple, au Libéria sont de l'ordre de 20 pourcent. Les difficultés liées au commerce entre les zones de production et les zones urbaines engendrent un impact sur les prix et donc sur l'accès aux aliments, surtout pour les plus démunis.

Selon les estimations de la FAO, les pertes en matière de production de cultures vivrières (riz, maïs et petit grain) dues à Ebola pourraient s'élever à environ 47 millions de dollars pour la Sierra Leone, à 30 millions pour la Guinée, et à 17 millions pour le Libéria.

Le virus Ebola a également un impact considérable sur les recettes à l'exportation, et il compromet donc directement la capacité des pays à couvrir leurs besoins d'importation de céréales. Ce constat est particulièrement important dans la mesure où ces trois pays sont particulièrement dépendants des importations de riz pour couvrir leurs besoins alimentaires. A titre d'exemple, le Libéria importe plus de 60 pour cent du riz qu'il consomme.

Au-delà de son impact sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, l'épidémie Ebola affecte sérieusement les économies guinéenne, libérienne et sierra-léonienne. Les secteurs minier, manufacturier et des services ont été durement touchés. Selon les estimations de la Banque mondiale, l'impact à court terme de l'épidémie sur les productions nationales pourrait s'élever à une diminution de 4 pour cent du PIB en Guinée, 3,7 pour cent au Libéria et 7,3 pour cent en Sierra Leone. Un grand nombre de personnes qui travaillaient au début de la crise de l'Ebola en mars 2014, étaient en novembre au chômage avec de nouveau un impact sur leur capacité d'accès à l'alimentation.

D'une manière générale, les populations de la Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone ont donc vu leur sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle se détériorer.

Depuis le début, la FAO est aux côtés des autorités des pays touchés et appuie la mise en œuvre de leur plan de réponse, en coordination avec les partenaires du système des Nations Unies. Pour tous, l'objectif premier est de stopper la transmission de la maladie et de sauver des vies.

La FAO, je l'ai dit, est pleinement engagée depuis le début de la crise, et ce dans deux domaines: celui de la santé et celui de la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans le domaine de la santé – la FAO contribue aux opérations de prévention sur le terrain, à travers la formation, la sensibilisation et l'éducation des agents de développement rural ainsi que la distribution de kits sanitaires de prévention. La mobilisation sociale, y compris la sensibilisation des communautés aux risques du virus, est cruciale afin de prévenir la propagation de la maladie parmi ces communautés. La FAO, en appui aux autorités gouvernementales, contribue à la mobilisation des réseaux du secteur, depuis les réseaux de vulgarisation agricole, aux clubs de santé animale en passant par les travailleurs forestiers, afin de sensibiliser les communautés aux risques de la maladie – à travers la diffusion de messages de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Ces réseaux sont particulièrement utiles dans la mesure où ils sont en contact étroit et régulier avec les communautés et jouissent donc de leur confiance.

Dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire – la FAO, en appui aux efforts des gouvernements et en partenariat avec le Programme alimentaire mondial, a conduit diverses évaluations d'impact de l'épidémie Ebola sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire dans les trois pays. Evaluations rapides dans certaines zones, tout d'abord afin d'apporter une réponse aux besoins les plus urgents, évaluations plus détaillées plus récemment.

Les résultats des Missions d'évaluation des récoltes et des approvisionnements alimentaires, conduites conjointement par la FAO et le PAM, fourniront une analyse de la production agricole, des prix, des marchés, des commerces et de la situation des stocks. Nous en attendons les résultats définitifs dans les tous prochains jours. Ces résultats seront présentés et discutés notamment au cours de la réunion du Réseau pour la prévention des crises alimentaires qui se tiendra à Bruxelles le 17 décembre prochain.

Des actions immédiates doivent en outre être mises en oeuvre pour préserver la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle ainsi que les moyens d'existence des populations affectées. Il est clair en effet que plus longue sera la crise, plus important en sera son impact.

Nous devons agir aujourd'hui, et poursuivre les efforts déjà entamés pour éviter que les conséquences de l'épidémie aient des impacts à long terme sur la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens d'existence des familles.

Il est fondamental de trouver et de mettre en oeuvre des mesures limitant cet impact, qui, pour tous, présente des défis, souvent nouveaux, auxquels, pour certains, nous n'avons jamais été confrontés.

Comment aider à l'écoulement des denrées en reconnectant les zones de productions aux zones de consommation ?;

Comment améliorer le stockage des denrées au niveau villageois ?

Comment contribuer à faciliter le commerce sous régional, également fortement affecté ?

Comment aider à la recapitalisation des ménages et plus particulièrement des groupements féminins qui faute d'accès aux champs ont perdu leurs économies ?

Comment s'assurer que les agriculteurs auront accès aux intrants agricoles pour la saison prochaine dont la préparation débutera en mars ?

Autant de questions qui demandent non seulement la définition des bonnes stratégies, mais surtout leur mise en oeuvre.

En octobre, la FAO a lancé un appel de 30 millions de dollars pour répondre à l'épidémie et venir en aide à 90 000 ménages vulnérables en Guinée, au Libéria et en Sierra Leone et dans les pays à risque. Le Programme Régional de réponse de la FAO a quatre objectifs principaux : contribuer à sauver des vies en stoppant la propagation de la maladie; dynamiser les revenus et la production agricole pour préserver les moyens d'existence; renforcer la résilience des communautés face aux menaces de maladies; renforcer la coordination pour une réponse améliorée.

Afin d'assurer la mobilisation requise au sein de l'Organisation, il a été décidé que la réponse de la FAO serait traitée comme une priorité et certains protocoles, relatifs aux urgences de niveau 3, ont été activés.

Depuis juillet 2014, la FAO soutient activement la Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone. Ainsi, nous avons mis à disposition un montant d'un million deux cent mille dollars à travers notre Programme de

coopération technique et 685 000 dollars à travers le Fonds spécial pour les activités d'urgence et de réhabilitation.

Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que tout récemment, le Fonds fiduciaire de solidarité africain a alloué un million cinq cent mille dollars à la FAO, pour soutenir son action visant à réduire l'impact de la maladie à virus Ebola sur la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens d'existence des agriculteurs et de la population rurale de Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Les activités principales que nous conduiront comprendront la mobilisation sociale et la formation pour stopper la propagation de la maladie, le renforcement des systèmes d'épargne et de prêt, notamment en faveur des femmes, ainsi que la fourniture d'intrants agricoles pour aider les familles rurales à préserver leurs revenus et moyens d'existence.

Avec un soutien suffisant, la FAO pourra continuer l'action déjà entreprise afin d'atténuer les conséquences dramatiques de l'épidémie.

Au moment où je vous parle, le Programme régional de réponse de la FAO à Ebola n'est financé qu'à hauteur de 11 pour cent et je me permets donc d'attirer l'attention sur l'importance pour vos gouvernements de prendre en compte la dimension « sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle » dans leur réponse

C'est ensemble, qu'il nous faut poursuivre les efforts déjà entrepris. Ensemble, nous devons éviter que l'épidémie ait un impact durable sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des ménages, ainsi que sur les économies rurales, nationales et mondiales.

Merci de votre attention. Je tiens en outre à vous signaler que vous trouverez sur le site internet de la FAO tous les documents auxquels j'ai fait référence au cours de mon exposé

Dr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)

I would like to provide some update on the comments on the presentation.

As of 4 December, in Sierra Leone about 6,201 persons were infected by Ebola, and the daily amount of persons infected are between 61 and 93 for the month of November, and 1,626 persons – which is about 26.2 percent – have died. But we do have some good news: the number of survivors – 1,174 persons – constitutes about 20 percent of the infected persons.

As it has been noted by my colleague from Liberia, all schools and tertiary institutions have not opened since the academic year. There is not agreeing voice to have them reopen against serious apprehension given the human to human transmission nature of the virus.

We appreciate the visits made by the leaders of international organizations and institutions, especially by the President of the World Bank, who has been there twice, the Executive Director of WFP, Dr David Nabarro of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, and some others.

We mostly appreciate the support given to us by the many organizations and countries, especially China that was first to be there with very timely and big support in cash and kind. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, the World Bank, the ADB, the African Union and the contributions to the African Solidarity Trust Fund, the UN System, especially WHO, FAO and UNICEF, as well as private entities and others I have not named in the long list of supporters for their assistance accorded to Sierra Leone during our very trying times.

I wish to observe that there seems to be a serious misunderstanding about Ebola in West Africa. That it is everywhere and affecting everyone. Also stigmatization is not only inappropriate but not applicable in this situation given globalization. It is also wrongly applied.

Many are not aware of when Ebola becomes contagious. And let me say here that it does when a person manifests the signs of very high temperature, vomiting, frequent stools, blood coming from parts of the body, as well as touching dead bodies.

In Sierra Leone, touching loved, dead family members is causing over 70 percent of the new cases of infected persons. The global press should not only spread the news about the status and impact of

Ebola but should have a moral responsibility to educate people about it, including how to avoid it, how to contract it, and how you identify infected persons to avoid the rather embarrassing situation of stigma and isolation.

Lastly, the fight against Ebola should be a double-edged one: providing healthcare and supporting family farmers who constitute the bulk of food producers in affected countries to produce and avail adequate diversified and quality food to the people of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We should note that adequate and nutritious food leads to good health that boosts peoples' immune systems against any disease, including Ebola.

I hereby appeal to all of you and through you to your countries' organizations, agencies and private entities to give assistance to the three countries in order to rescue the situation. Please assist to put off the fire in our global neighborhood. It could also be a save to your own house. Thank you.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

I can only agree with what has been said by the Minister of Sierra Leone and confirm that, indeed, stigmatization is a big issue we have to deal with. Education is key.

This is why we are so actively working on social mobilization, not only to make sure that farmers are more aware of the issue, not only to avoid Ebola, but also realize and understand how it is being transmitted.

Through a rapid assessment we did in a number of countries it was clear that one of the reasons why farmers did not go to their field for extended periods of time, is simply because they were seeing their neighbours and friends dying, and they did not know where it was coming from and they were fearing that it may come from being in the field. That's why education is also important.

I cannot agree more with what has been said and reaffirm that FAO is fully committed to continue and possibly expand its support to the affected countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for this very important update.

Debriefing on 2014 Field Visit by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations in the United Arab Emirates and Oman

Compte rendu de la visite de terrain effectuée en 2014 dans les Émirats arabes unis et à Oman par des hauts responsables des bureaux des représentants permanents sis à Rome

Reunión informativa acerca de la visita sobre el terreno realizada en 2014 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma a los Emiratos Árabes Unidos y Omán

CHAIRPERSON

We will now listen to a debriefing on the Field Visit by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representatives to the United Arab Emirates and Oman from 18 to 24 October 2014.

I now have the pleasure to welcome to the podium Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh, who will debrief the Council on this field visit to the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Mr Mafizur RAHAMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a briefing about the field visit in United Arab Emirates and Oman. I am actually really sorry to inform you that this was supposed to be presented by His Excellency Don Miguel Ruíz-Cabañas Izquierdo, Ambassador of Mexico, but he is stuck in the traffic.

For the Field Visits scheduled from 18 to 24 October 2014, we had a total of five participants when we visited the United Arab Emirates. Our team consisted of Her Excellency Josephine Wangari Gaita of Kenya, myself from Bangladesh, for Europe Mr Rikesh of Netherlands and officials from Latin America and Caribbean, Mexico and Near East, Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan, Ambassador of Sudan, and we also had with us one Senior Programme Officer from FAO.

Before starting these field visits, we had a preparatory meeting with the concerned Mr Rodrigo from FAO so as to explain how actually visit will be conducted. We also had video conferences with both countries concerned, that is; Oman and U.A.E., and from the FAO Subregional office in Cairo. They all explained how the visit will be implemented and how actually we would like to over there and what type of facilities would be there. All the things were explained to this team.

The first field visit took place in U.A.E. on 19th October. Participants had a meeting with the Ministers mainly in U.A.E. High Level Officials for International Cooperation and Development, Agriculture, Water, Environment, as well as those sessions with the representatives from UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, and authorities from the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, ICARDA, the International Humanitarian System, the international update from our Secretariat and the University of Animal Arts to obtain a general understanding of the main challenges that U.A.E. faces in the agricultural sector, food production, distribution, water access and nutrition sectors.

We also met with Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi of U.A.E.'s Minister for International Cooperation and Development, MICAD. She actually gave us a broad overview of the whole U.A.E. development process with agriculture and almost everything and the relationship between U.A.E. and FAO. We also met the U.A.E.'s participation and international organizations such as UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP engaged in the international humanitarian activities. She explained how this became a hub of the whole country for the International Development even though the U.A.E. is not an agricultural-based country, but it's still a lot of grains and – I mean, they have imported rice, fruits in from other countries, they make it purified, packed and supplied other parts. So how actually the U.A.E. became the hub of the globe, she explained very in depth and received a great help from her.

The meeting with Abu Dhabi Control Authority Food Security and Farmer Service Center demonstrated that the Government of U.A.E. has been the financial resources which gained experiences, manpower and adequate policies to promote and broaden agricultural sector based on greenhouses modern techniques operation due to the fact that most of U.A.E.'s land is not adequate for open cultivation due to shortage of water. At the same time, respect the fact the U.A.E. has a total population of only nine million people with as much as 70 percent foreigners, the country is the most important market exporter in the region.

The U.A.E. has a very important role as a center of trade and investment for the whole region. With the expectation of the salary of the FAO's Representatives, FAO Subregional offices based in Abu Dhabi are financed entirely by the U.A.E. Government, though UTF with FAO. Taking into account U.A.E.'s abundant financial resources, this situation seems to be adequate, allowing FAO to invest more resources in other less developed countries in the region and other regions.

Finally, we have visited in the U.A.E.'s Head of Office, Mr Adrianus Spijkers. As a matter of fact, Subregional officer in FAO provided very useful information note detailing all the programmes and activities presently being carried out by FAO in U.A.E. As it happens with all other countries in the region, U.A.E.'s fundamental challenge is to maintain a strong agricultural sector and promote food security. Due to a scarcity of water resources, due to limited amount of water from rivers or ground water deposits that affects the country, the U.A.E. has developed in the last 40 years important infrastructure plans to desalinate water from the sea and plants and canals to direct the desalinated water to the cities to satisfy the needs of the growing population and to irrigate agricultural units. It seems that the use of this desalinated water for a long time may produce some negative environmental impacts, but at least for the time being, the U.A.E. and other countries in the region have no other option to do that.

Soon after the visit in U.A.E., we had plans to briefly visit Oman;. Participants of the field visit considered completed and stimulating programme for the visit prepared by the FAO Representatives in Oman The team had meetings with the most relevant officials of the Oman Government dealing with agriculture, fisheries, water supply, environment, climate change, including the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries, His Excellency Fuad Al Sajwani and his associates, the Secretary of the Environment and Climate Affairs and his assistants, the CEO of Oman Food Investing Holding

Company and Directors of the Fisheries Resource Centers. Participants also met with representatives in Oman of UNFP, WHO and UNICEF.

The FAO Representative, Mr El-Zein Mustafa El-Muzamil provided an information note on FAO main activities and current programmes in the country.

As is the case with the U.A.E., the Government of Oman funds all the activities of the FAO Office in the country, with the exception of the salary of Head of the Office. It must be emphasized that the office in the country is very new as it was established in January 2012, responding to a specific request from the Government of Sultanate of Oman.

The decision was one of the responses taken by the Government of Oman to the food crisis that affected many countries of the Gulf Region in the year 2007-2008. Since then, the country has developed a very active programme of cooperation activities, including several efforts related with water scarcity and climate challenges in the Near East and North Africa, and water supply and food security among other issues.

Although it was a short visit of only five days, the FAO field visit team particularly observed the following points:

Participants considered the FAO field visit was an excellent opportunity for them to observe how FAO is carrying out its cooperation activities with two countries of the Gulf Region, U.A.E. and Oman. It was not an inspection visit, not a visit to evaluate the programme of the Subregional Office in Abu Dhabi or national office in Muscat. The main goal of this field visit was to familiarize with FAO operational activities in the field. Thanks to the efforts and professionalism of professionals working in those FAO offices, the field visit accomplished this goal. We learned a great deal about the kinds of specific obstacles and challenges, but mainly of the great opportunities for FAO that exist in high income developing countries affected by water scarcity and need to import food to feed their populations.

This necessitates, however, close partnership and a strong networking from FAO Office and cooperation from FAO Headquarters in order to facilitate FAO offices to act fast. In a competitive context, isolation and slow delivery of FAO offices will make authorities lose interest.

The U.A.E. office in particular, there was a point when the FAO office had a difficult time until the arrival of a Director. When new Director was clearly to be seen, it was very important that the new FAO Country Director be recruited displays both strong interpartnership skills and a broad knowledge of FAO in order to know where to find expertise.

At the same time, we learned a lot from the experiences of those countries in developing production of several food products such as fruits, from aquaculture and fisheries despite water scarcity. We learned a lot about their national history, culture, national identities. We learned a lot about their innovative strategies to promote food security and adequate nutrition of their respective populations. We saw how committed the U.A.E. and Oman Governments are to promote peace, constructive dialogue and tolerance, economic development and regional and international cooperation in conformity with challenges that have no respect for national borders such as water scarcity and climate change.

Finally, in the opinion of the field visit team, the Subregional office in Abu Dhabi, as well as FAO Country office in Muscat, deserve recognition for what they are accomplishing and that the coordination of its respective heads, Mr. Spijkers in Abu Dhabi and Mr **EL-ZEIN Mustafa EL-MUZAMIL** in Muscat, we saw a committed group of technicians and professionals working on concrete projects and programmes of interest to the U.A.E. and Oman Governments. Moreover, they need all the support from the FAO Headquarters in Rome and Regional offices in Cairo to respond in a timely and efficient manner to the rather specific technical needs and demands that both the U.A.E. and Oman Governments are requesting.

Let me add a very personal opinion; we know that both U.A.E. and Oman have very scarce water problems, for this reason I would like particularly to request FAO that the Gulf-based Countries need more technical assistance particularly for water purification and water resources.

Sr. Miguel RUÍZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Antes que nada, le agradezco a mi buen amigo el Dr. Rahman que ha presentado en nombre de los miembros de la misión que fuimos a estos dos países, a los Emiratos y a Omán, el informe de nuestro grupo. Yo creo que el Dr. Rahman ha cubierto todos los puntos, solamente me gustaría subrayar dos o tres que me parecen realmente extraordinarios. El primero: estas visitas les permiten a los Delegados, a nosotros que estamos en esta sala, comprobar cómo las resoluciones que aprobamos, los enfoques, las propuestas del Director General que aprobamos aquí, se implementan en el terreno. Cómo, dónde empieza y dónde termina nuestro trabajo y cómo se van ajustando las oficinas de la FAO en estos dos países a los temas de descentralización, asistencia técnica y conocimiento.

Soy un partidario de que estas misiones continúen, no deben ser misiones de inspección, no nos toca a nosotros ver la administración a detalle de las oficinas de la FAO en el mundo, más bien nos toca ver cómo cumple la FAO en general su mandato en el terreno.

En segundo lugar, me parece muy importante destacar que el Director General, José Graciano da Silva, le ha dado una evidente nueva dinámica a la participación de la FAO, tanto en los Emiratos Árabes Unidos como en Omán, así nos lo dijeron los dos directores de las oficinas y más importante, también nos lo dijeron los representantes de los dos gobiernos. Yo quiero destacar eso porque me parece importante y creo que es una buena decisión del Director General darle una importancia mayor a estos países y a la labor de la FAO en esta región.

En tercer lugar, quiero reconocer el trabajo de las dos oficinas. En ambos países los profesionales que tiene la FAO tienen un altísimo nivel técnico que, pues da gusto ver que hacen un trabajo realmente importante. La FAO es una organización basada en el conocimiento y me da gusto poder decir que a pesar de que la FAO en el mundo actual compite con muchísimas organizaciones, sobre todo del sector privado, que tratan de dar asistencia técnica a los gobiernos en estos sectores mediante un pago muy substantivo, por supuesto, la FAO lo hace simplemente por los ideales de la cooperación internacional. Y esto no lo debemos olvidar.

La FAO es una realización de Estados, donde el ideal, la norma es la cooperación internacional para tratar de que los países tengan un sector agropecuario, el mejor posible de acuerdo a sus recursos naturales y puedan mejorar y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de sus poblaciones. Esto es lo que es notable del trabajo de la FAO, debemos de fortalecer a la FAO en esta línea de cooperación internacional, incluso en aquellos países que por su nivel de ingreso tienen recursos para promover sus propios programas.

Nadie se compara con la FAO en su enorme capacidad técnica, sus cientos y cientos de expertos son realmente muy importantes y sí hacen la diferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. As you will be aware, a second Field Visit to El Salvador and Colombia took place from 23 to 30 November 2014, and therefore the participants have not had time to debrief this Session, but will do so at the 151st Session in March next year.

May I remind Members that the Note on Field Visits, containing lessons learned and recommendations for future field visits, can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

Before closing this morning meeting, I would like to remind you that we will resume in the afternoon at 15:00 hours for the adoption of the report. The Report will be available at 14:30 hours.

I would also like to remind you that a side event on "World Soil Day: Soils, a Foundation for Family Farming" will take place from 12.45 to 14.40 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

The meeting rose at 12:32 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.32