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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session • Trentième session • 30° período de sesiones

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS – TABLE DES MATIÈRES - INDICE

**FIRST MEETING
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE
PRIMERA SESIÓN**

(15 November 1999)

Page/Página

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS

PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE

PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS

3

6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

3

**SECOND MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN**

(15 November 1999)

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)

PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)

PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)

30

6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continued)

6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (suite)

6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continuación)

30

7. Gender Mainstreaming in FAO (C 99/INF/21)

7. Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO (C 99/INF/21)

7. Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO (C 99/INF/21)

39

**THIRD MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE
TERCERA SESIÓN**

(16 November 1999)

Page/Página

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)	
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)	
PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)	62
10. Outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multi-functional Character of Agriculture and Land (Maastricht, Netherlands, September 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	
10. Conclusions de la Conférence FAO/Pays-bas sur le caractère multifonctionnel de l'agriculture et des terroirs (Maastricht, Pays-Bas, septembre 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	
10. Resultados de la Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre el Carácter Multifuncional de la Agricultura y la Tierra (Maastricht, Países Bajos, septiembre de 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	62
8. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (C 99/9)	
8. Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (C 99/9)	
8. Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (C 99/9)	68

**FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE
CUARTA SESIÓN**

(16 November 1999)

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)	
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)	
PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)	86
9. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 99/LIM/3)	
9. Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)	
9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)	86
11. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	
11. Conclusions de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires sur la Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	
11. Resultados de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el Convenio de Rotterdam sobre el Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (CFP) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	99

**FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE
QUINTA SESIÓN**

(17 November 1999)

Page/Página

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)	
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)	
PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)	110
6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continued)	
6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (suite)	
6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continuación)	110

**SIXTH MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE
SEXTA SESIÓN**

(17 November 1999)

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)	
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)	
PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)	120
6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (continued) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)	
6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (suite) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)	
6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (continuación) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)	120

**SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN**

(18 November 1999)

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I	
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I	
APROBACION DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I	122
DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART I (C 99/I/REP/1)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – PREMIERE PARTIE (C 99/I/REP/1)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE I (C 99/I/REP/1)	125

7. Gender Mainstreaming in FAO	
7. Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO	
7. Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO	125
DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART II (C 99/I/REP/2)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – DEUXIEME PARTIE	
(C 99/I/REP/2)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE II (C 99/I/REP/2)	128
8. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food And Agriculture (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (French only); C 99/LIM/21)	
8. Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (français seulement); C 99/LIM/21)	
8. Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (sólo francés); C 99/LIM/21)	
	128
10. Outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land (Maastricht, Netherlands, September 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	
10. Conclusions de la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas sur le caractère multifonctionnel de l'agriculture et des terroirs (Maastricht, Pays-Bas, septembre 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	
10. Resultados de la Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre el Carácter Multifuncional de la Agricultura y la Tierra (Maastricht, Países Bajos, septiembre de 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)	
	128
DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART III (C 99/I/REP/3)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – TROISIEME PARTIE	
(C 99/I/REP/3)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE III (C99/I/REP/3)	129
9. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 99/LIM/3)	
9. Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)	
9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)	
	129
11. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	
11. Conclusions de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires sur la Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	
11. Resultados de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el Convenio de Rotterdam sobre el Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (CFP) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)	
	129
DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART IV (C 99/I/REP/4)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – QUATRIEME PARTIE	
(C 99/I/REP/4)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE IV (C 99/I/REP/4)	129

Page/Página

6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

129

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
PRIMERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

15 November 1999

**The First Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Chers délégués, je voudrais avant tout vous remercier pour la confiance que vous avez mise en ma personne, et j'essayerai de faire tout mon possible pour la mériter en essayant de garder le maximum d'impartialité dans des dossiers auxquels j'ai tellement participé que je pourrais avoir la tentation d'y jouer un rôle plus actif, mais je ferai de mon mieux pour être au-dessus des discussions que je souhaite fructueuses.

Je voudrais aussi que ces discussions soient les plus vives possible et, s'il y a des délégations qui ont des textes écrits, le Secrétariat serait très heureux de les recueillir et de les publier dans nos *Verbatim*.

Je voudrais aussi souligner la coïncidence heureuse que la première réunion tenue dans cette salle, qui est le dernier cadeau du Gouvernement italien à la FAO, soit sous ma présidence, et je remercie le Secrétariat d'avoir pensé à cela. Quoique nous devions encore le mettre au point, le Comité de rédaction est composé de la Belgique, la Finlande, le Canada, la Nouvelle-Zélande, la République islamique d'Iran, le Pakistan, la Syrie, le Cameroun, la Guinée, le Japon, la Barbade et le Chili.

Nous attendons encore la nomination du président du Comité de rédaction, et dès que je le saurai, je ne manquerai pas de vous en informer immédiatement.

Nous avons aussi les deux vice-présidents de notre Commission, que je voudrais aussi féliciter: c'est Mme Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Costa Rica et l'Ambassadeur du Kenya, M. Bob Jalango.

Je pense que ce serait un principe de chevalerie si, cet après-midi, pour la discussion sur l'intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO, je laissais la présidence à une femme, donc à la Vice-Présidente de Costa Rica.

Je voudrais, par la suite, vous parler brièvement de notre premier point à l'Ordre du jour, qui est un point très important, c'est la Suite du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et du Plan d'action, et je crois que nous avons un document très dense, un document qui s'articule, au paragraphe 3, avec une série de priorités qui coïncident par ailleurs au texte de la Résolution sur l'Alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire, dont je vous parlerai tout à l'heure, et surtout, c'est le quatrième paragraphe qui m'a favorablement impressionné, parce que c'est ce que je soutiens depuis que je suis accrédité auprès de la FAO, celui où il parle de ...

(continues in English) ... call upon the donors and international financing institutions to accord greater priority to food security and agriculture development. I think that that is a crucial issue just to call upon Governments and financing institutions to accord greater priority to food security and agricultural development. ODA is decreasing unfortunately and is particularly decreasing in the field of agriculture. I think there has been a decrease of 44.4 percent in international assistance to LDCs in agriculture, and the World Bank agricultural lending fell about 71 percent. So I think it is our task, our duty, to draw again the attention of our authorities to the importance of agriculture for all the reasons that you know better than I.

There is another point to which I would like to draw your attention - the fact that in New York our colleagues are working on a document summarizing the great summits of the 1990s, and we have the impression that the World Food Summit of 1996 did not receive all the attention and relevance it deserves, notwithstanding the commitment of the World Food Summit making food security a priority of national development efforts. All those elements will be explained in detail and developed by Assistant Director-General, Mr de Haen. I would first just say a few words on one of the items that is pending in our work - the fact that on the idea of an Alliance for Food Security we have two texts, two Resolutions, one with a series of sponsors, the other one proposed by the G-77. I read both texts very carefully and I think that we could find common

language. I could maybe make a personal suggestion - I may be asking at least one speaker per group to provide guidelines to his group on document C 99/LIM/22. The sponsors of the two Draft Resolutions should meet as soon as possible to prepare one Draft Resolution that is satisfactory to both sponsors. I think that we do not have any interest to transform our meeting into a Drafting Committee, but we can give, on behalf of the two sponsors of the two resolutions, enough elements to the people that will meet afterwards sufficient guidelines to find a positive solution as soon as possible. So, if I can, I would like to give the floor to Mr de Haen who will introduce this very important document on the first agenda item of our discussions.

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE
PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS

6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

It is a pleasure to introduce this item, document C 99/6, entitled *Report on Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action* is presented in response to the decision of Conference in 1997 to examine progress on WFS Follow-up at this Thirtieth Session of the Conference. There are two aspects that have been covered in the report, firstly general progress in follow-up to the World Food Summit as reflected in the work by the Committee on World Food Security, which has been mandated, as we know, by the WFS to be the body within the UN System which monitors the implementation of the Plan of Action at national, regional, and international levels, and secondly highlights, I mean the Report highlights on FAO activities which are undertaken in fulfilment of the role of our Organization in this overall endeavour.

Now first with regard to the CFS monitoring process, the CFS conducted in 1998 its first Review of Progress in Implementing the Plan of Action, based on reports received from national governments and relevant international organizations, and at its Twenty-fifth session in 1999, the Committee decided on its Workplan for future monitoring. This will enable it, starting in the year 2000, to conduct two full cycles of review of implementation before the in-depth mid-term review, which is mandated to take place in the year 2006, of progress towards the target of halving the number of undernourished no later than 2015. These reports must come from national governments to enable such reviews - the immediate requirement being the reports requested by the end of 1999. That means in just six weeks' time they will be due, so we hope that governments are working on the finalization of these reports and they will then enable us and enable you to review these reports in CFS 2000.

May I recall that the Committee had agreed on grouping the commitments into certain clusters and not to review all of them at each session in the session for 2000 and therefore in the reports that are expected of you, there will be a concentration on commitments one, two and five - this is the people-centred cluster of commitments; one concentrating on enabling environments in the countries; commitment two is on access to food and poverty alleviation; and commitment five is on prevention of and preparedness for food emergencies. I would like, therefore, to emphasize this need of reporting and of submission of reports by the end of this year.

In the previous round of reporting, 93 countries submitted reports of which two-thirds reached the Secretariat in time to be included in the analysis of consideration by the CFS this time, and of course I think I speak on your own behalf when I say that we would hope a greater number of reports come to the Secretariat this time.

The issue of the contribution of Civil Society Organizations and other partners in the follow-up to the WFS and its monitoring was also given considerable attention by the CFS in its last session.

Mr Chairman, let me add firstly that all Regional Conferences in the year 2000 will examine the follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action at Sub-regional and Regional levels, and that the timing of the CFS 2000 has been set so as to enable it to benefit from the conclusions of all Regional Conferences. Secondly, in order to streamline the reporting mechanisms on major conferences, the reporting on ICN (the International Conference on Nutrition) and on WCARRD has been subsumed within the reporting of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. This was arranged in full concurrence as regards WCARRD with ECOSOC of the United Nations which is to receive regular reports on the WFS implementation from the CFS through Council. The Director-General personally presented the first such comprehensive Committee on World Food Security report, as endorsed by the Council, to ECOSOC at its 1999 substantive session this past summer.

Now, in looking at FAO's action, I would like to stress that all of FAO's programme of work is permeated by the orientation and priorities deriving from the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. But it was, of course, necessary to be selective in preparing the Report and it is for that reason that only four areas were specifically covered in the document, and these are the Special Programme on Food Security, the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS), the strategies for agriculture development and food security, and fourthly, FAO's assistance in preparing countries for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. These are the four emphases given in this Report.

Now, very briefly Mr Chairman, I should like to make some introductory remarks to these four points.

The Special Programme for Food Security aims to assist LIFDCs in improving their food security situation, particularly through rapid increases in productivity and food production, through reductions in year to year production, and through improved access to food supplies. It is expected to contribute substantially to the efforts of Member Nations in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Food Summit, and as you will know from the note and from the Report provided in paragraphs 15 to 31, the SPFS has made significant progress since the start of its implementation in 1995. Today, the Programme is in operation in 50 countries and under preparation or formulation in another 25 countries. The integrated and participatory approach followed by the Programme has resulted not only in increased yields, but also in the widespread adoption of technologies and, more importantly, in increasing the income of the participating farmers. FAO also launched the South-South Cooperation Initiative within the framework of the SPFS in 1996-97. The idea underlying this Initiative, which is based on solidarity among developing countries is to field a critical mass of experts from an advanced developing country (advanced with respect to the technology in question), to other developing countries to work directly with farmers involved in the Special Programme. This Initiative has received a very enthusiastic response from Member Nations, and today there are nine such initiatives already in operation.

Regarding the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS), this has led to a collaborative effort in which 24 UN Agencies and other Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations are now engaged. FAO plays a catalyst role. It provides the Secretariat to the Inter-agency Working Group that coordinates the work. Now with regard to the outcome so far, I would emphasize firstly that there are some 20 country-level FIVIMS activities underway or proposed for funding. There is a development towards common methodologies and indicators which has made good progress, and work proceeds for a common international database as a means to share information among the various stakeholders. Reports on the FIVIMS progress are regularly supplied to the CFS and work develops under its guidance. It is

also important to know that close links exist at national level in several countries between FIVIMS activities and those of the Thematic Groups which are part of the ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that this network in which FAO is playing a proactive role in very close collaboration with WFP and IFAD brings together the many UN Agencies with mandates and activities related to food security and it constitutes a system-wide mechanism for the follow up to the World Food Summit and for the monitoring of performance indicators.

I shall go briefly into the third main emphasis in the report, National and Regional Strategies. You may recall that in the follow-up to the draft, I mean to the World Food Summit draft, "Draft Strategies for National Agriculture Development: Horizon 2010" had been prepared for 150 developing and transition countries after the Summit. Following this, regional strategies for agriculture development and food security have been prepared for a large or a considerable number of regional and sub-regional economic groupings in which these countries have membership. They are shared with the respective regional or sub-regional institutions or organizations for their further elaboration.

The regional strategies are accompanied by draft regional programmes for food security aimed at implementation of critical actions in the domains of improved productivity and agriculture production at the micro-level, and policy assistance and investment preparation at the macro level. Trade facilitation within and outside these respective regions is another part and assistance to preparation for trade negotiations. All of this aims at mobilizing synergies and resources, taking advantage of commonalities at the regional and sub-regional levels in order to enhance the fulfilment of the national objectives of agriculture development and food security in the Member Nations of these regional groupings.

And finally, regarding trade negotiations, you will recall that the Plan of Action commits FAO to I quote "continue assisting developing countries in preparing for Multilateral Trade Negotiations including in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, *inter alia*, through studies, analysis and training" unquote. The objective is that and here I quote again "developing countries are well informed and equal partners in the negotiation process". Now, of course, to mention this is very timely two weeks before the beginning of the Seattle round of WTO Negotiations and therefore I am glad to report that FAO has implemented a wide range of normative and operational activities in this regard, including for example several regional and National Capacity Building Workshops in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Near East. Not all of this has been completed. The activities are part of an Umbrella Programme which has just been launched and is intended within the foreseeable future and as extra-budgetary funding comes in, to cover 14 to 15 Sub-regions and to benefit five participants from each developing country and country in transition, that is a total of 750 to 800 participants. Furthermore in this area of our work, FAO has just organized in Geneva in September 1999, an important Symposium made possible by extra-budgetary contributions on Agriculture, Trade and Food Security. The Symposium was addressing issues of interest to the missions to the WTO, but there were also participants from the capitals, from the Member Nations and from the Permanent Representations in Rome. It highlighted developing countries concerns related to agricultural trade and in particular the relationship between trade, agriculture and food security. It was an occasion to make good use of numerous studies undertaken by the Secretariat and to present the findings. The Report of the Symposium will be made available at the WTO meeting in Seattle at the end of this month.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, may I add a final concluding remark concerning the document C 99/INF/25 entitled *Information Note on Biosafety* which you also find mentioned under this agenda. I would just like to briefly explain the background of this. This document arises from discussions of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture earlier this year which considered biosafety in the context of biotechnology. At this session, COAG made relevant recommendations concerning biosafety and noted the need for harmonization of risk analysis within existing FAO programmes, particularly the *Codex Alimentarius* and the

International Plant Protection Convention, IPPC. The Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the Council endorsed the conclusions of COAG. The document before you summarizes FAO's response to this discussion that took place in COAG. It outlines the future directions which the Organization intends to follow over the next biennium in close cooperation with relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and in the light of developments regarding the Cartagena Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The document is for information only, and is listed under this item for the simple practical reason that it is cross-sectorial in substance and can be seen as a follow up to several issues addressed in the *Plan of Action of the World Food Summit*. In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would draw the Commission's attention to the list of issues for the consideration by the Conference which are contained in paragraph 3 of the document, as you yourself have already done as well. I thank you for your attention, and of course, my colleagues from the Economic and Social Department, as well as all other Departments that have worked in this area, are present here to respond to your questions, if you have any.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mr de Haen. I think you raised a very important issue on both documents and now the floor is open.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. On behalf of my Government, I simply would like to share with you the progress in the Philippines as far as FIVIMS is concerned in our implementation of the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*. The National Nutrition Council of the Philippines was designated in January 1998 as the formal agency for the institutionalization of a national Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System as part of the commitment made by the Philippines in the 1996 World Food Summit. Following this designation, selected agencies from the Department of Agriculture were organized to form the core group for establishment of international FIVIMS. Since then, two workshops have been conducted to set the ground work for the establishment of FIVIMS in the Philippines participated by different agencies with existing information that can be used in the identification of population and areas that are food insecure and vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

In the future, the Philippines will undertake the following activities to get FIVIMS off the ground: 1) identification of a minimum set of indicators and target vulnerable groups; 2) finalization of the FIVIMS design; 3) preparation of FIVIMS manual of operations; 4) capability-building for member agencies on information technology, mapping, data analysis and utilization; 5) launching and pilot testing of national FIVIMS; 6) documentation of the Philippine experience in establishing FIVIMS; and 7) conduct of awareness and advocacy for generation and mobilization of needed resources at all levels. In all these activities related to the establishment of a national FIVIMS agency, the FAO Representative in the Philippines is always present to provide assistance in the proceedings of the said activities. We do support the concerns of the Secretariat as far as paragraph 3 is concerned, and we do hope that the FAO, especially the FAO Representative in Manila, will also provide continual technical assistance to our projects as far as FIVIMS is concerned.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for having addressed one of the important issues of FIVIMS which is quite important to all of us.

Bob Francis JALANG'O (Kenya)

I would like to take this opportunity firstly to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chairman of this Commission, which will be handling some of the most important and sensitive issues that affect the human population of the world, especially issues dealing with food and

agriculture. So we will support you, and I as one of your Vice-Chairmen will be ready to support you and the Kenya delegation.

Let me just quote from the World Food Summit of November 1996 when our Heads of State and Government committed themselves to making security a priority of the national development efforts or of the development supporting policies. The Summit further agreed to seven commitments aimed at the target of reducing by half the world's undernourished people not later than the year 2015. At that time the undernourished people were estimated at 830 million, and it was estimated that if this figure had to be reduced by half then we had to reduce by at 8 million a year. Unfortunately, the way the statistics are presented at the moment this figure is continuing to rise and this is the reason why the commitments that we will be getting from this Conference are extremely important. We look, for example, at those people who are living on under US\$1 per day. That turns out to be US\$360 a year. These are people in the developing countries, Africa, mainly Sub-Saharan Africa. These are also people who, in addition to famines, are affected by the natural calamities that continue to ravage these poor countries. It is therefore important that we look at this issue very critically. I also note from your opening remarks, and I would like to support you on this, that the facts are showing that ODA is decreasing, and it is decreasing seriously. ODA is decreasing particularly because the developing countries are also hit hard by new other issues. I want to support you also with regard to your comments on the World Bank financing, especially when agriculture is also decreasing and developing country's economies revolve around agriculture. It is these poor people that we have to address today. We in Kenya very much appreciate the commitments that were made at the World Food Summit. When we look at paragraph 15, for example, under the Special Programme for Food Security, I would like to say that on behalf of my Government, we have taken very serious steps to implement this and we have a pilot scheme at the moment for the Special Food Programme for Food Security which is in the expansion phase. We, however, still need a lot of support and assistance from FAO if this Programme has to continue to develop.

On paragraphs 29 to 31, we fully support the South-South Cooperation for the support of special programmes and would like also this Conference to note that we are in the process of undertaking the South-South Cooperation arrangements with the Government of Indonesia for the improvement of production of food security in Africa, I mean in Kenya. In this regard, we fully appreciate the support which has been provided by FAO, especially on the technical lines.

Looking at the major issues under consideration which we see in paragraph 3, there are two that my delegation would like this Conference to pay particular attention to. In paragraph 3, bullet 1, urges all countries which made the commitments during the Summit to submit their Plans of Action by December 1999. From the information available, it looks likely as if not even half the number that committed themselves have submitted this information. Perhaps it may be a point today during this Conference, Mr Chairman, for us to commit ourselves to submit these Plans of Action which will go a long way in assisting FAO to put the overall plan together.

I would also like to support you on bullet 4, which calls upon donors and international financing institutions to accord greater priority to food security and agricultural development. There will be no other important request that we would like to put at this Conference, more than this issue of bullet 4. Without support from the donors, without the support from the international financing institutions, even the Plans of Action that we put to you, even the programmes of agriculture that we put to you, may not be effective unless we fully get the support from the international community. My Government is particularly very appreciative of the support that we have received from the respective donors and international financing institutions. We would just like to continue to call upon them to continue to give aid, especially in the agricultural field.

May I request you at a later stage to allow my expert from my country who has not arrived, to provide further information on the actual situation on the Kenya national programmes.

YOON Kiho (Korea, Republic of)

On behalf of my delegation, I would first like to convey my congratulations on your chairing this Commission, and appreciation for Mr De Haen's informative explanation.

The important thing to be considered in implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action and achieving the Summit goals by the year 2015, is to make common and concerted efforts to minimise possible negative impacts of major exogenous factors which could threaten the food security of developing and importing countries. In this respect, we first wish to draw your attention to the growing concerns about meeting the World Food Summit goals in the case that current trends will simply continue.

In this connection, it seems to noteworthy that except for natural and manmade disasters, the next WTO agricultural negotiations could most probably be the single large factor to adversely affect the efforts by developing and importing countries to ensure food security and food for all at national, regional and international levels. Given this, we appreciate that FAO has held a number of Seminars and Symposia, including among others, the recent Symposium, as mentioned, convened in Geneva late September, to help build up the capacities of developing countries in preparing for the next WTO negotiations, and also opened a separate Website to raise awareness of issues relating to the next negotiations.

We would like to add some points concerning FAO's efforts to assist developing countries in the next WTO negotiations. We consider that future activities of FAO in this area need to be directed more towards reducing possible deteriorations in world food security due to the outcome of the next WTO negotiations, and towards safeguarding food security of developing and importing countries with research and study-based policy advice. We recall that we heard at the Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the FAO Council, that in pursuance of the CCP's request for further analysis of the UR impact, the Secretariat was preparing a more comprehensive analysis with particular reference to the issue of food security, and that the Secretariat reported that the analysis would be available before the Seattle Ministerial Conference this month. We would like to be informed of any progress in the analysis and would request the Secretariat to have this research tabled, if already made available.

In parallel with this, we wish to request the Secretariat to undertake scenario analyses of major issues linked to the next WTO negotiations in the context of food security, and provide Member Nations with their policy implications in the process of the negotiations. Furthermore, we suggest that where appropriate, FAO take a multidisciplinary approach in doing so.

Sra. Suze PERCY (Haití)

Señor Presidente, es para mí un placer ver a usted presidir los trabajos de esta Comisión. Quisiera también agradecer a los demás miembros de la Mesa, y agradecer al señor de Haen por la introducción de ese documento.

Los países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe reiteran el compromiso y la voluntad política acordada en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, que tuvo lugar en Roma en noviembre de 1996, y hacen suyos los lineamientos expresados en la Declaración de Roma y el Plan de Acción.

La 30ª Conferencia de la FAO nos brinda un marco insustituible para realizar una profunda reflexión al ser la última Conferencia del siglo. Nuestra alarma y preocupación tienen dimensiones incalculables, ya que en lugar de decrecer el número de personas hambrientas en el mundo las cifras indican su aumento, siendo el escenario habitual de nuestros países en vía de desarrollo. A la Cumbre Mundial asistieron todos los países aquí presentes, hubo un compromiso, abrió una esperanza, de no cumplirse sus acuerdos sería una decepción, y es una decepción más para los países en desarrollo. Persiste la pobreza, aumenta la desigualdad y se acrecienta la

diferencia entre ricos y pobres. La producción de alimentos en nuestra Región ha empeorado, y en estos últimos tiempos el enorme peso de la deuda, los efectos negativos de la globalización y los diversos factores de índole climático, son algunas de las causas de los serios estragos a la seguridad alimentaria en muchos de los países de la Región. En consecuencia, y teniendo en cuenta estos hechos, que cada día inciden con más fuerza en el presente y futuro de nuestros vulnerables países, es menester la aplicación de esos históricos acuerdos que alientan un trato especial a favor de los países en desarrollo.

Reconocemos que con arreglo al mandato recibido de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, la FAO ha tomado importantes medidas con vistas al seguimiento y la vigilancia futura. Hemos sido testigos de la preparación y sugerencias para la recopilación de la información que indicarán los progresos en la consecución del objetivo de reducir a la mitad el número de personas desnutridas no más tarde del 2015, y mediante esos controles comprobar si nos alejamos o si nos acercamos a los objetivos apropiados. Nuestro Grupo regional manifiesta su preocupación ya que las cifras más recientes, e indicadores, señalan que el número de hambrientos en el mundo ha aumentado en los últimos tres años en lugar de disminuir. Lo que resulta inadmisibles y es una alarma que nos indica la falta de cumplimiento adecuado de los compromisos y metas acordados en la Cumbre. Por lo anterior, señor Presidente, el GRULAC considera que la FAO, y otras agencias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, así como los Países Miembros, en especial aquéllos de mayor desarrollo, deben cumplir de manera cabal con sus obligaciones y compromisos en la materia, pues las cifras muestran que a la fecha ha habido un precario compromiso de cooperación internacional con vistas a garantizar el objetivo general de asegurar en todo momento alimentos para todos.

Lamentablemente, no se ha priorizado la necesidad de atenuar los problemas derivados del subdesarrollo, como son la malnutrición y la persistencia de las desigualdades en la distribución del ingreso al interior de los países en desarrollo, siendo testigos, en la mayoría de los casos, del aumento de la pobreza rural, lo que coadyuva a ampliar cada vez más la brecha entre países ricos y países pobres. Nuestra Región ha planteado estas preocupaciones en sus Conferencias Regionales, las ha canalizado dentro del marco del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en el propio Consejo de la FAO, y a lo largo de los trabajos de seguimiento de la Cumbre ha reiterado a la FAO sus prioridades, seguros de que estas acciones pueden dar un especial impulso a favor de nuestras endebles economías.

El GRULAC insta a la FAO a continuar apoyando a los países en vía de desarrollo en cuestiones comerciales, con vistas a prepararse para las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales, incluidas aquéllas sobre la agricultura, la pesca y la silvicultura, para que estén informados y participen en pie de igualdad en el proceso de negociación. Dentro del marco de esta problemática, los temas relacionados con la eliminación de las barreras al comercio, el proceso de apertura de los mercados, la eliminación de subsidios a las exportaciones, la no discriminación en las condiciones de acceso, la correcta aplicación de las medidas zoológicas y fitosanitarias, la armonización de los aranceles y la adopción de las normas internacionales, serían, entre otras, condiciones necesarias para la buena marcha de nuestros países. Especial consideración hemos solicitado para los pequeños Estados Insulares, los que por su fragilidad ante los factores climáticos, y por otros, sufren con intensidad los avatares de la economía mundial. Una gestión sostenible de los recursos naturales, una correcta política por la promoción de la mujer, las reformas de las instituciones agrarias, el desarrollo de los recursos humanos, el financiamiento para el desarrollo rural sostenible y el impacto de los desastres naturales en la inestabilidad de la oferta alimentaria, son otros temas que nuestra Región prioriza para contrarrestar, prevenir, y mitigar los factores negativos que impiden formular programas de reconstrucción del aparato productivo.

Como quedó expresado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, ratificado luego en distintos eventos de la FAO, nuestra Región reitera que los alimentos no deberían utilizarse como instrumento de presión política y económica. Reafirmamos la importancia de la cooperación y la solidaridad internacional, así como la necesidad de abstenerse de aplicar medidas unilaterales que

no estén en consonancia con el derecho internacional y con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, y que pongan en peligro la seguridad alimentaria.

El GRULAC considera encomiable y oportuna la adecuada coordinación de esfuerzos en función de la complementariedad de los mandatos de la FAO, el PMA y el FIDA, que reafirme los conocimientos técnicos, la asistencia financiera internacional y la ayuda alimentaria para acelerar el logro de los objetivos previstos y evitar la duplicación de funciones, permitiendo contar con una base institucional universal, firme y permanente.

El GRULAC manifiesta su preocupación ante la crisis financiera de la FAO, y reitera la necesidad de que sus principales contribuyentes cumplan con sus compromisos y la doten de los recursos necesarios para que pueda desarrollar a cabalidad sus objetivos y colabore con los gobiernos en el fortalecimiento y ampliación de programas técnicos y económicos y, en especial, el PESA y el PST.

El GRULAC estima necesario promover una mayor, y correcta, cooperación técnica intrarregional e interregional, tanto Sur-Sur, como Norte-Sur, y es necesaria la búsqueda de nuevas iniciativas que tiendan a la financiación del Programa Ordinario de la Organización, así como la ampliación del espacio de apoyo de los donantes.

El GRULAC expresa la importancia de la optimización de sistemas, como el de Información y Alerta Temprana para la prevención de calamidades y los Sistemas de Información y Cartografía sobre la seguridad alimentaria y la vulnerabilidad para la identificación de las zonas afectadas por la inseguridad alimentaria en nuestros países. Apoyamos las estrategias para el desarrollo agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria, así como la formulación de programas y estrategias regionales que agilicen las respuestas colectivas a problemas comunes que afrontan nuestras regiones.

Nadie discute la importancia de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, sus textos, la Declaración política y el Plan de Acción. La cuestión del presente no es interpretar lo acordado, sino cumplirlo. El desafío, por tanto, es el cumplimiento de esos acuerdos. Nos preguntamos ¿vamos a entrar en un nuevo siglo con el peso enorme en nuestras conciencias al reconocer que no fuimos capaces de cumplir con esos nobles acuerdos que aprobamos tan sólo hace tres años?

Raimo ANTTOLA (Finland)

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I would like to welcome the Report on the Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

It is important to remember that the World Food Summit was part of a series of UN summits held during the 1990s which elevated the profile of key concerns such as reduction of poverty, environment, population and hunger. FAO must ensure that the attention paid by the UN System and its Member Governments to the World Food Summit is not forgotten. Follow-up discussion to the key UN Summits of the 1990s must include a review of achievements in the targets set for reducing world hunger. The UN System must focus on the targets as strongly as it focuses on the commitments entered in the other UN Summits. In addition, we believe that clearly-defined responsibilities between the different UN Agencies and other actors could be helpful in working together towards reaching the World Food Summit objectives. The European Community and its Member States attach great importance to the national food security strategies. Not only is a drafting of national strategies crucial, but even more important is that Governments implement national plans of action on food security in a sustained manner. While the main responsibility for the follow-up and implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action lies with the Governments, it is essential to anchor the national work to a regional forum and we therefore welcome the intention to place the World Food Summit Implementation as a standing item on Regional Conference Agendas.

Global targets can mask severe deterioration in hunger statistics at the national and regional levels. For this reason, national or regional targets are required to assess the trend in the numbers of hungry people more effectively. Let me reflect on the issues for consideration mentioned in the Report under discussion. The European Community and its Member States support the conclusion of the Committee on World Food Security to keep the reporting format simple and straightforward. FAO Members are encouraged to report on their concrete activities and the results achieved. Particular attention should be paid to the success stories and shortcomings in order to enable countries to learn from each other's experiences and best practices.

However, Members should not be overburdened by too heavy reporting obligations. Thus, existing data should be utilised as extensively as possible. We appreciate the recommendation of the Committee on World Food Security to get Non-governmental and Civil Society Organisations more involved in the work of the Committee. The special knowledge and experience which NGOs and Civil Service Organisations have in the field of food security is most valuable, and an adequate monitoring system is vital for keeping abreast with the food security situation in the world. Thus we heartily encourage FAO to continue its work in this area in close co-operation with all relevant multilateral agencies concerned with poverty eradication.

The Committee on World Food Security is the anchor place for this work and it is here that we need to focus and place our efforts regarding the follow-up work. Concerning the monitoring system, broadly-agreed and supported indicators should be used. FAO should develop more specific indicators than those hitherto used in the cooperation with other international agencies. The free films once operational will provide a basic tool underpinning this interagency work.

Concerning the Special Programme for Food Security, it is vital that Member States get a first evaluation report on the results of this Programme at the very earliest convenience. Before receiving this, further investment in this Programme does not seem sound. In support of the Special Programme for Food Security, the cooperation with the World Food Programme as substantiated by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in March this year, shows that FAO is deepening its teamwork with partners, which is positive. It would be very satisfying to see the International Fund for Agricultural Development also joining in.

Mr Chairman, the European Community and its Member States are very concerned by the present negative trend in hunger and malnutrition. We believe that a new momentum and a new initiative are needed in order to achieve progress towards the objectives agreed at the World Food Summit. Furthermore, we wish to see the Committee on World Food Security becoming a principle forum in which partners come together to debate food security, and how to tackle problems related to it in addition to its regular monitoring and reporting work.

The European Community and its Member States have therefore submitted a Draft Resolution to the Conference on an Alliance for Food Security in order to increase cooperation among the Rome-based UN Agencies, as well as to develop a common strategy and approach to food security in the most vulnerable of countries and Regions.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you to the distinguished delegate of Finland, who spoke also on behalf of the European Community and its Members States, as well as to the Haitian Representative who refers also to the GRULAC point of view. This is important because we have a number of countries' views grouped in one statement.

List of speakers is as follows: Swaziland, Switzerland, Japan, Cameroon, Turkey, United States of America, Norway, Denmark, El Salvador, Mexico, United Republic of Tanzania, Malaysia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Canada, Cuba, China, and Argentina.

So, I am of course in your hands, but I would like to recall what I said at the beginning, that the new document, C 99/LIM/22 on the first Report of the Resolutions Committee is requesting that

the sponsors of the Draft Resolution meet as soon as possible for the purpose of preparing one draft resolution on food security and the Alliance of Food Security satisfactory to both sponsors. So we could maybe delegate our experts to start their work in parallel to our meeting to accelerate the process, as all of us wish to reach an agreement this morning. But I am of course in your hands, because it depends on different delegations' views. So, if there is no objection, we can ask those groups who are following this document to start work as soon as possible. Any views on that?

So, if there is no objection I think that within five or ten minutes, sponsors of both Resolutions could meet – I don't know where – the Secretariat will inform us where they could meet, and start the drafting exercise, keeping in mind the two texts.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole dans cette Commission, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des autres acteurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence dans notre Commission ainsi que les autres membres du bureau.

Le document nous trace le progrès accompli depuis l'adoption du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation. On peut constater que les objectifs définis au paragraphe 60 ont été mis en application. S'agissant de l'objectif fixé à savoir réduire de moitié le nombre des populations sous alimentées avant 2015 il y a lieu d'observer que ce nombre est en train d'augmenter. Par conséquent des mesures très sérieuses doivent être envisagées pour qu'on obtienne une réduction substantielle du nombre des affamés. Nous sommes certains que cela est réalisable compte tenu du fait qu'on assiste actuellement à une nette prise de conscience de la part de la Communauté internationale à propos du problème de la famine et de la pauvreté qui affectent le monde.

En ce qui concerne les mesures prises par la FAO sur l'application du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial nous ne pouvons que nous en féliciter car nous le retrouvons dans tout le programme de fond de l'Organisation ainsi que dans les différentes activités de tous ses comités techniques. Nous tenons à encourager également la FAO dans les efforts qu'elle ne cesse d'entreprendre visant à consolider sa collaboration avec d'autres Organisations du système des Nations Unies dans le but de permettre à toutes les populations diminuées d'accéder à une alimentation adéquate. Le Programme spécial de la Sécurité alimentaire a démontré son efficacité car ces résultats positifs ont été obtenus dans plusieurs pays sur le rendement et la stabilité de la production ainsi que le revenu agricole de la Sécurité alimentaire. Nous profitons de cette opportunité pour exprimer nos vifs remerciements aux pays donateurs et diverses institutions financières dont l'action a permis l'expansion de ce Programme à d'autres pays.

La coopération Sud-Sud dans le cadre du Programme spécial pour la Sécurité alimentaire doit être encouragée et renforcée afin de tirer profit de l'expertise des pays en développement les plus avancés. Le CCAF aussi est un instrument non négligeable dans la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation. Nous sommes d'avis que ce système doit être implanté aux niveaux national et régional où les risques permanents de la faim, de la malnutrition et de l'insécurité alimentaire existent. Les activités mises en oeuvre par la FAO pour assister les pays en développement en vue de négociations commerciales multilatérales dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round visent à renforcer les capacités de négociations de ces pays. Nous ne pouvons que saluer ces initiatives qui, nous en sommes sûrs, permettraient de combler les lacunes en termes de capacités de négociations observées au niveau de ces différents pays dans un environnement économique mondial caractérisé par la globalisation et la libéralisation tous azimuts de marché. Cependant, on observe une faible participation des pays en développement aux différentes activités organisées par la FAO dans ce domaine, absence due fondamentalement aux difficultés financières auxquelles se trouvent confrontés ces pays. Par conséquent, nous formulons le souhait de voir les pays développés ainsi que d'autres institutions internationales sponsoriser la participation de pays qui en feront la demande à ces colloques ou aux autres

ateliers organisés par la FAO. Pour conclure, nous formulons le voeu que tous les pays membres qui ont adhéré aux principes du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation mettent en exécution toutes les actions stipulées au paragraphe 3 du document que nous sommes en train d'examiner.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to extend to you my wishes for success in running our deliberations and also my wishes go to the members of the bureau. I would like also to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the working paper which is under discussion now. First of all, Mr. Chairman, we share the view of those who preceded me and their concerns as regards the increasing number of people suffering from malnutrition. As far as Syria is concerned and as we consider it important to implement the Plan of Action which was adopted by the Summit, my country has decided to meet its commitments and has actually started to implement this Plan of Action. We have made several achievements, and I would like to mention a few of the most important of them. I'd also like to make some additional remarks.

We set up a follow-up committee in which all the authorities concerned in the government, in the civil service and the private sector participated. This committee has a follow-up programme and activities and they submit a report regularly on them. Also Syria was among the first countries which joined the Special Programme on Food Security, and we implement this programme through three components to increase production: using irrigation water, and intensifying, as well as diversifying production. We have, in fact, obtained good results for the beneficiaries over the last two seasons. There has been a 15 percent increase in production of such major crops as cotton, potatoes and wheat. I would like also to say that the external assistance was very limited, and we hope that this assistance will increase to all countries which implement this programme.

Three, the Syrian Government also participates in the Telefood programme very actively. The Organization is well aware of that and has adequate information on our participation. Also Syria after 1996 has adopted and begun the implementation of three integrated development programmes in rural areas: two in the poor areas in five districts aiming at land reformation and diversification of products and also to increase the number of beneficiaries in addition to training, agricultural extension, particularly for the rural women.

The third programme in fact covered three million hectares for marginal pasture land where we raise in fact sheep. We aim at improving the pasture land, the production of sheep, as well as increasing women's participation in production. This is in addition to other measures in order to improve food production in general, and also to develop and rationalize the consumption, in addition to other cultural and economic activities.

Finally, Syria will continue to implement and work towards the objectives of the World Food Summit, and we cooperate with all the organizations concerned and particularly the FAO. We hope that the international community will be able to implement the Plan of Action of the Summit in time and in a very good manner.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, trois ans après le Sommet nous ne pouvons pas être satisfaits des résultats obtenus jusqu'à maintenant. La situation alimentaire ne correspond pas aux objectifs du Plan d'action. La pauvreté malheureusement a progressé et atteint un niveau encore jamais vu. Il est inacceptable qu'environ un milliard et demi de personnes doivent vivre avec moins d'un dollar par jour comme il a été rappelé d'ailleurs par le distingué délégué du Kenya. Les indices montrent que malheureusement nous allons toujours dans la mauvaise direction. Les catastrophes causées spécialement par l'homme mais aussi par la nature augmentent les crises économiques et financières qui ont secoué entre autre plusieurs pays d'Asie et ont anéanti certains succès remportés dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Les causes de la faim étant très complexes, les stratégies mises en œuvre pour les combattre efficacement ne peuvent évidemment pas être simples. La lutte contre la faim et ses causes passe premièrement par le développement d'une agriculture forte et durable dans les pays en développement notamment, deuxièmement par l'accès à la nourriture garantie pour tout le monde en prenant diverses mesures de lutte contre la pauvreté, troisièmement par une participation active des femmes au processus de développement, sans oublier que les femmes nourrissent le monde et quatrièmement, finalement par des conditions économiques et politiques favorables à un développement durable *good governance*.

Nous aimerions mettre l'accent avant tout sur les cinq points suivants: point un, donner plus de priorité au secteur agricole; les efforts entrepris par les pays concernés et par les bailleurs de fonds demeurent insuffisants. D'une part les pays en voie de développement négligent trop souvent l'agriculture et le développement rural dans leur pays et d'autre part l'aide publique au développement pour l'agriculture a fortement diminué d'environ de moitié ces dix dernières années. Point deux: renforcer les efforts pour la prévention des conflits armés: neuf pays sur dix avec un nombre de sous-alimentés supérieur à 50 pour cent de la population totale sont ravagés par des troubles civils ou d'autres conflits armés. La paix est la base de la sécurité alimentaire. Il faut investir plus dans les missions de rétablissement et le maintien de la paix. La Suisse y contribuera dans toute la mesure du possible. Point trois: unir les efforts de tous les acteurs y compris les ONG pour une lutte efficace contre la faim et ses causes et tirer profit des synergies de tous les participants à cette lutte. C'est pour atteindre cet objectif que nous avons spécialement développé cette année en Suisse une large politique d'information sur les objectifs du Sommet à l'intérieur du pays. Point quatre: clarifier la portée et la concrétisation du droit à l'alimentation. Il est indispensable de développer le droit fondamental à l'alimentation pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. La coopération suisse a commandé récemment une expertise à ce sujet. Cette expertise conclut que le droit à l'alimentation peut d'ores et déjà être invoqué en justice en Suisse mais qu'un individu ne pourra guère s'en prévaloir en droit international public. Avec l'évolution des droits de l'homme ces dernières années, le droit à l'alimentation et son application ont toutefois gagné du terrain. La violation de ce droit constitue depuis l'année passée un délit en droit international, ce qui est un progrès remarquable. Point cinq et c'est mon dernier point, concerne le commerce mondial ou l'OMC, et la Sécurité alimentaire. L'engagement 4 du Plan d'action stipule clairement que la politique commerciale doit être au service de la sécurité alimentaire et non *vice-versa*. Sachant que l'OMC ne peut pas tout faire et qu'elle est en premier lieu une institution commerciale et non pas une organisation de politique sociale ou écologique, il faut toutefois veiller à ce que les prochaines négociations au sein de l'OMC instaurent des règles commerciales qui soient compatibles avec une meilleure sécurité alimentaire et qui favorise sa pleine et entière réalisation.

LE PRESIDENT

Je voudrais faire deux annonces pour tous les Membres. Je viens d'apprendre que le Groupe des 77 va se réunir à 2 heures pour discuter spécifiquement du Projet de résolution pour l'Alliance sur la sécurité alimentaire. Je crois donc que ces réunions que j'avais suggérées, seraient plus opportunes si elles étaient renvoyées après celle du Groupe des 77; nous souhaitons cette dernière réunion positive, de façon à reprendre l'argument dès qu'il y aura des possibilités de consensus.

Je crois que nous pouvons continuer notre débat et renvoyer cela après 14 h. Je suis aussi informé qu'à 14 h 30 il y aura le quorum nécessaire pour la votation en vue de l'admission du dernier Membre candidat de cette année qui n'avait pas pu être voté vendredi dernier. Je crois donc que notre réunion de cet après-midi ne pourra pas avoir lieu avant 15 h tenant compte du temps de la votation et du temps pour revenir ici. Je vous recommande la ponctualité afin de commencer dès que possible.

(continues in English)

I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Swaziland, just apologizing because I think he was before Switzerland.

Patrick LUKHELE (Swaziland)

First of all I would like to forgive you, Mr Chairman, for making that mistake. A lot of people who have visited my country make that mistake and take Swaziland to be the Switzerland of Africa.

Mr. Chairman, may I on behalf of my delegation congratulate you on your election to chair the proceedings of this important Commission. I have all the confidence that you will lead the discussions to reach successful conclusions. I would also like to thank Mr. de Haen for his clear introduction of the subject under discussion.

As a direct consequence of the World Food Summit in 1996, my country has adopted among other things food security as a major policy issue for the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland. Consequently, we have established a broadbased national consultative Committee on Food Security involving representatives of stake holders from government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and members from civil society. We believe this Committee will among other things advise on policy and also monitor the progress on the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

With respect to the Special Programme for Food Security, as outlined in document C 99/6, paragraph 75, I am happy to observe that as of this year, that is 1999, the Kingdom of Swaziland is actively participating in the SPFS. With assistance of the FAO Sub-Regional Office in Harare, Zimbabwe, we have already made substantial progress in the implementation of the water component of the project. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for having recently approved the non-water component of our Special Programme on Food Security which will now include diversification into livestock, mainly small stock and poultry, as well as aquaculture.

With respect to implementation of South-South Cooperation, as outlined from paragraphs 29 to 31, I would like to express my country's appreciation for the interest already expressed by the Government of Pakistan to field experts to Swaziland through the FAO. In fact, a draft to this effect is already under consideration by my Government.

With regard to the FAO assistance to trade negotiations as outlined in paragraph 54, we would like to encourage FAO to continue this form of assistance. We, however, discourage the FAO from further pursuing activities emanating from the discussions concerning multifunctionality of agriculture. My country does not believe that such a concept will lead to any equitable world trading regime. In other words, my country believes that such a concept is aimed at maintaining trade distortions in the sensitive area of agriculture where certain developed countries continue to maintain national subsidies and export support systems.

Lastly, my country hopes to submit reports on the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, and thank you also for having forgiven my switch with a very graceful and convincing explanation.

Hirofumi KUGITA (Japan)

My delegation commends the Secretariat for having prepared document C 99/6 *Report on the Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action*. I should say that this agenda item is timely

because the monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action by the Committee on Food Security as well as by Regional Conferences, is going to start soon. In this connection, I would like to note that the Twenty-fifth Session of the CFS suggested appropriate indicators to be used for monitoring. These include among others, food production, imports and stocks of food as fundamental elements for ensuring food supply.

The Government of Japan is willing to participate in this monitoring process actively and it is for this reason Japan is going to host the Twenty-fifth Regional Conference in Asia and the Pacific in August next year, where food security situation as well as sustainable agriculture in the Region would be highlighted. I expect that this would become an important step towards the achievement of the objectives of the World Food Summit at the national, regional and international levels.

As part of the contribution to FAO's follow up activities to the World Food Summit Plan of Action, Japan has been funding a Trust Fund project to support the development of regional FIVIMs in Asia. My delegation wishes for these to be further development of global and regional FIVIMs, as well as national FIVIMs and linking of information systems to field activities and their evaluation. In this connection, I also expect the success of the fourth Inter-agency Working Group meeting on FIVIMs to be held in February next year in Indonesia. Moreover, in order to strengthen its support to the follow-up activities, my Government is now considering making a contribution to the implementation of the SPFS in Asian countries.

Finally, I would like to underline the importance of FAO's contribution to Multilateral Trade Negotiations through technical assistance to developing countries, as is mentioned in the last part of the Secretariat document. My delegation highly appreciate the success of the FAO Symposium on agriculture, trade and food security held last September in Geneva which is mentioned in paragraph 63 of the document, and also referred to in Mr de Haen's introduction. I wish FAO to continue and strengthen its vital contribution in this field.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

Je voudrais d'abord, au nom de notre délégation, vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président ainsi que les autres vice-présidents, pour votre élection comme président et vice-présidents de cette Commission. Nous sommes convaincus qu'avec votre expérience et votre talent que nous connaissons, nous arriverons certainement à bon port. Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat sur la qualité du rapport qu'il a établi pour faciliter l'examen des progrès accomplis pour la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, Plan d'action au cours duquel, à travers le CSA, qui s'est tenu depuis l'année 96, nous avons eu l'occasion d'attirer l'attention sur la plus grande importance qu'il faudrait attacher au contenu des rapports, contenu qui doit permettre de vérifier si oui ou non nous poursuivons les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, à savoir réduire le nombre des malnutris dans le monde, comment le mesurer effectivement.

L'examen du rapport du Secrétariat nous amène à faire les observations suivantes: Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire constitue un des outils privilégiés que la FAO entend utiliser pour améliorer le sort des malnutris. Cependant le processus de mise en œuvre des PSA, tel qu'établi par la FAO, nécessite un dispositif particulier pour l'accélérer et éviter que les programmes ne soient dépassés avant leur démarrage, si trop de temps s'est écoulé entre la phase pilote et la phase opérationnelle. Parallèlement, nous encourageons la FAO à accélérer le processus de décentralisation des services au niveau régional et sous-régional pour réduire les délais de réponse entre les demandes des États et la réponse de la FAO. Nous voudrions également encourager les donateurs et les institutions internationales de financement d'accorder effectivement un rang de priorité plus élevé à la sécurité alimentaire et au développement agricole, tel que proposé dans le rapport du Secrétariat. En effet, l'absence de moyens financiers peut constituer et constitue généralement un facteur de blocage majeur à la mise en œuvre des

programmes. Nous souscrivons donc à cette proposition et voulons que la Résolution qui sera prise par la Conférence comporte une disposition spéciale à cet effet.

La deuxième observation porte sur le travail d'évaluation qui doit être réalisé au niveau des Conférences régionales. Nous prions le Secrétariat de nous faire connaître le mécanisme pratique envisagé pour permettre cette évaluation, notamment par les Conférences régionales qui se tiendront dès le mois de février 2000 en ce qui concerne la région Afrique. Nous pensons que cette évaluation est logique et devrait être réalisée en rapport avec les programmes régionaux et sous-régionaux préparés par la FAO. Quant à notre pays, les dispositions utiles sont prises pour soumettre au Secrétariat le Rapport national sur le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation à la fin de l'année 1999 et nous souhaitons vivement la mise en place rapide du CISIAF qui facilitera l'évaluation des progrès accomplis dans la réduction du nombre des malnutris aussi bien dans notre pays que dans la sous-région à laquelle nous appartenons.

Sinan VAROL (Turkey)

Mr Chairman, Turkey would like to join all the other delegates who have spoken before us in welcoming and congratulating you for being in the Chair. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the quality of the *Report on follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action*.

Mr Chairman, I would like to provide some explanation regarding the World Food Summit follow-up activities in Turkey. The decisions taken at the World Food Summit are being followed-up actively and have been publicized. The Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action were translated into Turkish and distributed widely. Turkey attributes great importance to implementing the commitments of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and we are deploying efforts to insert them into our nation's programmes and projects.

Honourable Excellencies, Süleyman Demirel, the President of Turkey, launched in October 1997 a national campaign "Food for All." In a nationwide TV and radio broadcast the President said: "My message is aimed at raising awareness among all sections of our society about the problem of hunger and malnutrition afflicting humanity." This will be a concrete contribution to the follow-up action to the World Food Summit organized by FAO. The campaign is continuing.

A project entitled "Capacity-Building in Policy Aspects of Agriculture and Rural Sectors in the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus" has been prepared in cooperation with FAO and UNDP. Under the South-South Cooperation Programme, Turkey has indicated her wish to cooperate with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in agricultural and rural development. Joint Government of Turkey and FAO Project Formulation Missions have already been fielded to these countries and appropriate projects have been prepared. The Government of Turkey has allocated sufficient financial resources for these projects for the next year. Both of these projects are ready to be implemented in 2000 and Turkey would like to welcome additional donor funds for them.

Mr Chairman, Turkey's most substantial contribution to the food security in the country, in the region and in the world would be the realization of the multisectoral integrated rural development project, the South Eastern Anatolia Project. This Project has been fully financed throughout our national resources and will terminate in the year 2015, irrigating an area of 1.7 million hectares. The project will not merely contribute to the health and nutrition and welfare of our people, but it will also contribute substantially to the health and nutrition and welfare of the people living in the Region.

Ms Carol KRAMER LEBLANC (United States of America)

The United States appreciates the *Report on Progress on World Food Summit Follow-up* provided by the Secretariat. The Report reflects FAO's assessment of progress in a number of FAO programmes, but does not assess national progress and concerns about implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action. We hope that in the future, the format of the Report will be more reflective of the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security and that separate

Progress Reports for FAO programmes may be submitted as supplementary documents or addendum's to the CFS. The United States commends the CFS on creating a more useful and appropriate format for reporting national progress on combatting food insecurity. Though not included in the Secretariat's Report, the forms were distributed to FAO members in October.

We would also like to acknowledge the extensive consideration given the issue of broadening the participation of civil society in the work of the CFS. However, if these discussions were left incomplete, we believe that the Conference should urge the Committee to continue to work on means to increase the participation of these important groups and to improve the transparency of work with them over the next several months.

The United States appreciates the update on the status of the Special Programme on Food Security and the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems. The Special Programme appears to be making progress in its pilot phase and has potential to contribute to the reduction in global hunger. However, we would like to see greater consideration of factors which the FAO has up to this point addressed only as externalities such as insufficient research or lack of coordination with research centres and unsuitable implementation. We believe these issues may affect the Programme's expansion into Phase II.

FIVIMS also appears to have made good progress since last year. In particular, we would like to recognize that priorities and core functions for the programme have been set and an annual reporting mechanism established. We still hope to see a more vigorous pursuit of a global information system, which will require cooperation from many international organizations. The United States requests that a FIVIMS Report be included on the Agenda of the next CFS.

We were puzzled by the section on *Draft Strategies for National Agricultural Development Horizon 2010*. This document was not presented at the CFS in June 1999, nor has it been made available to our country. It is not entirely clear how it relates to that Committee's deliberations. Without a document or clear explanation of the programme, it is difficult to evaluate the information contained in the Report.

Finally, we wish to commend the FAO for the technical assistance provided to developing countries in preparation for the upcoming round of the World Trade Organization. The benefits of globalization also carry with them some technical burdens of compliance which are difficult for many countries to comply with in a short timeframe. We appreciate the efforts of FAO to help countries establish the infrastructure and knowledge base necessary for full participation in the global trading system. This assistance is particularly important in areas such as sanitary and phytosanitary standards, technical barriers to trade and intellectual property rights. FAO's attempt to create a critical mass of national experts to support trade negotiations through its Umbrella Training Programme is an important step in the right direction.

Finally, on the domestic front, the United States has undertaken a number of significant steps in the last two years in furtherance of food security. Publication of a *National Action Plan on Food Security* is one accomplishment. Other highlights include the periodic monitoring of food insecurity in the United States, the creation by the US Secretary of Agriculture of a *National Secretarial Initiative on Community Food Security*, which calls for development of community level partnerships and commitments to combat food insecurity. On World Food Day in October of this year, a *National Summit on Community Food Security* was held in Chicago in conjunction with World Food Day to showcase community commitments and partnerships.

The last set of policy measures I will mention are the reauthorization of our *Child Nutrition Programmes* in the United States including the *Women, Infant, Children Nutrition Assistance Programme*, heightened outreach efforts for the *Food Stamp Programme* and efforts to improve and expand other programmes in the US *Nutrition Assistance Safety Net*.

Inge NORDANG (Norway)

I first of all want to start by congratulating yourself upon your election to the Chair of this Commission, and I also want to thank Mr De Haen for his introduction this morning.

Like Switzerland, we are also concerned by the pace of development towards our goal. I also want to support what the distinguished delegate from Switzerland said about the need to reduce conflict as a source of food insecurity.

I first want to address the right to food. Norway fully supports FAO's cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights as referred to in paragraph 14 of the document. The World Food Summit clearly called for increased focus on the right to food as prescribed by the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We are convinced that the active involvement of FAO will facilitate the further clarification and implementation of this right, and will encourage FAO to continue its work in this field.

Then I turn to the follow-up of the World Food Summit in the rest of the UN System. As stated in Objective 7.2, it is important to improve sub-regional, regional and international cooperation and to mobilize and optimize the use of available resources to support national efforts for the earliest possible achievement of sustainable food security. This will have to be done in close cooperation with a lot of other actors in the multilateral system. I will therefore strongly encourage FAO to work closely with the ECOSOC to have the World Food Summit objectives properly reflected in their review of the follow-up to major international conferences.

FAO cannot alone be responsible for all support needed to reach our ambitious goals. FAO will therefore have to take an active interest and participate in the UNDAF processes and also in the interesting work coming up on the World Bank's idea of creating a comprehensive development framework. If FAO is not actively involved in this, they can easily be marginalized from this important process.

Turning to the Special Programme, I have to say that we have had some doubts on the poverty focus of the Programme. We are looking forward to an extensive evaluation of the impact of the Programme, and we also want to point out that the gender focus is extremely important in this Programme. Far too often, women are the most vulnerable groups, and this will also have to be more strongly addressed in this Programme.

On the FIVIMs, we are glad for the report of its positive development, and we look forward to further progress in this field.

My last comment will be in relation to the proposed Alliance on Food Security. My delegation is convinced that stronger participation between the Rome-based Agencies can strengthen the programmes of all involved Agencies. The World Food Programme earlier this year approved a new approach to development with a stronger poverty focus that can benefit FAO. IFAD has considerable experience in supporting the poorest and most marginalized, and hence the most food insecure groups. This can be of benefit for FAO, but we are still concerned about limiting this cooperation too much to the Rome-based Agencies. We very much want to underline again the need to work with all relevant agents, both in the UN System, in the developing banks, with the civil societies, NGOs and bilateral agencies. I think it is again important to encourage FAO to work as closely as possible with everyone to be an active member of the CDF.

Ms Ulla HEIDEN (Denmark)

Denmark associates itself fully to the statement given by Finland on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. I have asked for the floor because I want to raise a specific point. FAO has recently produced a leaflet called *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 1999*. We appreciate FAO's efforts to monitor the goals of the World Food Summit in general, and we find that this leaflet provides a good and relevant information basis.

I therefore regret to say that an unfortunate error appears in this leaflet. On pages 6 and 7, a map presents an overview of the levels of undernourishment country by country. It appears from this map that no data is available for Greenland. As Greenland is a part of Denmark, the data regarding the nutrition level of Greenland can, of course, be found in the Danish statistics. I would like to underline that Greenland, like the rest of Denmark, are to be found in Category I, meaning that an extremely low proportion of the population is undernourished.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Los felicito por su elección así como a los otros miembros de la mesa: la señora Guardia Alvarado, de Costa Rica, y el señor Jalang'o, de Kenya.

Señor Presidente, la posición de mi delegación ha sido expresada hace un momento por la delegada de Haití, quién habló en nombre de América Latina y el Caribe en su calidad de Presidente de nuestro Grupo. La delegación del Salvador respalda plenamente esta declaración que refleja fielmente el sentir de nuestra Región sobre el seguimiento del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Le he pedido la palabra para hacer dos breves comentarios. Por una parte, quisiera reiterar ante esta Comisión y ante esta Conferencia los esfuerzos que el Gobierno del Salvador está realizando para presentar su informe sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción antes de fines de diciembre de este año. Sin embargo, consideramos conveniente el que la FAO incremente, en la medida de sus posibilidades, la asistencia a los países en esta materia.

Por otra parte, quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para referirme al documento informativo sobre la Bioseguridad, el cual nos ha sido distribuido, a cerca del que nos informó el señor de Haen hace un momento. Sobre el particular quisiera llamar la atención a esta Comisión y de esta Conferencia sobre dicho documento, sobre la importancia de continuar con los trabajos de elaboración del Proyecto del Código de Conducta, sobre la Biotecnología en relación con los recursos genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Como se indica en este documento, concretamente en el párrafo 20, estos trabajos fueron suspendidos a la espera de ver los resultados de las negociaciones sobre el Convenio, sobre el compromiso internacional, y creemos que es importante continuar con ese trabajo.

Por otra parte, señor Presidente, y para concluir quisiera expresarle a usted nuestro deseo de que lleguemos a una solución satisfactoria sobre el Proyecto de Resolución de la Alianza para la Seguridad Alimentaria que creemos pueda contribuir en gran medida a los trabajos de todas las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Señor Presidente, ante todo deseamos felicitarlo por su nombramiento al presidir esta mesa y agradecer a la Secretaría por el informe presentado. Ante todo, expreso el total respaldo de mi delegación a lo ya señalado por la delegación de Haití a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Dicho lo anterior, deseo manifestar la preocupación de nuestra delegación por la notable reducción del 44 por ciento en la asistencia al desarrollo del sector agrícola y la urgente necesidad de reimpulsar este tipo de cooperación, por lo que hacemos un llamado a los países desarrollados a cumplir con sus compromisos y obligaciones en la materia. Es urgente establecer un compromiso político para impulsar la asistencia al desarrollo agrícola, así como las actividades de asistencia alimentaria al desarrollo, en particular hacia las comunidades más vulnerables en el mundo, independientemente del lugar en que se encuentran. Sobre este particular el CCA revistirá una importancia fundamental, porque permitirá ubicar, con mayor precisión, dónde se encuentran los grupos poblacionales más pobres y vulnerables restándole así importancia al valor y criterios macro-económicos que disfrazan y desvirtúan la realidad imperante al interior de los países en desarrollo, sobre todo por lo que se refiere a nuestra región.

Cabe recordar en este sentido que, de conformidad con las cifras de la FAO, en América Latina y el Caribe se concentra entre el 22 y el 23 por ciento de la población hambrienta y malnutrida en el mundo, por lo que hacemos un llamado para que se tomen las medidas necesarias para equilibrar en la misma proporción las actividades que se dirigen hacia nuestra Región para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

De no actuar la FAO y sus Países Miembros con mayor incidencia a favor del desarrollo agrícola será poco factible que logremos cumplir con las metas y objetivos acordados en la Cumbre, particularmente en lo que se refiere a la disminución de los hambrientos y malnutridos.

Otro aspecto importante que debemos tener en consideración y como uno de los más graves e importantes que atender, es el acceso a los alimentos ya que se trata del principal limitante al que se enfrentan las poblaciones más vulnerables. En definitiva, las actividades a favor del desarrollo agrícola son las que incidirán de manera más positiva para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y poder cumplir con las metas trazadas en la Cumbre. Es convicción de mi país el hecho de que el desarrollo es la única opción viable para que las comunidades más pobres y vulnerables puedan optar por un futuro mejor, y en especial garantizar su seguridad alimentaria; prueba de ello es que el 60 por ciento del presupuesto federal se concentra en actividades que favorecen el desarrollo, con lo que se cumple, al interior del país, con los compromisos adquiridos en la Declaración de Roma y en el Plan de Acción tales como el incremento de la producción nacional de alimentos y el combate contra la pobreza y sus graves consecuencias de malnutrición y marginación.

Por último, señor Presidente, deseamos respaldar todas las iniciativas emprendidas por la FAO a favor de un equilibrio y equidad de géneros en sus actividades. Muchas gracias.

Jonas MALEWAS (Tanzania, United Republic of)

May I also join the previous speakers to congratulate you for being elected the Chairman of this Commission and also the presentation of the Secretariat by Dr de Haen. May I from the outset say that the Tanzanian delegation fully support this Report, however we would like to make a few comments in order to improve it. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to join the Kenyan colleague on what is on bullet 1 on paragraph 3. I would like to urge FAO to assist those countries who have not been able to submit the report to do so as required by the end of December. I would also like to join others to call upon those countries, developed countries, to assist FAO's effort in implementing the programmes which have already been discussed.

May I now go to the Special Programme on paragraph 15 of the document. Tanzania fully supports this Programme. The successes you have seen in the first phase are now going to be expanded to other areas of the country, in particular those which are known to be chronically in food deficit. Through this Programme the areas which are traditionally food deficit have shown considerable improvement. The deficit has declined from 900,000 tonnes in 1997 to 1998, to a forecasted figure of around 390,000 tonnes. The expansion phase of the Special Programme is going to give emphasis to the on-farm water management. Through the South-South Cooperation with the Egyptian experts, who are already in the country, we will be provided with best practices on the utilization of water and the country's full potential to expand its irrigated area. For the record, out of the one million hectares of land which could be irrigated, only 175,000 hectares are currently irrigated.

Mr Chairman, the whole problem of food insecurity is centred on poverty and I share what other have mentioned on this subject because we have seen that access to credit and, in particular, utilization of inputs, is a very major input as far as food security is concerned. What we have seen, Mr Chairman, is that utilization of fertilizer has tremendously been reduced simply because of the ongoing macro-economic reforms after the privatization of activities. The private sector could not catch up with the reforms and now they have problems of input, supply in some parts of the country. We are certainly very very happy to see that the World Bank Mission was in the country to look into the problem of fertilizers and how it could be alleviated. We would also like

to mention that after the visit of the Director-General of FAO to Tanzania in September this year, new awareness has been created on the whole issue of food security. Under the direction of the President, a Task Force has been appointed to look into the problem of food security and the revision of the comprehensive food security programme.

I would like now to say a bit about the upcoming WTO negotiations and barriers to trade, in particular the problems for developing countries' lack of infrastructure to implement the SPFS programmes. In Tanzania, fish is becoming a very important export crop which now counts for around 10 percent of our export and the necessary infrastructure for fish export is really required in order to enable the country to implement its policies on food security. Having said that, Mr Chairman, the regional programme for food security is very important for us because any problem affecting a neighbouring country, such as a food deficit situation, affects surrounding countries because our borders are porous. We, therefore, strongly welcome this idea of the Regional Programme for Food Security.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, FAO needs support from all the Member Nations in order to implement what has been said.

ROSELY Dato' Haji KHALID (Malaysia)

I will be brief in presenting our comments. Malaysia is fully committed in ensuring adequate and stable supply of quality, safe, nutritious and affordable food to meet our nation's needs. A significant milestone in Malaysia's effort to enhance food security has been the launching of its Third National Agricultural Policy, 1998-2010 and a Plan of Action in June 1999. The new agricultural policy places special emphasis on ensuring long-term food security through sustainable food production. Among the strategies and programmes formulated under this policy are expansion of food-growing areas, increasing productivity and yield, intensifying research and development, improving technology transfer, intensifying human resource development, promoting downstream food-processing, increasing accessibility to finance, improving marketing efficiency, improving private sector involvement and investment, and strengthening agricultural support institution.

Mr Chairman, Malaysia notes the progress in implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, in particular, the Special Programme for Food Security. This Programme is of special importance as it is for LIFDCs and, therefore, of immediate relevance to food insecurity. This is a very important programme and should be expanded.

Likewise, Mr Chairman, we note the endeavours to operationalize FIVIMS, as well as the training programmes to create a critical mass of national experts in developing countries to support trade negotiations.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

In commencing my brief intervention, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the document before us – C 99/6, both for its content and its brevity. We also congratulate the Secretariat on the work programme described in the document and Mr de Haen's clear explanation of it this morning.

In short, Mr Chairman, we can say that we are in agreement with the points outlined in paragraph 3 of the document and are currently working on our National Response as called for in the first bullet point. I want to refer to two other bullet points. The fourth bullet point refers to Financial Resources. In this debate this morning we have heard from a developing country and from a donor country that insufficient financial resources are flowing to food security and agricultural development

Mr Chairman, in Plenary this morning about twenty minutes ago, our Head of Delegation in his statement has drawn attention to the fact that, while ODA flows to agriculture have been declining and are now well below US\$10 billion per year, OECD governments in 1998 gave

assistance of \$360 billion to OECD agriculture. Mr Chairman, a reordering of priorities and elimination of production and trade distortions would free up a very large amount of money.

With reference to bullet 5, we wish to encourage the assistance that is being given to developing countries in preparation for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations that are soon to commence. As Commitment 4 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action says, trade is a key element in achieving world food security. I am pleased to say that the FAO Sub-regional Office for the South-West Pacific has been active in developing training activities for the island states. New Zealand has fully supported these capacity-building activities, both in trade policy and in trade facilitation, and will continue to provide technical expertise and financial support to them.

O.A. EDACHE (Nigeria)

First let me join those who have spoken before me in thanking the Secretariat for the quality of the documents placed before us this morning. We find the *Report on the Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action* quite adequate and useful. We also value the information paper on bio-safety. Let me also thank Mr de Haen for his very eloquent introductory remarks.

Following the visit which the Director-General of FAO made to Nigeria in July this year, and the audience he had with our President Olusegun Obasanjo, a team of experts from FAO and from Nigeria were assembled to undertake the preparation of a Programme of National Food Security. The Report was designed to draw on the experiences of the pilot project now being implemented in Kano State. The Report covers five major programme areas: water resources development which deals with water harvesting, the assessment of existing irrigation/dams; food security which covers low-cost irrigation systems based on exploitation of underground water and surface water, as well as other projects of interest to beneficiaries. There is, for example, also a component of transboundary pest control which is quite a problematic area for our area of the Sub-region, especially the areas bordering Lake Tchad.

Mr Chairman, under the Special Programme for Food Security, we would also be emphasizing diversification and intensification of agriculture. The component on fisheries and aquaculture covers stocking of existing dams and development of aquaculture. Forestry addresses land degradation and forestation. Very recently we subjected the document to wide consultations at the National Council on Agriculture which brings together all state Ministries of Agriculture, NGOs, civil society, and farming organizations. I am very happy to announce that the Report has received very strong support. It involves setting up three projects in each of the 36 states of the Federation, and the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. It is intended to be implemented within the unilateral Trust Funds with FAO, and we hope that very soon the agreement will be signed.

The introductory remarks on this item dealt with the very important issue of bio-safety. While no one would deny the crucial role of technology in agricultural development, we should not also lose sight of safety needs. On our part in Nigeria, we have set up a Biotechnology Safety Committee to examine this very important matter, draw up safety guidelines and advise Government. More recently at the Twenty-ninth session of the National Council on Agriculture, a decision was taken to further strengthen that Committee by bringing to its fold relevant national research institutes with expertise in the field. The Report also made reference to the Workshop held in Geneva last September on the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture. Mr Chairman, my country was fortunate enough to participate in that programme, and I would like to use this occasion to thank the FAO for that most useful workshop which we have put to use in preparing for this year's negotiations.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

Canada congratulates you on your new responsibilities as Chairman of this Commission.

In response to the World Food Summit, Canada developed a Plan of Action to improve food security, both domestically and internationally. Our programme was the result of a collaborative

effort between both Government and civil society. It was launched on World Food Day last year. The Plan contains seven commitments, which mirror those of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and they include an enabling environment, access to food, sustainable agriculture and rural development, trade and food security, emergency prevention and preparedness, promoting investment and implementation and monitoring. A Bureau was established to coordinate implementation, monitor progress and report to the FAO every two years on our progress. This Report is due at the end of this calendar year, we intend to make that target.

Information collected from stakeholders is being organized, analysed and summarized to provide an integrated picture of our actions and achievements. A number of activities include developing and maintaining stakeholder linkages and encouraging participation and implementing and maintaining those commitments, as well as keeping the public at large informed, raising awareness of this Plan and serving as a focal point for information on food security nationally. We have developed a Website for both gathering information from stakeholders and disseminating it back to stakeholders and the general public in the form of an integrated progress summary, and the Website address is available to anyone who may wish to access it. We are also using an electronic reporting format, which is based on the model developed at the FAO Committee on World Food Security this past May. As well, we are in the process of developing indicators and definitions that will enable us to provide estimates as to the nature, extent, distribution and evaluation of food security, monitoring the situation and enhancing public awareness of food security issues, evaluating the impact of our actions and to provide the input for future policy and programming.

In summary, Mr Chairman, we are on target and we look to other countries to awarding their highest commitment to following actions and reporting on them.

Armando CASADO (Cuba)

Señor Presidente, resulta muy grato para nuestra delegación verle presidir esta importante Comisión. La delegación cubana desea expresar, en primer lugar, su apoyo a la declaración del GRULAC sobre el seguimiento del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Respalda además lo declarado por la agraciada representante de México, cuando llamaban la atención sobre los niveles de desnutrición existentes en nuestra Región. En segundo lugar, quisiéramos compartir con ustedes algunos detalles de este proceso en Cuba.

Desde el año 1994, en Cuba se aprobó un Plan Nacional de Acción para la Nutrición, el cual tiene su aplicación principalmente a través de los Ministerios de Salud, de la Agricultura, de la Pesca, y de la Industria Alimenticia. En este Plan Nacional, en el cual el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación ha encontrado una necesaria acogida, cada uno de los sectores productivos y de servicios que intervienen ha establecido su propio mecanismo de seguimiento independiente y cuentan con el Ministerio de Economía y Planificación de la República de Cuba como su entidad evaluadora global, la cual coordina centralmente las sanciones a ejecutar y su relación con las demás actividades de la economía nacional, que son evaluadas en su cumplimiento de forma sistemática y detallada, y genera a su vez el Informe nacional del país para la FAO. El país cuenta, además, con decenas de programas nacionales dirigidos al mejoramiento de indicadores, como la salud y nutrición, la disminución de la carencia en micronutrientes, el perfeccionamiento de sistemas de vigilancia nutricional, el incremento de las producciones agropecuarias destinadas a la satisfacción de las necesidades nutricionales de la población a través de la consolidación de la base productiva principal de la agricultura, y de fomento y, muy importante, de desarrollo de la agricultura comunitaria familiar urbana, como alternativas del modelo agrícola clásico.

Por otra parte, quizá resulte interesante señalar que en estos mismos días, exactamente el 3 de diciembre próximo, se reunirán en la ciudad de La Habana todos los protagonistas de este proceso en un taller nacional, convocado por iniciativa de la FAO para evaluar la estrategia nacional de seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y su proyección hacia el

horizonte del año 2010. Ahí se analizarán la estrategia futura, las ideas de proyectos de gran impacto para la elevación de los niveles de alimentación de la población en Cuba, dirigida específicamente a cultivos componentes de la canasta básica de la alimentación de la población, como el arroz, el frijol y otros; proyectos que buscan el apoyo en recursos de organismos internacionales y fuentes bilaterales y programas de alcance mundial, como es el Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA).

Por último, señor Presidente, la delegación cubana desea expresar su respaldo a los temas de examen propuestos en tan excelentes documentos, como son las cuestiones de vital definición señaladas en el párrafo tres, especialmente en los incisos referentes al PESA y al CCA.

WANG JINBIAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese Government certainly appreciates the achievements that have been made as well as the extensive efforts that have been undertaken by the FAO in its efforts to achieve the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Now one of FAO's priority tasks is that of trying to improve food security and eliminate poverty, as well as doing what is necessary to adjust the Organization's plans and programmes to focus on this problem.

Now if we look at some of the success stories within the Organization, we can see the Telefood and the FIVIMs. Now the use of FIVIMs has a very important role to play in FAO's efforts to eradicate hunger. We have also seen that many countries have undertaken many concrete activities so as to work toward greater food security. Now our Government has always given great importance to the World Food Summit Plan of Action and it has implemented many policies aimed at achieving greater food security and improving cereal production, as well as ensuring income from the agricultural sector. Since 1990 China is one of the main agricultural producers in the world for cereal, cotton, fruit, meat, poultry as well as fisheries production and agricultural products. China has been able to increase its cereal, as well as its cotton, fish and poultry production. China has also developed various programmes and projects which also focus on the elimination of food security and hunger.

The level of poverty within the country has also been constantly decreasing. We have gone from 215 million to 42 million persons in 1998. But I think we must recognize that the situation is obviously not a very positive one. According to most recent statistics, it would seem that there are 770,000 people who still do not have access to sufficient food. Therefore, more efforts need to be made so as to reach our objective of halving the undernourished by the year 2015. It is necessary for the whole international community and national governments to implement the necessary programmes so as to ensure success in the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Countries must not only depend on their own efforts, but also the support of the international community. It is important for us to ensure family planning, improve educational and health services and environmental safeguards in our country. We would make an appeal to the developed countries to try to improve the access to credit for developing countries, because this is certainly one of the barriers to the achievement of food security. It is also important to safeguard and promote South-South cooperation. In the implementation of the Plan of Action, monitoring and evaluation are very important and it would be very important for the FAO to improve the indicators that are used so as to give a more precise picture of hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. It will also be necessary to strengthen technical assistance to developing countries which will allow them to achieve greater success in their implementation of the Plan of Action as well as monitoring and evaluation activities. The increase of cereal production is, as we see it, far below the necessary level if we are to meet food needs throughout the world. Looking, for example, at the situation of Asia that has been so violently struck by the economic crisis, we see that in these countries the food insecurity has far worsened and it has completely eliminated the previous success achieved in fighting against food insecurity.

If we hope to reach the World Food Summit objective of halving the number of undernourished by the year 2015, further efforts are necessary both in resources as well as technical support. International peace and sustainable development are, we feel, very important in eliminating food insecurity in the world. We would certainly be ready to increase our cooperation with all other nations as well as developing countries, in the international community so as to fulfil our commitments as we move into the next millennium.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Aun a riesgo de ser reiterativa quiero yo también felicitarlo por su elección, es una muy especial satisfacción para la delegación argentina verlo presidiendo los trabajos de esta Comisión, extendiendo esas felicitaciones a los demás miembros de la Mesa y quiero agradecer a la secretaria el informe que ha presentado y al Dr. de Haen la presentación que hiciera de dicho documento.

Señor Presidente, para no alargar estos debates, sólo unos breves comentarios: los primeros para decirle que al igual que los países de mi Región que me precedieron en el uso de la palabra, mi delegación apoya plenamente y hace suyas las expresiones contenidas en la declaración del GRULAC. Efectivamente vemos con gran preocupación que pese a los compromisos asumidos durante la Cumbre Mundial, persiste la pobreza, aumenta la desigualdad, y es cada vez más amplia la brecha entre los ricos y los pobres. También enfatizamos una vez más nuestra inquietud por el hecho de que según las cifras dadas a conocer por algunos organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, el número de personas que sufren hambre ha aumentado. Por ello alentamos a la FAO a que redoblen los esfuerzos que les competen para paliar estas tendencias a los efectos que podamos llegar al 2015 con el objetivo cumplido de reducir a la mitad el número de personas desnutridas.

Quisiera informarle que mi país a través de los organismos competentes están trabajando y colaborando, con gran ahínco, en la recopilación y análisis de la información pendiente a la confección de los perfiles nutricionales para proporcionarlos antes de fines de diciembre del corriente año.

Con respecto al Plan de Acción de la CMA y en lo que hace a la alimentación inocua, deseo comunicar que desde abril de 1999 la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación de la Argentina, está abocada al dictado de cursos de capacitación en todo el país pendientes a lograr este objetivo. Con respecto al denominado CCA se están también haciendo grandes esfuerzos para concretar a la mayor brevedad posible el sistema de información en cartografía sobre inseguridad alimentaria y vulnerabilidad de mi país. Finalmente, señor Presidente renovamos nuestros compromisos contraídos durante la CMA de cumplir con la presentación de informes sobre la aplicación que se está efectuando del Plan de Acción emanado de dicha Cumbre.

CHAIRMAN

I have on the list now three more countries asking for the floor, and two NGOs. I think that we have maybe to break, because then I have to make a *resumé*, and then in the early afternoon we could maybe have some reactions from the G-77 meeting and the decision on how to proceed for the Resolution. I would also like to make some summary remarks on this very interesting and stimulating debate. So, I think that we will break after having heard some of the information that the Secretariat wants to give to us and then resume. As I said before, unfortunately we have to go to the voting of the new Members of the Organization, and we hope to be back at 15 hrs. in the afternoon sharp, because the second important point in our agenda, on which I will give the Chair to our very charming friend from Costa Rica, will be delayed in the afternoon as we have first to solve this problem. So, I invite you to be back at 15 hrs. sharp this afternoon. Now I give the floor to the Secretariat for some announcements.

SECRETARY

The first announcement is that there is a Book of Condolences in Room A-351 for those delegations that would like to express their condolences in respect of the loss of life of those workers on the World Food Programme flight that came down in Kosovo last week. That's room A-351.

Secondly, there is a Presentation today on the Special Programme for Food Security in the Iran Room starting now at 12.30 hrs.. There will be another Presentation, also in the Iran Room, on the Empres Emergency Prevention System at 17.45 hrs. this afternoon.

Thirdly, as you know, there will be a meeting of the G-77 in the Malaysia Room, at 14 hrs..

With regard to our own Drafting Committee, we have been infomed that Thailand will replace Pakistan for the Asia Region. There is a switch between Thailand and Pakistan between the two Drafting Committees of Commission I and Commission II.

Finally, Mr Chairman, for this afternoon, delegates should have, in addition to the documents announced in the Provisional Checklist of Documents, document CL 117/INF/13 for Item 7 that has been transmitted to the Commission for information. It deals with the High-Level Consultation on Rural Women and Information.

I would also like to draw delegations' attention to the first Report of Resolutions Committee that was tabled this morning, C 99/LIM/22, which is the Report itself, and C 99/LIM/22- Sup. 1, which is a Resolution that is submitted to the Comission for discussion under Item 7, and it deals with the Geographical and Gender Imbalances in the Professional Staff Structure of the Organization.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hrs.

La séance est levée à 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEGUNDA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

15 November 1999

**The Second Meeting was opened at 15.20 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La première séance est ouverte à 15 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la primera sesión a las 15.20 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

CHAIRMAN

I would like to start with a few announcements. First, I would like to inform you and thank the Ambassador of Chile for having accepted to chair the Drafting group. Second, we have still six speakers on my list, and I think that we should start to work in parallel to find a way of merging the two Resolutions into one. I think that we can start working in the Mexico Room to find a language that is mutually acceptable. I received from the G-77 a list of countries who would like to be represented. Of course, we can enlarge them and if there are some other people interested in being part of the Group, they are most welcome. The list that I have is the Philippines, Angola, Sudan, Nicaragua and Dominica. If there are other delegations who want to join, I think that we have all the facilities in the Mexico Room from 14.30 hrs. which is now past, to 17 hrs., to find acceptable language for both groups.

I spoke with some people from each side, and I think that with some good will we can find acceptable wording. So, if you agree – I already saw two people raising their flags – if you agree with the procedure, you can start as soon as possible, as we have all the facilities organized in the Mexico Room. The sooner you start the better it is.

If there is no other intervention, we can so decide and the delegations that I named, plus other delegations willing to take part in this drafting group, could go to the Mexico Room and start working.

We can go on with the list of speakers that we had. I am really confident that this meeting will be fruitful. Otherwise, the group will come back to the Plenary.

I will make a last effort to find acceptable language because I think that the problem should be solved here among ourselves instead of bringing the issue to the Plenary, thereby lengthening discussion there.

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)****PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)****6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continued)****6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (suite)****6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continuación)****CHAIRMAN**

So if you agree, we shall proceed. Resuming my list, we have Australia as the first speaker.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

In making my brief intervention, I would first wish to thank the Secretariat for the document before us which provides a useful overview of FAO activities in this area.

Mr Chairman, Australia welcomes the efforts of the FAO in the area of follow-up to the World Food Summit and considers that the FAO has made a number of valuable contributions to assist in enhancing both national and global food security. Australia would like to highlight a number of these areas where we also wish to see FAO continue to focus its resources.

As recognized by the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action, liberalized trade is a vital element in achieving food security. Australia therefore welcomes the important work that FAO has been doing in assisting developing country Members in this area. FAO has a key role to play in assisting developing countries, particularly the least developed and low-income and vulnerable economies to capitalize on the benefits of agricultural trade liberalization through

capacity-building and technical assistance. We consider this as a valuable area of work for FAO in preparing countries to participate fully in the forthcoming WTO negotiations. These negotiations will provide a critically-important opportunity to further enhance global food security.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Australia would also wish to recognize the valuable work that FAO has undertaken in setting up the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Mapping System. We see this as a practical and useful area of work for FAO in helping to address food security, and we look forward to further work on this.

Gebrehiwot REDAI (Ethiopia)

Mr Chairman, since I am taking the floor for the first time, I wish at the outset to congratulate you on your successful election. My delegation is very confident, given your experience and leadership qualities, that you will lead the session of this Commission to its successful conclusion. My delegation also would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the concise and precise report on the Progress to the Follow-up to the World Food Summit.

Mr Chairman, our national report on the progress to the follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action will be submitted shortly. The Government of Ethiopia attaches high importance to rural and agricultural development with a view to ensure food self-sufficiency in the short run and food security at household level in the long run. In this respect, an agricultural industrialization policy has been in place and various macro-economic reforms have been made. Despite manmade and natural calamities, the agricultural sector had been operating successfully and was contributing to food security at large. The SPFS, with other national strategies were also effective in working towards increasing agricultural production and productivity. Having said this, my delegation would like to resort to some of our general reflections in respect to the progress in follow-up to the World Food Summit on awareness.

Mr Chairman, the preparation of the Summit that culminated in the convening of the Heads of Government of 186 countries in the same building in 1996 triggered awareness for poverty and malnutrition issues. Ever since then, national governments, regional institutions and the international community at large continue to increase awareness of the existing hunger and malnutrition in various forms. The media, various symposiums, speeches by prominent personalities, fundraising events have enabled the issues of hunger and malnutrition to stay in the limelight. However, my delegation does not doubt the need for consistent charging of the international community and of national governments on this relevant issue. But awareness alone helps very little to reverse the existing trend. Rather it is timely action and that is what is missing. We know that the implementation of the Plan of Action rests on national governments. Nonetheless, it should not be forgotten that all the actors have to play their role. Therefore, it is our considered opinion that with food security, being collective security, we have to work in unison to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from our planet.

Mr Chairman, many governments including mine, are taking necessary measures to improve their policies and put resources into agriculture. However national governments alone are not in a position to enforce poverty eradication. Therefore, the need for the intervention of the international community in terms of technical and financial assistance to meet the objectives set in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action is timely in view of the said objectives of reducing the number of hungry poor by half by the year 2015.

Mr Chairman, we in Ethiopia are optimistic that hunger and malnutrition will be very much reduced in the coming millennium. However, we have cause for concern that if all the stakeholders, be they government or international organizations, do not work in synergy, we will be taken by surprise by time in fifteen years' time if the objectives we set are not fulfilled. In this context, we find it essential that resources must be forthcoming as indicated in one of the Commitments of the Summit Plan of Action. It was promised that resources would be optimized,

rationalized and, where appropriate new resources were to become available through debt reduction. We wish to see this progress along these lines.

Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that for food security to be achieved, peace is a prerequisite. This is so because implementation of the Plan of Action needs an ideal environment and cannot be implemented in a vacuum. Therefore it is very important that all countries must work towards maintaining peace in order to implement the Plan of Action more effectively. This is so because we noted with regret that, among other things, civil strife is one of the dominant factors which impacts on food security.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the declining trends in official development assistance and, therefore, in investment in agriculture should be reversed so that resources would become available to assist this generation in the transfer of technology to poor developing countries to create a world without hunger.

Paul LUU (France)

Je profite de l'occasion qui m'est donnée pour vous féliciter d'avoir été élu à la présidence de cette Commission.

Monsieur le Président, mes propos seront brefs. Ils viennent s'inscrire dans la droite ligne de la déclaration qu'a prononcée la Finlande en sa qualité de présidente de l'Union européenne. Tout d'abord, je voudrais dire que notre pays fera rapport en dû temps à notre Organisation sur les progrès réalisés au plan national mais aussi au Plan international, à travers notre politique de coopération pour donner suite aux engagements pris lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Pour ce qui concerne l'appui aux capacités des pays en développement destiné à faciliter leur pleine participation au prochain cycle de négociations commerciales multilatérales, nous nous félicitons de l'initiative prise par la FAO dans ce domaine, initiative à laquelle nous nous sommes associés en finançant ou cofinçant trois des quatorze séminaires sous-régionaux de formation qui ont, je le pense, remporté un vif succès. En outre, au titre de notre coopération bilatérale, nous collaborons avec quelques pays d'Afrique pour permettre à l'ensemble des acteurs du monde agricole, en particulier les organisations professionnelles agricoles, de participer aux processus nationaux de concertation. De façon générale, Monsieur le Président, et pour conclure, notre pays restera attentif aux activités menées dans ce domaine par l'OAA et étudiera toutes les possibilités pour poursuivre cette collaboration.

Paul Kipsigei CHEPKWONY (Kenya)

I'm making this intervention based on our earlier request for the floor to give some further information on Kenya's implementation of the progress report on the World Food Summit. Before I do that, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, like other distinguished speakers before me for being elected to the chair. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the concise and informative document we have for consideration.

Mr Chairman, Kenya has recognized that poverty has a direct bearing on food security. In this regard, the country has officially launched the poverty eradication plan targeted for the year 2015. This is in line with Commitment 2 of the World Food Summit. Following the *El Niño* rains of 1997-98 regarding Kenya, the country witnessed much destruction to its infrastructure and agriculture in general. The Government has therefore established a Disaster Investigation Unit to meet the challenges arising from future disasters of various natures.

As a follow-up to the World Food Summit, the country in 1997 established a standing committee for the purpose of developing strategies for action. In the last six months, Kenya has been carrying out a National Review of the Current Food Policy. I should note that Kenya has been undergoing a liberalization process which has made our earlier policy out of date. This revised policy version is expected to be completed early next year, and is expected to address other challenges identified during the Summit.

CHAIRMAN

The last speaker on my list is Uganda, then we have three observers. I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Uganda.

Mrs Ruth OKWELE (Uganda)

I congratulate you on your election to chairmanship and to your Vice-Chairpersons, too. Mr Chairman I just want to make a few comments on the steps that Uganda has taken to implement the follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action, hoping that what we will maybe help a friend in need as well.

In Uganda an assessment of the magnitude of the poverty problem was carried out in 1996 and it was discovered that about 46 percent of the population were not meeting their basic requirements. The data showed that poverty is mostly a rural phenomenon, as about 50 percent of the rural villages were poor. The data also showed regions which were most affected by poverty. The Government has therefore adopted a strategy that has poverty eradication as a media focus over all sustained growth and development. To achieve food security, the National Resistance Movement has formulated and is implementing policies that make it possible for the poor to grow or buy the food they need. The main thrust of Uganda's development policy is eradication of mass poverty from our midst by the year 2015. Macro-economic stability has been achieved by restraining expenditures, by redirecting resources towards programmes with the highest potential for poverty reduction and by reducing dependence upon external resources by raising the revenue base. The Government has also created an enabling environment through effective macro-economic policies supported by good governance that have resulted in political stability. During the fiscal year 1998-99, the economy grew at a rate of 7.8 percent. Much of this growth was because of the recovery of the agricultural sector. Uganda is now among the top ten countries with the fastest economic growth. The human development index has risen from 0.38 in 1995 to 0.4 in 1996. Poverty has declined from 56 per cent in 1992 to 44 percent in 1996.

The measures which are being taken to improve the quality of life for the poor include provision of an adequate and reliable road system, enactment of a land law which has allowed men, women, orphans and children to promote sustainable utilization of land, and promoting strategies and interventions that increase the employment and promoting micro-financing institutions. We hope that the donor community will support the government in fulfilling some of the strategies which are being put forward in the medium-term Strategic Framework as regards modernization of agriculture.

Mr Chairman, the growth of Uganda's agricultural sector is also attributed to the support of the UN and other donor Agencies, in particular the FAO. I wish to pass a vote of thanks to FAO and these donor Agencies for continued support to our economic and social development. The small-scale irrigation project under the Special Programme for Food Security is on its initial stage of implementation, and we hope this will mitigate the impact of erratic rainfall on food security. We expect positive results from the Telefood fundraising efforts through sensitization of the public during World Food Day preparations. The communities are beginning to appreciate the fact that we need to show that we can do some work on our own before help is given. Uganda is therefore committed to fulfilling the World Food Summit Plan of Action. We will continue to share ideas with other countries in this forum. I say this for God and my country.

Ms Joanna KOCK (Observer for International Federation of Home Economics, IFHE)

The co-ordinator of the *Ad Hoc* group, being unable to attend this afternoon, has asked me to speak for her. I represent associated country women of the world and I am also the convenor of the Geneva Working Group on Nutrition.

On behalf of the *Ad Hoc* group of INGOs in Rome, and of the Geneva NGO Working Group on Nutrition, I wish to inform the Conference that the two groups have started to collect data on

activities carried out or planned by the membership of the group within the commitments of the WFS Plan of Action. We, therefore, hope to be able to submit a first report to the next session of the Committee on Food Security in September 2000. In the last issue of our bulletin, *The Call to Action*, we encourage our readership throughout the world to report as well on the above, either to FAO Headquarters or to the NGO groups in Rome or Geneva. This matter was also discussed at our informal meeting which was held on Saturday, 13 November, and is included in the report which will be brought to the attention of the Conference under Item 15 on the Strategic Framework 2000-2015.

I also take the occasion, Mr. Chairman, to report to the Conference the concern expressed by one member of the *ad hoc* group of INGOs in Rome, namely ANGOC, the Asian Coalition of NGOs, on the problem of land reform and related issues. ANGOC hopes that the discontinuing of quadrennial reporting on WAICART follow-up will not mean neglect of the subject, which is of great importance for the poor rural population in many countries. ANGOC suggests that FAO consider reporting on this subject, now included under the World Food Summit Plan of Action, at the next session of the Conference.

We know that the subject is of special interest also to the popular coalition to eradicate hunger and poverty, and supported by the ACC network on rural development and food security.

Bruce MOORE (Observer for IFAD)

The ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security under the leadership of FAO and, as was just mentioned by our former speaker, constitutes the mechanism for interagency follow-up to the World Food Summit and supports the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. The Popular Coalition's partners include IFAD, FAO, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the European Commission, and Civil Society Organisations from all geographic regions.

Its mandate is to empower the rural poor by improving their access to productive assets and by increasing their participation in decision-making that affects their livelihood systems. The goal is to revive a growing reform on national and international agendas. The Popular Coalition is hosted by IFAD.

Mr Chairperson, Governments throughout the world are increasingly recognising that access to land and other productive assets is a vital component of any durable solution aimed at food security and the eradication of poverty. In this context, FAO has a historical mandate related to land reform that was established in 1947 at the Hot Springs Conference. Today, more and more Governments are increasing the opportunities for civil society organisations to participate in decisions on land tenure reform, access to related productive resources and other vital factor inputs. The Popular Coalition notes that ECOSOC has discontinued separate reporting on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, noting that ECOSOC will be receiving reports on the follow-up to the World Food Summit. Accordingly, the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty wishes to highlight the priority that the Member Governments of FAO should give to FAO's work in supporting land reform processes. It is essential to recognise the significance of these issues in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. In order to achieve its targets, it is of the utmost importance for FAO to be mandated to continue, and where necessary, extend its leadership on land reform and related issues. Toward this goal, the Popular Coalition encourages FAO to prepare a report for discussion at the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference on Land Tenure Reform, highlighting regional and national trends, and incorporating an evaluation of pertinent FAO activities.

Furthermore, the Popular Coalition encourages that agrarian reform and access to related factor inputs be given high visibility in the task manager report on Integrated Planning and

Management of Land Resources being prepared by FAO for the Eighth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In closing, Mr Chairman, the Popular Coalition is encouraged by the efforts of FAO to strengthen its partnerships with Civil Society Organisations at national, regional and international levels in order to enhance the capabilities of Governments and their peoples, to implement land reform programmes that are socially just, and appropriately grounded in the rights of women and other marginalized groups.

Mrs Lydie ROSSINI van HISSENHOVEN (Observer for International Council of Women)

I would like to say how an international NGO, such as the International Council of Women, can collaborate on the follow-up of the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action.

Encouragement is needed for research on key nutrients and food security issues. We can lobby for appropriate legislation on food security issues and for higher standards of food safety and quality. We can investigate the causes of the lack of adequate food and look at how the people are managing to cope. We can promote the teaching of food and nutrition in schools and education for the consumer. Food and nutrition education is essential in promoting good health. Knowledge will assist people in selecting, storing, preparing, cooking and serving safe and nutritionally-adequate foods. Traditional methods of passing on the knowledge and skills necessary for the provision and selection of a healthy mix of foods are no longer appropriate for all situations. New methods must be used. With the changes in diet patterns and the growing popularity of takeaways and fast-food preparations, alterations in nutrient content, such as a reduction of salt, sugar and fat, would assist in providing healthier fast-food. These meals tend to be more expensive than the whole ingredients.

We can contribute to the planning of new curriculum initiatives concerning health and well-being. It is essential to encourage parents, teachers, school bars, politicians and the Ministries of Education to include food nutrition as a compulsory learning unit, as well as to lobby for education in life skills for the consumer.

Then we monitor the knowledge and skills of health professionals, particularly general practitioners and nurses, to make sure that they have access to ongoing education in all aspects of healthy lifestyles. We can lobby for an expert change in the role that the media play in promoting inappropriate messages and role models. We can also lobby hardship missions and ask questions to our politicians, food producers, manufacturers and suppliers to ensure that food is safe, affordable and nutritionally-adequate. National councils may work on specific projects that will fulfil a need in their own countries.

CHAIRMAN

I think that that has been a very interesting and fruitful discussion. I think one of the recurrent items was just to thank for the quality of the documents and introductory remarks of the ADG, Dr de Haen, and I think that before trying to summarise our debate I will give the floor to him again to respond to some of the observation made, to which you could be helpful.

H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Thank you Mr Chairman, and thank you distinguished delegates for comments, suggestions and questions. I will not reply to remarks made on the Special Programme on Food Security, but I would imagine that my colleague, Mr Regnier, here on the podium may wish to talk about this after me, if the Chairman agrees.

Now, I don't have many questions to answer, because there were not so many questions, but I would like to refer to some points.

Firstly, regarding the current state and the recent development of world food security. There were several speakers, Kenya and Haiti, but also several others, who referred to a recent increase in the

numbers. Now, I would just like to set the record straight here regarding our own reporting. The speakers may have referred to the latest publication by the World Bank on the people living in poverty. That time series extends to 1998, whereas our own estimate of the chronically-undernourished has at the latest estimate the three-year average of 1995-97. Now these World Bank figures on people living in poverty have, in fact, indicated that those figures rose again in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, that is, the latest figure for 1998 is slightly above the figure for 1997, but only slightly, and it had gone up and down in recent years.

I wish to refer to our, that is the Secretariat's measurement, or estimate rather, of the chronically-undernourished. As you have heard at other occasions in the opening day of the Conference, this figure has up to 1995-97 gone down, not up. And in fact, for the first time we were able to report that the figure for the developing countries is below 800 million. That is 790 million. In addition we have published a figure for the first time for the developed countries for the same period 1995-97, and we have estimated that to be 34 million. But there is no comparison, there is no earlier figure, so we cannot say if that has gone up or down. I thought this was important to note. This is not to say that within the group of developing countries there has not be an increase in some countries. In fact, we have reported that there were a decrease by 100 million in 37 developing countries and an increase of 60 million, all in the early 1990s, in the rest of the developing countries, so that the net change is 40 million less undernourished in 1995-97 compared to the early 1990s. And, in fact, this is an improvement that is far inferior to the progress necessary to be made in order to reach the World Food Summit target, which is 400 million by the year 2015.

I should add that some of the speakers may have referred to another figure that we have also published, and this is the countries that face food emergencies. This number of countries has, in fact, gone up. We have reported that the number of countries is slightly increasing and the share of cases where the main determinant factor is manmade is also increasing.

I wish to respond to the question by the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea. He asked about the Report on the Impact on Food Security of the Implementation of the Uruguay Round to date. This kind of report had been requested from the Secretariat by the recent session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and I am glad to report that as requested, the Report is available. It will be made available to you in English, French, Spanish and Arabic outside on the Documents Desk, and the report in Chinese will be out in a few days, I hope. So this is good news.

There was one further question in reference to the statement made by the United States on the background for these regional strategy papers. The Committee on World Food Security has been regularly informed of FAO's endeavours in assisting developing and transition Member Nations in preparing strategies for national agricultural development – Horizon 2010. In its report to the Council, the Committee on World Food Security has expressed its appreciation for this activity. This is in paragraph 17 of document CL 115/11. The CFS in its Report through the Council to the FAO Conference on all aspects of the World Food Summit follow-up, and this was to the Conference in 1997, underlined the importance of concerted action at Sub-Regional, regional and international levels (this is a quotation) to support national efforts for the earliest possible achievement of sustainable food security. You will find this reference in document C 97/7, in paragraph 37. Furthermore, as a third background to this activity, I would like to recall that Objective 7.2 of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit aims to improve Sub-regional, Regional and international co-operation. It recommends to maximise synergy for the attainment of food security and urges FAO and the other relevant organisations of the UN System to assist countries in reviewing national plans of action and to assist in managing partnership for economic and technical cooperation among countries on food security.

Mr. Chairman, it is before this background that the Organisation has developed a number of regional strategies for food security in collaboration with the relevant economic regional organizations.

My final reply, very briefly, is to the distinguished delegate of Cameroon, who asked about the evaluation of World Food Summit follow-up activities at Regional Conferences. I just wish to report to you that in preparation for the examination of progress and follow-up to the Summit by the regional conferences next year, information is supplied to all Regional Conferences on the following three subject matters: firstly, a Report on World Food Summit Implementation in the Region, secondly, a Report on Activities under the Special Programme for Food Security, and thirdly, Information on National, Regional, and Sub-regional Strategies of Relevance to Member Nations in the region.

Mr. Chairman, it is expected that in their examination of these subject matters, the Regional Conferences will pay particular attention to the Commitments 1, 2 and 5, which as I said in my introduction, will be the focus of the CFS monitoring process in the year 2000.

A. REGNIER (Sous-Directeur général, Département de la coopération technique)

Concernant le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, je voudrais tout d'abord noter les déclarations d'intérêt et d'appui de nombreux pays qui mettent aujourd'hui en oeuvre ce Programme spécial, souvent même sur leurs propres ressources. A cet égard, l'intention du Nigeria de conclure un programme de fonds fiduciaire avec la FAO sur la sécurité alimentaire est, je pense, particulièrement importante.

Je voudrais également remercier les pays donateurs qui ont appuyé le Programme spécial à ce jour, et à ce propos également, la FAO a pris note avec satisfaction des déclarations faites ce matin par le Japon et de son intention d'appuyer le Programme spécial dans un petit nombre de pays d'Asie, de même d'ailleurs que de la déclaration de la Turquie disposée à appuyer la coopération Sud-sud du Programme spécial dans trois pays d'Asie.

La question des résultats du Programme spécial à ce jour a été posée et, bien entendu, c'est un sujet très important. Je voudrais à cet égard dire que le Programme spécial est soumis aux mêmes règles et procédures concernant l'examen et l'évaluation de tous les autres projets et activités de terrain de l'Organisation, y compris l'évaluation conjointe avec les pays donateurs durant l'exécution. En outre, des dispositions particulières ont été prises pour que l'inspecteur de terrain de la FAO et des inspecteurs externes à la FAO désignés à cet effet visitent et évaluent systématiquement les progrès du Programme spécial. Par ailleurs, un Panel d'experts de haut niveau, comme vous le savez, se réunit chaque année pour examiner les orientations et les progrès du Programme spécial. Nous avons pris note de la suggestion de la délégation de la Finlande relative à une évaluation d'ensemble du programme. Cette question a déjà été discutée, je crois, au Comité du Programme, au Comité financier en septembre et, si je suis bien informé, a été mentionnée également ce matin en Commission II, lorsque l'on discutait du rapport d'évaluation du Programme pour le biennium passé. L'intention est de faire cette évaluation après la saison agricole 2001 lorsque le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire sera opérationnel dans un nombre suffisant de pays, dans ses quatre composantes et sur un nombre de sites suffisamment représentatifs ayant bénéficié d'une durée suffisante, de manière à pouvoir tirer des conclusions significatives de l'examen. Soyez assurés que nous sommes très conscients du besoin d'examiner en permanence ce programme et d'assurer que les orientations qui lui sont données tirent les leçons de l'expérience pratique que l'on a au fur et à mesure de sa mise en oeuvre.

La délégation des États-Unis d'Amérique a parlé des liens de ce programme avec les instituts de recherche. Je voudrais dire que le Programme spécial travaille en étroite collaboration avec les instituts nationaux de recherche agricole.

Au niveau international, bien entendu, nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec l'importance attachée à la coopération avec les centres internationaux de recherche agricole et le Programme

spécial. A ce sujet, je voudrais signaler que cette année, à l'occasion d'une réunion à la FAO, à Rome, avec les centres de recherche agricole internationale, les voies et moyens d'une coopération étroite entre ces centres et la FAO dans le cadre du Programme spécial ont été examinés et les contacts vont maintenant se poursuivre bilatéralement avec chacun de ces centres. Nous avons d'ailleurs déjà des coopérations actives, par exemple avec l'IFPRI.

J'ai un dernier point qui n'est pas véritablement lié au Programme spécial relève, dans une certaine mesure, du Département de la coopération technique. Je voudrais l'aborder brièvement. C'est à la suite de l'intervention du distingué représentant de la Norvège qui signalait l'importance qu'il y avait à assurer la collaboration entre la FAO et les mécanismes de l'UNDAF, et également les mécanismes que lance maintenant la Banque mondiale, le cadre global de développement. Je voudrais assurer le représentant de la Norvège que nous avons donné des instructions à tous nos représentants de la FAO pour qu'ils coopèrent de manière très étroite à la formulation, d'une part, de l'examen de chaque pays, le CCA et, d'autre part, collaborent également étroitement à l'élaboration de l'UNDAF, de ce cadre administratif de développement au sein de chaque pays. Je dois dire que nous avons des échos très favorables de nos représentants. Cette collaboration se passe bien. Il nous faudra maintenant veiller à ce que ce cadre conceptuel puisse déboucher sur des programmes, mais nous sommes à la disposition des Nations Unies, puisque l'exercice est en fait largement dirigé par le représentant coordonnateur du système des Nations Unies.

De même que le Directeur général a écrit à plusieurs reprises au Président de la Banque mondiale avec qui nous sommes en contact, nous collaborons dans les pays où le CDF, le Cadre global de développement est testé, c'est-à-dire, comme vous le savez, dans un peu moins d'une vingtaine de pays. Bien entendu, il s'agit d'entreprises qui sont là sous la directive et sous l'impulsion du gouvernement, mais à la demande, nous sommes certainement tout à fait disposés à apporter notre contribution également à l'élaboration de ce cadre. Nous pensons qu'à la fois l'UNDAF et le CDF doivent être complémentaires l'un de l'autre. Pour nous, le CDF est important, puisqu'il parle de la collaboration au niveau sectoriel, ce qui nous permettra de mettre en lumière les besoins du secteur agricole, y compris les forêts et les pêches, et peut-être également de voir l'importance qu'il y a à augmenter l'investissement dans un secteur qui n'est pas au niveau que nous, FAO, souhaiterions au stade actuel.

CHAIRMAN

I would like now to make some points. I couldn't pretend to summarize all the debate, because there are so many interesting elements that it would be too long. I could just summarize some points. First, there was great support for the World Food Summit goals. Secondly, there was a call for national reports by end of December. A large majority of countries have replied, but some haven't, so I wish that all of them will take a lesson from our meeting today and will accomplish the duty that they took on at the World Food Summit meeting. Thirdly, there was support for the Special Programme for Food Security plus the Regional Programmes. Fourthly, there was support for FIVIMS. I think that on FIVIMS, many delegations spoke. I was told that Philippines, for example, are making very good progress on FIVIMS, even on their own initiative. There were references to FIVIMS from Japan, from the United States of America, and I think it is very important for all of us to develop FIVIMS as far as we can, because it is one of the elements necessary for the best coordination and synergy among Organizations. A reference to UNDAF has been made even recently and answered by Mr Regnier. UNDAF is also something very important in the Resolution that we tabled, and which our colleagues are discussing now in the Mexico Room. There is a special paragraph on UNDAF, and I hope that it will be retained in our draft Resolution for an Alliance on Food Security.

Another point that was raised was the support for assistance to developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations. Many delegations made reference to that. Many countries also raised the underlying problem of poverty and its impact on food insecurity. A call was made for awareness of the World Food Summit goals and need for donor support. Note was taken of the

paper prepared on Biosafety. I am sorry that the second document we raised this morning didn't get all the attention that it deserved, but I think it is an item we can maybe develop in other items on our agenda. I think that, of course, many delegations made reference to the need for peace before just thinking of food security and it certainly is an element "*préalable à tout le reste, n'est-ce-pas?*". I think that the observer from IFAD referred to this popular collusion to eradicate hunger and poverty as an example in which the three Rome-based Organizations are working together, and could certainly do more. The juridical aspects of land tenure are certainly very important, and I wish progress in that field.

I think that the most worrying element that came out from our discussion, and I am afraid to subscribe to that, is that the pace to reach the goals of the World Food Summit was not as one could have wished. I think the figures that Mr de Haen gave to us are certainly more positive than the previous figures, or the figures that you can have from other sources, and we certainly welcome them, but I think we are still far away from our goal. I think even if we reduce by 80 million people, I don't recall the exact figure, in ten years - eight million reduced every year according to the figures that we have recently gathered, it would not be sufficient. I mean the minimum would be 20 million hungry people to reach the aim of 2015, so we are far away from those figures.

As I said in my introductory remarks, there is a given decrease in ODA. The problems of agriculture and rural poverty are not the priority that they should be. I think from our discussion today, one of the lessons learned is the need for all of us to take back to our capitals the importance of doing more.

I hope that the two Resolutions on the Alliance will be merged because one way of doing more is just to mobilize forces and to create synergies, to create new momentum in passing from 8 million to 20 million people, which is quite a large job.

So, I think that these were some of the elements covered, of course, not all of them, because there was also the question of transboundary diseases control. That is certainly a very important item, as is safety of food. But I think that there are so many items that it would be too hard to summarize all of them. The political message that we can draw, however, from our discussion is that we didn't do enough according to the commitments we made at the World Food Summit and that we should do more, all of us, internationally and locally.

I am hesitant to close this issue, because as I said before some of our colleagues and friends are discussing the two Resolutions in the Mexico Room, but I don't want to delay our discussions. So instead of closing Item 1 on our agenda, I will suspend it until we have the results of this contact working group, or whatever, or friends of the Chair - you can name it in different ways. Then we will start to discuss it again in our Plenary. But just to gain time, I will ask our colleague from Costa Rica to chair the second part of our meeting.

Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Hernandez, Vice Chairperson of Commission I took the Chair
Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Hernandez, Vice-Présidente de la Comisión I assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Hernandez, Vicepresidenta de la Comisión I

7. Gender Mainstreaming in FAO (C 99/INF/21)

7. Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO (C 99/INF/21)

7. Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO (C 99/INF/21)

PRESIDENTE

Agradezco al Presidente de la Comisión, Embajador Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti, en llamarme para presidir este tema referente a la Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO. Es el

documento C 99/INF/21. En primer lugar vamos a llamar al señor Henri Carsalade para que nos dé un informe del documento.

H. CARSALADE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement durable)

Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs, le sixième Rapport d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action de la FAO pour les femmes dans le développement (C 99/INF/21) constitue le document de base principal pour la discussion du point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Mais aussi le Rapport de la 117ème Session du Conseil fait référence à deux documents qui concernent le sujet: d'une part, le Rapport de la 82ème Session du Comité du Programme qui se réfère explicitement dans ses paragraphes 43 à 47 au rapport sur les progrès en matière de parité au sein de la FAO et, d'autre part, à la Consultation de haut niveau sur les femmes rurales et l'information, qui a été organisée par la FAO à Rome du 4 au 6 octobre dernier et qui fait l'objet du document que vous trouverez à l'extérieur (CL 117/INF/13). En introduisant le point 7 de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais souligner les points suivants: premièrement, dans ses interventions en faveur des femmes rurales dans le développement agricole et rural, la FAO cherche à garantir la sécurité alimentaire, à stimuler une croissance équitable, tout en réduisant la pauvreté rurale. L'accès adéquat et équitable des hommes et des femmes aux ressources productives (terre, eau, ressources halieutiques et forestières) ainsi qu'aux décisions et aux services essentiels, en est une condition.

Deuxièmement, le Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, révisé en 1995, constitue l'instrument spécifique de l'Organisation pour diffuser la notion de parité, c'est-à-dire la prise en considération des spécificités des hommes et des femmes, aux niveaux de la politique, des programmes et des institutions. Ce Plan couvre la période 1996-2001; il définit le rôle de la FAO pour promouvoir l'implication accrue des femmes rurales en tant que participantes et en tant que bénéficiaires du développement économique, social et politique. Troisièmement, l'un des buts principaux du Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement est d'obtenir une meilleure compréhension de la situation des femmes rurales. Il a pour ambition de mieux intégrer les questions de parité dans les domaines techniques de la FAO et, ainsi, d'augmenter les bénéfices que les hommes et les femmes tirent de l'agriculture, des forêts, des pêches et du développement rural. Le Plan se réfère aux décisions internationales en la matière, en particulier au Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui a réaffirmé l'importance de la diffusion du genre dans le travail de la FAO dans l'Engagement n°1 qui, je cite, se propose d'«assurer un environnement politique, social et économique favorable dont le dessein est de créer les conditions les meilleures pour l'éradication de la pauvreté et pour une paix durable». Fin de citation.

Quatrièmement, la documentation pour ce point de l'ordre du jour montre que la FAO a progressé dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'Action pour les femmes dans le développement, aussi bien dans son mode de fonctionnement interne que dans son programme d'assistance aux Pays Membres. Les problèmes de parité sont davantage pris en compte par le personnel de la FAO et par ses divisions techniques.

Enfin, pour continuer sur cette lancée, la FAO va préparer un troisième Plan d'action qui pourrait être revu et approuvé par la 31ème session de la Conférence en 2001. Il serait opérationnel pour trois biennia de 2002 à 2007. Ce nouveau Plan sera développé en cohérence avec le nouveau cadre stratégique de la FAO et le nouveau modèle de programmation. De plus, il reflétera à la fois les orientations de la Consultation de haut niveau sur les femmes rurales et l'information et celles de la Session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies qui aura lieu en juin 2000 pour examiner le suivi donné à la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes de Pékin (Pékin+5). Ceci était mes remarques, Madame la Présidente, et je vous remercie.

PRESIDENTE

Agradecemos mucho este informe y doy la palabra a los miembros de la Asamblea que quieran referirse a él. Canadá tiene la palabra.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

Let me congratulate you on the wise decision that Ambassador Fontana-Giusti made in selecting you to chair this particular session. We also want to congratulate the Secretariat for the production of this Report and to commend the Organization for the activities undertaken during this past biennium to increase the awareness of gender issues in many aspects of development. We applaud the accomplishments, especially in the areas mentioned in this document. Those are: the production of tools to assist in the integration of a gender-perspective; measures aimed at reducing the burdens and increasing the incomes of rural women; gender-responsive agriculture and rural development policies; and making information and data more accurately reflect gender dimension of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. However, Madam Chair, we also note, and as Monsieur Carsalade, Assistant Director-General, SD reminded us, that a Progress Report was presented to the Programme Committee in September because that particular Committee had been concerned about the lack of evidence that the Plan of Action approved in 1995 was not having any impact on Gender Mainstreaming within the Organization. The Report of that Committee, I'm not sure whether it is in fact available for the delegates, but I just want to read out some of the conclusions of the Programme Committee Report.

Paragraph 46 of that Report indicates that the Committee observed with some concern that the progress reported could not be clearly related to the planned actions in the programme of action which comprised the individual plans of 24 technical divisions. The Committee also noted that most of the progress reported seemed to have occurred through the use of extra-budgetary resources, while the achievement of gender mainstreaming was equally essential in the whole range of activities under the FAO Regular Programme. Madam Chair, I was going to go on and also note the conclusions under paragraphs 43, 44, 45 and 47, but Monsieur Carsalade has surprised us today by indicating that it is the intention of the Organization to immediately start work on the Third Plan of Action which would cover the period 2001-2007. We note that the document simply recommends that this Conference authorize the Secretariat to prepare a Seventh Progress Report on the existing Plan of Action. Madam Chair, we would heartily support Monsieur Carsalade's proposal. We were going to suggest that there is ample evidence to suggest that the existing Plan of Action has not been effective, and rather than waste an additional two years in waiting until the end of the current Plan, we fully support the proposal to start immediately on drafting an additional or the next generation of the Plan of Action. I would urge the Secretariat in addition to taking into account the comments of the High-Level Consultation on Rural Women and Information and the UN Session on Beijing + 5, that the Secretariat also take into account the recommendations of the Programme Committee.

Madam Chair, paragraph 45 also raises an important issue, that is paragraph 45 of the Programme Committee Report. That issue is the continued gender imbalance in the Professional and senior staff of the Organization, and I believe it is, in fact, also reflected in paragraph 18 of the document in front of us. We certainly applaud the six-fold increase in the number of women appointed to the Director level in the Secretariat, but we are certainly not encouraged by the fact that the percentage of women in the Professional staff of the Organization has only increased from 18 percent to 20 percent in the past five years. At that rate, my calculator indicates that it will take 37.5 years to reach the target of 35 percent. We strongly urge the Director-General and the Senior Management of the Organization to redouble their efforts to increase this proportion at a strongly exhilarated rate. Star Trek fans may even request "war speed" and to explore all possible options within the existing rules and regulations of the Organization. We recognize that professional competence must remain the paramount selection criterion, especially if the FAO is

to remain a Centre of Excellence, but we refuse to believe that competent women cannot be attracted to employment in the FAO.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, the FAO is a respected voice in agriculture and rural development and the FAO must lead by example and must visibly demonstrate that it takes gender mainstreaming seriously. If we don't demonstrate that we are taking it seriously, our partners will not take it seriously.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias al distinguido representante del Canadá. Estoy segura que la Secretaría va a tomar nota de su participación y de sus cifras.

SECRETARY

I would just like to make reference to two documents that have been tabled before the Commission and that is document C 99/LIM/22, which is the First Report of Resolutions Committee, and paragraph 3 of that particular document, which refers to a Draft Resolution on the correction of Geographical and Gender Imbalances in the Professional Staff Structure. The Resolutions Committee has decided that the most appropriate place for discussion of this Draft Resolution is in the current agenda item, Item 7. The text of the Resolution itself should be before you as document C 99/LIM/22-Sup. 1.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

Forgive me for taking the floor so rapidly after my first intervention. The Secretariat has just indicated that a particular document is going to be discussed under this agenda Item. May I reserve the right for my country to come back later on in the debate to address that particular document if necessary?

PRESIDENTE

Como no. Con mucho gusto tomamos nota para que Canadá, si lo considera oportuno, pueda referirse al documento.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Could I congratulate you and the Members of the Bureau for their election, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellence of the documents that have been submitted to us for discussion under this agenda Item.

The question of women's role in rural development and the multi-faceted nature that it has and also the question of inequality between the sexes and within the head-count within FAO, is something which is important both for the Organization and it is also an important issue for Member Nations. On behalf of the Group of 77 and also on behalf of the Near East Group, our delegation would like to make it clear that the constitutive act of this Organization, the Basic Texts and what has been said by Council and the Conference of the FAO, cover all the aspects of this issue.

We know that our Director-General has undertaken great efforts during his past term of office, so that the necessary corrective steps can be taken regarding geographic balance as regards the representation of the different geographic zones among the staff of the Organization. The Director-General during his term in office has been successful, whereby the number of states not represented has gone from 54 just to 21 only. This has happened despite of the increase in the number of Member Nations during that same period. We have also seen that the efforts undertaken by the Director-General to reduce the inequality between genders, and this has been done according to the objective that was set by the United Nations. We would like to congratulate the Director-General for the efforts that have been taken in this area, and we would also express

the hope that he will persevere and that he will continue down this track during his next term of office.

We would also like to avail of this opportunity to congratulate Jacques Diouf for his re-election as the Director-General of this Organization for a new term of office. The 137 votes in his favour is a record which has never been achieved in the past except once, when there was just a single candidate. I think this shows that we were practically unanimous when we elected him to head this Organization with an overwhelming majority, and I think this bears witness to the fact that the vast majority of Member Nations are satisfied with what has been achieved by the Director-General. This shows that he enjoys our full support in carrying out the task which has been entrusted to him. The idea is to strengthen the direction in which this Organization is going so that it can answer and meet the expectations of Member Nations.

We would support the new approach which has been taken regarding recruitment policy for staff of the Organization which has now been up and running for a few years. This policy is based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee and grants a considerable amount of initiative to that Committee. They can provide real assistance to the Director-General when it comes to choosing people who have to be recruited for vacancies, particularly within the Professional grades. This is done taking account of the need for geographic and gender equality.

The G-77 and the Near East Group would like to say on this that we fully support the current policy for selection of new staff members within the Organization. We would recall that we have to give more power to the Selection Committee for the Professional Grades. We also believe that we have to give more freedom to the Director-General so that he can choose the people who are best qualified to meet the requirements of the vacancies.

Secondly, it is necessary that candidates for vacancies be skilled and well-qualified.

Thirdly, we have to take scrupulous account of the geographic balance between staff recruited, and finally, it is also important that we respect gender balance as well.

This is our point of view on this item on our agenda.

To conclude, Madam Chairman, thank you very much and I trust that we will be successful in our deliberations.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de continuar me permito leer la lista de los oradores hasta el momento inscritos: Costa Rica, Finlandia, Nueva Zelandia, Suecia, Angola, México, Suiza y Noruega.

Sra. Yolanda GAGO de SINIGAGLIA (Costa Rica)

Este informe presenta los progresos realizados hasta la fecha. Observamos, en lo que se refiere a acciones de la FAO, que el personal femenino de la Organización ha aumentado de un 18 por ciento en 1994 a un 20 por ciento en 1999, así como se ha sexduplicado el número de mujeres que ocupan cargos superiores. Sin embargo, instamos a la FAO a un mayor esfuerzo a que se incremente a un mayor número de mujeres en el personal, así como ayuden a elaborar y a aplicar políticas y programas para que las mujeres del medio rural puedan tener, en forma clara, el acceso a los recursos y servicios de producción, o sea aumentar su capacitación que les permita el desarrollo de su actividad así como facilitarles el poder alimentar a sus familias.

En cuanto al trabajo remunerado, es importante el reconocimiento de equidad de género, igual trabajo igual salario. Además, para la transformación de las relaciones de género, el mejoramiento de las condiciones de las mujeres, es decir, que las mujeres obtengan más poder de decisión y acción, o sea mayor autonomía. Esto significa reconocer que las mujeres están en desventaja porque no se encuentran representadas en las instancias donde se definen los asuntos importantes, donde se asignan los recursos, se intercambian informaciones y donde se establecen las reglas del juego para acceder a los beneficios del desarrollo.

Raimo ANTTOLA (Finland)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. The Members of the European Region align themselves also in this statement.

The European Community and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for informative reports on gender mainstreaming in FAO, which we have been able to get acquainted with while preparing ourselves for this Conference.

The Sixth Progress Report and Implementation of the Plan of Action for Women in Development is interesting because we learned a lot about actions taken in the work of the FAO.

With regard to the Sixth Progress Report, we would like to deal with some issues which we consider of high importance. The link between development, poverty and gender equality is a well-documented and well-known fact today. The need for greater gender mainstreaming in FAO's work has been clearly expressed in the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action. We have noted with satisfaction the positive developments in some of the FAO Divisions, such as formulation of sector-specific and gender-sensitive guidelines. However, the uneven progress leaves much to be done in the near future. A more systematic approach is needed and the success of some Divisions should now be put into practice in other Divisions as well. We would very much like to see that the formulation of these guidelines is followed up by their real incorporation in all phases of programme planning in all units in the Organization.

Gender aspects should be included in all major activities for FAO, both in preparatory and implementation phase of the programmes and plans and both at Headquarters and in the field. The gender mainstreaming policy does not mean that women-specific measures are no longer needed. We were therefore delighted to learn about the continuous women's specific measures or projects such as those of the Agricultural Department Units. In addition, we should remember that gender mainstreaming is needed also within women specific projects. In aiming for gender mainstreaming, we should not lose sight of the fact that women are in most cases the more disadvantaged gender.

The High-Level Consultation on Rural Women which was held in Rome in early October this year offered a good opportunity to discuss how to improve information on rural women and how to obtain information from rural women and men. FAO should strive to fully take into account in its work the issues, which were emphasized in this Conference. It is important to provide more gender-disaggregated data at all levels of project work, both to decision-makers and the people concerned. Whenever more gender-disaggregated data is collected, we must be very clear that the data will indeed be utilized, not just gathered for the sake of data collection. Gender analysis can be a powerful and helpful tool in mainstreaming gender in development work. It is also important that efforts are made to take into account effects of projects at the level of individual household and social groups.

By now FAO has enough material on gender mainstreaming, and the time has come to fully benefit from it. We would like to further encourage the sharing of information and enhanced cooperation between the three Rome-based UN Agencies. FAO's high quality material on gender mainstreaming should be more widely used within the project cycles for the other Agencies, whereas WFP's gender focal points could be of benefit to the two others.

IFAD has gained valuable experience in giving a voice to the poorest rural women. Naturally all FAO Departments and Divisions should be encouraged to use FAO's own material effectively, such as SEAGA's training package or new material on information.

Although the representation of women in FAO staff is, of course, considered separately from the gender mainstreaming issues, we cannot overlook the fact that the present figures are discouraging. The still very low representation of women in FAO should be clearly improved. In this connection, we would like to urge the Director-General to include again an overview of the

tables concerning location, sex and category in the future editions of monthly documents on geographic distribution of Professional staff. We have noted with some concern that most of the gender activities have occurred through the use of extra-budgetary resources. Also the achievement of gender issues is equally essential in the whole range of activities under FAO's Regular Programme. We ask kindly FAO to consider how these issues could be taken into account in the regular budget. Furthermore, this could increase transparency on how gender issues have been incorporated in the implementation of the programmes and plans of FAO.

The Sixth Progress Report mainly describes how the gender approach has been taken into account in the different FAO Divisions. However, it lacks a clear appraisal of the overall development of gender mainstreaming in FAO. We request again FAO to report on the concrete steps taken in mainstreaming of gender in the Seventh Progress Report, and also to analyse in the same Report the overall development of gender mainstreaming in FAO. We were glad to hear that this work is already going ahead in the explanation given by the Assistant Director-General, SD in the beginning.

In addition, we would very much like to see material that allows us to compare the progress and evolution between the years both concerning the programmes and projects of FAO and within FAO itself.

With these words the European Community and its Member States can support recommendations of the Sixth Progress Report to endorse the Sixth Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action. We also wish to recommend that the Seventh and Final Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action reporting on the progress made in the 2000-2001 biennium be presented to the Conference at its Thirty-First Session.

Mr Chairman, concerning the Draft Resolution on correction of geographical and gender imbalances in the Professional staff structure tabled by the Group of 77, I have the following comments on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We consider that attaining the correct geographical and gender balance in the Professional staff structure of FAO is an important issue. However, the EEC and its Member States would like to emphasize that focus on the resolution should be in addressing the still existing low representation level for women in FAO in the Professional categories in general. This is necessary since the EEC and its Member States wish to reiterate the need for FAO to reach the targets set by United Nations for this purpose without denying the importance or the need to rectify geographical imbalances. It should not be seen as the only solution to correcting existing gender imbalances.

New and innovative measures are needed and current ones need to be strengthened in order for FAO to attract a sufficient number of qualified female applicants who meet the high standards of efficiency and technical competence from all parts of the world. Only then would it be possible for the Director-General to appoint new staff members meeting the requirements of gender balance, high technical competence and geographical distribution.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

We welcome document C 99/INF/21, which documents the activities that have taken place within four areas of intervention. FAO is to be commended for the strategic nature and appropriateness of their interventions on gender, and for their achievements.

The document notes that there is a monitoring and evaluation system for the Plan of Action for Women in Development. It would be useful if future reports contained more objective information on key indicators of progress, and we have two examples: firstly by establishing a system for monitoring and reporting on whether projects are gender-specific, gender-integrated or partially-integrated, and reporting on the number and value of projects in each category and secondly, by reporting on gender-disaggregated data on training.

One area where objective data is provided in the Report regards the statistics on the proportion of women in the Professional staff population of FAO. The 2 percent increase from 18 percent to 20 percent over a five-year period is, to our mind, very unimpressive. It is hoped that initiatives suggested to address this are taken seriously. The sixfold increase in women in senior management appears promising, but needs to be seen in the context of the low base it was starting from.

It would be useful if future reports identified needs that should be addressed in the next biennium, and maybe even flagged issues for FAO Member Nations to consider addressing where they could add value to the FAO work.

It would also be useful if a process was designed for the development of the next strategy, beyond 2001, and that consideration be given to this being a 'Gender and Development' strategy rather than a 'Women in Development' strategy, in line with other current international development policies including as in the DAC, the Development Assistance Committee in the OECD.

Finally, Madam Chair, we wish to agree to the recommendations in Section VI paragraph 19 which endorse the Sixth Progress Report, and which requests a Seventh and Final Report for the Thirty-first Session of this Conference.

Ms Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN (Sweden)

Madame Chairman, Sweden endorses what the delegate of Finland has stated in the name of the Member States of the European Union. My delegation would also like to make some specific comments on this issue. The first one is that it is a special pleasure to see a woman as a Chair of a Commission at FAO. It is not very often we see that. The second comment would be on gender imbalance. My delegation fully supports and endorses the proposal made by the delegate of Canada regarding the need to work much harder on gender imbalance within the Organization. This was also mentioned by our Minister of Agriculture at the Plenary Session this morning. Regarding gender mainstreaming, we are pleased to hear that a new generation of the Plan of Action will be presented. Here I would like to endorse the proposal from New Zealand of having key indicators of progress included. I would also like to quote what the distinguished delegate of Italy was mentioning in the previous item. He was talking about the need to do more. My delegation would like to emphasize that the issue is not simply to do more, but it is equally important is to do better and in different ways.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Ante todo permítame felicitarla por su designación para presidir los trabajos de esta Comisión, en especial al abordar este tema y por ser usted orgullosamente miembro del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Mi delegación expresa su satisfacción por el reconocimiento que la FAO ha hecho a la necesidad de elaborar y aplicar políticas y programas para las mujeres del medio rural que reduzcan o eliminen los obstáculos legislativos, administrativos, socio-económicos y de comportamiento que dificultan el acceso de ellas a los recursos y servicios de producción a que se refiere el párrafo 10 del documento C 99/INF/21.

La delegación de México quisiera señalar que las acciones más importantes adoptadas en los últimos años para la aplicación del *Plan de Acción para la Integración de la mujer en el desarrollo* parecen adecuadas ya que responden a iniciativas internacionales relativas a las mujeres del medio rural. Sin embargo, es importante señalar que el personal de la FAO debe seguir incluyendo las preocupaciones plasmadas en el *Plan de Acción* en los proyectos que realice y que se incluya a expertos de los países involucrados que conozcan el estado de la mujer rural en sus países, así como las limitaciones que tienen para su desarrollo. En este sentido compartimos la opinión de la FAO sobre lo indispensable que resulta contar con una información

y datos precisos actualizados sobre los obstáculos y oportunidades a los que se enfrentan las mujeres del mundo para lograr su desarrollo integral y el de sus familias, particularmente aquellas que integran las poblaciones rurales. Esta información otorgará también una visión más real del aporte de las mujeres como trabajadoras, esposas, hijas y amas de casa. Al respecto, nuestro país lleva a cabo con éxito una iniciativa sobre el análisis socio-económico y de género, que ha contado con un taller sobre el tema impartido por una experta de la FAO y dirigido a funcionarios e instituciones públicas principalmente. Al taller siguieron una serie de reuniones de seguimiento que culminaron con la instalación de una Comisión de Trabajo encargada de propiciar la elaboración de un manual metodológico sobre el enfoque de este taller, con experiencia mexicana que sirva a las instituciones de la Red Nacional de Cooperación de Instituciones y Organismos de Apoyo a la Mujer Rural como instrumento para incorporar la perspectiva de género en la planeación y operación de proyectos.

A través de la Comisión de Estudios y Estadísticas sobre la Mujer Rural se ha realizado un enorme esfuerzo para diseñar mecanismos que permitan hacer un diagnóstico estadístico acerca de la situación socio-económica y demográfica que caracteriza a las mujeres rurales mexicanas. En este sentido cabe destacar la labor del Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática para tratar de obtener toda su información desglosada por sexo como una primera forma de obtener datos que puedan hacer visible el aporte de la mujer rural, que en muchas ocasiones no se reconoce.

Señora Presidenta, mi delegación respalda plenamente las acciones que realiza esta Organización para dar acceso equitativo a las mujeres a los recursos agrícolas para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, en especial por lo que se refiere a una mayor comprensión de la situación de éstas en el área rural.

Asimismo, nos unimos a lo dicho por otras delegaciones en cuanto a la importancia de lograr una paridad entre géneros en la contratación de personal a niveles profesionales. Estamos convencidos de las altas capacidades que las mujeres tenemos para contribuir a mejorar la calidad de los trabajos de la FAO.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Concernant ce document, ma délégation en apprécie sa concision et félicite la FAO, ainsi qu'elle soutient le Directeur général pour la décision prise en 1996. Nous applaudissons à toutes les activités qui ont été accomplies dans ce domaine. Le paragraphe 17 du document C 99/INF/21 parle d'une étude qui a été menée cette année sur l'intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes demandée par le Comité du Programme de la FAO. Ma délégation voudrait connaître le résultat de cette étude. Quant au paragraphe 18, ma délégation se félicite de l'augmentation de la proportion de femmes parmi le personnel du cadre organique, qui est passée de 18 pour cent en 1994 à 20 pour cent en 1999. Mais elle encourage la FAO à faire des efforts supplémentaires pour augmenter le nombre des femmes dans le cadre organique.

Ma délégation se réjouit par ailleurs des efforts entrepris par le Directeur général pour corriger le déséquilibre entre hommes et femmes dans la structure du personnel. Elle souhaite que la Conférence entérine la pratique mise en application par le Directeur général aux termes de laquelle le concept de plus haute qualité de travail et de compétence technique, de répartition géographique et d'équilibre hommes-femmes doit être appliqué et doit continuer à être suivi. Je terminerai en appuyant, au nom de ma délégation, les recommandations contenues dans le paragraphe 19.

Faisant suite à ce qu'a déclaré le délégué égyptien, ma délégation appuie la résolution contenue dans le document C 99/LIM/22-Sup.1 sur le rééquilibrage de la structure du cadre organique au point de vue de la répartition géographique et de la proportion des femmes.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

Tengo el documento pero continuaré en francés.

(continue en français)

La FAO mène un effort louable en vue de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Cependant, son approche reste centrée sur la nécessité de prendre en considération la participation des femmes à la production agricole sans suffisamment prendre en considération les rapports sociaux entre hommes et femmes. A ce titre, le concept diffère de celui adopté par la Coopération suisse qui met l'accent sur la nécessité de ne pas considérer les femmes seules, mais de travailler sur les rapports sociaux entre les hommes et les femmes. En effet, une amélioration du statut et de la position des femmes passe par une répartition plus équitable des tâches et responsabilités entre les femmes et les hommes, ou les hommes et les femmes.

L'accent mis par la FAO sur l'amélioration du rôle des femmes dans la production risque d'augmenter encore leur charge de travail, ce qui peut avoir un impact négatif sur les autres rôles qui lui sont dévolus, par exemple l'éducation des enfants. Les effets négatifs de cette approche ont été dénoncés depuis une dizaine d'années par la plupart des agences de coopération, les ONG aussi, les pays nordiques par exemple, les États-Unis, le Canada, etc., qui s'attachent davantage aux relations sociales entre hommes et femmes, plutôt qu'aux femmes en tant que telles et elles seules. La Coopération suisse veille donc à ce que ses programmes et projets n'aient aucune retombée négative sur les femmes et les enfants, que les femmes puissent en tirer profit au moins autant que les hommes, et qu'ils offrent aux femmes ayant à charge famille et enfants le soutien et les ressources nécessaires à l'accomplissement de leur tâche.

Ms Merethe LUIS (Norway)

While fully endorsing the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Region, my delegation would like to dwell a bit further on two issues related to gender mainstreaming in the FAO. The first issue concerns the uneven progress made among Divisions related to gender mainstreaming, which we find disturbing. This indicates that there is a need to improve the institutionalization of the gender dimension in the Organization to avoid that this important aspect is dealt with in an arbitrary manner. In order to secure that cross-organizational issues like the gender dimension is taken care of in all of FAO's work, we believe that relevant tools that have been developed must be made known and repeated to the staff. Systems should also be established to secure that proper gender analyses are conducted in a regular manner. We are confident that in developing or drawing up a new Plan of Action, or rather a Gender Development Strategy, due attention will be given to having this sufficiently institutionalized in FAO. The expectation for FAO and the UN System in this area are high. In this context, we can make a reference to the important Resolution which was adopted in the Third Committee in the General Assembly last month on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas.

The second issue we would like to elaborate somewhat further is the importance of information sharing and enhanced cooperation. To secure impact in this area, increased information sharing on tools and best practices is needed. It is, however, imperative that this sharing of information is not restricted to the Rome-based Agencies. In our view, real progress in this area can only be seen if the UN System as such could work closer together, not least at the country level.

In concluding, my delegation supports the point made by the distinguished delegate of Finland concerning the Resolution on correcting the geographical and gender imbalances in the Professional staff structure.

Ms Adela BACKIEL (United States of America)

Let me also extend my congratulations to you as well. Many of our comments have been previously given by other colleagues. So I will keep my comments short.

The United States applauds FAO's continued attention to mainstreaming gender into its programmes and policies. Of particular importance, we feel are enhancing world women's access to and control of productive resources providing opportunities for income generation, labour-saving technologies, micro-enterprises, and training in new methods and analytical tools. To bring about these changes, national policy-makers need the proper tools. We note that FAO was working to provide these tools through its socio-economic and gender analysis initiative. These efforts follow a trend in the international donor community to foster institutional changes and to support women in development efforts, including the USAID Gender Plan of Action. However, Madame Chair, much more needs to be done and we believe that FAO should accelerate steps to accomplish more, more quickly.

We would like to align our comments with those of our North American regional colleague from Canada. We welcome the information provided in the Sixth Progress Report on implementation of FAO's Women in Development Plan of Action, but suggest that it does not assess how successful the Plan has been and does not include comments of the Programme Committee. In that light, we agree and applaud FAO's decision to begin immediately to work and have ready for the November 2000 Council a new Women in Development Plan of Action. Thank you for that. We would also like to suggest that included with that might be an evaluation of what worked and what did not work from the last Plan of Action, and also include specific plans for a monitoring mechanism to analyse future activities on approaches to mainstreaming in policies and programmes and on increasing gender equity within FAO institutional hiring and promotion practices.

With regard to this last point, gender equality is a critical element of FAO's own institutional planning. As has been noted quite often already, women now account for 20 percent of FAO's Professional staff population, and in each of FAO's five Regional Offices there is now a Women in Development or gender specialist. However this does not yet reach the United Nations goal for women to account for 35 percent of Professional staff in UN Agencies. Again, we feel more needs to be done, more quickly. We believe that to accomplish this an aggressive approach must be pursued and creative recruiting and retention techniques learned and applied. There continue to be increases in women Professionals in agriculture and natural resource fields. Technical competence does exist. For FAO to be truly successful in gender mainstreaming, the Organization must reflect the population it is trying to serve.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Voici, Madame la Présidente: à l'image des autres délégations, la délégation du Sénégal est heureuse de constater le progrès qui a été réalisé, notamment lorsqu'on nous signale, au paragraphe 18 du document dont nous sommes saisis, que le personnel féminin du Cadre organique est passé de 18 pour cent en 1994 à 20 pour cent en 1999 et que, au niveau des postes de responsabilité occupés par des femmes, le nombre a été multiplié par six. Nous pensons que c'est un progrès significatif même si, comme l'ont dit certains, nous devons continuer et faire plus.

Nous devons, au niveau de l'examen de ce point, souligner l'importance du paragraphe 12 car nous pensons que le grand manque dans l'analyse de la question des femmes, du moins en général, c'est l'absence de statistiques. Nous sommes donc heureux de constater qu'il y a eu un séminaire technique sur la parité et les statistiques connexes, dans le développement agricole et rural. Nous pensons que c'est cette voie qui doit être choisie car, si l'on résoud cette question, il nous semble que nous progresserons beaucoup dans la prise en charge du travail véritable des femmes qui, malheureusement, n'est pas pris en compte dans les statistiques économiques qui sont si froides. Egalement, nous nous félicitons de la Consultation de haut niveau sur les femmes rurales et l'information, dont les conclusions sont disponibles dans le document CL 117/INF/13, et nous pensons que cela doit être pris en compte dans le travail de l'Organisation et dans la coopération internationale.

Madame la Présidente, malgré ce qu'a dit le représentant de la Finlande, au nom de l'Union européenne, nous souhaiterions vous faire part d'une réflexion à ce sujet à l'intention de cette auguste assemblée. Il est toujours bon, n'est-ce pas, de revendiquer le pourcentage prévu, notamment dans le Système des Nations Unies, et nous sommes d'accord avec cela, car la FAO constitue partie prenante et partie entière du Système des Nations Unies, mais il me semble que c'est également aux États Membres que revient la responsabilité principale de faire en sorte que les femmes représentées au niveau des différentes organisations voient leur pourcentage augmenter car, enfin, comment voulez-vous augmenter le pourcentage des femmes si les Gouvernements intéressés ne présentent pas des candidates valables au plus haut niveau? Donc il me semble que nous devons réfléchir à cette équation.

De même, Madame la Présidente, nous pensons que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, lors de sa dernière session, a permis et permettra peut-être à l'Organisation de faire un bond en avant, notamment lorsqu'il a pu proposer une Résolution qui sera soumise à la présente Conférence sur l'utilisation des genres dans les textes de l'Organisation. Ce texte interprétatif constitue en soi une avancée dans le Système des Nations Unies car, à ce sujet, la FAO, comparée aux autres organisations, se trouve à l'avant-garde et je crois que c'est un point à souligner lorsque la Conférence aura à adopter cette Résolution.

Pour finir, Madame la Présidente, permettez-moi de m'associer aux représentants de l'Angola pour appuyer le Projet de Résolution C 99/LIM/22-Sup. 1, soumis à notre Commission. Nous pensons que ce projet de Résolution, en ce qu'il embrasse simultanément trois principes, répond aux péréquations du point examiné. En effet, il s'agit aussi bien d'assurer les services de personnes présentant les plus hautes qualités de travail et de compétence technique, que d'assurer la répartition géographique équitable, et enfin que de permettre une proportion plus grande de femmes dans les effectifs du personnel de la FAO.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de continuar dando la palabra me permito transmitir un mensaje de la delegación de Nepal, que lamentablemente, por razones de salud, no puede pronunciar su intervención y la hará distribuir a la sala.

En las actas de la reunión se encontrará la participación de Nepal.

Abdel Razig ELBESHIR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, thank you Madam Chairperson, and I would like to congratulate you on your election to Chair of this session. In fact, the delegation of the Sudan commends the efforts exerted and made by FAO in order to develop programmes and organise training programmes and workshops which improve the planners' technical capacity in the field of the integration of women in rural and agricultural development.

We also commend the Organisation for the efforts exerted in the field of training and in social and economic analysis, as well as in holding several training courses to improve the capacity of women and men in the rural areas, and in running management projects to increase the participation of women in the decision-making process.

We also commend the Plan of Action prepared by the Organisation, which enables the planners to integrate the gender issues in the rural and development projects, and also in the collection of information and agricultural statistics. We in the Sudan are very much interested in encouraging the participation of women and improving their capacity.

However, in spite of all the efforts exerted by FAO in general, we feel that we have not had enough support and assistance in this field, particularly in the field of training, and in having documentation and publications on the development of women. Yet, we have been able to make progress in integrating rural women in agricultural development, and this was through the development of a Ten-year Plan, 1996-2005. This Plan covers the 26 districts of the Sudan, and

includes the following areas: raising the awareness of women to legislation concerning enabling her to participate actively in agricultural development; establishing the Department on the Development of Women in the Ministry of Agriculture; creating the cooperatives of women working in agriculture; improving agricultural production; increasing income-generating activities and women's role in rural development, production and the environment; improving agricultural extension activities by integrating women in these and in the educational programmes.

We have set up 11 units in the districts for rural women to participate in agriculture. In fact, the support for women is now reflected in university enrollment by 40 percent of women. We now have to support the men's enrollment in universities in order to catch up with the women in that respect.

We also have recommendations, which we would like to submit to this meeting. One of these recommendations is to set up an information network, through the Organisation, for the exchange of information and expertise in integrating gender issues. We also wish to set up a database on gender issues to emphasise and focus on the training of planners and decision-makers in the field of integrated development.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Quiero felicitarla a usted y me congratulo de verla allí sentada presidiendo los debates de este tema, por ser usted, por ser una mujer, por ser una mujer de Latinoamérica.

Señora Presidenta, en lo que hace a la parte del debate de este tema que se ha referido al punto 4 del documento Aplicación del plan a nivel institucional quisiera, al igual que lo hicieron otras delegaciones, como las de México, Finlandia, el Canadá entre otras, referido al párrafo 18 del documento, que si bien apreciamos lo señalado en él de que se han hecho progresos en el equilibrio general entre ambos sexos en la FAO, alentamos una mayor participación de la mujer en este organismo.

Señora Presidenta, quisiera referirme ahora a la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo con respecto a mi país. La realización del trabajo con las mujeres rurales en la Argentina se inició antes de que el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo de la FAO fuera aprobado. Sin embargo, hay coincidencia entre las medidas sustantivas para la aplicación de dicho Plan de Acción y los objetivos y acciones desarrollados por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación de la Argentina. Dicha Secretaría está actualmente desarrollando experiencias de trabajo con mujeres rurales en distintas regiones del país. Esto ha permitido contar con mayores elementos para elaborar propuestas de trabajo con contenido de género, con vistas a promover el desarrollo rural, atendiendo a la contribución de las mujeres en el desarrollo rural y destacando su participación en el desarrollo de estrategias tendientes a mejorar las condiciones de vida de la familia rural. Este trabajo, desarrollado en forma sistemática, ha incrementado en los últimos años en la Argentina una mayor participación y organización social en distintas formas, programas y proyectos dirigidos al sector agropecuario minifundista.

En este sentido se constituyeron grupos de mujeres campesinas en cada una de las provincias de mi país, lográndose su autogestión organizativa. A lo largo de estos años de trabajo se ha producido un crecimiento cuantitativo y cualitativo de los grupos de mujeres, un protagonismo comunitario creciente de las mismas y una mayor capacidad de negociación en la familia y en la comunidad, así como su acceso a conocimientos técnicos sobre nuevas alternativas productivas y tecnológicas generadoras de ingresos. Como acciones específicas del programa para promover la participación activa de la mujer rural, que hemos llevado a cabo, podemos señalar capacitación específica en materia de géneros, encuentros regionales, locales, provinciales y nacionales de mujeres campesinas, seguimientos de proyectos productivos encarados por mujeres rurales, organización de grupos de mujeres para formulaciones de proyectos productivos, actividades de

ciencia, civilización y promoción del tema de género en otros programas y proyectos, apoyo al trabajo de técnicas de diversos programas que trabajan en terrenos con mujeres campesinas a través de capacitación, encuentros, bibliografía y material de apoyo.

Podemos destacar como principales logros obtenidos en el trabajo con las mujeres campesinas la sostenibilidad en el tiempo de los grupos conformados de mujeres más allá de los proyectos productivos: mujeres con capacidad de gestión y protagonismo en sus comunidades, mujeres con capacidad de negociación en las familias y en sus comunidades, mujeres rurales capacitadas en la producción de nuevas alternativas productivas, autovaloración de las mujeres en sus ámbitos de trabajo y en el seno de la familia, aumento de los grupos de mujeres campesinas, mayor conocimiento de los recursos de que disponen y de los ingresos que generan, acceso al crédito y a la titularidad de las tierras, mayor participación de las mujeres en ámbitos locales como escuelas, comunas, iglesias y otras organizaciones, participación con sus productos en ferias regionales y provinciales.

Siguiendo los lineamientos de Beijing, la Argentina ha adherido al Día Mundial de la Mujer Rural mediante una Resolución del año 1998. Se ha constituido el Equipo Coordinador de Mujeres Campesinas que coordina la dirección de desarrollo agropecuario de la Secretaría de Agricultura.

Finalmente, señora Presidente, en mi país en lo que hace al trabajo con las mujeres rurales, recomendamos que la incorporación de la perspectiva de género en políticas y proyectos no debe ser un componente más que se agrega tardíamente en los programas de desarrollo sino que, a través de operaciones específicas a cada caso, debe atravesar todos los componentes de los mismos. Creemos también que se deben ajustar desde una perspectiva de género todos los instrumentos del trabajo de promoción en campos. Es asimismo aconsejable, desde nuestro punto de vista, formar especialistas, varones y mujeres, en el tema género, en el desarrollo rural que puedan a su vez servir de capacitadores y multiplicadores de la estrategia y metodología a nivel de los proyectos y en los más diversos ámbitos institucionales. La revalorización del papel de la mujer y un mayor protagonismo en la vida social y productiva es un objetivo que no puede lograrse en el plazo en el que se desarrollan proyectos productivos. Los proyectos productivos plantean otros objetivos, tienen otros tiempos, y sus resultados se miden en otros términos. Sin embargo, pueden desarrollarse proyectos productivos con enfoque de género, sobre todo garantizando que participen por igual varones y mujeres en todas las instancias del ciclo del proyecto, siempre que no se pierda de vista que los logros en materia de equidad de género no podrán mostrar sus resultados en plazos tan cortos. El enfoque de géneros es más una política que un proyecto, pero puede atravesar la ejecución de distintos proyectos.

Ms E.O. OKEKE (Nigeria)

I would like to congratulate Madam Chair for her election to chair this session, and also to say that the table looks a little bit brighter. We have three women out of seven people there.

Madam Chair, the High-Level Consultation on Rural Women organised by the FAO was very commendable, and the initiative to move ahead in preparing the next Plan of Action is also well supported. Nigeria supports the need for FAO to adopt interactive strategies so that the problems of the rural women are brought to the fore of the international community and of the national levels. Nigeria has a population of 110 million people and 70 percent of these live in the rural areas and mainly involved in agriculture. Women form 50 percent of the workforce, but the efforts of women are often not fully appreciated, and not properly documented either. However, the Nigerian Government has tried now to focus on gender issues, and has established a Ministry for Women's Affairs, which we hope will translate policies into concrete action programmes.

We are not talking of programmes that will just be aimed at women, but programmes that will actually bring out the efforts of women in conjunction with those of man. Also, a rural

development policy for Nigeria will be out by the end of this December, and in coming up with the policy, we focused on gender issues.

In looking at food security, we should also bear in mind the development of rural infrastructure, like water supply and sanitation and rural roads, to ensure that the burden on rural women is lessened. We all know that rural women are the people who are involved in all these activities, and are also expected to bring up the children, so they need to have less burden placed on them.

Nigeria also supports the stand taken by Egypt, on behalf the G-77. We appreciate the efforts so far made by the Director-General of FAO to correct the imbalance in the recruitment of women into FAO. Nigeria would like to see his efforts being enhanced so that there is greater progress made in this area. We hope that when we come back in two years' time, we will have more women sitting at the podium.

Dr DAWA (Cameroun)

La délégation camerounaise s'associe aux précédentes pour féliciter la Présidente de la session pour sa nomination à la tête de celle-ci. Le Cameroun s'associe également aux autres délégations pour appuyer l'intégration des femmes dans tous les processus de développement. Nous partageons avec l'Egypte et l'Angola la nécessité de permettre au Directeur général de la FAO de procéder au recrutement, en tenant compte des compétences, bien sûr, mais aussi et surtout de la répartition géographique et de la proportion des femmes dans les effectifs du personnel de la FAO. Au niveau des pays, nous recommandons une formation équitable des femmes et des hommes afin de leur donner autant de chances pour accéder aux différents postes de responsabilité. Nous recommandons également aux Etats en développement de présenter autant d'hommes que de femmes à la candidature au personnel de la FAO, en particulier dans la catégorie des cadres. Par conséquent, nous appuyons le Projet de résolution C 99/LIM/22-Sup.1.

Ms Adela BACKIEL (United States of America)

I wanted to make a comment regarding the Draft Resolution that we also have in front of us. First, the United States certainly supports, as you heard me say before, gender mainstreaming. We also definitely support geographic distribution of FAO employees, but I would like to take note and point out two things. First, that by bringing up the geographical distribution issue here during the discussion on gender mainstreaming, that we feel this somewhat dilutes and decreases the importance that we feel FAO must place on gender mainstreaming, and that it stands on its own as an important issue. Second, we believe that the Director-General should abide by the geographic distribution formula for hiring practices that it has developed and currently follows.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

I think our deliberation has reinforced what I said at the beginning, the comment on the wise decision of Ambassador Fontana-Guisti to hand the toughest job to a woman.

I would like to address this draft Resolution that we have before us, and particularly the last three sub-paragraphs. Madam Chair, we did indicate in our presentation already that we believe that the Director-General should take all possible steps consistent with the existing staff rules and regulations to redress gender imbalance, and I would now like to extend that to also include addressing geographic imbalance. But as I also said, this Organization must strive to and remain a Centre of Excellence in the areas within its mandate, and in order to do that we believe that the existing staff rules and regulations which give, as is mentioned in sub-paragraph 3 on the second page of this document, paramount importance to securing the highest standards of efficiency and technical competence that must be the overriding goal.

If the Director-General feels that he requires additional tools, then we believe that he should make those proposals through the Finance Committee, through Council, so that we can take a close look at those proposals.

Sra. Suze PERCY (Haití)

Queremos felicitarla por su elección y apoyar a las delegaciones de México y la Argentina por sus declaraciones.

Señora Presidenta, respaldamos plenamente las acciones que está realizando la FAO para dar acceso equitativo a las mujeres a los recursos agrícolas, y así garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, nos unimos a lo dicho por varias delegaciones aquí en cuanto a la paridad en los géneros, y así alcanzar un nivel razonable a nivel profesional en la FAO. Para terminar, quisiéramos decir que apoyamos el Proyecto de Resolución que nos ha presentado la Secretaría, en el documento C 99/LIM/22-Sup.1.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Muy breve para decir que mi delegación apoya plenamente lo expresado por el señor representante del Canadá en lo que hace a este Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia.

Ms Leela PATHAK (Nepal)

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here in Rome to participate in this forum on gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector. I feel greatly honoured to have the opportunity to address this august forum today and share views of my delegation with you. Though the concept of women's development has progressed from Women in Development to Gender and Development, it has not brought the significant effect in the farming community.

In rural areas of the developing world in general and subsistence farming in particular, women provide up to 80 percent of the food consumed in their homes. Despite this fact, women have no or limited rights to own the land they farm. Though 96 percent of the female labour force is engaged in agriculture, contributing 55 to 82 percent of the labour in agricultural production in Nepal, its power in decision-making is limited to less than 25 percent. The Beijing Conference on Women duly recognized such contributions and recommended that these issues be considered by the respective Governments in their policies. However, this has still not got priority in Nepal and thus there is no separate national-level wing to look after these matters in the planning process.

Madam Chairperson, in spite of the fact that Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese economy, its growth has been very slow. In under-employed economies like ours, where men are far afield from home in search of paid employment, agriculture is getting feminized. In this regard, feminization of agriculture has brought feminization of poverty as well. Being challenged by these alarming situations of the economy, Nepal has implemented the 20-year Agricultural Perspective Plan starting in 1996 to accelerate agricultural growth. In twenty-year timeframe, this plan aims to have full participation of women in development programmes, reverse the degraded environment and enhance it, and reduce the current level of poverty to 14 percent. In the currently operated Ninth Five-Year Plan, the government has already stated that women's participation in all agricultural extension and training programmes will not be less than 35 percent. In order to help achieve this objective, there has been a separate programme on women farmer development in the currently-implemented Agricultural Research and Extension Project funded by the World Bank. In addition, there have been four smallscale FAO Telefood projects already implemented in Nepal, and four more are further requested to FAO for consideration.

Madam Chairperson, These observations are interlinked with innumerable factors. In most of the cases, probably in all rural areas where agriculture is the major activity, there is no or little attention given to the complementarity of the tasks undertaken by men and women. In the absence of such gender-disaggregated information, gender-specific problems and constraints could not be ratified to tailor the development policies.

The medium of availability has much more to do with the level of productivity than the state of technology itself. Therefore, the extension materials should be prepared according to the level of literacy and income of the populace. One of the indicators used in the analysis of women's

empowerment is the percentage of households headed by women. Nonetheless, the situation has not been further dissected to examine if those women became householdheads due to acquired power. This information is no less important than any other variables in the informed decision-making process, and we strongly recommend that it should be included in demographic analyses.

Madam Chairperson, with these few words, on behalf of my delegation, I highly appreciate the efforts of FAO in regularly organizing this type of meeting, and would like to assure you all on behalf of my Government that Nepal will fully cooperate to materialize this auspicious objective of mainstreaming gender in agriculture.

Finally, please allow me to wish for the grand success of this forum and express my gratitude to you all for your kind attention.¹

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a continuar con una respuesta de parte de la Secretaría, de parte del señor Henri Carsalade, sobre alguno de los temas que trataron, y después regresamos al tema del Proyecto de Resolución si les parece.

H. CARSALADE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement durable)

Dans ma réponse, je me limiterai aux questions relatives au Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, laissant à mon collègue Gerald Moore celles relatives à l'équilibre entre le recrutement des hommes et des femmes au sein de la FAO. Et, pour ce qui concerne la partie à laquelle je vais me référer, je me limiterai aux questions générales, d'ensemble, laissant à ma collègue Mme Ekaas le soin de répondre sur un certain nombre de points plus spécifiques, si vous me le permettez.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier l'ensemble des délégations qui ont pris la parole pour l'intérêt qu'elles continuent à porter à ce que nous tous considérons comme une question essentielle. Je vais m'intéresser successivement aux objectifs de ce Plan d'action, aux axes stratégiques et enfin aux moyens mis en œuvre. Les objectifs, d'abord. Je crois qu'il y a un assez large consensus par rapport à ces objectifs. Je voudrais simplement dire au délégué de la Finlande que nous aussi nous sommes attentifs et extrêmement concernés par le lien direct qui existe entre les questions d'égalité et de parité et le développement économique. C'est devenu aujourd'hui effectivement un sujet documenté au plan scientifique, comme en témoignent de nombreuses et récentes études. Je citerai celles parues en Italie et en France ces derniers mois, qui montrent clairement l'impact économique positif de l'association des femmes à la vie économique du pays. Ces études sont extrêmement importantes pour le développement du sujet qui nous préoccupe. De la même manière, je veux rassurer les délégués de Nouvelle Zélande et de Suisse sur l'approche genre ou parité, *gender* en anglais, malgré effectivement le titre de ma collègue Mme Ekaas, Directeur des femmes dans le développement.

Malgré le titre du document que nous vous avons présenté qui parle aussi d'intégration des femmes dans le développement, l'approche que nous utilisons est bien celle d'une approche de parité, c'est-à-dire qui analyse les relations entre les hommes et les femmes comme un élément essentiel de la résolution du problème et ça je crois qu'en témoigne en particulier le programme principal que nous conduisons, le Programme CEAGA, Analyse socio-économique et genre, qui se réfère explicitement et entièrement à la notion que vous avez vous-même définie, Monsieur le délégué de Suisse. Donc je vous rassure, mais peut-être faudra-t-il un jour changer, pour éviter la confusion, l'intitulé d'un certain nombre de nos structures et de nos programmes. Je crois que c'est une remarque à laquelle il faudra que nous pensions.

Je crois qu'il y a un large consensus, et nous en sommes très heureux, sur les axes stratégiques d'action que nous avons présentés, ils sont au nombre de quatre, je vous le rappelle. Le premier

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

est de travailler avec les Pays Membres sur l'identification et l'analyse des questions de genre, il faut identifier et analyser ce sur quoi on va agir. Le second concerne l'amélioration des conditions de vie des femmes rurales, qui est un problème très important. Le troisième veut inclure la parité dans les programmes de développement rural avec un rôle particulier à donner aux femmes dans la décision au niveau local, régional et national, et leur permettre l'accès aux ressources productives. Le dernier enfin, pour ce qui concerne la dissémination et le partage de l'information sur les femmes rurales, leur rôle dans le développement rural. Là où les délégations ont été les plus actives dans leurs déclarations, c'est sur les moyens mis en œuvre.

Faire plus, a dit le Canada, faire plus vite, ont dit les États-Unis, faire mieux et différemment, a dit la Suède. Nous avons déjà entendu le message qui nous a été envoyé par le Comité des programmes et qui a été, je le souligne, entièrement pris en compte par le Conseil, dans la réunion qu'il a eu la semaine dernière. Ce message se réfère à divers points que vous avez soulignés; il dit que les progrès au sein de la FAO ont été inégaux, que l'analyse par genre et l'approche par genre doivent être davantage incluses dans la programmation même de la FAO; celle-ci doit faire davantage appel aux ressources du Programme régulier et non, comme elle le fait de temps en temps, à des programmes extrabudgétaires; elle dit que nos programmes doivent être évalués avec des critères plus simples, plus clairs et plus compréhensibles, que nous devons mettre au point, et que nous devons essayer d'aller plus vite dans la mise en place de tout cela. Je crois que sur le fond nous sommes d'accord, c'est un problème de rythme et d'efficacité.

Je crois néanmoins, en particulier par rapport à la déclaration du Représentant du Canada, qui a toujours été extrêmement vigoureux sur cette question et que nous remercions pour l'appui et l'aide qu'il apporte à ce sujet, qu'on ne peut pas dire que rien n'a été fait ou que les actions ont été sans résultat. Aussi bien au niveau de la mobilisation interne à la FAO, qui est inégale et insuffisante, mais qui est toutefois réelle et nous pouvons nous accorder sur cela; des progrès ont été accomplis; Madame Ekaas va y revenir pour confirmer que dans l'action de la FAO avec ses Pays Membres des progrès significatifs ont aussi été enregistrés. Nous sommes d'accord avec vous sur le fait qu'ils sont jugés insuffisants et qu'il faut qu'ensemble nous recherchions les moyens pour aller plus vite, plus loin, faire mieux, et faire peut-être différemment, pour reprendre vos propres paroles. Je crois que ceci doit se faire rapidement, dans les mois à venir, qu'il s'agisse de l'évaluation et des indicateurs statistiques, de l'information ou bien de la formation.

Je demanderai également à Mme Ekaas de répondre sur la coopération entre agences des Nations Unies. Elle est très importante, probablement beaucoup plus importante que vos questions semblent le dire. Nous avons une relation étroite avec nos partenaires de New York mais aussi de Rome, et il est important que vous en soyez informés. Ceci étant, Madame la présidente, si vous me le permettez, je demanderai à Mme Ekaas d'apporter des relations plus spécifiques, plus précises sur un certain nombre de points qui ont été soulevés.

Ms S. EKAAS (Director, Women and Population Division)

Distinguished Delegates, allow me also in my capacity to express my appreciation for what I perceive as being a rather broadbased support to gender mainstreaming efforts in FAO. I also heard you very loud and clear that we should do more, better and quicker, and we have taken good note of that, as Mr Carsalade already said.

I think that I should try to explain, perhaps address, some of the more specific questions that came up, although Mr Carsalade was quite comprehensive already in his answer. One of the issues deals with information exchange and collaboration among Agencies. As you may know there is a UN Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and FAO, together with the other two Rome-based Agencies, has always played a very active role in this Committee, and, in fact, has ensured that the issues relevant to food security and rural development remain on the international agenda. I should also say that FAO has consistently contributed to what I would call UN System-wide initiatives addressing issues and challenges that are common for all Agencies.

Recently you will know that a World Survey on the Role of Women in Development was produced for 1999. FAO was largely responsible as the Task Manager for the section on rural women, to contribute to that World Survey. Going back to one of the questions which was consistently raised by many, the issue of monitoring and evaluation on progress made in gender mainstreaming and the identification of key indicators for that purpose, this is, in fact, also a challenge that all Agencies are struggling with and there is currently a joint initiative under the purview of the Inter-Agency Committee and headed by the World Bank, in which FAO is also very active. It is a UN System-wide review of existing monitoring and evaluation regimes for this purpose and that tries to draw on the lessons learned so far. This should also be published for the next Beijing+5 review of the UN next year.

Furthermore, there is a review that we have conducted of the gender focal points in the various technical divisions of FAO, including their supervisors, as well as their role and function within the UN System. More recently, following the High-Level Consultation on Rural Women and Information that took place here at Headquarters in early October, we have with WFP - in fact, there was one delegate in particular who raised that, Finland on behalf of the EU - initiated a close dialogue precisely with a view to collaborate with their gender focal point network at the national level, since FAO, as such at the national level, does not have individual gender focal points. As you know, we only have them in our Regional Offices. WFP was indeed very interested in working with FAO in spreading much of the information and information products, both visual and printed, that we produced for the High-Level Consultation.

With IFAD more recently we have had two types of initiatives under discussion - one is in the area of the socio-economic and gender analysis training programme, where we will work with IFAD in some selected countries, and another one is in developing what we call the Young Professionals Scheme under the Partnership Programme of FAO, also with IFAD. Another example of cooperation with IFAD, quoted in the High-Level Consultation Report, is the Joint Study that was published last year between IFAD and FAO on agricultural implements for rural women. So these are just some examples on the on-going inter-agency collaboration efforts. I am sure there will be more opportunities as we jointly move together, preparing for the Beijing+5 review.

Now there have been a lot of comments made on the issue of data disaggregated by sex, and how important that is, and I appreciate those comments by various Governments. I hope that is also a testimony to the commitments of governments to in fact instruct their own national Bureaux of Statistics to produce such data, because as you know FAO is not a producer of data. We compile and we analyse and we can provide policy advice on the basis of such data, but we also need your collaboration to provide us with the raw material in this respect.

I also heard rather general support for initiating as soon as possible the preparation of the next generation of a Plan of Action or a Strategy for Gender in Development for FAO. As Mr Carsalade said, that may also be an opportunity for us to realign concepts and terminology and approaches with the rest of the UN System. The Corporate Progress Report, that was presented to the Eighty-second Session of the FAO Programme Committee last September, and that brings me back to the issue raised by Angola regarding its conclusions recapitulates some of the issues that have been mentioned by the speakers here. Despite acknowledging that quite some good progress had been made and many gender analysis training packages have been developed for various areas under FAO's mandate, it was also recognized that there had been uneven progress. The main weaknesses were in the area of institutionalizing gender mainstreaming efforts and perhaps in the mechanisms that we have for monitoring. This is something that we absolutely need to address in our next Plan - to put better mechanisms and procedures in place for the systematic application of the gender approach and for its monitoring. So we recognize those weaknesses and we take into account, of course, the comments made by the FAO Programme Committee regarding the drafting of a new Plan for FAO for the next six biennia that you will have, of course, before you when you meet here again in two years' time.

Finland commended all the available material that we have recently published, both electronically and printed, and thanks to several donors who supported the production of such material for the recent High-Level Consultation, they are available now in four languages. We are also very glad that this year we were able to launch the first corporate Website on Gender and Food Security of FAO, bringing all the material of the various Divisions together.

On this issue, while we have a lot of material, I think it is still recognized in many divisions that they need very issue-specific and sexual-specific guidelines and tools to assist them in applying a gender analysis in their very specialized areas. That is an area that we will focus on in the upcoming biennium.

I believe that I have responded more or less to the comments reflected in the various statements. To the Sudan, who said that we need more documentation and more support, you may also want to know that in fact the entire material for the socio-economic and gender analysis programme is in the progress of being translated into Arabic. We hope that when we have that available, we can actually assist the Near East Region, the Arabic countries, much more with explicit training programmes.

PRESIDENTE

También quería hacer un aviso del Grupo Latinoamericano que tendrá una Reunión a las nueve de la mañana en la sala del Grupo de los 77.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I would just like to respond to a couple of issues, which were raised during the discussion particularly with respect to the Resolution. The first point I would like to make relates to the staff regulations, staff rules and manual provisions. A question was raised about staff regulations and rules, and I think I should clarify that the staff regulations are proposed by the Director-General, but of course require the approval of Council. Staff rules and Manual provisions, on the other hand, are within the authority of the Director-General, who directs the work of the Organization and administers its staff.

As I understand this Resolution, the effect is to encourage the Director-General to try to give combined effect where possible in appointing staff to the two criteria which are set out in Article 8.3 of the Constitution, i.e. the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and technical competence and equitable geographic distribution, and, at the same time, to the third criteria of redressing the gender imbalance and meeting the targets and aspirations that the Conference has set down.

As mention was made of FAO as a Centre of Excellence, I would stress that the importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and technical competence remains paramount, but it is possible through existing procedures to give combined effect to all three of these criteria.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

I shall not take the next fifteen minutes I can assure you. I simply wanted to respond to a comment made by Monsieur Carsalade in his statement where he attributed the following comment to Canada, quote "nothing has been done", unquote. Here I share the frustrations of my colleague from Angola. My verbatim text has been taken by the Secretariat and has not yet been returned, but I did also give copies of my text to the interpreters so I am sure we can double check this, but what I did say in my address, I did congratulate the FAO on all that had been done as reported in the Report when it comes to gender mainstreaming. I did say that I also congratulated the Secretariat on the decision to start progress now on the next, the third, Plan of Action because I felt progress had been inadequate, not that nothing had been done.

On gender balance, I congratulated the FAO on the increase in the senior staff, but I also mentioned that an increase of two percentage points over five years in the Professional staff was

inadequate. I did use the word inadequate a number of times, but I don't think I ever said that nothing had been done. If I did in the heat of trying to adjust to Mr Carsalade's pleasant announcement at the beginning of his introduction, then I do apologize to the Secretariat; it would be a most grievous error.

H. CARSALADE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement durable)

Effectivement, je peux accepter que ma formulation ait dépassé ma pensée et est trop catégorique et je prie le représentant du Canada de m'en excuser, d'autant que nous savons l'intérêt et le soutien qu'il apporte à notre action en cette matière, soutien qui ne s'est jamais démenti au cours de toutes les années passées.

PRESIDENTE

Bien, creo que hemos tenido un debate muy rico, ha sido sumamente provechosa la participación de 24 delegados, queremos darle las gracias y pensar que hay conciencia de la importancia de la equidad de género. Estamos conscientes también que la FAO debe intensificar su interés por tener más personal femenino porque no queremos pasar 37.5 años para poder llegar al 35 por ciento como lo dijo el delegado de el Canadá. También estamos contentos con la información que nos ha proporcionado la FAO en relación con el Proyecto para el 2000-2005 del Plan de Acción que nos va a proponer.

Creo que debemos agradecer también a los intérpretes por la valiosa ayuda y colaboración que nos han brindado y, que además tenemos un Proyecto de Resolución que nos ha presentado el Comité de Resoluciones, que si a ustedes les parece, lo pasamos directamente para una decisión de la Plenaria durante la Conferencia.

¿Hay alguna objeción?

La reunión comenzará a las nueve y media de la mañana.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

Before you close, I wanted to bring up a point of information or organization concerning the structure of our agenda, because on Wednesday morning there is an agenda Item 10 which the Council recently decided, and I don't have the words in front of me, the Council decided that this was an information item, not a discussion item. It seems to me that if we are not having a discussion, then that leaves a lot of time and, in fact, it leaves a whole morning available and would seek your guidance on what happens to that morning. Is it made free or, I think this is preferable, that we move Item 11 up into that time which would then free up the afternoon, say for the Drafting Committee.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Yes, I note that agenda Item 10 on the outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land (the Maastricht Conference), is for information only, and not for discussion, and thus is unlikely to take up much time of your Commission. The Commission has, of course the power to rearrange its own Timetable, but since the question of following the Timetable of the Conference and the Commission's work rests also with the General Committee, perhaps, if you so wish, I could propose to draw the matter to the attention of the General Committee to see whether they would wish to suggest a rearrangement of the Timetable.

CHAIRMAN

I wanted just to say that on Item 1, when we started our work, I am not in a position to close it because they are still discussing that. It has been a fruitful discussion and tomorrow there will be another meeting, so I think that tomorrow we should start with the following item, keeping open

the issue until a common text will be agreed upon. And for the rest, we are waiting for Mr Moore to ask the General Committee.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

Mr Moore's suggestion sounds eminently sensible and a good idea. But could I please request that in doing so, he suggests that the afternoon be brought up into the morning, thus to free up time for the Drafting Committee. So, actively please put that before the General Committee.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

In view of the comments just made by our distinguished Commission President, and the fact that discussions are, in fact, ongoing on the Resolution, I suspect that we are going to require additional time for that agenda item. I would therefore like to strongly support the proposal by New Zealand that we use the time on Wednesday morning to complete our agenda, and then that would allow us time to give proper consideration to items that have been left over from previous agenda items.

PRESIDENTE

Muy bien, queda entonces para mañana a las nueve y media la sesión, donde se tratará el Tema 10 que es el informe de la Conferencia de Maastricht y después se continuará con los otros temas del programa. Finalmente se verá el Tema 1, una vez que se tenga la información y la estructura correcta. Gracias de nuevo a los intérpretes y para terminar esta reunión quiero agradecer al señor Embajador Fontana-Giusti nuevamente por su amabilidad y terminar con una frase de la distinguida delegada de Suiza con respecto a género, queremos hacerlo mejor y diferente. Muchas gracias a todos por su participación.

The meeting rose at 18:25 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 hora

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I
TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
TERCERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

16 November 1999

**The Third Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la tercera sesión a las 10.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE** (suite)**PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS** (continuación)

10. Outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multi-functional Character of Agriculture and Land (Maastricht, Netherlands, September 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

10. Conclusions de la Conférence FAO/Pays-bas sur le caractère multifonctionnel de l'agriculture et des terroirs (Maastricht, Pays-Bas, septembre 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

10. Resultados de la Conferencia FAO/Paises Bajos sobre el Carácter Multifuncional de la Agricultura y la Tierra (Maastricht, Países Bajos, septiembre de 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

CHAIRMAN

I think that yesterday we had a very fruitful and interesting discussion. I am afraid to say that the first item is still open. I want to thank the Vice-Chair, our Representative from Costa Rica, who unfortunately is not here now, because she closed the second issue. Now we have some other issues, and I think that if we can streamline our agenda it would maybe be helpful to all of us. Also, tomorrow morning we have a sad ceremony for the victims of the World Food Programme air crash in which so many of our friends died for a very noble mission to help humanity. I think that many of us feel it opportune to be there.

On the agenda we keep open the other agenda item until the end of the morning. I hope that the two groups will continue meeting each other to see if they can agree on a common text. If we do not find a common text, I am afraid we shall have to go to the Conference with two Resolutions on which the Conference will have to vote. It would be much wiser and much more profitable for all of us if we can find a common text. I think the positions are not as far apart as they seem. With some good will, we could just reach a common decision.

You know, I recall, just to lift a little the climate of our discussions, a story that a lawyer, a very famous lawyer in Italy, used to say: "When you have too many people drafting and adding things, it made me think of a story of a man of my age, let's say" - that is not my case - "that has a wife and a mistress. The wife does not want him to seem too young, so she pulls off all the black hairs and the mistress wants him to seem younger and takes off all the white hairs and as a result he becomes bald!" So I mean, if you have a text in which there are too many amendments, too many changes, we run the risk of having a bald text! So if we do not find a common solution this morning in the meetings, we shall have to go with two Resolutions to the Conference, vote on them and have the wisdom of the majority decide which one of the two is best.

Another point is just the announcement that the Drafting Committee will have its first session tonight at 7.30 p.m. in the German Room.

Another point I would like to make is on the Item 10 of our agenda. I think that New Zealand suggested that as the issue is just for information, we pass to the Conference without opening the discussion. We know already what are the respective positions, and the General Committee has been informed of that; and I think there are no objections. So if there is no will to have some interaction, we can pass directly to the Conference without further discussion. Is there any objection to this procedure?

Ms Maren Elise BACHKE (Norway)

I think we would like to have a discussion anyhow on the item.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

Is it normal to have a discussion on an information item? It seems to me that if an item is for information, then that means information. I was just wondering what the meaning of these words are, and is it normal to discuss information items?

CHAIRMAN

If you want my opinion, I think not. I think we can just transmit it and we have also advised the General Committee, but if one delegation or other delegations would like to raise and to discuss the issue, I cannot prevent them. I agree with you that procedurally, it would be more than correct to transmit it to the Conference. But as I say, although I agree with you in principle, I cannot object to any delegation if they want to take the floor.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Nous sommes d'accord avec le délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande que c'est un document qui nous a été remis pour information. Je crois que, durant la Conférence de Maastricht, il n'y a pas vraiment eu de débat approfondi sur ce point. C'est un document du Président de la Conférence de Maastricht. Nous pensons que ce document a été remis ici pour information, et qu'on le renvoie à la Conférence.

Bob Francis JALONG'O (Kenya)

Just to add my support to what was said by the Representatives of New Zealand and of Angola, that this document be passed on to the Conference for information and this is not just because of procedural reasons. We did have quite a bit of a problem also with this paper during Council, and the point that New Zealand raises is still the same issue that was raised - that this was an information paper. We did discuss it though, but at the end, it still remained an information paper, so procedurally, on behalf of my delegation, we would fully support that this document be passed to the Conference as an information paper.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

There was a long discussion on this issue in the preceding Session of the Council and it was agreed by that Council that it would be for information only, not for discussion. So we would endorse the comments that have been made by a number of other representatives, including New Zealand, that it should be referred directly to Conference for information only.

Ms Inge NORDANG (Norway)

As you will probably know from previous experience, even if an item is for information, it has not been necessarily the case that the Conference and the Commissions are not allowed to make statements on that issue. My delegation is not a Member of the Council, and we had prepared a statement for this discussion. We will certainly therefore reserve our position and come back to it. I am absolutely in favour of sending this to the Conference itself for information; I am not objecting to that, but let us say also from a particular point of view, I think I have participated in quite a lot of discussions in previous FAO Conferences on issues that are only for information. I am sure the Legal Counsel can advise on that - that it is normal to allow for a discussion. I am not insisting at this point, but I will bring this back to my delegation, and I will reserve my position until the agenda item is raised in the Commission this afternoon.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Just to say two things. First, the Council had before it this document, and the question that the Council had to answer was whether this document should be sent to the Conference for information only or whether it should be upgraded to a paper for discussion and decision. The Council decided it should be sent for information only. That is the first point. That means there

should be no discussion in that sense on it. On the other hand, it is always open to Members to make comments on information papers, and you will note that in the agenda there is also, in fact, an item, *Any Other Matters*, in which it is specifically noted that delegates will be given an opportunity to comment on any of these *Other Matters*, although they are for information only. So the answer is that the item is for information, not for discussion. On the other hand, delegates remain free to make comments on the information paper.

Noel D. De LUNA (Philippines)

I just would like to identify myself and extend support to the position made by New Zealand, Angola, Kenya and Australia. My concerns have been answered, however, by the Legal Counsel. We feel though that since this paper is just for information, any discussion on this matter will simply be a waste of time, and we can use the time for other more important things.

Sid Ahmed FERROUKHI (Algérie)

J'apporte mon soutien aux déclarations de la délégation de la Nouvelle-Zélande, et à celles qui ont suivi de la part des pays africains comme l'Angola et le Kenya pour la raison suivante: c'est que le rapport qui est présenté par la Conférence au sujet de la multifonctionnalité dans l'agriculture et les terroirs est un exemple type d'un rapport choc. Tous ceux qui y ont assisté, puisque vous en parlez, se sont amusés. Les uns ont enlevé les cheveux blancs et les autres ont enlevé les autres types de cheveux. Donc, si on repose encore le rapport sur la table, ce sera essentiellement des discussions sur qui a enlevé les cheveux, le type de cheveux, est-ce la femme légitime ou l'amante? Je crois qu'il n'y a pas de consensus sur cette question de la multifonctionnalité; je crois qu'il faut laisser un peu de temps à tout le monde, on le verra dans les prochaines années, et que d'autres questions sont encore plus importantes, qu'on va éventuellement discuter dans cette commission. Il me semble pour nous plus important de discuter sur ces questions.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

There seems to be an emerging consensus here. There is concern that we are also spending a lot of time discussing that and the chances are that when the item is open, we risk a repeat of that same discussion. I think that nothing will be accomplished, but if you have some countries speaking, then that may well be biasing what the Commission Report is able to say on the matter. So if countries are allowed to speak on the item, which Mr Moore indicated there is a strong precedent for, the likely result is that there will be others that will feel compelled to speak to express a different point of view, thereby wasting the precious time that the Philippines and others have talked about. So if we could just have a Report of the discussion that appeared in Council and agreed to move it forward to the Conference without spending our time on the matter, that certainly would be our preference.

Ms Mitzi GURGEL VALENTE da COSTA (Brazil)

I would like to join with what some previous delegates have said, Kenya, Angola, New Zealand, Australia, the United States just now, and say that I think that if we had decided at the last Council meeting that this document was for information only, it is to make a difference between something for information and something that is to be discussed. So I do not think that we should discuss this now.

Another point that I would like to make is that as far as what the delegate of Norway said, I find it rather peculiar that at the point during the last Council she was not able to make her statement. As far as I know, even though countries are not Members of the Council, that one Member of the Council can ask for the floor and give it to somebody who is not of the Council, so this should have been done at the time of the Council and not right now when we have something just for information and not for discussion. So I really do not see what we should be discussing - I think we are just losing our time here right now.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I want to bring it back to full circle to the point that I was making about the structure of the meeting and the timing of events. From what I have heard here this morning and adding to that my discussions with others who have not spoken this morning, it seems apparent that there are very few, or it seems only one delegation would like to speak on this issue. So if those delegations that do not want to discuss it do not say anything, that is going to leave us - and Norway have said they may or may not speak on the issue - with a very short item. Now I would point out that Norway did actually speak; according to the Verbatim Records, Norway did make a statement in Council, if my reading of the Verbatim Records is correct. So whatever happens, we will have a very short time devoted to Item 10, and so I am coming back to my original point - urging that we bring the afternoon's item up into the morning, so as to free up that afternoon for the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN

I thank all of you for your interventions. You were very truthful. I wonder if Norway agrees if they can deposit a written statement so to avoid any temptation to open the issue and to discuss. It will appear in the Verbatim Records. There will be many statements and, of course, we shall read them tomorrow when we convene to take this up as an information item. Will that be agreeable to Norway?

Ms Inge NORDANG (Norway)

I am able to read the meeting. I am certainly not insisting on this. I see that I am alone supporting this. My statement or my insistence was also a bit to the principle that quite often we have discussions on information items, and I got that confirmed by Mr Moore. But I am certainly ready to work with you, and not to hold up the work of the Commission.

CHAIRMAN

So we agreed that the Norwegian statement would be tabled to the Secretariat and published in the Verbatim Records. No objection? Agreed.

Ms Inge NORDANG (Norway)

Mr. Chairman, let me first of all express my compliments to the FAO and to the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture for having organized this Conference on the important issue of the multifunctional character of agriculture. Norway believes that the various food and non-food functions of the agricultural sector are dimensions of vital importance, and these dimensions should be fully taken into account in agricultural policy design and implementation.

In most countries agriculture is and has always been multifunctional. Agriculture is the basis of domestic food security; it ensures the livelihood of hundreds of millions of rural dwellers, it is deeply embedded into the cultural heritage and identity of most nations and it contributes to the preservation of agricultural landscapes, agri-biological diversity and other important environmental qualities.

This multifunctional character is a distinctive characteristic of the agricultural sector, in developing as well as in developed countries, and the concept of multifunctionality helps us understand this reality and facilitates the design of appropriate policy instruments to safeguard these various functions of the sector.

The multifunctional character of agriculture was recognized at the Earth Summit in 1992 and referred to in Agenda 21. The concept was further acknowledged at the World Food Summit in 1996, and reflected in the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action. Based on the discussions that took place at the Maastricht Conference, there seems to be a need for additional analysis on the multifunctional character of the agricultural sector, in particular in case of developing countries. Therefore, the FAO, as a Center of Excellence and within its mandate, should continue

its normative work on multifunctionality, developing its understanding of the various functions of the agricultural sector, as well as their relationship to the primary function of producing food and fibre. This work should be undertaken in an analytical and technical manner, providing governments with the necessary tools to assess multifunctionality and design appropriate policy instruments. A preliminary list of possible follow-up is contained in paragraph 11 of the Summary Report, and I would in this respect like to stress that, concerning the second-last bullet in that paragraph, effective internalization should include both production costs and benefits associated with agricultural activity.

As underlined in Finland's intervention on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, the main objective of the Maastricht Conference was preparation for the next session of CSD. Regarding the reporting to the CSD-8, Norway trusts that the FAO will use its competence to ensure that the various issues of concern that are presented are based on rigorous and thorough analysis. In this respect I would like to note that, in our view, the Chairman's Report of the Maastricht Conference, at present contained in the appendix of the Summary Report, does not reflect the discussions that took place at the conference on issues related to policy instruments and trade reform. Also, we regret that issues of a trade policy character were extensively addressed during the Conference. Many participants were not prepared for such discussions. Therefore, in accordance with the Dutch presentation of the Maastricht Conference to the Council last week, I would like to suggest the following factual clarification included in the Report from this FAO Conference, and I quote: *The Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference acknowledged that the Maastricht Conference was not a meeting where decisions were taken, nor were delegates engaged in committing Member States whatsoever.*

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I hope that the FAO Conference, at a later stage and based on substantial input from the Secretariat, would have the opportunity to discuss more in detail these issues that are so vital to the FAO mandate of ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture.²

CHAIRMAN

Now we pass to the other item of International Undertaking and Plant Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture. (continue en français)

La délégation sénégalaise a demandé la parole. Je la lui donne avant de passer au prochain point de l'ordre du jour.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je crois, Monsieur le Président, que vous êtes passé peut-être un peu trop rapidement sur les deux Projets de résolution qui sont en discussion sur cette question de l'Alliance, dans la mesure où nous sommes chargés de préparer, comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, la réunion de la Plénière sur cette question. Je crois qu'il nous faudrait être très prudents: avant de chercher à fondre les deux Projets de résolution, il faut qu'on soit sûr que nous parlions le même langage. D'abord, est-ce que nous entendons la même chose par cette Alliance-là? Ensuite, nous devons régler les questions juridiques qui se posent sur le principe même de cette question, car je crois qu'il y a déjà un organe qui est chargé du suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, et nous avons déjà passé beaucoup de temps à préparer le Sommet mondial. Vous étiez ici, d'autres étaient ici, et on a pu se mettre d'accord sur un mécanisme de suivi pour le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et

² Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

son Plan d'action. Il ne faudrait pas qu'on revienne là-dessus par le biais d'une résolution ou d'une autre. Je crois que ces points-là doivent être clarifiés à l'avance, au besoin en faisant appel au Secrétariat, avant qu'on ne pense à voter sur telle ou telle résolution. Mais j'ai des questions au préalable et je tiens à ce que ce soit éclairci avant qu'on ne vote sur telle ou telle résolution à la Plénière. C'est ce que je voulais dire pour que tout le monde le sache.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie la délégation du Sénégal. Je crois avoir été assez clair mais je répète ce que je viens de dire: j'ai dit qu'hier il y a eu une réunion entre les deux groupes intéressés qui ont présenté chacun un texte de résolution différent. Ce matin, il y aura encore des rencontres entre les experts des deux côtés pour clarifier tous les points qui peuvent ne pas être compris, d'un côté et de l'autre, et pour essayer de trouver un texte commun. Si le texte commun n'est pas trouvé, je crains qu'on ne doive aller à la Conférence générale avec les deux textes déposés au vote et décider.

Mais je crois qu'on ne peut pas continuer comme ça; nous avons envoyé les experts les plus qualifiés, ceux qui connaissent le mieux le dossier, pour en discuter et je crois qu'il est temps de trouver une solution. D'ailleurs la voix du Secrétariat n'est pas inconnue parce que, que je sache, elle a été très clairement exprimée, même par un texte écrit. Il me semble donc que les positions sont assez claires pour le moment. J'espère qu'on trouvera un texte commun; nos experts et moi-même faisons tous les efforts possibles pour cela. Mais si il n'était pas possible de trouver un accord sur ce texte commun, je ne vois pas d'autre solution que d'aller à la Conférence générale avec les deux textes de résolution. C'est une hypothèse que je regretterai naturellement beaucoup.

J'essaierai, parce que je le souhaite comme vous tous, de faire en sorte que nous trouvions un texte commun. Et si ce n'était pas possible, parce que ce ne sont pas des questions qu'on peut résoudre comme je l'aurais souhaité, mais ce sont des questions de fond, à ce moment-là il faudra les résoudre par une votation. Alors je me demande si, plutôt que de voter ici où nous n'avons pas tous les éléments nécessaires à la discussion, il ne serait pas préférable de voter à la Conférence. Ceci c'est une question qui remonte désormais à plusieurs mois.

Lorsqu'il y avait les premiers Projets de résolution, des démarches ont été faites dans toutes les ambassades avec le premier texte, nous avons obtenu six versions différentes, puis d'autres versions encore. Nous sommes en train d'en discuter depuis tellement de temps qu'il faut arriver à une conclusion, et la seule conclusion possible c'est par une votation. Et la sagesse de la majorité des délégations décidera si un texte est meilleur que l'autre.

En tant que Président, je suis impartial et ne prends pas position. Je répète donc que je souhaiterais que les efforts qui sont en train d'être faits ce matin-même aboutissent à un résultat positif. Et c'est un souhait que je crois partagé par tout le monde.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je pense que vous remplissez parfaitement votre rôle. Le Président est chargé de faciliter le travail de la Commission et de veiller à ce qu'il n'y ait pas de contradictions. Je crois que, de toute façon, les experts doivent nous rendre compte à nous. Donc c'est à la Commission de se prononcer. Quelle que soit la compétence des experts, en qui nous avons confiance, c'est à nous de trancher. Deuxièmement, nous ne pouvons pas demander à la Plénière de voter un texte dont nous savons qu'il comporte des incohérences par rapport à ce que les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement réunis en 1996 ont décidé. Je crois que, par honnêteté et par logique juridique et institutionnelle, nous ne pouvons pas faire cela.

Et nous demandons donc au Secrétariat, avant d'arriver en Plénière, de nous éclairer sur les implications juridiques et institutionnelles d'un projet ou d'un autre par rapport à ce qu'a déjà décidé le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Je crois que nous avons ce droit et nous l'exercerons.

La dernière chose que je voudrais dire, Monsieur le Président, pour finir sur ce point que vous avez tranché avec sagesse, c'est que rien n'empêche la Commission de voter. En tant que Président, vous le savez mieux que moi, la Commission peut voter avant même que d'aller en Plénière. Quand vous dites que c'est à la Plénière de décider, je crois que normalement c'est à la Commission de décider.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Naturellement, j'aimerais passer toute la journée et la nuit, si nécessaire, pour en discuter. Tous les points de vue sont possibles, légitimes et acceptés. Seulement, si on ne peut pas trouver un texte commun, et c'est sur cela que nous sommes en train de travailler, nous pourrions continuer à en discuter pendant des heures et des jours. Mais je crois que, si ces points que vous avez soulevés ne sont pas éclaircis au niveau technique, nous pouvons discuter autant que nous voulons; la question doit être relevée au niveau politique. Nous pouvons aussi décider de voter ici avant de voter à la Conférence. Je pense que c'est une question assez importante, assez qualifiante pour l'avenir de l'Organisation, qu'il faudrait plutôt la présenter à la Conférence générale. Mais, naturellement, c'est l'Assemblée qui décide à sa majorité. S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, je passerais au prochain point de l'ordre du jour.

8. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (C 99/9)

8. Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (C 99/9)

8. Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogénéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (C 99/9)

CHAIRMAN

I think we will now discuss Item 8 on International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This is an item on which I took particular interest and I participated in the many technical meetings that took place even on the most detailed and technical of them. I was told I was the only Ambassador present in all those technical meetings. I followed them with great interest, but I realised a political boost was necessary and that is the reason why this Item is on the agenda - mainly at the insistence of the Italian delegation – so I assume all the responsibility for that and I think that others agree. I want first to thank the Secretariat, and I am sure that Mr Sawadogo will say something very interesting on that, as well as Professor Esquinas. My good friend, Professor Esquinas, and I took part in a parliament enquiry on the issues of biodiversity and biotechnology in the Italian Parliament. So let me make some historical and methodological considerations before opening the floor.

The conservation and utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and access to these resources, are essential to ensure global food security and sustainable agriculture. This is a complex question, with many ramifications, because genetic resources for food and agriculture are at the crossroads where agriculture, environment and commerce meet.

From the early 1960s, FAO Governing Bodies have recognized that the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture is a major threat to agriculture and food production. FAO has since then been a pioneer in promoting technical measures to conserve and make these resources available. In 1979, the FAO Conference was also the forum of the first policy and political discussions in the UN System on socio-economic, legal and ethical matters related to the conservation, ownership and availability of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

In establishing the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 1983, this Conference provided the UN System and the world with the first permanent inter-governmental forum to debate and seek consensus on these crucial issues. Since then, the Commission has been a pioneer in promoting international agreements and codes of conduct related to biodiversity, biosafety, biotechnologies and bioethics relevant to food and agriculture. These agreements

include the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the concept of Farmers' Rights, and the Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, all negotiated by the Commission and adopted as FAO Resolutions by the Conference. A Code of Conduct on Biotechnology, and a Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, are still under negotiation by the Commission.

Following the adoption by UNEP of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO Conference requested its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to revise the International Undertaking in harmony with the convention, and *inter alia*, to seek solutions to outstanding issues, such as the realization of Farmers' Rights, and access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Commission, through these negotiations.

During the last two years, much progress has been made, but not enough. The Report of the negotiating sessions has been made available for information to the FAO Council, as well as to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has repeatedly expressed its strong support for the negotiations, and urged their rapid finalization. In facilitating the process, FAO has also benefited from the invaluable technical assistance of IPGRI, which is the fourth international organization for food and agriculture based in Rome, and other relevant institutions.

The last session of the Council invited the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi of Venezuela, to inform you of progress in the negotiations. I think we have to be grateful to Ambassador Gerbasi for dealing with this work with such competence and efficiency. His report will be presented by Mr Rose of Canada, who is a Vice-Chairman of the Commission. The text is available in document C 99/9.

I will first ask Mr Sawadogo if he has any remarks to add to what I said. This not being the case, I will give the floor to Mr Rose.

Ronald ROSE (Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

Mr Chairman, the text of Ambassador Gerbasi's report is contained as Annex 1 in the document C 99/9. I will not read the report as such but I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to a few points contained in that report.

The 116th Session of the FAO Council in June received a Report from the Chairman of the Commission. Paramount among the items of that Report was the result of the Montreux meeting which discussed a number of previously difficult elements and allowed Chairman Gerbasi to prepare a document which has been referred to as the *Chairman's Elements*. On the basis of the progress made in Montreux, the Eighth Session of the Commission had very fruitful discussions, particularly reached agreement on a proposed text for Farmers' Rights, and in order to maintain and increase the momentum that had been built up in the early part of 1999, the Commission decided that Ambassador Gerbasi would be mandated in consultation with the Director-General and subject to the availability of funds, to convene meetings of a Contact Group as well as to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Commission to adopt the final text of the Revised Undertaking with the aim of submitting the Revised Undertaking at the latest to the 119th Session of the Council, which will be held in exactly 12 months time in November of the year 2000.

Ambassador Gerbasi convened the first inter-sessional meeting of that Contact Group from 20-24 September, funded generously by Japan and also by the Governments of Germany, Sweden and Norway. The Contact Group focused its negotiations on Article 14 of the Undertaking which discusses benefit-sharing in the multilateral system, and which covered a number of sub-elements. But primarily among those sub-elements was the discussion on the sub-article on the sharing of monetary benefits on commercialisation where extremely important

concepts were discussed and new and creative ideas were put forward. It was the first time that we actually had an in-depth discussion, and it was recognized that there was a link between the income derived from the commercial use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the sharing of those benefits.

In his Report Ambassador Gerbasi noted, and I will read the text that's included on page 6 "*For the first time, Members held a very rich and constructive debate on this crucial issue. A number of countries and groups of countries stated that they were considering the issue very seriously, and committed themselves to present to the next meeting of the Contact Group modalities to give practical expression to the fair and equitable sharing of commercial benefits, and the possibility of involving the private sector.*"

This was I think a major outcome of the meeting of the Contact Group in September. In light of the very constructive atmosphere during the meeting of the Contact Group, it appears that the political will exists to bring these important negotiations to a successful conclusion so that the Revised Undertaking may be submitted to the 119th Session of the FAO Council in November 2000. There was a broad consensus among countries present that a Second Meeting of the Contact Group should be held early in the year 2000, which Ambassador Gerbasi expects to focus on funding and on the crops to be covered by the multilateral system. A Third Meeting could then be held to harmonize articles and to prepare the text for adoption at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission, which could be held possibly in July of the year 2000, for submission to the appropriate bodies and final submission to the Council. Further extra-budgetary resources will need to be mobilized for these meetings, particularly for the cost of preparing and actually holding these meetings.

I also draw your attention to a comment in paragraph 7 of Ambassador Gerbasi's Report which indicates that another sub-article of Article 14 concerns the recognition by parties that the availability to fully implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which is referred to as the Leipzig Plan of Action, will depend largely on the implementation of Article 14 and of that Undertaking's funding strategy. The importance of these two points - the need for resources for the Leipzig strategy and the political momentum which now appears to be gathering - reinforces the comments that were so aptly made by Ambassador Fontana-Giusti just now and I only highlight the final sentence of Ambassador Gerbasi's Report contained in paragraph 10 "*It is therefore urgent and important that the agricultural sector finds specific solutions to its needs*". I would conclude my Report there, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to underline the constructive atmosphere that Mr Rose rightly pointed out and the fact that politics will exist, but I think that if from the Conference we can give a firm and clear political message to the negotiators not to be involved in too many technicalities, that would be helpful for all of us. I think that there are some issues and maybe there are some countries which for whatever reasons, legitimate reasons, have less interest in contributing to the finalization of the Undertaking. Those countries should now allow those that wish to do so, and those who want an agreement, to complete the work within the agreed timetable. So, I wish that from our discussion and from the general Conference we can find a strong recommendation on what our delegation, and other delegations, wish to be a binding international instrument and for which anyhow an agreement is necessary soon. I was reading again the commitments made during UNCED on Agenda 21, and I think there are so many points that could be inspiring our action and our will to conclude.

Now, if Mr Sawadogo has nothing to say, I will open the floor.

Vedat UZUNLU (Turkey)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for this well prepared, good document.

My country believes that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is very important for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We believe that the Convention of Biological Diversity will facilitate the conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources, and provide global food security for present and future generations.

During the revision of the Undertaking, Turkey, as one of the important centres of origin/diversity, since my country has a strong national programme on plant genetic resources, had affirmed its commitments in the various sessions of the commissions and actively participated in the negotiations of the Undertaking.

Turkey recognised that there has been considerable progress in the negotiations of the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 1999. We would like to emphasise that the *Chairman's Elements* reflected a broad consensus, have been very valuable basis for negotiating the text of Undertaking. This is especially true in a number of articles, in particular Article 15, which is related to Farmers' Rights, and which emphasises farmers' services, conservation, utilisation and exchange and share of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture throughout the centuries for food security of today and in future.

Turkey also recognises the significant achievements that have been made, and gives thanks to the members of the Contact Group for their efforts in completing the International Undertaking with the aim of submitting the revised text to the 119th Session of the Council in November 2000.

The agreement of the Contact Group for focusing its negotiations on Article 14, Benefit Sharing in the Multilateral System, on the basis of the text submitted by developing countries, brings the Group into important negotiations for a successful conclusion.

Related to the Article 14 are Benefit Sharing in the Multilateral System, articles on Exchange of Information, Access to and Transfer of Technology, Capacity-Building, and Sharing of Monetary Benefits on Commercialisation. Turkey notes that some consensus was reached on the text of the sub-articles, particularly, exchange of information. We believe that consensus will be reached in the future negotiations for the other related sub-articles which remain in brackets. The sub-article on the Sharing of Monetary Benefits on the Commercialisation is a very important concept and should be discussed in detail, because this issue is closely linked with the commercial use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and sharing of benefits from commercialisation of products. This issue is subject to the international and national legislation taking into account equitable and fair sharing of benefits on a mutual basis.

We consider seriously, and commit ourselves to the full implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources. Therefore we fully agree with the Chairman's Contact Group. Implementation and monitoring of the Global Plan of Action depends largely on the implementation of Article 14 and the Undertaking's Funding Strategy. In order to determine and quantify the technical and financial needs for ensuring conservation and promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, Financial Provisions and Institutional Provisions and their related articles of the Undertaking are very important and require full consensus. Since the Global Plan of Action is a framework for planning the plant genetic resources activities of the countries, it provides a useful tool for work on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Implementation of the Global Plan of Action should contribute to the realisation of Farmers' Rights. International activities to promote sustainable conservation, evaluation of documentation and other related activities of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are encouraging. Therefore, in order to support a funding mechanism for financing all the activities indicated in the Global Plan of Action, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources should clearly be identified in the related articles.

Mr Chairman, I believe that the Republic of Turkey has made considerable efforts in conserving plant genetic resources in the past, and continues to do so now. Contribution of these resources to the world's agriculture is beyond any monetary assessment. The value of technology is not deniable, but it should be kept in mind that it is a means of utilising existing diversity.

Effects of the recent changes in environment on the genetic resources are not predictable. No matter how sophisticated the newly-developed technologies are, we still depend upon the naturally occurring evolution for food security of the future generations. Therefore, all the nations sharing the globe should share the responsibilities in a fair and equitable manner.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de donner la parole à d'autres délégations, c'est dommage que notre collègue sénégalais ne soit pas là, je voulais seulement vous annoncer que le Groupe de contact G 77 et Union européenne sur la Résolution sur l'Alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire va se réunir à 11 heures à la salle Ethiopie. Les délégations intéressées à se joindre à Ce groupe de contact seront naturellement les bienvenues. Je leur souhaite un travail excellent et positif.

Alim FAUZI (Indonesia)

I will be very brief.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you as elected Chairman of this prestigious meeting.

Regarding the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Indonesia is one of the countries that has huge biological genetic resources - plant as well as animal. We note with satisfaction what has been done by FAO.

My delegation is in the position to strongly support any means to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including the indigenous technology and its global plans.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

Congratulations to those who prepared this document that we are looking at right now. We would like to sincerely thank them for all the efforts that have, and continue to be, made in the framework of the International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. We would like to congratulate the Ambassador of Venezuela, as well as all members of the Commission and all of the states that offered to participate in covering the cost of this effort.

Mr Chairman, the situation is clear. Very briefly, we are all aware of the importance of this issue and of the efforts that must be deployed in conjunction with other bodies, and we are very happy at the consensus that has recently been reached on this issue. We feel that it is necessary that this international commitment be prepared and presented at the 119th Session of the Council in November 2000.

I have a question to put to the Secretariat. Can we work in such a manner that we can present this Commitment by the specified date or do we need supplementary measures? Or should we draft this Resolution immediately so that we can then submit the document on the prescribed date?

Mishack BUCHANKGE MOLOPE (South Africa)

The South African Government acknowledges the significant progress that has been made in the negotiation of the International Undertaking at the first inter-sessional meeting of the special Contact Group for the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that was held from 20-24 September 1999. The progress is of particular importance in light of the constructive debate on issues of Benefit Sharing, the outcome of which resulted in the commitment by a number of countries and groups to present modalities to the next meeting of the Contact Group. These modalities will refer to the practical expression of a fair and equitable sharing of commercial benefits derived from the exchange of genetic material.

However, we realise that there are still major issues to be negotiated before a satisfactory resolution on the Undertaking is possible. These relate mainly to the scope of the multilateral system for facilitated access to plant genetic resources, crucial for global food security and, in particular, to the general consensus on the mechanisms for the sharing of benefits derived from the use of such resources.

It is important to South Africa that the scope of the multilateral system will be as wide as possible, provided that the material included can be protected by internationally-recognized *sui generis* legislation would make provision for Benefit-Sharing arrangements in the case of commercialization of either the material itself, or products derived therefrom.

South Africa however realizes that it is not isolated in these negotiations, but an integral component of the regional approach from within Africa. In this regard, it is important to note that the implementation of *sui generis* legislation in accordance with the Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is unlikely in many African countries in the short-term. Provision, therefore, will have to be made for such countries to negotiate terms of Benefit-Sharing of material in the multilateral system in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), until such time when *sui generis* legislation can be implemented in these countries in accordance with the WTO requirements.

Mr Chairman, the South African Government is generally satisfied with the recent progress made in the negotiations, In particular, with the revived, positive attitude and political will displayed by negotiators during the most recent negotiation held in Rome.

Elías REYES BRAVO (México)

La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y otros eventos recientes han puesto de manifiesto la importancia que revisten los recursos fitogenéticos en la seguridad alimentaria de todos los países. La globalización no sólo tiene expresiones económicas y culturales, sino también una dimensión de interdependencia respecto a los alimentos.

Hoy sabemos que ningún país puede ser autosuficiente por lo que respecta a estos recursos, la cooperación es un imperativo que debemos asumir todas las naciones. El ejercicio que los Estados Miembros de la FAO hemos emprendido para armonizar el Compromiso Internacional en la materia con el Convenio de Biodiversidad, ha logrado notables avances. La reciente reunión del Grupo de Contacto, en el que participa nuestro país, ha evidenciado que existe una voluntad de todos los países por alcanzar un acuerdo.

En este marco, deseamos reiterar la importancia de que se logre un avance equilibrado en las tres áreas motivo de la revisión: Derechos del Agricultor, Distribución de Beneficios y Alcance del Compromiso.

Queremos expresar el deseo de México porque se continúe avanzando en esta dirección, para lo cual es importante la flexibilidad de todos los países. Reconocemos que es un tema con implicaciones serias en diversos campos (económico, social, de soberanía, etc.); sin embargo, también somos conscientes de la necesidad de todos los países por alcanzar un acuerdo a la brevedad posible en este campo que contribuya a lograr los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

Tout d'abord, la délégation suisse aimerait remercier le Secrétariat du rapport concis qui nous est soumis pour cette discussion. La révision de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour harmoniser le texte avec la Convention sur les diversités biologiques a débuté il y a six ans déjà. La Suisse a toujours, dans la mesure du possible, oeuvré pour faire avancer ces travaux. Pour cette raison, elle a accepté la vice-présidence de la Commission en 1997, et elle a offert, après les difficultés que les négociations ont rencontrées en juin de l'année passée lors de la cinquième session extraordinaire de la Commission, d'organiser et de financer

une rencontre informelle à Montreux (Suisse) en janvier de cette année, à la suite de la démarche de M. l'Ambassadeur Fernando Gerbasi (Venezuela), Président de la Commission.

La délégation suisse est heureuse de constater que les éléments découlant de la réunion de Montreux et élaborés par le Président de la Commission sont utilisés maintenant comme base pour la poursuite des négociations et ont permis de progresser de manière substantielle. Nous avons bon espoir, bien que conscients des obstacles encore à surmonter, comme la couverture de l'Engagement international, le partage juste et équitable de bénéfices, la concrétisation des Droits des agriculteurs et les Mécanismes de financement, que ces négociations puissent se terminer comme convenu lors de la Huitième session de la Commission des ressources génétiques en juin de l'année prochaine.

Kiho YOON (Korea, Republic of)

Commenting on this agenda item, we would first like to convey our sincere appreciation to the Honourable Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi and the Secretariat for making considerable efforts to speed up the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

We consider that good progress was made in the revision of the International Undertaking, especially in this year. This was possible, in our opinion, because a basis for facilitated negotiation on the revision existed in the *Chairman's Elements* and the Composite Draft Text of the International Undertaking. Along with this, it can be recalled that the Chairman's Contact Group was established and an agreement was reached among the Contracting Parties on several important articles, including Article 15: Farmers' Rights, at the last April session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

As you are well aware, however, much remains to be done and more positive efforts by the Contract Parties are still required in order to arrive at a full agreement on the revision of the International Undertaking. We would like to inform you, on this occasion, that the Republic of Korea has since been closely involved in the negotiation on the revision, and will remain committed to making accelerated progress therein.

It is our basic view that future negotiations on the revision of the International Undertaking should be made to facilitate access to and utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as to share, in a fair and equitable way, the benefits from their utilisation in contributing to the improvement of global food security.

To this end, the coverage of plant genetic resources under the multilateral system should be expanded to the extent possible, and a larger number of the relevant international organisations and institutes should be incorporated into the multilateral system. Facilitated access to the international network of plant genetic resources within the multilateral system should also be ensured. In addition, the way to implement the agreed fair and equitable benefit-sharing under the multilateral system should be practically feasible and acceptable.

Abderrazak DAALOUL (Tunisia) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to give my thanks to the Secretariat on the very concise report that was presented on the review of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which summarizes everything that has been done since Resolution 8/93 until today. I would also like to say that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has made great strides since the informal meeting of experts in Switzerland. This has been summarized by Morocco's President and has been submitted to the Eighth Session of the Commission which decided to adopt the *Chairman's Elements* in the scope of the negotiations underway. The Contact Group began on the 20 September 1999.

I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Commission for the very clear report in Annex 1 of document C 99/9. I would also like to point out that progress has been made and this is included in paragraphs 6 and 7, giving the importance of making a link between Article 14 of the

Commitment and the application of a world action plan in terms of conservation of plant resources and sustainable use. My country's delegation approves and supports the point of view of the Contact Group which has stressed this Article, particularly the fact that the Contact Group must highlight Farmers' Rights and the concept of profit-sharing and the fund for the protection of plant resources. I would like to reiterate what has been planned before. We support the contents of paragraph 8, that is, the need to hold a second meeting of the Contact Group in the year 2000, so that the agreement may be drafted in its final form and we can agree on the international commitment next year.

We invite donors, and we would like to express our thanks for the financing that they have already proposed for the proceedings of the meeting, to continue this financing for further meetings so that negotiations may continue.

I would also like to focus on what is in paragraph 10 of our Report - agriculture, environment and trade are related. It is necessary that the agriculture sector may come up with solutions which conform with its needs as regards plant genetic resources in the framework of negotiations which are underway. This would be preferable in the Commission's meeting before resolutions are adopted at other levels, for instance, at Seattle.

Govindan NAIR (India)

Mr Chairman, I would first like to express my country's appreciation of the progress that has been made during the past few months. The decision on Farmers' Rights, or should I say the consensus on Farmers' Rights, particularly has been most appreciated and we are very happy at the formulation of this issue as it has turned out. Finally, with the presentation of this Timetable by the Secretary it appears that there is light at the other end of the tunnel. We have been in the process of negotiating for so long we were getting a little tired of the process and are happy at the constructive nature of the discussions during the past few rounds. I think we are going to finally come to a consensus on all the critical issues.

Farmers' Rights is critical to us and to other countries that share the fact that agriculture is a product of thousands of years of experience and where traditional knowledge is a critical part of our whole agricultural system. India is a centre of biodiversity, and the fact that agriculture as it is today in India is the product of experimentation at the field level over generations and over hundreds of years indicates that we need to look at the farmer and his systems of communicating knowledge in a slightly different way than we would if we were looking only from the commercial point of view. I am glad that the formulation of Farmers' Rights does take this into account. At the subsequent meeting of the Contact Group, benefit-sharing, too, has addressed this critical issue and we are glad that there do not seem to be any major divergent opinions on this.

I would only hope that following from this we will be able to reach a consensus on technology transfer and capacity-building and other critical issues. In the next meeting, we could identify the crops to be included. India is of the opinion that we should have a fairly broad spectrum of crops; it should not be too limited. We would also like to ensure that it would be the *ex situ* collections that could be accessed and we would like to see the multilateral system governed by a legal undertaking. I think it is going to be extremely important and critical for us to come to some sort of understanding and consensus on international funding because this will be critical again from the point of view of conservation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I will assure you my country's cooperation in coming to a consensus, and understanding. I wish we could expedite the process further. I am very happy at the progress achieved so far.

ROSELY Dato' Haji KHALID (Malaysia)

I will be very brief. Malaysia recognizes the importance of establishing the multinational system and the International Undertaking and the implementation of the Leipzig Global Plan of Action in conserving and developing sustainably plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

With reference to the IU negotiations, Malaysia believes in the creation of a mutually-agreed and predictable source of funds for the implementation of MS, GPA and related networks including CGIAR collections.

The benefits arising from the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should be shared in a fair and equitable manner through the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building, as well as the sharing of monetary benefits on commercialization.

Mr Chairman, we understand the difficulty and complexity in developing appropriate mechanisms and modalities to realize this International Undertaking. However, since time is against us, we appeal to the Member Nations concerned, in a spirit of consensus and international solidarity, to conclude successfully in the negotiations.

Ms Mirja SUURNAKKI (Finland)

The European Community and its Member States welcome document C 99/9, the *Report on Progress in the Revision of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources*. We would also like to thank Ambassador Gerbasi, the Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for his great efforts in facilitating these negotiations.

We put a great emphasis on the negotiations on the International Undertaking. We see it as one important vehicle for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action adopted in June 1996. We also consider that the Undertaking should contribute significantly to sustainable agriculture and food security through the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this respect we are aware of the close and important relationship between the International Undertaking and the operation of the International Agricultural Research Centers.

For this process to continue forward, it is important that those countries presently implementing or contemplating legislation on genetic resources leave a "window" open for a possible later adherence to a multilateral system.

These negotiations have been continuing now for six years. It had been our hope that this Conference would adopt the Revised Undertaking. This has not proved achievable because of the complex nature of these negotiations. As the Chairman makes clear in his Report, the Undertaking is at the crossroads where agriculture, the environment and trade meet. There is a clear need to ensure consistency of approach between the International Undertaking and other relevant International instruments dealt with in other fora. However, despite these complexities, we will continue to see compromises on the critical issues so that agreement can be reached as soon as possible.

We reconfirm that we are negotiating in order for the revised International Undertaking to become a legally-binding instrument with appropriate links both with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the FAO.

We are pleased with the progress made in the negotiations since the last session of the Conference, in particular, with the agreement reached on the *Chairman's Elements* as the basis for the negotiations. The multilateral system is the cornerstone of the Undertaking and we strongly support the structure of it as described in the *Chairman's Elements*. The multilateral system is a major vehicle for facilitating access to plant genetic resources for food and

agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use, including through cooperation and partnership.

We also believe that Article 15 on Farmers' Rights is a basic element of the Undertaking, and we welcome the consensus reached on this.

Furthermore, we remain convinced that in order to achieve its objectives in relation to sustainable agriculture, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, the multilateral system of the Undertaking should include a broad range of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

We underline the responsibility of the parties to achieve appropriate complementarity between the terms of access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the sharing of benefits arising out of their use under the multilateral system in the renegotiated International Undertaking.

The European Community and its Member States have actively supported the negotiation process from the beginning, and will continue to do so in a constructive manner. With a view to solving the major pending issues still ahead, we encourage all parties to keep an open mind and to work together to find acceptable compromise solutions.

As the Undertaking is of great, social, political and economic importance, we are committed to work towards the objective of concluding the negotiations in time so that the revised International Undertaking can be submitted to the FAO Council in November 2000.

WANG JINBIAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese Delegation would like to express its appreciation for the efforts made by FAO, especially the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture with regard to the negotiations on this Undertaking. I would also notice the progress achieved in the process. And now I would like to say something about this situation and we would like to reiterate our viewpoint.

Firstly, the sharing of benefits in the multilateral system forms a critical part of the Undertaking. We believe that in this instance, the facilitated access of genetic resources should be realized under the premises of sharing of benefits. Sharing should include the need to facilitate the use by the parties of improved species derived from the genetic resources of the multilateral system. At the same time, the parties should also respect the intellectual property rights and the legislation concerning access.

Secondly, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should accelerate the negotiations process in revising the Undertaking. The parties should, in the spirit of cooperation and compromise, try to finalize the revision as soon as possible.

Thirdly, on the question of protection and the utilization of genetic resources, FAO and the developing countries should attach importance to and strengthen the technical assistance and the transfer to developing countries, especially so when we talk about rescue and protection of those endangered genetic resources.

My delegation supports to the Reports of the Commission, and it is our suggestion that the negotiations plan and the related extra-budgetary funds be adopted.

Ms Maren Elise BACHKE (Norway)

Norway supports vital elements in the EU statement made by the distinguished delegate from Finland, particularly on the Farmers' Rights and on the inclusion of a broad range of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the multilateral system.

Norway appreciates the efforts made by the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Gerbasi and congratulates him on his success in achieving progress in a negotiation as reported both to

the 116th Council and to this Conference. Norway has also been able to support the negotiations financially through the extra-budgetary resources. In the light of this progress, Norway hopes and also stresses the importance of reaching a conclusion in the negotiation on the revised version of the International Undertaking, as emphasized by our Minister in his speech yesterday. As a matter of fact, this was also stressed at the last Conference in 1997 and at the 116th Council this spring. Referring to this background, Norway urges all fellow Member Nations to show flexibility and a spirit of compromise in the forthcoming year, so that the revised International Undertaking can be presneted at the Council in November 2000. Such an event will fortify FAO's role as a global normative agency. A failure to achieve this, however, may jeopardize FAO's prestige in this area.

A successful conclusion of the negotiation is of principle importance for optimal utilization of plant genetic resources, and, consequently, a key to future food security. Free access to genetic resources is imperative; not least for the poorest countries. At the same time, it is important that such open access is balanced by benefit-sharing provisions in line with objectives of the Convention of Biological Diversity. Transparent, reliable and predictable funding is needed to implement the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources.

Norway therefore looks into the millennium with optimism.

Ms Mitzi GURGEL VALENTE da COSTA (Brazil)

I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman and Mr Rose for the very interesting presentation that you made. I would like to say at this point that my Government follows with great interest and attaches great importance to the negotiations on the revision of the International Undertaking. We all aspire to a positive outcome of this Undertaking, and I think it is in the benefit of all.

I would like to make three short points on this issue. First of all, I would like to take up what was said recently, last Saturday if I am not mistaken, by my Minister of Agriculture with regard to the importance of benefit-sharing that we must look forward to in the Undertaking and its relationship with facilitated access. He did mention in his speech that these are the two sides of the same coin, so if we want to have a far-reaching access to plant genetic resources, we also have to have the same sort of thing in benefit-sharing. We cannot have one without having the other. I think some of the other delegates here present have said the same thing.

Secondly, my Government attaches great importance to the fact that any revision or any alteration to the Undertaking in future, and to the list of genetic material that will be included in the Undertaking, should be achieved by consensus only. This is a means to keeping and making very transparent this Undertaking, so as to prevent one-sided inclusions that can affect many other countries.

Last, I would like to say that the ongoing negotiations have been very difficult but that, as you yourself pointed out, we do see a light at the end of the tunnel as some other delegations have also pointed out, and this is very encouraging to all present. At the same time, my delegation has stressed again and again that many of the issues that we are seeing here today are being looked at for the first time, so we all have to examine things very carefully, in order to have a legally- binding instrument at the end of our negotiations that everybody can adhere to and everybody can live with. Otherwise it's better that we just have no Undertaking at all, which is not what anybody here wants. We have to take our time and not be rushed by deadlines that we set just so that we can get an Undertaking signed. We need to go slowly, so that everybody can be satisfied and so that we can reach and obtain food for all.

Mostafa JAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Because this is my first time taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on being selected as Chairman of this important Commission, and on behalf of my delegation, I would like to raise a few points related to genetic resources.

Firstly, a balanced weight given to plant and animal genetic resources together with global strategy for the management of farm animal genetic resources should be further developed and implemented. Secondly, a Global Plan of Action with respect to long traditional experience, Farmers' Rights should be highlighted. Thirdly, transfer of technology should be treated as an important part of benefit-sharing and in this respect suitable training programmes should be organized for transfer of knowledge to those experts who are working in this field of genetic resources in developing countries and also facilitating capacity-building in those countries.

A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh)

My delegation commends the progress so far made in reaching consensus on outstanding issues relating to plant genetic resources. This area is a highly complex area. It transcends technical dimensions. However, a political decision has to be taken by the involved parties.

The Chairman's Report given to us draws our attention to the fact that the revised Undertaking should be finalized preferably before decisions are taken elsewhere. The Report, I refer to the Chairman's Report, identifies in paragraphs 5 and 6 the outstanding issues centring on exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, and sharing of monetary benefits on commercialization.

These and other related issues, especially Farmers' Rights, may be discussed at the next meeting of the Contact Group as suggested. However, to complete the whole process at that level, the funds needed would have to be mobilized very soon. Otherwise, further progress may be delayed.

On the question of coverage of crops, I agree with what the Indian delegate stated: it should not be limited, but broad-based.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we in Bangladesh attach significant importance to PGR and we would like to see that the initiative already taken by FAO is completed as scheduled. We feel confident that given the spirit of compromise and flexibility already shown by the Member Nations in the last four years, the final outcome will be positive.

Hirofumi KUGITA (Japan)

I would like to join other delegates before me in expressing our thanks for the Secretariat's concise document, as well as for Ambassador Gerbasi's tireless and skillful work of trying to bring our important negotiations to conclusion.

As is mentioned by previous speakers, we are negotiating the crucial, but the most difficult part, namely, the benefit sharing accrued from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

My delegation wishes to place the emphasis on the importance of showing flexibility and a spirit of compromise by the Member Nations including Japan, and the necessity of reaching a successful conclusion as expeditiously as possible.

In this connection, Japan is prepared to further provide some portion of the costs necessary to hold the next extra-ordinary session in order to accelerate the negotiation of the International Undertaking.

Gebrehiwot REDAI (Ethiopia)

Mr Chairman, let me start by thanking you and let me also thank the Secretariat who is always ready to facilitate the negotiation and the preparation of precise and concise documents like the one which is under consideration. We acknowledge the meticulous work of the Contact Group, of which my country is a member. We would like also to appreciate the talents of Ambassador Gerbasi of Venezuela who is directing the negotiations to a hopeful outcome.

Mr Chairman, Ethiopia is one of the countries with very rich plant, as well as animal, genetic resources and attaches special importance to the outcome of the negotiations of the International Undertaking for the conservation and the sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and

agriculture. In spite of a long history of the negotiation, of the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, we are pleased to note with satisfaction the progress made in terms of creating a multilateral system for benefit-sharing derived from the commercialisation and reaching consensus on to the Farmers' Rights. We are also very pleased at the progress achieved on contentious issues. We hope, and we are very optimistic, that other critical issues such as the transfer of technology, capacity-building and fully defining the scope of the multilateral system will be realised very shortly.

The progress achieved in this negotiation would not have been possible if donors were not financially supporting the participation of delegations from developing countries. In this connection, my delegation takes this opportunity to thank generous donors for their continuous support.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

The United States is very pleased with the progress made during both the April and September negotiations. The agreement on Farmers' Rights during the April meeting and the progress on benefit-sharing during the September meeting bode well for completing the negotiations within the next year. The September meeting marked the first time during the negotiations that a comprehensive discussion on the sharing of benefits from access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture has taken place. We believe that a similar discussion on the key outstanding issue of conditions of access will be useful in order to be able to conclude the agreement by November 2000. Therefore we support the Contact Group's desire to meet in March of 2000, and are confident that further progress will be made.

We believe that November 2000 is a realistic target date for completion of the revised International Undertaking and believe that this Conference should encourage that to happen. We believe it is inappropriate for the Conference to comment on the issue of financial resources, since this issue has not yet been addressed by the negotiators. We believe that the concluded Undertaking should remain an agreement under the auspices of FAO. Finally, we will continue to negotiate the Undertaking as though, upon conclusion, it will eventually be a legally-binding agreement.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Queremos expresar nuestro beneplácito por el documento y el informe del Presidente, así como por la labor que ha efectuado el Grupo de Contacto que consiguió importantes progresos. La Argentina apoya y renueva su interés de seguir contribuyendo con el proceso de revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura en armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

Para mi país, el establecimiento de un mecanismo multilateral para facilitar el intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos es estratégico para su desarrollo agrícola. Creemos que un mecanismo bilateral podría crear barreras innecesarias al normal flujo de los recursos genéticos para la creación de nuevas variedades. Por este motivo, la Argentina anticipa que se unirá al consenso de los países que sostengan la continuación del proceso de revisión del Compromiso.

Sid Ahmed FERROUKH (Algérie)

Je tiens tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette commission et je félicite par la même occasion les vice-présidents et les membres du Bureau. Je tiens également à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui sont mis à notre disposition et M. Ross pour la clarté et la concision de son exposé introductif. Nous voulons à cette occasion également féliciter la FAO pour les efforts soutenus qu'elle fournit pour l'aboutissement des négociations actuelles sur ce thème. Nous encourageons ces efforts et nous demandons leur intensification pour finaliser le processus à des conditions acceptables par tous et pour tous.

Nous voudrions insister sur les points suivants: l'urgence de finaliser le processus de négociation pour la mise en oeuvre d'un plan d'action mondial sur les ressources phytogénétiques, l'importance d'aboutir à des mécanismes concrets en matière de partage des avantages sauvegardant les intérêts de l'ensemble des parties et la reconnaissance des droits des agriculteurs. Enfin, nous confirmons notre soutien au compromis auquel est arrivé le Groupe de contact, notamment au sujet des articles 14 et 15. Et nous soutenons toutes les actions qui permettraient de catalyser le processus de négociation avec l'objectif d'atteindre un accord équilibré.

Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo, République du)

Comme nous intervenons pour la première fois, nous voudrions tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre élection, nous voudrions également adresser nos félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous est présenté. Le Congo, en tant que pays d'origine d'une importante diversité biologique agricole suit naturellement avec beaucoup d'attention les négociations sur la révision de l'Engagement international. Le Congo félicite le Groupe de travail et, notamment, son Président pour les progrès qui ont été enregistrés lors de sa dernière réunion. Nous voudrions surtout nous réjouir du fait que l'épineuse question de la reconnaissance des droits des agriculteurs ait fait l'objet d'un consensus au niveau du Groupe de contact.

Le Congo est également satisfait que le Groupe ait reconnu les liens existants entre, d'une part, les recettes tirées de l'utilisation commerciale des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation, et d'autre part le partage des avantages. Cependant, bien que des progrès aient été enregistrés, nous savons que les points qui n'ont pas fait l'objet d'un consensus sont très importants et que le travail du Groupe de contact reste difficile. Le Congo souhaite que ces négociations, qui ont déjà pris trop de temps, aboutissent dans des délais souhaitables, et cela au mieux des intérêts de toutes les parties. Pour ce faire, on pourrait par exemple examiner la possibilité pour la Conférence de fixer une date limite pour que le Groupe de contact achève les dernières discussions et que la Commission sur les ressources phytogénétiques adopte le projet de texte final.

Nous voudrions, pour terminer, remercier très sincèrement les gouvernements des pays qui ont permis la tenue des réunions du Groupe de contact et nous souhaitons qu'ils poursuivent leurs efforts pour la tenue des dernières réunions prévues.

Enfin, nous voudrions savoir si le Secrétariat peut nous donner quelques détails sur les idées novatrices qui ont été présentées et auxquelles il est fait allusion au point 6 de l'annexe I.

Samir ABOU JAOUDEH (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairman, I will not repeat what has been pointed out by my colleagues. Actually their contributions were valuable and are fully appreciated by our delegation. However, the cause of my concern here is the following: The last sentence in the text of the report. "*There are not yet adequate funds for the preparation and holding of a further meeting*". Full stop. I believe after this full stop, one feels pessimistic about what is meant here, what is to be done by the Secretariat and FAO in this connection. I hope that after this reference, maybe we need some further explanation in order to follow up this issue. Anyone reading this sentence has the impression that the first meeting was convened and the whole matter is settled. While awaiting new contributions, and here I should like to thank the colleague from Japan who expressed his Government's willingness to support financially the participation of some developing countries, I do hope that the people entrusted with the task of collecting these contributions state this in a clear way so that we can understand what is meant here. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je crois que les interventions ont toutes été très intéressantes, très fructueuses, et je voudrais commencer par souscrire aux appréciations qui ont été adressées au Secrétariat qui le mérite bien et auquel je passerai la parole pour répondre aux nombreuses questions qui ont été soulevées.

José T. ESQUINAS-ALCÁZAR (del Personal de la FAO)

En nombre de la Secretaría quiero agradecer profundamente a todos ustedes el gran apoyo recibido, y decirles que hemos tomado también nota del sentido de urgencia que ha emergido de esta reunión.

Quiero contestar a algunas de las preguntas que han sido realizadas y que, si he tomado bien nota, lo han sido por las delegaciones de Siria, Congo y Líbano.

La distinguida delegación de Siria ha preguntado a la Secretaría qué se puede hacer para facilitar las negociaciones y acelerarlas. Como ustedes muy bien han dicho, el tema es técnicamente complejo. La Secretaría, a lo largo de estos años, ha preparado numerosos documentos técnicos y ha organizado consultas técnicas y científicas que han permitido clarificar los aspectos científicos, económicos y jurídicos necesarios para tener a su disposición opciones políticas. Son estas opciones políticas las que ustedes están negociando, y fundamentalmente en los temas de alcance del Compromiso, acceso facilitado, distribución justa y equitativa de beneficios y recursos financieros.

La Secretaría, en consulta con el Presidente Gerbasi, considera que para concluir estas negociaciones necesitamos aún dos reuniones del Grupo de Contacto de la Comisión y una reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión. La Comisión, en su última reunión regular, cuyo informe fue posteriormente endosado por el Consejo, autorizó al Presidente de la Comisión, al Sr. Gerbasi, a solicitar del Director General la convocatoria de estas reuniones, de las reuniones necesarias del Grupo de Contacto, y extraordinarias de la Comisión, con dos condiciones, o pendientes de dos factores: Uno, que exista la voluntad política por parte de los Países Miembros para avanzar en las negociaciones; segundo, que exista la disponibilidad de los fondos extrapresupuestarios necesarios para realizar las reuniones, tanto en lo que respecta a la convocatoria y realización de las mismas, como en lo que respecta a facilitar la participación de los países en vías de desarrollo. Creo que en esta reunión ha quedado extraordinariamente clara la voluntad política de los países miembros de avanzar y de terminar, si es posible, en el año 2000.

Con respecto a los fondos extrapresupuestarios, una carta fue enviada hace cuatro meses a los posibles países donantes. Ha habido una serie de contribuciones que han permitido que se realizase en septiembre la primera reunión del Grupo de Contacto. En este sentido, quiero agradecer a Alemania, el Japón, Noruega, España, Suecia y el Reino Unido su contribución a esta reunión precedente y sus promesas para reuniones posteriores. La situación financiera en el momento actual la tienen ustedes reflejada en el Anejo 2 del documento que tienen frente a ustedes. Creo que con esto he dado la respuesta a cómo se podría facilitar, y en cierta medida está en manos de ustedes el acelerar el proceso.

Quiero decirles que por parte del Secretariado de la FAO, podemos actuar a la velocidad que ustedes quieran. No tenemos en estos momentos otra limitación que la de los fondos.

Paso a responder a la delegación de la República del Congo, que ha preguntado cuáles son los elementos novedosos a que hace referencia el párrafo 6 del Anejo 1 del documento I, que es el Informe del Presidente. En este mismo párrafo, el Presidente se refiere a ellos como la manera de implementar la parte de distribución de beneficios en sus aspectos monetarios, y habla de la posibilidad de que el usuario pague y de la posibilidad de que el que tenga más fondos pague más.

No quisiera entrar a analizar cuáles son estas propuestas específicas, pero sí puedo decirles que en el Artículo 14 negociado, que está a disposición de ustedes, y que puedo hacérselos llegar al terminar esta reunión, en el párrafo d) existen los elementos novedosos con todo detalle. Estos elementos novedosos fueron presentados por el Grupo de los 77. Fueron discutidos en gran profundidad pero no se llegó a ningún acuerdo, en parte por falta de tiempo, en parte porque es un tema complejo y delicado. Muchas delegaciones se comprometieron a preparar para la próxima reunión del grupo de trabajo unas propuestas o contrapropuestas. Repito, si tuviese que leer el contenido, nos llevaría unos minutos que son innecesarios y si tentase de resumir este tema tan delicado, probablemente mi interpretación podría no ser compartida por todos ustedes; pero está a su disposición el texto íntegro.

Con respecto a la pregunta del Líbano, creo que he respondido a ella al hablar de la situación financiera en el proceso de negociaciones.

Para terminar, quiero agradecer fundamentalmente al Japón la oferta clara hecha durante esta reunión para contribuir a la financiación de la próxima reunión del Grupo de Contacto. Y por último, quiero decirles que la FAO no regateará ningún esfuerzo para que ustedes puedan concluir sus negociaciones en el próximo año.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie beaucoup le Professeur Esquinas pour son intervention et je crois qu'effectivement la discussion a été très utile.

Pour répondre à la dernière question du Liban disant que c'est un peu un cercle vicieux ou vertueux, enfin c'est peut-être un cercle vicieux qu'il faut transformer en cercle vertueux, c'est-à-dire que si un engagement politique très net et très fort de conclure nos négociations durant l'année prochaine ressortira de la Conférence, les contributions volontaires peuvent arriver plus facilement que si on continue à vivre dans une situation ambiguë comme des négociations qui continuent depuis six ans et dont on commence seulement maintenant à voir la lumière au bout du tunnel. Si nous pouvions être très clairs et que nous arrivions à la fin de ce tunnel, les prochaines négociations pourraient aboutir à des résultats positifs et je crois que ce serait plus facile d'obtenir ces financements qui sont bien nécessaires pour réaliser nos dernières rencontres. J'insiste donc sur la question que j'avais posée au début de mon intervention sur l'importance politique d'amener à la Conférence générale des conclusions positives et encourageantes pour les démarches encore à faire. Je crois qu'il y a des résultats très positifs qui ont été soulignés et des consensus sur le droit du fermier sont très importants ainsi que le rôle de la FAO qui doit rester au centre de ces négociations en raison de son expertise, son importance, sa compétence. Je crois que c'est un des points forts qui est ressorti de nos discussions.

Quelqu'un a justement dit que déjà trop de temps a été dépensé à ces négociations et qu'il faudrait fixer cette date butoir. Or, si nos ministres pouvaient fixer une date butoir dans la prochaine année 2000, nous serions tous très heureux et je crois que ce serait un des résultats positifs de nos réunions si nous pouvions amener nos ministres à cette conclusion. J'ai beaucoup d'espoir et un seul regret, celui de ne pouvoir être présent parmi vous pour boire du champagne avec vous à la conclusion de cet effort car je serai à la retraite, mais je souhaite à ceux qui continueront le travail d'être les témoins de travaux fructueux et d'une conclusion très positive.

Je crois que les résultats que l'on peut tirer de notre débat aujourd'hui sont déjà un bon signe dans le chemin que nous poursuivons. Je vous remercie tous et je crois que nous pourrions considérer clos, s'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, ces thèmes très importants de l'ordre du jour.

Nous pourrions peut-être passer au prochain, mais avant je voudrais vous dire une chose sur la rencontre de cet après-midi. Madame Bertini, qui est très occupée et surtout en ce moment tristement occupée par cette tragédie qui s'est passée sur le ciel du Kosovo avec la chute de l'avion qui transportait des volontaires du PAM et d'autres organisations non-gouvernementales, a gentiment accepté d'être ici cet après-midi à 2 heures et demi. Je voudrais vous prier tous d'être

présents et ponctuels à cette rencontre et je crois que nous aurons un après-midi assez pris car nous avons toujours le premier point de notre Ordre du Jour à résoudre mais je suis confiant que nous puissions conclure nos travaux peut-être cet après-midi même, de façon à permettre demain à ceux qui le désirent, d'aller au PAM afin de participer à cette triste cérémonie de pouvoir le faire. Je vois qu'il y a encore la délégation du Guatemala qui a demandé la parole et la lui donne volontiers.

Sra. Rita Claverie DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

Ya al momento casi del cierre de este tema se me permita tomar la palabra. Me quería, en primer lugar, unir a las felicitaciones de las demás delegaciones respecto al excelente trabajo de la Secretaría, y después de las respuestas que ha dado el Dr. Esquinas. La delegación de Guatemala no puede dejar de agradecer muy particularmente a esos países que en forma decidida están contribuyendo con sus donaciones a la participación de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Guatemala quiere decirles que ha participado activamente en la revisión de este Compromiso Internacional y que actualmente, gracias a esta participación, se ha incrementado la conciencia respecto a la necesidad de tratar a nivel nacional, al más alto nivel, el tema de los recursos genéticos, particularmente. Además tenemos ya presentado un proyecto para reforzar el sistema nacional, que esperamos se resuelva pronto, y que así también pueda contribuir a que los países en desarrollo, como Guatemala, participen más activamente y contribuyan, como decía el señor Presidente, a la mayor brevedad, a resolver esta temática fundamental sobre todo teniendo en consideración la disponibilidad ilimitada que ha confirmado el Dr. Esquinas de parte de la FAO de aunar todos sus esfuerzos a este propósito.

Solamente insto de nuevo a los donantes para que ese aspecto fundamental no se convierta en un obstáculo a estas negociaciones.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to make an announcement for a meeting of the European Regional Group at 2 p.m. but I will recall my recommendation of being sharp at 2.30 for a meeting with Mrs Bertini on the other item in our agenda.

Now I think we have a quarter-of-hour until 12.30 and we can start our item on the Agenda on PIC, but we don't have the people here I am afraid. So we can suspend and have a quarter-of-hour free to enjoy the weather which is changing for the better, I think. The meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 12.20 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.20 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
CUARTA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

16 November 1999

**The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti
Presidente de la Comisión I**

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)****PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)****9. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 99/LIM/3)****9. Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)****9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)****CHAIRMAN**

I would like to begin by expressing my great admiration for the World Food Programme and for the excellent way Ms. Bertini leads the Organization in its daily life and problems, and in motivating its staff. The World Food Programme was, for example, the first to enter East Timor, as in other emergencies worldwide, from Kosovo to Africa to Latin America, giving an immediate and effective response to the first needs of the suffering people.

We were all greatly saddened by the tragic loss suffered by the World Food Programme last week in Kosovo. The number of countries touched by this tragedy indicates the high sense of common destiny and brotherhood among nations of the UN family facing crisis in times of emergency, whether natural or man-made.

I have pleasure in giving the floor to Ms. Bertini.

Ms Catherine BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme)

Thank you Mr Fontana-Giusti for your kind words. It is probably the last time we shall be on the podium together.

Mr Ngongi and myself are present here today with very heavy hearts for the tragedy which has befallen the 24 persons who have lost their lives. I wish to express my thanks for the many statements of condolence which have been received. We are arranging a Memorial Service to be held tomorrow at 16.00 hrs in the Auditorium at the World Food Programme, but due to the limited capacity of the Auditorium the service is only for the families of the victims, some staff members, members of the Executive Board and a representative from each country that suffered a loss. However, thanks to the Director-General of FAO there will be a video transmitted of this Memorial Service, this testimonial service actually, here at FAO, and there will be a room announced later where the video will be running of the Memorial Service and so we want to make this available to the delegates here if they would like to participate in the service by video. So, I will leave it to the FAO authorities to announce what room that will be in here in this building at 16 hrs tomorrow.

As the Chairman said, 1998 was a very busy and challenging year for the World Food Programme - floods in China and Bangladesh, drought in Africa, the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in Central America, the economic crisis in Indonesia, the food shortages in North Korea, continuation of severe conflicts in Sudan, Angola and West Africa. The World Food Programme was able to respond effectively because of the generosity of donors and because of that we were able to reach 75 million people last year with food aid – the highest of any year ever. Three quarters of those 75 million beneficiaries were reached through relief food aid, and that was almost double the number from the year before. And also, women and girls account for a very high share of the beneficiaries in emergency operations and, of course, in development as well.

In 1999, these challenges continue. The Kosovo crisis was major; then the East Timor crisis came along; continuing problems occur that demand the attention of WFP. We deployed some 150 people into Kosovo when the operation was at its peak; 50 people into East Timor; and in both cases we are, as I mentioned, providing logistical support for the UN System in addition to food aid. We noticed when looking at these operations that there really has been a crescendo of

operational activities since 1996, when we prepared 43 operations for WFP to begin that year. In 1997 we prepared 64 operations, so it went up from 43 to 64, to 1998 when it climbed to 95 – a record for WFP. As of September of this year we have initiated 63 operations.

On the issue of security of staff which I mentioned, all of the UN has put this as a very high priority and in fact the Deputy Secretary-General has convened a meeting of the Heads of the Operational Agencies to discuss this. There are meetings going on now in order to find ways that the UN can improve overall measures relative to the security of staff. Unfortunately the majority of staff members who have been killed in the line of duty working for WFP have not died in accidents, they have been murdered. It is critical that we are able not only to do our best which we believe we do to protect our staff, but also that we insist that Governments who are Host Governments are accountable for what happens in countries, and are accountable for the safety and security of all UN personnel who are in those countries and who then follow-up with appropriate investigations in order to ensure that people are brought to justice for the criminal acts that they have undertaken. WFP has refocused our work and put security at a much higher plane. We this year have spent almost US\$3 million on initiatives to train every single staff member of WFP (over 5 000 staff members). We are training them in their own countries, in their own languages and in what it takes to be able to help protect themselves, and for the Organization to help protect itself as well.

In 1998, our resources increased by one third over 1997 last year, to a level of US\$1.727 million, in other words US\$1.7 million over US\$1.7 billion. The only other time we reached a level this high was in 1992, and again that was a year of great emergencies. When we look at 1998, the World Food Programme handled nearly 70 percent of global relief food aid in 1998. In 1997, we handled 60 percent. Several donors increased their contributions in 1998; notably major increases by the United States, Japan, Great Britain and Italy. The last year in fact, the United States gave an additional one million tonne contribution to WFP over and above their basic contribution.

Despite these increases and the fact that we were able to reach 75 million people, there were still resource shortfalls. In the Great Lakes area, for instance, our work was hampered by not having enough resources. Also there was an increased amount of earmarking by donors for specific countries, sometimes for specific regions within countries, as opposed to regional operations as a whole. We are hopeful and we are working with donors to try to have more flexibility in their contributions.

Development has been, however, even a more difficult problem over the years, and that continued in 1998, when we had to continue to curtail our development portfolio because of not having enough development resources. We hope, however, that as a result of the Food Aid for Development Consultations, otherwise known as FAAD, and the fact that donors and NGOs and beneficiary countries and UN Agencies all were involved in inputting into, what our Executive Board decided was, our new policy for development, which the Board decided in May. We are very much hopeful that our future for development will look up and we would be able to increase contributions available for development and therefore increase our support.

We are also working very hard to try to meet the objectives set by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for gender equity in staffing by 2001. There is good news, but not good enough news on this front. In 1992, 17 percent of our professional staff were women, and I am pleased to tell you that that number has doubled and that as of 30 September, 34 percent of our professional staff are women. So we have passed the one third mark, but we will not be meeting the objective until we reach 50 percent.

We have also been very much involved in reform that the United Nations has undertaken under the Secretary-General's direction and that includes being involved in the UNDAF process in the Consolidated Appeals, in the United Nations Development Group, and in many emergency coordination roles. I also want to highlight the fact that there are strong links and solid coordination between the three Rome-based Agencies, between FAO, World Food Programme

and IFAD. In fact, WFP and FAO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation of the Special Programme for Food Security, and we continue to collaborate very closely on food needs assessments, and we work with IFAD on many different projects. As you know, we are three different Agencies that have three different functions and all of what WFP does is not agriculture-related – it is much more, as we said, emergency-related now. Nonetheless, the three Agencies in Rome, I think, have very close and far improved relations together.

We also have at WFP gone ahead much further on decentralization of our staff. We have two Regional Bureaux, which are fully functional in the field, ten cluster offices where there are key staff members, who are able to provide more assistance to the country offices in the field. We think this has been particularly helpful. We have also the connectivity project, the financial management improvement project that has been a cornerstone of our efforts to improve our own efficiency and, particularly, our own accountability.

I am sure that many of the members have read the joint publication about "Working Together", providing examples about Rome-based Agencies work together. It is important to know also that even though we are not in New York, we work very very closely with the three operational agencies in New York, and, of course, also on a daily basis with our sister Agency UNHCR in Geneva.

Mr Chairman, I am pleased to be able to make these introductory remarks and Mr Ngongi and I would be pleased to answer any questions that anyone might have.

CHAIRMAN

I thank you very much, Ms Executive Director. If you were here yesterday evening we spoke of the 20 percent of gender in FAO, so your figures are just outpacing all of us. I think that the text of the Resolution if discussed today could have been modified by what you just said.

We appreciate all the remarks you made showing how engaged World Food Programme is all around the world, from Kosovo to Africa to East Timor and so on, and I again repeat that more than 50 people lost their lives on duty on the mission. I think that what you realize among people in World Food Programme is this sense of mission which is really a unique feature of the Organization and one which all of us admire and are grateful to you for.

We also appreciate the coordination which you have with the other Rome-based Agencies and the other international organizations. The pamphlet on "Working Together" is a kind of *livre de chevet*. I don't know how to say that in English, but the interpreter will translate for me.

I thank you for all you have done, and I open the floor to questions and remarks that some delegations could be stimulated to make.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Tengo el honor de hablar a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Ante todo queremos reiterar a la Directora Ejecutiva, nuestro sentir con motivo del reciente accidente acaecido en las cercanías de Prístina en la que murieron, entre otras personas, miembros de ese organismo en el cumplimiento de sus labores de ayuda alimentaria.

Por lo que hace al Tema 9 de nuestro programa, queremos destacar la importancia que nuestro Grupo Regional otorga a los resultados de la Consulta Alimentaria Sobre la Ayuda Alimentaria y el Desarrollo, los cuales permitirán orientar en el futuro de manera más eficiente, eficaz y equilibrada, las actividades que desempeña ese organismo internacional en la materia.

Señor Presidente y señora Directora Ejecutiva: como ya hemos señalado en previas oportunidades, el GRULAC le da gran importancia al desarrollo de estudios cartográficos para determinar donde se localizan los grupos poblacionales más pobres y vulnerables, independientemente del lugar donde se encuentran, ya que ello permitirá al PMA poder atender adecuada y equilibradamente aquellas comunidades que padecen el hambre sin que los criterios

de carácter macroeconómico sean los que determinen hacia donde debe dirigirse la ayuda. Este ejercicio demostró, además, la importancia que tiene la universalidad en la toma de decisiones sobre temas de mayor envergadura, por ello el GRULAC insta a la Secretaría del PMA, como lo señala el párrafo 55 del Informe del 116 Período de Sesiones del Consejo, a organizar un ejercicio similar para tratar, entre otros, el tema de fortalecimiento del carácter multilateral del PMA.

Por lo que hace al examen de las políticas de recursos y financiación a largo plazo, manifestamos nuestra satisfacción por los resultados alcanzados y esperamos que las recomendaciones efectuadas contribuyan a equilibrar las actividades de desarrollo con las de emergencia.

Por último, el grupo de América Latina y el Caribe desea agradecer el informe presentado y reiterar a la Directora Ejecutiva, Sra. Catherine Bertini, por su respaldo y su excelente labor que realiza al frente de este organismo, en especial por la destacada y eficientes acciones llevadas a cabo en Centro América con motivo del huracán Mitch.

Bob Francis JALANG'O (Kenya)

Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me the floor to speak on this important subject and firstly to join my colleague from Mexico in expressing on behalf of my delegation our very sincere condolences to Madam Bertini and the entire staff of the World Food Programme for that tragic accident which took place a few days ago in Kosovo.

It is one of the very unhappy situations that international aid personnel find themselves in, and as she has rightly and courageously put it, aid workers find themselves often in worse situations, being killed, being murdered. Please accept our very sincere condolences on this tragic accident. One of the accident victims happened to be a Kenyan.

Secondly, I would like to really thank you, Madam Executive Director, for a very detailed report which you have given us on this paper. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the cooperation that my Government has had with the World Food Programme, not only in supporting operations in Kenya, but also in supporting operations in Sudan. The problem in Sudan is acute, it is huge, involving hundreds and thousands of people in southern Sudan. We really would like to register our appreciation also on behalf of my Government.

There is an unusual weather phenomenon taking place in the eastern part of Africa. It started in 1997 for the first time when the *El Niño* rains appeared on the East African coast, with total devastation not only of agricultural fields, but also of our infrastructures. Before we could cope with the effects of the *El Niño*, the sister of the *El Niño* has suddenly appeared, bringing with extreme drought in certain areas which have never seen drought before. In the western parts of Kenya which is where we do the most harvesting, the *El Niño* came in just before the harvest and destroyed all the crops in the field. We were wondering whether World Food Programme could coordinate with the other Agencies in the Region – UNDP and a few others, including the meteorological experts, sort of to try and assist us in monitoring this unusual phenomenon which is taking place on the eastern coast of Africa. A Regional Conference, for example in Nairobi or one of the areas affected, would perhaps assist us in bringing all these experts together, not only to assist our countries but also to assist World Food Programme in planning.

Thirdly Mr Chairman, I would like to register the cooperation that we have here in Rome with the World Food Programme - the easy access that we have with the World Food Programme in terms of giving us briefs when we need them, in terms of providing us with documentation, and in terms of availing their expert personnel whenever we need them. We appreciate this, Madam Bertini. We will continue to use the services, not only regarding information technology, but also in other expert areas.

In paragraph 55, we would like to concur with the statement that you have given about the collaboration that is existing between the three UN Agencies here. Despite having different

targets, you as emergency, IFAD on agriculture and FAO, I think that collaboration is extremely healthy because they target virtually the same groups. You share the same resources, you share the same databases and you share the same information and then you expand that information to us Member Nations. We would like to fully support that collaboration so that it continues to balance, and at the same time it will go along way in also reducing the resources between the three UN Agencies.

Finally Mr Chairman we appreciate the large allocation of funds that World Food Programme has put into training. I think that this is really a commendable effort on the side of the World Food Programme, because as you continue to train your staff in the field, not only in their specialized areas, but also on security, you will be going a long way not only in sharpening the skills of your staff, but also giving them alerts on the security issues.

Rolf GERBER (Switzerland)

My delegation would like to offer all our sympathies and condolences to WFP and the families of the victims who died in this terrible air crash. I feel that our esteemed Chairman found the right words, which I would like to join.

With regard to the performance of WFP, I can be very brief. Switzerland has no difficulties with the proposals. WFP does a wonderful but very difficult job, which merits our deep respect. My country is impressed by the highly-motivated staff members at all levels.

Ms Anne HUHTAMÄKI (Finland)

As to the loss of life that took place last week, we would like to note as the previous Representative said, that our thoughts are with you at this moment.

The security of the humanitarian aid workers is of utmost importance. The security of humanitarian aid workers and the United Nations staff will be considered in a specific Resolution at the on-going United Nations General Assembly. According to our information, it will be dealt with as soon as it's ready this week. This is one more step which we want to do to ensure better possibilities for your work, and for the better security of your workers.

I would like briefly to offer a few comments on WFP's work.. Finland joins the others in congratulating WFP for the excellent work and which we especially have seen in the emergency programmes, during the last weeks. The consultative process last spring in the Food Aid for Development Policy was greatly appreciated. We look forward to putting more emphasis on the humanitarian policy concerns of WFP emergency programmes too, and this is already underway at the Executive Board of WFP.

I wish to make a brief point on gender aspects. As Executive Director Bertini stated, you have made great advances in this sphere, and I would like to express Finland's appreciation for this once more.

Lastly, for Finland, I would like to comment that we have always emphasized the importance of multilateral contributions for the work of WFP, and we continue to do so.

Ms Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN (Sweden)

We would like to express the deep feelings of sorrow and give our condolences for the tragedy which took place last week with the plane of the World Food Programme.

Second, we would like to express that we share comments given by the Chair of this Commission on the work done by the World Food Programme and also on the leadership of the Organization in the person of Ms Bertini.

We would like to endorse the comments made by the delegation from Finland on the multilateral contributions, importance of giving multilateral contributions, to the World Food Programme in order to increase the flexibility of their programming.

And finally, I have a question for Ms Bertini. Given the fact that we are going to decide in the Conference on the Alliance for Food Security, and knowing that she is very open and frank, I would like to ask her to elaborate a little bit on her vision of the Alliance that we are going to decide upon.

Khaled ZEGHIDI (Tunisia) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset I should like, on behalf of the delegation of Tunisia, convey our condolences for the loss of so many lives during their service. I should like to express Tunisia's condolences, our deepest condolences. May God give their souls a blessing and I should like here to pay tribute to the efforts made by the WFP, particularly introducing the Report for 1999. Such a Report contains a wealth of information concerning the activities undertaken so far.

May I also express our appreciation to the WFP for the role it has been carrying out in shouldering its responsibilities in the fields of emergency operations or development assistance.

Despite all these efforts and unfortunately as was stated by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, 1999 was a difficult year. The rate and the number of the hungry people have reached unprecedented levels. As we have an increasing need for further assistance to the poor and hungry in the world, while we express our satisfaction about the assistance given by the donor countries and which is going to be given by donor countries, we would like to make an appeal to the international community, to further contribute so that we can meet the required needs.

Pedro PINTO da SILVA (Portugal)

First, I would like to extend our Government's condolences for the terrible accident that WFP just suffered. We are very much aware of the risks that people at WFP have taken and continue to take, in particular in Angola and in other countries that are Portuguese-speaking, and to which we are linked historically.

I would also like to congratulate you, Madam Executive Director, for the direction of the World Food Programme over the past year. In particular, I refer to the new direction in terms of development activities, and to the extent that they serve or sometimes even leap-frog directly into the civil societies and strengthen them. Ultimately the children who are going to be reached by these programmes will be the leaders in years to come of these civil societies.

Second, we would like to thank you, Madam Executive Director, for your timely actions in East Timor. Not only did they contribute directly to the well-being of many persons who have suffered for many years in East Timor they also contributed, and in a very substantial manner, to awaken international attention to this problem. But East Timor, also represents, as we enter the new millennium, a very important initiative by the international community, by the union of states that we call the United Nations. What we are saying now, as we enter the new millennium, is that there are some affairs, in particular those involving abhorrent violations of human rights, that are no longer the internal affairs of nations, and where we have an obligation to intervene. It is, in fact, the timely actions that WFP has taken both in Kosovo and in East Timor that lead the international community exactly in this absolutely new, direction in the new millennium.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je voudrais vous exprimer ma joie toute particulière de vous voir présider les travaux de cette Commission. Je voudrais ensuite exprimer, au nom de mon gouvernement, nos condoléances les plus attristées pour l'accident tragique survenu au Kosovo qui a endeuillé une fois de plus le PAM. Nous nous inclinons devant la mémoire de ces personnes qui ont donné leur vie pour en sauver d'autres.

Je voudrais saisir l'occasion pour appuyer l'appel du Directeur exécutif, Madame Bertini, afin que des mesures adéquates soient prises par toute la communauté internationale pour assurer la

sécurité du personnel humanitaire travaillant sur le terrain. Cela dit, nous voudrions féliciter Madame Catherine Bertini pour l'engagement constant qu'elle déploie en faveur des personnes souffrant de la précarité et de la faim à travers le monde. En particulier l'Afrique, mon continent, apprécie beaucoup ses actions, notamment à travers ses activités d'urgence et ses programmes de développement. A cet égard, nous voudrions rappeler l'importance toute particulière que nous attachons aux activités de développement et, au sortir de la Consultation sur l'aide alimentaire et le développement, il nous paraît essentiel que des ressources adéquates soient allouées aux activités de développement et voudrions faire nôtre l'appel lancé par Madame Bertini en direction des bailleurs de fonds pour qu'ils augmentent leurs contributions non liées.

S'agissant de la collaboration qui doit exister entre les organisations à vocation agricole et alimentaire basées à Rome, ma délégation se félicite du niveau de concertation qui existe déjà entre ces organisations. Il ne pourrait d'ailleurs pas en être autrement car, faut-il le rappeler, le PAM est aussi un enfant de la FAO et l'approbation de certaines interventions du Directeur exécutif exige une demande commune entre le Directeur général de la FAO et le Directeur exécutif. Cela dit, cette collaboration devrait s'intensifier afin de créer une plus grande synergie et optimiser des ressources de plus en plus rares. S'agissant de cette collaboration, je partage ce qui est dit au paragraphe 55, à savoir que la proposition d'organiser une réunion conjointe des organes directeurs des institutions de Rome mérite un examen plus approfondi. En conclusion, nous annonçons entièrement le document C 99/LIM/3 que le Secrétariat a bien voulu nous soumettre.

Andrew COONEY (Australia)

I would like to take this opportunity to join those who have spoken before me, and add our deepest condolences and sympathies to Mrs Bertini, the whole staff of the World Food Programme, as well as the families of those who so tragically died in Kosovo a few days ago.

As you know, one of the WFP staff members who lost their lives was an Australian, and so we feel close to the tragedy that has befallen the WFP.

Chao TIANTONG (Thailand)

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, we would like to express our deep sympathy and sincere condolences to all the humanitarian aid workers who lost their lives whilst on duty. We would also like to pay tribute to those who always do miracles for the needy and those who suffer from difficult situations. We commend the WFP for the effective roles they have been playing and encourage WFP to continue their duties. We can assure you of our support for this very important task.

Mohammad MEJBAHUDDIN (Bangladesh)

Allow me to express our deepest condolences on behalf of my Government of the tragic loss of lives in the accident that happened last Friday. Indeed, one of my co-patriots also lost his life in that tragic accident.

Mr Chairman, we are very proud of WFP for its abilities to respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations and for its contribution towards stabilisation of the conditions of the vulnerable groups through development programmes.

Mr Chairman, WFP has one of the largest development programmes in Bangladesh. It has greatly succeeded in improving the livelihoods of the rural poor, especially women, and has enabled them to mainstream themselves into the broader development process. We hope that with the operationalization of the AFAD, WFP's effectiveness will further improve in this area.

Finally, Mr. Chairman I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a deep commitment on the initiatives that the Executive Director herself and her staff have taken and shown in recent years to reach the hungry and poor, wherever they may be.

Javier PIERNAVIEJA NIEMBRO (España)

Permítame que, por ser mi primera intervención, felicite al Embajador Fontana-Giusti por su elección, con la seguridad de que por su reconocida calidad y rigor en su quehacer, llegaremos a acuerdos en esta importante Comisión. Agradecemos a la Secretaría la documentación distribuida y, de modo muy especial, la presentación que nos ha realizado la Sra. Bertini.

En primer lugar, quisiera destacar el Compromiso del PMA que, en el cumplimiento de su misión, ha dejado la vida de muchos de sus funcionarios. Por ello, le rogamos que acepte nuestro más sentido pésame a las familias de los fallecidos en el reciente accidente, que hacemos extensible a todos los países que han dejado la vida de sus conciudadanos y al PMA y agradecemos igualmente la ayuda que ha facilitado a nuestro país con motivo de la muerte de tres funcionarios españoles en este accidente.

Como ya tuvimos ocasión de destacar en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y en el propio Consejo de la FAO, apoyamos el informe anual del PMA que tenemos que aceptar en el documento C 99/LIM/3. A su vez, apoyamos todas las actividades que ha realizado en 1999 y muy especialmente, las Consultas sobre Desarrollo tal y como han destacado el Representante de México, quien hablaba en nombre de América Latina y el Caribe, y el Representante del Senegal.

A su vez, nos parece muy importante destacar que el Sistema de información y cartografía sobre la inseguridad alimentaria y la vulnerabilidad, SICIAV, tiene un papel decisivo. En este aspecto, insistimos fundamentalmente en todo el proceso de las consultas de desarrollo y creemos que el avance lo más rápido posible del SICIAV, no sólo en el ámbito nacional o de país, sino en la delimitación de áreas dentro de cada uno de los países con problemas graves y específicos de inseguridad alimentaria, y por tanto, una concreción incluso a nivel local es también muy importante, como ya hemos estudiado en documentos presentados en esta misma Conferencia por la FAO el lunes pasado. Para desarrollar una lucha sistemática contra el hambre estructural y crónica, lo primero es delimitar dónde se encuentra, y no sólo delimitar los países por índices macroeconómicos como ha señalado la representación de México en nombre de América Latina y el Caribe. Para ello, la coordinación interagencias es básica: en primer lugar, para concretar las áreas de actuación a través del SICIAV con el hambre estructural como objetivo fundamental y, en segundo lugar, para elaborar proyectos coordinados de desarrollo. Pensamos que con este proceso tendríamos un gran avance para la consecución de los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Après avoir entendu plusieurs délégations qui m'ont précédé, je n'ai pas grand chose à ajouter car l'Angola est membre du Conseil d'administration du PAM et il a toujours participé activement aux travaux du Conseil. En premier lieu, je voudrais vous féliciter d'être à la tête de cette Commission très importante. J'espère, comme l'a dit le délégué qui vient de parler, qu'avec vous nous atteindrons de bons résultats. En ce qui concerne le rapport présenté par Madame Catherine Bertini, et les événements de la semaine dernière, le Sénégal a parlé, le Kenya a parlé, l'Angola, qui est membre du Bureau du Conseil d'administration, voudrait étendre les mêmes condoléances à tout le Groupe africain.

Alim FAUZI (Indonesia)

First of all, let me join the other delegations to extend our condolences and deepest sympathy for the loss of many lives of WFP staff on duty in Kosovo.

As you all know, economic crisis has ravaged my country since last year. To smoothen the crisis, the Government has launched a special programme called the Special Rice Distribution Scheme to the more than 12 million families of which about 70 million people severely suffered from the crisis.

With regard to this crisis itself, GDP has dropped sharply, minus more than 13 percent, comparing with the year before, and the inflation rate has increased by more than 60 percent, compared to the year before which was only one digit. Through the Distribution Scheme and with the aid and cooperation of such international organisations and donor countries as the IMF, World Bank, Asian Countries, Japan, and some other countries, we have distributed about 1.2 million tonnes of rice at 40 percent of the market price in this year, and more than 1 million tonnes last year.

Besides, from WFP itself, we received a significant amount of food aid, such as blended food for the arable group, food cream for the poorest group, and food for work to the amount of about US\$136 million from July 1998 - June 2000. However, the crisis still persists, so this programme should be continued until the crisis is over.

On behalf of the people of Indonesia, my delegation greatly appreciates all parties who are concerned and share our problem.

Dindou OULD TAJDINE (Mauritania) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the delegation of Mauritania, we would like to express to you our sincerest condolences and greatest sympathy for the loss of life that has been recently suffered as a number of officers of the World Food Programme died. It has been one more accident, but a very painful one, in its long history and it is regrettable that officers who were there serving humankind; people who were struggling against poverty, against despair, and who were pursuing this noble purpose paid with their lives. They are really considered as martyrs by us, martyrs to the cause of humankind.

In Mauritania we praise the tremendous effort that has been made by WFP in our own country, that we know from our own experience, as well as in the entire African Continent and the world as a whole.

The World Food Programme pulls across every threshold behind which people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition in order to bring them help, to bring them food and to save human life. Now these people, without WFP, might have died of hunger and thirst in many cases, and we praise the efforts that WFP have taken so far. At the same time, we would like to urge all WFP officers not to seize in their labours and to go on performing these tasks which so honour the Organization.

Sid Ahmed FERROUKHI (Algérie)

Notre délégation présente ses condoléances les plus attristées aux familles des 24 personnes décédées la semaine dernière au Kosovo dans l'exercice de leur noble mission. Nous saluons les efforts consentis par l'ensemble du personnel du PAM et à leur tête Madame Bertini pour toutes les actions qui sont menées pour la lutte contre la faim et les encourageons à les poursuivre.

Carlos Manuel ROMÁN (Perú)

Ya que es reciente que hago uso por primera vez de la palabra, quisiera también felicitarlo por su elección a la mesa, a la Secretaría y a la documentación, que nos han permitido ilustrarnos fehacientemente sobre los trabajos de esta Comisión.

Antes que nada, la delegación del Perú desea reiterar su más sentido pésame a la Sra. Bertini por la trágica desaparición de los miembros del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el trágico accidente recientemente acaecido.

Señor Presidente: mi delegación comparte plenamente lo expresado por la delegada de México, quien habló en representación de América Latina y el Caribe. Además, también reconocemos el apoyo recibido por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que es un organismo que cumple muy bien la función que le ha sido asignada. En este contexto, quisiéramos resaltar que las visitas de campo son muy importantes para conocer directamente la labor que realiza el PMA en el terreno.

Por otro lado, alentamos también la necesidad de evitar las dúplices funciones y, por tanto, favorecemos la coordinación de los organismos internacionales en Roma para, de esa manera, potenciar actividades interdependientes cuando el caso así lo requiera.

Finalmente, la delegación peruana, habida cuenta del éxito alcanzado por la anterior Consulta sobre Desarrollo apoya firmemente la realización de una consulta sobre el fortalecimiento de carácter multilateral del Programa.

Salem AL AKOUR (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

We too would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Executive Director of WFP and the families of the victims who died in the recent disaster. We feel that it is necessary to stress at this point the great deal of competence with which WFP does its work, how well it is being led, and the important role that the Programme plays, both in rural development and in the various kinds of assistance provided throughout the world.

Lyall W. SMALL (Barbados)

I would like to express the sincere regret from my Government at the loss of life of so many dedicated WFP staff members during the unfortunate plane crash near Pristina last week. We offer Madam Bertini and her staff at WFP our sincere condolences.

Mr Chairman, we know that WFP also suffers significant loss of life of some of its very dedicated staff through non-accidental means, and commend the efforts being made by the Executive Director and her staff to provide training in security and security awareness.

We trust that this will go a long way to significantly reduce the dangers inherent in the WFP line of work.

Mme Rosa Anna CONIGLIO PAPALIA (Italie)

Au nom de l'Italie, son pays hôte, et de la délégation italienne, je voudrais présenter les condoléances les plus sincères pour le malheur qui a touché l'Organisation du Programme alimentaire mondial. Les familles des Italiens qui ont perdu la vie sur la montagne de Pristina remercient pour les condoléances et les sentiments exprimés à leur égard.

Le Gouvernement et la délégation italiennes tiennent à exprimer leur satisfaction et à l'activité du Programme alimentaire mondial, auquel ils se font un devoir de donner leur appui et leur collaboration la plus attentive et la plus intéressée.

Sra. Rita Claverie DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La delegación de Guatemala, desea en primer lugar, presentar sus más sentidas condolencias al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por la reciente pérdida de lo que consideramos verdaderamente mártires de la paz.

La delegación de Guatemala, desea en segundo lugar, apoyar muy enérgicamente lo manifestado por la delegación de México en representación del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe, y aplaudir en ese sentido, los esfuerzos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos de llevar a cabo esta corajosa encuesta sobre el desarrollo, los trabajos de la Consulta, y los trabajos de los programas a favor de éste. Creo que los resultados de esta Consulta fueron halagadores para el PMA, porque pudieron descubrir, que a través de los programas en desarrollo, ellos estaban dando un instrumento a los países que como Guatemala, han sufrido de grandísimas catástrofes, y que a su vez son países muy pobres que se encuentran dentro del mapeo de vulnerabilidad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, han tenido el más profundo éxito, y la comunidad internacional ha entendido la importancia que estaba en cuestión. Desde ese punto de vista, también la delegación de Guatemala, desea reforzar el carácter multilateral del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que los países entiendan la funcionalidad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos como un ente capaz de atender emergencias cuando éstas sean requeridas y atender al desarrollo. Creo que la reciente

catástrofe que sufrieron los países centro americanos, con el Huracán Mitch, dejó claramente demostrado que debido a los programas de desarrollo que se tenían en esa región, en esos países, el PMA tuvo la capacidad inmediata de responder efectivamente en aquella emergencia.

Sr. Presidente van para nosotros las más grandes felicitaciones y de que se propicie y se refuerce, cada vez más, el trabajo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica)

On behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, its people and myself, I would like to express my deepfelt sympathy and condolence for the tragedy that has befallen WFP and its staff members, some who willingly went out to help those in need. We pray for those who have lost their livelihood, and for those families and friends who mourn their dead and for those who have no hope to sustain them in their grief.

My delegation also supports what was said by the delegation of Mexico who spoke on behalf of our Group.

Horace GRANT (Belize)

On behalf of the Government and people of Belize, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Madam Bertini and the families of the WFP officers who lost their lives a few days ago. It is so sad that these persons were trying to save lives when this unfortunate tragedy occurred.

I would also like to congratulate Madam Bertini on her election to the WFP as Executive Director, and for their continuous dedicated work in trying to prevent hunger in the world.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

New Zealand is very supportive of the World Food Programme and holds it and its management in very high regard. New Zealand's annual core contribution, though modest, has increased in recent years.

Because of the high regard with which we hold the World Food Programme, we were, of course, deeply shocked at the recent plane crash. Therefore, I would like to join with others in expressing our condolences and sympathies to the families of those who tragically died in that recent plane crash.

Mostafa JAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would just like to add my voice to the voice of other colleagues. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my deep sympathy and condolences to Madam Bertini, World Food Programme Executive Board and staff for the tragic accident which happened last week when several officers and scientists lost their lives. I pray for a safe life for their families.

CHAIRMAN

I think that we can close this debate. I would like not to summarize, but to say and to recall that there has been a unanimous appreciation of the courage and too often, alas, heroic work of World Food Programme, and also to participate in the sorrow that we so deeply share. I did not realize there were so many countries involved in our common sorrow. That gives the impression of the universality of the United Nations and this concept of brotherhood that should be more frequent in our thinking and our action. I think that the World Food Programme is certainly one of the best interpreters of this way of thinking.

One of the points that were raised during the discussion was of course the question of security. Somebody rightly said that we have to consider security as one of the priorities because there is no other value than human life, and I think that we have to do everything to save them from the risks that they are facing daily.

Another point that has been raised was the importance of coordination, but I think Ms Bertini will certainly answer that. The importance of training and emergency assistance was also highlighted. The latter is an idea that is dear to our delegation, to me personally, that is, not only the importance of emergency, but also the right balance between emergency and development because development assistance can prevent emergencies and once we have faced emergencies, we can create the conditions to avoid the new ones. So I think there is a delicate balance, but a balance that we have to keep in mind.

Of course there have been references to the multilateral character of the Organization and to try to focus our aid on multilateral action as opposed to bilateral, which is the more frequent, of course, way of dealing, but I think that all these recommendations will certainly be very present in our minds when our next meetings within the World Food Programme or another fora will take place. So if you agree, could I ask Ms Bertini to answer some of the questions and remarks that have just been made.

Ms Catherine BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme)

In general I would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences and all of their support this week, and their understanding for why we are not able to be more participatory in the FAO meetings.

I would also, on that score, like to take the opportunity to thank the Government of Italy, because they have been very, very generous and kind in their support for WFP and for all of the victims of the tragedy in providing all sorts of assistance to us, to the families and for the victims. So I want to say thank you very much for that.

The other two points were first of all the issue raised by Kenya and concerns about the drought. We share your concerns about what is happening essentially in the region, and we are planning a meeting at the end of November, on the 29th and 30th, in Addis Ababa for our Country Directors in the region in the drought-affected countries, so that they can talk about not only what kind of response might be required, but also to try to take some further steps along in terms of any efforts to try to make predictions about what might happen in the future. Of course, the World Food Programme does not have the competency to do the latter, so I think your suggestion that we contact other agencies, like the Meteorological Agency and others, is a very good one and one that we will pass on to our colleagues who will be attending this meeting. In fact, Mr Zejjari, the Director of Africa, is here today and he will carry that message himself.

I think the only other comment that requires an answer is the question by Sweden about our views on the coordinated approach to food security, rather the Alliance for Food Security proposals that are being considered. Yes, I will be frank on several points. First of all, there obviously is a great need felt by the delegates to be more assured that there is some sort of coordinated effort by at least the three Agencies in Rome, if not more Agencies, to be handling the issue of food security, and that is certainly understandable because, in fact, there are still far too many hungry people in the world. So any kind of coordinated approach towards working on issues of food security, would certainly be important to pursue.

Frankly, I think delegates also are remembering maybe too much the past history of the three Agencies in Rome and the fact that we used to barely speak to each other. That is not the case today. There is a lot more work done together by the three Agencies, and you may think that that is still not enough, but I think that perhaps some of the concerns that go into these proposals are also based on history. And I think the other concern that goes into this is the fact that we three Agencies are constituted differently and we do different things. It is far, far easier to say that UNICEF and WFP should be doing things together, than it is for FAO and WFP - not because we do not try to do things together, but because we bring different things to the table, different expertise, different provisions and so forth. So I think perhaps that is part of the overall concern about the need for a more coordinated approach.

Now specifically on what is being discussed, World Food Programme has not directly followed it and our policy is not to lobby you or try to get you to do one thing or another, so I will just do what you ask, which is give my thoughts. The way that these papers are written seem to suggest that the major impact or effort on any sort of collaboration or Alliance should be in Rome. Frankly, if there is going to be any success in doing something to decrease hunger in the world, it is not going to be done in Rome; it is going to be done in every country in the world where hunger exists, and that is the place where the major coordination is required. Not to say there is not coordination required in Rome – I do not want to give that impression – but that is not going to fix the problem.

Now the UNDAF process, which I think is referred to in one of the papers, is the process that the UN has put in place to try to address coordination issues, one of which is food security, in terms of trying to bring the UN Agencies together and to try to have a coordinated approach in concert with the Host Government about what is best required in order to achieve food security; in order to achieve a certain level of good health and so forth. And so I believe that rather than creating a new process in the field that what would work would be even a stronger emphasis on things like UNDAF. UNDAF is now a requirement for the programme agencies. World Food Programme is involved in it, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA – there is no requirement that any other agency become involved in UNDAF, but perhaps, again, rather than creating a new system, the UNDAF system should be used more directly with the specific involvement of specific Agencies.

Two other issues – one is that I would just caution about both creating something and at the same time saying there should be no additional costs, and related to that also is the suggestion of involvement in the Committee on World Food Security. Of course WFP and IFAD are already invited as observers, so I presume that this suggestion means that we will be regular members, but again that is a Rome-based discussion, that is not an action-oriented field programme.

Finally, again perhaps the delegates would be more comfortable if we found a way to create some indicators about what it is that we are achieving together, either on food security in general or the three Rome-based Agencies, and that might be helpful in an overall process.

CHAIRMAN

I do not want to preempt the debate that we shall have shortly, but as a matter of fact, as you recall, there was reference to UNDAF in one of the two texts of the Resolution, and I hope will be in the joint text. What we mean by this Resolution is that not excluding the country, and that they keep it in the field, as you said before you came, before the present Director-General was here and the present President of IFAD was there, you were not on speaking terms. We cannot base a close collaboration among the Rome-based institutions by personal chemistry. You need to have an institutional framework in which you can create that coordination and those synergies that we are trying to aim for. As a matter of fact, the majority of the delegations consider that - paragraph 4, I think, of the present text - the present mechanism will allow this better coordination and better synergies without constituting a new mechanism and a new theory. But as I said, that is one of the points we will have to face shortly, so I do not want to preempt the debate on that.

I thank you very much for your presence in such a difficult and sad moment.

Ms Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN (Sweden)

I want to thank Ms Bertini for her extensive answer.

CHAIRMAN

We can consider this point of our Agenda closed and thank Ms Bertini, Mr Ngongi and all the staff of World Food Programme we have present among us.

Before passing to the remaining item, which is the *Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent*, for which I will give the Chair to the Ambassador of Kenya.

I would first like to clear the ground for some of the issues that we discussed very often in those days, the question of a Resolution on the Alliance and the possibility of merging the two texts that we have discussed. I was told that – I was not present – that much progress has been made and there is some possibility of formulating a unique text. I would like to ask some delegation who was present this Working Group to inform the assembly of that, and to confirm the possibility, because at that moment we have, as we hoped and we strived for, a unique text, which we have to send back to the Resolutions Committee. So I wonder what delegation will volunteer to explain to us the results of the meetings of yesterday and today? Was nobody present at the meeting?

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Gracias Sr. Presidente, efectivamente parece ser que no hay nadie en la sala de los que participaron en esa reunión. Nuestra colega de Guatemala ha salido en este momento a buscar algunos de los miembros de GRULAC que participaron, para que puedan venirnos a informar.

CHAIRMAN

So we are waiting for somebody? I think that it was a delegate from France who is not here at the moment. Anyhow, I hope that our colleague will be successful in finding somebody to report to us, so we can maybe find a common ground and close Item 1 before passing to the last Item.

I see the distinguished representative of Finland and I ask if he can help. No? Have you been at the meeting?

Raimo ANTTOLA (Finland)

We are supposed to be in charge, but we do not see the representative of the Commission. I think the person is coming.

CHAIRMAN

I have the latest information so it seems that a text has been agreed upon and is now being finalized, polished and translated, so we shall have it at the end of the afternoon. I ask the Ambassador of Kenya to Chair the meeting.

Bob Francis Jalang'o, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair
Bob Francis Jalang'o, Vice-Président du Commission I, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Bob Francis Jalang'o, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

11. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

11. Conclusions de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires sur la Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

11. Resultados de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el Convenio de Rotterdam sobre el Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (CFP) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

CHAIRMAN

We will now move to Agenda Item 4, the Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, and we will be looking at document C 99/14.

Without taking too much time, I will call upon Professor Sawadogo to introduce the subject.

Abdoulaye SAWADOGO (Sous-directeur général, Département de l'agriculture)

L'adoption de la Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause, PIC en abrégé, applicable dans le cas de certains produits chimiques et pesticides dangereux qui font l'objet de commerce international par une conférence diplomatique en septembre 1998 à Rotterdam aux Pays-Bas et ses répercussions pour la FAO sont l'objet des débats sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour. Pour la FAO, les répercussions de la Convention elle-même, ainsi que celles de la Résolution sur les dispositions provisoires préparées par cette Conférence ont une importance particulière en ce qui concerne la mise en place du Secrétariat intérimaire et du Secrétariat de la Convention. Vos débats devraient porter sur le budget de la mise en application de la Convention, aussi bien au titre des dispositions provisoires que des dispositions définitives et sur les obligations financières qui en résultent.

Avec l'adoption de cette Convention, la FAO et le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, avec l'aide généreuse des Pays-Bas, ont respecté les délais fixés par la Conférence de Rio en 1992, au Chapitre 19 de l'Agenda 21, à savoir, et je cite: "Parvenir avant l'an 2000 à la conclusion d'un tel instrument". La Convention de Rotterdam a ainsi porté son terme un processus qui avait été entamé en 1965 avec l'adoption par la Conférence de la FAO du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, en particulier son Article IX sur l'échange d'informations, processus qui a abouti à une procédure volontaire de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause, PIC en abrégé.

La FAO et le PNUE, après l'adoption des directives de Londres par le Conseil d'administration du PNUE en 1999, ont assuré conjointement le Secrétariat durant cette procédure volontaire, la FAO étant principalement responsable des pesticides et le PNUE des produits chimiques industriels. A l'heure actuelle, 24 pesticides et cinq produits chimiques industriels sont soumis à cette procédure volontaire, et quelque 155 pays participent par le biais de leur autorité nationale désignée. Le document C 99/14 de la Conférence présente les motivations, l'historique et les progrès des négociations qui ont précédé l'adoption de la Convention de Rotterdam.

Le 10 septembre 1999, c'est-à-dire un an après l'adoption de cette Convention, 73 États et la Communauté européenne ont signé la Convention. Un État l'a déjà ratifiée et de nombreux autres ont indiqué que le processus de ratification était en cours. La Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable entrera en vigueur après le dépôt du cinquantième instrument de ratification. En vue des préparatifs de la Conférence des parties, les gouvernements continuent néanmoins à se réunir au sein du Comité de négociation intergouvernemental. A cet égard, une sixième réunion de ce Comité s'est tenue au siège de la FAO en juillet 1999. Le document de la Conférence précité présente brièvement les conclusions de cette réunion. Comme en a décidé la Conférence diplomatique, durant la période intérimaire, le Secrétariat est assuré conjointement par le PNUE et la FAO. Dans la pratique, le Secrétariat est situé au Service des produits chimiques du PNUE à Genève en Suisse et au Service de la protection des plantes de la FAO à Rome. Durant la période intérimaire, le Secrétariat intérimaire assure l'application d'une procédure PIC volontaire modifiée et également assure les préparatifs de la Conférence des parties pour la première réunion de la Convention lorsqu'elle aura été ratifiée. Le Secrétariat peut de la sorte, étant situé à Genève et à la FAO, au voisinage des autres services du PNUE et de la FAO, tirer parti de l'expérience acquise durant la procédure volontaire et des compétences disponibles au sein de ces deux organisations. Il facilite aussi la mise en oeuvre harmonieuse des dispositions provisoires.

Du point de vue des besoins de financement, des apports supplémentaires seront nécessaires, surtout durant la période intérimaire, qui devrait durer deux à trois années. Actuellement, la FAO fournit environ 140 000 dollars E.-U. par an au Secrétariat au titre de son programme ordinaire. Ce chiffre ne prend pas en compte les apports des services juridiques, les coûts annexes de location, chauffage, gardiennage et autres, qui sont assurés par la FAO.

Par ailleurs, la procédure intérimaire actuelle et la procédure de la Convention quand elle entrera en vigueur sont relativement exigeantes et nécessitent aussi un apport substantiel de la part des gouvernements. La participation des gouvernements sera beaucoup plus importantes, et les informations que le Secrétariat devra fournir sont d'ores et déjà beaucoup plus nombreuses et, par conséquent, les besoins financiers plus importants. Pour le moment, les dépenses sont couvertes par des crédits extrabudgétaires. Il est extrêmement important que ces soutiens extrabudgétaires soient assurés durant les deux ou trois prochaines années de la période intérimaire. Plus tard, un mécanisme financier établi par la Conférence des parties à la Convention y pourvoira. Un organe subsidiaire créé au titre de cette Convention., le Comité d'étude provisoire des produits chimiques, regroupant 29 experts nommés par le gouvernement, tiendra sa prochaine réunion en février de l'an 2000 à Genève en Suisse. Ce Comité examinera quatre pesticides pour recommandation éventuelle à la prochaine session du Comité de négociation intergouvernemental en vue de les ajouter aux substances déjà couvertes par la Convention. Une nouvelle réunion du Comité de négociation intergouvernemental devrait se tenir à la fin de l'année prochaine, probablement en novembre 2000, toujours à Genève en Suisse, si des ressources extrabudgétaires suffisantes peuvent être réunies. En attendant, la procédure intérimaire est mise en oeuvre par le Secrétariat intérimaire FAO-PNUE sur la procédure PIC.

Cependant, pour faciliter le processus de mise en oeuvre de la procédure intérimaire et pour préparer la première Conférence des parties, la Conférence de la FAO est invitée, comme cela est indiqué dans le document C 99/11, et c'est par là que je vais conclure, en premier lieu à prendre note de l'heureuse conclusion des négociations de la Convention, de son adoption et de son application pendant la période intérimaire; en second lieu, à louer la nature exemplaire de la coopération entre le PNUE et la FAO; en troisième lieu, à reconnaître le rôle de la FAO dans le Secrétariat intérimaire et le rôle de la FAO dans le Secrétariat de la Convention, et à donner son avis sur le financement des activités du Secrétariat intérimaire, et aussi du Secrétariat pendant la période d'entrée en vigueur de la Convention.

Voici, en quelques mots, l'introduction que je voulais faire de ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Professor Sawadogo, Assistant Director-General of FAO, for giving us that detailed introduction on this agenda item which is extremely important - An item which has taken several years, starting all the way back 1989 with several Conferences and meetings in between, culminating in the meeting in Rotterdam in September 1998 where 62 parties have now signed the Convention and 80 parties have signed the Final Act. So what is perhaps left now is to receive the 50th Instrument of Ratification before this Convention can come into action.

I would like before I give the floor to speakers, that I will be calling upon the Africa Group to comment on paragraph 11 in particular, because this is an item which has been giving us quite a bit of concern. So I would appreciate if the Africa Group could look at paragraph 11 and respond to it either collectively or individually.

And then finally, on page 7 there are recommendations which the document is asking us also to consider. With those introductory remarks, I will now open the floor for interventions.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, and also to Dr Sawadogo for his succinct overview of this issue.

Let me briefly address the issues mentioned by Dr Sawadogo. The United States welcomes the successful negotiation and signing of the Rotterdam Convention on PIC. FAO and UNEP have an excellent record of cooperation in operating the interim PIC Secretariat, and we encourage that to continue. As noted by the Council, we believe it is essential that adequate resources be provided

by the Regular Programme Budget to enable the PIC Secretariat to carry out its responsibilities under the Rotterdam Convention.

Andrew BYRNE (European Community)

I am speaking to you on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The European Community considers that the Rotterdam Convention as it stands and when properly implemented will successfully contribute to the improvement of chemical management in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. The Community is satisfied with the work of the interim Secretariat. However, despite the fact that several countries, including some EU Member States, and the European Commission have contributed financially to the Convention on a voluntary basis, the European Community is concerned that the lack of regular resources may create difficulties. We underline that this is an excellent example of a normative activity, and propose that FAO increase its Regular Programme contribution to the interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to ensure effective implementation. This would necessarily imply corresponding savings in other areas.

CHAIRMAN

That would require input to the Conference to be able to make specific recommendations to it, especially where there are issues regarding the budget. There are financial implications on this document which we need to look at. There is the question of hosting of the Secretariat, which we need to look at. So really I would encourage that we debate.

Thomas NDIVE MOKAKE (Cameroon)

Actually the Cameroon delegation attaches a lot of importance to the PIC because, from my experience, the use and abuse of pesticides and chemicals is of major concern to us. I think that the same may hold for other developing countries. When we look at the document C 99/14 on page 4, Article 13, following the deliberations of the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Commission of PIC, held at FAO in mid July 1999, certain items of importance were treated, in particular the establishment of the Interim Chemical Review Committee, which we very much welcome as this will facilitate one of the aspects of the Convention on a scientific basis as to what pesticides or chemicals need to be banned for use.

Then we look at page 3 of the same document, and we come to Article 11. From the beginning of the negotiations, the Africa Group has always insisted on the issue of dispute settlement, especially when we realize that some of these pesticides and chemicals are produced by big corporations, multinationals, that have a lot of wherewithal to defend themselves. When we have disputes, we would like to have them settled in a more scientific and rational manner, and the African countries do express their worries when it comes to disputes. Moreover, we are concerned about the issue of illicit trafficking of pesticides and chemicals, as well as the responsibility and liability in principle. My delegation therefore hopes that the Conference will give a lot of support to these worries of the African delegation, and in the same process we agree very much with the declaration of the United States that there is need for more regular budgetary resources to permit the implementation of this Convention.

When we look at page 8 of this document, Annex 1, the facilitation of the implementation and ratification of the Convention requires so much for 1999 (US\$180 000) – the amount allocated so far is zero. For the year 2000 (US\$530 000) – allocation so far is zero. We hope that this is just a guide, and that really there will be a lot of donor support from international community to this effect to permit this budget to be effectively realized and become operational.

Ms Merethe LUIS (Norway)

Just to state our position in this. We fully endorse what was suggested by the distinguished Representative from the European Commission, and we too also think that it would have been very good if some more funds from the Regular Budget could be set aside for this mechanism.

Andrew COONEY (Australia)

Australia commends the work of the FAO in both the negotiations leading towards the conclusion of the Rotterdam Treaty, as well as the on-going Secretariat work that it has undertaken with respect to the voluntary and interim PIC procedure.

We would support the PIC being given a higher priority within the work programme of the FAO, and would say the necessary funding for the interim Secretariat should be met from within the existing budget through a reallocation of resources and funds.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italy)

Once more I would like to underline what I already said in our last Council. I think we have a big patrimony of expertise in the FAO Secretariat in Rome, as well as in the UNEP Secretariat in Geneva. I think we have to make of this patrimony of experience because we are touching a very important issue. I recall a working group that we just dedicated to pesticides in Africa and how to deal with them, and I think that we just have to make use of the experience of the actual Secretariat. I think the present system is giving quite positive results. We have to capitalize on them. I therefore insist on this document, just to put in the right light this aspect of our discussion.

Paul Kipsigei CHEPKWONY (Kenya)

Allow me to congratulate you for election to the Vice-Chair. I would like to commend the Secretariat for the presentation of this excellent and extremely informative document. Actually, we may not have much to say on it because it is very technical, but we would like to make the following brief comments.

For the information of this Commission, Kenya was among the countries that signed the Rotterdam Convention as outlined on paragraph 8.

Regarding the ratification, we have a question for the Secretariat. We would like to have information on the status of the ratification of the signatories. We also, on paragraph 11, would like to associate ourselves with the position that was taken by the Africa Group, that is, a request of support for developing countries on the side of technical and financial assistance for purposes of capacity-building in order to facilitate implementation of the Convention.

And, finally, we endorse the recommendations and conclusions given in the last paragraph of the document, paragraph 24.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

New Zealand is one of the signatories to the Rotterdam Convention. We are currently working on ratification. I have a brief comment only, and it is directed at paragraph 24 of the document C 99/14. Quite simply, yes we note *tiret* 1, yes we note *tiret* 2, and in the third *tiret* we agree with others that this is now a regular activity and should be funded from the Regular Budget.

Rolf GERBER (Suisse)

Nous voulons être extrêmement brefs et nous associer seulement à ce qui a été dit par Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Italie concernant les sièges du Secrétariat du PIC.

CHAIRMAN

That is the last speaker I have on my list. We need to specifically look at the issues that have raised in paragraph 24 to enable us to reach some conclusions. Before we come to that, I give the floor to Japan.

Yasufumi VEDA (Japan)

Japan greatly appreciates the outcome of the six intergovernmental negotiating committees held in July which agreed on interim PIC regions, as well as an interim Chemical Review Committee. These are necessary to ensure a proper implementation of the interim Prior Informed Consent procedure. With regard to the interim Chemical Review Committee, Japan also intends to contribute to it by sending an expert as well as by providing the professional scientific knowledge which we have. I think it is also very important to ensure that FAO's accumulated information concerning the use of agriculture commodities and risk management can be actually utilized in implementing the Convention.

CHAIRMAN

Would any of the delegates like to make any comment on Annex 1 on page 8? Perhaps we may wish to get a confirmation now that the consensus coming out is that the budgetary implications should be borne by FAO. If you look at the figures in Annex 1, under "estimated" it is US\$ 2 million, under "allocated" is US\$ 1.2 million, leaving a shortfall of US\$ 1 million for 1999. If you look at the year 2000, the "estimated" cost is US\$ 2.3 million, and the "allocated cost" is US\$ 280 000, a shortfall of slightly over US\$ 2 million. Perhaps maybe delegates would like to comment on this Annex.

Abdoulaye SAWADO (Assistant Director-General, Department of Agriculture)

During the discussion at the Council, I promised that we would come with more refined figures at the Conference for the budget and with your permission, I would ask Mr Van Der Graaff to take up that issue.

N.A. VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)

Of course we started preparing a supplement to this paper, but as you worked very fast this supplement has not appeared yet, although I have the English version in my hand at the moment.

In the meantime, since this budget for 1999 and 2000 was made, of course a number of countries have made some further inputs into the budget. First of all, I believe it was Finland, Norway and Switzerland who have added another US\$ 174 000 to the Joint Trust Fund. Japan has also made a substantial contribution, of which we have at the moment US\$ 216 000 left, together with some remaining funds of last year and the Regular Programme contributions. UNEP and FAO would have available for 2000 at the moment about US\$ 802 000. Of course that falls far short still of the US\$ 2.3 million that we would require for that year, but it would at least help us to organize the first Interim Review Committee in March-April. After that, of course, we would have to prepare for the next Interim Negotiating Committee, but no funds are available for that yet.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr Van Der Graaff for that explanation. There is also a point at the bottom of that Annex about the use of the facilities in Rome and Geneva for the initial siting of the Convention Secretariat. Maybe we should perhaps agree on that issue unless there are any contrary opinions, because it goes a long way in making substantial savings when meetings are held in either Rome or in Geneva - substantial savings of US\$ 75 000, close to US\$ 100 000. I also notice from the document that Germany had also offered something on this particular issue. Perhaps we would like to hear clarification on this particular issue. Perhaps we would like to hear clarification on

the position of Germany. Professor Sawadogo, could you give us maybe some information on this issue?

N.A. VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)

Mr Chairman, I of course overlooked one thing – I said that at the moment we have US\$ 802 000 in hand. There are two countries that have made further pledges: the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and that may come up to a total of about US\$ 650 000. France has also offered the services of an APO. If all those funds would be forthcoming then we would be, during this year, at roughly US\$ 1.4 million, so we would have already a substantial fund in hand for this year. Of course we will be in the same situation again for 2001. At least as the funding is foreseen at the moment for 2001, we only have at the moment the commitment from FAO and UNEP, which is US\$ 280 000.

If I may now go back to the question you raised on the offers for the permanent Secretariat, you may recall that in the Convention it is stated that the Secretariat will be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP and by the Director-General of FAO, but of course subject to the agreement of the Conference of Parties. Now the whole idea on this was slightly changed in the Rotterdam meeting and the outcome of that you will find indeed in the paper we have produced for you - in paragraph 18, and in paragraph 19. What that means is that as far as we can see in relation to these issues that during the interim period, we establish a number of criteria, or the INC (Interim Negotiating Committee) establishes with the Secretariat a number of criteria for the Secretariat. Then finally the decision is taken at the first meeting of the Conference of Parties as to how the Convention Secretariat is exactly established, and where it is established. This issue you will find back in paragraph 20 and that also indicates that at this point in time, it is very difficult to see and very difficult to plan for that Convention Secretariat.

Thomas NDIVE MOKAKE (Cameroon)

I was going to say the same thing represented by the previous speaker, making reference to paragraph 19, in particular on page 5 of the document. That being said, the only other appeal my delegation would like to make is that this Convention is very important and there is need for appreciation on that. It will be this Conference that will make an appeal to Member Nations who have not yet ratified, signed or adhered to the Convention to do so in order to permit this Convention to become operational, as envisaged, by next year when the COP is likely going to meet.

Harald BAJORAT (Germany)

I raised my flag when you addressed Germany directly concerning the figures for contributions. I must admit that unfortunately, I don't have this information in hand right now since this item was not scheduled for this afternoon's session originally. But I would like to reserve the right to come back with some figures if I have them in hand.

I would now only like to stress one other factor concerning the location of the Secretariat, and would like to remind you that the city of Bonn has also made an offer for the Secretariat. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you distinguished delegate of Germany for that offer of Bonn, which the Secretariat has also to consider now. If we close this agenda item today, which looks likely, there will be opportunity during the Plenary to give additional information on the figures.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italy)

Looking at the document, the decision will be taken by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, not earlier, so I don't see the need of exchanging figures because that will start

another complex negotiation. We have our figures, and I think Switzerland has its own figures, so we have to compare them and to preempt the negotiation that will take place afterwards.

A second point that I would like to raise is just the philosophy of the decision of creating new Headquarters. On the one hand, we recommend that in all UN recommendations, we streamline the organizations and reduce the number of new organizations. Then on the other hand, we multiply them now if we consider the new option.

The third point is that the location in Bonn would necessarily create a kind of shuttle diplomacy. Experts will have to go from Rome to Bonn and from Geneva to Bonn and so, apart from the fixed expenditure of travel and Headquarters' facilities. We would also have people travelling to and fro. On the other hand, the majority of embassies will go to Berlin. We have agricultural experts in Rome, as they have environmental experts in Geneva, who will have to fly either from Rome and Geneva or from Berlin to Bonn. It does not seem to me a rather functional solution. As I stated in my first point, I think that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will decide at the next meeting, so I think we don't need to enter too much into detail. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN

Ambassador, I fully agree with your comments on the issues of figures and so forth. That will have to be decided later. I think the Conference has to deal with other major issues on paragraph 18. So I fully agree with your recommendation. United States of America you have the floor.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

We absolutely agree with everything just stated by Italy. Those views represent ours as well.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, United States of America. There was an issue that was raised by Cameroon about dispute settlement. Mr. Van Der Graaff would like to comment .

N. A. VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)

This can in the end only be dealt with when the Agreement is in force so at the moment we can, only during the various sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, prepare papers and prepare possibilities that can be looked at during the first meeting of the Conference of Parties, which then decides how it exactly is going to handle this matter. And the same holds true for illicit trafficking and responsibility and liability.

Abdoulaye SAWADO (Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'agriculture)

Je voudrais dire que le nombre de pays qui ont signé et ratifié la Convention n'a pas changé. Nous avons les mêmes chiffres qu'au 10 septembre qui je le rappelle est l'anniversaire de l'adoption de la Convention à Rotterdam, c'est-à-dire qu'un pays en voie de développement d'Amérique latine l'a ratifiée, et que 73 l'ont signée.

CHAIRMAN

I think we can conclude this agenda item, with the additional information that we have received about the financing for the Secretariat. The consensus that comes out is that this should be funded from the Regular Budget in FAO. In terms of the final locations, there is an offer made by Bonn, so now we have three. I think that this will be taken up by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on PIC, together with the financial aspects, to try to reach a decision. Obviously there are advantages of having the Secretariat with FAO, and in Geneva. But obviously, once a country makes an offer, we cannot just disregard it. So these are issues that will have to be taken up so that we look at the *pros* and *cons* of the final location of the Secretariat. That brings me to the end of this agenda item, and I thank you all for your very fruitful contributions. I wish to thank the Secretariat as well, who have given me support when I am in the Chair.

Before we move on, there are some announcements to be made by the Secretariat. You have the floor.

SECRETARY

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The situation with regard to the Agenda and Drafting Committee is as follows. We have cancelled this evening's session of Drafting Committee. There will be no session of Drafting Committee this evening since we do not have enough material for the Drafting Committee to consider. We will have to work out tomorrow and perhaps tomorrow night in drafting committee. Tomorrow morning we will start at 9.30 hours, hopefully precisely, on behalf of our Chairman, to discuss the remaining part of agenda item 6, which is the text of the Draft Resolution to be presented to Conference. It is my understanding that there are still some difficulties with that text, and you will have to decide tomorrow morning how you are going to deal with them. There is no point in having a meeting tonight, so we will convene tomorrow morning at 9.30. One of the proposals will at least be available in translated form tomorrow morning for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Secretariat. I have one more announcement. The GRULAC Group will meet tomorrow morning at 9.00 hours in the G-77 room. Argentina you have the floor, then New Zealand.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Lamentablemente no pude estar en la sala cuando se debatió el tema anterior. Esto es solamente para anunciar que la intervención de mi delegación será pasada por escrito para su inclusión en el *Verbatim*.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

The Secretariat said that they would like to defer the Drafting Committee from tonight, which is fine, until tomorrow night. Could we not be a little more optimistic and hope that the Drafting Committee might be able to start work tomorrow afternoon.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Con relación al documento que se está debatiendo, la delegación argentina señala que siguen vigentes las consideraciones realizadas en su oportunidad en Roma, a través de una declaración leída con motivo de la VIª sesión del Comité de Negociación, que adoptó los mecanismos para el período interino. Es decir, que la Argentina reafirma que es fundamental para la futura transparencia del proceso de implementación de este Convenio el carácter provisional de dichos mecanismos, tal como se establece en el párrafo 25, en adelante, del documento PNUMA/FAO/CFP, inciso 67, en particular lo referido al número de miembros del Comité Provisional de Examen de Productos Químicos, así como al sistema elegido para su constitución, es decir, regiones de la FAO.

Asimismo, seguimos alentando a las partes para que el nivel de contribuciones posibilite que el Comité Provisional utilice los idiomas oficiales de las Naciones Unidas a fin de garantizar la participación de los países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la delegación argentina entiende que la función de la Secretaría Provisional del Convenio, así como la tarea desarrollada conjuntamente por el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y la FAO, debería ser objeto de un reconocimiento por la excelencia de sus resultados.

En cuanto a las orientaciones sobre la financiación de las actividades de la Secretaría Provisional, la delegación argentina estima que se deberá considerar sobre todo la utilización de los recursos propios de los organismos que integran la Secretaría conjunta PNUMA y FAO.

Finalmente, reiteramos la declaración interpretativa de la República Argentina formulada en ocasión del VIº Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación de la Convención de Rotterdam, que ya fuera entregada a la Secretaría en el último Consejo.³

SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, as many of you know, these microphones are new and people are having a little difficulty up in the booth figuring out how to work the system and why there is a long delay between pressing the button and getting the red light. This must be the only room I know where a red light means 'go'. Yes, I am optimistic, Mr Chairman, that should we conclude item 6 within an hour of tomorrow morning I would suggest that we then start Drafting Committee immediately after the conclusion of that item and therefore start working on the Draft Report, even in the morning if conditions allow, certainly in the afternoon, possibly in the evening.

CHAIRMAN

I think that seems to be a good compromise. So, with those announcements, this session stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 hours.

The meeting rose at 17.10 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.10 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
QUINTA SESIÓN DE LA COMISION I**

17 November 1999

**The Fifth Meeting was opened at 12.10 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La cinquième séance est ouverte à 12 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la quinta sesión a las 12.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE** (suite)**PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS** (continuación)**6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit** (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continued)**6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation** (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (suite)**6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación** (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25) (continuación)**CHAIRMAN**

I would like first to pass on a message - to inform interested countries that to pay tribute to the humanitarian workers and all those who lost their lives in the plane crash near Pristina, Kosovo, on Friday 12 November 1999, the World Food Programme is holding a Commemorative Ceremony today, Wednesday 17 November at 16.00 hours, in the auditorium of its Headquarters. The Members of the World Food Programme Executive Board who wish to attend but are not in a position to be present at World Food Programme, and for the Observers and others, a videoed transmission of the Ceremony has been organized here in FAO in the Iran Room in Building B, and you are welcome to join the World Food Programme staff and family members on this solemn occasion.

Dear colleagues, I think we have to close our first and last point on the agenda. I want first to thank all the colleagues who dedicated time to meetings in the Contact Group to try and succeed in merging the two alternative projected Resolutions. I think that this text is of course, according to my count, about the ninth or tenth edition of the previous text, and is in substance acceptable, should be acceptable. Of course, everything is perfectionable, but if we start to try improving it after our colleagues have spent many hours to try to find a common ground, we can be here for a long time. I am ready to be here for all the time necessary. I asked the Secretariat and they told me that we can work until midnight tonight and I am ready to do that, but I think it would maybe be wiser to consider the text as a whole.

There has been a lot of hypothetical scenario on what the consequence of the Resolution would be. I would like to assure all delegations that the consequences of the Resolution will be what the Member Nations will decide them to be. So, the next Committee on World Food Security will be the occasion, will be just a way of starting the process according to the Members. We are not taking any definite engagement on definite structures or hypothetically institutional consequences. We are just ringing the bell on the urgency of the need we face.

I am sorry I missed the intervention of my Minister for Agriculture, but I was told by somebody who went there that he said that agriculture is the pillar of world development, and that is a view that I fully share. I have sometimes the impression that this priority of agricultural issues is not felt by our Governments, or by public opinion. I think therefore the occasion of voting this Resolution could be a positive signal regarding the priority we attach to agriculture, to the three Rome-based Organizations and all the other Organizations - because of course we need the World Bank, we need the RPFs, we need all the others - to engage themselves in a common effort to try to achieve better coordination and better synergies. So, I think that it is a good signal, a good starting point - it is not of course a definite point of arrival - it is a point of departure.

Anyhow, I think that being the only item on the agenda still open, I will be here at your disposal for all the time necessary, and as the Secretariat kindly told me that we have time until midnight, I am ready to be here until midnight. But of course I hope that we will have found a solution and an agreement before that. As I said, I heard some colleagues say that there could be some amendments here, some amendments there. I too, personally, would like to see a few

amendments, but I think that for the sake of our work, of our discussion, and of the possibility of taking again the issue - commenting on the Resolution once the Conference has approved it - it will be better that each of us keep aside some of our possible ideas for a better text or the use of a better word. So, I open the floor asking different countries and *porte-parole* of different groups to express their views. I am of course in your hands for the follow-up to the discussion.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

What we have in front of us is a text which has been discussed at length and very constructively in the Contact Group set up by the Chair. We started in the Contact Group with two different texts, where one was from the European Community and its Member States, and the other one from the Group of 77.

The proposal from the European Community and its Member States is also co-sponsored by Malta, Republic of San Marino, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Slovenia, Cyprus, Turkey, Romania, Poland, Korea, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

We sat in the Contact Group for several hours on two occasions, and after all of us in this Contact Group had shown remarkable flexibility and preparedness for compromise, we decided to give a chance to the joint informal meeting called the Alliance to convene, as it says in the draft text in front of us.

I therefore appeal to this Commission and to all other Member Nations sitting in this Commission, that we follow the instructions from the Chair to accept the text in front of us.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much. Does any other speaker want to take the floor? If there is no opposition, can I consider the text adopted and may be transmitted to the Conference in the draft report?

It is so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Sra. Suze PERCY (Haiti)

Sr. Presidente quisiéramos a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe agradecer al Embajador de Italia por todo el esfuerzo que ha hecho. Sabemos que como padre de esta idea ha trabajado muchísimo para llegar hoy con este texto. Pensamos que es muy importante, efectivamente, tener una mejor coordinación, una mejor sinergia entre las tres organizaciones, y también podemos decir que grandes esfuerzos han sido hechos a nivel de esas organizaciones. Pensamos que esa sinergia tiene que ser más efectiva todavía en el campo.

En base a todo esto, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe piensa que esta idea tiene que ser discutida de manera más profunda, ya que en esta semana hemos tenido una nueva, que podíamos decir, una nueva connotación de esta idea. Por eso pensamos que ese texto que tenemos en la mano, lo tenemos que consultar en nuestras capitales antes, y también tener el asesoramiento jurídico de los consejeros de la FAO y tal vez también estudiar el texto en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria regresar sobre él. Esto ha sido discutido ampliamente a nivel de nuestro grupo regional. Pienso que estamos en la mejor disposición para trabajar en este documento. Pensamos que vale la pena seguir trabajando en él pero por el momento estimamos que no lo podemos adoptar así, tenemos que, como se dice en francés *pauffiner* más este texto.

CHAIRMAN

I thank the distinguished delegate of Haiti on this point. As I said in my introductory remarks, the text leaves room for just all the considerations that the distinguished representative of Haiti has.

As you will recall, there was a diplomatic *demarche* in all capitals at the end of May 1999, so it is not a new issue. The first version was quite ambitious - it really required a firm decision because the decision would have been that the three Governing Bodies meet in the next year for the first time together and so try to have common ideas, common strategy, and common documents. That was maybe too far and that is the reason why there was a lot of amendment to the text. We passed through a seventh edition which considered all the worries you have just expressed. After that, we had an eighth edition and ninth and tenth editions, and I think that the wording that the joint Contact Group have reached is a wording that you can just consider as a kind of framework – I am sorry to use an abused term – that you can fill afterwards, in all the time that separates us from the next CFS meeting.

My instructions and my charge as Chair have been to bring a solution to the general Conference, but of course I am in your hands to decide which one and to find a formula that will be acceptable to everybody.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Vous m'excuserez de ne pas avoir demandé plus tôt la parole, mais j'étais en train de lire la version française, j'avais uniquement la version anglaise, et ma maîtrise de l'anglais n'est pas suffisante. J'aurais voulu de toute façon mieux maîtriser le texte avant d'intervenir car, au niveau du Groupe africain - et j'interviens au nom du Groupe africain- nos représentants qui ont participé à ces travaux ont rendu compte et nous avons en fait le même souci que celui que vient d'exprimer le représentant de Haiti pour le GRULAC .

Nous saluons les efforts entrepris par tous, et en particulier par l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, notre Président actuel, avec qui, personnellement, j'ai eu à discuter sur ce Projet de résolution il y a déjà quelques semaines. Il n'y a pas beaucoup de choses qui séparent nos différentes positions car le souci de tous est de contribuer à renforcer la collaboration, déjà existante du reste, entre les agences des Nations Unies s'occupant de sécurité alimentaire, en l'occurrence la FAO, le FIDA et le PAM, mais il faut dire que il y a eu beaucoup de va-et-vient dans l'évolution de l'élaboration de ce document.

A l'heure actuelle la situation est plus floue qu'elle ne l'était avant l'ouverture de la présente Conférence, d'où le besoin pour nous d'avoir un certain recul supplémentaire avant de nous prononcer sur une Résolution qui devrait être adoptée à la présente Conférence. Le souci c'est de pouvoir obtenir quelque chose qui satisfasse tout le monde et je pense que vous pourriez comprendre ce souci et le partager. Ce n'est pas que nous voulions le rejeter catégoriquement, mais nous avons besoin d'un peu plus de temps pour que tout le monde puisse trouver satisfaction à travers ce document.

Comme je l'ai dit, le souci partagé par tous, c'est de faire en sorte que la collaboration soit renforcée et je crois que personne ne peut être contre cette idée. Mais nous avons quand même quelques inquiétudes que nous souhaiterions voir levées avant que l'on puisse se prononcer définitivement sur un tel projet.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

This intervention is not to seek to continue debate on this. I raised my flag on the understanding that the Resolution had in fact been approved. It is simply to seek clarification from the sponsors of this Resolution, particularly on the wording in the operative paragraph 1(c)4, which discusses the role of NGOs, particularly the role of NGOs as observers.

I guess I am seeking clarification as to observers in which process, because it currently reads as if we are asking the Members of the Alliance to develop actions to which civil society and NGOs as observers can also positively contribute. I think we should make sure that we are not suggesting that NGOs can only contribute as observers in carrying out the actions to be done, because within the Committee on World Food Security we have recognized that NGOs are, in fact, in many

cases the main movers of actions in the field to help combat world food security. So, can I just ask clarification from the sponsors as to whether they were talking about the process of developing plans or the process of carrying out actions.

CHAIRMAN

I thank the representative of Canada. That is an issue that has been discussed thoroughly and I think, that I will give the floor to some of the Members of the Contact Group, because I wasn't present there, so you can better explain the genesis and the reasons behind it.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

First of all, since the discussion was reopened on this document, I am obliged to say that also from the side of the European Community and its Member States, there was some hesitation on some of the wording. If this could have been accepted as it stands in front of us, we could have stood behind it, but now I wish to inform this Commission that especially relating to some of the wordings in point C, the first paragraph of it, and then point I or point 1 under C, there would be some deletion of the text in it, so if we start working on this, this might open up some other details. However, I still wish that we could have accepted the text as a whole.

As to the question put up by Canada, probably the text which is the result of an extensive compromise from the Contact Group where all the different regional groups of the G-77 were also represented, that the text might not be very accurate, so my apologies for that, but the meaning of this point 4 here, under 1(c), is that at this stage in the Alliance for Food Security as it stands in this document, namely meaning the informal meeting to be held in the premises of and in the context of the Committee on World Food Security, the civil society and the NGOs would have an observer role and how I think that is secondary to what we say earlier on namely, in the first point under 1(c), where first of all the first informal meeting would discuss the need, the nature, the feasibility and the conceptual framework of this Alliance. I think that what is under there is to be considered then later on. I think that the first informal meeting called by the Alliance would have to consider all the different forms of future cooperation under this.

CHAIRMAN

I thank you and, I think the Canadian representative is satisfied with the answer.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

I can assure the house that Canada has paid its contribution. And now that the microphone has been turned on, I simply wanted to assure you, Mr Chairman, and the Members of the Commission that my question was not designed to reopen debate on this or to reopen articles. I had stated in my introduction that I assumed that we were not reopening debate, and I am perfectly satisfied with the response provided. I hope that the Report of this Commission does reflect the fact that when following approval of this, we did note that the intent of this particular clause was that in the first meeting of the Alliance, NGOs would participate as Observers; simply that.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je crois que la diplomatie italienne force l'admiration quand on voit votre homologue qui, à New York, a pu mener à bien un combat qui était voué d'avance à l'échec et dont il a fait un succès, et je crois que nous devons saluer aussi les efforts que vous, ici, avez déployé depuis des mois pour nous amener à franchir une autre étape. Il se trouve, cependant, qu'il est mieux si les esprits sont bien clairs sur ce vers quoi nous allons, sinon nous risquons, plus tard, de nous heurter à des difficultés de fond. Nous saluons les progrès qui ont été réalisés, mais je crois qu'il est difficile de ne pas tenir compte des fortes réserves de la Présidente du GRULAC, la représentante de Haïti, appuyée en cela par la Présidente du Groupe africain. Si vous prenez maintenant le projet lui-

même, on voit que l'on fait appel à une consultation entre les chefs des Secrétariats de la FAO, du PAM et du FIDA.

Or hier, nous avons eu l'honneur de voir devant nous Mme Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM. Elle s'est exprimée devant cette Commission et je crois qu'elle a répondu à la consultation que l'on demandait. Je crois qu'on ne peut ne pas tenir compte d'une déclaration du chef d'un secrétariat à qui notre Commission entend demander à être consultée. Elle a été consultée et elle a révélé ce qu'elle pensait. Je crois que ça a été dit ici devant nous tous; nous ne pouvons pas l'ignorer. Ainsi, concernant le petit d), qui dit que l'Alliance ne devra pas impliquer de nouvelles structures administratives, ni de coûts supplémentaires, elle a dit que cela n'est pas possible, on ne peut pas créer l'Alliance sans que cela implique de nouvelles structures administratives et des coûts supplémentaires. Elle a dit que ce qui se trouve sous petit d) est impossible. Comment peut-on alors l'ignorer et aller de l'avant? Je crois que c'est impossible. Je crois que nous devons être sages, nous savons ce que nous souhaitons, mais nous devons savoir également ce qui est possible et ce qui n'est pas possible.

De même, concernant la dynamique de ce projet, l'Alliance en question, Mme Bertini a dit que la coordination entre le PAM, le FIDA et la FAO marchait à merveille, que si l'on veut améliorer quelque chose, c'est plutôt au niveau du terrain, au niveau des pays, au niveau de l'assistance aux populations qui souffrent, qui meurent, mais on ne peut pas se concentrer sur la coordination entre les Secrétariats qui, selon son point de vue, marche bien. Je crois que le Secrétariat qui nous abrite n'est pas loin d'adopter le même point de vue. Je crois que nous essayons de mener ici une bataille perdue d'avance. Je comprends les préoccupations des uns et des autres. Il faut toujours faire plus et mieux, mais quand un chef de Secrétariat s'adresse à nous, et nous dit ce qu'elle pense, parce qu'elle vit sur le terrain, elle est toujours en contact, je crois qu'on ne peut pas avancer en ignorant ce que Mme Bertini a dit hier.

La dernière chose que je voudrais dire, c'est que nous savons le travail que nous avons accompli tous ensemble, en partenariat, au niveau du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, et c'est pourquoi nous avons abouti à un mécanisme de suivi des textes adoptés lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Il se trouve que nous avons décidé que c'est le CSA qui constitue le point focal pour le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Et voilà que, par ailleurs, nous présentons un projet qui tend à remettre en cause l'ensemble du mécanisme mis en place. Le Secrétariat donc, en rapport avec le Conseil juridique, doit pouvoir nous édifier sur les implications qu'un tel projet aurait sur les mécanismes de suivi déjà adoptés par les chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement du monde.

Voilà les questions de fond. Je pense que, tant qu'on n'a pas réglé ces questions de fond, et devant les clarifications apportées par Mme Bertini, il serait difficile de faire quoi que ce soit en direction de la Conférence.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il y a une chose que je ne comprends pas. Comment a-t-on remis en cause les engagements du Sommet, qu'au contraire nous sommes en train de stimuler pour les faire avancer davantage ? C'est quelque chose que je trouve étrange; c'est peut-être mon ignorance et ma limite intellectuelle, mais je voudrais comprendre mieux cela.

Deuxièmement, je connais très bien la pensée de Mme Bertini, elle m'a d'ailleurs écrit en réponse au premier texte que j'avais envoyé, il y a quelques mois. J'en ai discuté avec elle. Le résultat en a été ce document élaboré ensemble, qui est déjà un pas en avant dans nos relations. Mme Bertini a aussi dit hier qu'avant, les chefs des trois organisations ne se parlaient pas, et ça tout le monde le savait. Je lui ai répondu que l'on ne peut pas baser la vie d'une organisation internationale sur la *personal chemistry*. Deux ou trois personnes s'entendent bien, puis les prochains chefs d'organisations s'entendent moins bien, et le système saute. C'est pour cela que je trouve qu'une structure institutionnelle est nécessaire. Même si les choses vont pour le mieux dans le meilleur

des mondes, il faut quand même des structures institutionnelles qui appuient ces rapports excellents. Si les rapports sont moins bons, une structure qui pousse les trois organisations à travailler ensemble est encore plus nécessaire.

Excusez-moi, parce qu'en tant que Président, je ne devrais pas prendre position, mais quand on dit qu'on a remis en cause le Sommet après sept versions de l'Union européenne, une version du Secrétariat, une version du Groupe des 77, une version telle que celle-ci, si on en revient encore dessus, alors je m'en vais et vous souhaite bien du plaisir.

Ms Beatha NAMBUNDUNGA (Namibia)

Please allow me to speak on behalf of the Namibian delegation and to express my slight confusion about what is being proposed and what is being requested for approval by the Commission, Council or the Conference. I am referring to specifically page 2, under the Decisions B, the first one. My understanding is that the reason, or one of the underlying reasons, for proposing an Alliance is because the existing mechanisms between the three Organizations are not working, and hence the proposal for an Alliance, that is what I understood. However, in the same paragraph we are requesting the spearheading for the development of the Alliance, together with the reinforcement of those mechanisms. It does not really read well.

The other issue I would like to bring up is the point regarding C.I., and the entire approval of the text. What we are saying here is that the first meeting will be discussing the need, nature, feasibility and conceptual framework of an Alliance. The way I understand this is that the Commission and Conference are already being asked to approve the development of the Alliance, when all these aspects have not been cleared. How are we doing things? I think the approval should come after everybody, or the Conference, are clear of the need, the nature and all the other things that are intrinsic in the existence of the Alliance. I do not understand.

The other thing I want also to ask is what happens after, let us assume, that the text is approved as it is and then the three Organizations or institutions go ahead and look at all these issues. Who approves finally? Because I think the way the text is, it requires the approval of the Alliance. Nowhere in the text is mentioned whether after the activities and the engagements that are going to take place, somebody will approve this or not? I think we need to make this clear; are we proposing for the discussion for clarification on the Alliance or are we saying it can be done after the Conference has approved, already, the establishment of the Alliance?

CHAIRMAN

If nobody else would like to answer, I would be glad to do that. I think that on the first question you stated, the mechanisms are existing and are functioning well. The problem is they are functioning in parallel, whereas we would like to have more coordination, more synergy, so find a way of having a common approach, common outlook, a common perspective, so it is not a question of changing any of the mechanisms already existing, but it is just to enhance their potential.

On the second point, I would like to reply that I completely agree to the first wording in C.I., when you refer that the need is a logical contradiction. As a matter of fact once you approve, you decide on the need and I could not agree more. It was also my objection, but for the sake of a compromise, I believe we could have gone along with the text, but without much enthusiasm. The Member Nations are the ones who decides. What you just said would just bring water to those who say that we have plenty of time to ask for instructions and to ask for elections and so on, because we have time until the next CFS, so there is plenty of time. But the first decision is just to launch the idea, to launch the political initiative, and then all the details will be set according to the legal advisers, to the reaction from capitals, and so on and so forth.

Armando CASADO (Cuba)

En primer lugar, la delegación de Cuba quisiera expresar su respaldo a la posición del GRULAC en cuanto a la necesidad de que este documento, ya cercano a un esbozo de la idea, sea consultado con nuestras capitales. En segundo lugar, quisiera seguir dos líneas de pensamiento, a manera de comentario, que creo sería de utilidad para dar claridad a lo que estamos discutiendo.

Quisiera expresar algo que mencionó la Sra. Bertini en la tarde de ayer con mucha claridad. Casi textualmente puedo asegurar que habló de "cómo se puede crear algo sin costos". Pues bien, siguiendo esa línea de pensamiento, la delegación de Cuba se pregunta cómo se puede realizar este esfuerzo de coordinación sin comprometer algún tipo de costo adicional para estas Organizaciones. En segundo lugar, quiero seguir la línea de pensamiento que ha expuesto Namibia hace unos minutos. Para un documento así, y para una institución como la que estamos proponiendo crear, cuyos límites, alcances, y posibles implicaciones futuras, aún no son claros, deberíamos tener alguna definición clara, deberíamos acercarnos de alguna forma a la concreción de los objetivos y los pasos que esta institución pudiera dar en el futuro. Por lo tanto, reafirmamos una vez más, que es necesario que se avance un poco más en el análisis y la consulta de este documento para poder lograr un consenso verdaderamente fundamental.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

Je crois qu'il est parfois nécessaire de prendre du recul, lorsqu'un sujet suscite tant de débats, tant de questions, d'explications. Nous aurions applaudi si nous avions la possibilité, en ce qui concerne les trois organismes, le PAM; le FIDA, surtout la FAO et le FIDA. Celui qui tient la bourse est celui qui élabore les programmes et les projets. D'avoir même une seule personne qui prend toutes les décisions, c'est évidemment beaucoup plus facile. Et on applaudirait, parce que les programmes et les projets seraient exécutés de manière plus rapide. Mais ce n'est pas le cas actuellement. Lorsqu'on regarde ce qui se passe sur le terrain, où une impulsion de la coordination de ces trois organismes est demandée, alors que les projets et les programmes sont approuvés dans des cadres très différents qui ont leur mécanisme, comme l'a dit hier Mme Bertini, qui ont leur système d'approbation des projets et des programmes, on peut se réjouir qu'il y ait cet effort d'information pour tenir compte de ce que le voisin fait.

Mais, s'il s'agit de formaliser cela selon la recommandation qui est prévue ici, s'il s'agit d'aller dans le concret, à savoir l'accélération de la mise en oeuvre des projets et programmes, qui eux seuls permettent de réduire l'insécurité alimentaire, grâce à l'amélioration de la production, à l'amélioration de la distribution, etc., et non pas se limiter uniquement à une forme purement administrative de suivi, d'information, qui ne résout aucun problème, en réalité.

Je crois que j'adhérerai facilement à l'idée qui a été développée par le Président du Groupe africain, Mme Damiba, tout à l'heure, à savoir que je ressens qu'il est nécessaire de continuer à réfléchir avant de pouvoir envoyer une telle Résolution à la Conférence. Je pense que le cadre du suivi en tant que tel, qui a été tracé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, à savoir le CSA, où on voit la participation du PAM, du FIDA et des ONG pourrait dans un premier temps suffire au lieu de formaliser quelque chose qui ne résout vraiment pas le problème concret qui concerne la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire. Je pense que notre point de vue rejoint celui du Groupe africain, auquel nous adhérons, et nous appuyons également l'idée qui a été développée également par le Sénégal pour dire que, compte tenu du débat qui se développe depuis quelques jours et des efforts sans succès de trouver une structure, une forme commune de cette Alliance qui a été agréée par tous mais elle n'est apparemment pas assez mûre.

Je proposerai qu'on remette l'idée dans le panier des idées qui nécessitent réflexion, avant de le faire adopter par la Conférence.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Nous devons saluer les efforts déployés par les participants à l'élaboration de ce document. Cependant, ma délégation souscrit pleinement aux réserves exprimées par les présidentes du GRULAC et du Groupe africain et insiste sur la position prise par le Sénégal. Nous avons encore besoin d'élaborer les implications qu'entraînerait la création de cette Alliance, car nous sommes conscients que la collaboration existant entre les trois agences doit être renforcée surtout en ses termes. Hier, nous avons entendu le Directeur exécutif du PAM qui s'est prononcé sur ce point. Comme il s'agit des trois agences, je ne sais pas si le Président du FIDA a été invité pour qu'il puisse aussi s'exprimer sur le même thème.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur le terrain, je crois que l'Angola est un exemple vivant de ce que pourraient faire les trois Organisations ensemble, mais je dois vous dire que, malheureusement, dans quelques minutes, nous n'aurons plus d'interprètes. Alors je propose de nous rencontrer cet après-midi à 14 h 30. Je demanderai, s'il n'y a pas d'autre orateur, au Conseiller juridique de l'Organisation d'exprimer son avis, et après, je tirerai mes conclusions. Il faut naturellement clore ce point de notre agenda, qui est le seul qui soit resté en suspens après deux jours, je dois dire très fructueux, de discussions aussi sur d'autres points très importants pour l'Organisation. Je crois qu'on peut se rencontrer à 14 h 30 précises, parce que, je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, il y a une cérémonie à 16 heures au PAM, à laquelle le Président de la République italienne va se rendre, et à laquelle je devrais être présent. Nous nous verrons donc ponctuellement à 14 h 30, pour écouter d'autres interventions, l'avis du Conseiller juridique, mes conclusions et mes décisions finales.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**SIXTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEXTA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

17 November 1999

**The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE** (suite)**PARTE I: ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS** (continuación)**6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit** (continued) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)**6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation** (suite) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)**6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación** (continuación) (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)**CHAIRMAN**

Can we ask the different regional groups to ask if their colleagues are coming or not; otherwise we have to postpone the meeting as there is the ceremony in World Food Programme at 4 o'clock.

We can start now, we have the quorum. I want to thank our colleagues for quite a rich debate this morning, but unfortunately we have exhausted all possibilities to conclude our first and last item. Our conclusions were that there is no room for discussing legal issues at this stage. My conclusion is that there is not the will to conclude, and I can only regret that we lost an important political occasion. Anyhow, there were some quite positive statements, and I am confident that they will be reflected in the Report. I recommend that to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who hopefully will start his work as soon as we have concluded our discussions. So if there are requests for interventions, I would be happy to give the floor. I request that you be brief, however, because many of us have this very serious and unfortunate event to attend.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

The European Community and its Member States very much regret the situation. We fear that we are losing a valuable initiative and that we are losing an enormous amount of valuable work initiated by the Chairman of this Commission, himself working very actively with it, with the consent of many, if not most of, the nations present here and the work being done during this Conference also. I personally feel sorry that we could not conclude the work of this Contact Group in this Commission because we felt that we had a very good understanding going on in that Group. However, Mr Chairman, I myself, and on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, wish that FAO and its membership encourage work to continue on this item and on the basic idea behind it in the coming months, leading to the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for your kind words and for all the work that you have done personally. I ask if anybody else would like to have the floor, and if not, I conclude the debate. At that time the hammer will be definite. Is there any other intervention? I think that we have concluded our agenda, and now the work is in the hands of the Ambassador of Chile, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I think that we shall meet tomorrow in the afternoon to discuss the final Report. Thank you all, the meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 15:05 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.05 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30o período de sesiones**

**Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999**

**SEVENTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEPTIMA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

18 November 1999

**The Seventh Meeting was opened at 17.30 hours
Mr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Chairman of Commission I, presiding**

**La septième séance est ouverte à 17 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Président de la Commission I**

**Se abre la séptima sesión a las 17.30 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti,
Presidente de la Comisión I**

CHAIRMAN

So at last we have a quorum and we can start. I want first to thank the Drafting Committee and its Chairman for the work they have done, and give first the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for an introductory note, then I open the floor to the delegations.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACION DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I**

Víctor Manuel REBOLLEDO GONZÁLEZ (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Como Presidente quiero agradecer a los miembros del Comité de Redacción que ha trabajado con celeridad, y hemos procurado hacer un esfuerzo para traducir los informes que ustedes tienen en sus manos con la máxima fidelidad para facilitar el propio trabajo de la Comisión sobre los debates tenidos los días previos.

Ustedes tienen en sus manos los documentos que voy a señalar en orden correlativo numérico: C 99/REP/1 *Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO* - Tema 7 del Orden del Día; C 99/REP/2 *Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura* - Temas 8 y 10; C 99/REP/3 *Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO* - Tema 9 y *Resultados de la Conferencia de Rotterdam sobre el Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (CFP)* - Tema 11; C 99/REP/4 *Progresos sobre el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación* - Tema 6.

Creo que lo razonable sería examinarlos en el orden correlativo en que se encuentran.

CHAIRMAN

Thanks to the Ambassador of Chile for Chairing and for the work he has done, and now I open the floor to any comment regarding the report.

Jacques de MONTJOYE (Belgique)

A l'occasion de la présente Conférence, la Belgique souhaitait vivement que soit adoptée une résolution équilibrée concernant la parité hommes/femmes au sein du Secrétariat de la FAO. Aussi a-t-elle accueilli très favorablement l'inscription à l'Ordre du jour de cette Conférence, au point 7, de "l'Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes au sein du Secrétariat de la FAO". Et effectivement cette Commission a longuement débattu de cette question. Mais peu à peu, presque subrepticement, l'accent, mis initialement sur la question hommes-femmes, s'est dilué dans une perspective plus vaste, plus large, mêlant les genres et, pour être plus précis, prenant en considération simultanément la répartition géographique, l'équilibre hommes-femmes et les compétences professionnelles. Cette Commission a même laissé passer sans sourciller, et là comme nous sommes tous Membres, nous sommes tous responsables, je le reconnais, un Projet de résolution intitulé "Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes, point 7", mais le Projet de résolution porte "Correction des déséquilibres en matière de répartition géographique et de parité hommes-femmes au sein du cadre organique". Je me répète: le point de l'ordre du jour, le point qui a été débattu et le titre du rapport, c'est "Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO". Mais alors, on a laissé passer un Projet de résolution qui est beaucoup plus vaste et qui est intitulé "Correction des déséquilibres en matière de répartition géographique d'abord et de parité hommes-femmes au sein du cadre organique ensuite". Dans le préambule, on annonce bien qu'il s'agira surtout de la parité hommes-femmes et on rappelle un certain nombre de textes antérieurs ou un certain nombre de considérations qui appuient ce besoin de rééquilibrer la proportion hommes-femmes au sein du Secrétariat de la FAO, tout en rappelant également, mais presque subsidiairement, et comme quelque chose de connu, des textes, le texte de base d'abord, qui disent qu'il doit y avoir une répartition géographique aussi vaste, aussi large que

possible, aussi équilibrée que possible mais que, bien entendu, en premier lieu viennent les compétences professionnelles.

Ce préambule nous paraît tout à fait bon, mais dans la partie opérationnelle, systématiquement, on fait passer la répartition géographique avant la répartition hommes-femmes. Or l'objet de notre point 7 de l'Ordre du jour, c'était d'abord la répartition hommes-femmes. Alors, bien entendu, maintenant ce Projet de résolution est passé et le projet est passé. Il est passé à la Commission des résolutions qui, nous dit-on, n'a pour rôle que de voir si il est conforme au point de vue de la forme. Donc il va arriver vraisemblablement en Plénière. Peut-être la Commission des résolutions aurait-elle pu trouver que justement la forme ne convenait pas, n'était pas appropriée au point de l'Ordre du jour et que le titre n'était pas approprié à l'Ordre du jour. Mais je crois que là, de toute façon, la commission des résolutions, ça nous dépasse pour le moment.

Alors, en Plénière, qu'est-ce qui va se passer? Est-ce qu'il ne va pas y avoir plusieurs délégations qui vont se rendre compte qu'il y aura une sorte d'inappropriation, de discrédance, si le mot existe en français, entre le point de l'Ordre du jour et la dérive sur laquelle nous avons été amenés.

Je réserve la position de la délégation belge jusqu'au moment où ce Projet de résolution arrivera en séance plénière mais je voulais tout de même attirer votre attention, l'attention de la Commission sur cette question. Cela dit, le rapport lui-même qui nous est soumis reflète bien les débats qui ont eu lieu et nous pouvons l'adopter. Il se fait qu'on a laissé passer un certain nombre de choses sans attirer l'attention sur le problème dont je viens de vous parler.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je comprends très bien votre point de vue, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, mais je me rappelle aussi très bien comment la discussion s'est déroulée. Et justement la Présidente *ad intérim*, l'Ambassadeur du Costa Rica, avait demandé s'il n'y avait pas d'objections. Des objections, il y en avait eu au cours de la discussion mais quand la Présidente a demandé s'il y en avait, personne n'en a soulevé. Il faut peut-être donc réciter un *mea culpa* collectif mais on ne peut pas rouvrir, à ce stade, un problème important, certes, et je partage avec vous vos inquiétudes et vos souhaits d'un texte meilleur; il aurait fallu le faire le soir du premier jour lorsque la Présidente, avec beaucoup de savoir-faire, a demandé s'il y avait des objections. Et je me rappelle que la dernière intervention était celle de la représentante d'Haïti qui recommandait que le texte soit transmis en Plénière. Il n'y a pas eu d'objections et la Présidente a bien fait de déclarer à ce stade que le texte était approuvé. Si vous voulez faire des déclarations ici ou en Plénière, vous êtes absolument libres de le faire mais c'est un peu difficile de rouvrir les débats.

Jacques de MONTJOYE (Belgique)

Je rappelle que j'ai dit que nous sommes tous responsables puisque nous faisons partie de cette Commission. Je recommande donc effectivement que le Rapport de la Commission soit adopté en bloc puisqu'il reflète bien ce qui a été dit. Je veux simplement dire que, en séance plénière, la délégation belge réserve sa position et je demanderai que ces objections et ces remarques soient inscrites au *Verbatim*.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Toutes les interventions sont inscrites au *verbatim*. Je crois que le Président du Comité de rédaction voudrait ajouter quelque chose.

Víctor Manuel REBOLLEDO GONZÁLEZ (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Modificar lo que se ha dicho y que está admitido después en la segunda intervención del delegado de Bélgica porque él ha interpelado al iniciar su primera intervención al Comité de Redacción. En realidad nosotros no entramos al examen del Proyecto de Resolución porque había estado aprobado por el Plenario de la Comisión, admitiendo que puede tener razón en lo que sí está planteando de que aparece los otros elementos tan relevantes como el tema de género. Lo

que sí vio, y por lo que respondemos en el Comité de Redacción, es el Preámbulo, que creo que recoge con los énfasis necesarios el título y el tema del documento que es la Integración de las cuestiones de género. Ahora, efectivamente en esto la responsabilidad, si hay algún inconveniente en el Proyecto de Resolución, es de la propia Plenaria, y será la Plenaria de la Conferencia el momento de poder buscar, si alguien lo estima conveniente, alguna rectificación. Pero nosotros no entramos en el Comité de Redacción al examen de la Resolución que viene directamente aprobada por ustedes.

Mostafa JAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues with the work on the Drafting Committee, and especially Ambassador González from Chile. Secondly, if distinguished representatives agree, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to propose the adoption of the report *en bloc* – the whole document – or, if they are not in agreement, at least each document numbering from 1 to 4, one by one.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

J'aimerais remercier le Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent travail qu'il a fait. Nous avons étudié le rapport avec beaucoup d'intérêt et nous pensons que nous sommes en mesure de l'accepter en bloc. Tout en disant cela, nous aimerions quand-même partager les vues exprimées par l'Ambassadeur de Belgique mais, comme il a été dit, à juste titre, la discussion est terminée, le travail a été bien fait et nous nous réservons aussi le droit d'y revenir en plénière. Donc, encore une fois, un grand merci au Comité de rédaction et nous proposons, comme l'a fait le délégué de l'Iran, d'approuver ce rapport en bloc.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I just wanted to raise a point of information. My understanding is that when the Drafting Committee Report comes back to the Commission, I don't know if it is a requirement or a convention, members of the Drafting Committee would not speak. They have already had their say. Interestingly, out of three speakers, we have had one country that was on the Drafting Committee, and attended with a number of people, another country that was on the Drafting Committee but did not attend, and then another country that was not on the Drafting Committee and thus by convention was able to speak. So, I just seek clarification. I suppose I would also support, because I was on the Drafting Committee, the idea that the Report be accepted *en bloc*.

CHAIRMAN

Your remark is correct but it is not the first time that it happens. You know, the most fluent speakers are those who take part in the Drafting Committee, so it is a practice that has taken root, and has now become a habit. But you are quite right.

James ALLEN (United States of America)

The United States has no objection to the proposal to accept the Report *en bloc*. We wish to make it known, however, that we received the Draft Resolution with little time for appropriate inter-agency consultations, and our intervention reflected only the preliminary views we had upon reading the copy. We now have received guidance, and will make further comments on the Draft Resolution when it comes to Plenary.

We appreciate the Drafting Committee noting in Paragraph 7, that the paramount criterion for selection of staff, must continue to be technical competence, and we will also stress in Plenary that this Resolution should in no way convey any attention to establish a new selection criterion.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

I am always happy to take the floor, Mr Chairman, but I did not request it, and I believe that it must have been another country that you were calling.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi, à l'instar des autres délégations, de féliciter le Comité de rédaction qui nous a fourni une bonne base, qui semble pouvoir refléter la discussion que nous avons eue ici, discussion qu'il ne s'agit pas de reprendre, comme vous l'avez si bien dit à la Belgique. Ce qui est passé est passé, le Projet de résolution a été adopté ici et, en tout état de cause, comme vient de le rappeler le représentant des États-Unis, je crois qu'il ne s'agit pas de remplacer les critères existants qui sont bien connus. Ils sont en effet consacrés dans le cadre des textes de base de l'Organisation. Je crois qu'il ne s'agit pas, par le biais d'une déclaration ou d'une interprétation, de changer ces critères qui s'imposent à la FAO. Ceci dit, compte tenu de la fatigue de cette semaine, je serais enclin à accepter les différentes propositions de part et d'autre, en vue de l'adoption en bloc de ce rapport. Il me semble cependant qu'on pourrait examiner rapidement certaines parties. Cela permettrait de voir à chaque fois s'il y a des observations sur lesquelles vous pourriez vous-même trancher.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais demander au délégué du Sénégal s'il aurait des objections à une éventuelle adoption en bloc sur laquelle d'autres délégués se sont exprimés. Naturellement, s'il objecte, on peut procéder, paragraphe par paragraphe mais, dans le cas contraire, je voudrais savoir si on peut procéder comme deux délégations l'ont déjà demandé.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais qu'on puisse examiner le projet de rapport peut-être pas paragraphe par paragraphe mais, si vous êtes d'accord, au moins dans chacune de ses parties.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Je voudrais me rallier au Sénégal pour qu'on essaie de voir le rapport dans chacune de ses parties. Je crois que s'il y a de petites remarques à faire, ce serait bien de le faire. Si vous voulez qu'on l'adopte en bloc, alors vous pourriez peut-être nous permettre de faire quelques observations sur certains points.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je suis entre vos mains. C'est à vous de décider et je serai très heureux de me soumettre à votre décision. S'il y a des observations qu'on peut mettre au procès-verbal par la suite, d'accord, mais si vous préférez envisager chacune des parties, les unes après les autres, je suis tout à fait disposé à le faire et on peut commencer tout de suite.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART I (C 99/I/REP/1)**PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – PREMIERE PARTIE (C 99/I/REP/1)****PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE I (C 99/I/REP/1)****7. Gender Mainstreaming in FAO****7. Intégration des questions de parité hommes-femmes à la FAO****7. Integración de las cuestiones de género en la FAO****Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Dans paragraphe 6, je crois que pour traduire ce qui a été dit ici, on devrait ajouter une petite phrase pour dire que la Conférence a aussi noté que le nombre de femmes occupant des postes de responsabilité à la FAO a été multiplié par six. Je crois que cela a été répété plusieurs fois ici et est mentionné dans le document C 99/INF/21. Il est juste de reconnaître aussi bien le passage de 18 à 20 pour cent que la multiplication par six, qui est partie intégrante du document examiné ici.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La délégation du Sénégal propose donc d'ajouter, au sixième paragraphe, une phrase qui dit que la Commission a aussi noté que le nombre des femmes a été multiplié par six.

Thomas NDIVE MOKAKE (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun faisait partie de la Commission de rédaction et nous avons convenu là-bas que le travail que nous faisons ici était pour le compte de la Conférence. C'est pour cela que, à travers tout le rapport, le texte reprend principalement la Conférence et non pas la Commission. Je voulais faire cette observation pour qu'il n'y ait pas de confusion. Nous, nous parlons, dans le rapport, au nom de la Conférence.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Vous permettez que je relise lentement ma proposition: "La Conférence a aussi noté que le nombre de femmes occupant des postes de responsabilité à la FAO a été multiplié par six".

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

Nous n'avons aucun problème avec cette proposition, mais pour que ce soit plus clair, nous devrions peut-être préciser la période pendant laquelle la part des femmes a été multipliée par six. Était-ce une période plus ou moins longue de cinq ans? Je crois, dans l'intérêt d'un texte clair, il faudrait préciser cette période.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je suis sûr que vous auriez mieux fait de vous tourner sur votre gauche. Le Secrétariat est mieux outillé que moi.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je ne vais pas faire de formalité, mais si vous êtes en condition de le dire, on vous croit. Parce que pour le moment, je ne crois pas que nous soyions en mesure de le faire.

Jacques de MONTJOYE (Belgique)

La délégation belge appuie la proposition tendant à dire en combien d'années cette multiplication par six a eu lieu. Si on veut apporter des modifications, il faut proposer une modification complète.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais terminer ce jeu de ping-pong, parce que le Secrétariat n'est pas en mesure de préciser le nombre d'années. Si la délégation sénégalaise le sait, qu'elle le dise, ainsi nous pourrions abréger notre discussion.

Moussa Bacar LY (Sénégal)

Vous me permettez de noter notre étonnement, parce que le document qui nous est soumis porte le code C 99/INF/21. Au paragraphe 18, le Secrétariat dit: "la proportion de femmes dans le personnel du cadre organique est passée de 18 pour cent en 1994 à 20 pour cent en 1999". Or, dans le rapport qui nous est présenté, qui je suppose provient du Secrétariat, on précise: "La Conférence a également été informée que, pendant les cinq dernières années...etc.". Mais dans le document, on nous dit "en 1999". Donc, étant donné que dans la suite du paragraphe 18 il est écrit "On notera que le nombre de femmes occupant des poste de responsabilité à la FAO a été multiplié par six", personnellement, je ne peux me baser que sur ce que dit le Secrétariat. J'ai confiance en lui, et je suis sûr qu'il trouvera en son sein la solution de ce qui n'est pas un problème pour moi.

SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, the document which the Commission considered does contain the statement that there was a six-fold increase; it does not specify the period. However, this statement follows immediately after the former period that had been mentioned and I think in reading the document you have to assume that the six-fold increase occurred in the same period that there was an increase from 18 to 20 percent, and on that basis I would think that the text proposed by the delegation of Senegal as a sentence that follows immediately after the reference to the five-year period would have to be seen in exactly the same light that one read it in the original document that we are referring essentially to the same period, primarily because there is no indication of any other period. So I would assume that the five-year period where the increase was from 18 to 20 percent is also the same period when you had the six-fold increase. That is what one gleans from the working paper submitted to the Conference without any further information, and I would think that that could be included in the Report in the same manner. However, if the Commission insists we can ask the Director of Personnel to come down and give a more precise indication.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

Whilst before I mentioned that the Drafting Committee would not normally speak during the adoption of the Report we have new material added to the Report here, so I think this is a particular situation. Whilst it is true that there is mention of a six-fold increase in those senior positions, I think it was also pointed out in the meeting that that needs to be seen in the context of the low base that it was starting from and that is quite a significant factor to take into consideration, so I think it should be added into that sentence pointing out that it started from a low base.

Govindan NAIR (India)

The delegate from New Zealand said more or less what I wanted to say. A six-fold increase really does not mean very much if the number is increased from 1 to 6 because this six-fold increase translates only into a 2 percent increase in women's representation in the overall staff strength. I do not really see why we are flagging this point. I do not think it needs to be included at all.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

C'est un faux débat. Le Secrétariat nous a donné des éléments d'appréciation. Que ce soit minime, insignifiant, il ne s'agit que d'une multiplication par six. C'est un progrès qui doit continuer, et je suis d'accord avec ceux qui veulent qu'on en précise la période. Mais, puisqu'on est d'accord sur le principe, le Secrétariat complétera le rapport en faisant ses recherches au niveau des services compétents qui ont fait cette affirmation. Je ne vois pas de complication dans cette affaire.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La complication est due à une observation assez justifiée, du fait que, si on commence à entrer dans les chiffres, on entame un débat. Je pense que la documentation du Secrétariat est à disposition de tous ses Membres, donc on pourrait se passer de la phrase. Si vous insistez pour la mettre, il faudrait la compléter avec les deux interventions qui ont suivi, celles des représentants de l'Inde et de Nouvelle-Zélande, ou alors on renonce à la phrase, qui finalement n'ajoute pas grand-chose, parce que nous avons tous le pourcentage; on en a discuté pendant longtemps, aussi bien avec la FAO, qu'avec le PAM. Si on veut ajouter cette phrase, il faut ajouter un détail, mais il faut aussi ajouter d'autres détails. Sagesse voudrait que, comme justement vous dites que c'est un faux débat, qu'on laisse tomber cette référence, et qu'elle reste dans les débats, dans les déclarations. Nous sommes tous conscients qu'il y a une augmentation, mais il y a beaucoup de délégations qui pensent que cette déclaration n'a pas été suffisante.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Si cela devait réellement poser des problèmes à une délégation, si cela devait réellement la gêner, qu'elle le dise, et nous renoncerons à cette phrase.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande aux deux délégations de la Nouvelle-Zélande et de l'Inde si cela les gêne ou pas.

Govindan NAIR (India)

It does not trouble me in the least, I just feel that it does not add to the Report. As I said, if the number has gone up from 1 to 6 or from 2 to 12, are you proving a point that we have removed any bias towards women? I really think that this addition need not find place in the document at all because the increase is only 2 percent, 2 percent overall in terms of strength.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I would rather that it were taken out because only putting partial information in is very misleading.

LE PRÉSIDENT

A la lumière des deux interventions qui ont précédé, je pense que si la délégation sénégalaise n'objecte pas, on pourrait approuver la première partie du document en bloc. Enfin, en bloc relatif, mais en bloc.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Je vous ai déjà dit que, si cela posait des problèmes, la délégation sénégalaise n'insisterait pas, étant entendu que cela figure dans le document de travail, cela a été souligné donc nous n'avons pas de position intransigeante sur la question.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien. Le premier document est approuvé. On passe maintenant à la deuxième partie du rapport.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I, approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART II (C 99/I/REP/2)**PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – DEUXIEME PARTIE (C 99/I/REP/2)****PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE II (C 99/I/REP/2)**

8. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food And Agriculture (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (French only); C 99/LIM/21)

8. Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (français seulement); C 99/LIM/21)

8. Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (C 99/9; C 99/9-Rev.1 (sólo francés); C 99/LIM/21)

10. Outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land (Maastricht, Netherlands, September 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

10. Conclusions de la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas sur le caractère multifonctionnel de l'agriculture et des terroirs (Maastricht, Pays-Bas, septembre 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

10. Resultados de la Conferencia FAO/Paises Bajos sobre el Carácter Multifuncional de la Agricultura y la Tierra (Maastricht, Países Bajos, septiembre de 1999) (C 99/INF/20-Rev.1)

Draft Report of Commission I, Part II, approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, deuxième partie, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte II, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART III (C 99/I/REP/3)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – TROISIEME PARTIE (C 99/I/REP/3)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE III (C99/I/REP/3)

9. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 99/LIM/3)

9. Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)

9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 99/LIM/3)

11. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

11. Conclusions de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires sur la Convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable (PIC) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

11. Resultados de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el Convenio de Rotterdam sobre el Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (CFP) (C 99/14; C 99/14-Sup.1)

Draft Report of Commission I, Part III, approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, troisième partie, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte III, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART IV (C 99/I/REP/4)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – QUATRIEME PARTIE (C 99/I/REP/4)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I – PARTE IV (C 99/I/REP/4)

6. Progress on Follow-up to the World Food Summit (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

6. Progresos en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (C 99/6; C 99/INF/25)

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Au paragraphe 11, à la troisième phrase, qui commence par: "A cet égard, la Conférence a examiné un Projet de résolution sur une Alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire, mais elle est arrivé à la conclusion qu'un complément d'étude est nécessaire de la part du CSA.", peut s'arrêter à cet endroit, parce qu'elle reflète exactement ce qui a été discuté au moment de l'analyse de cette question. Les phrases restantes peuvent être biffer. Voilà notre proposition.

Ms Maren Elise BACHKE (Norway)

We have just a suggestion on paragraph 6, last sentence: 'Several Members stressed the importance of an early impact evaluation of the Special Programme'. We suggest adding 'impact' in front of the word 'evaluation'.

CHAIRMAN

Are there objections to this amendment? Then we will go back to paragraph 11. Paragraph 11, are there any objections to this – Senegal?

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Est-ce qu'on pourrait nous expliquer cet impact, impact sur quoi, par rapport à quoi? Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire vraiment, à part l'évaluation du Programme? Quand on évalue un programme, je pense qu'on l'évalue par rapport à ses objectifs qui sont connus pour faire le point de l'état

d'avancement du programme, quels sont les résultats qu'il a atteints, est-ce qu'il a atteint les objectifs qu'on lui avait assignés ou non, mais l'impact sur quoi? par rapport à quoi? En fait, c'est cela la question que je me pose pour cette modification. Est-ce qu'on pourrait avoir des explications?

Ms Maren Elise BACHKE (Norway)

Yes, well I think what we mean is the impact of the Programme in the evaluation, what impact has it had, but we can drop the suggestion if there is no agreement.

CHAIRMAN

If there is no other position, I welcome the amenability of our Norwegian colleague and we shall keep the phrase as it is. On paragraph 11, Italy asked for the floor.

Filippo ALESSI (Italy)

Concerning the current text of paragraph 11, we believe that it does reflect the thrust of the discussion that took place and, in fact, most of the questions that were asked yesterday in this Commission reflected the institutional aspects rather than the contents of the proposed Resolution. The indications were to study the concept in time for the next CFA, leading to a possible adoption of the Resolution. Now 'possible' does not pre-judge anything, of course, so the text should stay, in my view, as it is because it is balanced compared to the discussion.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Si la délégation italienne vient de dire qu'elle n'a pas vraiment d'objection sur le texte, elle doit tenir compte que si un complément d'étude était fait, celui-ci sous-entendrait l'affirmation, l'éclaircissement de ce concept. Alors, qu'on le veuille ou non, ayons d'abord l'étude, et voyons ensuite si réellement nous pouvons aller de l'avant; naturellement, si cela ne gêne pas la délégation italienne, la responsabilité peut être attribuée au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Et nous, quand nous aurons l'étude, nous verrons si réellement nous pouvons aller de l'avant ou non. Je crois que si nous retirons ces phrases, cela ne gênerait personne.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Cela ne gêne personne non plus si on les garde. Et si je me rappelle bien la discussion d'hier, de nombreuses délégations ont dit qu'elles attendaient des instructions, devaient demander d'autres instructions, qu'elles n'étaient pas contraires à l'idée, mais qu'il fallait quand même du temps, etc. Donc, si les instructions vont dans le sens que nous souhaitons, nous en tant que délégation italienne, à ce moment-là rien n'empêche qu'une éventuelle Résolution puisse être adoptée. Cela ne reflète franchement qu'une petite partie des discussions que nous avons eues hier. Voilà *my recollection* de la discussion que nous avons eue hier.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Je suis tenté de vous faire une proposition de compromis. Je pense que, d'après ce qu'a dit le délégué de l'Italie, nous sommes d'accord avec l'Angola qu'on aurait du arrêter à CSA. Mais si on veut entrer encore dans certains petits détails, pourquoi ne dirait-on pas "afin d'approfondir l'examen des concepts soulevés à cette occasion", et on s'arrêterait là. En fait, c'est ce que nous venons d'entendre. Je crois que c'est ça qui aurait pu répondre correctement aux observations de l'Italie, puisqu'il s'agit en fait d'approfondir des concepts et demander des instructions avant d'entreprendre le moindre pas dans une direction ou dans une autre. Je ne sais pas si vous m'avez suivi: "afin d'approfondir l'examen des concepts soulevés à cette occasion".

Filippo ALESSI (Italie)

Je comprends bien ce que le délégué du Sénégal veut indiquer, c'est une production de concepts, mais on ne dit vraiment pas plus qu'eux, et pas plus que ça. La phrase, telle qu'elle est, dit qu'on va justement développer ces idées, ces concepts, avec la possibilité, uniquement la possibilité.

D'ailleurs, je voudrais fournir un complément d'information, surtout à la délégation de l'Angola, car c'est justement à l'occasion du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation que l'Italie, en accord avec la FAO et les autres agences du secteur agro-alimentaire de Rome, a donné l'impulsion au premier projet conjoint de développement durable et de sécurité alimentaire justement en Angola. C'est un projet auquel on a beaucoup contribué, et je crois qu'il pourrait être, si l'Angola est d'accord, bien sûr, l'objet de cette étude de concepts. Donc, je crois qu'il y aurait peut-être mérite à laisser le texte tel qu'il est.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme il avait été souhaité au Sommet, et en tant que chef de la délégation italienne, j'avais cité le cas de l'Angola à plusieurs reprises, comme étant aussi bien le cas typique qui devrait être suivi, qu'un exemple pour les trois organisations pour pouvoir travailler ensemble de la meilleure des façons. Bien que je ne veuille pas parler en tant que délégation italienne, je considère ces phrases très importantes. A première vue, je retiens ce texte minimal pour refléter la discussion très riche d'hier. Suite aux deux réunions du Groupe de contact, qui se sont déroulées en espérant qu'une solution puisse être trouvée, je pourrais conclure que finalement ce texte est un texte équilibré de compromis. S'il était repris, je serais tenté, en tant que faisant partie de la délégation italienne, de proposer des amendements pour l'enrichir plutôt que pour le réduire. Mais je suis entre vos mains.

Jacques de MONTJOYE (Belgique)

En tout cas la délégation belge ne verrait aucun inconvénient à maintenir ce texte qui reflète effectivement des choses qui ont été dites. Donc, elle ne voit aucun inconvénient à ce que cette fin de document y figure.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Je ne veux pas prolonger le débat mais j'aurais voulu peut-être voir certaines délégations réagir à la proposition de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal. Pour ce qui est de l'expérience actuelle au niveau de l'Angola et de ses trois projets, nous sommes la, nous qui suivons cette expérience qui est en train de donner de très bons résultats. Cela n'empêche pas que c'est un projet encore embryonnaire qui commence à peine à donner certains résultats. On verra à la fin ce que cela pourrait donner mais je n'insiste pas. Mais de toutes les manières, je voulais que notre délégation réagisse sur la proposition de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais répondre à l'appel de l'Angola car le Burkina Faso était intervenu lors du débat sur cette question au titre du Groupe africain. Je voudrais m'excuser auprès de l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, mais à choisir entre la proposition sénégalaise et la formulation telle qu'elle est, je préférerais encore la formulation telle qu'elle est car on parle d'une éventuelle adoption de la Résolution, ce qui veut dire que cela ne préjuge pas de la suite qui pourrait être donnée au supplément d'étude. Par contre, si on devrait seulement se contenter de dire "afin d'approfondir les concepts soulevés", cela voudrait déjà dire en sous-entendu qu'on était d'accord pour l'adoption de la Résolution, mais qu'il nous resterait seulement à approfondir les concepts. Je pense donc que c'est aller encore plus loin que d'ajouter "en vue d'une éventuelle", ce qui est possible en anglais, je crois, mais ce qui veut dire que tout peut arriver. Cela pourrait aboutir à une adoption comme cela pourrait ne pas aboutir. Donc, entre les deux formulations, je crois que ce qui est dedans est minimal et je voudrais qu'on puisse s'accorder sur ce point.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Como usted bien recuerda, el grupo de América Latina y el Caribe también intervino sobre este tema. La delegación del Salvador, considera que lo que acaba de indicar la distinguida Embajadora de Burkina Faso es adecuado. Nosotros consideramos que el texto que nos ha sido presentado por la Secretaría, el cual imaginamos llevó largos debates dentro del Comité de

Redacción, refleja adecuadamente lo que discutimos en esta Comisión. Nosotros preferiríamos que el texto quede como está.

Sra. Yolanda GAGO DE SINIGAGLIA (Costa Rica)

Me uno también a las declaraciones de las Representantes de Burkina Faso y del Salvador, y preferimos que el texto quede como está ya redactado por la Comisión.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénegal)

Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec la proposition rejetant mon amendement, mais je tiens à préciser qu'en réalité je ne partage pas l'interprétation puisque j'ai dit "approfondir l'examen des concepts" et non pas "approfondir les concepts", l'examen. Il ne fallait pas oublier ce mot. Ensuite je ne suis pas étonné que votre délégation n'ait pas accepté ce mot si c'était aussi évident mais puisque c'est mon groupe, et que je suis discipliné, je suis d'accord pour que l'on maintienne le texte en l'état.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse)

Maintenant mon intervention est presque superflue parce que j'ai voulu appuyer le texte actuel puisque que nous ne sommes pas intervenus dans la discussion. Nous avons cependant bien suivi le débat et nous pensons que le texte tel qu'il est écrit ici reflète parfaitement la discussion très riche qui a eu lieu hier et nous pensons aussi que c'est très positif que l'on parle d'une éventuelle adoption donc de cette Alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire. Rien n'est préjugé; on parle seulement d'une éventuelle adoption mais on laisse la porte entr'ouverte. Pour toutes ces raisons, nous sommes en faveur de ce texte tel que rédigé maintenant.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

It is quite all right, Mr Chairman. I was waiting until you had solved the problem of that particular paragraph before I intervened. My purpose for intervening is to point out that there is a discrepancy between the Report that we have in front of us and the Report that we approved as a Drafting Committee, particularly the very end of paragraph 4. The last sentence of paragraph 4 of this document speaking about civil society organizations and NGOs, the last part of that says: "Encourage them to respond to the Committee on World Food Security." The text that we had agreed to in the Drafting Committee - and here I turn to other Members of the Drafting Committee to correct me if my notes or memory are incorrect - I believe that what we agreed to was: "...and encourage them to report on their activities to the Committee on World Food Security." So I am not suggesting a capricious change in the text which we had agreed to, I am simply trying to reflect the deliberations of the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN

I thank you for this decision and of course the correction will be made on the final text. Is there any other objection or announcement to make?

Bruce MOORE (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

The Report on Follow-up to the World Food Summit noted that further reporting on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development would be subsumed by the reports on progress on the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. This reference in the FAO report to the Commission highlights the continuing importance that FAO gives to Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in achieving the goals of the Summit.

The debate in this Commission also included reference to the importance that needs to be given to access to land and land reform, as is set out in many sections of the Plan of Action of the Summit.

Furthermore, in the summation to the Commission's meetings, the Chair drew attention to the importance of land tenure and noted that the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty can be a mechanism to assist in achieving these objectives. Unfortunately, the Report does not

reflect this portion of the debate, and we wish to bring attention to the importance of this issue in the Verbatim Records, in order that it might be brought forward for further consideration by FAO and its Member Governments.

CHAIRMAN

I personally recall the intervention, and I also recall that I supported you in stressing the importance of the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. I am sure that all the interventions and precision will be reported in the final text. Of course we could not have put everything that we discussed in such a rich debate, but we have to of course integrate some text with oral declaration, and I thank you for that.

LE PRESIDENT

C'est moi qui vous remercie et s'il n'y a pas d'autres membres qui demandent la parole, je considère le document approuvé.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part IV, approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, quatrième partie, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte IV, es aprobado

SECRETARY

I have an announcement and that is that there will be a meeting of the African Group tomorrow, Friday 19 November, at 8.30 a.m. in the Malaysia Room, 8.30 a.m. Malaysia Room.

CHAIRMAN

If there are no other observations, we can consider the meeting closed. Thank you again for all your collaboration and help.

The meeting rose at 18.30

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas