

conference

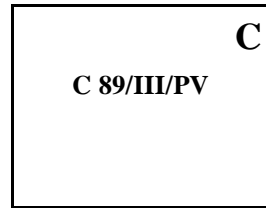
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION III

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION III

25° período de sesiones
COMISION III

Rome, 11-29 November 1989

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION III
OF THE CONFERENCE
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION III
DE LA CONFÉRENCE
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION III
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

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PRIMERA SESION
(22 November 1989)

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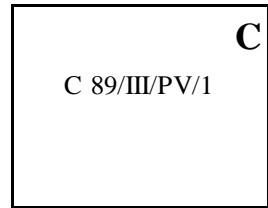
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Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION III

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION III

25° período de sesiones
COMISION III

**FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION**

(22 November 1989)

The First Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
R. de Pourtalès, Chairman of Commission III, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de R. de Pourtalès, Président de la Commission III

Se abre la primera sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de R. de Pourtalès, Presidente de la Comisión III

LE PRESIDENT: Je déclare ouverte la première session de la Commission III de cette 25ème Conférence de la FAO.

Distingués délégués, je vous souhaite la bienvenue dans cette troisième Commission et j'aimerais vous remercier très vivement de la confiance que vous avez mise en moi en me désignant Président de cette Commission, ainsi que d'avoir élu l'Ambassadeur M. Lamptey du Ghana, ainsi que M. G. Ahmed en tant que Vice-Présidents de cette Commission III. Je leur souhaite la bienvenue et compte sur leur collaboration.

Avec votre coopération, j'espère que nous arriverons à mener à bien nos travaux dans les meilleurs délais et je vous saurais gré de maintenir vos interventions aussi brèves que possible, ainsi que d'éviter des commentaires sans rapport avec le point traité. Il serait bon également d'éviter les répétitions de félicitations. Nous pourrions a posteriori nous féliciter mutuellement du bon déroulement des travaux, spécialement si, comme je le crois possible, nous parvenons à les achever en avance sur le calendrier proposé.

Les sujets que nous avons à traiter sont précis; un certain nombre de décisions précises sont à prendre. C'est pourquoi je pense que notre rapport pourrait peut-être être concis et précis, facilitant ainsi la tâche du Comité de rédaction. Je demanderai également au Secrétariat de répondre le plus précisément et complètement possible aux questions qui seraient posées par les délégués pour éviter que ceux-ci ne se sentent obligés de revenir sur les questions qu'ils avaient posées.

Tout d'abord, vous avez reçu un document concernant le calendrier proposé et modifié de cette Commission III. Dans ce nouveau document, vous voyez que les travaux devraient pouvoir se terminer demain dans l'après-midi.

Le programme de cet après-midi est relativement condensé, mais très peu de points demandent une discussion approfondie. Malgré le retard que nous avons pris au début de la séance, dû au manque de quorum, je souhaiterais arriver à terminer ce programme de l'après-midi, et peut-être traiter un ou plusieurs points prévus pour demain.

Je demande au Secrétariat s'il y a des communications particulières à faire en ce début de séance?... Il n'y a rien de particulier.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, je vais vous lire rapidement la liste des pays qui ont été proposés pour former le Comité de rédaction.

Il s'agit de la Zambie, du Sénégal, de l'Iran, de la République démocratique du Yémen, des Philippines, de la Yougoslavie, du Venezuela, du Chili, de la Belgique, du Danemark, de la Grèce, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique et du Japon.

Comme Président de ce Comité de rédaction, je souhaiterais vous proposer M. Carandang, des Philippines, qui connaît très bien l'Organisation et qui pourra mener à bien les travaux de ce Comité de rédaction dans les meilleures conditions.

Y a-t-il une opposition ou une autre proposition concernant ce Comité de rédaction?... Si ce n'est pas le cas, je félicite M. Carandang de son élection unanime au poste de Président du Comité de rédaction de cette Commission •

Nous passons donc au point 18 de l'ordre du jour "Rapport statutaire sur l'état des conventions et accords et sur les amendements y relatif". Le premier point de l'ordre du jour sera introduit par M. le Conseiller légal. C'est une revue biennale des travaux faits par la FAO sur toutes les Conventions signées dont le Directeur général est dépositaire. Je prie M. Gerald Moore de présenter ce point.

PART III - CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

TROISIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET ADMINISTRATIVES

PARTE III - ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

A. Constitutional and Legal Matters

A. Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

A. Asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

18. Statutory Report on Status of Conventions and Agreements, and Amendments thereto

18. Rapport statutaire sur l'état des Conventions et Accords et sur les amendements y relatifs

18. Informe reglamentario sobre el estado de las convenciones y acuerdos, y de las enmiendas a los mismos

LEGAL COUNSEL: The papers on this Agenda item are documents C 89/10 and C 89/10 Sup.1.

Under paragraph 5 of Rule XXI of the General Rules of the Organization the Director-General is required to report to the Conference whenever a convention, agreement, supplementary convention or agreement concluded under Article XIV of the Constitution comes into force or ceases to be in force, or has been amended and the amendments have come into force. In addition, in accordance with established practice the Director-General informs the Conference of any developments which may have occurred in connection with treaties concluded between FAO and Member Nations under Article XV of the Constitution, treaties concluded outside the framework of FAO in respect of which the Director-General acts as depository, and on the status of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies in respect of FAO.

The two documents before you contain the relevant information on the present status of the treaties to which I have just referred. It should be noted that the Statutory Report which is submitted to the Conference follows the same pattern as earlier reports.

As reflected in paragraphs 104 to 107 of document C 89/10 I should like to inform you that the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East entered into force on 30 December 1987, and the Centre was formally established at the beginning of March of this year. Also, since the submission of the previous report, and as

is reflected in paragraphs 112 to 115 of document C 89/10 the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, which met in Bangkok on 5-8 January 1988, adopted the Agreement on the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific, (NACA).

With reference to paragraphs 19 to 24 of document C 89/10, I feel that I ought to point out, as on previous occasions, that the Conference, in approving the amendments to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), by Resolution 14/79 of 1979, stressed that it would be in the interests of the national community that the revised version of the Convention enter into force without delay. Bearing in mind that amendments enter into force only after acceptance by two-thirds of the Contracting Parties, the Conference therefore urged the parties to the Convention to accept the revised text at the earliest possible time. The present situation is that out of 94 parties to the Convention, 48 have so far deposited an Instrument of Acceptance of the revised text. Another 15 acceptances are therefore required before the revised text of the Convention can become effective.

In view of the importance of the Convention in strengthening international action against the spread of important plant pests, especially in the context of international trade, the Conference may wish to reiterate its appeal to those states which have not yet accepted the revised version of the Convention, to deposit an Instrument of Acceptance as soon as possible.

DONS QING SONG (China) (original language Chinese): With respect to Itati 18, I would like to refer to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Regions.

The Commission was formerly called "Commission of Protection for the South East Asia and Pacific Region", but in view of the limited geographical scope of the term, the Council, in November 1983, approved the change in its title, and has been subsequently called "The Commission for the Asia and Pacific Region". However, the amendment should be accepted by two-thirds of those concerned before it can enter into force, and among the 25 Member States only 7 have deposited the Instrument of Acceptance up to now. If that rate of acceptance continues, we cannot be sure when we will reach that two-thirds majority, and the amendment cannot enter into force. This would also discourage other countries from participating in the activities of the Commission.

In view of this, I would like to propose that FAO conduct a study of this issue, and suggest possible solutions. Is it possible, for example, to transform the Commission into an open Commission, like other Commissions, in such a way that it would encourage participation from other states, and also facilitate commencement of the activities of the Commission?

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le distingué délégué de la Chine et je demande si d'autres orateurs souhaiteraient s'exprimer à ce sujet?... Cela ne semble pas être le cas. Je demande au Conseiller juridique, M. Gerald Moore, de réagir à la proposition de la Chine.

LEGAL COUNSEL: We will certainly take note of the suggestions made by the distinguished delegate of China. Of course, if the nature of the Commission were to be changed, this itself would require considerable amendment to the Convention in question.

In summary then: We will certainly look into the possibilities of trying to remedy the situation to which the distinguished delegate of China has referred, and we will see what can be done to encourage the Member Nations concerned to bring these amendments into force as soon as possible.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Conseiller juridique et j'aimerais demander à la délégation de la Chine si elle est satisfaite de cette réponse?

DONS QING SONS (China) (original language Chinese): Thank you - I am pleased with the answer given by Legal Counsel.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Chine et je considère que le point 18 de notre Ordre du jour peut être clos.

19. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

19. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

19. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

19.1 Procedure for the Election of the Chairmen and Members of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee

19.1 Procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier

19.1 Procedimiento para la elección de los Presidentes y Miembros del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas

LEGAL COUNSEL: The paper on this Agenda item is C 89/LIM/8, which is an extract from the Report of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council held in June 1989. On this matter Council has already taken action, and the item is therefore presented for the information of the Conference.

The Conference will recall that the question of the Procedure for Election of Chairmen and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees arose in the Council first at its Eighty-ninth Session in 1985, when the members of the Finance Committee were elected. Since that time the matter has been considered on several occasions by both the CCLM and the Council.

At its Twenty-fourth Session in 1987, the Conference adopted a Resolution calling on members of the Council to bear in mind certain criteria when electing members of these Committees. These criteria included the need for just and equitable representation of the various regions on the Programme and

Finance Committees, the essential element of such representation being that all regions that so wish are in fact represented on the Committees and the importance of ensuring equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region when electing the Chairmen and members of the two Committees.

Conference Resolution 11/87 is annexed to the paper before you. Despite these measures, a similar problem arose at the Ninety-third Session in November 1987 following the election of the members of the Programme Committee.

At its Ninety-fourth Session in November 1988, Council requested the CCLM to review the matter once again and to report on it. The CCLM considered the matter at its meeting in May 1989, and suggested three possible orientations which could be adopted in order to ensure conformity with Conference Resolution 11/87 and the criteria set out therein. These involved the possibility of introducing greater degrees of formality into the procedures for reaching regional understanding amongst and within the regions.

In its discussions on the CCLM's report, however, the majority of the Council were not in favour of introducing any new measures or amendments which would formalize the procedures for reaching regional understandings. They felt that the present provisions, combined with Conference Resolution 11/87, were satisfactory and sufficient and that the present system had been working quite satisfactorily for many years. They also felt that the problems that had arisen in 1985 and 1987 were of an exceptional nature. The Council therefore agreed that it would be preferable to maintain the flexibility inherent in the present system and not to introduce any modification thereto. In so doing it recalled the necessity of ensuring sufficient consultation and coordination both within and between regions in order to respect the criteria set forth in Conference Resolution 11/87.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I am very pleased to see you chairing this Commission. We know you very well and with your qualifications we believe you will be able to direct the smooth running of our discussions.

The matter under discussion has raised many problems either within the region or among regions mentioned in this document, and mentioned by Legal Counsel. We should like to mention two points. First, we appeal to all regions to respect the provisions of Resolution 11/87 as far as possible. Secondly, we appeal to Council members to take into account this Resolution when electing the chairmen and members of the Programme and Finance Committees. It is very important for the Council members to do so and to respect the spirit and content of this Resolution 11/87.

We approve of this Resolution, which was annexed to this document, and appeal for further cooperation and coordination in order to avoid further problems.

Antoine SAINERAINT (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais intervenir très brièvement pour dire que je partage en tout point les avis et considérations de M. Bukhari du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite. Ce point nous est cotinuniqué pour information. Je crois que la discussion, ainsi que la nouvelle qui a eu lieu au Comité compétent, en l'occurrence le CQJC, a été une discussion intéressante, et qu'elle tend à tracer des pistes et des

lignes de conduite de façon à essayer d'en arriver à une impossibilité absolue compte tenu du nombre de membres du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, à un équilibre et une représentation de l'ensemble des différents groupes qui composent la FAO.

Le principe avait été reconnu en 1987 d'une certaine représentation stable avec un certain renouvellement souhaitable, dans une certaine mesure, des différents comités, mais en tenant surtout compte d'éléments personnels, d'éléments de compétence. Or, je crois qu'il était impossible pour le CQCJ de faire davantage que ce qu'il a fait, d'entériner la décision que nous avons prise en 1987. Vous savez que l'on peut discuter à l'infini de principes de rotation. Ici, en l'occurrence, il existe un texte qui définit un principe. On a parfois voulu l'appliquer là où il n'existe pas de texte. En ce qui nous concerne, nous partageons totalement les points de vue qui viennent d'être exprimés. Nous pensons que la formule retenue en 1987 par la résolution n° 11 est une formule équilibrée et acceptable dans un domaine qui fera toujours nécessairement l'objet de controverses pour la bonne raison que ces deux comités doivent être limités en nombre. Mais je crois que la bonne qualité des différents représentants au sein de ces conseils compense peut-être la limitation du nombre.

David COUTIS (Australia): This item, very capably introduced by Mr Moore, is an important matter and although it is for information only, I should like to make a few comments.

As he said, there were difficulties in 1985 and 1987 and I hope that members of the Organization want to avoid such difficulties arising again as they are not in the interests of the Organization. In 1987 the Council passed a resolution which reaffirmed (or even slightly strengthened) the understandings that ought to be applied when members of the Council are considering their votes and the process for electing members to those committees.

The matter was considered by CCLM who looked at other options and reported back to Council earlier this year. As I recall the Council had a lengthy discussion on this matter and widespread views were expressed. For our part we gave slightly more weight to the views of the CCLM, than did the majority of the Council. We would have been prepared to look more closely at the solutions that they proposed, or at least to pursue further consideration of their second option, than in fact the Council in the end chose to do.

Therefore, we have some misgivings about the Council's decision to continue with the relatively informal arrangements which have been in place for some time. However being good members of the Organization, we are quite happy to go along with the majority view. I hope that the process will work when it is put to the test in a week's time.

As I understand there is potential for problems to emerge again, particularly in relation to the Finance Committee elections. I have not seen the final list, but I understand there are more candidates than places in several cases.

I should like to make two further points. First, to appeal to members of the Commission to look at what Council passed in 1987 and if I can give a Southwest Pacific flavour particularly to the second point - all regions are in fact represented. Second, if the arrangements go wrong again this time, CCLM and the Council should look at the matter once more. We cannot go on

saying that this time-honoured tradition should work, "let us hope it does". If you wish to stay on that basis, members have to address themselves to the Resolution and regions have to ensure that it does work. I wanted to flag that matter and say that we will be raising the matter again next year if indeed matters go awry this time.

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): The views of the Brazilian delegation on this issue have already been expressed during Council sessions since 1986 and also in Commission III of the last Conference. Our opinion remains unchanged. We consider that the current framework of Resolution 11/87 adopted by the 24th Conference, is perfectly satisfactory. We are sure that coordination within and among the regions can guarantee that the principle of just and equitable representation will be safeguarded. Therefore, we cannot support in any way the conclusions reached by the CCLM on this issue, in particular the pre-election system proposed for the nomination and selection of candidates.

However, on many occasions my delegation has challenged the adequacy of the geographical distribution prevailing in FAO which does not conform to the usual grouping in the UN system. This same point was raised recently by the delegation of Czechoslovakia, and other delegations during this present Conference. The issue before us is actually the current geographical distribution in FAO and therefore, consideration should be given to review the matter and ensure its conformity with the UN system. The CCLM could be entrusted with this review and then report its findings on the measures needed to deal with these groupings before the 26th Session of the Conference. We are convinced that no satisfactory solution to the principle of equitable representation will be found if we do not tackle the basic problem. A better geographic distribution balance would also make it possible for larger participation by countries in our organization, rendering its membership universal. Therefore, the Brazilian delegation considers it important that the present Conference endorses this point of view, and submits the issue of the review of the present geographic distribution to the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters, which, after due consideration of the matter, may present a finding of better equitable regional representation.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): La délégation libanaise ne peut qu'appuyer ce que viennent de déclarer l'Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite et l'Ambassadeur de Belgique, le délégué d'Australie ainsi que le délégué du Brésil en ce qui concerne la représentation équitable de toutes les régions au sein du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme afin d'éviter les difficultés que nous avons rencontrées au cours des 23ème et 24ème sessions de la Conférence.

J'espère que les membres du Conseil, au cours de nos prochaines réunions, pourront prendre tous ces points en considération au moment de l'élection des membres des deux Comités.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No obstante, ante su llamada a la austeridad, los representantes de Colombia sentimos la necesidad de expresar brevemente la gran satisfacción que sentimos al participar por primera vez en esta Comisión bajo su competente Presidencia.

Los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas son los dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo.

Hasta 1975 esos dos Comités eran integrados a base de representación estrictamente personal. Luego, a partir de 1977, se introdujeron modificaciones cuyo alcance está vigente hoy. El sistema todos lo conocemos: se presentan las candidaturas de los Gobiernos, indicando las personas y legalmente, o aun con cierto aspecto dubitativo sobre la legalidad, durante el bienio, si alguno de esos representantes no puede seguir asistiendo a estos Comités, los Gobiernos respectivos han venido cambiando sus representantes de estos organismos.

Como dijeron los distinguidos colegas de Arabia Saudita y el Embajador Saintraint de Bélgica, nosotros creemos también que ese sistema viene funcionando bastante bien, y el hecho de que en 1985 se presentara una situación que fue lamentable, sin embargo, esto no quiere decir que tenga repercusiones tan significativas como para imponer modificaciones.

Nosotros reconocemos que el CACJ ha hecho el máximo, ha intensificado su capacidad de imaginación al haber presentado distintas recomendaciones en varias oportunidades al Consejo. Sin embargo, como consta en este documento, el Consejo de junio consideró que no es necesario adoptar el sistema de preelección o preselección, cambiar el Reglamento General, ni incluir cualquier otra modificación.

Nosotros Compartimos plenamente lo que ha dicho el colega de Brasil. Pensamos que en la base de la situación, que algunos pueden calificar de insatisfactoria, está la distribución regional "sui generis", excepcional, que rige aquí, con el seno de esta Organización. Por ello apoyamos a Brasil, en el sentido de que se pida al CACJ que estudie la actual distribución regional que rige en el seno de la FAO y que, a la luz de la distribución regional vigente en las propias Naciones Unidas y en otras agencias especializadas del sistema, haga recomendaciones al Consejo para modificar esa situación que, después de tantos años, tiene ya que actualizarse y ponerse a tono con las nuevas realidades.

A estas alturas de nuestros debates sobre este punto concreto, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que en nuestro informe nos corresponde simplemente apoyar el párrafo 243 del extracto del Informe del Consejo, pedir al Consejo que tenga en cuenta los tres criterios fundamentales de la Resolución 11/87, como medida práctica, que el día de la reunión del Consejo, posiblemente el 10 de diciembre, la próxima reunión inmediata después de la Conferencia, se distribuya rápidamente entre los miembros del mismo parte referente a este extracto, con la esperanza de que, como lo dijo el colega representante de Australia, los miembros del Consejo puedan tener en cuenta estas recomendaciones.

Nouri ZORGATI (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Monsieur le Président, je vous félicite pour la présidence de notre Commission. En tant que délégation tunisienne, avec beaucoup de réserve, surtout après avoir entendu les propositions constructives des orateurs précédents je voudrais appuyer ce que viennent de dire l'Ambassadeur Bukhari et les autres délégués qui m'ont précédé. La délégation tunisienne appuie, et appelle également tous les membres du Conseil, à prendre en considération cette proposition afin d'assurer la coordination et la réussite entre différentes régions dans la nécessité d'appliquer les critères contenus dans le paragraphe 243 du document présenté par le Conseil.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): With respect to the representatives in the Programme and Finance Committees, I support what has been said by the distinguished delegate of Australia and others. I do not need to go into detail on the arguments which have already been put forward.

With regard to the second question raised by the distinguished delegate from Brazil the proposal that the CCLM look into the regional set-up of the Organization, my delegation questions the need for that. I recall that this matter was thoroughly looked into in the review process by an expert team which came to the conclusion that the regional division of the Organization was perfectly in line with the mandate of the Organization, and that there was no need for any change. We need to keep in mind that FAO is primarily a specialized agency for food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. As such, it is unique within the United Nations system. What may be true for New York may not be true for Rome, so while not opposing it, I really do question the need for inventing the wheel all over again. I think our founding fathers or founding mothers were right when they designed the Organization and the regional set-up as they are.

I.C. FERGUSON (Canada): I had not planned to intervene, but will be very short. I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the preceding speaker from Sweden and with those made by the distinguished delegate of Australia. There is no standard system for grouping countries in the regions. It is based in each case on functional groupings which, in the case of FAO, should primarily be agricultural. The review exercise has reaffirmed that the basic texts of the FAO do not require changing.

Steven HILL (United States of America): I would like to associate my delegation with the remarks made by the distinguished delegates of Sweden and Canada.

We have strongly opposed the suggestion to reexamine the regional groupings existing in the Programme and Finance Committees. Council had a full discussion on this issue in June and the decision was made to continue to abide by Resolution 11/87. We have heard from many delegations this afternoon that this Resolution should provide a satisfactory arrangement for the work at hand and we see no need for the CCLM to reconsider this issue. As was stated by Council in June, the existing groupings work well for FAO, given its specific mandate for food and agriculture.

Norbert ODERO (Kenya): My delegation has, of course, participated in the various forums where this problem has been discussed. In our view, equitable regional representation and rotation should be adhered to as proposed in the Second Alternative of CCLM. However, Council agreed on the status quo. We note that yet again we were bound to face a similar problem, because we have a large number of candidates from the OECD in the Programme Committee. Also, we are bound to face the same problem in the Finance Committee because there are a large number of candidates from the Group of 77, and some of the regions could be affected if the general agreement is not upheld.

Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento intervenir por segunda vez, pero seré muy breve.

El colega de Brasil se refirió a la necesidad de revisar las agrupaciones regionales en el seno de la FAO, según dijo porque es una posición de su gobierno, pero, además, porque en el párrafo 240 los miembros del CACJ ya se hablan referido a este asunto. Sin embargo, si intervenimos no es para echar más fuego a la hoguera, sino, por lo contrario, para decir que, después de las declaraciones que han hecho aquí nuestros colegas de Suecia, Canadá y Estados Unidos, en acto de obediencia democrática los representantes de Colombia no vamos a insistir sobre esta posición nuestra, y podemos asegurar a los colegas que se han expresado en contra de esa propuesta que tratamos de entender sus argumentos, aunque no los compartamos totalmente.

Bashir Al Mahrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. Perhaps the fact that I am sitting a long way away is the reason why, although I asked for the floor a long time ago, I have only just been given it, but that is not important.

I do not think I need repeat what has been said so clearly by the distinguished delegates of Saudi Arabia and Belgium. I would simply like to support what they said, whilst underscoring the following - we believe that the present measures mentioned in Resolution 11/87 are satisfactory and sufficient. It is not necessary to discuss this question again within the CCLM. From past experience we have seen that it is unwise to apply specific measures in order to convince regions that they must do things. Each region can adopt those measures they are pleased so to do in accordance with this Resolution.

I would like to stress the fact, as have the Ambassadors from Brazil and Colombia, that perhaps there may be a surfeit of studies about regional groups. I believe that regional groups exist in other organizations, too, but perhaps in a different way.

We believe that the present regional groupings within FAO are the most appropriate as past experience has shown their wisdom in action, and I think that if we were to put forward these criteria to the committees concerning these groups, the same criteria should be applied by the Council. I think that this might raise problems for all of the regions.

Therefore, I would agree with those who have supported the present measures that are in force now. I think that if we were to put this matter yet again to the CCLM, we would simply have a surfeit of problems that we do not need.

These are the few contents I wish to make in all due respect to my colleagues.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would like to support some of the comments made by the Australian Delegation.

We fully support the need for each regional group that so wishes to be represented, and we will be watching the outcome of the forthcoming elections with sane interest. If problems do arise again, I think we do need to consider going back to the drawing board.

I would also like to associate myself with the comments made by the delegates of Sweden, Canada and the United States regarding the need to look again at the regional groupings.

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): We strongly oppose any reallocation of regional representation. We support the position that the existing system of regional representation is working quite well. We are not prepared and not ready for any debate on a change of groupings. It would not be useful for anybody.

I think the only reasonable solution is to reach an adequate consensus among the countries of the regions in the future, as before.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Firstly, this delegation does not oppose in particular any suggestions for examining the geographical arrangements. What we would say is that we have no conviction as yet that there is any need to do such a thing and, therefore, we should proceed as exists at present.

We wish, however, to emphasize the need for what we call rotation and balanced representation. As we know, if you rotate without proper balance, you will tumble over, so we must aim at both things.

It is one thing for us to talk about guaranteeing this and guaranteeing that, but if our own behaviour is such that those guarantees do not come through, we will perhaps" have to take another look.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, we wish also to use this opportunity to convey congratulations to you upon your election to chair this Commission.

This matter of equitable distribution and representation in the Programme and Finance Committees was discussed at length in the June Session of Council.

During that discussion we indicated our preference for the second alternative that was proposed to us and, of course, we still feel that the second alternative, which is on the table now, is a better alternative to ensure that each of the regional groups is represented in the Programme and Finance Committees in an equitable manner.

Now that this proposal of continuing the procedure has come onto the scene, we have no strong objection against the proposal that is before us. In any case, the problem existed twice before. We had it in 1985 in relation to membership of the Finance Committee, which led towards the examination of the rules that we have, and also in relation to membership of the Programme Committee in 1987. Meanwhile, between 1985 and 1987 we have been trying to get this point of considering the equitability of the regional representations. I do not feel that this proposal we have here would take us to the belief, which all of us have in the background of our minds, that each region is fairly represented on the different committees. If it happens to

lead us in that direction, I would be so much the happier. In any case, we are going to have similar elections during the Ninety-seventh Session of the Council. We are in a situation where more countries have indicated interest to be represented on the Finance and Programme Committees, and will see whether this representation that we are thinking about is going to work or not work.

If we should get into a similar experience as in 1985 and 1987, I would consider the matter for a reference again because, if we are going into a situation for the third time, there is no reason that we should push this back and forth. If our experience is that in a week or so we are going to be in a situation in line with our own beliefs and the deliberations that we have this afternoon, I would also have satisfaction in the continuity.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne crois pas que ce point appelle de réactions de la part du Secrétariat, ce point était pour information et il s'agit en fait d'une question qui doit être débattue avant tout entre les Etats Membres et en collaboration directe entre eux.

Une proposition a été faite par une délégation de confier une étude au CQCJ pour revoir tout le système d'élections. Cette proposition n'a guère été suivie et la conclusion de ce débat pourrait être qu'il faut attendre les prochaines élections, le 1er décembre prochain, au Comité des finances et au Comité du Programme pour se faire une idée plus précise de la satisfaction que nous donne le système actuel ou de l'insatisfaction éventuelle qui pourrait en ressortir.

Toutes les délégations auront naturellement, au Conseil, l'occasion de s'exprimer a posteriori sur ce problème.

Je crois que je peux clore ainsi ce point de l'Ordre du jour et passer au point suivant.

19.2 Confirmation of the Agreement between FAO and UNIDO

19.2 Confirmation de l'Accord entre la FAO et l'ONUDI

19.2 Confirmación del Acuerdo entre la FAO y la ONUDI

LEGAL COUNSEL: The paper on this agenda item is C 89/LIM/9, which is again an extract from the Report of the 95th Session of the Council held in June this year. The Conference is being asked to confirm the decision of the Council to enter into a formal relationship agreement between the Organization and UNIDO.

The Conference will recall that working relations have existed between FAO and UNIDO since 1969 following the conclusion of an agreement setting out guidelines for cooperation between FAO and UNIDO in the field of industrial development.

The need for a new agreement with UNIDO arises from the fact that UNIDO itself became an UN specialized agency in 1985.

Both the Council and the Conference have already expressed themselves in favour of concluding a formal relationship agreement between FAO and UNIDO, The proposal to enter into such a new agreement was notified to both the Council and the Conference in 1987, and the Conference has noted it with satisfaction.

The Draft Agreement that is set out in Appendix J to the document before you is a formal relationship agreement, which follows very much the lines of relationship agreements with other UN agencies. The detailed provisions regarding the division of responsibilities between FAO and UNIDO are set out in the Agreement between the Director-General of FAO and the former Executive Director of UNIDO dated 1969. The provisions of this Agreement are continued in force under the new formal relationship agreement.

The text of the Draft Agreement has been reviewed by the CCLM, which concluded that it was consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization. I should point out that the powers of the Organization to enter into such agreements are set out in Article XIII of the FAO Constitution, paragraph 1 of which reads as follows:

"In order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Conference may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation."

Rule XXIV.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Council may enter into agreements with other international organizations under article XIII, subject to confirmation by the Conference. The Council, at its 95th Session in June this year, having considered the report of the CCLM, decided to enter into the agreement in accordance with General Rule XXIV. 4(c). The Conference is now being asked to give its confirmation of this action.

Antoine SAINTRAIN (Belgique): Je m'efforcerai d'être bref mais il s'agit d'un point important. Nous nous félicitons bien sûr de l'Accord officiel qui ne peut que contribuer à l'amélioration des relations entre les deux Organisations. Il existe beaucoup de relations depuis l'accord intervenu en 1969 entre la FAO et l'ONUDI, mais, dans le cadre de la revue des activités de la FAO, les experts et les comités ont eu l'occasion de se pencher sur les problèmes de relations entre les deux Organisations.

Il est indispensable de souligner la portée de ces rapports. Je me réfère notamment au premier document, au point 4.11 où on signale, dans ce domaine, que les experts ont identifié plusieurs difficultés dans l'application de l'accord de 1969 entre la FAO et l'ONUDI.

En fait, l'ONUDI s'est lancée dans une série d'activités qui relèvent clairement du mandat de la FAO, entre autres les petites conserveries rurales de produits agricoles et de poisson, y compris les industries artisanales, les petites fabriques d'outils agricoles à main, la conception et la construction de bateaux de pêche, les vaccins pour animaux, la biotechnologie, en particulier, la biotechnologie liée à la transformation des produits agricoles et alimentaires, et les pesticides. Les experts recommandent que la FAO et l'ONUDI cherchent par des contacts au plus haut niveau à créer une division conjointe pour le développement agro-industriel.

La position des comités sur la base des rapports d'experts a été qu'ils ne s'opposent pas à l'établissement d'une division conjointe. Cependant, ils sont d'avis qu'il faudrait en priorité rechercher les moyens d'appliquer effectivement l'accord de 1969 et, bien sûr, l'accord qui nous est soumis et qui constitue une confirmation. Mais je crois qu'il sera nécessaire de se pencher sur la possibilité d'aller plus avant et je me réfère à l'examen plus détaillé qui se trouve dans l'Annexe II du document dont nous avons discuté hier, aux points 6/47, 6/48, 6/49, 6/50, 6/51, 6/52 et 6/53 concernant l'ONUDI.

Là, je vois qu'il y a tout de même une série de remarques qui me paraissent importantes, si ce n'est fondamentales, en ce qui concerne les relations entre les deux Organisations.

En ce qui concerne le chevauchement de responsabilités, il est dit: "les relations de la FAO avec l'ONUDI posent des problèmes plus complexes que ses relations avec d'autres institutions". Je lis toujours: "Le chevauchement est également très marqué dans les projets de terrain et dans une série de domaines relevés par les experts". Il est noté: "Les risques dispendieux de chevauchement entre la FAO et l'ONUDI sont très élevés et il s'agit d'un problème que les deux institutions devraient aborder au niveau le plus élevé". Il est dit: "On a soulevé la possibilité de créer une division mixte FAO/ONUDI du développement agro-industriel en vue de réduire le chevauchement et d'utiliser au mieux les ressources des deux institutions".

L'ONUDI, de son côté, a proposé une version plus limitée d'une division ou d'une unité mixte qui serait chargée de mettre à l'essai les nouvelles techniques. De l'avis du groupe d'examen des experts, une telle division n'aurait pas assez de poids pour surmonter les obstacles actuels. Il serait donc préférable d'adopter le concept plus large décrit ci-dessus.

Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, la FAO collabore dans une division mixte avec l'AIEA. Elle travaille de façon extrêmement étroite avec la Banque Mondiale par le biais du Centre d'Investissement. Et je crois que les problèmes posés par les experts méritent de recevoir une solution. Je souhaiterais pour ma part qu'en dehors de la confirmation de l'accord, on puisse aller quelque peu au-delà, de façon à éviter les chevauchements et à en arriver peut-être à la formule proposée par les experts de création d'une division mixte de développement agro-industriel, ce qui permettrait une collaboration structurée et organisée entre les deux organismes.

Je n'aurai certainement pas la prétention de défendre une formule plutôt que l'autre. Mais quand il y a un problème posé, il me paraît très souhaitable d'y apporter une réponse.

Alors, dans le cadre de la discussion de la confirmation de l'accord, en ce qui nous concerne, nous émettons le voeu pour ce qui a été entamé par les experts sur le plan de l'examen des relations, relations cordiales dans la pratique mais qui ont tout de même entraîné un certain nombre de

chevauchements dispendieux, nous donne l'occasion de la création d'une division conjointe; il faut évidemment négocier, voir comment l'articuler. Voilà réellement un domaine extrêmement important qui est tout le développement de l'agro-industrie où deux institutions peuvent collaborer de manière efficace.

Telles sont, Monsieur le Président, les quelques considérations que je désirais émettre à l'occasion de la confirmation de cet accord. Il va de soi que nous marquons notre plein et entier accord à la confirmation de celui-ci, mais en émettant le vœu que dans un avenir extrêmement proche on n'en "commissionne" pas le problème posé et examiné par les experts mais qu'on y apporte les réponses qu'il mérite de recevoir.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega y amigo, el Embajador Saintraint de Bélgica, ha expresado algunas consideraciones que creemos, en términos generales, podrían reflejarse en nuestro informe sobre este proyecto.

A ese respecto, quisiéramos hacer notar que en el párrafo 248 se habla de la división de responsabilidades entre la FAO y las ONUDI, y en el párrafo 249 se hace referencia a la debida coordinación. Nosotros pensamos también que, a la luz de lo que ha dicho el Embajador Saintraint de Bélgica, y al transmitir nuestro apoyo favorable a la confirmación de este acuerdo, en el informe deberemos completar los conceptos que aparecen en esos párrafos con el de la necesidad de evitar duplicación de actividades y la conveniencia de que todas las organizaciones internacionales utilicen de la manera más adecuada, racional y eficaz posibles los escasos recursos de que se disponen en la cooperación internacional, a fin de que todas esas organizaciones sumen sus esfuerzos en favor del objetivo común que debe ser asistir y servir cada vez mejor y más eficientemente a los países en desarrollo.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que este acuerdo entre la FAO y ONUDI puede ser un buen principio, un primer paso adecuado hacia el logro de esos objetivos y, por ello, apoyamos plenamente la confirmación por parte de esta Conferencia del Proyecto de Acuerdo que se presenta en el anexo de este documento.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert fait sienne cette proposition d'accord très important en ce qui concerne une commission mixte de suivi sur le programme agro-industriel entre l'ONUUDI et la FAO. Effectivement, nous collaborons de très près également avec l'ONUUDI. Nous sommes très heureux de soutenir ici cet accord que nous croyons très utile pour les organisations et les Etats Membres qui en bénéficient. Je vous remercie.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le distingué ami et Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert. S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'interventions, je crois que l'on peut résumer les interventions qui ont été faites en quelques mots: disant que cet accord peut être approuvé et confirmé par la Conférence, mais qu'il ne suffit pas de signer un accord. Pour que la coopération fonctionne à la perfection, il faut encore la mettre en oeuvre de façon efficace pour éviter les doubles emplois et les chevauchements. Sur ce, je crois que je peux clore sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

- 19.3 Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency: Accession by FAO
- 19.3 Adhésion de la FAO à la Convention sur la notification rapide d'un accident nucléaire et la Convention sur l'assistance en cas d'accident nucléaire ou de situation d'urgence radiologique
- 19.3 Convención sobre la pronta notificación de accidentes nucleares y convención sobre asistencia en caso de accidente nuclear o emergencia radiológica: adhesión de la FAO

LEGAL COUNSEL: The paper on this agenda item is C 89/LIM/24, which is an extract from the Report of the 96th Session of the Council held in November this year. The authorization of the Conference is being sought for the accession of the Organization to two conventions, one entitled Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the other entitled Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Both Conventions have been adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in September 1986 in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear accident which has dramatically underlined the significance of the release of radioactive contaminants into the environment and the importance of international cooperation at the level of the United Nations. The conventions provide for the establishment of a system of information exchange and the provision of assistance in the case of a nuclear accident. The Conventions entered into force in 1986 and 1987, respectively. Both Conventions are open for accession by international organizations, and in fact, the World Health Organization acceded to both Conventions in August 1988. The CCLM has reviewed the two Conventions at its 53rd Session in October 1989 and concluded that the subject matter of the Conventions would fall within the competence and constitutional mandate of FAO and that there would be no legal objections for the Council and the Conference to approve FAO's accession to the two Conventions. The Council considered these two Conventions at its 96th Session in November 1989 and noted the CCLM's conclusions that FAO's accession to the two Conventions would be a symbolic act confirming the Organization's readiness to cooperate with states and other organizations in taking measures within its field of competence in the case of nuclear accident. It noted that there was not intent to set up a parallel system of information and assistance, but FAO, by acceding to the two Conventions, would become part of the system coordinated by the IAEA. It also noted that the costs resulting from accession would be minimal. The Council has approved FAO's accession to the two Conventions, and they are now submitted to the Conference with a view to obtaining the Conference's authorization for FAO to become a party thereto.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ouvre le débat sur la question de la Convention sur la notification rapide d'un accident nucléaire. Il s'agit de donner au Secrétariat l'autorisation de participer à cette Convention. Quelle délégation souhaiterait s'exprimer à propos de ce sujet important?... Je donne la parole au distingué délégué de la France.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): M. Le Président, mon pays ne conteste pas l'accord donné par le Conseil à l'adhésion de l'OAA aux deux conventions de Vienne. Il souhaite cependant rappeler devant cette commission les réserves d'ordre pratique qu'il a émises lors des débats du Conseil sur cette question et qui lui font penser que l'adhésion de l'OAA à ces conventions n'est ni nécessaire ni utile. Je vous remercie.

Ernst ZIMMERL (Austria) (original language German): Ten years or more ago, in the framework of a national plebiscite, Austria decided against atomic energy, and is one of the few countries in Europe at the moment which is doing without nuclear energy. On the other hand, practically all of our neighbouring states do have nuclear power stations, some of which are close to our borders.

The serious consequences of nuclear waste for the environment, and especially for the agricultural environment, was seen in the wake of Chernobyl. My own country was one of those most affected. And it is therefore understandable that, as far as the Austrian population is concerned, Early Warning Systems and international cooperation and aid are needed, and are most important, in case of accidents. FAO's accession to this agreement is therefore justified, according to its field of action, and is welcomed by my delegation.

As we note in C 89/LIM/24, duplication of the work of other organizations should be avoided.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres demandes de parole sur cette question? ... Si ce n'est pas le cas, je pense que nous pouvons conclure que cette Commission autorise le Secrétariat à adhérer aux deux Conventions, et que le Secrétariat informera les Etats Membres des suites qu'il donnera.

Ceci nous amène à la fin des sous-points 19 concernant les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

B. Administrative and Financial Matters

B. Questions administratives et financières

B. Asuntos administrativos y financieros

20. Audited Accounts

20. Comptes vérifiés

20. Cuentas comprobadas

LE PRESIDENT: Ces comptes vérifiés sont dans les documents C 89/5, C 89/6, C 89/7 ainsi que C 89/LIM/3. La présentation de ce sujet de l'Ordre du jour sera faite par M. Heim du Service financier de l'Organisation. Je donne la parole à M. Heim.

Frederich A. HEIM (Director, Financial Services Division): The official Accounts of the Organization for the 1986/87 biennium have been examined by the External Auditor, and the resultant Report presented to the Finance Committee. They were reviewed, with the External Auditor in attendance, at the Finance Committee's Sixty-third Session in September 1988.

The Audit of Accounts are contained in three documents which have been distributed to you as follows:

Financial Report and Statements: Volume I for the Regular Programme 1986-87 (document C 89/5)

Financial Report and Statements: Volume II for the United Nations Development Programme 1986-87 (document C 89/6)

Financial Report and Statements: Volume III for the World Food Programme 1986-87 (document C 89/7)

The Finance Committee recommended to the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council, held in November 1988, the Resolution appearing before you in paragraph 203 of document C 89/LIM/3, which was approved by that Council Session and forwarded to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference for adoption.

In particular, I would like to call your attention to paragraph 188 of the Council's Report in which it indicates that, in the audited report for each of the three Programmes, the External Auditor had expressed the opinion that the financial statements presented fairly the financial position at 31 December 1987, and the results of the operations for the period then ended, which were prepared in accordance with stated accounting policies which were applied, on a basis consistent with that of the preceding financial period, and that the transactions were in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Legislative authority.

We would be pleased to answer any questions that delegates may have on this matter.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I would like to address some questions on the Financial Report on the Regular Programme for 1986/87, document C 89/5. The audited accounts contain a number of useful observations on FAO personnel policies, and also on the administration of trust fund projects. Much of the information contained in this document was previously unknown to my delegation, and therefore we are most grateful to the auditors for their detailed report.

Among the points noted in the audited accounts, the External Auditors refer to the fact that there seems to be no regular, systemic, regularly planned review of posts, and therefore no guarantee that all posts will be reviewed over a given period of time. I think that the implementation of this Review will be useful at this time, when we are reviewing the whole of our Organization and hopefully entering into a process of more strict priority-setting and medium-term planning.

The Auditors propose a number of measures for the introduction of procedures for reviewing posts on a continuing basis. I refer specifically to paragraph 101 in the said document. Since this document was prepared for the 1986-87 biennium, which is now some years in the past, certain measures may have already been taken as a consequence of this report.

I would therefore like to ask the representatives of the Secretariat whether, as a consequence of this report or as a result of the management studies which were also undertaken, there has been established any new procedure for a more continuous review of posts. We would also be interested to know the procedure when posts are discussed, in the budgetary framework.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): M. le Président, je voudrais intervenir très brièvement en ce qui concerne la vérification des comptes sur un point sur lequel le Comité financier s'est déjà penché. J'aurai peut-être l'occasion d'en reparler demain dans le cadre de cette commission.

Dans le document 89/LIM/3, il est souligné la nécessité d'une collaboration étroite que nous avons toujours défendue entre la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Nous nous bornerons pour le moment uniquement à dire qu'il existe un certain nombre de dispositions statutaires et réglementaires qui sont bien connues; que l'application de ces dispositions ne présente aucune difficulté d'ordre pratique et opérationnel; que tous les renseignements qui doivent être fournis existent et peuvent être fournis sans aucune difficulté. Alors, M. le Président, de façon que les bonnes relations puissent se poursuivre, je demanderai que, sur ce point, les dispositions telles qu'elles existent soient rigoureusement appliquées.

Si, pour une raison ou pour une autre, certains pays estiment qu'il y a lieu de modifier certaines des dispositions qui régissent le Programme alimentaire mondial ou les relations et les compétences des comités des finances dans la vérification des comptes, également les pouvoirs du Directeur général ou du Directeur exécutif concernant la certification, que des propositions soient introduites par les pays qui souhaitent ces modifications, suivant la procédure prévue.

Mais, en ce qui nous concerne, tant que les textes réglementaires qui régissent les rapports des institutions ne sont pas modifiés, nous demandons à ce qu'ils soient appliqués.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Mr Heim for his introduction to these documents. We have considered the three papers - that is, the Financial Report and Statements for 1986-87 on the Regular Programme, UNDP, and WFP.

We mentioned in our interventions in Commission II, when dealing with the Review of the Regular and Field Programmes, that it was important to consider the effectiveness of the Programmes' impact in relation to cost, and that evaluation is worth hardly anything if it does not examine cost effectiveness. The External Auditors have found that no specific procedures

have been established to guide staff in the feedback and monitoring of evaluation findings, nor was the record of action taken required. They also comment that routine analysis of evaluation results by country or by sector of activity are not produced.

The Auditors also note that the Development Department has not established procedures to ensure feedback on a regular basis. Those are just some selected points raised in the document, and the distinguished delegate of Sweden mentioned some others.

The point I would like to make is that remarks such as these are pointless unless they are followed up. I would therefore welcome some comments from the Secretariat as to what steps they have actually taken to follow up these comments and recommendations.

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): In other sessions of CFA, the FAO Council, and the Finance Committee, the Brazilian delegation has already expressed its position on the Audited Accounts of the World Food Programme. We would however like in the present Conference to briefly reiterate our position with regard to the relationship between FAO and the WFP, which has consistently been voiced in the FAO Council, as well as in many other fora.

The Brazilian delegation believes that the core of the issue lies in keeping the WFP in the overall framework of FAO which, in our view, holds the broader mandate for dealing with the problem of global food policy and food security, of which provision of food aid is only part. Therefore, the Brazilian delegation considers it of great importance that the WFP keeps its overall reliance on FAO policy advice and technical expertise. We also deem it indispensable for the sake of the achievement of the goals set by the Programme and increasing WFP's effectiveness, that cooperation at all levels be strengthened and a better relationship between FAO and WFP be fostered.

With respect to the specific point of the WFP Audited Accounts, I quote paragraphs 20 and 21 of the report which was adopted by consensus by the Finance Committee - document PC 66/30. It reads: "The Committee noted that the matter fell within the Director-General's statutory authority as it concerned proper financial controls, and that in this respect what was at issue was the practical details and working arrangements for the provision by the WFP of reports to the Director-General to enable him to be satisfied regarding certification of the WFP accounts.

The Committee expressed the hope, however, that the matter will continue to be discussed between the FAO and WFP representatives so that the Director-General's responsibility for the certification of the WFP accounts for 1988-89 could be exercised in a fair, satisfactory and timely manner."

In view of that, the Brazilian delegation deems it very important that all Member Nations in the present Conference share this concern, and express by consensus the necessity for WFP and FAO to resolve the matter between them.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, sobre las observaciones que los auditores externos han hecho en cuanto al Programa Ordinario.

Nosotros nos inclinamos a apoyar la declaración que, si entendimos bien, hizo el colega del Reino Unido sobre la reacción positiva de la Secretaría frente a esas observaciones para actuar de la manera más adecuada y pertinente posible.

En relación con el otro asunto que se ha planteado aquí, las relaciones PMA-FAO, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia deseo reiterar una vez más la posición de nuestro país, en el sentido de que, como lo dijimos en la discusión de un tema anterior, y en esto somos coherentes, todas las organizaciones internacionales deben colaborar estrecha y adecuadamente entre sí, sin duplicar actividades, y practicar el entendimiento y la cooperación de manera leal y bien entendida.

Creo que todos sabemos que el Comité Consultivo en Asuntos Administrativos y de Presupuesto de las Naciones Unidas, que tiene unas siglas muy difíciles -ACABQ, parece que corresponde en inglés- se ocupó de este asunto y ha elaborado un informe muy detallado de todas esas cuestiones. El informe de ese Comité va a ser discutido por el OPA en la reunión que iniciará el próximo 11 de diciembre, de manera que tal vez no convenga a estas alturas prejuzgar sobre cualquier asunto a este respecto, sino más bien tomar nota de lo que se ha hecho hasta ahora y esperar las decisiones del órgano rector del Programa Mundial de Alimentos a raíz de la observación que ha hecho el importante Comité de Naciones Unidas.

Esto que acabamos de decir no obsta para que apoyemos la parte final de la declaración de Brasil, en el sentido de que la FAO y el PMA deben resolver los problemas de manera racional, con buen sentido y siempre pensando en el mejor servicio a los países beneficiarios.

David COUTIS (Australia): We are talking here about accounts for 1986-87. I am not sure that it is particularly profitable to broaden that into a debate on the problems which certainly exist, and which may affect the 1988/89 Accounts later. However, it has been mentioned and I wish to put the Australian position.

We are concerned that there have been such difficulties in the relationship between WFP and FAO. We consider it necessary for both WFP and FAO to continue to make every effort in order to resolve those difficulties. However, we consider that the matter is very complex and we are inclined to agree with the comments made by the Ambassador for Colombia that this matter has been discussed recently at the ACABQ - there are recommendations there which I will not repeat. They recommended a course of action to try and solve this problem and this matter will be discussed at CFA and in other fora.

I am not sure that this Commission should say anything concerning the problem because we are talking about the 1986-87 Audited Accounts and this was not a problem at that stage. However, if we discuss the matter we will have to be very careful. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Brazilian delegate that we be very even-handed in indicating our concern about the problem and exhorting the Executive Director and the Director-General to do everything possible to resolve the matter. However, we feel very strongly that this Commission should not go any further into the matter than that.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Señor Presidente, debido a que se hizo una referencia a este Organismo con un nombre complicado el ACABQ, que en español se abrevia CCAAP, que es prácticamente el Comité Administrativo de Presupuestos de Naciones Unidas, quisiera decir que mi delegación está al corriente también de que el tema ha sido examinado por este Organismo.

Mi delegación ha tenido cierto conocimiento de lo que se ha recomendado de ese informe y tiene muchas dudas al respecto sobre su validez jurídica; sin embargo, lo que quiere poner de relieve es que este documento no tiene respecto a la Conferencia de la FAO ningún valor, porque éste es un informe a la Quinta Comisión de Naciones Unidas.

La Quinta Comisión de Naciones Unidas, tiene que adoptar, discutir o posiblemente modificar este informe, y, eventualmente, transmitirlo, por conducto de la Asamblea General, al Secretario General para que tome acción al respecto.

Por tanto, mi delegación, se opone hasta a que se mencione este documento, porque respecto a la Conferencia actual de la FAO el mismo no existe. Lo que me parece importante es apoyar a los delegados de Bélgica y Brasil.

El delegado de Brasil habló del hecho de que las políticas del PMA se tienen que apoyar en las orientaciones establecidas por la FAO, que es un foro universal, para establecer la ayuda al desarrollo. El Embajador de Bélgica puso en relieve, algo que mi delegación se permite apoyar muy firmemente: existen ciertos Textos Básicos y los Textos Básicos deben ser respetados. La plata administrada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos es un fondo fiduciario de la FAO. Del fondo fiduciario de la FAO es responsable el Director General de la FAO. El Director General de la FAO ha delegado ciertos poderes en el Director Ejecutivo. Le toca al Director General explicar al Director Ejecutivo, detallar e informar sobre qué documentos necesitan para darse cuenta de cómo han sido administrados estos fondos.

Los fondos, consistentes en unos 1 300 millones de dólares anuales, es una cantidad de dinero enorme, es una cantidad puesta por parte de toda la comunidad mundial a la orden del desarrollo, y el Director General creo que sienta en pleno, y tiene que sentir en pleno, su responsabilidad de poder averiguar que este dinero ha sido gastado de la forma más estrictamente correcta, y, por lo tanto, le compete a él y sólo a él, definir en qué forra se tienen que averiguar estas cuentas.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The relationship between the Organization and the World Food Programme is something we have grappled with for some time over the years. Our delegation remains very concerned that everything possible should be done in order to promote an effective and meaningful relationship. I heard the previous distinguished delegate make mention of the Director-General delegating responsibilities. That is all very well, but he remains responsible. Therefore the Conference, and Member Nations, must be concerned about what happens - in other words, he is responsible.

I also took note of other remarks which indicated that certain other aspects of this matter are still probably being discussed elsewhere. Therefore, there is a limit to what we should say.

When I look at paragraph 201 in document C 89/LIM/3, I see that we are dealing here with authority, responsibility, and due process. Whatever is done must be done within the appropriate legal framework, otherwise there will be serious difficulty in accepting certain kinds of action.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Actually I was reluctant to take the floor from the beginning, but I cannot help myself because the developments that have taken place have perplexed us - by this I mean the events in the Lebanon. Perhaps some delegations have heard of these events and some others have not, but these events have been preoccupying us to a great extent.

I ask you, Mr Chairman, - you personally - to have this discussion confined to the documents in front of us. I should like to thank Mr Coutts from Australia for his intervention because he is also a member of the Finance Committee and has participated in the discussion on this question. Now, I believe that we should stop at this point to take note of the situation. We can leave the two parties to follow up the dialogue.

The Finance Committee in its last meeting, and also in its previous meetings, made reference to the fact that the two parties should follow up this dialogue and that the Finance Committee, as is mentioned in paragraph 201 of document C 89/LIM/3 is going to discuss this question in future sessions. There are no complicated matters, but we should give the two parties the chance to have a sound dialogue. We should not complicate the matter further in this Commission but should avoid lengthy discussions that would be of no avail or use.

We have to concentrate on the audited accounts of the World Food Programmes for 1986 and 1987. Actually, the Finance Committee has followed up this question. In our previous report we mentioned that the subject of the audited accounts falls within the competence and the mandate of the Director-General. The working and technical arrangements are presented by the WFP to the Director-General so that he can certify the audited accounts - actually, the question is not very complicated and we should not deal with it at length. I repeat, we should not deal with this question but should give the opportunity to the two parties to continue their dialogue, they will find appropriate solutions and the Finance Committee next year will follow up this dialogue.

Of course, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a member of the Finance Committee and one of the Member Countries of this Organization, would like to confirm the necessity for cooperation among specialized agencies, otherwise their efforts will be dispersed and the rights of the developing countries will be lost. Mr Chairman, I ask you to be wise in confining the discussion on this question.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite et j'apprécie beaucoup son expérience dans ce domaine. En effet, il a paru que la discussion tendait à dériver sur des thèmes qui n'avaient rien à faire avec le sujet qui nous a été proposé dans l'Ordre du jour, à savoir les Comptes vérifiés 1986-87.

Je souhaiterais que les délégués s'en tiennent à ces documents-là et ne dérivent pas sur des questions d'ordre pratique, qui concernent plutôt les secrétariats intéressés.

Bashir Al Mahrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Having heard the wise words of our colleague from Saudi Arabia on this point, I think it would only be right for me to be very brief. Nevertheless, the delegation from my country wishes to underscore the need for close cooperation between FAO and the World Food Programme. We have expressed this wish on various occasions either in Council or elsewhere. Therefore, we give support to all those who have asked for close cooperation between these two organizations.

We believe that the main problem between FAO and the World Food Programme lies in the fact - and here I must speak frankly - that the rules are not applied as they should be by the World Food Programme and its Executive Director. We hope that at its next meeting the Finance Committee will be able to solve this problem. We certainly stress the constitutional powers of the Director-General of FAO and give our support to the proposal made by the delegate of Belgium. It is true that the Director-General of FAO does have a right to exercise his powers in conformity with the Statutes of FAO, and we hope that the Finance Committee and Council will reach a solution which will help us all.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark): I can be very brief. Mr Chairman, I like the way in which you are trying to direct our debate now because my delegation also came here to consider the audited accounts for the years 1986-87. We can give our support to the documents in front of us. We are very surprised to hear some delegations bringing into this important matter issues which are not on the Agenda. For that reason, I support strongly what the delegate of Saudi Arabia has just said. He is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and I think what he put into the debate was very positive.

My government looks upon the role of FAO and the World Food Programme as being very important, but I do not think that we have come here to discuss the relationship between them. We are prepared to discuss that at the appropriate time, but not here.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je me réjouis, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir présider nos travaux dans cette commission.

Permettez-moi de remercier le Commissaire externe aux comptes et son équipe de l'excellence de leur travail au service de la FAO et de ses Etats Membres.

Je limiterai mes commentaires au document C 89/5, c'est-à-dire au rapport et états financiers relatifs au Programme ordinaire 1986/87.

Une petite suggestion concerne la présentation des comptes dans le Tableau 1.1 à la page 41 et à la page 42 de la version française du document.

Il serait utile, pour une meilleure compréhension des chiffres, d'avoir dans une colonne supplémentaire le solde de l'exercice antérieur au 31 décembre 1985 et l'utilisation qui en est faite, une utilisation de ce solde étant par exemple le remboursement de l'excédent de trésorerie aux pays membres, et de recevoir quelques informations à ce sujet.

J'en arrive au point principal, c'est-à-dire le contrôle de l'économie, de l'efficacité et de l'efficacité de l'Organisation, contrôle qui a été exercé par les Commissaires aux comptes dans deux domaines: contrôle des effectifs et administration des fonds fiduciaires.

Ce genre d'examen est très utile à la fois pour les pays membres et pour le Directeur général. Il s'agit pour chacun de mettre à profit les conclusions de ces examens pour renforcer l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Bien que 63 pour cent des dépenses budgétaires aient été prévues dans la période 1986/87 pour les dépenses de personnel, le Commissaire externe aux comptes a dû constater qu'il n'existe pas de procédure standard pour la vérification de l'utilité des postes existants. Dans le paragraphe 17, nous apprenons que seulement 6, 7 pour cent des postes du Programme ordinaire ont passé par toute la filière du contrôle des effectifs, dans le cadre du processus de l'établissement du budget.

A ce chiffre, il faut ajouter les 5, 4 pour cent des postes qui ont été examinés pour des reclassements, des réorganisations ou des modifications au titre du poste et des fonctions, comme nous l'apprenons dans le paragraphe 21.

Au total, 12 pour cent, ou un huitième seulement des postes ont été examinés.

Une autre information importante concerne les postes vacants: pendant les années 1982-87, le pourcentage des postes vacants des cadres organiques a toujours dépassé la barre des 10 pour cent. Pour les services généraux, le chiffre le plus bas a été de 5, 8 pour cent. Ceci montre qu'il n'y a aucune raison de songer à un abaissement de l'abattement pour postes vacants, abattement du chiffre actuel de 5, 5 pour cent à 3 pour cent, comme il est proposé par le Secrétariat. Par ailleurs, cette proposition a été rejetée déjà par le Comité financier.

Le paragraphe 35 nous rappelle que les descriptions de postes ne sont pas à jour dans la plupart des cas. En ce qui concerne les postes à court terme, pour assurer des services temporaires, le Commissaire aux comptes constate que ces postes sont prolongés dans bien des cas sans justification suffisante.

J'aimerais demander au Secrétariat de nous dire quel est le suivi que le Directeur général veut donner ou a déjà donné pour remédier aux problèmes soulevés par le Commissaire aux comptes.

Le personnel est considéré à juste titre comme la ressource la plus importante de l'Organisation. Il faut donc assurer une gestion et une planification claires de cette ressource si l'Organisation veut rester capable de relever les défis auxquels elle est appelée à faire face. L'élaboration d'un programme d'activités à moyen terme doit aller de pair avec l'élaboration d'un plan correspondant des besoins en personnel.

Rappelons dans ce contexte que le Management Review effectué dans le cadre de l'examen de la FAO a également identifié de nombreux problèmes dans la gestion du personnel de notre Organisation et a présenté des recommandations pour améliorer cette situation.

Brièvement, quelques remarques relatives à l'examen des projets financés par des fonds fiduciaires: nous notons l'observation du Commissaire externe aux comptes qu'il n'y a pas à la FAO d'équivalent des directives détaillées prescrites par le PNUD pour la formulation et l'examen préalables de ces projets. Espérons que le nouveau système informatisé appelé FINSYS-PERSYS apportera des améliorations dans ce domaine.

Je rappelle en passant l'importance du feed back systématique des enseignements tirés des évaluations, ceci dans les projets courants carme dans la conception de nouveaux projets.

Toujours selon l'observation du Commissaire externe aux comptes, relative aux projets financés par des fonds fiduciaires, nous aimerions apprendre de la part du Secrétariat quel suivi il propose de donner à ces observations écrites.

Pour finir, permettez-moi de rappeler ici une suggestion que ma délégation a déjà présentée devant la Commission II sur le point 13 de l'Ordre du jour: nous proposons que la Conférence demande au Commissaire externe aux comptes de lui présenter à sa prochaine session un rapport sur la méthodologie utilisée par la FAO pour le calcul des augmentations de prix.

Mrs Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): As a member of the Finance Committee, the Council and the CFA we have had ample opportunity to comment on the three Audited Accounts covering the 1986-87 biennium.

The External Auditors have made a number of useful suggestions, as pointed out by the delegations of Sweden and the United Kingdom. My delegation looks forward to examining a progress report on the implementation by the Secretariat of the recommendations of the auditors.

Turning to FAO-WFP relationship, I would like to associate my views with those of Australia and Saudi Arabia. The Finance Committee, the ACABQ and the CFA are studying the issue. We consider that those are the appropriate bodies to do so.

Having said that, I would urge that this Commission adopt the Draft Resolution on the Audited Accounts before us.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, as this is my first time to take the floor in this Commission, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Commission.

I would like to support the views expressed by the delegates of Saudi Arabia to the effect that we concentrate on the Audited Accounts in the document before us, C 89/LIM/3, in paragraph 203. We have no problem regarding the Draft Resolution for the Conference and we are ready to endorse it. However, I would like to emphasize the need for continued close collaboration between FAO and the WFP, as indicated in paragraph 200 of the same document. We note that such close collaboration is necessary because food aid is only one of the elements in the overall food security considerations that have to be undertaken for the developing countries. We believe that continued cooperation is necessary.

Some mention has been made regarding the existing regulations for the obligations of reporting. As indicated by other delegates, we believe that a solution should be found for this as soon as possible for the benefit of member countries.

David COUPES (Australia): I apologize for taking the floor a second time on this issue. In many ways, I would rather not have taken it the first time because I have had sufficient opportunity to discuss this relationship on the Finance Committee, and I do not know that it is very profitable to continue a debate on it here.

Mr Chairman, I agree very strongly with your comment, which was similar to one of the points I made myself, and that is that we should confine our remarks here to the 1986-87 Audited Accounts and not broaden the debate into the relationship other than to agree to endorse the points in the paper that talk about the necessity for continued close collaboration.

Unfortunately, some members did not take your advice, as I heard it, and I feel obliged to say that if the report of this Commission focuses on what you have advised, then I have no problem and Australia can endorse that. If the Report of this Commission goes further to reflect some of the more detailed, and in my view not relevant, comments, then Australia would have to ask that some other points be considered.

I would prefer not to state those points now, because I think it might open up a debate that is not relevant, but I must reserve our position on that issue. As long as we continue to confine ourselves to your advice, I am perfectly happy. If not, I may have to raise some other points.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): Mr Chairman, the Indian delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Commission.

Under this Agenda item we are deliberating on the question of adoption of the Audited Accounts of certain FAO programmes, including the WFP programme, for the biennium 1986-87. Various authorities including the External Auditor, the Finance Committee and the Council have commended their adoption by this Conference. We think we must take their advice and adopt these accounts.

As regards the relationship issue, we agree with the observations made by the delegate of Australia and the delegate of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Indian delegation would like to reiterate the view that as the Finance Committee, the ACABQ and the CFA are seized of the problem, we should desist from considering the issue at this Conference and in this Commission today and leave the issue to be considered by these bodies.

As a matter of fact, in the June Session of the CFA it was decided to discuss the relationship issue in a special three-day session to be convened next month, and I think we should leave this issue to be resolved by that body. In addition, the officers of the WFP and FAO are engaged in a dialogue on this issue, and I think it would be premature for this Conference at this stage to intercede in that dialogue. Therefore, we should leave the matter of the relationship between the WFP and the FAO to bodies such as the CFA, the Finance Committee and the ACABQ for, it is hoped, its successful resolution.

Nouri ZORGATI (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Conformément à votre appel, nous nous limiterons donc à appuyer ce que vient de dire M. l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, Président du Comité financier. Ce sont des rapports sages, qui tendent à maintenir une étroite collaboration entre la FAO et le Programme, sur le plan du respect mutuel et dans l'application des règlements, afin de préserver les intérêts des deux Organisations et des Etats Membres.

Brièvement, et après avoir étudié les Comptes vérifiés et entendu le Commissaire aux comptes, nous appuyons le contenu de ce rapport.

Hussam ISSA (Iraq): My delegation is fully convinced and therefore hopes that we will see close relations between the FAO and the World Food Programme on the basis of the FAO Basic Texts that govern cooperation between the FAO and the WFP.

We would like to confirm that the World Food Programme has shown its ability to carry out the missions entrusted to it so that the developing countries can benefit from the aid it provides.

My delegation would like to support the contents of paragraph 202 of the document before us and also the Draft Resolution before us.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): J'ai demandé à nouveau la parole pour souligner deux points: 1) je me suis borné, dans le cadre de la certification des comptes, à demander l'application de la réglementation en vigueur. Je n'ai pas abordé le problème d'ensemble et je n'ai certainement pas l'intention de l'aborder ici. Je demande uniquement à ce que les textes qui régissent les rapports financiers entre les deux institutions soient respectés.

Je demande également qu'on ne fasse pas état d'un document, d'une commission, de je ne sais plus quoi de New York dont nous n'avons pas connaissance et dont nous ne sommes par conséquent pas saisis. Notre Commission n'est pas habilitée à émettre des avis et considérations sur un document que nous n'avons pas et dont j'ignore tout. Je ferme la parenthèse.

2) Quant à la vérification des comptes, c'est peut-être un truisme de dire que le rôle d'un vérificateur est de vérifier les comptes et certainement pas d'entamer un processus d'évaluation, d'appréciation ou d'inspection. La vérification des comptes, c'est la vérification des comptes.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Dans vos propos liminaires, Monsieur le Président, vous avez recommandé que l'on ne vous félicite pas de votre élection. J'avoue que c'est une recommandation très difficile à mettre en oeuvre mais puisque telle est votre décision nous sommes disciplinés et nous allons nous conformer à votre souhait. Mais vous nous permettrez de dire tout de même la joie que nous avons de vous voir à la présidence de cette Commission III.

J'avoue très franchement qu'à un moment donné j'ai été tenté de lever la pancarte du Sénégal pour présenter une motion d'ordre parce que je ne voyais pas le lien entre le point inscrit à l'Ordre du jour sur la vérification des comptes et les relations entre le PAM et la FAO. Fort heureusement, l'Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite s'est sagement exprimé sur cette question et je l'en félicite.

Je crois que nous devais limiter nos discussions strictement aux points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour relatifs à la vérification des comptes, c'est bien précisé dans le document et cela a été rappelé par la délégation de l'Australie, pour le biennium 1986-87. Pour ce qui est du biennium 1988-89 le moment de son examen viendra et, à ce moment-là, les délégations qui souhaiteront s'exprimer sur la manière dont a été menée la vérification des comptes auront l'occasion de le faire.

Nous allons donc, nous limiter à la vérification des comptes pour 1986-87 et dire que nous sommes entièrement d'accord sur le contenu du document C 89/LIM/3, et notamment sur le projet de résolution de la page 4.

Si, comme le disait tout à l'heure le délégué de l'Australie, nous devons évoquer la question des relations entre la FAO et la PAM, ce que personnellement notre délégation ne désire pas, nous devrions simplement dire que la Conférence souhaite une bonne coopération entre les organismes qui siègent à Rome; il conviendrait de nous limiter uniquement à des généralités, c'est-à-dire au fait que la Conférence souhaiterait voir se développer une très bonne coopération entre la PAM et la FAO et entre les organisations représentées à Rome, certains arrangements administratifs de caractère pratique étant examinés dans d'autres instances plus appropriées.

Norbert ODERO (Kenya): My delegation has scrutinized the three documents before us, and I would like to make a few comments on the three documents. On the first document, 89/5, my delegation wishes to make the following comments. The Chairman has noted that at the time this report was being compiled, unpaid contributions amounted to US\$ 97 million. This amount has since reached US\$ 169 million, and a consequence of that was that there was a cutback in some programmes amounting to US\$ 46 million. This depletion of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account led to the position by the Conference to authorize a special contribution to account for the 1988-89 biennium.

My second note was that multilateral manpower costs accounted for the largest element, which was 63 percent of the Programme of Work and Budget. We agree, therefore, that small improvements in the deployment or effectiveness of objective surveys might yield sufficient service.

Third, on the administration of the Trust Funds Projects, it is noted that only a limited number of projects will achieve all their targeted outputs within the planned resources and time scale. This is a matter of concern.

Fourth, the central data base for project monitoring introduced in 1981 was especially successful. The Organization is now introducing a new system, and my delegation considers that the costs involved are quite high, taking into consideration the period involved in the introduction of the two systems. Over and above these comments my delegation feels that the recommendations contained in paragraph 106 of the document should be given the attention they deserve.

On the second document, C 89/6, it had become evident from the review of the field project that there are new dimensions on the implementation of UNDP projects, and there is an increase in the responsibilities and the execution of UNDP projects by recipient governments. In paragraph 8 of the document it is noted that some of the staff involved in the project formulation are either not trained or do not have the necessary experience. It is my delegation's contention that there is need for training of nationals in project formulation, and fellowship directed to nationals of countries undertaking UNDP field projects should be expanded.

I have a brief comment on the third document, C 89/7. I agree that we should not go into a matter that is not on the Agenda, and this is an issue between FAO and WFP. This matter rests now with the ACABQ, the Finance Committee, and the issue will be brought on at the meeting of the Committee in December. But I would like to say that as far this report is concerned, it was commended by the Auditor as having been prepared with the stated accounting principle which was applied on the basis which was consistent with that of the preceding financial period. The Report of the Auditor notes that the Programme is undertaking the implementation of the multilateral review by revising the project sector and through the formation of a project committee and the planning committee to review and direct programme policy and objective and the allocation of resources.

While we are on this document, my delegation wishes to urge the strengthening of training programmes of national officials involved in the projects of AFT. My delegation wishes also to commend the Secretariat of WFP for the dedication and the delivery of food aid commodities, and we urge them to continue in that spirit.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, le felicito rápidamente para atendernos a su recomendación inicial.

Hemos examinado el documento C 89/LIM/3 y nos parece que deberíamos hacer un poco de hincapié en el párrafo 200. Creo que el Consejo hizo una recomendación clara de que debería reforzarse la colaboración estrecha entre la FAO y el PMA. Queremos, sin embargo, señalar y poner de relieve el papel eficaz que ha venido cumpliendo el PMA, y respecto a este tema de las cuentas comprobadas en el marco del Comité de Finanzas y también en el marco del CPA, próximo a celebrarse, podrían examinarse con más detalle estos pormenores de todo el proceso financiero.

Creemos que existen en los procedimientos de carácter jurídico ya establecidos unos textos fundamentales y que, dentro de éstos, debe buscarse la mejor solución para que la función de la ayuda alimentaria continúe siendo tan eficaz como hasta ahora y se mejore en todos los sentidos el trabajo coordinado entre las dos Organizaciones.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Monsieur le Président, nous nous félicitons de vous voir à la Présidence de cette Commission.

Pour ne pas allonger les débats, nous nous contentons de faire nôtres les déclarations des délégations de l'Arabie Saoudite, du Sénégal et de la Belgique sur ce point de notre Ordre du jour.

Ma délégation se déclare favorable au projet de résolution de la Conférence sur les comptes vérifiés 1986-87 de la FAO et du PAM.

DONG QING SONS (China) (original language Chinese): First of all, I would like to express my support to what has been stated by the Delegate of Saudi Arabia and others. The Chinese delegation, I can say, has studied in detail C 89/LIM/3 as well as the Draft Resolution which is found there. We feel that the Draft Resolution is acceptable. Therefore, my delegation would like to support the adoption of this Draft Resolution.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Cote d'Ivoire): Monsieur le Président, nous prenons la parole pour vous dire simplement que la délégation de Côte d'Ivoire appuie le projet de résolution de la Conférence.

Ceci dit, nous pensons que vous avez fait preuve de beaucoup trop de gentillesse à l'égard des Etats Membres, en laissant parler un peu trop sur ce point inscrit à notre Ordre du jour des délégations qui, en fait, n'ont pas abordé de façon exclusive l'examen du problème qui nous est soumis. C'est pourquoi en ce qui concerne la poursuite de nos débats, et pour ce qui est des points qui vont suivre, nous lançons un appel à nos collègues, délégués des Etats Membres ici présents, pour être concis et pour ne s'en tenir qu'aux points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour. En ces temps de vaches migres, je crois qu'il est bon de gagner du temps dans nos déclarations.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Mr Chairman, through you, let me thank all of those delegates who have taken the floor on this item for their words of support for this resolution on the Audited Accounts. There were a number of questions raised by several delegations, but essentially the questions dealt with three areas of responsibility. The first had to do with a question on the Review of the Regular Programme wherein the External Auditors had reviewed the functions of personnel and made a number of recommendations concerning both oversight and the specific operation of personnel activities. One of the questions raised had to do with the recommendations for an independent assessment of the need for specific posts. The views are laid out very clearly in the report. There is no question that the Organization had some difficulty with the specific recommendation that was made. However, as is indicated in the Report itself, the Director-General did accept the recommendation which was finally an option suggested by the External Auditors if you will, for the Organization to undertake as soon as resources permit a trial period of independently planned staffing reviews in selected areas of FAO's activities.

Also in the Report, it can be seen that the Organization has been making selective reviews of posts, as a normal function of the Organization, for many years. What was missing, according to the External Auditor, was that such review should be performed by an independent group. I am happy to say that we have agreed to this recommendation and formulated the plans for it, and that a test period would certainly be completed and fully carried out as recommended by the External Auditor.

There was also a need for a progress report on ensuring that post descriptions were kept up to date. We were sorry to see that it was necessary for the External Auditor to report on this itati. We certainly admit that it was the case, because during this particular biennium, Mr Chairman, you will recall that financial difficulties first hit, and we literally did not have the staff to continually take all the necessary steps to keep post descriptions up to date. As has been instructed by members of both the Finance Committee and the Council, and especially here at the Conference, we are to look carefully at the priorities on which we use the resources of the Organization, before we begin to act on each of those. Nonetheless, I am not trying to indicate that we cannot accept this recommendation, because in fact, we have; and even though our resources have been extremely limited, we have taken a number of steps to assign additional staff to this function as they have additional time to review the job descriptions on a more regularized basis, and therefore to bring these up to date. While we are not completely up to date as yet, we are coming close to that point, so we are making positive progress on this recommendation as well.

Still on the personnel topic: there was a request for a status report on the need to look at the duration of parallel posts, and for a justification for extending parallel posts without additional review. Again, this is a problem caused by the financial crisis that has plagued our Organization, where we have had to freeze posts for a long period of time. During that period, there were some instances where it was absolutely essential to bring a particular person on board to complete a task. In those instances, while it was not a permanent post, we brought limited staff on board in what is referred to technically in the jargon as "a parallel post", and in some cases it was necessary to extend such parallel posts. Again, let me assure you that this too was caused by the financial stringencies of the Organization, and we hope that this will not be required again, as recruiting is now underway. We do hope that the need for continuing such parallel posts will not have the dominance that it has had in the past biennium.

Mention was also made of the External Auditor's Review of Trust Fund Activities: the need for follow-up and for evaluation of specific projects and to look at projects on a more systematized basis. I am very happy to say that the Director-General took action very promptly - indeed, he had action underway while this report was under preparation, a little over a year and a half ago, to have the Development Department look very carefully at all operations concerning trust funds. The Assistant Director-General of the Development Department, Mr Rinvile, has also taken a very personal interest in this with the Field Programme Committee. He has brought in additional representation to this Committee from all departments; he has looked carefully at every aspect and has come up with a number of ideas and recommendations to support this entire area and to follow up each project, together with the evaluation of the various projects in an overall systematized and control procedure. We are very happy to report that this Review has been successful, and that the Development Department has made considerable progress in strengthening the areas which have been identified. The Director-General is extremely keen on this subject, and I can assure all members that follow-up action is very close to completion on this particular point.

I think that takes care of the specific questions raised on technical areas by a number of delegations: if I have missed any I would be happy to come back to them.

With respect to the other aspect, of relationships: in accordance with your instructions, Mr Chairman, and those of the various members here, it is certainly not necessary or appropriate for the Organization to say anything about that matter, except that we are optimistic. We will certainly make every effort to work together, and it is in the hands of the appropriate governing bodies.

Salahuddin AHMED (Deputy Executive Director, WFP): We are deeply appreciative of the wise counsel that has been voiced from various corners of this house. I can only say that we, the WFP and FAO, are in communication with each other. I shall refrain from any elaboration of detail, except to inform you of some of the latest developments.

The Report of the ACABQ is out, and, together with the report of the Finance Committee, it has been circulated in preparation for the CFA which meets in a fortnight's time. In the meantime we understand that the United Nations General Assembly has considered the report of the ACABQ concerning the relationship between WFP, FAO and the United Nations, in its Second Committee. We also understand that the relevant resolution requests the Secretary-General to transmit the ACABQ Report to the Director-General of FAO, with the request that it be placed before the FAO Conference in its current Session.

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the debate on Item 20. We have another item, and we have another five minutes which we can use to consider the Scale of Contributions. This is an item of importance to all, but it does not perhaps require very much discussion as the Scale of Contributions is established outside FAO.

Mr Crowther will introduce this briefly.

- 21. Scale of Contributions 1990-91
- 21. Barème des contributions 1990-91
- 21. Escala de cuotas 1990-91

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): You have before you document C 89/LIM/4, which is an extract from the Report of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council, and includes a Draft Resolution for consideration by the Conference to adopt the Scale of Contributions to be effective during the biennium 1990-91. As you rightly stated in your remarks, Mr Chairman, the Scale of Contributions has always been an extraction of the scale that is adopted by the UN General Assembly, following the recommendations, the study, and research that is performed by the UN General Assembly's Committee on Contributions. That Committee has again made its recommendation to the General Assembly, and, with the slight modifications which are required to adjust the membership of FAO with the membership of the UN - because there are some slight differences there - but, with the exception of those slight differences, this is the scale which is passed along after having received agreement by the General Assembly.

The Council did consider this Scale of Contributions and therefore has recommended it for consideration and adoption by the Conference.

If there are any specific questions, we would be happy to deal with them.

Parviz KARBASSI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): With regard to the issue of the Scale of Contributions for 1990-91, I would like to call your attention to the fact that the proposed scale for the Islamic Republic of Iran, referred to in Appendix H of document C 89/LIM/4, is not what is now under study in the United Nations' scale for 1990-91 for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Scale of Contribution of the Islamic Republic of Iran is under study in Committee Five of the United Nations. I would like to state the Scale of Contributions for the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO can only be determined after a final decision by that Committee. I would therefore like to have a question mark inserted against the Scale of Contributions for my country until such time as we receive the result of the Committee's deliberations.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I would like briefly to refer to this question. We have clearly identified the attitude of Saudi Arabia within Commission II, as we thought there would be no time to discuss this question again in Commission III. I will not go into detail, but I would like to say that in most of the developing countries we find that the Scale of Contributions has greatly increased, whereas in some other countries it has decreased. The rise may not be big but a developing country without foreign currency would find difficulty in paying even an increase of US\$ 5 000 or US\$ 10 000.

We have discussed the criteria adopted to reach the Scale of Contributions by the General Assembly of the UN. We believe that those criteria are not sound. My delegation would be grateful if the Conference therefore could reflect this matter in the form of a resolution, or a document, to be presented to the Fifth Commission of the General Assembly. I do not really know who is dealing with this question, but we feel that the point of view of developing countries should be reflected in each budget.

I have participated in five or six budgets and each time we have noticed that there is an increase in the contributions in all, or some, of the developing countries. I hope that this appeal will be transmitted to the General Assembly and that we can reach the right solution.

Bashir Al Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I agree with those who have expressed their concern about the scale of contributions, because they do not reflect the economic fluctuations to which many developing countries find themselves subjected and particularly certain countries which depend upon one resource alone, for example, oil. Therefore, I hope that this point will be taken into consideration in the future and that it will be possible to find another, more objective and realistic criterion which can properly reflect the situation existing in our countries.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):

It is quite right that the Committee on Contributions tries to take into account all aspects of economic development. It does look at a ten-year sliding period of time. Following that ten year period, it takes approximately two and a half to three years to assimilate the data and present it to the General Assembly. Therefore, by the time the contribution scale is effective obviously a great deal of time has passed and the economic conditions have changed. This criticism was raised two years ago at our Conference and the Director General was requested to communicate this matter to the Secretary General and ask if anything could be done. That communication did take place and a number of additional factors were taken into account, particularly those matters concerning members with large debts and other factors that were requested. Nevertheless, it is a sliding period that is after the fact. Certainly, every effort will be made to continue to communicate this matter to the UN in order to make this scale of contributions as effective as it can be. We are in the hands of the General Assembly in this sense because we have neither the capability nor all the studies that would be required to accumulate our own scale separately from that of the UN General Assembly. It is a uniform system that we all accept this scale.

With regard to the question raised by the Islamic Republic of Iran, when specific countries raise questions with the Fifth Committee, they are taken up and if action is taken we are all notified of that action. Until any changes are made in the scale we must accept the scale that has been passed by the General Assembly and forwarded to all of us. That is what is being proposed for consideration by the Conference at this time. If any further information is forthcoming certainly, that will be taken into account.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Secrétariat de ces explications.

Tribute to Mr René Moawad, President of Lebanon

Hommage à M. René Moawad, Président du Liban

Homenaje al Sr. René Moawad, Presidente del Líbano

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de clore la séance j'aimerais demander un peu de patience aux interprètes et les remercier d'avance de nous accorder un peu de temps pour un devoir pénible puisqu'il m'est demandé de vous communiquer un événement dramatique: nous avons appris que le Président de l'un de nos Etats Membres, la République du Liban, René Moawad, a été tué dans un attentat aujourd'hui. Je vous demande de bien vouloir vous lever pour une minute de silence.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 89/III/PV/2

C

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION III

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION III

25° período de sesiones
COMISION III

SECOND MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE SEGUNDA SESION

(23 November 1989)

The Second Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
R. de Pourtalès, Chairman of Commission III, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de R. de Pourtalès, Président de la Commission III

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de R. de Pourtalès, Presidente de la Comisión III

Tribute to Mr René Moawad, President of Lebanon (continued)

Homage à M, René Moawad, Président du Liban (suite)

Homenaje al Sr. René Moawad, Presidente del Líbano (continuación)

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): La délégation du Liban voudrait vous exprimer ses remerciements et sa gratitude du fait de votre initiative fort aimable prise hier lorsque vous avez demandé aux membres de la Commission d'observer une minute de silence à la mémoire du Président du Liban, victime de la trahison. Nous voudrions remercier tous nos collègues, tous nos amis qui ont exprimé leurs condoléances et leur tristesse.

Des mains traîtres viennent de tuer le Président Moawad élu 17 jours auparavant. Juste avant sa mort, il accueillait, en compagnie du Premier Ministre, le corps diplomatique à l'occasion du 46ème anniversaire de l'indépendance. Le Président R. Moawad était l'espoir de tous les Libanais pour sauver ce pays de cette guerre qui le ravage depuis plus de 15 ans. Malheureusement, cet espoir n'a pas duré longtemps. La volonté divine a voulu que, la légitimité du Liban soit préservée car le Premier Ministre et le Président du Parlement qui accompagnaient le Président sont sortis indemnes de l'attentat; leurs voitures faisaient partie du cortège présidentiel.

Il est temps que les forces du mal mettent un terme à leurs complots pour saper ce pays qui n'a jamais souhaité du mal à quiconque. Bien au contraire, le Liban était la terre de l'amour et de la concorde. J'aimerais vous transmettre à vous tous et particulièrement au Président de Pourtalès tous nos remerciements pour cette minute de silence. Je vous remercie encore une fois.

PART III - CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(continued)

TROISIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)

PARTE III - ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

(continuación)

B. Administrative and Financial Matters (continued)

B. Questions administratives et financières (suite)

B. Asuntos administrativos y financieros (continuación)

22. Return of the Regional Office for the Near East to the Region

22. Retour du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient dans cette région

22. Reapertura de la Oficina Regional para el Cercano Oriente en la Región

R.M. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): I would like to inform delegates that in connection with this item as well as in connection with Items 23.1 and 23.6 which will come later, a LIM document has been published this morning which is the Third Report of the Resolutions Committees. This is LIM/31, and it is being distributed now. Delegations will want that document. In case all delegations do not have it, and as the comments on this particular item are very short, I shall read it. This relates to Item 22, and it says,

"The Resolutions Committee also examined the Draft Resolution entitled "Return of the Regional Office for the Near East to Cairo, Egypt", to be considered under Agenda Item 22. The text of the Draft Resolution is attached in Appendix B of document C 89/26.

The Committee noted that under operative paragraph 2 of the Draft Resolution the preparations for making the Regional Office for the Near East ready for the reopening are to be commenced not later than 1 June 1990, while under operative paragraph 1 of the Draft Resolution the Regional Office is to be reopened in Cairo not later than 1 September 1990."

The Draft Resolution was found receivable and is transmitted herewith to Commission III, so it is the Draft Resolution which is in the document. Perhaps, I might make just one comment in order that it be clear to everybody, because I was at the Resolutions Committee meeting. There are two dates in the Draft Resolution because there are two phases of work which must be carried out in order that the Office be reopened. The first phase has to do with certain restoration, so to speak, of the building itself. That will be finished by 1 June 1990. Then, between 1 June and 1 September 1990 the offices will actually be installed - machines, furniture and whatever else is needed so that the office can be opened not later than 1 September. The two dates are in the Resolution, but they relate to two different things. Ultimately, the Office will be opened not later than 1 September 1990.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Stein. Ce sujet a déjà été discuté à la 95^{ème} session du Conseil; le Conseil a transféré l'affaire à la Conférence et soumet à cette 25^{ème} Conférence un projet de résolution.

Je demanderais maintenant à M. Jum'a, le Directeur général adjoint pour le Proche-Orient, de présenter ce projet.

Salah JuM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I have the honour to introduce to this august Commission the subject concerning the "Return of the Regional Office for the Near East to the Region".

This subject was supposed to have been discussed by the Ninety-sixth FAO Council, the session preceding this Conference, but due to shortage of time the Council decided to refer it to the Conference.

The Regional Office for the Near East (RNEA) was the first FAO Regional Office established outside FAO's Headquarters in Rome. The office was established in Cairo, Egypt, in November 1947 and continued to function from there until November 1979.

During the Twentieth FAO Conference (November 1979) the Session adopted Resolution 20/79 authorizing the closure of RNEA's headquarters in Cairo at the request of Member Nations of the Near East Region which was unanimously approved by all FAO Member Nations at that time. Resolution 20/79 also authorized the Director-General of FAO to implement FAO's regional programmes and activities from another location or locations, particularly in other countries within the Region and Rome Headquarters as appropriate and feasible.

During the last ten years, Member Nations of the Near East Region continued to emphasize that while the programmes for the Region had been implemented effectively from Headquarters, the quality of implementation and the impact of the programmes would significantly improve if RNEA were to operate in the Region.

Member Nations of the Region emphasized this point during the subsequent Regional Conferences for the Near East, held between 1980-1989 and more strongly during the Nineteenth Regional Conference which was held in Muscat, Oman in March 1988. The Conference then called upon the Director-General of FAO to include the return of RNEA to the Region as an item on the Agenda of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference (November 1989).

The Director-General responded positively to this request and felt that a preliminary discussion by the Council on this subject at its Ninety-fourth Session (November 1988) would enable the Council to provide such guidance as it deemed fit for the preparation of a full proposal to be considered by the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference (November 1989).

The Council at its Ninety-fourth Session (November 1988) endorsed the desire of the Member Nations of the Region for the return of RNEA to the Region. The Council also requested the Director-General to consult with all Member Nations of the Region to ascertain the desire of any of them to provide host facilities for RNEA in future.

The Council also requested the Director-General to consult with Member Governments in the Region which had provided voluntary contributions for the closure of RNEA in 1979 on whether they would agree to their share of the unutilized balances being used for the return of RNEA to the Region.

The Director-General consulted with Member Nations of the Region on these issues. The outcome of the consultations indicated that Egypt was the only country in the Region who offered to provide host facilities for RNEA. On the question of the utilization of the balance of the voluntary contributions, the consultations did not produce any positive response.

Taking into consideration that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt was the only Government willing to provide host facilities for RNEA, the Director-General sent a high-level mission from FAO to Cairo in order to obtain detailed information regarding the nature and extent of the contribution that the Egyptian Government intended to make to enable RNEA to resume its activities in its old premises in Cairo. The mission visited Cairo in early October 1989 and reached an agreement with the Egyptian authorities which specified their commitments, as well as a guaranteed date of completion of the work (31 May 1990). This timing should enable RNEA to start its proper functioning by not later than 1 September 1990.

The Conference, therefore, is requested to consider document C 89/26 on the return of RNEA to the Region and subsequently endorse one of the two following options:

- a - Retaining RNEA in Rome, or
- b - Relocating RNEA in Cairo, Egypt.

If the Conference decided to adopt the second option, a draft Resolution on the return of RNEA to Cairo, Egypt, is annexed to document C 89/26 which I have presented to you.

Antoine SAINERAINT (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, je serais extrêmement hief. Je voulais intervenir uniquement pour souligner tout l'intérêt que nous portons à la réouverture du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient. Je crois que cette réouverture est de nature à renforcer l'action de la FAO. Nous avons entendu un exposé extrêmement complet du sous-directeur général, M. Jum'a et je voudrais l'en remercier. Je souhaite que ce bureau puisse réouvrir dans un proche délai et je souhaite à celui qui sera appelé à le diriger beaucoup de chance et beaucoup de bonheur dans l'action importante et dans la très lourde tâche qu'il sera amené à assumer.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): La délégation Libanaise aimerait appuyer le retour du Bureau pour le Proche-Orient. Ce Bureau devrait se trouver au Caire, dans la République Arabe d'Egypte. Nous aimerions d'ailleurs saisir cette occasion pour remercier la République Arabe d'Egypte d'être parvenue à un accord avec la FAO. Nous sommes d'accord avec M. Saouma pour dire que la qualité de la mise en oeuvre des programmes sera meilleure si le Bureau fonctionne au sein de la région.

Notre délégation demande à l'Organisation de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour réouvrir le Bureau au Caire dans le cadre du calendrier établi. Nous aimerions vous remercier et souhaiter un grand succès au Bureau dans cette région.

Mrs Hoda EL MARASSI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): On this occasion I would like to extend my thanks to the Director-General of FAO and to express my thanks also to the Assistant Director-General, Dr Salah Jum'a, for all the serious efforts made by the Organization to study the possibility of the return of the Regional Office for the Near East to the Arab Republic of Egypt, specifically to Cairo. In response to the wishes expressed by all of the countries of the Region that have honoured us with the wish that the Office should operate from Cairo. We are honoured and proud, and this is testimony to the efficiency of the operations of the Organization.

I would like to reaffirm the commitment of our country to the memorandum signed with the FAO, namely, that we shall undertake all the necessary preparations in order that the Office will be operational starting 1 September 1990.

I do not want to speak at length. I wanted only to express my thanks, and I seize this opportunity also to thank the distinguished representatives of Belgium and Lebanon who spoke before me supporting the return of the office.

Gamal Mohamed AHMED (Sudan) (original language Arabic): At the outset, I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Brother Jum'a, for his clear presentation and introduction of this item. I would like also to refer to the fact that the delegation of my country supports the return of the Regional Office to work from within the Region and to operate from Cairo in the Arab Republic of Egypt in particular. We have already expressed the wish in previous meetings and Conferences that we wish to see this Office operating from within the Region in order to enhance the effectiveness of its programmes and its rapid interaction with the Country Offices and our requirements from its new position. It will highly contribute to the implementation of projects, and it will also enrich the South-South dialogue which we always call for. We would like also to express the thanks of my

country to the Arab Republic of Egypt for kindly consenting to host this Office through the provision of the necessary premises and the necessary services for the Office. We also find that the return of the Office to Cairo, in particular to the previous premises, would enable the Office to undertake its operations smoothly as has been the case in the past. I am duty bound here to express our satisfaction with the operations of the Office in the previous period, taking into consideration the obstacles due to the fact that it was outside the Region. Our satisfaction stems from the capability of the Secretariat to surmount these difficulties, and we would like to commend those who worked in the Office, starting with the Director and all his staff. We would like also to thank the Director-General for his positive response to the wishes of the countries of the Region and through the implementation of this wish in the service of our countries. Therefore, I call upon this Committee to adopt this Resolution and to submit it to the Conference for its adoption.

Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus): I would like to express my country's support for the return of the Regional Office of FAO to Cairo. As the regional representative, Mr Jum'a, has said earlier, although the Office functioned efficiently from the Headquarters, it is more than clear that its performance would have been better if functioning from the Region. I wish to welcome the willingness of the Representative of Egypt to host the Regional Office in the country and once again to point out that we believe that the performance of the Office will really be better because surely the quality and the implementation of the programmes and the impact of the programmes undoubtedly will be better. My delegation will support the Resolution put forward.

Waleed EL KHERELJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In the Name of God, the Compassionate and the Merciful, I thank you. We would like to extend our thanks to His Excellency Mr Jum'a for his clear presentation of the work for the matter under consideration. The delegation of my country has already supported the return of the Regional Office for the Near East to the Region. Now we announce once more our support for the return of the Regional Office to the Region in its original premises in the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt in order to operate and to render its services to the countries of the Region as the case was in the past. We would like to wish those who would work in the Office all success in this mission.

Bashir Al Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I join previous speakers in expressing satisfaction for the excellent presentation by the Assistant Director-General, Mr Jum'a. This issue on the return of the Regional Office is a return to the norm. The Delegation of my country considered that the operation of the Regional Office from outside the Region was illogical and unwarranted. Therefore, the request was submitted by the Members of the Region, and since the Council in its previous session had welcomed this request, and in view of the time factor, I propose to my colleagues here in the Committee that the Committee would approve the draft resolution which would be submitted to the Conference and move to the next item on the Agenda because the time is short and what we have heard from the majority is in support of the return of the Regional Office to operate from within the Region. This is a proposal I submit to you humbly in view of the time factor.

Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia, Señor Presidente, hemos seguido siempre las actividades de la FAO en la Región del Medio Oriente con gran solidaridad y viva simpatía, porque esa Región de países fraternos en el seno del Tercer Mundo está vinculada a Colombia por grandes nexos que nos honran. Por eso, celebramos ahora que la República Árabe de Egipto haya asumido una actitud constructiva y positiva al ofrecer de nuevo la Sede.

Queremos pedir a la distinguida Embajadora de Egipto, quien ha intervenido anteriormente, que transmita a su Gobierno el reconocimiento del Gobierno Colombiano por esa actitud que merece nuestro encargo y sincero reconocimiento.

El memorandum de Acuerdo suscrito entre la FAO y el Gobierno de Egipto indica claramente que ese gran país del Medio Oriente ha asumido una posición adecuada y de alta responsabilidad que queremos destacar.

Como se dice en los documentos y como lo comprueba el curso del debate celebrado hasta ahora, todos los Estados Miembros de la Región han expresado su voluntad unánime especialmente en la Conferencia Regional de Omán en 1988, de que la Oficina Regional vuelva a uno de los países de la Región.

El Consejo también ha cumplido el deber elemental de respetar y apoyar la voluntad de los Estados Miembros de esa región, de manera que están dadas todas las condiciones para que la Oficina Regional vuelva a funcionar en El Cairo a más tardar a partir de primeros de septiembre de 1990.

Destacamos y agradecemos una vez más los aportes voluntarios de los Gobiernos de esa región y los ajustes dentro del programa ordinario que complementarán todo ello para que se logren estos propósitos que apoyamos.

Los términos del Proyecto de Resolución son surtamente flexibles y los representantes del Gobierno de Colombia estamos seguros de que, como en todas las oportunidades anteriores, todos los Estados Miembros de la Región del Medio Oriente aportarán su voluntad y su decisión para que se cumpla de la mejor manera posible el alcance de este Proyecto de Resolución.

Yo comparto con ustedes y con el colega Bashir Al Mabrouk Said, de Libia, la necesidad de avanzar en nuestros trabajos y permítame una brevísima digresión personal.

Quiero dirigirme a mi colega Jum'a, quien entiendo que, dentro de poco, va a concluir su misión de funcionario internacional en el seno de la FAO.

El Sr. Jum'a fue mi compañero cuando representó con dignidad y competencia al Gobierno de Jordania ante la FAO. Luego ha seguido desempeñando su función en la Secretaría de esta Organización, con gran inteligencia y singular dinamismo. Permítame que le diga a mi compañero y amigo el Dr. Jum'a que le deseo un buen porvenir y que confío en que ojalá de nuevo volvamos a encontrarnos en nuestras posiciones anteriores de representantes de Jordania y de Colombia.

Ahmed Mohamed ABDULLAHI (Somalia): The Somali Delegation would like to state that Somalia supports the Regional Office for the Near East returning to Cairo in Egypt. We also believe that by doing so, States belonging to the Region will benefit from this Office. We support, therefore, the Draft Resolution, Appendix B, as it is and would like to see it all adopted.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Muy brevemente, Señor Presidente, porque los argumentos sobran y se puede ser muy conciso, pero deseamos hacer pública la posición de nuestro país en este aspecto.

Las explicaciones brindadas por el Asistente del Director General han sido muy claras y no creo que pueda haber duda sobre la posibilidad de reapertura en mayo de 1990 de la Oficina Regional en El Cairo, razón por la cual nuestra delegación la apoya tanto por su necesidad como por la Sede. Por lo cual, junto a nuestro apoyo, que ya casi constituye un consenso, felicitamos tanto a la FAO como a la República Árabe de Egipto por los esfuerzos realizados.

Nabil Saleh AL-HAMDAN (Bahrain) (original language Arabic): I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Jum'a for his excellent presentation of the return of the Regional Office to the Region. I would like here to refer to what we have already indicated in a statement by the State of Bahrain in the Plenary that the Regional Office should return to the Region. The Delegation of Bahrain supports the return of the Near East Office to Cairo and making the necessary arrangements, especially after the Government of Egypt has undertaken the duty to rehabilitate the Office. We would like to highlight that the return of the Office to the Region would upgrade the quality of the implementation and would work in the service of the countries of the Region.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I would like to express our thanks to Dr Jum'a for his excellent presentation and for all his efforts in this regard.

My delegation is extremely pleased to see the proposal for the return of the Office once again to the Region and to Egypt, which is a friendly country which has always contributed a great deal to international amity and development. The appropriateness and advantages of this proposal need no elaboration on our part, and we can therefore extend our support to the proposal and the proposed Draft Resolution.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): We fully recognize and appreciate the desire of Member Nations of the Region that the Regional Office should return to the Region. That said, we consider that there are a number of factors which should be borne in mind, not least the outcome of the Review which is currently being discussed in Commission II. We agree that the Regional Offices should deal with matters of a regional nature, but we know that there are divergent views about Regional Offices. The Experts' Report on FAO's Field Operations, attached to the Report of the Special Joint Session, suggests in paragraph 88: "For any increased expenditure by FAO, the Regional Offices should rank the lowest in priority". The Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, on page 382, includes an increase of 27 posts and additional costs of US\$ 935 000. Paragraph 85 of the same report recommends: "What is now needed is a refocusing of the role of the Regional Offices", and in

Commission II the delegate of Poland, I think, pointed us in the right direction - that decentralization should be carried out gradually after careful and clear definition of the respective responsibilities of the Field Representatives and their supporting management structures, dividing tasks and responsibilities between Headquarters, Regional, and National Offices, respectively.

It would obviously be right to expect Management to look again at the Regional Offices, and also to consider in this process all the different suggestions put forward by Member States in the context of the Conclusion of the Experts.

My delegation therefore considers that until the matter has been reviewed, it would be premature to consider the re-opening.

Mete BASCI (Turkey): We would like to support the re-opening of the Regional Office in Cairo. At the same time, we would like to thank the Republic of Egypt. We are sure that all countries will benefit from this Office in the Region.

Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Le retour du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient à la région, donc à son siège, est considéré comme l'une des priorités absolues, parmi les priorités qui ont été reconnues par la plupart des membres qui appellent à la décentralisation du travail de la FAO.

Je ne voudrais pas m'attarder sur ce sujet mais je voudrais simplement appuyer, au nom de la Tunisie, ce retour et cette réinstallation du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient.

Je voudrais à ce sujet féliciter la République arabe d'Égypte de cette décision et je souhaite le plein succès à ce Bureau.

LE PRESIDENT: N'ayant plus de délégations inscrites sur ma liste, je pense que le débat peut être clos. A ce stade, je ne sais pas si le Directeur général adjoint pour le Proche-Orient souhaite encore s'exprimer.

Salah JIM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East) (original language Arabic): I have only two comments.

The first concerns the comments and observations made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. I would like to clarify for him that we are not discussing the question of the Regional Offices and also the matter of centralization or decentralization of the work of FAO. The latter is not under discussion at the moment, and therefore we should not confuse the two issues. We are talking only about the Regional Office for the Near East, which is one Regional Office. The Near East Region may be influenced one way or the other by the overall situation, but we do not need to wait for years before taking a decision about the return of the Office. This matter is in no way connected with the centralization or decentralization of the work of the Organization.

I would also like to reassure the distinguished delegates by stating that over the last ten years we have seen no increase in the budget allocated to the Near East Regional Office - that is, from 1980 to the present time. The budget allocated to RNEA has not enjoyed any programme increase. I believe that the policy of FAO at present is that the Regional Offices maintain a status quo, without any increase in their activities, and no other budgetary allocations.

May I ask you, Mr Chairman, to allow me to thank in particular my old friend the Ambassador of Colombia, who has been a friend of mine since the 1960s, when I represented my country in this Organization.

On this occasion I would like to reaffirm my belief in this Organization. When I retire, I shall be even more faithful and more loyal to this Organization, having worked here for over ten years. I have realized during my stay here that this is a serious organization which does the impossible, in order that needy countries can be helped to build their future. People may agree or disagree on this - but I am sure that I shall remain faithful to this Organization whether I am working in it or not, and my faith in it will increase when I actually leave it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Jum'a de ses explications et je me permets, au nom de la Commission, de lui souhaiter aussi beaucoup de bonheur dans son futur, qui sera très certainement encore très actif.

Masood AZIZ (Bangladesh): Our Government and delegation fully support and endorse the return of the Regional Office to Cairo.

Walid Abd RABOH (Jordan) (original language Arabic): I thank Dr Jum'a for his very clear statement, and wish to express the support of Jordan for the return of the Regional Office to Cairo. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Egypt for its generosity and willingness to welcome the return of the Regional Office.

I would like to pay tribute to what was said by Dr Jum'a in pointing out that this morning we are not discussing decentralization of the Regional Offices. The return of the Regional Office to Cairo is a return to the Near East, and we are very pleased about that.

Mohamed Ahmed AWALEK (Djibouti) (langue originale Arabe): Je voulais simplement appuyer l'ouverture du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient au Caire pour deux raisons: d'une part pour une raison de décentralisation, d'autre part pour que cette région importante au sein de la FAO ait son bureau à elle et qu'elle puisse le fortifier et le conforter dans les années à venir afin que la contribution de ce Bureau puisse se répandre et s'épanouir au sein de la FAO.

Gabriel HATY (Mauritanie): La délégation mauritanienne, compte tenu des arguments objectifs avancés par les orateurs précédents, appuie pleinement la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire, qui n'est qu'un juste retour des choses.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre brève déclaration et je crois que le débat peut être clos maintenant en disant que la Commission appuie ce transfert du Bureau régional au Caire. Nous pouvons prendre note que le Secrétariat prendra certainement en compte les décisions qui seront prises quant aux réformes qui seront décidées ailleurs pour l'organisation de ce bureau.

La résolution est donc considérée comme adoptée par cette Commission et transmise à l'Assemblée plénière.

Je considère ce point de l'Ordre du jour comme clos.

- 23. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
- 23. Autres questions administratives et financières
- 23. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros
- 23.1 Status of Contributions
- 23.1 Etat des contributions
- 23.1 Estado de las cuotas

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil a discuté cette question au cours de sa dernière session. Une proposition de résolution préparée par le Président indépendant du Conseil a été transmise à la Conférence pour considération. Je demande à M. Heim de bien vouloir présenter ce sujet.

Frederic A. HEIM (Director, Financial Services Division): The item for discussion this morning, the status of contributions, is summarized in document C 89/LIM/11 which provides the status at 7 November 1989, the second day of the Council, and also document C 89/LIM/32 which reports the status of contributions to the budget at 17 November 1989.

Since 17 November 1989 up to 22 November additional contributions have been received as follows: (referring to paragraph 2 of C 89/LIM/32) for 1989 an additional US\$ 74 203.80. As far as concerns assessments for 1988 and prior years an additional US\$ 161 039.46 has been received. The total of the two amounts is US\$ 235 243.26. The new total of receipts from 1 January to 22 November (paragraph 3 of C 89/LIM/32) amounted to US\$ 162 909 229.80, for contributions in arrears US\$ 18 215 558.67. The total receipts are US\$ 181 124 788.67. This, of course, changes the amount outstanding at 22 November to current assessments outstanding US\$ 78 010 770.20, contributions in arrears US\$ 91 636 591.14. The grand total of outstanding current contributions and arrears is US\$ 169 647 361.34.

During this period the following countries have contributed to the Organization: Barbados, Zaire, Comoros, Paraguay, Chad and Jordan, three of which have paid their contributions in full, namely, Barbados, Zaire and Jordan.

In connection with the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and advances to the working Capital Fund referred to in paragraph 6, since 17 November 1989 until 22 November additional amounts contributed were as follows: an additional US\$ 3 693 was received in the Special Reserve Account, and US\$ 3 650 was received in the Working Capital Fund. This brings the amount of the Special Reserve Account to US\$ 18.2 million, and the Working Capital Fund to US\$ 17.8 million.

It should be noted that the combined total of unpaid contributions in arrears is much larger than a year ago by some US\$ 31 million and is the largest at this date in the history of the Organization.

C 89/LIM/12 presents the views of the 96th Session of Council on this subject and transmits to the Conference for its consideration the draft resolution on payment of assessed contributions prepared by the Independent Chairman of the Council.

Finally, paragraphs 7 and 8 of the same document respond to Conference Resolution 18/27 advising that since there would be no cash surplus arising out of the 1988/89 biennium, therefore there would be no allocation of interest income or distribution in the 1990-91 biennium.

The Secretariat would be pleased to answer any questions that delegates may have on these matters.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Heim des précisions qu'il a fournies à la Commission et je rappelle donc qu'il y a cette résolution préparée par le Président indépendant du Conseil, qui est soumise à notre examen.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, je m'excuse de prendre si souvent la parole mais je crois vraiment que le sujet dont nous avons à discuter pour le moment est particulièrement important et, je l'avouerais, particulièrement angoissant.

J'ai lu avec attention le document sur la situation financière de l'Organisation, et étudié le tableau comparatif de 1985 à 1989 sur le pourcentage de recouvrement des contributions courantes. Nous arrivons au 7 novembre à 66 pour cent. C'est grave, Monsieur le Président; c'est grave pour une organisation que l'on arrive au mois de novembre à un tel pourcentage alors qu'il a été dit clairement que c'est la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Organisation qu'un pareil pourcentage est retenu. J'entends une série de discussions dans différentes commissions sur des questions de détail. Ici, il s'agit d'une question essentielle. Il n'y a pas de possibilité, ni de plan à moyen terme, ni de revue, ni de réforme, si l'on ne règle pas le problème fondamental qui est un paiement normal et régulier des contributions obligatoires. Il est impossible d'établir un plan de travail s'il n'existe pas un certain nombre d'engagements précis en ce qui concerne le paiement des contributions et la date de ce paiement. Je crois que c'est un point important que nous devons souligner.

J'ai lu hier le rapport trimestriel au 30 septembre 1989 qui comporte tout de même des conclusions qui me paraissent parfaitement justifiées.

Si l'Organisation reçoit en novembre 25 millions de dollars du principal bailleur de fonds - nous sommes le 23 novembre - elle devrait pouvoir éviter d'emprunter en 1989. Si, par contre, elle ne reçoit rien cette année du principal bailleur de fonds, elle ne pourra éviter d'emprunter avant la fin de l'année.

Or, tout le monde dit: il ne faut pas emprunter. Alors, s'il ne faut pas emprunter, il faut tirer des conclusions, il faut payer. Une Organisation ne peut pas vivre, aucun pays au monde ne pourrait vivre en affectant 66 pour cent de son budget à peine; c'est étrangler une institution. On a discuté hier du lapse factor. Je crois que le problème du personnel est un problème angoissant, que le personnel est à genoux, qu'il y a un gap considérable entre le cadre et la situation telle qu'elle se présente, qu'une série de bons fonctionnaires arrivent progressivement à l'âge de la pension, que l'on n'a pas ou que l'on ne peut plus assurer la relève dans une perspective d'avenir. Or, là, j'ai bien peur qu'il n'existe un gap considérable au niveau des experts. La qualité de la FAO sera toujours fonction des hommes qui y travaillent. C'est un point particulièrement important et, si je me suis permis d'intervenir très brièvement sur l'état des contributions, c'est pour pousser un cri d'alarme car, Monsieur le Président, ce cri d'alarme doit être poussé.

Là, vraiment, je crois que nous devons faire un effort, et un effort considérable, pour que demain nous arrivions à une situation autre qu'un paiement de 66 pour cent au mois de novembre alors que nous étions en 1985 à 91, 35 pour cent.

La situation actuelle peut-elle durer? Ma réponse est non.

Salisu A. INGAWA (Nigeria): I thank you for allowing my delegation a chance to air our serious complaints against the current assessment system of contribution to the FAO budget. The system is insensitive to changing circumstances in member countries. Nigeria has lost income and is suffering other problems, for example, our GNP per capita fell from over US\$ 1 000 per annum in 1980 to less than US\$ 370 in 1987. The gross rate of GNP fell from 4.1 percent per annum in 1980, to less than one percent in 1987. The value of our export products fell from US\$ 26 000 million in 1980 to US\$ 7 000 million in 1987. Our debt service ratio has similarly increased. We have lost our position as a middle-income country and have fallen into the low-income category. This fact can be seen from the World Development Reports of the World Bank.

Why do we have an increase in our assessment for the coming biennium? What is the rationale? We have seen that it is based on the UN system of contribution, but I think that it allows also for an adjustment by FAO because other countries have had a reduction. We challenge the basis on which they are getting their reduction while Nigeria suffers an increase in its assessment. We have closely assessed all the other countries and none of them has suffered income reduction similar to that of Nigeria. So we think this point should be considered in whatever resolution is adopted.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina quisiera expresar que, lamentablemente, Argentina mantiene una deuda considerable con la FAO, pero en contra de la voluntad del gobierno y del pueblo.

Quiero también comunicar que mi gobierno está tonando todas las medidas necesarias para poder proponer, en breve plazo, un plan de pagos de las cuotas pendientes a esta Organización.

Con relación al proyecto de resolución, no tenemos ningún problema.

HUANG YONGNING (China) (original language Chinese): I shall be very brief. The Chinese delegation has carefully studied this document on the problem of contributions, and we have carefully listened to the statements by other speakers. We consider that up to the beginning of November 1989 the situation was slightly better than for the corresponding periods of 1988 and 1986, but the financial position which FAO is in is, indeed, very difficult.

In order to face up to these difficulties, the Director-General has been forced to make cuts in the Programme of Work of the Organization. This has not only had serious consequences for the work of the Organization, but it has adversely affected a number of developing countries.

In order that FAO can accomplish its tasks in accordance with its Constitution, we would like all members to fulfil their financial obligations so that the Programme of Work and Budget adopted by the Conference can be implemented effectively. Therefore, the Chinese delegation supports the Draft Resolution contained in document C 89/LIM/12. At the same time, as it has done in the past, the Chinese government will meet its financial obligations to support the work of the FAO.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je vais être assez bref parce que notre délégation a systématiquement déploré cette situation de non-paiement des contributions, soit à la Plénière, soit lors de l'examen du budget, soit même lors de l'examen de l'étude sur la réforme de la FAO.

Nous aussi nous avons dit qu'il était inutile de parler de renforcement de l'Organisation si, de l'autre côté, on ne garantit pas à l'Organisation des ressources indispensables.

Nous aussi nous avons dit qu'il était irrationnel et peu logique de s'opposer à ce que l'Organisation fasse des emprunts lorsqu'elle ne dispose plus du minimum de ressources pour faire face à ses obligations.

Nous aussi nous avons dit qu'il était regrettable que l'Organisation se trouve en face d'une dette de plus de 100 millions et n'ait pas les moyens de régler ses dettes.

Aussi, Monsieur le Président, nous appuyons le projet de résolution et, en tout cas, nous partageons totalement ce qui a été déclaré par le délégué de la Belgique, qui a lancé un appel vibrant et qui, en tout cas, trouve illogique que l'on se penche sur d'autres questions alors que, s'agissant de ce point primordial et fondamental, on ne prend pas les dispositions nécessaires pour régler cette situation déplorable.

Aussi, nous insistons pour que, une fois de plus, on tienne compte de la déclaration de notre délégation et pour que cette Commission insiste sur la nécessité d'assainir la situation.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): We are not opposed to the Resolution but I would simply like to reiterate the view of my delegation regarding the need to borrow referred to in the Resolution. We are opposed to borrowing, and consider the Organization should live within its means, allocating priorities accordingly.

Salisu A. INGAWA (Nigeria): We are not opposed to the Resolution, but would like to point out that based on the history of contributions to FAO, the list given in the document does not appear to indicate that this year is any worse than any of the previous years, it does not seem that it is statistically or significantly different from the others. We are opposed to serious cuts in the various programmes of FAO. Although we are in support of the Resolution, we note that there is nothing in terms of contributions based on the percentages given which shows that this is an extraordinary year.

Mrs Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): We have followed closely the developments with respect to the financial situation of FAO. We note the problems that 80 countries have had in meeting payment of their assessed contributions in full and in a timely manner. However, I must point out that for my own Government, the financial difficulties this Organization has had to face over the past several years stem from unrealistic expectations when the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 was approved by the 1987 Conference over our objections. The result is a situation which harms the orderly operation of FAO.

I recognize that many Member States are waiting for information on the current status of our 1989 payment to this Organization, including amounts in payment of arrears, unfortunately, there is not much information that I can add to the statement my delegation made during the Council Session, namely, that final legislative action on our funding request has not been taken.

We also pointed out that the Administration's essential full funding request and an initial payment towards arrears will unlikely be honoured by the United States Congress. Against the backdrop of such compelling international needs as new and greatly encouraged peace-keeping initiatives to be financed, environmental problems that must be addressed, means to deal with the drug epidemic and other equally compelling domestic considerations, the United States of America has had to make difficult choices on funding allocations. Likewise, all the components of the United Nations system must make difficult choices among competing priorities in times of budgetary restraint.

The task is not easy, but it must be undertaken if the United Nations system, including FAO, is to remain a viable institution and responsive to issues which affect all of us. This does not mean that the Bush Administration is lessening its commitment to strengthening the United Nations system. May I assure this Body that the Administration is resolute in advocating full funding of United Nations Agencies, including FAO, in payment of our arrears.

CHAIRMAN: I can now close the debate, and consider that the Draft Resolution is adopted by this Commission and recommended to Plenary for adoption. The debate is closed on this.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Just a brief comment, Mr Chairman. There seems to be some degree of misunderstanding of the figures presented. It was indicated by at least a couple of delegations that the Organization seems not to be in a worse situation now than it has been in prior years. Unfortunately, this sad situation we are in has been allowed to continue for a long period - this will be the fourth year. When one looks at document C 89/LIM/32, page 3, one sees the November figures which show 67.58 percent of our current contribution - it is not a statement of arrears - as compared with the years 1988, 1987 and 1986. But one has to go right back to 1985 to see what the global situation has been. In 1985 we had received 91.35 percent. We are nearing the end of the year and to operate on two-thirds of the contributions received for this year is almost impossible. And that is not even to mention the problem of outstanding arrears which are the highest in the history of the entire Organization. At this moment we are owed almost \$ 175 million total.

This situation presents an untenable problem to the Director-General and to the Organization, one that makes financial management almost impossible. The Resolution just agreed to I am sure will be taken into account in the relevant Finance Committee and Council deliberations to see if there are means by which further encouragement can be given. If we can make an appeal even in this Commission, it would be that members also provide information, as is suggested by the Resolution, on the timing and amount of payment as early in the year as possible to facilitate an orderly projection of cash flow, which during 1989 has been most impossible.

I am sorry to conclude on such a negative note, but I do not want any misunderstanding in the minds of any delegations that the Organization is in a healthy financial condition. Just opposite is the case.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Crowther for his precise statement of the position. I think everyone realizes that at the moment FAO is not in any easy situation.

23.2 Report on Measures Adopted to Distribute Cash Surplus

23.2 Rapport sur les mesures adoptées pour répartir l'excédent de trésorerie

23.2 Informe sobre las medidas adoptadas para la distribución del superávit

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil a été informé qu'il n'y avait pas d'excédent de trésorerie à distribuer. Je vais tout de même demander à M. Heim ou à M. Crowther de donner des précisions. Il n'y a pas de commentaires additionnels à ce sujet. Il n'y a pas d'excédent de trésorerie à distribuer et je ne pense pas que nous devions débattre de ce point-là. Je demande toutefois si quelqu'un souhaiterait prendre la parole; mais je ne vois aucune délégation désireuse de prendre la parole.

23.3 Level of Support Costs from UNDP and Trust Fund Programmes

23.3 Niveau des dépenses d'appui du PNUD et des fonds fiduciaires

23.3 Cuánta de los gastos de apoyo financiados por el PNUD y los programas de Fondos Fiduciarios

F. RINVILLE (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Since decision 80/44 of the UNDP Governing Council, FAO is reimbursed at the rate of 13 percent (of total expenditures) for the support costs incurred in operating its FAO/UNDP field projects. It bears note that, in 1981, the Twenty-first session of the FAO Conference endorsed this arrangement and also decided that 13 percent would be the "established" rate for Trust Fund projects. The UNDP 13 percent formula will end in January 1992, and there is now an effort to identify a new framework for covering such support costs. In June 1988 the UNDP Governing Council decided to appoint an expert team to prepare a study of the new so-called "successor arrangements" for agency support costs, and in February 1989 the Governing Council in its Resolution 89/10 approved terms of reference for the four-man expert team.

The matter was first brought to the attention of the Sixty-fifth session of the Finance Committee (May 1989), when arrangements for the preparation of the new "successor" support cost mechanism were at an early stage. The Finance Committee expressed its support for FAO's active involvement helping to determine the new arrangements, and in cooperating with UNDP. Among other points emphasized were the need for adequate reimbursement against real costs, protection against currency fluctuations, and - more generally - the ability of FAO to put its full capacities at the disposal of members through technical assistance projects linked to, and benefiting of Regular Programme activities.

As noted by both the Programme and Finance Committees at their meetings in September 1989, the present 13 percent formula involves a subsidy from FAO's Regular Programme since real support costs have been estimated in the 20 percent range recently. Additionally, it should be added that, with new dimensions, increased recourse to short-term staff, and government execution, the operation of field programmes has necessarily become more complex and costly than in the past.

The central element in this entire process is, of course, the report of the four UNDP experts, which is still under preparation following the extensive consultations and inputs I have just referred to. The team was finally appointed in March 1989 and began its investigations and examination of possible "successor arrangements" in April 1989. The main focus of the work of the four "independent" UNDP experts (consultants) has been an extensive round of discussions in over 20 countries (all major donors, all groups of recipients) and with the main organizations involved, including the specialized agencies (country visits 5-6 days each, agency visits 2-3 days each). This activity took place mainly in July and August 1989.

The experts visited FAO on 10 and 11 July, where a series of discussions were held with senior staff and FAO's own internal Task Force on the matter (under the Field Programme Committee). FAO, like other agencies, has provided a great deal of detailed information, background papers, and fully expressed to the experts its views on the principles necessary for new arrangements. At

the same time, it bears noting that an Inter-agency Task Force (chaired by UNIDO) has provided a wider forum for meeting the UNDP experts, and placing on the table FAO's and other agencies concerns on a joint and coordinated basis.

The UNDP experts are considerably delayed in their progress from their original timetable, which called for the draft report by then by 1 November. The new timetable is for these experts to finish their work by early December, and for them to give the agencies only a short time to review the report, just before it is sent for printing to be ready for the UNDP Special session in February 1990.

The Special session in February 1990 will consider the report and express views and perhaps make recommendations, which would then be available to UNDP's 36th (full) Governing Council session in June 1990.

Attention must be paid to the timing of any final decision on the new arrangements, which would apply as noted, only from January 1992. If FAO's (and other concerned) governing bodies are to have a full opportunity to consider proposals and options in this regard, the final decision should probably not be taken on this matter until 1991 (and not "rushed" through in 1990).

In connection with the timing of decisions on the "successor arrangements", I would note that the ACC, at its second regular session in October 1989, expressed concern and adopted a clear statement (ACC-1989/29) intended to "bring the issue of the timetable to the attention of the UNDP Governing Council, with a view to allowing governing bodies of the executing agencies to deal with any possible budgetary and organizational implications of the proposals advanced by the expert group. If necessary, such a timetable might envisage the possibility of extending the present support cost system by one year, that is to say, until the end of 1992".

In connection with the ACC concern at the UNDP timetable for this matter, the UNDP Governing Council may, or may not, take this into account. It will be noted from the short report of the 96th Council before you (LIM/13) that there is a possibility that the UNDP Governing Council would want to make definitive decisions on the arrangements at its June 1990 session. Most executing agencies wish this, however, to be postponed by at least one year to allow the full prior involvement of agency governing bodies.

For FAO, it would appear that the most suitable occasion for new arrangements to be considered in depth by the governing bodies would be at the November 1990 Ninety-eighth Council session, which would have the benefit of the UNDP Governing Council discussions just referred to. The "successor arrangements" would, prior to that, also be discussed by the FAO Programme and Finance Committees at their sessions in May and October 1990. FAO's involvement in these developments is not only imperative due to our large FAO/UNDP programmes, but also, of course, because any eventual decision might affect support cost arrangements for Trust Fund programmes.

In concluding these remarks, Mr Chairman, it should be underlined that this issue must have a strong interest for all Member Governments, recipients and donors alike. What is involved is a system-wide decision which could have important effects and impact across the board. This is why this matter is now being brought for your consideration, and we shall pay close attention to the Members' views and guidance.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Ma délégation voudrait d'abord féliciter M. Rinville, assistant du Directeur général, Chef du département du développement, pour la présentation très claire de ce sujet.

Lorsque nous étions membres du Comité financier nous avons suivi de très près cette question et avons déjà estimé à ce moment-là que le remboursement par le PNUD, au taux de 13 pour cent, des dépenses d'appui des projets financés par ce Programme, était insuffisant et pesait lourd au budget du Programme ordinaire de la FAO.

Voilà donc que l'occasion se présente pour actualiser ce taux et, surtout en ces moments difficiles de l'Organisation, il s'avère vraiment indispensable que l'on puisse trouver un taux équitable pour les deux parties, pour le PNUD et la FAO, d'ailleurs les répercussions sont ressenties par nos pays.

Ce qui est donc souhaité c'est que la FAO, comme il est dit dans le document C 89/LIM/13, soit associée très étroitement à l'élaboration des nouveaux arrangements, que le calendrier établisse ou prenne en considération cette nécessité d'impliquer la FAO dans les discussions et que les organes directeurs du PNUD tiennent compte des résultats des entretiens et discussions entre la FAO et le PNUD pour adopter un nouveau taux.

En fait, notre commission devrait lancer un appel auprès des organes directeurs du PNUD pour que le nécessaire soit fait dans ce sens.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je suis quelque peu contrit et ennuyé d'intervenir à nouveau mais il s'agit d'un sujet important dont nous avons déjà parlé à de très nombreuses reprises.

Je voudrais d'abord remercier M. Rinville pour son exposé exhaustif, il a bien fait le point de la situation mais je crois que nous devons prendre une série de positions. On a parlé du rapport des quatre experts désignés en mars 1989 qui devraient déposer leurs conclusions début décembre. Ces quatre experts ont pris contact en juillet avec la FAO et ce rapport doit pouvoir être discuté et examiné. Il sera examiné à la session spéciale du Conseil d'administration du PNUD.

Mais il est extrêmement important que les organismes opérationnels et que les agences d'exécution puissent se pencher sur la question. Le PNUD, qui est en définitive un utilisateur des fonds fiduciaires, j'ai eu l'occasion de le dire, qui a une tâche de coordination et de distribution des ressources quand même extrêmement considérables dont il dispose et qui doit travailler avec les organisations opérationnelles de la famille des Nations Unies, doit se rendre compte que le problème des coûts d'appui, support costs, est un problème important, qu'il est évidemment tout à fait anormal que les frais d'appui de 13 pour cent soient insuffisants et que le budget ordinaire doive supporter la différence entre les coûts réels et les sommes ristournées par le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement.

Le système actuel tel qu'il existe fonctionnera normalement jusqu'au 1er janvier 1992. Il faut surtout éviter une décision précipitée. Vous savez qu'il existe une tendance, et elle est dangereuse, qui permettrait au PNUD d'être sa propre agence d'exécution. Nous nous sommes élevés très souvent contre cette tendance fondamentalement néfaste. L'OPS n'a pas pour tâche

d'être l'agence d'exécution du PNUD. L'OPS peut évidemment travailler avec des support costs de 6 ou 7 pour cent pour la bonne raison que la plupart des projets sont sous-traités et que dans la sous-traitance on ne compte certainement pas, dans la dépense d'appui, ni les frais d'administration, ni les marges bénéficiaires qui peuvent s'élever à des sommes considérables; je sais d'expérience, notamment au Fonds européen de développement, quelles peuvent être les marges de sécurité ou les marges bénéficiaires d'un certain nombre de bureaux d'étude, elles peuvent atteindre des sommes allant jusqu'à 25 et 30 pour cent et dans certains cas davantage.

Alors il faut éviter toute décision précipitée. Je préfère que toutes les agences d'exécution aient l'occasion d'étudier la question par le biais des organisations compétentes: Comité du Programme, Comité des finances, Conseil de la FAO qui se réunira normalement en novembre 1990. Une décision du Conseil d'administration du PNUD sans consultation préalable des agences d'exécution opérationnelles serait une décision manquant de la base nécessaire d'expériences.

Je crois que nous pouvons nous ranger à l'avis du Comité d'administration et de coordination qui a dit de manière très claire que le problème devait être examiné avec les Governing Bodies, avec les organisations et rouages compétents des agences d'exécution. Nous préférons pour notre part prolonger, éventuellement jusqu'au 1er janvier 1993, c'est-à-dire pendant toute l'année 1992, le système actuel plutôt que de prendre une décision précipitée qui serait extrêmement dommageable.

Le problème est important, le problème est capital pour l'exécution de tous les programmes de terrain de la FAO parce qu'il est clair que ce que fera l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement, en concertation avec les organisations opérationnelles, aura également une incidence directe sur les support costs des fonds fiduciaires bilatéraux qui sont importants, et que nous aurons à nous aligner sur la formule qui sera retenue.

Je lance un appel pour que les organes compétents de la FAO puissent étudier attentivement la question et que le Conseil de novembre 1990 puisse se pencher avec toute l'attention voulue et tout le temps nécessaire sur cette importante question.

Michael DERUS (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Thank you for allowing me to speak about this very important matter of the support costs. Firstly, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you for the excellent way in which you have handled this Commission. In the Programme of Work and Budget in XXXI, the UNDP Governing Council has given a green light for a study. This was to investigate the improvements in the technical help to be provided by UNDP on account of the new modalities for execution, proper compensation for all those involved in the project, increased responsibility, the maximization of effectiveness, and the ways and means of the participation of the UNDP and the special organisations and governments involved in the projects. In principle, we do not want to anticipate the results of this study, but I would like to express some hopes that we associate with it. It is known that originally, in the establishment of the percentage for the support costs, consideration was given to the fact that the specialized agencies would have to fund the projects from their Regular Budgets in order to be committed themselves. The Federal Government today, for reasons of clarity, favours the idea that the actual costs should be paid up in full. That includes the costs for careful

preparation of the project. The Federal Government also sees further advantage in that irregular and extra-budgetary accounts and voluntary finances would be clearly separated, and therefore the burden on the Regular Budget be reduced. We expect further that the Study will show how the cooperation between UNDP and the specialized agencies can be improved and how we can proceed further. Given the leading role of UNDP in the UN system, we would like the solutions proposed by the UNDP Governing Council to be supported and applied in our Trust Fund administration. Unfortunately, the Study will only be available after the Governing Bodies have met this year. But we consider it important that the views and contents of the specialized agencies and governments should be taken into account in the meeting in June 1990 in order to allow a smooth adjustment of the procedure. We think that ways could be found for this to be done and we are looking forward to the results of the meeting of the Governing Council of the UNDP.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap Vert): Nous sommes en train de discuter une question dont nous connaissons l'importance pour notre Organisation, notamment pour les programmes de terrain. Nous pensons que la FAO, y compris par ses organes directeurs, devrait continuer à être étroitement associée à l'élaboration de tous les arrangements qui devraient prendre effet en 1992.

Nous pensons aussi que le PNUD est une sorte de fonds fiduciaire, qu'il doit utiliser au maximum les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et recourir de moins en moins, comme un délégué l'a dit tout à l'heure, directement à des représentants de bureaux d'étude dont nous connaissons les coûts très élevés.

Nous pensons également que toutes les questions de cette importance devraient être discutées au sein des organes appropriés, notamment le Comité et le Conseil car, je le répète, il s'agit d'une question très importante, nous devons éviter toute précipitation, laisser les organes s'y pencher, y réfléchir calmement et nous présenter un rapport.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Mr Rinvile for his very clear introduction. It is a great pity that the report of the group of experts on the successor arrangements will be too late for consideration by this Conference. Members of FAO will need to look at the FAO aspects of the matter in some other way than originally envisaged, perhaps by informal discussions with the Secretariat. We have been informed about ACC's proposal that the matter be put off until 1991. This will have to be considered by the UNDP Governing Council in February. This is, we think, superficially attractive, as the new regime begins in January 1992, but it is probably not in the best interests of the developing countries and agencies. The current plan is to decide in the context of the fifth cycle negotiations in June 1990. It is therefore important, we think, to settle the amount available to countries and for other purposes in good time for the fifth cycle - that is 1992-96 - so as to prevent interruption of field expenditures which occur if programming does not begin well before the start of the cycle. It is difficult to de-link the support costs decisions and the decisions on IPF for the cycle. The present support costs money - that is enough to provide 13 percent on projects - is taken before resources for the five years are allocated, so we need to know by June 1990 roughly how much will be needed to pay for the support costs and how much for other agencies and services such as pre-investment studies and policy advice, so as to know how much to hold back. To make a guess or hold back an amount for later decision, we think,

would close off too many options. My delegation wishes to permit the experts on the UNDP Governing Council to examine all options, from payment of no support costs, that is Agency budgets would cover these to full support costs if necessary, individually negotiated, and to discuss which leads to the best way of using the expertise in the UN system to provide technical cooperation to developing countries. Obviously, some of these options - for example, the no-support cost charge - would not be suitable for automatic application to the Trust Fund projects. The donors to these should make contribution to the cost of running the projects they finance since it saves them management costs. It would not be appropriate for the international community to subsidize projects which they had not themselves selected for execution by FAO. If the proposal is mainly one for the new arrangement to come into effect on January 1, 1993, that is, one year later than planned at present, that is another matter which will be resolved by the UNDP Governing Council. Some transitional arrangements may be appropriate and agreed, but it remains important that the decision on the regime will be taken in 1990 in the context of the 5th cycle. We do think it important that a solution should not be imposed on the agencies. FAO has been involved in the process through the CCSQ Task Force and will see the report before its finalisation. FAO aspects must be taken into account by members when they take decisions in the Governing Council.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): La question des dépenses d'appui du PNUD et des fonds fiduciaires est une question importante, ainsi qu'il a été souligné, et il serait bon en effet d'éviter toute précipitation, avant que soit pris en compte l'avis des agences spécialisées pour qui cette question est évidemment cruciale.

Je soutiens l'avis de plusieurs délégations qui se sont exprimées ici, notamment celle du Royaume de Belgique, sur la nécessité pour le Conseil de la FAO de s'exprimer et de débattre de cette question en novembre prochain.

On pourrait dire évidemment qu'au PNUD les Etats Membres sont représentés et prennent les décisions et qu'il est donc inutile d'avoir deux délibérations: l'une par les Etats Membres au PNUD, l'autre par leurs représentants dans les organismes spécialisés, dont la FAO. Mais en vérité, si même cette objection est en théorie assez valide, en pratique elle ne l'est pas parce que les représentants des Etats au PNUD sont pris dans un système qui fait qu'ils ne sont pas motivés à s'intéresser aux conséquences que telle ou telle décision peut avoir sur telle ou telle institution spécialisée.

Il est utile et nécessaire qu'une information s'établisse et qu'un dialogue s'instaure entre les représentants des Etats dans une organisation spécialisée et leurs collègues au PNUD.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je serai d'autant plus bref que je comptais dire ce que vient d'exprimer le représentant de la République française. J'ai souligné à plusieurs reprises que les positions d'un même pays au sein d'un organisme ne sont pas toujours défendues de la même façon et pour la raison qui vient d'être indiquée: c'est qu'au contact d'un certain nombre de réalités concrètes, de réalités de terrain, on a peut-être parfois une vision

plus réaliste et différente de celle qu'on peut avoir à New York, au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, et notamment du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement qui est peut-être plus loin d'un certain nombre de réalités de tous les jours.

C'est pourquoi je me permets d'insister, de manière pressante, pour que l'organe compétent, en l'occurrence le Conseil de la FAO, soit saisi de ce problème.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Les différentes remarques formulées à ce sujet seront reflétées dans le rapport, ce rapport sera disponible pour tous les gouvernements, à eux d'en tenir compte lors des discussions dans les organes directeurs des différentes organisations.

Est-ce que M. Rinville souhaiterait faire un commentaire?

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du Développement): Simplement peut-être une précision en réponse à l'intervention du délégué du Royaume-Uni. Le rapport qui sera présenté par les experts ne sera pas un rapport concerté avec nous. Nous avons effectivement été l'objet d'une visite de deux jours de ces experts parmi plus de 60 jours de visites qu'ils ont rendues. Nous leur avons remis des documents. Nous aurons peut-être deux semaines pour dire ce que nous pensons du rapport. Mais celui-ci ne sera pas le produit d'une concertation entre ces experts et toutes les agences. Cela ne pourrait en aucun cas - parce que les délégués ne le permettraient pas - être considéré comme quelque chose qui, en soi, aurait envisagé toutes les conséquences pour chacune des agences.

23.4 Headquarters Accommodation

23.4 Locaux du Siège

23.4 Locales de oficina en la Sede

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je demande au premier Vice-Président de cette Commission, le distingué Ambassadeur du Ghana, de bien vouloir prendre la présidence, étant donné que je dois m'absenter.

C. Lamptey, Vice-Chairman of Commission III took the chair

C. Lamptey, Vice-Président de la Commission III assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia C. Lamptey, Vicepresidenta de la Comisión III

M. SCATHIIRT (Directeur, Division des Services administratifs): Vu l'importance de ce projet pour le bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation, le Secrétariat a tenu à maintenir ses organes directeurs pleinement informés des progrès réalisés, comme en témoignent les présentations effectuées depuis

deux ans devant les sessions successives du Comité des finances et du Conseil, et maintenant cette Commission par le biais du document C 89/UM/14. Ce projet comporte trois phases qui, à l'heure actuelle, se trouvent dans l'état suivant:

La phase 1 qui considère la construction d'un parking de 3 étages a progressé normalement jusqu'à la mi-août, date à partir de laquelle la découverte de ruines romaines sur le chantier a ralenti, et ensuite stoppé les travaux. Depuis la mi-septembre, l'Organisation est en contact permanent avec les autorités italiennes compétentes afin de trouver une solution rapide et acceptable pour toutes les parties intéressées.

La préparation de la phase 2 qui, elle, intéresse la construction du nouveau building F, et de la phase 3 qui, elle, se réfère à la construction d'un étage supplémentaire sur le bâtiment A et les deux ponts, est par contre en avance d'environ deux mois sur le calendrier prévu, ce qui laisse espérer l'achèvement de ces deux phases respectivement pour le début de 1992 et le début de 1993.

L'Organisation voudrait profiter de cette session pour remercier une fois encore le gouvernement du pays hôte de sa généreuse contribution, ainsi que Monsieur le Représentant permanent de l'Italie pour les efforts qu'il n'a cessé et ne cesse de déployer pour que les travaux de la phase 1 puissent reprendre le rythme prévu.

Amor BEN ROMCHANE (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Je n'ai pas l'intention de laisser passer cette occasion, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, sans exprimer notre satisfaction à propos des efforts qui ont été déployés par M. Scaillet. Nous l'en félicitons. Il a fait un travail constant et les travaux entrepris par l'Organisation ont été tout à fait efficaces. Ils visent à améliorer les conditions de travail et à permettre à tous les départements et à tous les Etats Membres de travailler sans problème. A cet égard, la délégation tunisienne souhaite un grand succès à notre Organisation.

23.5 Personnel Matters

23.5 Questions de personnel

23.5 Asuntos de personal

M. Bel HADJ AMOR (Directeur, Division du Personnel): Monsieur le Président, le document dont la Commission est saisie reflète le résultat des débats du Conseil sur les principales questions de personnel qui lui ont été soumises par le Comité des finances dans son rapport de la soixante-sixième Session tenue à Rome en septembre dernier. Comme a pu le constater la Commission, le document est concis et n'appelle pas d'observations supplémentaires. Je me limiterai à souligner l'importance de l'étude approfondie sur les conditions d'emploi des administrateurs et fonctionnaires de rang supérieur, objet du paragraphe 2 du document C 89/LIM/15. Actuellement, cette étude est en cours d'examen à la cinquième Commission de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Bien entendu, je suis à la disposition des délégués pour toute clarification nécessaire.

Amor BEN FCMDHANE (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Monsieur le Président, je regrette d'être le seul orateur à prendre la parole sur ce point. Mais, en tant que Représentant de la délégation tunisienne, je dois exprimer ma gratitude pour les travaux qui ont été réalisés par le département du Personnel au sein de l'Organisation, sous la forme de tentatives fort importantes qui ont été faites pour couvrir l'ensemble des activités des autres départements. Cela est principalement dû au Directeur du Département et au Directeur général qui ont déployé des efforts dans ce sens. Nous sommes parfaitement conscients du fait que leurs actions sont toujours caractérisées par la précision et essaient de résoudre les problèmes à tous les niveaux. Nous aimerions féliciter les Etats Membres de ces efforts.

23.6 Staff Commissary Support Cost Reimbursement

23.6 Compte du Groupement d'achats du personnel: remboursement des dépenses d'appui

23.6 Reembolso de los gastos de apoyo del economato del personal

M. SCATTIET: (Directeur, Division des Services administratifs): Dans le passé, chaque changement dans les modalités de remboursement des dépenses de l'économat a été approuvé par la Conférence.

C'est pourquoi est soumis à cette session de la Conférence le présent projet de résolution, document C 89/LIM/10, qui vise simplement à ce que l'économat rembourse à l'Organisation le coût effectif des services fournis par ce dernier, ceci afin d'assurer que le budget ordinaire ne subventionne pas l'économat. Il convient de souligner que le texte proposé a été discuté et approuvé par le Comité des finances et, ensuite, par le Conseil en vue de son adoption par la Conférence.

23.7 Treatment of Profit and Loss on Exchange

23.7 Traitement des gains et pertes de change

23.7 Tratamiento de las ganancias y pérdidas en los cambios monetarios

CHAIRMAN: We shall now turn to item 23.7 - Treatment of Profit and Loss on Exchange (C 89/LIM/16). This matter will be introduced by Mr Heim.

Frederic A. HEIM (Director, Financial Services Division): The Finance Committee at its 66th Session in September 1989 considered the proposed change in accounting treatment of profit and loss on exchange. The Committee endorsed this proposal and submitted a draft resolution to the Council for consideration at its 96th Session. The Council, in turn, approved the proposal and recatitended the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference. This draft resolution is contained in document C 89/LIM/16.

This subject is complex, but in simple terms every time we purchase non-US dollar currencies there is a difference between the rate of exchange that the bank gives us and the rate of exchange which we use in our accounting records, for example, with the UN operational exchange rate. This creates a profit or loss on exchange. Also, when the exchange rates change from one month to another we need to revalue all our foreign currency holdings at the new rate. This again creates a profit or loss on exchange.

Our present accounting policy is to charge losses and credit profits to Chapter 5 of the budget. There have been considerable losses on exchange in the last four years, culminating in a loss of almost US\$ 3.5 million in 1988, which had to be absorbed by the Regular Programme budget.

The Conference has stressed, and the Director-General agrees, that the Programme of Work and Budget should not be affected by losses or gains resulting from currency fluctuations. This is why we transfer the currency variance on staff costs to the Special Reserve Account. This currency variance is merely another kind of profit or loss on exchange due to currency fluctuations and is designed to bring our staff costs into line with the budget rate.

We already have Conference Resolution 13/81 which authorizes the Director-General to use the funds in the Special Reserve Account to finance unbudgeted extra costs due to movement of currency exchange rates. The Director-General's proposal is in line with that provision, namely, by transferring the profits and losses on exchange to the Special Reserve Account.

We would be pleased to answer any questions that the delegates may have on this matter.

23.8 Other Matters

23.8 Autres questions

23.8 Otros asuntos

R. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): As you will recall, we envisaged that the Drafting Committee would meet tomorrow. The Draft Reports are being processed on what took place yesterday, and of course the Draft Reports of what took place this morning will be written in the course of the afternoon and then sent for translation. They will be available tomorrow.

Owing to the fact the Chairman has managed to go through the Agenda so quickly, I still do not have the information about the precise availability of the rooms for the meeting of the Drafting Committee tomorrow. I think that we shall meet in the afternoon. I will get in touch with you and leave a message for you in your box in the documents distribution. I simply recall that Mr Carandang of the Philippines will be Chairman. Yesterday it was agreed that the Drafting Committee will be composed of Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Philippines, Senegal, United States of America, Venezuela, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia. We will distribute the Draft Reports as soon as we have them.

I think it reasonable to hope that we shall be able to finish our work in the course of the afternoon and then the Draft Report will be processed as it has been seen by the Drafting Committee, and will be available to all of you.

The meeting on Monday is scheduled to take place at 9.30, presumably here unless there is a change. That day will be given over to the approval of the Report. As the Chairman mentioned earlier, we hope that we will be able to do that in the course of the morning. The matter will be in your hands and it will depend on how well we are able to prepare the report. We hope to be able to do a good job and that the Drafting Committee will be able to get on with the matter smartly. I am sure the documents will be available to you in good time to enable you to look at them carefully, and this should help with getting on with the work on Monday. I have just heard that the meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place at 14.30 tomorrow in the German Room.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 89/III/PV/3

C

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION III

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION III

25° período de sesiones
COMISION III

THIRD MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE TERCERA SESIÓN

(27 November 1989)

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
R. de Pourtalès, Chairman of Commission III, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de R. de Pourtalès, Président de la Commission III

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de R. de Pourtalès, Presidente de la Comisión III

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION III - PART 1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION III - PARTIE 1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN III - PARTE 1

LE PRESIDENT: Distingués délégués, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que nous avons le quorum; et nous allons immédiatement passer à l'adoption du rapport de notre Commission. Je donne tout d'abord la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, M. Carandang des Philippines.

Horacio CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We have before us the report in document C 89/III/REP/1 which was produced by the Drafting Committee which met on Friday. The Drafting Committee was able to produce a report which, in my view, is a faithful representation of the proceedings of this Commission. If there are any questions, I am ready to answer them.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 4
PARAGRAPHES 1 A 4
PÁRRAFOS 1 A 4

CHAIRMAN: We now start with the first Agenda item, no. 18. The Secretary has a correction to announce in paragraph 1.

R.M. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): In the very first paragraph, but, to my knowledge, only in the English text, there is a very unusual sentence. One must excuse people when they have to work very late. It is the last but one sentence in paragraph 1: it simply does not make sense. It has been put in by mistake. Therefore, would you please take it out? It is not in the French or in the Spanish texts. It reads: "The Conference noted that the Specialized Agencies as applied to FAO."

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Secrétariat. Y a-t-il des amendements proposés pour le paragraphe 1? Non. Il est adopté.

Paragraphe 2: adopté.

Paragraphe 3: adopté.

Paragraphe 4: adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 TO 8, INCLUDING APPENDIX
LES PARAGRAPHES 5 A 8, Y COMPRIS L'ANNEXE
LOS PARRAFOS 5 A 8, INCLUIDO EL APÉNDICE

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphe 5: adopté.

Paragraphe 6: adopté.

Paragraphe 7: ?

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): I think that at this point of the Agenda, we had a discussion that was not included in the Report. I would suggest that we add a paragraph to reflect the proposal that was made to undertake studies to regroup regional groups in the FAO. I would suggest, to avoid discussion, the paragraph that was adopted in the Council. For instance, "many matters suggested that a study should be undertaken with a view to establishing more appropriate regional groupings based on those used generally in the UN system. A number of countries opposed this suggestion on the grounds that the present regional groupings within FAO were more appropriate in the context of the specific objectives and functions of the Organization."

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le distingué délégué du Brésil. Pourrais-je lui demander de relire lentement sa proposition?

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): Just to explain paragraph 240 in document C89/LIM/8, "Many members suggested that a study should be undertaken with a view to establishing more appropriate regional groupings based on those used generally in the UN system. A number of countries opposed this suggestion on the grounds that the present regional groupings within FAO were more appropriate in the context of the specific objectives and functions of the Organization."

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous demande encore de nous dire dans quel endroit du rapport vous souhaitez inclure cet ajout.

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): It would be appropriate between paragraphs 7 and 8 - before paragraph 8.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des commentaires concernant cette proposition?

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I have no great difficulty with this proposal, even though it was a proposal that has been discussed at the Council, and this paragraph did come in the Council's report. But we know that a large number of the Member Countries refused this idea. They preferred that the present regional groupings in the Organization is a very suitable grouping, and we would like to adhere to it. It might need some more clarification, but we should be very firm to where it is adhering to this regional grouping. As far as what was mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Brazil, this has been referred to in Council, and I do not think that it should be implemented at the Conference. As I said, we could accept this proposal, if you so wish, but we must mention that there were a number of delegates who requested that such a study be carried out and that a large number of the members did not approve this idea.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): While we have no strong view one way or the other, if the intention is to incorporate the paragraph 4 as paragraph 7, as suggested by the distinguished delegate from Brazil, if it is put as number 7 and then number 8 follows, 8, as now stands, will nullify whatever you are wanting to introduce.

Steven HILL (United States of America): My delegation supports the comments of the distinguished Ambassador from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We note that the discussion here in the Conference was qualitatively different from that in the Council under this item and that "Many members" does not really describe what took place here. I think, as our colleague has pointed out, very few members followed this proposal, and I think we would have to reflect that in our statement.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais demander au délégué du Brésil s'il tient à son amendement ou s'il est d'accord pour le modifier de la façon proposée par l'Arabie Saoudite.

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): I think it is important to include a paragraph that reflects the discussion that happened in this Commission. However, I would accept it if we change "Many members" to "Some members" and the "number of countries" to "many countries".

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Brésil. Je demanderais au Secrétariat de relire l'amendement avec les rectifications proposées visant quelques pays au départ puis de nombreux pays ensuite.

Le Secrétariat n'a pu prendre note. Est-ce que le délégué du Brésil pourrait relire lentement son amendement avec les modifications?

Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil): Referring to paragraph 240 in document C 89/LIM/8, I accept the change in the first line "Many members suggested" to "Some members suggested". The next sentence which reads, "A number of countries opposed this suggestion", I will accept "Many countries opposed this suggestion" I think that the changes might reflect what really happened in Commission III.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Brésil pour sa compréhension, dans ces conditions je crois que nous pouvons accepter cet amendement.

Paragraphe 7: adopté. Paragraphe 8: adopté. Résolution 11/87: Procédure d'élection des présidents et des mentores du comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Pas de commentaires? Adopté.

Le Secrétariat me signale une faute dans la version anglaise dans le paragraphe 1. Est-ce que le Secrétariat pourrait expliquer cela rapidement?

R.M. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): In paragraph 2 in the English text on page 7, there has simply been a typographical error. The word "Committee" at the end of paragraph 1, "in fact represented on the Committees", the word "Committee" should simply be a plural, "Committees".

Paragraphs 5 to 8, including Appendix, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 5 à 8, y compris l'Annexe, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 5 a 8, incluido el Apéndice, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 12, including Appendix, approved
Les paragraphes 9 à 12, y compris les Annexes, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 a 12, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 17, including Appendix, approved
Les paragraphes 13 à 17, y compris les Annexes, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 13 a 17, incluidos los Apéndices, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 AND 19, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
LES PARAGRAPHES 18 ET 19, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
LOS PARRAFOS 18 Y 19, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphe 18 de l'Ordre du jour "comptes vérifiés". J'ai différentes interventions Le Royaume-Uni. Y a-t-il des commentaires à ce sujet?

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): I just have a short sentence to add to the end of paragraph 18: "Conference welcomed the Auditors' Report and comments regarding personnel policies and feedback and monitoring of evaluation findings".

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des commentaires concernant cette Résolution?

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Je voudrais dire que la Conférence ne s'est pas penchée sur les questions qui viennent d'être évoquées par le représentant du Royaume-Uni. Elle aura l'occasion à la Conférence et avec les instances responsables, lors de la discussion au CPA de ces différents points, d'examiner s'il y a raison d'être satisfait ou pas. Mais la Conférence ne s'est pas penchée en détail sur cet aspect du problème. Alors on peut difficilement noter avec satisfaction les résultats d'un examen qui n'a pas eu lieu.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I am supporting what the delegate of the UK said previously. We certainly welcome the comments in the Auditors' Report, as we also welcome the very detailed information that was given by Mr Crowther on the follow-up activities and the Director-General's very positive attitude towards the recommendations. So we certainly in part 2 of our discussions, support the UK delegation on this. We might add a little sentence to it, that we also welcome the response of the Secretariat, if that would balance it even more since we were quite positive to the results the Secretariat gave us.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Unicamente para apoyar, pero de manera muy firme, lo que acaba de manifestar la Delegación de Bélgica. Yo creo que nuestro informe debe reflejar hechos que verdaderamente acontecieron y no hagamos interpretaciones.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): What has just been expressed by His Excellency, Ambassador of Belgium, reflects the facts. We did not debate on this issue, Sir. However, I see no difficulty in adding something along the lines of what was proposed by the United Kingdom. However, I would personally prefer to have this extra addition to correspond to the wish expressed by Sweden. If we are going to include anything else, we should include what was proposed by Sweden.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): I should like to raise two points. First, I should like to request the Secretariat to inform us whether, when the resolution was passed by the Finance Committee or by the Council, there was any wording to indicate whether either the Finance Committee or the Council welcomed the Auditor's Report on the points that have been raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

My second point is that, if a sentence is to be included at all, I would suggest that the word "welcomed" should be replaced by the word "noted", which is more neutral.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu' effectivement, au cours de la discussion de ce point sur les comptes vérifiés, plusieurs délégations ont parlé des questions de politique du personnel, et M. Crowther a donné des explications complètes à la fin. Je crois que la proposition faite par la Suède pourrait être acceptée. C'est une proposition tout à fait acceptable. Ce sont deux choses qui sont tout à fait séparées. Le paragraphe 18 actuel parle d'une chose, et la proposition du Royaume-Uni parle d'autre chose, qui complète la discussion. Je crois que nous pouvons accepter cet ajout avec, peut-être, l'ajout proposé par la Suède. Puis-je demander à la déléguée de la Suède de formuler cet ajout?

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): "The Conference noted with satisfaction the action so far taken by the Secretariat". I could adopt a better formulation if someone has one to suggest, but I should like to see something to that effect included.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Secretary to read the whole paragraph as it is formulated.

R.M. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): The way I have copied it, this is the suggestion of the United Kingdom and the additional suggestion of Sweden. My understanding is that it will come at the end of paragraph 18, but there has been some suggestion to make it a separate paragraph, and perhaps that will be preferable. It would be a new paragraph 19 and the others would be renumbered. It would read as follows: "The Conference welcomed the Auditor's Report and comments regarding personnel policies and feedback and monitoring of evaluation findings and noted with satisfaction the action taken thus far by the Secretariat."

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): In reply to the question from the delegate from India concerning whether or not such comments were made in either the Finance Committee or the Council, mention was indeed made in the reports of the Finance Committee and of the Council concerning this.

Regarding the words that have just been read out, I would make just a small change at the very end concerning the Secretariat's response, because the Secretariat per se does not normally respond, the Director-General does. If we could add at the very end, "and noted with satisfaction the Director-General's response", I think that would probably take care of it.

Salahuddin AHMED (World Food Programme): My point is not on the substance of the text. I think there could be confusion in the understanding of the two paragraphs. In paragraph 18 there is reference to the Audited Accounts, which the WFP is part of. If I am not wrong, we are discussing the other parts where the FAO is involved. I request that it should be made clear in the text where it is referring to the other parts of the Accounts and not the WFP part of the Accounts.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du PAM. Y a-t-il une objection à spécifier dans ce nouveau paragraphe? La Conférence parle ici de comptes de la FAO et non pas de ceux du PAM. Je crois que c'est faisable. Il n'y a pas d'objections? Donc, nous pouvons adopter ce nouveau paragraphe modifié. Le Secrétariat le formulera. Paragraphe 18 existant adopté. La Suède demande la parole.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I have no objection if the paragraph we have amended comes before paragraph 18, because we first started with the report on the Regular Programme and then continued with the UNDP and the World Food Programme. That would be a logical sequence in that the reports were presented and discussed in that way.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): J'interviens sur un point. J'avais demandé la parole après le Royaume-Uni. Le texte anglais et espagnol me donne satisfaction, mais le texte français me pose certains problèmes. Il est parlé, en effet, à la sixième ligne, du respect des règles et normes appropriées. C'est un terme extrêmement flou et extrêmement vague. Nous avons parlé du respect et des normes existantes, donc des normes qui existent à l'heure actuelle. Les termes "pertinentes" ou "relevant" me donnent satisfaction et je crois qu'il faudrait parler du respect des règles et des normes existantes, de ce qui existe, et pas de ce qu'on estime ou qu'on n'estime pas approprié. Chacun a son interprétation de ce terme. Donc, je prendrais dans la traduction française, le terme "existant".

LE PRESIDENT: On pourrait même préciser en mettant "les règles et normes pertinentes" comme en espagnol, qui est encore plus précis, peut-être. La déléguée de la Suède proposait que le nouveau paragraphe proposé par le Royaume-Uni devienne le paragraphe 18 et que le paragraphe 18 existant devienne le paragraphe 19. Je crois que cela suit la logique des choses et que nous pouvons l'accepter ainsi. Le nouveau paragraphe 18 et l'ancien paragraphe 18 et le nouveau paragraphe 19 sont adoptés tels que proposés. La résolution concerne les comptes vérifiés. Y a-t-il des commentaires à ce sujet? Adopté.

Paragraphs 18 and 19, including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 et 19, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 y 19, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 22, including draft resolution and Appendix, approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 22, y compris le projet de résolution et l'Annexe, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 22, incluido el proyecto de resolución y el Apéndice, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 23, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
LE PARAGRAPHE 23, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
EL PARRAFO 23, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

LE PRESIDENT: Point 22: "Retour du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient dans cette région", paragraphe 23• Le Secrétariat a un commentaire à faire.

R.M. STEIN (Secretary, Commission III): On paragraph 23, there is a mistake in the English text only. The French text and the Spanish text are correct. The footnotes in the English text are in the wrong order, and we will correct it. Footnote 1 should obviously be the document references and footnote 2 should be, "One Member Nation expressed the view ..." etc. It is very fornai. As far as I know it is correct in the other languages.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The Secretariat seems to have unwittingly missed out Arabic. This mistake is also in the Arabic version of the text.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'Arabie Saoudite de cette précision et de ses corrections. Est-ce que nous pouvons adopter le paragraphe 23? Adopté. La Résolution concernant le retour du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient au Caire est adoptée.

Paragraph 23, including draft resolution, approved
Le paragraphe 23, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé
El párrafo 23, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 24 TO 30, INCLUDING APPENDIX AND DRAFT RESOLUTION
LES PARAGRAPHERS 24 A 30, Y COMPRIS L'ANNEXE ET LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
LOS PARRAFOS 24 A 30, INCLUIDO EL APENDICE Y EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

LE PRESIDENT: "Etat des Contributions: paragraphe 24. La Belgique a la parole.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Une petite remarque. A la cinquième ligne il est indiqué que le total des montants restants dûs s'élèvent à 91 636 591, 14 dollars E.-U. Je crois qu'il serait bon de préciser le total restant dû "pour l'exercice 1989" s'élève à..., de façon à ce que les choses soient claires. On a l'impression que le total des arriérés... alors qu'il n'y a pas mal d'arriérés des exercices antérieurs à 1989. Alors je préciserais après restants dûs "pour l'exercice 1989".

LE PRESIDENT: Cette précision est bienvenue. Y a-t-il des commentaires sur ce paragraphe? Il est donc adopté tel que commenté par la Belgique.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Je parle du paragraphe 24, car vous n'aviez pas vu ma pancarte. Je pose une question. A la ligne 3, du paragraphe 24, on parle de 28 membres qui n'avaient fait aucun versement en 1987. Est-ce bien l'année que l'on veut indiquer? N'est-ce pas l'année 1989?

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande au Secrétariat de vérifier l'année. En effet il s'agit de 1989. C'est une affaire de date. La paragraphe peut être adopté avec l'ajout de la Belgique. Donc: "le total des montants restants dûs pour 1989 s'élèvent à...". Paragraphe 25. Pas de commentaire? Adopté. Nous passons à la page 34 "Règlements des contributions recouvrables". Paragraphe 26. Adopté. Paragraphe 27. Adopté. Paragraphe 28. Adopté. Paragraphe 29. Adopté. Paragraphe 30. "Résolutions concernant le règlement des contributions ordinaires". Adopté.

Paragraphs 24 to 30, including Appendix and draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 24 à 30, y compris l'Annexe et le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 24 a 30, incluido el Apéndice y el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 31 to 33 approved

Les paragraphes 31 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 a 33 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 34 TO 38

PARAGRAPHES 34 A 38

PARRAFOS 34 A 38

LE PRESIDENT: Point 23.3 de l'Ordre du jour: "Niveau des dépenses d'appui du PNUD et des fonds fiduciaires". Paragraphe 34. Adopté. Paragraphe 35. Adopté. Paragraphe 36. Adopté. Paragraphe 37. Adopté. Paragraphe 38. J'ai deux orateurs: le Royaume-Uni et la Belgique. Je passe la parole au Royaume-Uni.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would like if possible to add to sentences to paragraph 38, to adequately reflect what I think we said in the debate. After "... preparation for the fifth programming cycle." we would add: "They considered it important to adhere to this timetable. It was pointed out that this schedule of decision-taking might require consultation between the FAO Secretariat and Member States outside the working Governing Bodies, so as to ensure that the interests of the Organization should be adequately reflected in the decisions to be taken in the UNDP Governing Council."

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Est-ce que le Secrétariat a pris note? Je remercie le distingué délégué du Royaume-Uni. Y a-t-il des alimentaires concernant cette proposition?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): M. le Président, je regrette de ne pouvoir en aucun cas marquer mon accord sur une intervention quelconque en dehors des organes directeurs. J'ai relu attentivement tout le verbatim de la discussion qui a eu lieu après l'exposé de M. Rinville, sont intervenus l'honorable représentant de Madagascar, nous-mêmes, M. Derus de la république fédérale d'Allemagne, M. Pirès du Cap-Vert, M. Allen du Royaume-Uni et M. Graeve de la France. Or, il est fait état dans le rapport de "quelques Etats Membres ont fait observer", il s'agit d'un Etat Membre et nous avons tous demandé - tous les autres Etats qui sont intervenus en l'espèce - que les organes directeurs de la FAO, en l'occurrence le Comité financier, le Comité du programme et le Conseil de 90, puissent être saisis des propositions. Là nous avons été tous extrêmement clairs sur ce point, et en relisant le verbatim je peux vous dire qu'un seul Etat n'a pas partagé ce point de vue, que c'était en l'occurrence le Royaume-Uni. Je ne suis pas d'accord pour que l'on mette "plusieurs Etats Membres" puisqu'il s'agit d'un Etat Membre, et je ne suis pas d'accord pour des contacts quelconques en dehors des organes directeurs.

Patrick DEMONGEOT (United States of America): We fully support the suggestion by the United Kingdom to add this clarifying sentence. We would like to draw attention to the fact that the ACC decision merely refers to the implementation of the arrangements, which is sure to mean the implementation of the arrangements after they have already been approved, whereas the proposition by the United Kingdom refers to consultation prior to the decision which should be made at the June 1990 Governing Council of UNDP.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Secrétariat sur un amendement du texte arabe. Dans le texte arabe à la 3ème ligne: "ne dépasserait pas en fait l'année 1990" et non pas 1989 comme cela a été mis dans le texte arabe. Il faudra corriger le texte arabe "novembre 1990" et non pas "novembre 1989". Merci.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous n'étions pas de ceux qui étaient intervenus sur ce point, mais nous sommes par principe acquis au fait qu'il faut que les fonctions qui reviennent aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation soient respectées. La proposition qui vient de nous être faite comporte 2 phrases, nous n'avons pas d'objection particulière en ce qui concerne la première phrase, mais la seconde phrase nous pose des problèmes.

Nous sommes en train de nous demander si derrière l'idée formulée on pense à un groupe de contact quelconque, mais en tout état de cause s'il s'agit de contacts informels, nous serions pour que l'on ne mentionne pas ce genre d'activités. Donc, pour nous résumer, nous sommes pour qu'on retienne la 1ère phrase de la proposition et nous sommes contre la 2ème phrase qui sous-entend beaucoup de choses, d'autant plus qu'il s'agit peut-être des activités informelles, dans ces conditions nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'en faire mention dans un document officiel.

Michael DERUS (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would also request that the sentence suggested by the United Kingdom representative be inserted as he read it out into the Report. We made a similar point in the third Committee and we would like to have this taken into account in this Report.

Antonio Rodriguez PIRES (Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert a participé activement à ce point de l'Ordre du jour, nous nous rallions à la délégation de la Belgique sur ses propos détaillés.

Mrs Patricia FULLER (Canada): We would also like to support the inclusion in the Report of the sentences proposed by the United Kingdom. This was a point made by them during the debate on this item, and we regard it as an important element of that debate. We therefore consider that it should be reflected in the report.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): En aras del tiempo y de no alargar más este punto, por las razones incuestionables expresadas por el distinguido Bribba Jador de Bélgica, apoyamos su adecuada observación.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): We do not, and can not, accept that the interests of FAO should be dealt with by a restricted small group of Member States. Matters pertaining to the interests of FAO involve all Member States; all of them are represented in the Governing Bodies of FAO, so why, then, take away this prerogative? We are speaking of 128 countries, and it would be impossible for them all to be represented in an arrangement of this kind. Therefore, we can agree to the first sentence suggested by the United Kingdom representative, but we consider that the last part of the second sentence, commencing "outside the working of the Governing Bodies..." should be taken out.

These activities should all be carried out within the context of the Governing Bodies, between the Secretariat and the countries, because the Governing Bodies should participate in the whole process, and should be heard. The representatives of Belgium and the Congo showed that they were very open to this aspect and we fully support that. No negotiations should take place outside the Governing Bodies of FAO.

Bashir Al Mabrouk SAID (Libya): First, I would ask for clarification. This report is supposed to be a faithful reflection of the debates of the Plenary Session, and any amendment which has not been discussed in the course of a general debate is unacceptable. Therefore, we fully support the constructive suggestions made by the distinguished delegate of Belgium. If, in the course of the general debate, one country made a proposal, then this should be spelled out in the Report - one country, not a few, or a majority, or sane. It would not be very wise to reopen the debate now and trigger a discussion which never took place in Plenary.

Parviz KARBASSI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): My delegation would fully support the statement made by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Belgium.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): My delegation feels that we are creating an unnecessary debate, since we all share the same beliefs. The first is that we all wish to protect the interests of the Organization, and I think that is what the delegate of the United Kingdom was pointing towards.

The second problem is: how do we best protect it, and how do we discuss this matter in the Governing Bodies and in the Council if the UNDP Governing Council is to meet and take a decision before our next Council, which will take place in November 1990?

Perhaps the solution might be to delete the phrase "outside the working of the Governing Bodies", and ask the FAO Finance Committee to discuss and look into the matter. The Member States will then have a chance to look at these issues through the Finance Committee since the Finance Committee will presumably meet before the UNDP Governing Body, if the sequence of the meetings will be the same as in the past.

Therefore, the solution to this problem may be to ask the Finance Committee to consider this matter.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo creo que a estas alturas estamos realmente en pleno debate, lo cual me parece un poco irregular. Yo en beneficio de lo que usted ha pedido de que seamos breves, voy a limitarme a apoyar la posición que han expresado muy claramente los señores Embajadores de Bélgica, Congo y Arabia Saudita. Me parece que sus argumentos son perfectamente convincentes.

José ROBLES AGUIKLAR (México): Solamente para manifestar nuestro apoyo a la propuesta del distinguido representante de Bélgica. Consideramos que la propuesta del Reino Unido no refleja el debate que se dio sobre el particular. Por otra parte, queremos manifestar también nuestra oposición a que se realicen negociaciones fuera del marco de los órganos rectores del organismo.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de continuer le débat sur ce point, j'aimerais demander au Royaume-Uni s'il pourrait accepter la proposition de la Suède, et si les autres délégations pourraient se rallier à cette proposition, qui serait de remplacer la partie de phrase: "en dehors des organes directeurs de la FAO" par: "le Comité des finances".

Est-ce que le Royaume-Uni pourrait se rallier à cette proposition?

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): Yes, Mr Chairman, but I should like the Programme and Finance Committees also to be included in that.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je ne suis évidemment pas opposé à ce que le Royaume-Uni exprime sa position. Il l'a exprimée lors du débat, mais je voudrais faire remarquer une fois de plus que toute une série d'autres pays qui sont intervenus dans le courant du débat ont eu une position absolument différente. Je vous proposerais de marquer: "un état membre a fait observer", il peut mettre tout ce qu'il veut, mais en ce qui concerne les autres qui sont intervenus, je mettrais: "plusieurs états ont insisté pour que le Conseil d'administration du PNUD ne prenne pas de décision sans consultation sérieuse des agences et sans délibération de leurs instances dirigeantes". Cela me paraît clair et cela me paraît une procédure normale. C'est d'ailleurs la position qui a été clairement exprimée par la plupart des pays qui sont intervenus, à l'exception bien sûr du Royaume-Uni. Je crois qu'il est tout à fait respectable que le Royaume-Uni exprime sa position, mais il est aussi respectable que les autres pays puissent exprimer la leur.

Gonzalo BOLA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseábamos expresar nuestro apoyo a las posiciones originales de Bélgica, Arabia Saudita, Libia, Congo y otros colegas. Pero la propuesta de nuestra amiga y colega la Sra. Bergquist de Suecia, nos parece muy razonable. En relación con la última reacción del distinguido colega y amigo Embajador Saintraint de Bélgica quisiera hacerle notar, de manera muy cordial y respetuosa, que ya en su forma actual el párrafo 38 hace referencia a que "la Conferencia hizo observar"; y luego la segunda frase del párrafo 38 destaca la función de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en cuanto a este examen.

Dentro de estos parámetros y para evitar que se prolongue la discusión, quisiéramos pedirle al colega de Bélgica y a los demás miembros de esta Comisión que aceptemos la propuesta del Reino Unido tal como ha sido modificada por Suecia; o sea, que se acepta la primera parte en cuanto a la importancia de conservar el calendario; y luego, la segunda, haciendo eliminación de las consultas o contactos fuera del marco de los órganos rectores.

El encabezamiento de esta frase podría ser como lo dijo el colega de Bélgica: "Un Estado Miembro", pero en vista de que varios Estados Miembros están apoyando esa posición, podríamos también, con espíritu de compromiso y a pesar de nuestra convicción contraria, aceptar que se diga tal como ya aparece en el párrafo 38, "Unos pocos Estados Miembros". Esperamos que así pueda ser adoptado este párrafo 38 y concluir los trabajos de esta Comisión.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le distingué délégué de la Colombie pour sa proposition très constructive. Est-ce que les délégations peuvent l'accepter?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Dans un esprit de conciliation, et pour permettre le déroulement des travaux de notre Commission, je marque mon accord avec ce que vient de proposer notre collègue et ami l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos en retenant la formule "unos pocos" parce que je crois qu'il est extrêmement important de refléter les choses telles qu'elles se sont passées en Commission III à la date du 23 novembre 1989. Or, je ne vois pas pourquoi maintenant le point de vue exprimé par le Royaume-Uni devrait être appuyé par d'autres pays qui ne sont pas intervenus lors des délibérations de la Commission III. Nous retenons uniquement le rapport de ce qui s'est fait en Commission III.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uni peut-il être d'accord avec cette formulation?

J'ai encore trois autres pays sur ma liste qui ont demandé la parole. Continuent-ils de vouloir prendre la parole sur ce point-là? Il s'agit du Chili, de Panama et du Danemark. Ils n'insistent pas.

Je considère donc que le paragraphe 38 amendé est adopté.

Paragraphs 34 to 38, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 34 à 38, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 34 a 38, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 39 to 43 approved

Les paragraphes 39 à 43 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 39 a 43 son aprobados

Paragraphs 44 and 45 approved

Les paragraphes 44 et 45 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 44 y 45 son aprobados

Paragraph 46 approved

Le paragraphe 46 est approuvé

El párrafo 46 es aprobado

Paragraph 47 approved

Le paragraphe 47 est approuvé

El párrafo 47 es aprobado

Paragraph 48, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 48, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 48, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 49 to 53, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 49 à 53, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 49 a 53, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons ainsi terminé l'adoption de notre rapport dans sa totalité. Je remercie tous les membres de la Commission pour leur coopération et je déclare les travaux de la Commission terminés.

Draft Report of Commission III, Part 1, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission III, Partie 1, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión III, Parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours

La séance est levée à 11 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas