

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 June 2019

The First Meeting was opened at 9:36 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera reunión a las 9.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons**Point 1. Élection du président et des vice-présidents****Tema 1. Elección del Presidente y los vicepresidentes**

(C 2019/12 Rev. 1; C 2019/LIM/5)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to declare open the 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

It is also an honour to welcome all of you to FAO headquarters, particularly those who are here for the first time. I am pleased to see the Plenary Hall filled with many friends.

Let me highlight that we have two Deputy Prime Ministers, 102 Ministers and 25 Vice-Ministers, as well as Secretaries of State, who are registered to participate in this Conference, as part of their delegations.

Item 1 on the Agenda is the *Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons*.

In April 2019, the FAO Council proposed that His Excellency, Mr Enzo Benech, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, preside over the 41st Session of the Conference.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal? Could you confirm by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you. I now invite His Excellency Enzo Benech to come forward and take the Chair.

PRESIDENTE

Estimados señores Ministros, jefes de delegación, distinguidos delegados de todos los Países Miembros. Señor Director General, señoras y señores. Agradezco sinceramente las palabras de bienvenida del amigo, hermano brasileño, José Graziano da Silva.

Es sin duda un gran honor que me hayan elegido para presidir este período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, honor que excede lo personal y tomo como una distinción para Uruguay, país que represento con orgullo y donde su respeto a las normas y su tradición democrática son por todos conocidos, así como su trayectoria como miembro fundador y activo participante en esta Organización.

Agradezco la responsabilidad y el honor de esta elección, en primer lugar, al apoyo unánime del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, y, en segundo lugar, a la decisión de los Países Miembros de esta Organización que son en definitiva quienes me han distinguido.

A ustedes me debo y con ustedes me comprometo a ejercer este cargo con transparencia, ecuanimidad y respeto a la voluntad general de la membresía de FAO y estricto apego a su normativa.

Estoy seguro que cuento con vuestra disposición y la colaboración de la Secretaría de la FAO. Espero que las jornadas sean productivas en un clima de pleno respeto y espíritu de cooperación de todas las delegaciones. Aspiro a que esta Conferencia signifique un nuevo impulso hacia el logro de los objetivos que compartimos.

Unas breves reflexiones acerca de los desafíos que tenemos que abordar en esta Conferencia teniendo presente que tanto los objetivos como los principios definidos cuando se fundara esta Organización siguen estando plenamente vigentes. Lograr la erradicación del hambre sigue siendo un objetivo impostergable en el Marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) definido por Naciones Unidas.

Al marco general definido para debate en este período de sesiones “Migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural”, se deben agregar la globalización, la migración del campo a la ciudad y el impacto de los sistemas productivos sobre el ambiente, situación no siempre bien manejada y muchas veces criticada. Pero el hombre necesita alimentarse y esto sin productores y sin actividad agropecuaria sería imposible, valorando debidamente el rol de la mujer en la agricultura.

Pero alcanzar el objetivo de FAO de erradicar el hambre, nos obliga a considerar en un mundo actual cada vez más factores: preservar los recursos naturales –agua, suelo y aire–, mitigar y adaptarse al cambio climático y el impacto negativo de los conflictos bélicos. Todos estos temas desafían nuestra capacidad como seres humanos y espero que este ámbito sea de utilidad para avanzar en ellos.

Estimados jefes de delegación y delegados presentes, en estos días estaremos atentos a todos ustedes para recibir y responder los planteos que entiendan adecuados.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Antes de continuar, deseo informarles que recibí una carta en calidad de Presidente de 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de parte de la representaciones permanentes ante FAO de Argentina, Brasil, Canadá, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Paraguay y Perú. La carta está disponible para los Miembros en la oficina del Secretario General.

A continuación, debemos seguir con la actividad y, de conformidad con el artículo VIII del Reglamento General de la Organización (RGO), la Conferencia tras haber considerado las recomendaciones del Consejo de la FAO, elegirá a los tres vicepresidentes de la Conferencia.

En su 161.º período de sesiones, celebrado en abril de este año, el Consejo de la FAO propuso tres candidatos para los tres cargos de vicepresidentes de este período de sesiones de la Conferencia y, en consecuencia, los siguientes candidatos se presentan a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

Son el Sr. Ulrich Seidenberger de Alemania, el Sr. Abdulla bin Abdulaziz Al Subaie de Qatar, y el Sr. Thanawat Tiensin de Tailandia.

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia aprueba estos nombres?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Así queda decidido. Por otra parte, un saludo a los tres vicepresidentes con quienes trabajaremos en equipo y cuya ayuda agradezco desde ya.

Item 2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee

Point 2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Tema 2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

(C 2019/12 Rev.1; C 2019/LIM/5)

PRESIDENTE

Examinaremos ahora el tema 2 del programa provisional: *Nombramientos de los miembros del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales*.

A continuación leeré las candidaturas de los siete Estados Miembros cuya elección al Comité General propuso el Consejo de la FAO en su 161.º período de sesiones celebrado en abril de este año.

Las candidaturas son las siguientes: Australia, Canadá, China, República Islámica del Irán, Níger, Perú, San Marino.

¿Hay alguna objeción?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

Queda decidido.

A continuación leeré las nueve candidaturas para el Comité de Credenciales propuestas por el Consejo de la FAO en su 161.º período de sesiones celebrado en abril de este año: Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Estados Unidos de América, Guatemala, Kuwait, Malasia, Nueva Zelandia, Omán, San Marino.

¿La Conferencia desea refrendar estos nombramientos?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

Así queda decidido.

Item 30. Any Other Matters
Point 30. Autres questions
Tema 30. Asuntos varios

Item 30.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture
Point 30.1 Conférence McDougall
Tema 30.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall
(C 2019/INF/7)

PRESIDENTE

Pasamos ahora al subtema 30.1 en relación con el cual se pronunciará la disertación en memoria de McDougall ante la Conferencia. Esta disertación forma parte de una serie que comenzó en 1959 en conmemoración del difunto Frank L. McDougall, uno de los padres fundadores de nuestra Organización.

Y se pronuncia en todos los períodos ordinarios de sesiones de la Conferencia. Doy ahora la palabra al Director General que presentará a la oradora de la disertación en memoria de McDougall en este 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO.

Señor Director General, tiene usted la palabra.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have the great pleasure and privilege to introduce Ms Graça Machel who has accepted to deliver the 31st McDougall Memorial lecture.

Ms Machel has been advocating for the rights of people, particularly children and women, for over four decades. In 1975, she became the first Minister of Education and Culture of the newly

independent country of Mozambique. During that time she worked to promote literacy and rehabilitate children affected by the long civil war.

In 1994, Ms Machel was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as an independent expert to carry out an assessment of the impact of armed conflict on children. Her report established a new and innovative agenda for the comprehensive protection of children caught up in war.

In 2010, she founded the Graça Machel Trust which advocates for African women and children's rights, as well as good governance and democracy.

Ms Machel is also a Member of The Elders, a group of global leaders that she cofounded in 2007 together with her husband and former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

For almost ten years she was also chair of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) Board of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and she is currently the Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

In 2018, Ms Machel accepted our invitation to be an honorary Member of the FAO Nobel Peace Laureates Alliance for Food Security and Peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join in welcoming Ms Graça Machel, an eminently suitable keynote speaker today.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Graça MACHEL (Chair of the Board of the Graça Machel Trust)

Thank you for the honour to address you this morning.

I am not a diplomat, so I must provide a disclaimer at the outset of my remarks. You have invited a passionate humanitarian to deliver the McDougall Lecture this year and my activism, coupled with the urgent issues we face as the human family, cannot be tempered by well-mannered protocol. We do not have the luxury to be simply polite and gentle with each other. Therefore, instead of a lecture, I propose we have a conversation this morning.

Five years ago, we agreed, as a global family, to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, for people and planet, now and into the future. It was an urgent call for action by all countries, developed and developing, in a global partnership to end poverty, to improve health and education, to reduce inequality and to spur economic growth.

The urgency, however, seems to be lost on us. I stand here with deep anguish and concern that the enthusiasm and speed with which we all agreed to work to achieve the SDGs seems to have lost steam somewhere along the way. The pace and scale with which we have been operating have not matched the magnitude of the monumental tasks and noble results we set for ourselves. Our ambition has been woefully inadequate.

I am encouraged, however, that you as FAO family have turned considerable attention this year to the intersection between migration, agriculture and rural development. And I hope this is a signal that the requisite attention and adequate investment of resources in meeting the SDGs are on the rise. We simply cannot afford not to urgently take bold action to end poverty and hunger and create more prosperous and vibrant rural communities.

I would like to provoke your thinking and action today by starting out with dispelling a few myths surrounding migration and I hope then to offer food for thought around how women and young women, coupled with a more innovative approach to rural development, can possibly usher us into a more well-fed, nourished, and more equitable and prosperous world.

Please allow me to challenge a few contemporary narratives that are quite damaging and untrue in our discourse around migration: migration is not a new phenomenon. However, it does need to be

managed adequately. Migration, by definition, is not harmful to countries of departure or destination; turning specifically to my own continent, Africa, it is not a continent of exodus.

I begin with these points of departure to help contextualize conversations this morning.

Humanity has been on the move throughout history. We have moved across lands and seas in courageous search for new opportunities, better ways of life and improved social, political and economic conditions as well as to escape persecution, conflict and poverty.

Human beings at our core are transient and for centuries the movement of people has been happening within and between continents and countries as well as within national borders.

The number of migrants, thanks to innovation in travel and globalization, has increased exponentially over the past few decades. The World Economic Forum details how people today are moving more than ever before. There are presently approximately 258 million international migrants. That figure has grown rapidly since the turn of the millennium when there were 173 million.

Together with this increasing volume, we are seeing changing demographics, advancing technology, evolving needs of labour markets and continued challenges posed by conflicts, food shortages and climate change.

There is nothing inherently wrong with migration and to treat it as a phenomenon that needs to be halted, is to deny ourselves the benefits and opportunities that come with the cross pollination of peoples and cultures.

We sometimes think of certain countries as sources of migrants and others as recipients but most nations today, to differing degrees, experience migration from all three perspectives – as countries of origin, transit and destination. Communities have played a key role in the development of sending, transit, and receiving migrants for centuries. Nowadays, international migratory pressures are more complex and globalized, and as a global family we have agreed, under the banner of SDG 10, to facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration.

Migration and migrant labour have shaped the wealth of many nations. Surely, we must admit that the economic dominance of high-income nations like the United States and many European countries has been built on the backs of migrant labour. Migration is an integral part of the global economy and fosters growth and development through the exchanges of cultures and knowledge, as well as financial gains in the form of skills acquisition and remittances.

There is a need to have a realistic, honest examination of migration and shun the xenophobic, isolationist narratives that seem to make global news headlines on a regular basis. I know we sit here in Rome today where there are daily debates around the influx of refugees and migrants coming from Africa and the Middle East. However, I would like to paint a realistic picture based on hard facts and statistics:

When it comes to refugees, developing countries host 85 percent of the total refugee population of the world. I repeat, developing countries host 85 percent of the total refugee population of the world. It is often countries with the least amount of resources that are absorbing the greatest number of refugees, and Africa plays host to the largest refugee populations in the world with over 4.4 million African refugees finding a home with their neighbours on the continent.

I must put on record that statistics from the 2019 Ibrahim Forum Report reveal African migrants represent only 14 percent of the global migrant population. This is much less than Europe which comprises 24 percent and Asia's share which totals 41 percent of the worldwide migrant population.

To further unpack the numbers, 70 percent of Sub-Saharan African migrants stay within the continent, and only 25 percent make their way to Europe.

It therefore must be clearly recognized that most refugees and migrants are settling in the Global South and not flooding northern or western shores to the magnitude some would make us believe.

Another aspect of the movement of people that is relevant for discussion is that of rural to urban migration.

Those of us gathered here today know all too well the causes and impacts of migratory patterns, the brain drain, rapid urbanization and rural flight. We are all well aware of the challenges that are associated with a lack of industrialization of agriculture, food security and investment in rural development.

I will not revisit an analysis of the alarming poverty statistics or belabour discourse on migratory flows which overcrowd cities and leave rural areas underdeveloped. However, I will challenge us to be much bolder and more disruptive in both our planning and action to address issues of rural poverty and rural flight. Despite recycled commitments, our investment is far below the amount required to match the magnitude of these problems.

As FAO, you are uniquely positioned to contribute to the development of rural areas through the touch point of agriculture. If and when agriculture is modernized and rustic areas are brought into the 21st Century so people can benefit from electricity, water and sanitation, irrigation, quality education and gainful employment prospects, people will remain in rural communities and contribute to their vibrancy.

I would like also to emphasize the direct linkage between hunger and migration. As you know, in 2018 more than 113 million people across 53 countries in the world experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Many of those suffering from acute hunger became migrants due to fleeing protracted conflicts or extreme weather conditions in the search of food for their families and the basics of survival.

This type of forced migration disrupts rural livelihoods and threatens food security and nutrition in areas of both origin and destination. I must make specific mention of the importance of nutrition here.

A lack of adequate nutrition is a key contributor to unacceptably high levels of both maternal and child mortality as well as stunting, and therefore, to the loss of human capital for the overall economic, social and political development.

Studies in several African countries reveal that the cost of malnutrition has a huge impact on a country's economic growth. The knock-on effects of stunting on learning and on earning, is quite debilitating when translated into economic terms. For example, losses in GDP are estimated at 10 percent in Malawi, 11.5 percent in Rwanda and 16.5 percent in Ethiopia. This is economic loss.

As such, adequate nutrition, is a critical element of national development, and as the FAO, I encourage you to adequately focus and prioritize promoting nutrient rich food production and food security as there is clear evidence of its wellbeing to individuals, households, and the vibrancy of national economies.

Crop yields and growing seasons are being adversely impacted by climate change. For example, hunger already affects about 240 million Africans daily. Recent estimates indicate that by 2050, even a change of approximately 1.2 to 1.9 degrees Celsius will have increased the number of Africa's undernourished from 25 percent to 95 percent. Decreasing crop yields and increasing population will put additional pressure on an already fragile food production system. If the current situation persists, Africa will be fulfilling only 13 percent of its food needs by 2050. This situation will further threaten about 65 percent of African workers who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods including children and the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. We know this fate is upon us, however this doesn't have to become our destiny. We have the power to reverse it. Starting now.

I ask you as experts: what innovative instruments and climate smart policies are we putting in place now to avert this impending crisis?

Innovation in agriculture needs to cut across all dimensions of the production cycle along the entire value chain, from crop, forestry, fisheries and livestock production to the management of inputs and resources to market access. However, I challenge us this morning to go beyond incremental changes and small-scale innovative initiatives. I challenge you, really, to disrupt the agricultural sector as a whole.

Like Uber has transformed the transportation business and like Netflix has shaken the entertainment industry, we need a game changer for the agricultural sector. Within the UN family you have

researchers and scientists from all fields of study, world class agronomists and policy experts, and pools of talented young people from around the world at your disposal. Please harness their creativity and expertise, and leapfrog over the traditional. Push the boundaries of our current thinking and approaches.

For example:

How big are the investments we are making in climate-resilient agriculture approaches that place value on indigenous seed production as well as traditional know-how around nutrient-rich crop diversification and farming and animal husbandry techniques?

How can we democratize technology? There are places where innovative techniques such as drip irrigation and solar powered desalination systems are transforming patches of deserts into vibrant farmlands. All this innovation is happening while in other parts of the world, people are still languishing in hostile environments, and are food and livelihood insecure. We need to massively scale up successful approaches and implement best practices so that our advances in technology benefit millions and not just a few hundred thousand.

And how do we better leverage the blue economy and potentially transformative industry of aquaculture? Over 70 percent of the planet is made up of aquatic systems that play a crucial, growing, and yet largely underutilized role in food and livelihood security and nutrition from the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Fish is more than food, it is a source of income, trade, and in coastal communities it is a way of life. More than three billion people rely on fish for animal protein, and more than 800 million people, 10 percent of the world's population, derive their livelihoods from aquaculture, fisheries and associated fish value chains. Invest massively in this industry to tap into its potential to advance rural development, and tackle hunger and malnutrition.

How can we scale the uptake of new farming systems such as vertical farming and tech innovations to traditional greenhouses?

I know I have more questions than solutions, however, I hope to be able to ignite a fire of creative action in this room this morning to find their answers.

As a women's rights activist, I would be neglectful of my duties, if I did not bring to your attention the obvious fact that girls and women are overlooked, yet critical success factors to rural development.

Investing in the education of the girl child, in particular in rural areas, is a strategic entry point to transform a whole range of societal norms and traditional practices to create communities that value and protect the rights of women.

A study by UNICEF shows that women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa collectively spend about 40 billion hours a year collecting water. Would these billions of hours not be better applied towards skills development? Should we not be equipping our girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and ensuring they receive a diversity of skills to meet the demands of the agriculture sector as well as industrialized labour markets? We owe it to our children to work much more quickly and smarter, and in concert with each other as the UN family to figure out ways to better educate, feed, and provide a solid foundation for our youngest generations to flourish.

A lack of access to education for women is one of the most significant barriers that hinder enhancing skills that will allow them economic freedom. Investment in the girl child equips her to realize her personal aspirations and professional ambitions, and provides her with the proper footing to contribute her full potential to the betterment of her community, whether it rural or urban.

Studies tell us that today there are nearly 821 million people who are undernourished, and if we are to end hunger by 2030, we must address the inequalities between women and men in agriculture. Women comprise more than 50 percent of the agricultural workforce in developing countries, and in some regions of the world, such as my own, they comprise 70 percent of the rural workforce.

Yet, women only receive a fraction of the land, credit, inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers, agricultural training and information compared to men. Rural women, in particular, should be recognized and valued as major agents of change in agriculture development.

As farmers and farm workers, horticulturists and market sellers, businesswomen, entrepreneurs and community leaders, they fulfil important roles throughout agrifood value chains, as well as in the management of natural resources such as land and water.

Yet the gender gap in food and agriculture is extensive. Women are underrepresented in local institutions and governance mechanisms, and tend to have less decision making power. In addition, to these constraints, prevailing gender norms and discrimination often mean that women face an excessive work burden, and that much of their labour remains unpaid and unrecognized.

Bridging this gender yield gap would boost food and nutrition security globally. Studies project this additional yield could reduce the number of undernourished people in the world by over 100 million.

As women are such central players in the food chain and key to agricultural output globally, it is imperative that institutions focus on innovative ways to advance women's contributions in this sector.

I offer a few examples:

Women need to be in the forefront of agricultural industrialization, at the decision-making table and throughout the value chain, including in the development of better farming technologies as women in Africa and Asia are still using a farming hoe. I repeat, in Africa and Asia women are still using a farming hoe, in a world where there is new tech savvy farming equipment easing the physical burden of farming and increasing productivity in other parts of the world. Asian and African women often undertake the arduous task of chopping firewood and suffer from smoke inhalation to cook for their families. When there are climate-friendly stoves within our reach to provide to them, this level of physical exertion and reduction of quality of life is simply unacceptable.

Women are often the custodians of treasured traditions and know-how. The sharing of their knowledge as well as value of indigenous seeds and cultivation of nutrient-rich crops needs to be recognized and scaled up. Governments need to scrap the traditional, social and legislative shackles which limit women from exercising their right to land ownership. The securing of land and land rights for women needs to have a set time period in which they will be realized.

Women need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to upscale their SMEs as entrepreneurs, and valued for their contribution to the economy.

It is utterly difficult to comprehend that we have not grasped the fact that we place a stranglehold on our own growth by limiting the potential of half of our population. The disenfranchisement of women is not only an economic issue, it is a question of equality and social justice. The agricultural sector is one obvious industry where it is an absolute must to capitalize on the vital role women already play.

In addition to my advocacy for the increased investment in the girl child and women, I will close by briefly touching on the influential role of youth in the equation of migration and rural development.

Africa provides the world a unique laboratory for how to manage the demographic dividend. The 2019 Ibrahim Forum report tells us that the agriculture sector accounts for up to 60 percent of African jobs and roughly one third of the continent's GDP.

According to the Afrobarometer survey data from 34 African countries, agriculture employs nearly 19 percent of working young Africans aged 18 to 35, and is the biggest job generating sector for young people. However, in rural areas, the lack of decent work opportunities is among the principal drivers of rural to urban migration, especially for youth.

Agriculture is expected to remain the main pool of employment opportunities for sub-Saharan African youth in the foreseeable future. Despite this, for the majority, agriculture is often seen as outdated, unprofitable and hard work for the uneducated in many settings across the globe. Given these dynamics, agriculture must become appealing. Strategic investments to modernize the sector and rural areas must be applied to both attract and retain young people so they feel it is an opportunity-rich environment where they can realize their aspirations without having to migrate elsewhere.

In addition to the structural changes and disruptions I advocated for earlier, in the immediate term, many simple technologies can solve some of the major challenges currently faced by farmers and young agriculture entrepreneurs in the world. For instance access to markets, access to updated technologies and research, knowledge of commodity prices and early warning systems on weather and pests, to name just a few.

Two examples I will share emerging from Africa are “Gro Intelligence” and “Wefarm”. These two initiatives are leveraging technology and the talents of young people that could be scaled globally.

Our problems persist because we are sitting in our comfort zones and not challenging ourselves individually and institutionally to change the status quo. There has been a shameful failure of global governance to address issues of food security, forced migration and equitable economic development. There is a dismal disregard for accountability and responsibility taken by those with decision-making powers to transform broken systems which lead to economic and social inequality.

We do make very good statements. We adopt very good policies but when it comes to implementation and accountability, we are failing in a dismal way.

There is also a failure of governance at the country level to set priorities right. Governments are not allocating sufficient energy or resources to address the root causes of poverty and provide all their citizens with a sound quality of life.

Lastly, there is a failure of individual conscience. A heartless complacency with the status quo has given birth to a bankruptcy of human solidarity.

As I stand here this morning, every minute, children are dying in Africa and Asia from malnutrition.

As I stand here, you made a mistake inviting an activist to speak to you this morning.

I will ask you to do one simple thing. Imagine you have in front of you your grandchild, your own grandchild who is dying of hunger. Simply hunger. What would you do?

Suppose, and remember any one of us today, we are going to have three meals and three meals of which we are going to choose what we want to eat. Yet, as I’m saying, there are children who would be saved by just one loaf of bread and clean water. There are mothers and grandmothers like me who are burying their babies simply because we did not help them to use their power to protect their children.

I want to say those children, those millions of children, are dear to a mother, to a father, to a grandfather, exactly as our own grandchildren are dear to us. There are no rights.

There is no right that will continue to live in a world as if these things which are happening are normal. They are not normal. They are manmade, and what I want to say is that it is our responsibility, each one of you here, including myself, are responsible, and that is what I call conscience: to know it is my responsibility, not anybody else’s.

A loss of a child to any one of us would touch you, touch your heart, and for women, it would also touch your womb. However, because it is another person’s child, we live as if it is not our business.

I want to challenge you. It is your business. It is my business. It is our collective business.

We cannot be proud of ourselves in the 21st Century, to allow these millions of children to continue to die, as if we do not have the knowledge, we do not have the capacity, we do not have even the means to communicate quickly and to resolve this problem. It is a shame on each one of us if this does not change.

I want to finish by saying, we are left with only ten years to accomplish these SDGs. Only ten. It is not too long. If we do not really change the way we do business, then we will come in ten years’ time and say: “Oh no, we did our best but we failed”.

Again, I want to come to your own grandchildren. How do you look into the eyes of your child when you fail on your promise? When you say something and you come later to recognize that you lied to

your own grandchild. We promised those children in 2015 that we will end hunger, and they will look into our eyes and say, why did you lie to us?

That is why I was saying inviting an activist was perhaps not a good idea.

I want to say that I recognize that you are working hard. I am not saying you are not working. What I am saying is that collectively whatever we have been doing so far, is not good enough. That is what we have to recognize. It is not like we are not working, but it is not good enough, because the results do not match what we have set out to do.

The point is, how do we close the gap between what we promised and the outcomes and the results of what we are doing? We only have ten years because we promised it will be overcome. We did not say we will reduce, like with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We said we are going to end hunger.

I am sorry, you have to scale up. I am terribly sorry, you have to scale up.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

You have to massively reverse the priorities of investment and food for everyone on this globe. It can be achieved. Then you can come to me, as activists. I will talk to women, yes. I will talk to youth. Give me the tools. I am not saying you do it alone, let us do it together.

Nonetheless, we definitely have to change the way we do things and we have to scale up further.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Deseo dar las gracias a la Señora Machel por pronunciar la 31ª disertación en memoria de McDougall. Como ustedes saben, Frank McDougall era originario de Australia, por lo que invito ahora a la Excelentísima Señora Doña Bridget McKenzie, Ministra de Agricultura y Recursos Hídricos de Australia, a tomar la palabra.

Ms Bridget MCKENZIE (Australia)

It is an honour to be able to respond to Ms Machel's thought-provoking, honest, and rightfully challenging speech this morning, on behalf of us all, as Australia's first female Agriculture Minister and a proud rural Australian, who takes her role very seriously. I think for all of us in this room who represent Agriculture, it is the best portfolio in any government to increase food and further production in each of their nations.

Australia is always honoured to respond to the McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Frank McDougall played a significant part in the development of FAO. He was a tireless advocate for Australian agriculture and the role of agriculture worldwide. He was fond of describing the marriage between health and agriculture, a message that today we heard was equally important in today's environment seeking to produce nutrient rich food for the world.

During the depression he pursued this idea by arguing for governments to increase food consumption and improved diets. He had a vision of countries working together to improve food consumption while supporting agricultural industries, farmers, and economic development. In 1943, he was the Member of a delegation summoned by Franklin D. Roosevelt to lay the foundations of the Food and Agriculture Organization. His work and vision played a large part in shaping FAO as we know it.

This philosophy of the marriage of health and agriculture is similar to the philosophy behind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which Member States committed to in 2015. Like Frank McDougall, countries saw that major issues around the world were intrinsically linked. SDG 2, Zero

Hunger, is perhaps the best example of this. It is deeply connected not just with agriculture but oceans, forests, access and availability to water resources, rural communities, climate, the environment, trade and investment, gender, and the movement of people in search of a better life.

The work of FAO is central to achieving the SDGs and this work remains as relevant today as when FAO was founded seven decades ago. Hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, and conflict are all ongoing challenges across the globe, along with natural resource constraints and climate change. We are also seeing a backlash against the elements of globalization and worryingly the rules based international order, which has seen so much progress for so many since the middle of the last century.

Part of this Conference's theme for the week is migration and, notably, the role of rural migration in economic transformation. Australia has thrived from a steady population growth and stands proudly shoulder to shoulder with the most successful immigration nations in the world. Migration is mutually beneficial when well-developed policies are in place. Migrant workers have been fundamental to our rural and regional communities and they continue to be. Over one quarter of all Australians are born somewhere else, overseas.

Rural migration is linked closely to agriculture and rural development as well as the overall wellbeing of people, communities, and societies. Migration, particularly from our Pacific and Asian neighbours, is crucial to the growth of Australia's agriculture industries and vibrant, regional economies. We have schemes in place to bring workers into our agricultural areas with our Pacific neighbours. This has supported both our industries and has also created new job and business opportunities for our friends and partners in the Pacific.

International migration also encourages trade and investment between countries when migrants seek products from their home countries, and when they create new businesses that cross international borders. Migration creates opportunities for knowledge sharing, business, and trade and this is why it is important to ensure there are systems and rules in place for the flow of people alongside goods, services and ideas.

Like this Conference, Australia is grappling with the best ways to encourage development in rural areas and how to make them an attractive destination for migrants. Historically, migrants to Australia have been fundamental to the formation and growth of many of our rural communities. I grew up in country Victoria and the rolling hills of the King Valley were once covered in tobacco farms. However, these have slowly been replaced by small family vineyards. The Australian wine industry is a great example of the value of migration in shaping rural development.

Up until the 1950s, Australia primarily produced four to five wines. These varieties were popular because the additional alcohol protected the wine from microbiological attack making it suitable for storage and transport in a country like Australia.

However, the influx of particularly German and Italian immigrants helped to expand the wine industry across Australia with many descendants still operating some of our best wineries today. This migration allowed Australian wines to be transformed from the fortifieds of old to new varieties with new production techniques, new ways of storing wine.

Australian migration continues to support our agriculture production through seasonal worker programmes, youth employment incentives and new ideas. As nations here today, we all have a vested interest in the growth of agriculture and yet, each and every one of us have different ways of achieving the sustainable production of safe food for our local communities and, indeed, the world. There are sustainable methods of farming on each and every continent and FAO provides the opportunity to share different sustainable production methods rather than dictate one way over another.

We must also continue to use science to look at ways to manage water, soil, and natural resources for the best outcomes, not just for the environment and our farmers, but for our global food needs as a collective. In the foyer of the building, is the preamble of FAO's Constitution, which reads, "The ultimate objective of all the various activities of the FAO is to ensure freedom from hunger for all mankind."

What an extraordinary goal to strive for. What an extraordinary responsibility, and I look forward to achieving this with each and every one of you over the coming decade.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

De esta forma se concluye el subtema 30.1. Deseo dar las gracias una vez más a la Señora Machel por dirigirse a la Conferencia durante esta ceremonia de apertura.

Permítanme recordar a los siete miembros del Comité General elegidos esta mañana y a los tres vicepresidentes que se dirijan a la sala de Líbano, edificio D, segunda planta, sala D209 para asistir a la primera sesión del Comité General que comenzará inmediatamente después de la clausura de esta sesión plenaria.

Además, desearía recordar a los nueve miembros del Comité de Credenciales que se reunirá a las 13.00 horas que se dirijan a la sala de México, edificio D, segunda planta, sala D211.

Excelencias, señoras y señores, de esta forma concluyen nuestros trabajos esta mañana. La segunda sesión de la Conferencia se celebrará en esta sala plenaria esta tarde a las 14.30 horas. Solicitamos a los delegados participantes de esta Conferencia el respeto de los horarios y el cumplimiento de ellos.

Declaro clausurada nuestra primera sesión plenaria.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 10:42 hours
La séance est levée à 10 h 42
Se levanta la sesión a las 10.42

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 June 2019

The Second Meeting was opened at 14:46 hours
Mr. Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 46
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 14.46
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la segunda sesión plenaria del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Antes de continuar, me gustaría informarles que la carta que recibí de los Miembros que mencioné esta mañana, ahora está disponible para todos los Miembros en el mostrador de documentos del primer piso del edificio A. Es de interés de la seguridad de todos los presentes, y solicito su atención durante unos pocos minutos para la proyección de un vídeo sobre las medidas de seguridad en caso de incendio en la sede de la FAO.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures***Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO******Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO***

Ahora haré un breve anuncio relativo a la participación de la Unión Europea. La Unión Europea participa en este período de sesiones de conformidad con los párrafos 8 y 9 del artículo II de la Constitución de la FAO. Desearía señalar a la atención de los Miembros la declaración presentada por la Unión Europea y sus Estados Miembros en el documento C 2019/INF/2.

Antes de pasar al siguiente tema de nuestro programa, tenemos que aprobar el primer informe del Comité de Credenciales. Doy la palabra a la Excelentísima Señora Doña Daniela Rotondaro de San Marino, Presidenta del Comité de Credenciales, para informarles sobre las reuniones del Comité de Credenciales. El primer informe del Comité de Credenciales estará disponible mañana y adoptaremos el mismo al inicio de la sesión de mañana.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee)

I understand that the order of the day has been postponed and that the first report will be given later.

PRESIDENTE

Sí, mañana estaremos recibiendo el informe y lo pondremos a disposición.

Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee**Rapport de la première réunion du Bureau****Informe de la primera sesión del Comité General**

(C 2019/LIM/17)

Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session**Point 3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session****Tema 3. Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones para el período de sesiones**

(C 2019/1; C 2019/12 Rev.1; C 2019/INF/1 Rev.1; C 2019/INF/2; C 2019/LIM/5; C 2019/LIM/17)

Item 4. Admission of Observers**Point 4. Admission d'observateurs****Tema 4. Admisión de observadores**

(C 2019/13 Rev.1; C 2019/LIM/17)

Quisiera informarles que las copias impresas de la misma reunión del Comité General está disponible a la entrada de la sala de plenarios y también fue distribuida a cada uno de los integrantes de esta representación.

Examinaremos ahora los siguientes temas del programa, a saber: tema 3, *Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones para el período de sesiones* y tema 4, *Admisión de observadores*.

El Comité General se ha reunido con anterioridad y ha preparado su primer informe, que contiene propuestas sobre los puntos siguientes: aprobación del programa, organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa; admisión de observadores y otras disposiciones conexas.

El informe de la primera sesión del Comité General figura en el documento C 2019/LIM/17, que confío tendrán ante ustedes.

A continuación, revisaré el informe sección por sección y leeré el título de la primera sección.

Sección A: Programa del período de sesiones.

Item 5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (vote)

Point 5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (vote)

Tema 5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (votación)

Desde el 161.º período de sesiones del Consejo celebrado en abril de 2019 no se han recibido solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización, por lo tanto, el tema 5: *Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización, se puede eliminar del programa.*

¿Alguien desea formular algún comentario sobre la propuesta de modificación?

Continuamos.

En este momento tengo una solicitud de la Unión Europea en pedido de intervención, por lo tanto, le voy a dar la palabra.

Mr Phil HOGAN (European Union)

The Third African Union - European Union Agriculture Ministerial Conference was held here in FAO yesterday, it was a very successful meeting. We see on the Agenda that it scheduled for a report on this meeting on Monday. But of course many Ministers will not be here during that time on Monday, when this is actually being debated.

Can I suggest and propose on behalf of the European Union and indeed Egypt which is the President of the Council of Ministers of the African continent, that the debriefing of this important Conference could take place at the end of today's proceedings, rather than Monday, and that we include this item on the Agenda accordingly.

PRESIDENTE

Sí, le voy a pedir al Secretario General que responda o ayude a aclarar este punto.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The provisional Agenda for the Conference, which was reviewed and endorsed by the General Committee, foresees statements from Members to begin on Monday 24 June and naturally any request to deviate from that would be at the behest of the Conference.

PRESIDENTE

Creo que la situación estaría clara. ¿No sé si habría alguna observación o alguien que quiera aclarar más?

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY (Egypt)

I would also like to support the proposal made by the European Union and if possible, we would like to make this briefing on the outcomes of the Third African Union – European Union Ministerial Conference that was held here in FAO yesterday.

Unfortunately, our Minister of Agriculture Mr Ezz AIDin Abosteit will be going back to Egypt on Monday afternoon, so he will not be able to give his briefing and we would like to have this briefing today at the end of our Agenda.

PRESIDENTE

Solicito en este punto que las delegaciones hagan saber si tienen objeciones sobre este punto. Hay un pedido de la Unión Europea apoyada por Egipto y si no hay observaciones, , por lo tanto, quedaría este punto incluido para el final del día de hoy.

Continuamos con la sección B: Establecimiento de comisiones y calendario provisional del período de sesiones.

Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección C: Nombramiento de los presidentes y vicepresidentes de las dos comisiones.

Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección D: Resoluciones.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección E: Nombramiento del Director General.

En esta sección se llevaron a cabo deliberaciones sustantivas, lo que resultó en un consenso sobre el texto incluido en dicha sección del informe.

El Comité acordó dos ajustes y aclaraciones al texto en relación con los procedimientos para la elección del Director General. En la parte correspondiente el texto indica que “*Los electores dejarán los dispositivos electrónicos en una cesta en la entrada al área de votación antes de ingresar. Los electores deben mostrar a los escrutadores que no tienen dispositivos electrónicos.*” Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección F: Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Sección G: Elección de miembros del Consejo.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección H: Derecho de réplica.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección I: Actas literales.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección.

Sección J: Declaraciones de jefes de delegación.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección K: Admisión de observadores de organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección L: Asistencia de Palestina.

Si no hay comentarios, declaro aprobada la sección y pasamos a la siguiente.

Sección M: Conclusión.

Si no hay comentarios adicionales respecto al informe, considero que la Conferencia lo aprueba en su totalidad.

El informe de la primera sesión del Comité General queda aprobado. Doy las gracias a los demás miembros del Comité General por el trabajo realizado durante el actual período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Item 6. Appointment of the Director-General

Point 6. Nomination du Directeur général

Tema 6. Nombramiento del Director General

(C 2019/7; C 2019/7 Add. 1; C 2019/7 Add. 2; C 2019/12 Rev.1; C 2019/LIM/17)

Address by Candidates to the post of Director-General

Communications des candidats au poste de Directeur général

Declaraciones de los candidatos al puesto de Director General

Continuaremos ahora con el siguiente tema que es el tema 6: *Nombramiento del Director General (Declaraciones de los candidatos al puesto de Director General)*. Los documentos relativos al tema son el C 2019/7, C 2019/7 Add. 1, C 2019/7 Add. 2, C 2019/12Rev. 1, y C 2019/LIM/17.

Doy la bienvenida a los tres candidatos que se encuentran en la sala plenaria. Son, por orden alfabético de su país, el Señor Qu Dongyu de China, la Señora Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle de Francia y el Señor Davit Kirvalidze de Georgia.

En virtud de lo dispuesto en el párrafo d) del artículo XXXVII.1 del RGO, y de conformidad con las disposiciones aprobadas por el Consejo en abril y confirmadas por la Conferencia al aprobar el primer informe del Comité General esta misma tarde, se concederá la palabra a cada candidato para que se dirija a la Conferencia.

Según han acordado los Miembros, cada candidato dispondrá de quince minutos para realizar su declaración ante la Conferencia. Se observará estrictamente el tiempo asignado a los candidatos. Yo velaré personalmente por la aplicación uniforme del tiempo adjudicado.

Para ello se activará un sistema de semáforos en el atril durante las observaciones de apertura. La luz amarilla comienza a parpadear cuando solo queda un minuto a disposición del candidato. Una vez que se haya alcanzado el tiempo límite, el semáforo parpadeará en rojo y procederé a desactivar el micrófono. En caso necesario, una vez que se haya agotado el tiempo asignado al candidato, desconectaré el micrófono para poner fin a su declaración.

Me gustaría invitar a la primera candidata, la Señora Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle a unirse a nosotros en el podio y a dirigirse a la Conferencia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sra. Catherine GESLAIN-LANÉELLE (Candidate au poste de Directeur général) (France)

Esta campaña finaliza mañana con la elección del futuro Director General de la FAO. Estoy feliz de haber llevado adelante una campaña activa. A todos ustedes quiero agradecerles por su calurosa acogida en todos los lugares donde he ido. Me he reunido con representantes de alto nivel de más de 160 Estados Miembros en más de 65 países.

También he podido entrevistarme con las partes interesadas de los sistemas alimentarios, agricultores, ganaderos, pescadores, empresas del sector privado, sociedad civil, inversores. Quiero expresar mi agradecimiento a todas aquellas personas con las que me he reunido. Me han dado energía y me han fortalecido en mi voluntad de actuar.

Me he dado cuenta que, en todas partes, hay una voluntad de avanzar, una necesidad de desarrollar nuevos planteamientos, de redoblar esfuerzos. Todos ustedes han afirmado que las necesidades locales han de volver a ser el punto de partida, y que hay que tener más en cuenta la diversidad de las situaciones y de las prioridades en los distintos países y regiones del mundo.

Así que el papel de la FAO no es el de imponer sino el de ayudar a hacer realidad sus planes y estrategias de acuerdo con los 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). La FAO tiene que proponer soluciones innovadoras y contribuir a su implementación.

No hay una solución única para todos, hay varias. Muchos de ustedes comparten conmigo la convicción que la cooperación entre gobiernos es esencial. También tenemos que trabajar más estrechamente con el sector privado y todas las partes interesadas. Su apoyo es crucial para producir resultados ambiciosos, inclusivos y sostenibles.

Me ha llamado especialmente la atención su deseo de que la FAO se siga caracterizando por una excelencia científica y técnica. Dispone de un alto nivel de conocimiento que debe mantenerse porque no existe ningún organismo similar que puede garantizar la solidez y la pertinencia de las soluciones. La FAO debe estar en la vanguardia de la innovación, de toda la innovación.

Con su experiencia incomparable en sistemas alimentarios, ya que es una agencia de la ONU, la FAO debe seguir siendo un foro de debate, de diálogo abierto en el que todos pueden compartir sus experiencias y ser escuchados.

También han trasladado sus ambiciosas expectativas en lo que se refiere a la simplificación y una mayor responsabilización en Roma y en las oficinas descentralizadas de la FAO. Quieren un *management* de la Organización más ágil, menos burocrático, más eficaz para proporcionar resultados más rápidos y concretos.

Por último, esta campaña ha reforzado mi determinación. Quiero que trabajemos juntos para hacer frente a los desafíos colectivos y a la urgencia alimentaria. Como bien saben, sigue habiendo 820 millones de personas que padecen hambre. Y esa cifra está creciendo desde 2015. Son las mismas cifras que hace 10 años. La malnutrición afecta a más de 2 000 millones de personas en todo el mundo, particularmente a los más débiles y los más vulnerables.

La epidemia de obesidad se está propagando en todo el mundo y golpea también a los jóvenes y a los niños. Además, somos muy conscientes de los desafíos vinculados al crecimiento demográfico, a los cambios en las dietas, al cambio climático y a la necesidad de proteger nuestros suelos, nuestra agua, nuestros océanos y nuestros bosques.

Así que, sí, debemos actuar y estoy convencida de que tenemos las soluciones. Hoy más que nunca los sectores de la agricultura, de la ganadería, la pesca y los bosques son la solución.

Suite en français

Demain, vous prendrez une décision essentielle pour le futur de la FAO.

Nous le savons tous, des millions de personnes dépendent pour leur survie de l'aide alimentaire. Ce nombre, déjà très élevé, augmentera si nous n'agissons pas de manière déterminée pour rendre nos systèmes alimentaires plus productifs, plus efficaces et plus durables.

Nous ne réduirons pas la pauvreté en milieu rural si nous n'agissons pas collectivement. Il faut intensifier nos efforts et accélérer notre mobilisation. Et pour cela, je vous le dis, nous avons besoin de la FAO, une FAO mobilisée, une FAO réactive.

C'est pourquoi je me suis préparée, je me suis engagée pleinement, avec toute mon énergie, dans cette campagne.

Je suis fière d'être devant vous aujourd'hui. Fière de représenter les femmes et d'être la première femme candidate à cette élection depuis la création de la FAO il y a 70 ans.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Vous le savez, j'ai une expérience de haut niveau dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de l'alimentation, de la forêt et du développement rural.

J'ai dirigé de grandes organisations, comme par exemple la direction générale de l'alimentation, où j'ai managé plus de 4 500 personnes à Paris et en régions. J'ai une expérience réussie de management d'organisations internationales, je pense en particulier à l'AEFSA, l'Autorité européenne de sécurité des aliments, que j'ai dirigée pendant sept ans.

En toutes circonstances, je sais écouter et débattre, comme je l'ai montré pendant ma campagne. Je sais, partant des besoins, définir une stratégie et la traduire en un plan d'action concret et réaliste. Je sais et j'aime mobiliser les équipes, leurs talents, leur énergie.

Je sais créer un environnement de travail, qui permet de produire des résultats concrets dans un cadre qui allie transparence, redevabilité et performance. Je veux mettre mon leadership et ma motivation au service de la FAO pour le succès de tous nos pays membres, votre succès, au service de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations.

Continues in English

On 11 April, I shared with you how I envisioned FAO's role and my goals for this unique organization. As you know, I have two main goals.

We need productive food systems that protect our natural resources and are resilient to climate change. We need to increase the efficiency of our food systems by reducing losses and waste. In addition, we need to develop value chains in rural areas in order to eradicate poverty. Farmers, fishermen and women should be able to access markets. Yet, all too often they face situations of mere subsistence.

By developing food processing, retail, trade and related services, we can create wealth in rural areas. This will help us generate jobs and future prospects for young people and the men and women who live there.

Today, I would like to share with you how I envision FAO moving forward with all of you. Today I want to make six commitments to you.

Firstly, I want to strengthen all forms of cooperation between governments, South-South, South-North and Triangular Cooperation. This cooperation should be based on mutual respect and take into account national sovereignty. Solutions do exist and we share them at the FAO level.

Secondly, I want to make the Technical Cooperation Programme more relevant and more effective and diversify its sources of funding. I would like to put an end to problems and spending. In close cooperation with you and with the Governing Body of FAO, I will take initiative to find new sources of financing, particularly voluntary contributions from private non-profit organisations. This could help us roll out more innovative projects in more countries.

Thirdly, I want to reinforce the commitment of FAO in developing value chains and helping to create wealth, thereby generating jobs and fighting poverty in rural areas. I will work with you and with investors to attract more public and private investments for our sectors.

FAO can, and must make its knowledge and expertise available to investors so that they can design and implement responsible, sustainable and inclusive investment programmes. Such investment should help structure value chains and support agrifood industries that create jobs for our young people and enable farmers and fisherman to access markets.

FAO already works with public investors, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and helps with an investment total of about USD 6 billion per year. I would like to double this portfolio with both public and private investors whom I met during my campaign. They are ready to work with us.

Fourthly, I want to help improve the wellbeing of populations, build countries capacities and ensure that we can offer a sustainable and diversified diet to all. I wish to pay particular attention to the situation of young people, women and the most vulnerable people.

In this way, I will act to ensure that FAO plays a key role in the United Nations system, that it works closely with other international organisations, the World Food Programme, IFAD, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

I want FAO to be at the forefront of mobilisation and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. I will also develop closer cooperation with relevant regional organizations around the world to avoid duplication, create synergies and better leverage resources.

Fifthly, I want to enhance the scientific and technical excellence of all of FAO's activities. To that end, I will forge partnerships and networks with the scientific community around the world. I will use new information and communication technologies and digitalisation to ensure that FAO's knowledge is better valued and tailored to the needs of its various audiences.

Sixthly, I want to increase the Organization's impact and results in the field by making FAO more agile, more transparent, accountable and innovative. I will mobilise its teams' energy, talent and commitment in its decentralised offices, as well as in Rome.

I would like now to conclude by telling you one of the many memorable experiences of my campaign. When I visited the UN organizations in Geneva, I was offered a book. The title of the book is “A Fairy Tale for a Better World”. This book, a children's book in fact, is a collection of traditional fairy tales from all over the world that illustrate the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some people might argue that fairy tales are not real and never come true. However, all of you here today know that fairy tales always have a happy ending and I believe in that happy ending.

That is why from the very beginning of my campaign, my aim has been to build an ambitious and detailed project. A project that brings us all together in the service of a common goal for the common good. A global project in which every one of us, every country, can recognise its own needs and aspirations.

As Director-General of FAO, I will proudly embody the UN core values of openness, impartiality, diversity and gender equality. I will serve the Organization and you, its Members.

As Director-General, I will work closely with you to follow through on the commitments that I have made to you here today. Together we will deliver sustainable food for all. Together we will attract more investments to create jobs in rural areas. Together we will write the happy ending.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Doy las gracias a la Señora Geslain-Lanéelle. Invito ahora al segundo candidato, el Señor Davit Kirvalidze a unirse a nosotros en el podio y dirigirse a la Conferencia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Davit KIRVALIDZE (Candidate for the Post of Director-General) (Georgia)

Passion and purpose have defined my life and work. A policy alone will not eradicate hunger. People can end hunger. Filled with passion and purpose, there is no problem that we cannot solve, there is no challenge that we cannot overcome.

I stand before you today not representing large nations, political or economic powers. Georgia is a small country, however, it has a very big heart. I feel a special responsibility as the only developing nation remaining in the race as it is often not easy to seek such positions. Still I stand, carrying the banner of our many voices. I stand before you firmly dedicated to the hundreds of millions of people that we still have not reached. I will stand and fight for them and for the countries that are too often ignored, and their futures often denied.

This is a message that I have carried around the world over these past several months. It is a message deeply rooted in the hunger and hardship I knew as a young man. It is a message that springs from the frustration I felt as the Minister of Agriculture in a poor country. It is a message whose time has come.

Is it not time that we select someone to lead this Organization based on their qualifications, not where they were born? Is it not time we asked not just who they are, and instead asked what is the next Director-General going to do? Is it not time for plans that bring innovation and investments, not just another shiny new banner? Is it not time that we put hunger for food above hunger of political power?

These are the questions I have often heard while I was travelling in the last several months. Now is the moment for change, and I am the candidate for change.

My vision is to transform FAO into the ‘opportunity Organization’. It is not a slogan, it is a strategy. One that shifts our focus from merely putting problems on pause, to planting seeds of new possibilities. It is a strategy that clearly recognises what is not working. It is a strategy that knows

people seek the freedom to hope and not just freedom from poverty. It is a strategy that finally unleashes the full talent of our team here to move boldly and not bureaucratically.

From Africa to Asia, Latin America to North America, from Europe to the Middle East and across the Pacific and Caribbean region there remain more than 800 million hungry people that share our planet with us. They breathe the same air yet they lack the same nutrients. They occupy the same ground yet they lack the means to sustain themselves on it. I know them and I understand them well. They deserve a leader who sees them as a people, not as a problem.

Having travelled the long journey from hardship to hope, from war to recovery, poverty to power, my hands know what it takes to lift up a crop, a community and a country. I know we can lift up those who are left behind. This is why I am so deeply passionate about this mission.

I will not stand for excuses and I will not waste money. I will not permit endless bureaucratic delays. I will not fail those people.

As you weigh your nation's vote, I would like to make a simple request.

Choose a candidate who has tilled the fields, not just had fancy titles. Choose a candidate who will have an open door and open mind. Choose a candidate who can bridge divides. Choose a candidate who will speak, not for his country or alliances, but for the developing world. Choose a candidate who has a plan and a track record of success from the fields to financing development projects, and choose a candidate who can be your partner and serve the interests of all nations together, equally.

Under my leadership, small developing nations will be a significant part of our work. It starts with increasing resources and visibility. FAO's role will be to ensure that you are connected with new donors and investors. I will help expand and enhance your capacities to compete and close deals.

There are too many middle income nations that feel under served by this Organization. You must not be penalized for growth. Our work should not stop as deprivation declines. FAO will be a partner not only in poverty, yet in the pursuit of prosperity.

To the many island nations that make up the FAO, I say this Organization must and can do better. You have some of the richest biodiversity on the planet, yet too often, those nearby live in poverty. FAO needs to be an Organization that builds the balance between communities and conservation.

It ought to help expand the opportunities in agritourism that will bring the potential of new export markets to small producers. We must prioritise the prosperity of the people to provide for the sustainable protection of the environment.

You have likely learned during my campaigns that I tend to speak directly. Sometimes perhaps, even a bit too direct. If you want a Director-General who will demand results and not just the reports, if you want a partner and not just a process, if you want a leader and not just a leading bureaucrat, if you want increased investments and not just adequate aid, vote for the "Opportunity Organization".

Together, we will ignite a wave in new private sector partnerships and investments across the developed world. We will imbue world class skills through our emerging leader fellowships. We will finally harness the enormous power of e-Commerce for those who farm, fish and work in the forests around the globe. In short, we will make FAO an "Opportunity Organization" that is more proactive, creative and effective.

It is an ambitious and an achievable agenda. A practical plan rooted in my three decades of experience in international development, the halls of academia, the halls of power and in hallowed potato fields. We have the potential to finally energise and mobilise every resource across FAO and our partners to build a bold new way of doing business.

Some might wonder how a man from a small developing nation can rally FAO behind such an aspirational vision. Some might ask, can he really win? Can he really reform and redirect FAO? You have answered these questions. Many Ambassadors approached me after we first unveiled the "Opportunity Organization" strategy to extend appreciation and offer support.

I have especially heard from developing nations who want their vision to guide FAO beyond political power struggles to those struggling for survival. You believe in this, and so do I.

Many FAO employees have reached out to me in the last two months. They used words like inspiration and motivation. They want to work in a place filled with opportunities for them to create a better future for our planet. They believe in this, and so do I.

Many citizens, companies and organizations around the world have contacted me. They have told me of their interest, desire to have an FAO that partners with them more fully. They want a Director-General who does not delay, dismiss or downgrade. They want someone who engages, elevates and most importantly, delivers. They believe in this, and so do I.

This is why I am so confident we will prevail. Marshalling the support of so many diverse voices, we can do so much. I am a man of action and I do not think you should elect me or anybody else based on our words or wishes. The plan I present to you for FAO comes from the work that I am already doing.

I am part of the leadership of an international development organization called Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA). It recently signed a new public private partnership deal with the John Deere, a company that develops machinery services across the African continent. In the Caucuses we partnered with Ferrero to dramatically increase the production and prosperity for thousands of farmers. This is the kind of opportunity that will power the future of food and accelerate agriculture worldwide.

If one developed organization can stimulate that kind of new innovation and investment, imagine what a multinational agency like the FAO can achieve.

By holding an annual investment Conference, as I laid out in my strategy, we will bring large businesses here to Rome to meet you and seek opportunities for investment in your country. I will make it my job as Director-General to advocate, advance and achieve those new deals for developing countries.

Our Young Leader Fellowship will bring the most promising talent in developing nations to top universities and companies. We will create opportunities by equipping them with the skills, strategies and strengths to expand economic development in their communities.

The new e-Commerce Office that we will launch at FAO will connect those fellows and their communities to opportunities online. Products from farms, fisheries and forests increasingly find their way to online platforms. We can remove obstacles and ensure that the power of e-Commerce reaches all, including very remote rural areas.

In the pursuit of new opportunities we will not neglect persistent problems. The FAO that I will lead can power the future of food by investing in techniques to produce more and waste less. We intend to accelerate efforts to address climate change. This is the challenge that cannot be confronted with more meetings and memos here in Rome. It must be met on the front lines with new tools and technologies.

As I committed in April, my leadership choices will reflect gender and geographical diversity. More critical than equality in the upper ranks of FAO, will be what is done to women, youth and minority groups around the world. I will personally ensure every effort is made to end discrimination and harassment, as well as providing equal opportunities across each of our programmes and in the communities where we work.

I stand before you committing that I will always be honest and transparent about our programmes and progress. I will always be accessible and your advocate. As I have shown during my campaign I will not be deterred by difficulties or efforts to dissuade us from progress.

We have run a campaign of ideas and not political influence. We have run on partnership and not on pressure. We have run to stand up for what is right.

I undertook this long journey for my children, and others around the world that do not know the hunger and hardship I had to overcome.

The children like them in school and struggling even to get to school, have someone who sees their situation as a deeply personal problem to be solved today, not an impersonal policy that can be formulated tomorrow. This is not a political or prestigious pursuit. This is personal for me.

A Minister's outrage at the bureaucratic obstacles is my outrage. A farmer's heartbreak when losing a crop is my heartbreak. A parent's worry for how they will feed their children is my worry. I will pursue their cause with urgency and unwavering dedication to delivering results.

Stopping starvation is not enough and managing malnutrition is insufficient. Our fellow human beings are not statistics. I will demand more for them than survival and subsistence. Each person on this earth should have the opportunity to wish for more than a meal. We can plant the seeds of tomorrow's possibilities for them today. Delivering on this commitment is my promise to you and my solemn pledge to them.

For the future we all seek, and not for the fears we harbour, I humbly ask for your vote. For what we can accomplish from north to south, east to west, developed and developing, strong and small, come together, I ask for your vote. For the belief that the true winner in this election should be the hungry souls who seek a better life, I ask for your vote.

You and I will lead FAO towards a remarkable transformation confident that our children and their children will never know hunger. We can finally bring about a generation where dreams are not dependent on where you were born. Let us return home to our families having voted to advance FAO beyond politics and placing patches on problems.

Let us move towards unlocking opportunities that will enable those who farm, fish and work in forests not just to survive but to thrive. They will forever be grateful to you, Ministers and Ambassadors, for the confidence and courage you showed in embracing their promise, in believing in their potential, and in building an Organization fueled by passion and purpose. You will be proud one day.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Doy las gracias al Señor Kirvalidze. Invito ahora al tercer candidato, el Señor Qu Dongyu a unirse a nosotros en el podio y a dirigirse a la Conferencia.

Mr Qu DONGYU (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (China)

It is a special weekend for me, for you, and for FAO. I have realised that many of you have taken long journey to come to Rome, to make history and record new history.

In April, I presented my manifesto to the Council Meeting with a vision to build a dynamic FAO for a better world by uniting the force of the Member Countries. Our strategy should be focused on attaining Zero Hunger and improving nutrition and the livelihoods of people by better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life.

I proposed the following five actions: (i) focusing on Zero Hunger and targeted poverty eradication, (ii) tropical agriculture, (iii) dryland farming, (iv) promoting digital farming, and (v) improving agricultural production and value chains. Such mission, strategy, and actions, have been widely shared. We are now on the same page.

Nowadays, global food security and nutrition-based health management are becoming daily topics. Agriculture is heavily affected by natural disasters, market volatility, transboundary diseases and pests and climate change.

The theme of the 2019 FAO Conference on Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development is highly relevant.

Globalisation and digitalisation have deeply altered the mindset and lifestyles of young farmers, as well as the production chains, supply chains, and value chains of farming.

In such a critical point of history, if elected, I will head FAO to take initiatives to improve and rejuvenate itself for better performance and better governance, applying all the tools in the toolbox. FAO needs to become a reliable and beneficial international facilitator and promoter with core competence.

First, FAO needs further understanding of sustainable development. It is important that FAO promote sustainable agriculture and focus on the seven SDGs directly connected to its functions. While giving priority to SDG 1 and SDG 2, FAO also needs to leverage its specialized advantages to support the 21 SDG indicators under its custodianship and the six indicators for which it is a contributing agency. The 2030 Agenda requires us to establish inclusive, efficient and responsible food and agricultural systems to integrate production, processing, consumption and trade, to ensure the supply of adequate, healthy and nutritious food.

When I was a young boy, my grandmother took me to pick mushrooms in the neighbouring hills. She told me that we should leave the old mushrooms to spread spores and let the young and small mushrooms grow. This was the only way to ensure that we could constantly pick mushrooms during the season. That was my original idea on sustainability.

Second, FAO should strengthen its innovative spirit. Facing new situations and new challenges, FAO should apply modern science and technology, and adopt innovative approaches: innovation of mindset and marketing, innovation of cooperation models, and innovation of application by digitalisation. “Digital FAO” needs to be well established.

Innovation of technologies. FAO should strengthen the application of new material, new equipment, new technology and farming machinery for medium and small farmers in developing nations.

Innovation of institutional structure. FAO needs to set up a special office for small island states, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries and other vulnerable areas. Innovation first and second, farmers should benefit the most.

In January, I met Mr Rodgers Kirwa, a young farmer from Kenya at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin. He is working with his fellow farmers in Africa, to develop agriculture with information and communication technology (ICT). He asked me to arrange his visit to Alibaba in China for e-Commerce. I promised and helped him go and he was very satisfied with his visit.

Third, FAO should forge a working culture for inclusiveness, truth seeking, solidarity and collaboration. FAO should oppose bureaucracy, power abuse, and offer protection for whistle blowers. FAO should strengthen interaction with the Member countries and other stakeholders to forge political willingness and commitment to food security.

I know that you all hold high expectation for FAO to improve its performance and the internal management.

If elected, I will carry out effective reform to target the most urgent problems and challenges. I will enhance the professionalism throughout FAO’s system. I will establish a consultation commission with global representation. I will invite chief scientists to cover development strategy and policy, digital farming and rural development, food security and nutrition, control of transboundary diseases and environment, climate change and biodiversity conservation, small island development and fisheries and marketing information and trade. I will promote the coordination of FAO with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), and Research and Development (R&D) departments of multinational corporations, civil society and think tanks.

I will upgrade the professional expertise of all FAO staff, especially with a T-shaped skill set. I will also lead FAO to work with Member Countries for strengthening technical cooperation, capacity building, joint training, transforming policy, norm setting, CODEX Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other technologies into the practical outcome driving the development.

I will promote a quicker response capacity from FAO headquarters.

If elected, I will designate a task force in the Director General's office to oversee emergency response, and coordinate resources and time-bound requirements for the urgent needs of Member Countries.

I will improve FAO's Human Resources management. I will manage FAO's position by following four P parameters (position, personality, performance and payment), and make sure those existing staff who have worked hard and well will be promoted. Global recruitment will be prioritised to under-represented countries and regions with geographic and position rotation. I will reform Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and other instruments used to foster a more active staff team with greater loyalty to the Organization.

Young people represent the future of FAO and global agriculture. I will work closely with the Member Countries to focus on issues of young farmers. I will offer an H-Channel system to cultivate and promote young people, assisting them to accumulate various experiences. A Youth Commission will be established under Deputy Director-General (DDG) leadership to support the career development of young employees.

Women have become the pillar in the agriculture sector, making a huge contribution to agricultural development and rural revitalisation in political, economic, cultural and family dimensions. I will foster gender balance and equality in the FAO system. The Women's Commission will be formed under DDG leadership to listen to the female employees' concerns and protect their rights and interests. I will strive to increase the proportion of female staff at middle- and senior-level to 50 percent. I shall have zero tolerance toward sexual harassment. I will take care of all employees' reasonable welfare.

Fourth, I will strengthen accountability and transparency in FAO. FAO should report to Member Countries. If elected, as the Number One servant, I shall lead the Organization to operate according to our mandates in a rule-based and professional way. I will introduce a third party to assess major decisions and programmes. I will strengthen regular meetings with Member Countries. I will hold free talks in Rome before every summer vacation and Christmas holiday.

I am firm minded and approachable with a strong sense of responsibility. I am open-minded, respect science, and have a democratic management style. I will make FAO a big family that is united, efficient, energetic, and harmonised.

Fifth, I will foster synergy with partners. As FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations, I will firstly align FAO with the reform and management policies of the United Nations, facilitate close collaboration with other United Nations agencies and international organizations based in New York, Geneva and Nairobi, and make FAO more visible and deliverable and also influential. In particular enhance coordination with WFP and IFAD so that the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) can become Real Brotherhood Allies.

I will boost the synergy between FAO, UNDP and other international development agencies for joint contribution to SDGs. I will stress the coordination with the private sector, such as Dow, Bayer, Alibaba and others, civil societies, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others to leverage their unique roles and expertise.

I will also reinforce synergy among the FAO Headquarters, Regional, Sub-Regional, and Country Offices, and bring FAO closer to the Member Countries, closer to the field, and closer to the farmers.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sixth, I will effectively scale up resource mobilisation. Without resources any blueprints or action plans will only stay on paper. Human beings cannot survive without vitamin C, vitamin A, or vitamin B. Nor can any organization do without vitamin M. M is for money.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

For FAO, making the cake bigger is more urgent than sharing the cake. I will designate a DDG responsible for resource mobilisation, and set up a strong team to design major programmes, actions and new approaches, forging new platforms for financial cooperation with the private sector, and NGOs. More importantly, I will explore the innovative use of funding, expand partnership with the World Bank, other banks, and other financial institutions to leverage more investment by using donations and catalyst seed funds.

All resources will be used efficiently and in line with the rules, in order to win the trust and the credibility from donors. Meanwhile to facilitate SDGs, I will enhance the preparation of high level meetings, as high as possible, to marshal strong support of Member Countries and other stakeholders, to consolidate political willingness and cement political commitment. I promise that if elected I will work tirelessly with you to increase FAO resource mobilisation by 10 percent every year.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

With enabling policies, innovative approaches, stronger investment and capacity building of Member Countries I will help farmers be happier, rural areas be more attractive, and our world more beautiful.

FAO is at a critical turning point and calls for an outstanding, bold, nimble, fully engaged Director-General, who combines strong scientific and professional background, rich experience as a policymaker and implementer with extensive networks, good understanding of situations, and the concerns of developing and developed countries in the area of agricultural and rural development, various experiences on different positions of leadership, and the persistence to lead FAO to tackle challenges.

There is no doubt the sun will rise from the East tomorrow. You will select the best candidate to make new history. I am ready to serve you all with your strong support. Vote for me, I will devote myself for the entire world to build a dynamic FAO for a better world.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Tal cual decidimos con anterioridad a la presentación de los candidatos, le vamos a dar la palabra a la Unión Europea.

Mr Phil HOGAN (European Union)

I am not sure, if my Egyptian colleague wishes to take the floor first or will I continue?

PRESIDENTE

Perdón. Le vamos a dar la palabra primero a Egipto y después a la Unión Europea, que es lo que se había solicitado.

Mr Ezz AIDin ABOSTEIT (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

It is indeed a pleasure for me to take part in this Conference in order to inform you about the outcome of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the European Union and the African Union with Ministers of Agriculture.

I extend my thanks to the African Commission for Agriculture, and to the European Union as well for having convened this meeting in order to strengthen cooperation and partnership between us in the field of sustainable agricultural development, and to promote the value chain of agriculture and sustainable agriculture.

I also thank the host country for having prepared for the meeting and I thank the working group headed by Dr José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General, and his team. I thank them for the efforts

they have deployed in order to achieve this success. I would like to inform you that the meeting started its work yesterday through high-level segments. In attendance were Ministers and high-level officials.

The first session tackled the opportunities and challenges in the investment in agriculture.

The second session was dedicated to investment, agriculture, and technological needs within the framework of climate change.

The third session discussed the ways and means of seeking technological and digital solutions to our problems.

The fourth session focused on phytosanitary measures, health and the need to promote the health of crops.

We also tackled the obstacles obstructing cooperation between Africa and Europe in the trade of agricultural commodities and we hope that the recommendations that have come from this meeting will help us tackle the challenges. We believe that this is a cooperation and rapprochement between Africa and Europe in order to secure the best chances for sustainable development.

This, in turn, would be the best way of achieving the strategic objectives that we set out in our countries, and promoting our common cooperation. It would also help us reach a common vision for a better future for our world and achieve the strategic objectives we have tried hard to identify and to set out clearly.

This was followed by the main meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, who tackled issues related to the ways of promoting our cooperation. The Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, took the floor and so did the President of IFAD, and both spoke about the need to promote agricultural development and to secure food security as sustainable development.

We hope that we will be able to reach a common vision, and we hope that the common declaration that was reached by the European Union and the African Union will pave the way for the achievement of food security, putting an end to poverty and hunger, and pave the way for further cooperation and implementation of joint projects which could secure the Addis Ababa 2063 Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, we have adopted a Plan of Action to promote African and European cooperation in agriculture, in rural development, in trade, and in investment in the agricultural sector. In a nutshell, these are the main subjects tackled by this meeting and we sincerely hope that when we reach the later stage of our upcoming meeting, we will have positive achievements. We hope to have made concrete progress and to have made important and outstanding steps on the road of furthering our partnership.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, voy a dar la palabra a la Unión Europea.

Mr Phil HOGAN (European Union)

Thank you for facilitating this opportunity to give a brief overview of the proceedings of our Third African Union - European Union Agricultural Ministerial Meeting yesterday. As the European Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, I was delighted to co-host with my colleague and friend, the African Union Commissioner, Mr Sacko, at this particular meeting.

I want to thank the many Ministers and Ambassadors who participated and thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for graciously making FAO headquarters available. I also want to thank my friend, Egypt's Agricultural Minister, Professor Abosteit, the capable President and Office of the African Union Council of Ministers, for his major contribution.

Africa and Europe are bound by ties of history, geography and culture. We also have a strategic relationship, now here more so than in the field of agriculture and food, which is vital for our wellbeing and our shared prosperity.

Yesterday, Ministers adopted a declaration, an Action Plan that was signed as two regions together, which sets out a long term strategy for agricultural development across the whole African Continent. It is a partnership of equals, it is business to business, government to government, people to people and in a rich day of discussion we jointly identified the challenges and also the opportunities that Africa faces in agriculture. We also identified many of the solutions, including sustainable production, innovation, the role of women, the importance of empowering young people, particularly in relation to job creation, as well as, the role of the public and the private sector in terms of investment in these areas.

The Action Plan that we agreed on yesterday and the strategic declaration that we signed is an African agenda that reflects Africa's priorities. It is for Africa to set its own priorities and its own policies. Europe's role is to support Africa with technical assistance financial support and experience. We want to work with our African partners bilaterally, through and with, FAO with its unique expertise. FAO and other multilateral bodies based here in Rome, and elsewhere, are key actors in this new strategic alliance.

We are now going to implement this strategy and the Action Plan. We have an ambitious, action orientated agenda, one that will create jobs in rural areas, and will make agriculture and food a more attractive sector for our young people in Africa. An agenda that will bring more private investments to Africa and help grow the food industry. This is an agenda that will make agriculture more sustainable and productive, improve Africans' desire for greater food security, and help achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an agenda that will help Africa create a continental free trade area.

Let me conclude by thanking the African Union and its Members for their commitment and their partnership with Europe, for their partnership will help Africa to fulfil its 2063 Agenda and its comprehensive Action Plan for Africa, especially in relation to agricultural development. A partnership that will bring our two continents even closer together.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Por hoy hemos terminado nuestro trabajo. Volveremos a reunirnos mañana por la mañana, a las 10.30 para continuar con el tema 6 y votaremos el nombramiento del Director General para el período comprendido entre el 1 de agosto de 2019 y el 31 de julio de 2023.

Habida cuenta de la importancia de la votación, es esencial que estemos todos presentes a las 10.30 horas con miras a garantizar que haya quórum y poder realizar la votación.

Antes de declarar clausurada la sesión, permítanme recordar a los miembros del Comité General, entre los que figuran mis compañeros vicepresidentes que se dirijan a la Sala de Líbano, edificio D, segunda planta sala D-209 para asistir a la segunda sesión del Comité General que comenzará inmediatamente.

The meeting rose at 16:12 hours
La séance est levée à 16 h 12
Se levanta la sesión a las 16.12

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 June 2019

The Third Meeting was opened at 10:53 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 10.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

First Report of the Credentials Committee
Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales
(C 2019/LIM/16 Rev.1)

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la tercera sesión plenaria del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

En este momento invito a la Sra. Presidenta del Comité de Credenciales, Embajadora Daniela Rotondaro, a leer el informe del Comité de Credenciales.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

I will read the first report of the Credentials Committee which held two meetings on 19 and 22 June 2019 to examine the credentials received.

The Committee elected myself as its Chairperson and Her Excellency, Karla Gabriela Samayoa Recari, Ambassador of Guatemala, as its Vice-Chairperson. With respect to the acceptance of credentials, the Credentials Committee noted Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) on Delegations and Credentials, as well as the practice and criteria followed by the Organization.

In accordance with the prevailing practice in the United Nations system on this matter, and in line with General Assembly Resolution 396, the Credentials Committee also noted that the 148th Session of the Council, held in December 2013, endorsed a proposal to further streamline the overall process of the acceptance of credentials. This included the credentials issued by Permanent Representatives accredited to the Organization, taking into account the reduction in the duration of the Sessions of the Conference, as well as recent practices of other organizations of the United Nations system.

One-hundred and ninety-two Member Nation and one Member Organization, the European Union, have submitted credentials or information on the composition of their delegation, provided in the Annex of the Report. A Member Organization does not participate in voting for elective places as per the GRO Rule XLV, paragraph 2.

Two Members and two Associate Members have not provided any information on their participation or representation in the Conference Session. The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials of the delegation listed in the Annex of this first Report, C 2019/LIM/16 Rev.1, be accepted and that all delegations be authorized to participate fully in the Conference Session.

The list reflects the situation as of 22 June 2019. The Report contains two footnotes and I invite the Conference to approve the Report in block.

PRESIDENTE

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia aprueba el informe del Comité de Credenciales?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Así queda decidido.

Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee
Rapport de la deuxième réunion du Bureau
Informe de la segunda sesión del Comité General
(C 2019/LIM/18)

PRESIDENTE

Propongo ahora que la Conferencia apruebe el informe de la segunda sesión del Comité General. Asegúrense de tener ante ustedes el documento C 2019/LIM/18. Sugiero que aprobemos el informe, párrafo por párrafo.

Párrafo 1. ¿Algún comentario?

Aprobado.

Párrafo 2. ¿Algún comentario?

Aprobado.

Párrafo 3. ¿Algún comentario?

Aprobado.

Párrafo 4. ¿Algún comentario?

Aprobado

Párrafo 5. ¿Algún comentario?

Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobado el informe de la segunda sesión del Comité General.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 6. Appointment of the Director-General (continued) (Vote)

Point 6. Nomination du Directeur general (suite) (vote)

Tema 6. Nombramiento del Director General (continuación) (Votación)

(C 2019/7; C 2019/7 Add. 1; C 2019/7 Add. 2; C 2019/12 Rev.1; C 2019/LIM/17; C 2019/LIM/18)

PRESIDENTE

Continuaremos ahora con el siguiente tema, que es el tema 6, *Nombramiento del Director General*. Como saben, hay tres candidatos al cargo de Director General para el período comprendido entre el 1 de agosto de 2019 y el 31 de julio de 2023, a saber: el Sr. Qu Dongyu (China), la Sra. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Francia) y el Sr. Davit Kirvalidze (Georgia).

Ahora procederemos a una votación secreta a fin de elegir al Director General para el período comprendido entre el 1 de agosto de 2019 y el 31 de julio de 2023. De conformidad con lo dispuesto en el párrafo 1 del artículo VII de la Constitución y el artículo XXXVII del Reglamento General de la Organización (RGO), la Conferencia nombra al Director General.

De conformidad con lo dispuesto en el párrafo 10 a) del artículo XII del RGO, el nombramiento del Director General se decide mediante votación secreta.

Doy la palabra al Oficial de elecciones para que informe sobre los procedimientos de votación.

ELECTIONS OFFICER

Before running through the voting procedures, I wish to remind all Members and delegates of the fundamental importance of complete secrecy of the ballot.

I also wish to remind all Members and delegates of the requirement that all those responsible for the supervision of any vote by secret ballot shall not disclose, to any unauthorized person, any information which might tend, or be presumed to tend, towards destroying the secrecy of the ballot in accordance with the General Rules of the Organization (GRO).

Following the decision of the Conference of yesterday, electronic recording devices, defined as any device that can be used to record images, including but not limited to, cameras, mobile phones or smart watches, shall not be allowed within the voting area.

Delegates who vote must leave any such devices in a tray at the entrance of the voting area, and they should show the tellers that they do not have electronic devices. Recording devices will be kept under the supervision of a security guard. They will be returned to the delegate at the exit of the voting area, after the delegate has deposited the ballot paper in the ballot box.

I will now proceed to describe the voting procedures.

Delegates will be called one by one to go to the voting area at the corner to my right. Delegates must bring their Conference registration pass to show to the teller at the entrance for identification. A ballot paper will then be issued. The ballot paper indicates the names and countries of the three candidates in alphabetical order of the country. Delegates are invited to cast their vote by placing an 'X' in the box corresponding to their preferred candidate. Ballot papers left blank will be considered abstentions.

Under Paragraph 4 (c) of Rule XII of the GRO, the ballot paper shall carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating a vote, as this would invalidate the ballot paper. In addition, a ballot paper with more than one vote will not be valid.

Paragraph 10 (f) of Rule XII of the GRO, states that should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the Elections Officer.

In accordance with Rule XII, Paragraph 3 of the GRO, and Rule XXXVII, Paragraph 2 of the GRO, the Director-General is elected by a majority of votes cast. The term 'votes cast' means votes for any of the candidates, excluding abstentions and defective ballots.

May I remind delegates that in accordance with Paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the GRO, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the vote.

In accordance with Rule XII, Paragraph 2 (a) of the GRO, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 98 Member Nations must be present at this time.

We will now establish whether we have a quorum. Each delegation present is requested to press the green button on their desks so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

The electronic system indicates that there are 191 delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

PRESIDENTE

De conformidad con el párrafo 10 (c) (i) del artículo XII del RGO, el Presidente de la Conferencia designa como escrutadores a dos delegados o representantes. Por lo tanto solicito a los delegados del Canadá, Excelentísima Señora Alexandra Bugailiskis, y de Zimbabwe, Excelentísimo Señor Godfrey C. Magwenzi, que se dirijan a la zona de votación.

Ahora la Sub Secretaria General convocará a los votantes a pasar a la zona de votación.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

Ha finalizado la votación. Los escrutadores y los interventores designados por los candidatos abandonarán la sala.

Los escrutadores procederán al recuento de los votos con la ayuda del Oficial encargado de la elección. Suspendaremos temporalmente esta sesión mientras se realiza el escrutinio.

The meeting was suspended between 12:16 and 13:37

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 16 à 13 h 37

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.16 a las 13.37

Sírvanse regresar a sus asientos ahora. Continuaremos con el tema 6: *Nombramiento del Director General*.

A continuación leeré el resultado de la votación.

Resultado de la votación.

Papeletas depositadas: 192.

Abstenciones: 1.

Papeletas defectuosas: 0.

Votos emitidos: 191.

Mayoría: 96.

Sr. Qu Dongyu (China): 108.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Señora Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Francia): 71.

Señor Davit Kirvalidze, Georgia: 12.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	1	ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (1.8.2019 - 31.7.2023) ELECTION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL (1.8.2019 - 31.7.2023) ELECCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL (1.8.2019 - 31.7.2023)
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	192
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

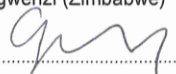
4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	191
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	96
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Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos		Eliminated – Éliminé – Eliminado	
Qu Dongyu (China)	108	Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (France)	71		
		Davit Kirvalidze (Georgia)	12		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Alexandra Bugajliskis (Canada)
Signature 
Firma

Godfrey Magwenzi (Zimbabwe)
Signature 
Firma

Date
Fecha 23/06/2019


Ilja Betlem
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

PRESIDENTE

Por lo tanto, ha sido elegido el Doctor Qu Dongyu de China. Permítanme invitar al Director General electo a subir al estrado.

Deseo felicitar al nuevo Director General por su elección, compartir con ustedes la satisfacción de un proceso electoral con todas las garantías; auguro a usted éxito en el período comprendido entre el 1 de agosto de 2019 y el 31 de julio de 2023, y por supuesto, doy por descontado el apoyo y trabajo de todos los Miembros por una FAO vigorosa que avance en cumplimiento de sus objetivos en un mundo sin hambre.

Voy a dar ahora la palabra al Director General electo.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Qu DONGYU (DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT)

Today is a special day. Not only is it the election day of FAO, however, it is also an Olympic day. We at FAO pursue to be faster, higher and stronger.

Today is your day. Member Countries combine to make a new starting point of history.

Today is our day to marshal the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

First, I am very grateful to all Member Countries for your active participation, evaluation and conclusion. My thanks go to the other candidates who have accompanied me in this challenge, and this has prompted me to think over and to be better. Thank you for your strength, support and consolidation.

My thanks go to the other participants who are willing to inspire us a lot over how the future of FAO should be. I am very grateful to my Motherland as I would not be who I am without her 40 years of successful reform and opening up.

My appreciation goes to my team who have worked day and night with me for a common task and mission. I am also indebted to my family, my teachers and my colleagues both in China and abroad whose care, love and inspiration have always been with me along my journey.

Thank you all, working staff here at FAO, for your contribution to this successful election. Now that the election is over, the duties are on my shoulders. As the new FAO Direct-General elect, I will be committed to the original aspirations, mandates and missions of the Organization. I take my responsibilities under the supervision of the Conference and the Council in a real based approach. I will uphold the principles of fairness, openness, justice and transparency, remaining impartial and neutral.

I will make the full range of my efforts and my commitment, and I will lead all FAO staff to think for Member Countries, to work for the people and the farmers, to design bigger, be concrete and aim right.

Let us join hand in hand to build a dynamic FAO for a better world with successful achievements of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

De esta forma concluye por hoy la labor de la Conferencia. A continuación, le vamos a ceder la palabra al Director General, Sr. Graziano da Silva.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I just wanted to congratulate Dr Qu and China for this victory and I wish you success in driving this Organization forward.

I would like to hand you your FAO badge, so that you can enter the Organization whenever you would like to.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

De esta forma concluye por hoy la labor de la Conferencia. Deseo agradecer a los candidatos, los escrutadores, los interventores y a todos los que han intervenido en la votación por la manera en la que se ha desarrollado el proceso electoral. Naturalmente, expresamos nuestras felicitaciones y nuestros mejores deseos una vez más al Director General electo. Con esto concluye el tema 6 del programa.

Mr Changfu HAN (China) (Original language Chinese)

After a fair and friendly competition, FAO has elected its ninth Director-General today.

First, I would like to congratulate the success of Dr Qu Dongyu. To the other candidates, I would like to extend my appreciation and respect for your support to the multilateral liaison on food and agricultural affairs. The Chinese government was responsible for reviewing the capacity and background of its candidate, selecting Dr Qu Dongyu.

The success of Dr Qu Dongyu has reflected the trust of all Member States and their support. It also demonstrates that you have confidence in China as a large contributor to the world's food security. Here, taking this opportunity on behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the Member States.

Since its foundation, 74 years ago, FAO has been committed to eliminating hunger and poverty. Today, FAO is faced with more complex challenges and situations. We need to make a more dynamic FAO through reform and transformation and to play the unique role of FAO in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda. This is a challenge for the Director-General elect and is also our task.

I believe that Dr Qu Dongyu will deliver on his commitment and make plans and, in the shortest time, advance the new changes in the operation of FAO and, under his effort, FAO will deliver a more effective and efficient service to Member States. FAO will lead the governance in FAO's work in the food and agricultural affairs. It will also bring new hope to Member States.

China is a Founding Member of FAO and is a large developing Nation. China will continue to deliver on its commitment and obligations as an FAO Member State, enhance cooperation with all other countries, and join hands with other countries for Zero Hunger, food security and to aim towards the UN Sustainable Development Agenda. We will also contribute to a beautiful future for mankind and play a better role.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Les recuerdo, que los que quieren hacer uso de la palabra, deban pulsar el botón que tienen encima de su mesa.

Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)

On behalf of my Government, as the host country of this Organization, I would like to welcome the new Director-General. We look forward to an intense cooperation and support in the interest of all the Member States.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Ali AL FARSI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Regional Group of the Organization, I would like to express our heartfelt congratulations and our heartfelt gratitude to Dr José Graziano da Silva for all the work he has done in this Organization. He has contributed to the development of the Organization, has supported Member Countries and has upheld the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite every challenge, including the lack of resources, the increasing number of crises, and the increasing number of conflicts around the world, including the Near East. He has carried the flame.

We would like to express all our respect to Dr José Graziano da Silva. He has given great interest to the North African and Near East Region. He has shown sympathy to everything we have gone through and we would like to wish him all the best for the future.

I would also like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the elected Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu. Our group has supported you, and in the future we hope you will continue working for the welfare of all nations.

Our region looks forward to improving agriculture, and making agriculture the pillar of welfare around the world.

We would support and congratulate you on your election, Dr Qu Dongyu.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Didier GUILLAUME (France)

Après cette élection, je voudrais tout d'abord adresser, au nom de mon Gouvernement, toutes nos sincères félicitations à M. Qu Dongyu, le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO. Je lui souhaite le meilleur, je lui souhaite la réussite et je lui souhaite de travailler en co-construction sur ce que seront les transitions agricoles et alimentaires du 21^{ème} siècle.

Je voudrais saluer les deux autres candidats, M. Kirvalidze, et évidemment saluer Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, mon amie, la candidate de la France et de l'Union européenne, qui aura porté dans cette campagne un projet multilatéral, un projet qui permette aux agriculteurs de mieux vivre de leur rémunération, et qui permette surtout, et c'est ça l'enjeu du 21^{ème} siècle, l'accès de tous à une alimentation saine, sûre, durable et équitable.

Je souhaite vraiment que nous puissions mettre en vous toute la confiance, Monsieur le Directeur général, afin qu'ensemble nous travaillions dans une co-construction, et que la FAO rayonne, que la FAO se développe, qu'aucune partie du monde, aucune région du monde ne soit oubliée. Parce que l'enjeu du 21^{ème} siècle, c'est évidemment l'alimentation pour tous, mais c'est aussi que nos agriculteurs du monde entier, des cinq continents, arrivent à vivre de leur travail et pensent que l'avenir de la planète passera par une agriculture plus durable, une agriculture qui lutte contre le réchauffement climatique, et une agriculture qui permette de donner une alimentation, la meilleure, à tous les habitants de notre planète.

Je vous remercie. Je vous souhaite bon vent, et bonne réussite.

Applause

Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Grisada BOONRACH (Thailand)

Thailand is speaking on behalf of Asian Regional Group . We would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu, the newly elected Director-General of FAO.

We also would like to express our appreciation to all other candidates for the good spirits and determination to transform FAO in the future. We expect that as the new elected Director-General, you will create a collaborative and constructive environment at FAO, and will bring a more dynamic environment to this Organization.

Finally, we will bring this Organization together to end hunger and poverty.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Nicolas HOUTONJI ACAPO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Director General electo Doctor Qu Dongyu, el pueblo de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y su gobierno se unen a mí para expresar a vuestra Excelencia nuestras más sinceras y efusivas felicitaciones por su elección como Director General de esta digna Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Aprovecho la ocasión para formularle nuestros mejores votos y éxitos en esta nueva tarea tan importante, cual es conducir los destinos históricos de esta Organización.

Estoy seguro de que en ese rol de tanta trascendencia se pondrá de manifiesto su conocida capacidad de trabajo en temas como la seguridad alimentaria, el cambio climático, la inmigración y el equilibrio geográfico. En el mismo contexto, le manifestamos nuestra firme voluntad de mantener y fortalecer cada vez más las excelentes relaciones de amistad y cooperación existente entre la FAO y la República de Guinea Ecuatorial. Felicitaciones, Director General electo.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Abdus Sobhan SIKDER (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh would like to convey its best congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu for being elected as the Director-General of FAO. Today, Rome gets a new principal under whose leadership we will fight against poverty and hunger. We believe that you and the other Rome-Based Agencies are uniquely positioned to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, by ensuring sustainable agriculture systems and global food security.

Honourable Director-General, we have full confidence on your professionalism and wisdom and believe that you will run this specialized Organization for the people who need its support desperately.

On this special occasion, Bangladesh would also like to appreciate the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr José Graziano da Silva, as the architect of Brazil's Zero Hunger programme that has helped millions of people to come out of hunger and extreme poverty. His leadership and dedication to developing a world without hunger is commendable.

I wish all success to the new Director-General and assure our fullest support.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Frédéric SEPPEY (Canada)

On behalf of the North America Group, I wish to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his designation as the Director-General of FAO. We wish to assure him of our full support as he leads FAO in the coming years.

We noted his commitment to work towards improving agricultural production and value chains for sustainable development. We also note his stated commitment to ensure that the Organization continues to be managed in the most effective and transparent manner for all Members.

Global food and agricultural challenges that the world will be facing in coming years, truly require the collaboration of all.

Suite en français

Nous désirons également saluer les deux autres candidats, Mme Geslain-Lanéelle, ainsi que M. Davit Kirvalidze, qui ont su travailler avec ardeur au cours des derniers mois pour proposer leur vision pour l'avenir de la FAO, et je suis certain que certaines des propositions qu'ils ont faites sauront être reprises par le Directeur général et l'Organisation dans leurs travaux futurs. Enfin, permettez-moi d'exprimer notre plus vive gratitude pour l'engagement et la passion qu'a su démontrer le Directeur général sortant, M. Graziano da Silva, par sa gestion de l'Organisation au cours des huit dernières années. Nous lui en sommes fort gré.

Applause***Applaudissements******Aplausos*****Mr Kok Thai LIM (Singapore)**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Singapore, the Singaporean delegation would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as the Director-General of FAO.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the other two candidates for having run this very important campaign. We are confident that in your leadership, Dr Qu Dongyu, you will guide this important Organization in the coming years ahead and look forward to working closely with you and FAO.

We also wish to record our thanks to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his significant contribution during his tenure as FAO Director-General, particularly his efforts towards Zero Hunger.

Applause***Applaudissements******Aplausos*****Mr Joseph Jonathan NDANEMA (Sierra Leone)**

On behalf of my country, Sierra Leone, I want to seize this opportunity to say thanks to the organizers, of this very important 41st Session of the FAO Conference in electing the Director-General of FAO.

I also want to thank the participants, the other two candidates, who took part and whose programmes presented to us yesterday are all excellent for the Organization.

Finally, I want to thank Dr Qu Dongyu, the winner of this election, and also remind him that we, coming from the African continent, are very much hopeful for his ascent to that position. We are hopeful because we have a lot at hand to improve for our people, especially their food security. We are hopeful because we are also using agriculture as a vehicle for employment of our young people. Therefore, forget us not. Remember us as you do the work for the Organization.

We also want to thank the outgoing Director-General.

Applause

Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Ajiang Adiang MARIK AJING (South Sudan)

On behalf of the G77, I would like to recognize the work done by Dr José Graziano da Silva during his tenure as Director-General, acknowledging his tireless commitment to Zero Hunger and ending all forms of malnutrition.

Dr Qu Dongyu, on behalf of the G77, we wish you heartfelt congratulations for winning the election and obtaining the seat of Director-General of FAO. We know how much effort you have put in to achieve it and finally you have achieved it.

Nonetheless, we are looking forward to your work and hope you will take up all the responsibilities as you mentioned during the campaign. It is no surprise, your untiring efforts and clear vision has been a significant contribution to this success and we have no doubt that you will continue the good work to further develop and enhance this global Organization.

Your success is a reflection of your leadership qualities and professionalism. Through sheer hard work and dedication, you have proven your capabilities beyond doubt and we are certain that your new assignment will make a positive impact and pave the ways for a firm platform in this challenging position.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you of the issues of concern to the G77 and China Members that were raised during the election campaign. These issues are key to achieving the SDGs in developing countries, such as agricultural transformation, family farming and rural development, among others, to improve the livelihoods of the youth and women and to meet 2030 Goals.

We have high expectations from you and we hope that you will not let us down. The G77 looks forward in working closely to strengthen the cooperation between the Rome based Agencies (RBAs), WFP, IFAD and FAO.

Once again, we congratulate and wish you success in your new endeavours. All the best for you, and for your tenure.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Paulo VEIGA (Cabo Verde)

On behalf of Cabo Verde and the community of the Portuguese speaking countries, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), which we chair, we would like to extend the warmest congratulations from the Lusophone community to the newly elected Director-General of FAO.

We would also like to congratulate the other two candidates for their commitment and for making themselves available to lead the future of this international Organization.

The National Food Security and Nutrition Council of CPLP are already recognized as a model of good multilateral governance of food security and nutrition issues. I am convinced that this should be an example to the whole world.

We sincerely hope that the new administration of FAO will continue to support CPLP activities that are naturalized through the nearly upgraded office in Lisbon, as a way to improve food security and nutrition issues, particularly in Africa and Asia. Family farming, healthy diets and sustainable agriculture are also key issues to be further improved.

To finalize, I would like to pay special tribute to the Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva as the mastermind for the CPLP boosted food security and nutritional matters. We will certainly miss his bright vision.

Applause

Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Levan DAVITASHVILI (Georgia)

Let me sincerely congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his election to the position of Director-General of FAO and wish him every success in his work in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the candidate of France for the friendly and very interesting competition. Let me also thank the countries who supported and trusted the Georgian candidate.

Finally, and of course, let me thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his leadership.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express our sincere congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu for his election as Director-General of FAO.

Our thanks also go to the other candidates, Madame Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle and Mr Davit Kirvalidze for a really fascinating campaign, and a competitive and fair competition.

Let me say that you, Dr Qu Dongyu, have achieved a convincing victory and you now have a broad legitimacy. This is also a responsibility, of course. We wish you success in your new office and we wish that you will be able to contribute to exploit FAO's full potential in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to be a true global leader of a global Organization. We wish that you will be able to unite, to work inclusively and cross-sectoral.

We look forward to a constructive and amicable collaboration, and in this context we assure you of our full support in achieving your goals.

Our thanks also go to Director-General Graziano da Silva for his leadership in the last few years.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

On behalf of Australia, we would like to congratulate Dr Qu for his election today as the incoming Director-General of FAO. We look forward to working with him towards continual improvement in the transparency and efficiency of FAO's governance structures, supporting technical work on food and agriculture, and ensuring that the interests of our Pacific neighbours are well reflected in FAO's work.

We would also like to thank the candidates and the countries that sponsored them for participating in the elections.

Finally, but definitely not lastly, we would like to thank the outgoing Director-General. We thank him for his significant contribution to the work of the FAO and for his leadership. We wish you all the best for the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Nadeem RIYAZ (Pakistan)

Pakistan congratulates Dr Qu on his new assignment.

I would also like to thank the two other candidates for their election campaign and their commitments. It was an intense election campaign and now it is time to change gear and work for the future of this Organization in a challenging environment.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his commitment and for his leadership of this Organization over the last eight years.

Lastly, I would like to wish Dr Qu success in his new assignment as we look forward to working with you in future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Michael OYUGI (Kenya)

On behalf of the Kenya delegation, I convey our congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu, the incoming Director-General. His decisive election clearly conveys the kind of support that he has within the membership of the Organization. We look forward to working closely with the new Director-General and assure him of Kenya's support and cooperation. We wish him all the success during his tenure at the helm of this Organization.

In the same breath, we also pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, who has put every effort and ensured that the Organization remains on a sound footing and wish him

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Audley Fitz SHAW (Jamaica)

On behalf of Jamaica and the entire Caribbean region, I would like to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his years of service to this Organization. He was quite close to our region and we appreciate the work that he has done.

I would also like to congratulate all the candidates. We can all agree that they were all outstanding candidates.

I have to, also, congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election and we look forward in the region to creating an agricultural revolution so that we can all move from poverty to prosperity.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC (Uruguay)

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. En nombre del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, mi delegación quisiera felicitar a todos los candidatos que se han presentado para este puesto por el compromiso que mostraron hacia la organización, hacia todos los Estados miembros durante la campaña. Durante la cual solicitaron no solo el apoyo sino también la opinión, las sugerencias en un diálogo abierto.

Al señor Director General saliente, nuestro grupo se enorgullece de haberlo tenido todo este tiempo liderando nuestra organización. Le deseamos todo lo mejor en toda tarea, porque seguramente no se va a quedar en su casa tranquilo. En cualquier tarea que comience. Al Director General electo Qu Dongyu, sepa señor que va a tener el apoyo de nuestro grupo regional y que continuaremos el trabajo conjunto que nos ha caracterizado durante este tiempo. Nuestra región será muy activa pero va a tener en ella una puerta abierta para el diálogo, cosa que también esperamos de usted.

Le deseamos todo lo mejor porque la responsabilidad que le espera y los desafíos que lo esperan no son pocos. Así que, muchísima suerte y todo nuestro apoyo en esta nueva etapa.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Mohammad Hossein EMADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On behalf of my Government, I would like to congratulate FAO for a smooth and speedy voting, and for a healthy election.

I would like to express a word of thanks to Dr José Graziano da Silva for his leadership and efforts during the last two terms.

I would also like to express my sincere congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu, as a respective candidate of China and G77. We wish him success and I am sure thanks to your valuable experience and knowledge gathered over the last three decades, we will have good results and we will all benefit.

It is a victory that gives us hope that we can work together and unite on the same goals, poverty elevation and Zero Hunger.

I wish you, and all the candidates, the best.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to align itself with the statement by the Group of 77, China and Asian Group and on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his election as the Director-General of FAO.

We also would like to appreciate the other two candidates, from France and Georgia.

We have high hopes for the betterment of FAO and we trust, under the leadership of Dr Qu Dongyu, that the Organization can carry out its mandate and benefit all Member Countries equally.

Indonesia stands ready to work together.

Allow me, also, to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his work over the past eight years.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation and, more so, on behalf of the African Regional Group, I want to firstly congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva, the outgoing Director-General, and I think he can safely say now: I have fought a good fight, I have stayed the course and I am faithful. Congratulations, Dr José Graziano da Silva. We are all proud of you. The truth of the matter is, there is no perfect boss, neither is there any perfect situation. You did your best and we appreciate you. I wish you success in your future endeavors.

To you, the new Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, we congratulate you. You have a big task ahead of you, the task of making sure that inclusiveness will be part and parcel of your agenda.

No one should be left behind.

It is not a slogan, it is something that must be jealously guarded and worked on. The work and challenges ahead are huge.

With all the people here, and with hands of friendship, and in keeping our focus on the billions of people out there that need us to give them direction and what they need, I can assure you, that we can work together and look back and say that this is success.

Do not forget consensus. Working with inter-governmental agencies is not the easiest of things however, if you allow yourself to be open and willing to have informal conversations and discussions on any major issue, at the end of the day, you will be successful and by the time you finish, either in four or eight years, your hair will not be all white.

Congratulations.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Jaana HUSU KALLIO (Finland)

On behalf of the European Regional Group and the Republic of Finland, firstly I would like to extend our very warm congratulations to you, Dr Qu Dongyu. Well done. We wish you all the success in the very demanding work ahead. It is quite clear that you cannot do it alone and it needs huge amount of global cooperation; not least in the area of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I also want to thank the two other candidates.

Last but not least, thank you very much, indeed, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for the leadership you have provided for the benefit of the world over the past eight years.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Felix PLASENCIA GONZÁLEZ (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Felicito el triunfo del Doctor Qu Dongyu. Es un triunfo que seguramente dará muchas esperanzas a los países del sur, a los países en desarrollo. Cuente usted con el compromiso y el esfuerzo del pueblo del Gobierno de Venezuela.

Felicito también el esfuerzo de los dos otros candidatos y aprovecho esta importante oportunidad para dar las gracias y felicitar a nuestro hermano brasileño, nuestro hermano latinoamericano, José Graziano da Silva, por el maravilloso y profundo trabajo realizado estos últimos años. Éxitos, salud y felicidad en su futuro.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Géraldine MUKESHIMANA (Rwanda)

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Dr Qu Dongyu for your victory as the Director-General of FAO. I wish you success and we look forward to working with you.

I also wanted to extend a special appreciation to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for your energy, passion and actions towards Zero Hunger.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Shirish Manaklal SONI (South Africa)

Allow me to congratulate the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu. I would like to mention that we are your biggest partner in the G77 and China, and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and as Foreign Ministers of Africa and China. Please rely on our principle based support.

I would like to congratulate the other candidates as well for a very insightful, positive and clean campaign.

I would like to read something that Dr Mandela has said. ‘Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up.’

Dr Qu Dongyu, your skill, insight and knowledge are required and to address hunger and the SDGs, we all need to work together. Therefore, there is no winner, we have come through a process where we have a leader.

I would also like to thank the current Director-General, for supporting us continuously and dedicating the last eight years of your life to FAO. More importantly, I would like to thank you for inviting Ms Graça Machel to deliver the lecture yesterday.

I would like to remind each one of us about the key points she mentioned. She said, no child should die of hunger. She also said, we need to stop the hardship on the bodies of women who are in the agricultural sector by implementing model tools. She promoted gender equality during her insightful speech to us.

In saying that, I do hope that all of us can set our sights on having a future FAO Director-General who is a woman, and I think this will serve us well going forward. We would also like to thank the European Union and the African Ministers for the insightful conversation two days ago. This report was given to the plenary yesterday and I am sure that we will work collectively to implement all of the decisions that were made there.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Vincent SSEMPIJJA (Uganda)

On behalf of the Uganda delegation, I wish to offer our sincere thanks, firstly, to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for having spearheaded this vibrant FAO. We thank you very much for loving our country and supporting us in our endeavours to feed not only Ugandans, also the 1.5 million refugees you personally visited them.

I thank you very much, Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, and I wish to assure you that Uganda will provide support and cooperation to your administration.

We thank all the other countries who were not successful. They were all worthy candidates and their participation and agendas sent a big message to the world that FAO is still a very important Organization, especially in our shared effort to end hunger on this planet.

We wish you the best Dr Qu Dongyu and we wish everybody in FAO a good life.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Reenat SANDHU (India)

On behalf of India please allow me to express our sincere congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as the new Director-General of FAO. We also appreciate the contribution of the candidates from France and Georgia during this election process.

As a land of smallholder farmers, India strongly believes that farmers are key agents of change for food systems. Together with FAO we remain committed to increasing sustainable production and

productivity of farmers, fostering economic viability and social inclusion through the creation of inclusive markets and opportunities for rural employment.

We look forward to working with the new Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu in achieving our common objectives of addressing the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. We hope that under your leadership these challenges can be overcome through collective and integrated actions.

We also wish to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva for his relentless work at fighting hunger and for his leadership of this Organization.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Hee-seog KWON (Republic of Korea)

My delegation would like to convey our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu of the People's Republic of China on his election as the new Director-General to lead the FAO for the next four years.

We congratulate the candidates of France and Georgia for their fair competition and contributions.

We elected Dr Qu today amid profound challenges and great opportunities facing the entire FAO community. Indeed, the changing context of globalization, digitalization, the first industrial revolution, rural migration and urbanization are creating new dynamics in global food security. To harness these trends in favour of Zero Hunger, our Organization's ultimate goal is the strategic mandate for the new Director-General.

Yesterday, Dr Qu affirmed his commitment to each Organization, innovation and a new culture in the FAO community. He also committed to specific reforms as articulated in his four objectives and five actions to achieve Zero Hunger. We have high hopes that under his outstanding leadership his solemn commitments will be translated into concrete actions at the earliest possible time. The Korean Government is ready to extend its full cooperation to the new Director-General in his noble work.

Finally, my sincere gratitude goes to the Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva and the Secretariat for their dedicated efforts towards Zero Hunger. Over the years, Director General da Silva has exercised outstanding stewardship in leading the Organization in faithfully implementing the tougher mandate accorded to him. We will remember and cherish his achievements and legacies. I wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Losaline MA'ASI (Tonga)

Tonga from the Pacific Island wish to join, together with the other countries and heads of delegations, in congratulating the incoming Director General, Dr Qu Dongyu.

We also thank the outgoing Dr José Graziano da Silva for his services during his role as Director-General.

As a small island developing country we ask that you, Dr Dongyu, strengthen the voice and representation of small island development States in FAO. Particularly, the Pacific Islands who are most vulnerable to climate change and who have travelled the longest distance to be here at every meeting. We look forward to your leadership over the next four years and you have all our support and best wishes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr George ODURO (Ghana)

On behalf of the Ghanaian delegation I would like to convey our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu. We would like to remind him that there is a huge task ahead, considering the good work done so far by the outgoing Director-General. He will need to gather courage and do his duties because of the expectations of Member Countries.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Japhet Ngailonga HASUNGA (Tanzania)

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania and myself, we congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu. We also wish to thank the other two contestants for their participation, initiative and their commitments. We expect that you will fulfil your commitments including ending hunger and poverty.

We also thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva for the good leadership during his term of service.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Henri DJOMBO (Congo)

J'aimerais me joindre à toutes les autres délégations qui ont félicité le nouveau Directeur général pour son élection. Nous savons que M. Qu Dongyu est vice-ministre de l'agriculture de la République populaire de Chine. C'est donc un des nôtres, qui est monté grâce à sa connaissance du terrain et à ce qu'il sait des enjeux et des défis à relever dans l'agriculture mondiale, surtout afin de promouvoir les petits et moyens producteurs, qui sont les plus nombreux et qui tiennent nos économies rurales. Il va bien sûr apporter sa touche pour que les questions qui les intéressent puissent être résolues avec encore plus d'efficacité.

En même temps, la délégation congolaise félicite les autres candidats, de la France et de la Géorgie. On peut dire que leurs programmes ont été bien compris et il serait bien difficile de dire quel était le meilleur, car c'était des programmes très solides pour le développement de l'agriculture mondiale.

Nous félicitons José Graziano da Silva, le Directeur général sortant, pour le travail qu'il a mené. Il a apporté sa pierre à l'édifice de l'agriculture mondiale, mais le chemin est long à parcourir. Nous sommes sûrs que son successeur, prenant le relais, va poursuivre ce travail et accélérer le pas vers une agriculture mondiale durable.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Mitiku Tesso JEBESSA (Ethiopia)

I would like to thank the outgoing Director General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his contributions towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition as well as the development of agriculture, especially in developing countries.

He has engaged different countries facing natural disasters and provided support in coming up with long lasting solutions. I recall when he visited Ethiopia several times. He has hosted two Prime Ministers and other high level officials in his office here at the Headquarters to discuss the agricultural situation in Ethiopia. I wish Dr da Silva a happy and prosperous life in his future endeavours.

I would also like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu for his election. The Government of Ethiopia and I are ready to closely work with you. On another note, I recommend that

Dr Qu Dongyu considers some of the strategies and plans brought up by the other candidates during the campaign. They are believed to make considerable contribution within the Organization and to the global development of agriculture.

Dr Qu Dongyu, we are celebrating your victory and we are ready to closely work with you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Koutéra BATAKA (Togo)

La délégation du Togo se réjouit de cette heureuse nomination, de l'élection du nouveau Directeur général, et tient aussi à féliciter, comme les prédécesseurs l'ont fait, le Directeur général sortant, M. Graziano da Silva, qui, à la tête de notre Organisation, a mis en place des réformes formidables.

Nous félicitons aussi les deux candidats de la France et de la Géorgie, dont les programmes et propositions sont aussi importants à prendre en compte que le programme du nouveau Directeur général. Le Gouvernement du Togo reste disposé à accompagner les engagements formulés par M. Qu, et souhaite que leur mise en œuvre soit diligente, afin de transformer l'économie rurale et l'économie des pays en voie de développement, dont l'agriculture représente le soubassement.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Petre DAEA (Romania)

On behalf of Romania, Presidency of the European Union, thanks for the work of Dr José Graziano da Silva and for this event.

Congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu and I wish him success. I am hopeful of a good collaboration in the future.

In addition, congratulations to Catherine Lanéelle our European Union candidate.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb AL MHEIRI (United Arab Emirates)

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, we would like to convey our warm congratulations to the newly elected FAO Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu. Be reassured Dr Qu that the United Arab Emirates will continue its support and looks forward to ensuring food security for all.

Thank you also to the other two candidates for a fair and competitive election.

We also convey our sincere gratitude to our brother and friend, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for all his efforts and support and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. His valuable inputs are well recognised around the world.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Mamadou Saliou DIOUF (Sénégal)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle de ceux qui m'ont précédé, pour féliciter le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Qu Dongyu, et féliciter la Chine pour ce succès. Nous lui exprimons notre soutien sans faille et notre totale collaboration pour une FAO plus forte et plus performante.

Nous souhaitons également féliciter et rendre un vibrant hommage au Directeur général sortant, M. José Graziano da Silva, pour son leadership et pour l'engagement inlassable dont il a fait montre tout au long de ses mandats à la tête de notre Organisation.

Enfin, je voudrais féliciter les candidats qui n'ont pas pu être élus, la candidate française et le candidat géorgien, et nous espérons que leurs très bonnes idées vont trouver d'autres cadres pour être utilisées dans la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, pour votre présidence de la séance et l'organisation de l'élection qui s'est déroulée de façon transparente et équitable.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mme Thi Bich Hue NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

Au nom du Gouvernement vietnamien, je voudrais adresser de chaleureuses félicitations à M. Qu Dongyu pour son élection en tant que nouveau Directeur général de la FAO. Félicitations pour ce succès après une intense et efficace campagne durant laquelle vous avez su convaincre en partageant votre vision et vos priorités.

Le Viet Nam est prêt à travailler avec vous, avec la FAO comme toujours, pour atteindre nos objectifs communs de développement durable, dont la Faim zéro et la lutte contre le changement climatique. Je vous souhaite beaucoup de succès dans vos nouvelles fonctions.

Nous voudrions vous remercier également M. Graziano da Silva pour votre précieuse contribution à nos objectifs communs durant votre mandat. Enfin, merci aux candidats français et géorgien pour avoir partagé leur vision et leur programme tout au long de la campagne et nous espérons que ces priorités et programmes seront pris en compte par le nouveau Directeur général.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Mohd Sallehudin HASSAN (Malaysia)

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu. Our appreciation also goes to the other two candidates.

It is now time for all of us to work together and focus on the primary objective of FAO.

I would also like to express our appreciation to His Excellency, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his contribution over the past eight years and his unrelenting effort towards achieving Zero Hunger.

Once again, congratulations to Dr Qu.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

On behalf of my Government, I would like to start by expressing our appreciation for all the candidates and their respective campaign teams for the open discussions about the urgent need for sustainable transformation of agriculture and the food system. I would like to congratulate the incoming Director-General on his election.

Dr José Graziano da Silva, your tenure as Director-General has been very intense and the Organization has gone through significant changes. One of the most important developments has been the adoption of the Agenda 2030 with so many implications to FAO. We have appreciated your leadership and engagement in this journey. Your valuable experience and academic background have contributed to

keeping and strengthening a knowledge based FAO. Thank you Dr José Graziano da Silva, we wish you all the best for the future.

Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General elect, I would like to express our most sincere congratulations upon your election as FAO Director-General. We are convinced that sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural transformation have an essential role in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In this period, I wish to confirm our full support to you and to FAO in your efforts in combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. I wish you perseverance and success for your work. We look forward to a continuous fruitful collaboration.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements that have already been delivered by the G77 and China and Africa.

Firstly, I commend the outgoing Director-General for a job well done. Dr José Graziano da Silva you were a champion for the poor and you gave the poor a voice in the discourse on food and agriculture. You leave a great legacy in this Organization. We wish you well in your next endeavours.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the other two candidates. The candidates of France and Georgia. During the vibrant campaigns, we enjoyed talking to them and their clear visions enabled us to think about what could be incorporated in the Organization's future work. Therefore, we congratulate them for that. We are able to think outside the box and see what is possible.

Finally, I warmly congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for your victory today. Your victory did not start today, you worked very hard and clearly articulated your vision. We look forward to working closely with you in the future to increase and enhance FAO's capacity in delivering results, not only for developing countries but for all Members of this Organization. We look forward to work with you, congratulations.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Murat Salim ESENLİ (Turkey)

On behalf of the Turkish Government I would like to congratulate the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu of the People's Republic of China for his election to the helm of FAO. With my elementary Chinese, Zhùhè.

Turkey is ready to extend all the assistance and full cooperation needed for reaching the Zero Hunger goals during the tenure of the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu.

I also would like to join the previous speakers in thanking Dr José Graziano da Silva for the hard work he put in towards achieving the 2030 Development Goals during his mandate. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

I also want to express our appreciation to the candidates from France and Georgia for their commitment to eradicating hunger and the stimulating and competitive campaign that they have run.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Salifou OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais, au nom du Burkina Faso, remercier d'abord le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Graziano da Silva, pour tout le travail mené à bien, et en particulier pour son soutien à l'instauration de la Journée mondiale des légumineuses par les Nations Unies.

Je voudrais féliciter M. Qu Dongyu pour son élection et lui demander d'œuvrer afin que la FAO soit présente dans tous les pays auprès des populations les plus démunies. Je voudrais terminer en félicitant les deux autres candidats pour leur vision et leur programme, qui pourraient être pris en compte par le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Hiroki TAKABAYASHI (Japan)

Japan would like to associate itself with the remarks made by the Asia Group. We would like to express our sincere congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu on your appointment as the new Director-General of FAO.

We would also like to extend our profound appreciation for the contributions made by the other candidates from France and Georgia during the campaign.

As a staunch contributor to the work of the FAO in the past years, Japan would like to continue to work closely with the FAO under the able leadership of Dr Qu Dongyu.

We also would like to join others in thanking Dr José Graziano da Silva for your long-term commitment and leadership during your tenure as Director-General of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Mahendra REDDY (Fiji)

I want to join the other speakers before me by first of all thanking the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva for the outstanding work that he has done for FAO. The legacy he has left behind will always be there and remembered and will get others to raise their benchmark in doing things for FAO and Member Countries.

I also want to thank the other two candidates who were part of the race. Any competitive process will see that the best outcome is seen and I do wish them well.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Dr Qu Dongyu. You are a top ranked academic; you have been the former Governor and Vice-Governor and also the Vice-Minister of Agriculture of China. There could not have been a better person to lead FAO at this critical juncture.

You are well aware of the impact of climate change on Small Island States, on food security, and nutritional security, and I hope that you will pay a lot of attention on ensuring that we up our game to utilise resources efficiently to deal with some of the very important and urgent matters that are impacting the livelihood of the people in the Pacific.

I join my colleagues in the Pacific in welcoming you to FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Ayeid Mousseid YAHYA (Djibouti)

Qu'il me soit permis, au nom du Gouvernement de la République de Djibouti, de féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Qu Dongyu, pour sa brillante élection aujourd'hui. Notre délégation se tient prête à œuvrer avec lui pour le bien commun de notre Organisation commune. Nous pouvons d'ores et déjà l'assurer de notre soutien sans faille.

Nous voulons également saluer les deux autres candidats pour les efforts déployés, leur excellente vision et leur excellent programme.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais clore mon propos sans saluer l'excellent travail de notre Directeur général sortant, M. José Graziano da Silva, qui a été reconnu mondialement et apprécié à plusieurs titres, qu'il en soit ainsi remercié.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Ahmed ALBAKRI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

Firstly, I would like to thank our dear brother, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his outstanding efforts throughout the past years at the helm of FAO. He had an excellent relationship with all countries, especially with the Near East region. He also had a strong relationship with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, who took the floor before me, my brothers, the Head of the Near East Regional Group, and my colleague from the UAE.

Your Excellency, the Director-General, you provided great support to the GCC countries. You had a special tie with the Sultanate of Oman. We believe that throughout your past visits, especially the last one in January, you provided support to a very important national event relating to the investment in national economies, particularly in the agricultural sector.

We would like to thank you and we express our appreciation for all your efforts. We wish you all success and a long life, especially in the upcoming period.

Secondly, we would like also to congratulate the newly elected Director-General. I have met him on many occasions. I know him very well. He has very professional expertise in agricultural studies. On behalf of Oman, we would like to congratulate you and we look forward to working with you and to guide this international Organization.

We hope that you will continue to support the Near East region, particularly when it comes to issues surrounding water and food security. There is a very urgent need to have your support in these areas.

Thank you for your kind support and we look forward to welcoming you between 1 and 5 March 2020 in Oman as we will be hosting the 35th Session of the Near East Regional Conference in Muscat, if your schedule allows, we hope to welcome you in our country.

Thank you to Dr Abdel Salaam and the Regional Team in Cairo.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Semere AMLESOM (Eritrea)

On behalf of the Eritrean delegation, I warmly congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his election as Director-General of this important UN Institution. Eritrea will fully support Dr Qu Dongyu's endeavours to improve the livelihood of hundreds of millions whose livelihood depends on agriculture but still live below the poverty line.

I would also like to pay tribute to Dr José Graziano da Silva for the outstanding work that he has done over the last eight years of his tenure.

I also thank the other candidates from France and Georgia for their campaign for the position of Director-General and for their wonderful vision for FAO's improvement, which I hope will be encompassed by the incoming Director-General.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Hassan LAKKIS (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Republic of Lebanon we would like to thank the Director-General of FAO, Dr José Graziano da Silva for supporting agriculture in Lebanon throughout his tenure at FAO, and especially at the opening of the Sub Regional Office in Lebanon.

We also congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu and we wish him success for the best interest of agriculture in Lebanon and around the world.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Mahala MOLAPO (Lesotho)

On behalf of the delegation from the Kingdom of Lesotho and his Majesty King Letsie III, as FAO's Special Ambassador for Nutrition, Lesotho conveys her deepest gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva. We wish to acknowledge his commitment to achieving Zero Hunger and elevating the importance of good nutrition. We wish him well in his future obligations.

We also wish to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as Director-General of FAO. He can rely on our unwavering support in furthering his mandate of achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 1 and SDG 2.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Quiero comentarles que me quedan seis delegaciones en la lista de solicitudes.

Mr Said Hussein IID (Somalia)

The Federal Government of Somalia warmly congratulates the newly elected Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation and wish him a successful tenure during his leadership of the Organization. We hope the promise he has made to developing countries that face recurrent drought, famine and hunger will be implemented during his directorship.

We also congratulate the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his vision and dedication, in particular the Zero Hunger Programme, and for the historic visit he made to Somalia in the aftermath of the 2011 drought in which he visited Somalia to witness the effects of the drought in the region.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the other candidates for sharing their vision of FAO. We hope the coming time will be bright and attention will be given to eradicate hunger globally.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Bonaventure KOUAKANNOU (Bénin)

Monsieur le Président, je vous adresse mes félicitations pour avoir conduit de main de maître cette Conférence. Si tout s'est bien passé, c'est grâce à une préparation de qualité. À ce titre, permettez-moi de saluer le savoir-faire de notre frère, José Graziano da Silva, pour tout ce qu'il a donné à notre Organisation internationale, huit ans durant.

C'est le moment de passer le témoin et celui-ci est passé dans une main experte. Je voudrais souhaiter vivement que le nouveau Directeur général puisse tenir compte de l'exposé de Mme Graça Machel, qui nous pose une équation importante pour l'atteinte des objectifs à l'horizon 2030. C'est pourquoi je lui souhaite qu'une co-construction puisse conduire les destinées de notre Organisation internationale. Félicitations pour ce succès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Ahmad Fateh AL QADERI (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Government of Syria, allow me to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu as the new Director-General of FAO. We are confident that he will play a very important role in achieving our joint objective when it comes to supporting small-scale farmers.

I thank all other candidates for their efforts.

Allow me to express my deep appreciation for the outgoing Director-General for all his efforts to modernize FAO. I also thank him for his achievements in the agricultural sector in Damascus, so that we can avert the adverse impacts, especially among farmers in the agricultural sector.

The newly elected Director-General, we believe that you will be able to guide the Organization so that it can achieve its goals. We know that you will modernize it according to your programme and we wish you all the success in your endeavours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Jabulani Clement MABUZA (Eswatini)

On behalf of the Kingdom of Eswatini and His Majesty the King we want to congratulate the new Director-General for coming into office. Campaigning time is over and now the serious work begins.

Dr Qu Dongyu, our people, especially women and our youth need your serious support in making sure that we achieve Zero Hunger. Rest assured, we will support you for the betterment of our people.

We also want to congratulate the other two candidates for sharing their strategies. I hope the incoming Director-General will take some of that information into his strategies so that our countries and our economies develop.

Lastly, let me pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva for all of your hard work towards the development of our people. Let me end by saying to Dr Graziano da Silva, after leaving office, you have to take a break, take your family with you and visit the Kingdom of Eswatini. We are more than ready to welcome you, come and relax after working so hard for the betterment of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Biendi MAGANGA MOUSSAVOU (Gabon)

Monsieur le Directeur général sortant, José Graziano da Silva, je voudrais, au nom de la délégation gabonaise, et partant du Gouvernement de la République gabonaise, vous adresser mes félicitations les plus vives pour votre magistère si plébiscité.

Je voudrais également adresser mes félicitations aux deux autres candidats. Tout d'abord Davit Kirvalidze, le candidat géorgien, pour le projet qu'il a su porter et défendre. Je voudrais naturellement aussi adresser mes félicitations à une femme formidable, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, pour la campagne engagée et inlassable, qu'elle a su mener auprès de nous tous, alliant bon sens et une profonde humanité.

Bien entendu, toutes mes félicitations vont à M. Qu Dongyu. Nous avons eu plusieurs rencontres, chaque fois des rencontres chaleureuses et structurées, pleines d'ambition, une ambition désormais qu'il va falloir mettre au profit de la FAO, en tant que Directeur général.

Faire de la FAO un levier encore plus déterminant de la transformation de l'agriculture africaine, et désormais, avec encore plus d'impact, faire en sorte que plus personne ne se pose la question de savoir dans nos pays à quoi sert la FAO. L'Union africaine, avec l'initiative «CAADP» (Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA) soutenue par nos chefs d'État, et votre longue expérience seront un atout indéniable pour réussir à la tête de la FAO. Vous avez tout notre soutien, je vous remercie.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Caesar SABOTO (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

On behalf of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), we wish to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva, a brother, comrade and a friend for his excellent work in reducing hunger and undernourishment, not only in our region, but also in his fight globally. As he leaves we wish him all the very best.

We also want to thank all the candidates who had put themselves forward from France and Georgia and we wish the incoming Director-General all the very best.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Acabamos de terminar la lista de los Miembros de la FAO. Si no hay más Miembros, le daría la palabra a Palestina.

Disculpe, no lo tenía en la lista pero le doy la palabra en este momento.

Mr Omar FAKEH (Palestine) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Government of the State of Palestine I would to first thank Dr José Graziano da Silva as well as FAO's Management for this democratic process in which many candidates competed. They have many qualifications and actually each one of them is an added value to the Organization.

I would like also to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu, the candidate from China, as a newly elected Director-General for this very important Organization. We are confident that his victory is ours and we are sure that he will embark on this new journey and leverage FAO's work. He will improve development in order to achieve the SDGs.

In Palestine, we look forward to having support from FAO as we did during the tenure of Dr da Silva. Palestine is in need for this support in order to ensure economic growth in the country as we are facing many difficulties.

Lastly, we would like to call upon all countries to provide support to the newly elected Director-General in order to ensure the success and prosperity of all countries in this area.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Quiero aclarar y pedir disculpas porque la delegación de Palestina es observador. Como yo no tenía más en mi lista, quiero corregir. Ahora tengo tres delegaciones que me piden la palabra.

Sr. Alexandre Marcos NHUNGA (Angola)

Pienso que no tiene por qué pedirnos disculpa. Nosotros queremos aprovechar este momento para felicitar al doctor Qu Dongyu, por su elección. Por los conocimientos y experiencia que tiene, tenemos la certeza que el doctor va a contribuir para que tengamos una Organización muy fuerte, la FAO.

Y presto una atención muy especial a África donde están los más hambrientos, los que más sufren, donde hay más la pobreza. Yo no quisiera terminar sin felicitar también a los concurrentes de Francia y de Georgia que nos han presentado buenos programas. Pero, infelizmente, el lugar del Director General es uno nada más. Entonces, tenemos que felicitarlos y esperar que un día quizás así sea.

A nuestro hermano, José Graziano, que ha hecho un trabajo muy bueno, fantástico, excelente, no solo en su país como en el mundo y el trabajo que viene de hacer en la FAO, queremos desearle mucha suerte en la vida y que todo le vaya bien. Yo quiero pedir a esta sala, y en nombre del Gobierno de Angola y el mío propio, la delegación que me acompaña, desear todo lo mejor en la vida para el señor.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Alpheus NARUSEB (Namibia)

On behalf of the people of The Republic of Namibia and its leadership and indeed on my own behalf, I want to most profoundly register our deep sense of appreciation for the manner in which the proceedings of this Conference have gone thus far.

I would also equally like to register my most heartfelt congratulations to the incoming Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu. I had the privilege of interacting with you and as you are operating on a global platform, I want to believe that shall remember a small country like Namibia. We shall continue to enhance the excellent cooperation that I had with you when you were the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in your great country.

I would also, equally, like to register my appreciation for the two candidates respectively from Georgia and France that have given us pointers on the issues that we need to focus on. I want to read it together with the very passionate intervention that we had from Ms Graça Machel.

I need not to repeat what she said, however, she very strongly, in no uncertain terms appealed to us. That what we engage ourselves in must not just end at the mere level of talking about it, that it should find expression through practical implementation, and be geared towards doing something about the plight of the children of this world.

I will conclude by saying thank you to Dr José Graziano da Silva, for the very sterling work that you have put forward in the carrying out of your mandate. We deeply appreciate it and shall continue to appreciate your input because your legacy speaks for itself. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Myint NAUNG (Myanmar)

On behalf of my Government of Myanmar, we would like to express its appreciation to the outgoing Director-General for his excellent contribution to FAO's work.

Please allow me to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his election as the Director-General of FAO. I am confident in that his leadership and outstanding expertise in the world will contribute to the achievement of our common goal, Zero Hunger. I ensure you of our full support in realizing the goals.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Jean-Paul CARTERON (Îles Salomon)

Monsieur le Directeur général élu, je voudrais former des vœux tout particuliers pour la réussite de cette mission difficile qui vous est donnée. Avec M. Graziano da Silva, en ce qui concerne le Pacifique, nous avons commencé un très beau travail. Les pays du Pacifique, qui sont tous ici représentés, vivent dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles.

Pendant des années, ils ont été les oubliés du concert international. Alors qu'ils ne produisent pas un gramme de CO², ils sont les premières victimes du changement climatique. Aujourd'hui, Monsieur le Directeur général élu, après les discussions et les controverses de la campagne électorale, le temps est venu pour l'unité et le soutien qui doit vous être apporté parce que vous devez réussir dans votre mission, parce que la FAO a un rôle essentiel à jouer.

Je voudrais insister sur un point très important pour nous, Monsieur le Directeur général élu, il s'agit des liens entre la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, spécialement en ce qui concerne le Pacifique, afin qu'ils puissent être resserrés, car dans la réalité de ce qu'il se passe dans nos îles, l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la santé publique sont un seul problème.

Nous souffrons dans les îles du Pacifique de la question des maladies non-transmissibles, qui ravagent nos populations et notre jeunesse. Voilà pourquoi, Monsieur le Directeur général élu, je souhaite que vous accordiez toute l'attention nécessaire à ces pays, si proches de vous, de la Chine. Nous ne sommes pas loin et je suis sûr que vous êtes sensible à nos problèmes et préoccupations.

Monsieur da Silva, au moment où vous allez quitter cette maison, nous vous remercions et gardons beaucoup de respect et de reconnaissance pour vous, pour tout ce que vous avez fait.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Abdou MOUSTADROINE (Comores)

Au nom du Gouvernement comorien, j'ai l'honneur de remercier le pays hôte, l'Italie, et nous félicitons avec joie M. Qu Dongyu et la Chine. Nous sommes confiants dans le fait que les Membres de la FAO ont élu la personne qui connaît la bonne voie et de quelle manière agir pour porter à terme la lutte contre la faim et guérir le monde de la famine. Que Dieu bénisse votre ministère M. Qu Dongyu. Nos pensées et remerciements vont également à la France et à la Géorgie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr John Ronald Deep FORD (Guyana)

Guyana associates itself with the statement of Jamaica on behalf of all the CARICOM Nations.

We want to start by thanking Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his life's work for the poor, for the working class, and for the food insecure. He has been doing this over the past eight years in the

context of the FAO, however, he has been doing this work for a longer period of time, and we want to recognize that work.

Guyana joins all the other countries that have congratulated Dr Qu Dongyu on his success today. He brings a lot of experience to the task of managing FAO, and we look forward to working with him over the years to come on advancing the interests of the CARICOM Region, and the interests of the Latin American Region, and the globe as a whole. We are very confident that Dr Qu Dongyu will serve the world well during his tenure.

Finally, I would like to recognize the other two candidates today, for a spirited campaign and their shared vision that will also benefit our work as we go forward.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Habiendo agotado la lista de oradores, de esta forma hemos terminado nuestra labor de hoy.

La cuarta sesión plenaria comenzará mañana por la mañana, a las 9.30 horas con la declaración del Director General, Doctor José Graziano da Silva, a la que seguirá la del Señor Khalid Mehboob, Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Asegúrense de estar aquí a tiempo. Les deseo una excelente tarde.

The meeting rose at 15:40 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.40

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 June 2019

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 9:41 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 9 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta reunión a las 9.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la cuarta sesión plenaria. El primer tema del programa de la mañana es la declaración del Director General. Es para mí un gran honor invitar al Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Director General de la FAO, a pronunciar su declaración en el marco del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, la Organización que ha dirigido con dedicación durante los últimos ocho años.

Director-General's Statement to the Conference Déclaration du Directeur Général à la Conférence Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia (C 2019/INF/4)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

When thinking on what I should focus my speech today, I had originally felt that I should give you a detailed account of what we have achieved together since 2012 when I took over as Director-General.

However, instead of blowing my own trumpet and presenting you with lots of figures, let me just quote from the recent evaluation of FAO that was conducted by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), which is run by some of the most important UN donor countries.

I quote: “FAO has strengthened its performance in terms of an enhanced strategic focus; stronger operational management and stronger commitment to partnerships. Internally, this shift has been accompanied by profound changes in the way FAO organizes its work. Implementing those reforms while operating with a zero growth core budget has required significant adaptation. Externally, the new focus has reinforced FAO’s commitment to decentralization and to working in partnerships. The evidence from these assessments suggests that today FAO is highly valued among its partners.”

If we accept this assessment as a brief summary of the achievements made over the last years, it allows me to use today’s speech to share with you a few reflections on what I have learned during my time as Director-General.

Looking back over these seven and a half years, I think that three moves played a largely unsung but critical role in increasing FAO’s efficiency and effectiveness. These moves were made towards inducing changes of attitude among country representatives and our staff.

The first move that I will highlight was to bring our governing bodies away from the habit of adopting adversarial roles between developed and developing countries. I am proud to say that we did it. We restored mutual trust within a divided Membership.

In 2015, for example, countries were able to agree during Council, for the first time ever, on the level of the budget before submitting it to the Conference. Since then, almost all decisions have been taken by consensus in FAO. I regard this as one of the hallmarks of our times. However, despite consensus and improved dialogue, we have still failed to match our growing ambitions with a needed rise in our regular budget resources.

Since I took office, I have had to manage this Organization under the restrictive concept of zero nominal growth in our assessed contributions. This has meant less and less money in real terms every biennium, while countries have consistently asked FAO to do more and more. To be very honest, I would have liked to see those who represent Member Nations make a stronger case to their governments for investing more in FAO to enable this Organization to better address the huge challenges that we have to face.

Since 2012, we have managed to find more than USD 150 million in savings particularly by cutting bureaucracy and by adopting improved management practices. Nonetheless, this has a limit. As the Independent Chairperson of the Council used to say, “all elastic bands have their own limit”, and we have had to increasingly rely on voluntary contributions to run the Organization.

As I said, in our last Session of the FAO Council, we were in a situation in which two thirds of our financial resources depends on the goodwill of donors, not on assessed contributions of our Members.

On the one hand, this is a sign of donor confidence in FAO. On the other hand, it is also a source of risk. Voluntary contributions are highly volatile and subject to many variables that are beyond our control. We never know when they will come and what the amounts will be.

It also runs the risk that FAO's programmes could be increasingly driven by the priorities set by our main donors rather than by its whole Membership. This reality needs to be addressed in the near future.

The second change of attitude in FAO that I wanted to highlight today has been to move the Secretariat towards partnerships with other actors and institutions. In the past, FAO tended to work behind closed doors and we have opened FAO to many new partners.

Since 2013, when Members approved our policy proposal for partnerships, we have signed more than 200 agreements with the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions. Their engagement in our activities is boosting FAO's work.

We have also deepened our collaboration with other UN agencies, particularly within the 2030 Agenda. A good example is that our flagship publication *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*, which is now jointly produced by five UN Agencies: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

In addition, perhaps most importantly, the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) have moved away from a relationship that was all too often rivalrous to one in which we cooperate according to our comparative advantages. This is particularly noticeable in the field, where our country offices collaborate intensely to overcome the scarcity of resources. We hope that in the coming years we can do more together here in Rome.

The third move towards the changing attitude in FAO has been to make better use of the knowledge and experience within the Organization by nurturing a growth in interdisciplinary work. Many issues in agricultural and rural development, nutrition and food systems, natural resource management or in environmental fields have multidisciplinary dimensions. Hence, they are best addressed by teams rather than specialists working in isolation.

This is why we set up our five Strategic Programme Teams to better coordinate our work towards each of our five Strategic Objectives. We have also adopted four cross-cutting themes as part of our Strategic Framework: governance, gender, climate change and nutrition.

These changes have done much to improve planning of programmes and projects, as well as to encourage staff to team up across departmental and divisional boundaries, allowing the Organization to work in a more horizontal way.

I must confess, however, that this third move towards cross-disciplinary collaboration has been slower than I had hoped. However, I expect it to gather momentum in the near future as more examples of success are emerging. We need to continue our efforts to break the silos that remain inside FAO and which block our way of work.

I am also convinced that the emphasis that we have given to greater decentralization is enhancing our performance as a global Organization. From the onset, I have been saying that FAO must be a knowledge Organization with its feet on the ground. Decentralization has been fundamental to better understanding and addressing the needs of our Member Countries, particularly developing ones.

We have also implemented the geographic mobility programme, which I hope will soon become part of this Organization's culture. Periodic rotation of staff between Rome and field offices will do much to ensure that our headquarters units are in touch with reality. In addition, we have given our offices in the field more decision-making authority.

Today, most of our voluntary contributions are raised and managed at field level, at country level, in close contact with national authorities. This has also helped to increase our focus on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, that I am sure will have our particular attention in the years to come.

Probably the most positive thing that I have learned in my two terms as FAO Director-General is that innovative policies can very quickly gain wide acceptance, and I was surprised by how low an investment they required.

Two examples of such policy shifts can illustrate this.

First, is the acceptance by most governments that increasing food production does not necessarily reduce hunger, and consequently, targeted social protection programmes are essential components of successful hunger reduction programmes. In the coming years, I hope that governments will also widely accept that we urgently need to produce healthy food instead of only increasing food production, and in order to produce healthy food, we need healthy oceans, healthy soils, healthy seeds and sustainable production practices.

Today, the food challenges facing humanity are not only production and accessibility. It is also about the quality of food we produce. People are eating badly, particularly with regard to the high consumption of ultra-processed food and artificial products.

My vision is that food safety standards cannot be only about preventing people from getting food poisoning or sick from food-borne illnesses. Food safety must also be about preventing people from suffering from all forms of malnutrition. We need to promote more healthy diets. So, for a food to be considered safe for consumption, it must also be healthy. We urgently need to start to discuss rules on this issue at a national and international level.

The second policy shift that has gained rapid acceptance by governments is that building resilience to shocks makes a great deal of sense in regions and communities that are exposed to protracted emergency situations. Investing in prevention is much more effective and cheaper than acting after a disaster strikes.

We have learned that to save lives, we also need to save their livelihoods. This has become the motto of our partnership with other development and humanitarian agencies and especially with our two sister Organizations here in Rome. Let me add that we have also learned that changes in technology can be easily adopted by farmers when they have self-evident advantages.

One of the most remarkable cases is the speed with which the practice of zero tillage is being adopted by both developed and developing countries today. We are encouraging farmers to grow crops without ploughing or hoeing so as to reduce soil degradation, moisture loss and energy use. Now some 180 million hectares of cropland are being treated in this way.

These experiences have convinced me that FAO can be very effective in stimulating the widespread adoption of new policies and technologies that are essential to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I also think that we have helped to change perceptions about who feeds the world, and how more food will need to be produced if we could reduce the waste and loss in existing food systems.

I hope that we have succeeded in debunking the view that only industrial-scale farming, with a heavy dependence on energy-intensive technologies, can guarantee long-term world food security.

It is increasingly accepted that the agricultural model promoted through the Green Revolution has reached its limits, and that there is also a place for family farming in the world. A relevant place. In the last 60 years, resource-intensive farming systems have increased food production at a high cost to the environment, generating deforestation, water scarcity, soil depletion and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. We need to promote a paradigm shift. The future of food and agriculture is not input intensive, but knowledge and technology-intensive.

As a final observation, let me say that we need to be more aggressive in promoting and making use of FAO's comparative advantages as a multilateral agency. I am deeply worried that the emergence of inward-looking nationalist policies is starting to undermine support for multilateral institutions, during a period when the need for concerted action between countries is greater than ever. Many of the issues relating to feeding the world and managing natural resources sustainably have transnational and global dimensions that cannot be tackled by countries working alone.

The Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) provides an excellent example of the effectiveness of FAO in fostering such collaboration among countries. As you know, the PSMA is the first-ever binding international instrument that specifically addresses illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Today, almost 100 countries are committed to PMSA implementation. This is a fantastic achievement, if we consider that the agreement entered into force just three years ago in 2016. I am convinced that we must do more to harness FAO's potential to provide public goods in the areas of our mandate.

The processes of globalisation are immensely powerful. If we allow them to move faster than the growth of regulatory capacities, the risks of local and global conflicts are bound to grow.

As I take leave of FAO, my greatest hope is that it will continue to shine as a beacon for multilateralism, open to dialogue and partnerships, and deeply committed to creating a better future for all people and for our planet. That FAO will also be an institution based on democratic principles as we have seen in yesterday's elections.

Mr Chairperson, allow me to congratulate you, for the exceptional day we had yesterday.

It proves that together, we can achieve FAO's mission of a world free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition, and also to promote a more sustainable agricultural development.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to the Conference

Déclaration du Président indépendant du Conseil à la Conférence

Declaración del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la Conferencia

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I should like to begin by offering my congratulations to the Honourable Enzo Benech, upon his election as Chairperson of the 41st Session of the Conference. I wish Mr Benech well, as he guides us through this intense week of deliberations.

We were honoured to have commenced the session with Ms Graça Machel, delivering the McDougall lecture on Saturday. Ms Machel's lifetime, dedicated to improving the conditions of the poor and the disempowered, especially women and children, is an inspiration to us all.

I thank you Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for opening the Conference and reminding us of the paramount nature of our work here this week, which I am sure the Delegates will bear in mind during the deliberations in Plenary and the Commissions.

My heartiest congratulations to you, Dr Qu Dongyu, on your election as the next Director-General of this Organization. I am sure I am joined by all in wishing you the very best as you lead FAO forward in its quest and service to the world.

It is my honour and privilege to address the Conference for the first time since my election as Independent Chairperson of the Council two years ago—the same honour and privilege that I felt from the very moment I first stepped into this building way back in 1969 as a young professional officer. I have spent a lifetime in this Organization and I am passionate about its noble mandate. For the past 50 years, I have been associated with FAO, working at various levels of management, and subsequently, as part of the Pakistan Representation, having the privilege to participate in the governance process of FAO.

I have seen FAO grow and flourish to what it is today, and it is more relevant than ever on the world stage. Unity of Members is therefore essential. We have a change in the leadership of the Organization and for that, I wish to emphasize based on my personal experience, that it is crucial to keep this spirit of unity to help the new Director-General so that he has the best conditions possible to lead the priorities of Members forward. I can attest from personal experience to the importance of keeping this

spirit of unity, as I have now been involved with FAO for 50 years, and this is the 25th FAO Conference that I have had the privilege to attend.

As a result, I have witnessed and participated in several transitional arrangements. I was, for example, part of the team of Mr Edouard Saouma in 1976, when he was elected as Director-General. I was also part of the Senior Management Team in 1993, which supported the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf in the transition period and thereafter. Similarly, in 2011, when Dr Graziano was elected Director-General, I participated in the governance process, which supported the new Director-General to ensure an efficient transition.

The spirit of unity is paramount in this period of transition.

In recent years, we have enjoyed in FAO's governance, a practice of decision-making by consensus. The Director-General in his statement has also referred to this. This was not always the case in the past. As Independent Chairperson of the Council, I am happy to have worked with Members in the last two years to facilitate this, because consensus always unites the Membership and strengthens the Organization.

I thank you, for this prevailing spirit of consensus, which is entirely due to the Membership. In this respect, you have decisions to make following agreement reached in Council on the budget for the next biennium. I hope that this consensus and collaboration continues during the deliberations of the Resolution on the budget level that is submitted to you this week.

There are still challenges for FAO to face. I am aware that our efforts to deliver will continue to be impacted by changing conditions around the world, conflict and climate change play no small part in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The same goes for the challenges of natural disasters, migration, and the spread of cross-boundary diseases.

Nonetheless, FAO stands ready. As food and agriculture take on an increasingly important position on the global stage, the world looks to us to find the way forward. FAO is unique, with the legitimacy and capacity to provide global public goods, from norms and standards to statistics, and with technical capacity across a broad set of themes relating to agriculture and natural resources.

The Organization is thinking ahead. With its Strategic Objectives, it defines and shapes its priorities to produce results that can lead us forward. Those priorities are crucial in defining FAO's areas of work for they enable it to decide where emphasis should be placed and where de-emphasis can be achieved. Its work and the Strategic Framework itself is already aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Organization is primed to provide goods and services to all its Members.

Another aspect worth highlighting is that significant savings have been found by the Organization in recent years and hence, we have today, a leaner and fitter FAO. However, I must caution by using the metaphor of a rubber band again. The Director-General also recalled this. I have said it before, and I say it again. You can stretch the rubber band but only so far, before it snaps. Hence, let's also be careful and strive together to ensure that the Organization's structure and internal controls remain adequate, so that it keeps fit to lead and to meet the challenges ahead. In this respect, I have been pleased to note, that recently, measures to improve the internal control of the Organization have been introduced, which I have advocated for many years.

A word about the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration. This is important. The RBAs have made considerable progress in working together on shared commitments to accomplish their respective work agendas. The Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva, has championed this collaboration and has often said that we can only accomplish together what we actually do together. I thank you, Dr Graziano da Silva, for your resolve to this end and for your commitment to this spirit.

I am pleased to report that the working methods of the Council have improved over the last biennia. These efforts for improvement have been driven to maintain the capital of trust among Members, based on the principle of transparency and dialogue. We have increased the number of inter-sessional meetings of representatives of regional groups in order to address potentially difficult issues before the sessions of Governing Bodies. We have made use of audio visual technology in real time during meetings so that all Members can see the text and propose amendments prior to endorsing it. In

addition, I have always kept myself at the disposal of Members during, and in between, Governing Body meetings to listen to queries, clarifications or questions.

Some of the other achievements under the working methods of the Council include: consensus on seat-sharing arrangements for Council Membership; scheduling of informal seminars based on inputs of Members prior to Council sessions; providing an update on FAO's technical work; increased Membership involvement in agenda setting for the Council and Council Committees; reduced length of Governing Body documents, in particular, Council and Conference, with a focus on proposed decisions.

Before I conclude, I would like to convey my best wishes to Dr Qu Dongyu, upon your assumption of the leadership of FAO. Naturally, this new era will be shaped according to your vision and that of the Members. Change is a good thing. When one door closes, another one opens, perhaps one that was not seen before.

Revitalization is life itself, and is part and parcel of progress. A constant of that process is to strive to be better, and to do better. This Organization is no exception. In fact, over the years, it has undergone significant change and renewal, and must continue to find best practices, streamline its procedures and business processes because they not only impact accountability, oversight and governance, they also ensure value for money in the prioritization of its activities.

Renewal has to be a dynamic and living plan, which also evolves on the basis of experience. FAO is needed now more than ever before. It must continue to be a dynamic and living work in progress, based on fact and experience, and strive to achieve its most noble mandate.

Finally, I should like to thank Dr Graziano da Silva for his openness and ready cooperation he provided me during my tenure as Independent Chairperson of the Council, thus facilitating my interaction with Members and Management.

It has been a privilege to have assisted the Organization and its Membership in the last two years as Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Invito ahora a los miembros de las delegaciones que participarán en las sesiones de las dos Comisiones a que salgan de la Sala Plenaria y se dirijan a las Salas Roja y Verde.

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura

(C 2019/2; C 2019/12 Rev. 1)

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, abordaremos el tema 10 del programa, *Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura*. Para este tema disponemos de dos documentos de antecedentes: C 2019/2 y C 2019/INF/12 Rev.1. En el segundo documento se establece el tema propuesto por el Consejo para el debate general, a saber, "Migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural".

Antes de dar la palabra al Sr. Máximo Torero, quisiera rogar a los oradores que, antes de pronunciar su declaración, tengan la amabilidad de enviar su texto al Grupo de Interpretación mediante la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico, en aras de una interpretación correcta de sus declaraciones en los demás idiomas de la reunión: Conference-Statements@fao.org.

Tiene ahora la palabra el Sr. Máximo Torero, Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Social, que presentará este tema.

Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Few issues attract as much attention or are subject to as much controversy in international and domestic policy debates today as migration. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly recognize the importance of migration, the challenges it poses and the opportunities it provides.

SDG 10.7 calls for facilitating orderly, safe and responsible migration. It is significant that this call is placed within the context of SDG 10, which aims at reducing inequality within and among countries. In the 2018 edition of FAO's report, *The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)*, we focused on migration, agriculture and rural development.

The report was published precisely at a time when migration was appearing in the news, almost on a daily basis, frequently not excepted from misunderstanding and misinterpretation. This report provides FAO's perspective on the migration debate to help arrive at more informed policies, particularly as it relates to agriculture and rural development.

Migration can have a variety of impacts on rural areas, and here we tried to represent all the potential challenges of migration. Migration in its different forms has impacts on both areas of origin and of destination.

Rural migration, in particular out-migration, can have profound effects on rural development, food security and nutrition, and poverty. All topics that are extremely relevant for FAO's mission. The impacts of migration are conveyed through three main mechanisms or channels.

First, the fact in itself that a person has left, has an impact on the sending household due to the loss of labour and resulting changes in the composition as well as on rural labour markets.

Second, the remittances sent back by migrants can affect the consumption patterns and livelihoods in rural communities of origin, and we have observed this across different regions of the world.

Third, there may be non-monetary transfers, as social remittances such as ideas, skills and new social patterns are brought back or transmitted by migrants and in most cases we lose enormous human capital from the countries where migration starts.

The impacts of rural out-migration can be felt at different levels. There is an immediate impact on the sending household, however, there are ripple effects that go beyond, affecting both the rural communities of origin and societies at large. Therefore, it is an extremely complex and important topic.

In a graph provided in the Report, we have tried to represent the evolution of migration. Although, the report focuses on rural migration, let me start by presenting the bigger picture of international migration.

Between 1990 and 2015, the number of international migrants increased from 153 million to 248 million. The number of migrants is increasing proportionately faster than the global population. As a percentage of the population, this increase represents 0.5 percent of the 7 billion people but it makes a significant effect of more than 40 million migrants. Of particular relevance is the strong increase in migration flows between developing countries, most of which represent migration within regions.

There are three main drivers that explain the significant increase in migration.

The first one is conflict, and we all have been observing what has been happening in terms of conflict. An increase in the number of conflicts and protracted crises has led to an additional 7 million refugees in 2015 relative to 1990.

The second are climate-related events such as droughts and floods. The likelihood of being displaced by natural disasters has increased by 60 percent since the 1970s. Weather disasters displaced an average of 26.4 million people a year between 2008 and 2015.

Finally, people move because of better opportunities, and today more information is available to potential migrants about opportunities compared to 25 years ago, and we have seen this, for example, in the Central America region, where the causes of migration are because of aspirations and opportunities.

Rural areas are particularly impacted by each of these three mechanisms of migration, and our aim was to focus on these problems. In the Report, we tried to show the mechanisms of how migration operates, and how international migration operates.

Firstly, we find that movement within countries is central to economic development as people seek employment and opportunities in new places. The report focuses on internal and international migration as an interconnected system. It is important to point out that globally, internal migration is a significantly larger phenomenon than international migration.

More than 1 billion people living in developing countries have moved internally, compared to 248 million people who have moved in international migration, as I mentioned before. In addition, migration is more than just rural-urban migration. People also migrate between rural areas and from urban to rural areas, because of all the mechanisms and challenges that we explained before.

Some of the movements involving rural areas can be deemed as international migration too. Data from a set of countries shows that rural and urban residents are equally likely to migrate internationally. However, there is a lot we do not know about migration and rural migration, in particular. This Report tries to fill some of those gaps.

For example, there are figures that depict the relationship between the rural share of total population and those who emigrate. In the graph showing the relationship, the horizontal axis shows the proportion of rural people relative to the population, and the vertical axis is the proportion of people in rural populations migrating. The diagonal of this graph means that the share of international migrants that originated from rural areas is proportional to the share of total population that is rural.

In other words, there is an equal likelihood to emigrate independently of whether an individual was born in rural or urban areas.

The area below the diagonal line in the graph, means that rural areas are less represented among emigrants, whilst above the line is vice-versa. Whereas almost half of the 14 countries are on or above the diagonal line, the figure shows that people of rural origin and urban origin are essentially equally likely to migrate internationally.

This figure tells us nothing about internal movements before emigration, what I am trying to explain is that we have the same probability of moving if we are in urban or rural areas.

Secondly, let's see the role of rural areas in internal migration, and then check the link between internal and international migration. In the Report is a figure illustrating the shares of different types of internal migration, rural-urban, rural-rural, urban-rural and urban-urban. It also shows the difference between males and females. This data is from Demographic and Health Surveys for 31 countries and shows the shares of different types of moves. On average, 80 percent of moves involve rural areas. Less than 30 percent of this is rural-urban migration, the rest is rural-rural and urban-rural. Furthermore, in some countries urban-to-rural migration is composed in large part by return migration. For a sample of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, on average 61 percent of males and 34 percent of females migrating from urban to rural areas are return migrants who lived in rural areas as children.

As we will see next, internal and international migration are interlinked because sometimes we go through a process, we move internally in rural areas, in urban areas, and then internationally.

Internal and international migration are interlinked. Often people first move internally and later migrate internationally. Figure 9 in the Report shows the proportion of people who are planning to migrate internationally among those who have already migrated internally, which is the bar in red and those who have not is the bar in orange. In low-income countries, which is the last two bars, internal migrants are five times more likely to migrate internationally than individuals who have not moved; 10 percent of internal migrant respondents versus less than 2 percent of respondents who have not migrated internally. Therefore, the difference is significant.

Patterns of international migration are also closely associated with the path of economic development of a country. Indeed, we also find that among the individuals who moved internally, those who moved to urban areas are twice more likely to emigrate in low-income countries. Policymakers interested in international migration should be aware of the link between the development path, internal migration, and international migration.

Not all migration is free of choice. Driven by the search for opportunities, many people are forced to migrate, driven from their homes by conflicts and crises.

About 85 percent of international refugees are hosted by developing countries. Rural areas host large numbers of displaced populations during protracted crises and at least a third of international refugees are in rural areas, and in sub-Saharan Africa more than 80 percent. Forced migration due to protracted crises disrupts rural livelihoods and threatens food security and nutrition in areas of both origin and destination. However, refugees may also positively impact the local economy of their host community when they are free to engage in economic activities.

What are the policy implications that can be drawn from this report? An important point is that policy priorities must be tailored to a range of country contexts as functions of development, governance and rural demographics.

Here we have set up a typology of countries. Let me describe the four different types.

First we have countries with high socio-economic development, or ‘aspirational destinations’. These are the places that we want to emigrate to because we expect to improve. They may need immigration to meet their agricultural labour demand, however, they must also address the challenges posed by the poor integration of migrants and lack of social cohesion.

The second type is countries with ‘development momentum’ or transitioning towards high-income status and they should promote and generate employment in agriculture value chains and develop education and services. Barriers to rural migration should be removed because these countries are in need of this labour supply to be able to satisfy their labour demand needs.

Third, we have countries that face a rural youth employment challenge in fragile contexts. But they do not have the development momentum to absorb labour market entrants in rural areas, need to promote rural livelihoods and provide options for youth in rural areas, while supporting productive capacity in areas subject to out-migration. When emerging from crisis situations, they must provide support to returnees and communities of origin.

Finally, we have the fragile and conflict affected States which must address the needs of migrants and host communities and foster preventative measures. It is important to give high priority to agriculture and rural areas in these cases.

The latter two, of course, are the ones that are more critical, and where FAO should play a significant role. The first two are where we need to look at opportunities and try to enhance the impacts of migration. SOFA 2018 calls for a more realistic and dispassionate debate about migration. In doing so, it acknowledges the challenges and costs associated with migration, and stresses that migration is fundamental to the development process in which rural areas play a leading role.

With the exception of forced migration as I mentioned before, migration should not be perceived as a problem that requires a solution. Nor should policies aim to stem or promote migration. Policies, on the contrary, should aim at making migration a choice, and at maximizing the positive impacts while minimizing the negative ones. These points echo the statement of the UN Secretary-General in his report titled “Making migration work for all”.

Let me quote. “The basic challenge before us is to maximize the benefits of migration rather than obsess about minimizing risks; we have a clear body of evidence revealing that, despite many real problems, migration is beneficial both for migrants and host communities in economic and social terms. Our overarching task is to broaden the opportunities that migration offers to us all.”

A critical message of the report is that policy priorities that make migration work for all will differ depending on the country and the contexts. The idea of the SOFA 2018 Report is to walk the talk, and

as a result we have developed the FAO Migration Framework, which is to guide the Organization in carrying out its work on migration at global, regional and country levels.

The Migration Framework aims to ensure greater coordination between technical units and decentralized offices and strengthen the coherence and synergies across the Organization. The Framework is particularly timely as the United Nations is asked to provide policy assistance and technical and capacity development support to Member States for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, in line with the 2016 New York Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The FAO Migration Framework, although it is primarily targeted to FAO as an Organization, includes all our regions and all our States and therefore it will create a significant spill over. The Framework is also directed to all FAO Governing Bodies and Member States and provides a basis for collaboration with development partners.

FAO works in four main thematic areas, which are linked to FAO's Strategic Objectives and respond to the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.

The first one is to minimize the adverse drivers of migration and boost alternatives to make migration a free choice. This comprises, for example, of creating decent work opportunities in rural areas, increasing resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change.

The second one is to facilitate rural mobility to ensure people can move regularly and safely between rural and urban areas, as well as across international borders, and to support the reintegration of those who return.

The third one is to enhance the positive impacts of migration for agriculture and rural development and to minimize its negative impacts especially for the families and communities that stay behind.

Finally, the fourth one is to promote resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods for migrants and host communities, and to support their peaceful coexistence.

Through the FAO Migration Framework, FAO is committed to supporting Member States in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration and we are prepared to support all countries to achieve all the mechanisms and to increase resilience as we have mentioned before.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Daré ahora la palabra a los jefes de delegación que solicitaron hacer uso de ella con antelación.

En vista del número de oradores y del tiempo limitado de que disponemos, quisiera pedirles que respeten el límite de cinco minutos establecido por la Conferencia cuando aprobó la Sección J, titulada "Declaraciones de jefes de delegación", del informe de la primera sesión del Comité General, el sábado por la tarde.

Recuerden que, si se quedan sin tiempo, pueden enviar la versión completa de su intervención a la Secretaría, que la cargará en el sitio web de la Conferencia y la incluirá en el acta literal de este período de sesiones.

Statements by Heads of Delegation

Déclarations des chefs de délégation

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

Russian Federation, Philippines, Togo, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, Uganda, Slovenia, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Angola, and Tunisia

His Excellency Alexey GORDEEV, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation (Original language Russian)

I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva for his skilful leadership at this Organization and I would especially like to recall his contribution to the successful outcome of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe that was held in Voronezh in Russia last year.

I also extend, to the newly elected Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, my very best wishes for success in his leadership role of great responsibility. Rest assured that you may count on the full support of the Russian Federation in addressing the challenges to come.

One of the main tasks before the international community today is achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the foremost of which in connection to FAO's mandate is SDG2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.

We believe that the inclusion of migration in the main theme of the Conference is wholly justified. It is evident that food and security is one of the drivers of migration and that is exactly why accelerated development of the agricultural sector, rural areas is an effective approach to addressing this issue. FAO's expertise and technical capacity is more than ever needed here, especially in the context of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Global Compact on Migration.

Since 2015, Russia has funded the implementation of an FAO project to strengthen food security in a number of Central Asian and Trans-Caucasian countries. One of its components is directly linked to migration and specifically, it consists of a streamlining of procedures for monetary remittances of migrants to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Community, which can stimulate economic growth and poverty and hunger reduction, especially for the population in rural areas.

Russia is the largest receiving country of migration in the Eurasian region, and has set up an integrated system enabling organized and controlled migration, and protecting the rights and decent working conditions for migrants in the territory of our country. We are not acting in isolation here, but jointly with our Eurasian Economic Community partners informing a shared labour market. We allocate special attention to new forms of work with FAO in the humanitarian development nexus concept. A clear example of this is the allocation, by the Russian Government, of USD 3 million for the implementation of an FAO project to promote the recovery of agriculture in Syria. We support the strength of any collaboration with FAO and stand ready to continue to provide financial and expert assistance to achieve sustainable agriculture and food security. In 2018, we contributed roughly USD 21 million as both assessed and voluntary contributions.

I will briefly touch on the main priorities for the agricultural policy of the Russian Federation. Agriculture is one of the main levers for accelerated development of our country's economy as a whole. In a number of key food production areas, Russia fully meets its own domestic needs. On our agenda today is the growth in terms of volume and geographical expansion of our exports. We have currently set ourselves an ambitious task, namely to increase the volume of exported agricultural production, practically by two-fold by 2024, which means supplying foreign markets with food products worth USD 45 billion on an annual basis.

Since 2016, agriculture in our country has been ranked number one, globally, in terms of the volumes of exported wheat. Russia is also a leader in the exportation of fish, sunflower oil, and we are opening up new foreign markets for poultry, dairy and confectionary production, along with a range of other food commodities.

Today, the Russian Government's agenda is for improving the quality of life in rural areas over the next few years. For this goal a special government program for the development of rural areas by 2025 has been adopted. It includes, government monitoring and development of standards for the quality of life in rural areas, stepping up the building of housing and improving households level of welfare, by building modern, quality infrastructure in rural settlements.

Russia is interested in our foreign partners' experience, and we look forward to mutually beneficial collaboration, including on the FAO platform.

The Honourable Emmanuel F. PIÑOL, Secretary of Agriculture for the Republic of the Philippines

We congratulate and assure our support to the newly-elected Director-General, His Excellency Dr Qu Dongyu, in his stewardship of this organization in the coming years.

We extend our utmost appreciation to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for effectively leading FAO in the fight against hunger and poverty and in promoting food security and nutrition for all.

We commend the Secretariat for the presentation of the 2018 State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), with the theme of Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, which is timely and relevant for many FAO Members, like the Philippines, which is a major origin country for migrants. An estimated 10 million Filipinos, or approximately 10 percent of the population, are living or working abroad in more than 200 countries and territories. The Philippines is one of the global leaders in migration governance and in protecting Filipinos overseas, and all over the world.

We concur with the SOFA report that both internal and international rural migration is central to economic transformation which presents opportunities and challenges. We also concur that the objective of migration-related policies should make migration a choice, and not a necessity.

This augurs well with the aspiration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, that working abroad would only be an option for Filipinos in the near future. Cognizant of the main drivers of migration, the country's migration governance dovetails the country's national development plan. We note in the SOFA report that only when countries reach upper middle income status that emigration starts to decline. Reaching such status in the next few years is one of the target outcomes of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. The Plan is anchored on the country's long-term vision (dubbed as the Ambisyon Natin 2040).

Recognizing the importance of migration and development in the country, the PDP underscores the issues and special circumstances of overseas Filipinos and their families. Strategies to empower them include intensifying social protection programs, enhancing access to finance, providing organizational and entrepreneurial support, thereby facilitating their participation in the country's development, and ensuring their smooth reintegration upon return.

As similarly experienced by many countries, rural and agricultural poverty has driven internal migrants in the country to seek opportunities in urban areas (IOM 2013). Nevertheless, the sector continues to account for a significant share of the labor force; at around 24 percent in 2018 -- the second largest group next to the services sector (PSA, Labor Force Survey, 2018). The agriculture sector, thus, plays an essential role in the country's inclusive growth and poverty reduction efforts.

To make migration a choice and not a necessity, it would be crucial to create an enabling environment for farmers and the fisherfolk to invest and remain productive in their communities, and, return to their homes when they perceive it safe and stable to do so.

The country remains steadfast in improving productivity and profitability in the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (AFF) sectors and increase access to economic opportunities for small holder farmers and fisherfolk (PDP 2017-2022).

In this light, President Duterte signed in April 2019 the Sagip Saka Act (Republic Act 11321) to help increase farmers' and fishermen's income and reach their full potential.

The Department of Agriculture had earlier initiated the Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) program to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sector in agriculture and fishery in 30 of the poorest provinces in the country; from 2017 to 2022. Its Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) financing program, launched in 2017, was designed to address the needs of small holder farmers and fisherfolk families, which involves trainings in financial literacy and has posted a repayment rate of 91 percent.

We are grateful for FAO's support, including through its country office in the Philippines. For example, the provision of emergency and livelihood assistance to around 300 000 farming and fishing households in disaster-stricken areas across the country (FAO PH 2017).

Finally, we commend FAO and IFAD for leading the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, which would help address the impacts of migration to agriculture and rural development by enhancing the achievements of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming and contributing to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Son Excellence Monsieur Noël Koutéra BATAKA, Ministre de l'agriculture, de la production animale et halieutique de la République togolaise

La délégation togolaise, par ma voix, voudrait d'abord féliciter le Directeur général sortant, M. Graziano da Silva, pour tout le travail qu'il a abattu avec son équipe ainsi que pour les réformes initiées, afin de permettre à l'Organisation de répondre à des besoins croissants dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans un contexte de rareté des ressources.

Je voudrais aussi associer ma voix à celles qui m'ont déjà précédé pour adresser mes plus vives félicitations au nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Qu Dongyu, pour sa brillante élection. Je puis d'ores et déjà vous assurer du soutien du Togo dans la conduite de votre haute mission à la tête de notre Organisation, dans l'intérêt de tous.

C'est également l'occasion pour ma délégation de se féliciter de la collaboration qualitative continue entre la FAO et l'ensemble des organisations du système des Nations Unies, qui prennent résolument et de façon constante une part active dans le processus de développement de mon pays.

La pertinence du thème «Migrations, agriculture et développement rural», soumis à notre réflexion cette année dans le cadre de l'examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, réjouit tout particulièrement ma délégation en raison de l'engagement résolu du Togo sur cette thématique depuis quelques temps.

Nous félicitons la FAO pour la publication du rapport sur La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (SOFA) que vient de nous présenter M. Torero.

En effet, l'humanité est aujourd'hui confrontée à la problématique des flux migratoires à impacts négatifs sur le développement local et aussi sur la croissance et l'économie des pays, comme vient de le mentionner M. Torero.

De manière globale, il s'agit de répondre à un besoin de mieux-être et ce phénomène est beaucoup plus marqué dans les communautés rurales, surtout dans les pays en développement qui sont saignés par les vides que créent les départs.

Nous croyons qu'une lutte globale, qui met en oeuvre des actions dans le secteur agricole et le développement rural, pourra induire des résultats probants et inverser les tendances à l'immigration. Comme nous le savons tous la pauvreté dans les milieux ruraux offre un terreau fertile pour les pires fléaux, dont les plus désastreux sont ceux du terrorisme et le trafic des êtres humains. Ceux-ci créent de plus en plus de fragilités dans les zones rurales, mais aussi et surtout dans des zones entières telle que la zone du Sahel en Afrique de l'Ouest, comme l'a souligné le 4 juin dernier notre Président, Son Excellence Monsieur Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe à Chatham House à Londres.

Nous sommes donc appelés à œuvrer pour un développement des zones rurales, essentiellement à travers la mise en oeuvre de programmes innovants et volontaristes.

Au Togo, la vision d'une économie nouvelle et d'un tissu social cohérent a été définie dans le Plan national de développement (PND) 2018-2022. À travers ce plan de développement, le Gouvernement togolais sous le leadership de Son Excellence Monsieur Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe ambitionne de porter le taux de croissance du pays à 7,6 pour cent par an et de créer 500 000 emplois décents d'ici 2022, ce qui induira un accroissement du revenu par tête de 9,7 pour cent et une baisse de l'indice de pauvreté monétaire à 44,6 pour cent de la population. Ce Plan met l'accent sur le secteur agricole, qui représente le cœur de notre économie.

Le PND est structuré autour de trois pôles, trois axes majeurs qui placent d'abord le Togo comme un hub logistique et un centre d'affaires de premier plan, qui vise à développer la transformation agricole et à consolider le développement social et renforcer les mécanismes d'inclusion.

Le secteur agricole, qui occupe le cœur de l'économie, comme je l'ai dit, va contribuer à plus du tiers de la réalisation des ambitions du PND.

Pour cela le Togo a développé des instruments innovants pouvant permettre la promotion des chaînes de valeur avec une garantie de l'accès aux marchés pour les petits producteurs, qui sont organisés en coopératives et agrégés autour d'une entreprise agricole qui aura alors à leur sécuriser des débouchés pour leur production.

Ceci est mis en œuvre par le mécanisme incitatif de financement agricole fondé sur le partage de risques (MIFA).

Un second instrument vise à développer des pôles de transformation, communément appelés agropoles, et dans sa stratégie, le Gouvernement vise à développer dix agropoles.

La création d'emplois décents et durables, ainsi que la sécurisation des revenus pour les actifs agricoles, surtout les jeunes et les femmes, contribueront à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des acteurs des chaînes de valeurs. Ainsi, ceux qui trouveront des opportunités hésiteront à partir.

Pour terminer, le Gouvernement togolais, à travers ma voix, invite tous les participants et toutes les institutions à l'accompagner à travers la mobilisation des investissements pour le développement de l'agrobusiness, et ainsi contribueront significativement au secteur du développement et à la réduction des migrations.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Victor Manuel VILLALOBOS ARÁMBULA, Secretario de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

El nuevo gobierno de México, encabezado por el presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, reitera ante esta Conferencia de la FAO su compromiso con la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo, principio rector de la política exterior de mi país y consagrado en su constitución política.

Saludo con respeto y afecto a todas las delegaciones y a los funcionarios de la Organización.

Felicito también afectuosamente al nuevo Director General de la FAO, el Dr. Qu Dongyu por la alta responsabilidad que le ha sido conferida.

Los organismos internacionales multilaterales son un vehículo a través del cual expresamos la voluntad de cooperación entre nosotros. Son los intereses comunes y la colaboración mutua de los Estados Miembros, los que dan vida a ésta y a otras organizaciones.

No obstante, el trabajo día a día va encapsulando a las organizaciones en sus cumplimientos de sus propias agendas; y así, es muy fácil perder de vista las cambiantes necesidades de los países y las prioridades de sus gobiernos.

Vale aclarar que ésta es una responsabilidad compartida. También en los países suele ocurrir que veamos a estas organizaciones como una entidad externa, y no como una institución a la que formamos parte activa; luego entonces, no las involucramos como debiéramos en el cumplimiento de las tareas de nuestros gobiernos. Afortunadamente, en el caso del sistema de Naciones Unidas, y de la FAO en particular, se están tomando medidas para renovar y mejorar tal situación.

Esto es un proceso que debiera acelerarse a partir de la entrada en funciones del nuevo Director General y me atrevo a sugerir que sea su prioridad inmediata.

También contamos con un marco de referencia consensuado: los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (los ODS y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible), en cuyo logro el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación juega un rol determinante.

Los gobiernos guardan plena congruencia con los ODS, al colaborar con los objetivos prioritarios nacionales, la seguridad alimentaria con soberanía y el rescate de la agricultura para convertirla en un

eje para el desarrollo, una fuente de bienestar para los territorios rurales y un baluarte para alcanzar en un futuro sustentable.

La agricultura familiar y su autoconsumo constituyen el 81% de las unidades de producción en México. El Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Agricultura Familiar constituye una excelente oportunidad para impulsar a este sector que es clave para lograr sistemas alimentarios sustentables que permitan producir alimentos sanos e inocuos, y para erradicar la pobreza en el campo. Cabe decir que, en México, es una parte importante de nuestra agricultura, que es productiva y competitiva a nivel global; pero el sector ha fallado en desarrollarse de manera más equitativa e incluyente; dejando como saldo millones de personas que se debaten en la pobreza.

Estas condiciones de marginación son la causa inmediata del incremento del fenómeno migratorio internacional que observamos en estos días.

Huyendo de la pobreza y de la violencia, miles de familias apuestan sus vidas a un futuro incierto, creando una grave crisis humanitaria y tensiones políticas entre países.

Como saben, México está tratando de resolver con sus vecinos del sur y del norte, la problemática que representa el incremento notable de los flujos migratorios que, desde América central y atravesando nuestro territorio, pretenden llegar a los Estados Unidos.

Lo estamos haciendo bajo una premisa muy clara: atender las causas que originan el fenómeno migratorio y que esa sea opcional, más no forzada.

Esa es la vía mexicana; estamos trabajando para demostrar al mundo entero, que se puede atender este fenómeno si hay desarrollo, si hay empleo y si hay bienestar para todos.

Compartiendo esta visión, los Gobiernos de El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México, hemos decidido construir un “Plan de desarrollo integral”, a efecto de impulsar acciones que generen desarrollo y oportunidad a nivel local; contribuyendo con ello a la prevención de la migración irregular y al mismo tiempo destacando sus causas estructurales.

Justamente con estos gobiernos y la FAO, en México, estaremos celebrando una reunión que abordará esta problemática los primeros días del mes de julio próximo.

El énfasis de esta Conferencia en el tema de la migración asume esta realidad, al “reconocer que es importante ofrecer oportunidades atractivas a los posibles migrantes rurales, sobre todo promoviendo el desarrollo de los territorios y sus prioridades”. Ya analizaríamos, “velando que sea el respeto de los derechos humanos, la base para cualquier política hacia la migración”.

Por otro lado, México apoya decididamente los esfuerzos de la Organización para contar con una estrategia que permita la integración estructurada y coherente de la biodiversidad, a fin de promover la conservación, el uso sustentable, la gestión y la restauración de la diversidad biológica en todos los programas políticos e instrumentos.

Así mismo, queremos expresar que la pesca, la marino cultura y la acuicultura también son un tema de prioridad nacional; reconocemos la importancia que tiene este sector por la seguridad alimentaria del país, así como uno de los pilares del desarrollo económico y un importante generador de empleo.

Estoy convencido de que la FAO puede contribuir más a tener sistemas agrícolas productivos y ambientalmente sostenibles, al desarrollo de los territorios rurales, al alivio de la pobreza y al logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

Queremos una FAO con mejores resultados, en que tengamos las respuestas que muchas veces en solitario no encontramos; por lo tanto, más eficaz en la cooperación y más eficiente en la administración.

Como país, habremos de exigir el mayor alineamiento entre los objetivos, los programas y los proyectos de gobierno, con las tareas y los apoyos desplegados por los organismos de los cuales somos parte.

La esperanza de una FAO mejor la depositamos en quien llevará el timón de la Organización durante los próximos cuatro años. Dr. Qu Dongyu, le deseamos una gestión eficaz y le hacemos patente nuestro compromiso como México, para trabajar con su administración.

Her Excellency Tereza Cristina Corrêa da COSTA DIAS, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply Food and Agriculture of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Original language Portugese)

I have the pleasure and honour to express the sincere appreciation of the Brazilian Government for the election of Dr Qu Dongyu as Director- General of FAO.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my fellow countryman, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for the completion of his term in office.

Over the past eight years, FAO and its Members have met emerging global challenges with ambitious commitments. Brazil is willing to do even more, and in return we will also ask for more from this Organization.

With the approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have committed to not only reduce, but also eradicate hunger in the world. Today, we can, and we shall, go even further: the growing population of the world should also eat better, through the democratization of access to diverse and high-quality food.

In order to achieve this goal, at the very least, we need a two-pillar strategy: to adopt pro-development policies, with the necessary promotion of free and fair international trade; and to foster an environment that stimulates innovation, with strict adherence to scientific principles.

The 2018 State of Food and Agriculture Report, points out the lack of employment and opportunities in rural areas, and environmental degradation, as some of the factors that lead to rural migration. It, therefore, confirms that the revitalization and revalorization of agriculture and rural areas are crucial elements in the quest for solutions to contemporary challenges.

Agriculture, agribusiness and the bioeconomy can and should be synonymous to the generation of income and opportunities, and development. In Brazil, agribusiness employs 18 million people and accounts for more than a fifth of our GDP. We welcome, in this context, the recent launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. In Brazil, there are more than 5 million family farms, which produce a large part of the food consumed in the country.

This successful model can be replicated abroad, especially in the Least Developed Countries. It is therefore crucial to consider agriculture and food security together with agricultural trade issues. Protectionism in developed countries has threatened the viability of a green revolution in developing countries by exposing them to unfair competition from subsidized goods and by denying access to major consumer markets. A free and fair agricultural trade would trigger a virtuous cycle, in which greater decentralization in supply would ensure wider access to adequate food and nutrition.

There is yet another indispensable factor for the democratization of agricultural production: the promotion of innovation. Innovation made it possible to develop the Brazilian model of sustainable and highly productive tropical farming, when it was widely believed that the capacity for large agricultural production was restricted to temperate zones. With the advent of technology, grain production in Brazil has grown five times in the last 40 years, while our crop area remains essentially unchanged. Today, we can find Brazilian food on the tables of more than one billion people around the world, every day.

In line with the resolution on sustainable agricultural approaches, innovation has also allowed Brazil to produce and, at the same time, to conserve. Just over 30 percent of the country's land is used for agriculture, with several strong measures in place for permanent preservation. Under Brazilian legislation, farmers must maintain a portion of their lands covered by forests or other native vegetation at their own expense.

Several national policies and technologies have fostered the consolidation of sustainable farming, such as, the promotion of organic and agroecological agriculture; agroforestry and crop, livestock, and

forest integration systems; planting of commercial forests; and the recovery of degraded areas. Such policies have linked agricultural production to the provision of ecosystem services, the maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of drinking water sources, and the stability of global climate.

All these achievements, including the environmental ones, are only possible thanks to innovation. It is precisely this driver of development that is now under threat due to the practices, perhaps even well-intentioned practices, but with widespread harmful effects, of some wealthy countries. By abandoning science-based principles in the regulation of food production and trade, such countries undermine fair trade and the whole environment, for innovation, that would allow us to feed more people with fewer resources.

Furthermore, by misinforming consumers, giving in to pressured groups and departing from multilateral rules, certain actors jeopardize the same objectives they claim to protect, namely: the development of the poorest; democratic access to high-quality food; and the preservation of the environment.

It is imperative to strengthen FAO's role as a forum for technical support in the production of healthy food. The collaboration with other bodies, such as the WTO, the WHO, the OIE, the IPPC, and the Codex Alimentarius, should be based on the soundest of scientific standards applicable to all, and in line with an open and fair multilateral trade system.

A system based on science and clear rules have been our collective response to a past of risks and uncertainty. This framework must become the driving force that will guarantee abundant and high-quality food, leading our nations, for the first time in history, to guarantee food security for our population, without neglecting the preservation of our environmental assets.

This is Brazil's commitment, which I reiterate here today. Distinguished delegates and delegations, commitment not only to FAO and to the multilateral system, but to all future generations.

His Excellency Ezz AIDin ABOSTEIT, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt

It is a pleasure for me to express our deepest gratitude and greatest respects to FAO for the sound organization of this Conference, as well as, for the role that the Organization plays in dealing with matters that fall within its mandate: food security, the fight against poverty and the promotion of the agriculture sector at a global level.

I would also like to express our greatest gratitude to His Excellency, Dr José Graziano da Silva for the unflagging efforts he has made throughout his two mandates as the head of FAO, in promoting the reform of the Organization, and for everything the Organization does in the domain of food and agriculture.

We hope that this role will continue to be promoted as it is very important in the fight against all forms of malnutrition, in supporting the role sector and agricultural production, especially when bearing in mind, the changes that are underway and their impact on agricultural production, where commodity prices have risen. In addition we face climate change, which has an adverse impact on agricultural production overall.

Egypt's delegation, on behalf of the Government of Egypt, and the Egyptian Presidency of the African Union would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for the honour bestowed on him after a high-level competition and transparent elections along with the candidates from France and Georgia. We believe that the Organization, under the leadership of Dr Qu Dongyu, will pursue its mandate, and will improve its performance as promised by the Director-General. This, in order to support Member States by bringing in his experience, technical expertise and by facilitating the South-South, North-South, and Triangular Cooperation in order to tackle all the challenges and anything which might hinder development in our countries, as we aspire to fulfil these Sustainable Development Goals and improve the living standards of farmers and, as we seek to strengthen and disseminate successful experiences while implementing programs and projects, which better serve our people and seek to meet the needs of our people and achieve food security.

This Conference sees us facing many challenges, global challenges. Especially in Africa and the Near East in the domains of agriculture, irrigation, commodity production, climate change, desertification, water scarcity, the expansion of arid lands, cross boundary animal diseases, in addition to migration, which has become one of the key challenges, which prevents the agriculture sector from increasing its production in most developing countries where economies, essentially, rest on the agriculture sector.

We trust that international efforts will continue to grow, so as to crystalize the global food goals and ensure that our countries will no longer be hungry by 2030. In addition, so that we might ensure that the hungry are fed and so that we might go from 821 million, according to the 2018 report, to no hungry people. In seeking to manage these challenges, Egypt aims to achieve sustainable development through the adoption of a radical reform process, which will enable us to lay the foundations for our economy so as to improve our social sector and especially the lives of the most vulnerable people in the rural sector.

We have therefore, adopted a strategy which has allowed us to revitalize the agriculture sector between now and 2030, which is based on innovation, knowledge transfer and the establishment of a new rural milieu, which is favourable to investment. We have also sought to streamline the agriculture sector and create job opportunities in the sector based on programs which foster value chains as well as added value, especially through small scale agriculture projects and medium scale agriculture projects. These will be one of the essential pillars to end the rural exodus. This has a negative impact on agriculture and food production, as we all know. This also applies pressure on public services, of course.

In addition to these ambitious measures we are working to create more job opportunities for women and young people, and to supply food to our populations by strengthening international cooperation, technology transfer and by encouraging investment, as well as, cross boundary and interstate exchanges, as well as cooperation with FAO and IFAD, who we expect will play a key role in the coming years to strengthen cooperation and in seeking to move towards sustainable development. Food security, the strengthening of rural and agricultural development are common goals.

In this context, we would like to welcome all countries who wish to cooperate with us, all international agencies and organizations, to seek to achieve food security and to improve the quality of the food we consume, especially since Egypt is among the worst countries affected by the changes we expect to see at a climate level. This requires international efforts to be intensified so that we can end these adverse effects.

In conclusion, we have taken note of the budget for 2020-2021 and would like to highlight in this regard that we would expect the Conference to look over the programme of work and the different budgetary chapters, so that it might seek to engender innovative processes and steer clear of ‘business as usual’, so that we can enhance the chapter to do with the technical cooperation program, so that this can in turn enable us to achieve concrete sustainable development and enable countries in our region to tackle their challenges, so that FAO can promote its very constructive role.

We hope, by the end of the Conference, to see fruitful results that benefit our countries and our strategic objectives, moving towards sustainable agriculture development and greater agriculture development.

His Excellency Vincent SSEMPIJJA, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda

I bring you greetings from Uganda and of course from his Excellency the president Yoweri Museveni. Uganda associates its statement with the statement by the African Regional Group and that of the Group of 77.

I wish to start by congratulating His Excellency Dr Qu Dongyu upon his election to shoulder the responsibilities of FAO as Director-General.

I wish also to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva, and the FAO Team for conducting the study on The State of Food and Agriculture 2018, under the theme Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Report and the presentation that the Secretariat has just made are quite instructive. The Report brought out important and interesting dimensions on migration that so far have not been considered as important.

The issue of migration and agriculture is very important to Uganda given the large number of refugees in the country. According to the 2017 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, Uganda hosted 1.4 million refugees, however the number has since gone up. We are ranked as the number one largest refugee hosting country in Africa, and ranked second globally.

Uganda operates a progressive and generous Refugee Policy. In 2016, United Nations Summit for Refugees declared Uganda's Refugee Policy as a model. Uganda's 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 Refugee Regulations allow for integration of refugees within host communities with refugees having access to the same public services, such as schools and hospitals, as nationals. They have freedom of movement and are free to pursue livelihood opportunities in Uganda. They are given land to grow their own food, they are free to get employed as long as they qualify. They can also establish businesses.

These refugees have an impact on agriculture and food security. Since this is a category of migration that rises out of conflict and not an ordinary choice, we need to work together to stem it through peace building. Uganda has been a champion of the peace building cause in the African Great Lakes and Africa in general.

Another very important dimension of agriculture and migration in Uganda, is the large population of youth in our demography. Uganda has the largest youth population in the world with about 77 percent of the population being youths.

Young people need employment, they need adventure and experience life beyond their original homes. Their desire to fulfil these needs gives rise to migration in all its forms: rural to rural, rural to urban and even international migration. Uganda agrees that we need not stop, or even encourage such migration but provide conditions that enable such youths to live a life that fulfils their dreams. However, if it is distress migration, then we need to prevent it.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, with the support of FAO developed a National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA). The Strategy was prioritized by the Government to ensure guided interventions related to youth in agriculture in the country. We have also implemented an Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting decent rural employment to stem distress youth migration.

Globally, we must work together to prevent distress migration arising from extreme environmental and climatic conditions such as flooding, drought and landslides. Uganda has been a victim of such weather phenomena which has on occasions resulted into loss of lives.

The above example sends a clear and unequivocal message that we cannot ignore environmental and climate change issues.

Environmental factors have for a long time had an impact on national and global migration flows, as people have historically left places with harsh or deteriorating conditions. However, the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, with unprecedented impact on lives and livelihood. Often times, agriculture is affected, leading to food insecurity and giving rise to migration.

Uganda has a big and growing population, we have risen from 34.6 million people in 2014 to 40 million people today. This means that land available for agriculture continues to be subdivided to serve the increasing population. In addition, the pressure to find jobs for this population or available land for agriculture, gives rise to migration between communities, across borders and globally.

The Report from the Secretariat did a good job in categorizing migration, analysing the causes of migration and proposing solutions that we can consider, as global policy makers, to mitigate the negative impact of migration while providing a human-ecosystem that allows people to live a happy life on planet earth, including through migration.

Uganda, therefore, commends the report and its recommendations.

Her Excellency Aleksandra PIVEC, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia

I would first like to commend the selection of the theme for this year's ministerial discussion, which highlights a very topical issue, which is the linkages between migration, agriculture and rural development.

We are witnessing ever increasing social, demographic, environmental, technological and economic changes. Migrations are a significant part of our quickly changing world, and without change, development would not be possible. However change, especially when caused by poverty, natural disasters, long-lasting crises and conflicts, also results in danger, great suffering and uncertainty. Many are forced to leave their homes and risk their lives when seeking a better future for themselves and their families.

Depending on the context, countries encounter various challenges linked with migration. These may differ, for example, for countries experiencing long lasting crises, or those with a high youth unemployment rate, countries in economic and demographic transition or developed countries where migrant workers are headed.

Except in the case of forced migrations, which are the result of conflicts and intolerable crisis situations, it is important that we do not consider migrations only as a problem requiring a solution, but as an integral part of economic, social and human development. Regardless of the challenges and costs for migrants and countries, migrations may also be an opportunity for progress.

I would like to point out that due to climate change we can expect increased migrant flows in the future as well. In addition, this is where the transition to sustainable agriculture focusing on mitigating and preventing climate change will play a crucial role.

By harmonising policies in the fields of migration, agriculture and rural development, countries can promote positive and eliminate negative effects of migrations. Our joint objective should be aimed at making efforts by means of measures so that migrations become a choice and not a necessity.

Investing and attempting to eliminate obstacles for prospective migrants are a possible route to this objective. Other activities would also include the creation of better living conditions in rural areas, education and training of young people, and the promotion of employing and including young people in agrifood supply chains. A different approach would be required in countries where migrations are the result of conflicts, or the countries where migrants and refugees are headed in their desire for a better future. By protecting their rights and promoting their social and economic integration, their contribution to the development of the country can also improve.

In Slovenia, we are mostly faced with the challenge of how to maintain and prevent migration from rural to urban areas. Investing in vital countryside is thus our important priority. We strive to create conditions and opportunities to encourage citizens to seek their opportunities while living in the countryside by promoting and developing rural areas and agriculture. Special attention is dedicated to young people, whereby measures are intended to generate jobs for them in rural areas with simultaneous generational renewal in agriculture. Generational renewal is vital for further development of agriculture, which is becoming a more interesting and business-oriented branch with young farm owners, and this is also recognised in the set development guidelines of Slovenian agriculture. However, we must certainly not neglect the significance of international cooperation and the existence of vulnerable groups detected in rural areas.

It is necessary for vulnerable groups and for a vital countryside that a country also implements measures within other policies, for example tax and social legislation, and access to land, which ensure rural infrastructure and other public services like jobs, shops, schools, kindergartens, and health care.

Finally, I would like to highlight the importance of beekeeping for preserving the vitality of the countryside. Slovenia is a country with a long beekeeping tradition. We dedicate special care and funds to bees within the framework of agricultural measures and programmes relating to beekeeping.

With sustainable development of this sector, we see numerous positive effects for agriculture and the environment, including great potential for promoting employment and life in rural areas.

Continuous growth of international migration and the number of refugees must remain at the centre of the international community's attention not as a threat, but as a special challenge presenting great development potential. To exploit it successfully, it is necessary to understand migrations, their dimensions, characteristics, and the factors affecting them and their effects. I thus commend today's discussion and the exchange of opinions, which I am certain will contribute to our better understanding of migrations and improved formation of development policies, also, for the future.

His Excellency Jamshid KHODJAEV, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Graziano Da Silva for his valuable service and sincere commitment to the fight on world hunger. His input in food security and sustainable agriculture development is invaluable and highly appreciated by Uzbekistan.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as the FAO Director-General. It is a demanding and responsible position, yet I am sure his knowledge and expertise in agriculture will be a great contribution to FAO and the Member countries. I wish you all the best and success in your new endeavors.

Today, Uzbekistan's agriculture comprises of almost 30 per cent of our GDP, more than 60 per cent of people live in rural areas, and almost 10 million people are directly involved in the agriculture sector.

We are set to achieve ambitious Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Today, we need to concrete on actions rather than general promises. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to Uzbekistan's strong commitment to achieve SDG targets and now let me introduce some concrete actions initiated with the leadership of our President, His Excellency, Mr Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

First, Uzbekistan has recently reached a turning point by approving a five year Development Strategy and Uzbekistan's ongoing five year reform agenda is strongly aligned with the ambitious targets for 2030 agreed under the Global Goals.

Second, on 20 October 2018, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted the resolution "On measures to implement the National Goals and Targets in the field of Sustainable Development for the period until 2030." The document sets 16 national sustainable development goals and 127 related targets. It also envisages gradual integration of sustainable development goals into the state development programmes and budgets of the country. Currently, we are also in the process of reforming the agriculture sector and the National Agriculture Development Strategy that has been developed with the support of European Union, FAO, World Bank and other international partners.

Third, food systems and agriculture sector has great potential to achieve SDG commitments collectively and jointly through the transfer of knowledge and technologies. Particularly, the Government initiated development of the National Food Security Programme, to achieve the national indicators under SDG2.

The alarming rise in the world hunger numbers puts under pressure the Zero Hunger target of SDG2. We still are in danger, with a rise to up to 1 billion hunger stricken people, which could be a dreadful future for the whole world.

Fourth, our Strategy prioritizes the regional cooperation as a vital instrument for the development of the entire Central Asian region and it promotes widening the close cooperation with our neighboring countries in Central Asia, including Afghanistan and others.

We have managed to eliminate trade barriers, simplified trade procedures, and resolved long lasting issues within Central Asia. As a result, only in 2018, the trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the Central Asian countries grew by 40 percent and millions of people started to cross into each other's countries.

Particularly, our trade, cultural and transport connectivity strengthened with Afghanistan. It is great achievement for the people and farmers of our countries.

Uzbekistan is taking serious steps to implement the SDG5 “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. We have completed the country’s gender assessment in the agriculture sector together with FAO and today I would like to highlight the particular role of women and youth in the development of food systems and agriculture development. This is the integral part of the National Agriculture Development Strategy.

Comprehensive indicators were set by the Government in the area of sustainable water and land resources management under SDG6. The Government of Uzbekistan committed to reclaim over 1 million hectares of land by effectively using the water and the land resources.

Another critical challenge is that we have already learned a disastrous lesson from the recent history in our region related to the drying of the Aral Sea which in the 1960s was the fourth largest lake in the world. This catastrophe was caused due to the unsustainable agriculture policies and practices. Currently, the Aral Sea region is facing several environmental, social and economic disasters, such as dust and the sand storms that are moving to other regions and countries, and even to some areas of Europe.

Last year, Uzbekistan carried out 500 thousand hectares afforestation activities in the dried bottom of the Aral Sea. This will continue every year until we achieve at least a total of 1.5 million hectares of afforestation in this region in order to tackle the environmental consequences of the Aral Sea.

With the initiative of the country, the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region was established jointly with the United Nations. Uzbekistan pledged the first financial contribution to the Trust Fund and we would like to thank all the contributing governments for their contributions to the Trust Fund, and a special thanks to the European Union for contributing to the Trust Fund as well. I think, this can be real example of joint work to achieve the SDG targets.

Further I would like to call on our friends and partners to join our efforts, as Uzbekistan and our region have historical and long term experience on agriculture development in the region. We are ready to share our experience with every country in the region and beyond.

Last, but not least, let me express our gratitude to all countries for your support and decision in organizing the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) in Uzbekistan next year in May.

It is great pleasure and honor for us to host such an important event for the first time in the Central Asian region. I assure you that the Republic of Uzbekistan will do all the necessary efforts to host this event at the highest organizational level and I would like to invite high level delegations from the region to Uzbekistan to the next FAO Regional Conference for Europe.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb AL MEHAIRI, Minister of State for Food Security of the United Arab Emirates

It gives me great pleasure to address you here at the 41st FAO Conference. I want to thank the organizers and also thank you all for being here and for your patience and for taking the time to listen to what the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is doing to promote national and global food security.

If I may, I would like to start by making an observation. The first ever FAO Conference was held in Quebec in 16th October 1945, just two months after the end of the Second World War. A global conflict that brought so much devastation. However, 75 years after this inaugural FAO event, we find ourselves standing at a critical tipping point that threatens to engulf the world in a new crisis. One of runaway climate change, the repercussions of which will likely eclipse the impact, not only of the Second World War but of all wars ever.

I recently returned from the EAT Stockholm Food Forum, which focused on the findings of the EAT Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health. The Commission found that universal adoption of a planetary health diet was essential if we are to avoid severe environmental degradation and the deaths of approximately 11 million people annually. It called for nothing less than a great food transformation.

Fortunately, we have the capacity to effect this change if we act now. The food production models that have nurtured humanity to this point have enabled us to develop technologically advanced societies that can find sustainable ways of producing food. Innovation is the core of the United Arab Emirates National Food Security, of which I am proud to lead as the First Minister of Food Security. The strategy which has three years of a detailed plan aiming to make sure that the UAE is not only food secure today, but also in future.

We aim for becoming amongst the top ten most food secure countries in the world by 2021. We are a water scarce country, we have very little arable land, so technology has been identified as the key to improving the UAE's food security status. At present we are ranked 31st in the Global Food Security Strategy, so although considered food secure, this position has been achieved while we import 90 percent of our food. Naturally, this makes us liable to disruptions in food supply chains, particularly in view of the volatilities in the region.

In meeting my country's burgeoning demand of food, we have been working to facilitate the role of technology in agriculture. I would like to give you some examples. We have used a government accelerator platform to successfully remove barriers in the current local food production sector in order to ramp up the adoption of technology. We attracted over 50 stakeholders from the private sector, academia, the youth, we brought everyone together and said, 'lets remove the barriers that exist now', and thankfully we came up with ten new initiatives in less than 100 days, and basically the process opened up a new economic sector that we call AgTech.

Therefore, among these initiatives that were announced, we now have a unified AgTech license across the nation. We have established building codes for closed system farming. We have also established a National Sustainable Agriculture Label. We also have now set up the platform for a database for potential AgTech investors. These, along with other important initiatives, are all aimed at creating a cultural movement that values food, strengthens our relationship with it and creates a better understanding of our food needs as a society.

In other words, I am sure you have heard of disrupting the food systems, therefore, we are not only disrupting the production food systems but also the way we behave towards food. We are already seeing very positive results from creating an AgTech environment in the UAE. One of our examples, is the commercial application of tomato farming, where we now see that we only need four litres of water to grow one kilogram of tomato instead of over 200 litres. Also, I'm sure that you have heard of the announcements of one of the biggest vertical farms that is going to built. It will be harvesting 6 000 pounds of leafy greens on a daily basis to cater for the needs of one of our most famous national airlines.

Another important area we are involved in, is in the research and development areas. We are really trying to push the boundaries of biotechnology, which we are developing with the academic sector and experts from the public and private sectors. Therefore, this aims to increase food yield through techniques that include seed enhancement, smart water harvesting, closed system agriculture, with the goal of improving production by 30 percent.

Aquaculture is also a significant area which we are working on and the Government has also invested, so far, more than USD 100 million in this sector. Thus, the mission of the National Food Security Strategy is to enable the UAE to become a world leader in innovation driven food security.

We are not just looking at food security on a national level, but are also committed to our role as a global food security player on all levels. With this in mind, the UN SDGs are embedded in all UAE National Strategies with targets such as reduction of food loss and food waste aligned with the SDG targets.

Global food security challenges cannot be overcome by a single State such as ours, it is the creation of stable international partnership that is fundamental to meeting global food production targets sustainably that can provide adequate nutrition for all.

Son Excellence Monsieur Marcos Alexandre NHUNGA, Ministre de l'agriculture et des forêts de la République d'Angola (Langue originale portugais)

C'est pour moi un grand honneur que de participer à cette Conférence de la FAO en tant que représentant de mon Gouvernement, et cela à un moment où nous devons tous être motivés pour atteindre, lors de la prochaine décennie, les objectifs de développement durable. Nous ressentons les énormes difficultés d'une telle entreprise, en raison notamment des changements climatiques, et surtout, dirais-je, des nombreux conflits qui persistent sur tous les continents, en particulier en Afrique et au Proche-Orient, où les flux les plus importants d'émigrés sont observés, du fait de la pauvreté, de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Avant de passer à tout ce qui touche à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation dans le monde, je voudrais tout particulièrement saluer une fois encore M. Qu Dongyu de la Chine, pour son élection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Nous connaissons tous ses compétences, son expérience sur le terrain et sa diplomatie. Nous avons eu l'occasion de nous entretenir avec lui pour en apprendre davantage sur son programme et sur le grand intérêt que son pays porte à la création d'infrastructures de production en Afrique et dans d'autres continents. Nous sommes certains, du reste, que son élection donnera une nouvelle dynamique à la FAO afin que cette Organisation puisse faire face aux énormes défis à venir dans les domaines de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de la pêche, de la foresterie, de l'élevage et de l'aquaculture. Il faudra travailler toujours sur la base d'un consensus pour aider les Membres à améliorer l'harmonisation de leurs politiques.

Nous souhaitons exprimer la volonté de notre pays de soutenir, au nom de la République d'Angola, les objectifs qui ont été fixés par la FAO et ceux du Programme 2030, et mettre en oeuvre la Déclaration de Malabo, approuvée par les chefs d'État africains.

Permettez-moi également de remercier la France pour sa candidature, de remercier Mme Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, ainsi que le candidat de la Géorgie, M. Davit Kirvalidze, des personnes distinguées et très actives. Je suis convaincu que si elles avaient été élues, elles auraient certainement fait un excellent travail à la tête de la FAO. Mais le cycle n'est pas fermé et nous espérons pouvoir compter sur votre précieuse collaboration pour apporter une valeur ajoutée encore au travail de notre Organisation.

Nous avons constaté avec satisfaction la manière digne et professionnelle avec laquelle tous les candidats ont mené leurs campagnes respectives, campagnes qui se sont déroulées dans une atmosphère constructive et cordiale.

Enfin, je crois que nous ne pouvons pas oublier notre Directeur général, notre cher ami M. Graziano da Silva, qui, pendant ses deux mandats, a essayé d'introduire des réformes et des innovations dans l'Organisation, cela afin de consacrer plus d'attention encore aux problèmes de la sécurité alimentaire et de la faim dans le monde, des problèmes qui continuent d'affliger une partie importante de la population du globe, en particulier les enfants.

À l'occasion de cette Conférence, il sera question du Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain exercice biennal. Nous savons que le budget de l'Organisation reste inchangé depuis un certain temps, même si les responsabilités de l'Organisation ont augmenté. De la même façon, les montants accordés au Programme de coopération technique pour soutenir l'élaboration de politiques et de stratégies agricoles et halieutiques, ainsi que la mise en oeuvre des directives et des plans d'action internationaux, approuvés par les organes directeurs de la FAO, ces montants sont fortement réduits malheureusement. Nous espérons que le nouveau Directeur général pourra contribuer à ce que le pourcentage des ressources disponibles pour ce Programme, qui est de 14 pour cent du budget global, puisse être augmenté, conformément à la Résolution 9/89.

Les pays producteurs de pétrole ont tendance à sous-estimer l'agriculture lorsque les prix du pétrole sur les marchés internationaux sont particulièrement élevés. C'est une lacune, dont nous sommes parfaitement conscients. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Gouvernement de l'Angola a décidé de diversifier sa production et de donner la priorité aux secteurs de l'agriculture et de la pêche afin de résoudre de manière durable les problèmes alimentaires et nutritionnels de la population, et pour limiter aussi le flux de population rurale déversé vers les villes.

Un ensemble de programmes de soutien a donc été mis sur pied pour assurer un meilleur développement de l'agriculture, notamment de l'agriculture familiale, et pour faciliter l'accès des agriculteurs aux semences, aux engrais, à la correction des sols, aux moyens mécaniques, au crédit et aux infrastructures, comme celles nécessaires à l'eau, à l'énergie, aux routes secondaires et tertiaires, afin d'améliorer la production et la productivité, et surtout de parvenir, à moyen terme, à l'autosuffisance alimentaire en céréales, tubercules et produits de la pêche.

En raison du conflit interne que l'Angola a vécu, des citoyens nationaux, notamment dans les zones rurales, sont partis vers les grandes villes et d'autres pays voisins, ainsi que vers le continent européen. Avec l'avènement de la paix, beaucoup ont pu rentrer et nous constatons aujourd'hui un phénomène inverse, c'est-à-dire un flux important d'immigrants provenant de différents continents, qui reviennent dans leur patrie, en Angola.

L'émigration affaiblit les ressources les plus importantes d'un pays tel que le nôtre. Il y a là des conséquences négatives très sérieuses à moyen et à long terme. C'est pourquoi les pays doivent définir des politiques appropriées pour créer des emplois, notamment pour les jeunes ruraux, en utilisant des processus plus mécanisés, plus attrayants et surtout plus rentables.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais transmettre l'intérêt de mon pays à collaborer de façon plus étroite encore avec la FAO et surtout son désir de pouvoir compter sur son assistance technique pour la mise en oeuvre de nos plans et programmes nationaux.

Son Excellence Monsieur Samir TAIEB, Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche de la République tunisienne (Langue originale arabe)

Permettez-moi d'emblée de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection en tant que Président de la 41^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Nous nous retrouvons ici une fois tous les deux ans, à l'occasion de cette Conférence, pour évaluer les progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), du développement de l'agriculture, de l'éradication de la faim, de la pauvreté, et surtout pour savoir comment nous pourrions mettre au point le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation pour le rendre conforme aux aspirations de nos États Membres.

Permettez-moi de féliciter M. Qu Dongyu pour son élection au poste de Directeur général de cette Organisation. Je lui souhaite plein succès pour ce premier mandat et je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de l'Organisation d'une façon générale. Je félicite également la France et la Géorgie pour avoir présenté deux candidats, et je crois qu'une très bonne campagne électorale a été organisée par ces deux pays; elle nous a permis de connaître de nouvelles idées, de lancer de nouvelles initiatives fort intéressantes et précieuses.

Permettez-moi d'une façon générale de féliciter tous ceux qui ont participé aux préparatifs de cette Conférence et à son organisation. Je tiens à remercier également tous ceux qui ont collaboré au projet de rapport préparé pour la présente Conférence.

Je me félicite des nouvelles initiatives prises à l'échelle régionale par la FAO. C'est une très bonne pratique qui nous permet de procéder à des échanges de vue entre pays.

Nous nous retrouvons aujourd'hui dans le cadre d'une discussion consacrée à la sécurité alimentaire et à l'alimentation dans le monde. 821 millions de personnes aujourd'hui souffrent de la faim. C'étaient là les chiffres donnés pour 2017. Une personne sur neuf en 2017 souffrait de la faim dans le monde, selon les estimations données par la FAO. C'est une situation affligeante qui n'a fait qu'empirer en 2018.

En outre, toutes sortes de difficultés rendent ardue la réalisation des ODD: les changements climatiques, les conflits régionaux, la montée en flèche des prix des denrées alimentaires ou des aliments pour le bétail. Autant de facteurs qui ont des effets désastreux sur les pays et qui font que ces derniers souffrent d'un déficit alimentaire.

Nous devons, par conséquent, plus que jamais aujourd'hui, redoubler d'efforts si nous voulons faire face à ces difficultés et faire en sorte que l'avenir soit meilleur. Il faut rendre les choses prévisibles

dans l'intérêt de tous, de toute l'humanité et pour cela nous devons nous doter de mécanismes appropriés, et surtout, avoir les financements nécessaires pour faire face à des crises alimentaires très aiguës et à des situations d'urgences.

En Tunisie, nous sommes conscients de l'incidence de la crise alimentaire dans les zones rurales. Voilà pourquoi nous avons attribué dix millions de dollars sur le budget public aux agriculteurs des zones rurales, pour leur venir en aide et atténuer les effets du changement climatique.

Cette Conférence est une occasion toute particulière pour faire le point sur ce que nous avons pu accomplir en matière de sécurité alimentaire, notamment au regard du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

Essayons de voir ce que nous pourrions améliorer dans le secteur agricole à cette occasion. Nous devons adopter des politiques, des programmes et des mécanismes appropriés qui permettront de promouvoir les investissements dans l'agriculture. Cela, en tenant compte des liens qui existent entre les autres secteurs et l'agriculture. Nous devons lancer des appels aux bailleurs de fonds, faire en sorte que l'on puisse compter sur une meilleure assistance, notamment dans le secteur agricole des pays en développement.

Pour ce qui est des échanges internationaux, nous savons que le commerce est très important, qu'il a des conséquences parfois très fortes sur la petite agriculture. Et puis n'oublions pas aussi les séquelles du changement climatique sur l'agriculture. La prochaine réunion de la Conférence des parties (COP) à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques aura lieu au Chili. Elle sera l'occasion d'adopter un programme qui devrait nous permettre de trouver des solutions pratiques aux problèmes du changement climatique.

Il y a peu de ressource en eau également, c'est un autre problème. Les phénomènes de sécheresse qu'endure le secteur agricole en Tunisie est un fléau parmi d'autres. Le peu de ressources en eau est une menace pour la sécurité alimentaire, pour le développement de l'agriculture et pour la préservation de l'environnement. Nous devons donc gérer au mieux les ressources en eau dont nous disposons, c'est indispensable pour assurer la vie de la génération actuelle et de celles qui nous succéderont.

Nous devons agir au mieux au niveau international, mais aussi régional et local, pour que nous mettions un terme à ces déperditions d'eau. Essayer de mieux recycler l'eau, les déchets bio et surtout assurer la désalinisation.

Merci encore à M. Graziano da Silva, le Directeur général actuel de la FAO. Félicitations au nouveau Directeur général, M. Qu Dongyu. Je vous remercie de votre aide et nous n'épargnerons aucun effort, je puis vous l'assurer, pour rester à vos côtés, pour vous aider. Je salue tous ceux qui sont présents à cette Conférence et leur souhaite plein succès.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de clausurar la sesión, deseo recordar a los delegados la celebración del evento paralelo sobre el Hambre Cero en África “Progresos realizados en el logro del objetivo de Malabo de erradicar el hambre para 2025: perspectivas y desafíos en la región de África”, que tendrá lugar a las 12.30 horas en el Centro Sheikh Zayed.

Esto nos lleva al final de nuestra reunión matinal. Continuaremos con las intervenciones respecto del tema 10 cuando reanudemos nuestro trabajo, esta tarde a las 14.30 horas en punto.

Se levanta la cuarta sesión plenaria.

The meeting rose at 12:19 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 19

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.19

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 June 2019

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14:34 hours
Mr Thanawat Tiensin,
Vice-chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 34
sous la présidence de M. Thanawat Tiensin,
Vice Président de la Conférence

La cinquième sesión es abierta a las 14.34
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Thanawat Tiensin,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)***(C 2019/2; C 2019/12 Rev. 1)***VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 10, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

Statements by Heads of Delegation**Déclarations des chefs de délégation****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación**

Slovakia, Cuba, Malaysia, New Zealand, Guinea, Jordan, Poland, Antigua and Barbuda, Qatar, Norway, Cameroon, Japan, Sweden, Thailand, Jamaica, Eswatini, Republic of Korea, Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Gabon, Algeria, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, China, France, United States of America, Viet Nam, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Spain.

Her Excellency Gabriela MATEČNÁ, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

Migration, a phenomenon of the twenty first century, is considered to be one of the main global issues international communities are currently dealing with. Migration is an increasingly complex phenomenon that presents economic, social, population, cultural, political, security and environmental challenges. Migration, however, does not only bring challenges. It is a historical social phenomenon that is a source of development and economic growth.

Nowadays, most of the attention is devoted to international migration, which, as indicated in 2018 Report on The State of Food and Agriculture, is only part of a much bigger picture that includes internal migration, including rural migration.

Allow me to briefly outline the situation in Slovakia. Slovakia is a country that has not been dramatically affected by migration flows during the twentieth century. The situation has changed with the accession of Slovakia to the European Union and the Schengen area.

Like other countries, Slovakia faces a situation where the nature and character of the countryside is changing, and depopulation of rural areas is taking place. Situations regarding the workforce in the countryside are alarming. Workplaces in rural areas lack labour force, farmers face labour shortages and the number of people willing to work in rural areas is declining from year to year. For example, and as a comparison, three decades ago, there were 360 000 people working on farms. In 2017, there were only 48 000 people. In addition, due to lack of staff, farmers are forced to reduce the number of animals. Obviously, revitalization of rural areas is necessary and it represents one of the main challenges for Slovakia. If we do not want to see rural areas decline, we need to act.

One of the possibilities is to focus on rural development, invest in agriculture and, thus, attract inhabitants to move back to the countryside and rural areas, and ensure that people who are willing to move back have decent living standards. This is what we are doing in Slovakia. For example, we have developed action plans for the least developed regions, through which the Slovak Government supports agricultural projects, with the aim of creating new jobs in lagging areas. Increasing rural standards is also implemented through activities and measures within the Rural Development Program of the Slovak Republic, 2014 to 2020.

Migration, despite the challenges it presents, is part of economic, social and human development and a mean of reducing inequalities, both within and between countries. If managed well, migration helps countries to prosper. Thus, it is important to devote due attention to it, particularly in the context of agriculture and rural development. Migration, agriculture and rural development cannot be seen in isolation, but rather as inter linked areas.

In closing, let me commend the significant and unique work of FAO in promoting rural migration and the positive impact the Organization has on rural populations, agriculture and food systems, all with the aim of achieving Zero Hunger and the eradication of poverty.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Gustavo Luis RODRÍGUEZ ROLLERO, Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Cuba

En nombre del pueblo y el Gobierno cubano, de los productores, cooperativistas y campesinos; de la delegación cubana y en el mío propio, trasmito el más cordial saludo a este 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Consideramos de vital importancia, para el logro de la Agenda 2030, abordar las temáticas asociadas al desarrollo sostenible.

Cuba ha alcanzado resultados significativos a favor de la seguridad alimentaria para su población. Hace años alcanzamos el objetivo Hambre Cero, que hoy sigue siendo meta de muchas naciones. El Gobierno cubano continúa concediendo máxima prioridad al derecho a la alimentación para todos los ciudadanos del país; el cual está refrendado en la nueva Constitución cubana, aprobada por el 85,86% de los electores.

Los grandes programas encaminados a transformar integralmente la vida del campesinado y el fortalecimiento de la resiliencia de las poblaciones agrícolas, comenzando con el triunfo de la Revolución en 1959; con la promulgación de las Leyes de Reforma Agraria.

Ello fue posible acompañado del desarrollo rural productivo, tecnológico, económico y científico, así como de programas sociales de cobertura en el territorio nacional.

El Gobierno cubano fortalece la seguridad alimentaria mediante amplias políticas públicas, entre ellas la de garantizar los productos alimenticios básicos a precios subsidiados para la totalidad de la población. Pero todo ello lo tenemos que hacer en circunstancias difíciles.

Entre los obstáculos que enfrentamos está el impacto negativo de la descapitalización del sector agrícola durante la década del 90, resultado de la conjugación coyuntural adversa en la que por un lado se registra la desarticulación del 86% de las relaciones económico-comerciales que mi país tenía con los países ex socialistas de Europa; y, por otro lado, el impacto del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra el pueblo de Cuba desde hace seis décadas. Baste señalar que, desde abril de 2017 hasta marzo de 2018, los daños ocasionados al sector agroalimentario por este bloqueo que hoy se refuerza suman 413.793.100 USD.

Los ingresos dejados de obtener a causa de este cerco económico hubieran servido para la reinversión y la creación de infraestructuras más sólidas en el sector agroalimentario.

Adicionalmente, Cuba se ve afectada por el cambio climático, sobre todo por ser un pequeño Estado insular. Ello nos ha obligado a poner en práctica un ambicioso Plan de Estado para el enfrentamiento al cambio climático, que prevé múltiples acciones para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

El desarrollo agrícola es piedra angular para el presente y el futuro del país. Especial atención otorgamos a los programas para incentivar el desarrollo rural, mejorando las condiciones sociales, educacionales y culturales con equidad de género, generando oportunidades para los jóvenes en las zonas rurales y propiciando incentivos económicos para los que trabajan la tierra. Ello es clave también para enfrentar el desafío de las migraciones de zonas rurales a zonas urbanas.

Por otro lado, seguimos impulsando el programa de agricultura urbana, suburbana y familiar, así como los de autoabastecimiento municipal. Todo ello forma parte del alto compromiso alcanzado en un modelo de desarrollo socialista próspero y sostenible.

Trabajamos con el objetivo de lograr una agricultura más organizada, eficiente y productiva, alcanzando mayor participación en el crecimiento del producto interno bruto y la reducción en los gastos de importación de alimentos.

El Sistema de las Naciones Unidas tiene una responsabilidad esencial con los países del Sur.

Agradecemos y recabamos un mayor acompañamiento de la FAO y de la cooperación internacional para mejorar la capacidad científica y técnica, y para contar de manera regular con los recursos adicionales provenientes de la asistencia oficial al desarrollo, que nos ayude a seguir elevando, de manera significativa y sostenible.

La época que nos ha tocado vivir es difícil, signada por las crisis económicas, energéticas, ambiental, alimentaria y de valores. Ante estas realidades, no podemos cruzarnos de brazos, sino trabajar para lograr un mundo más justo, donde el ser humano pueda vivir con decoro el tiempo corto que nos está dado en esta tierra.

His Excellency Salahuddin AYUB, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia

I am privileged to speak on behalf of my Government at this 41st Session of the FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate the newly elected Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, for his appointment and look forward to working very closely with FAO towards a world free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

I would like to also thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his service and contribution to the Organization.

Malaysia relates itself to the findings of 2018 Report on The State of Food and Agriculture that migration is closely linked with agriculture, rural development and the overall development of societies. Since our independence in 1957, the country had undergone rapid economic and infrastructural development, making Malaysia one of the most progressive countries in the region.

Malaysia views migration as part of the process of structural transformation of economies. Rural migration has accompanied the process where labour is transferred from the agricultural sector to manufacturing and services sectors, contributing to rising incomes and economic, social and human development.

To balance the impacts of migration on agriculture and rural development, the Government of Malaysia continues to make agriculture sector relevant by playing an important role in addressing rural employment, increasing rural incomes, and ensuring national food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry in Malaysia launched The Way Forward for 2019-2020 to realign our priorities into three dimensions, namely, food security and safety; rural economy development; as well as private sector investment and international trade.

Initiatives have been outlined involving the application of new technologies, efficient management of natural resources and the use of that produce high-yielding seeds and breeds, which are resistant to pest and diseases, and are less susceptible to climate change. With this, we can make agriculture more sustainable and profitable.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Rural Development Plan 2018–2023 also identified agriculture as one of the programmes to generate a more competitive rural economy, by creating rural entrepreneurs who are oriented towards technology and innovation.

Malaysia recognizes the importance of policy coherence between agriculture and rural development to improve urban-rural linkages to maximize the benefits to rural communities. As such, various Ministries have come together in a Programme called "My Village, My Future" to encourage rural people, including youth and indigenous communities, to remain in the village and become agents for rural development by participating in economic activities. The Programme optimizes the use of available resources, such as abandoned land, to turn them into new opportunities.

Innovation and technology continue to be the key determinants in ensuring sustainable rural development in our countries. To this end, I would urge FAO, through its capacity building programmes, to nurture and develop innovative-based programmes and policies in Member States.

This could be forged through strategic partnerships of key stakeholders such as the local governments, financial institutions and the private sector. In this regard, Malaysia could also share its expertise with FAO and other Member Countries.

Malaysia congratulates FAO for its work, which provides useful guidance to member countries to formulate the necessary strategies towards maximizing the benefits of migration. Malaysia will continue its support to FAO and urge all Member Countries for a continued collaboration in this area, so that no one is left behind.

To end, let us all come together with our steadfast commitment, efforts and full support to assist FAO towards achieving Zero Hunger and eradicating malnutrition. Together we can all make the difference towards achieving Agenda 2030 and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Honourable Damien O’CONNOR, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister for Biosecurity, Food Safety and Rural Communities of New Zealand

I am pleased to address the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to offer my congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu and your election to the position of Director-General and acknowledge the two other candidates for enabling a robust democratic process.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva for his leadership over the last eight years. Your reform initiatives around decentralization and strengthening of Regional and Country Office networks have brought the Organization closer to its Members.

In this context, New Zealand encourages FAO to further strengthen its links with regional organizations to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration. FAO’s strength lies within its people and we look to the new leadership to further enhance FAO’s reputation as the global center for excellence for food and agriculture. We also look for it to foster an organizational culture based on the values of collaboration, non-discrimination and mutual respect.

New Zealand welcomes the focus of this year’s Conference on the theme of *Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development*. In recent years, the world has seen unprecedented movements of people across borders driven by a range of social, political and economic factors. For many countries, including New Zealand, this migration has helped drive economic growth and stimulate productivity and innovation.

Since the arrival of our Tangata Whenua, the original inhabitants of our land, migration has played a central role in New Zealand’s social and economic development. Demand for agricultural labour was a key early driver of migration and this continues to be the case today. In recent years, steady economic growth and strong demand for labour in agriculture and other growth sectors has resulted in record levels of net migration from virtually every continent. We expect this to continue for the foreseeable future.

FAO’s work in helping to revitalize rural areas and to promote productive employment represents an important contribution to the efforts made to address rural poverty and give people within rural communities hope for their future.

The agricultural sector is also a vital piece of the puzzle in our efforts to respond to climate change. The changing global climate will hit many rural communities hard, and many will look to FAO for assistance in adapting to these climactic changes.

There is also much to be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our agricultural sector. We need to help our farmers produce safer, and more nutritious food in greater quantities and with less environmental impact. We already have a number of tools to help us achieve this through sustainable resource management and innovation. We now need to help countries take up these tools while continuing to develop new and more effective ones.

New Zealand values its contribution with FAO in this area, particularly through FAO’s partnership with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gasses.

The significance of climate change for Pacific Island countries is already well known. The future rising sea levels have the potential to erase some of our Pacific neighbours from the map, within our lifetime, causing widespread migration from and within the region, unless we decisively act now. Pacific Island countries already face major changes in terms of geographical dispersion, the scale of the agricultural

sectors and distance from markets. They will continue to require strong support from bilateral and multilateral partners, including FAO, that are tailored to their size and unique circumstances.

As recently reaffirmed in the UN's ambitious Sustainable Development Goals, the so called 2030 Agenda, FAO continues to have a central role to play in its core mission of improving food security. Ending hunger is obviously the central goal of our efforts in achieving food security, however, there is more to it than that. Food security also means improving the nutritional quality of the food people eat. This is the major priority for the Pacific Region whether FAO is to make steady obesity and non-communicable diseases that account for more than 75 percent of adult deaths. New Zealand supports the work of FAO in addressing this within the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and, the Action Plan for Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Reducing food loss and wastage in food systems and value chains is another important means of enhancing food security. Again, FAO has an important role to play through its technical assistance programs and normative work.

For most countries, national food production has its limits. As such, international trade is also an essential part of most food security strategies; this means reducing trade barriers and promoting sound agricultural and trade policies that facilitate trade and efficient resource utilization. FAO plays a central role through its support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which establishes international food standards to protect health and facilitate trade. New Zealand also values the work of the International Plant Protection Convention in developing international plant health standards.

Like others here today, New Zealand wishes to underline the importance of adequately resourcing these bodies to meet growing demands from Members.

Finally, I reiterate New Zealand's sincere thanks to the outgoing Director-General for his committed service over the last eight years. New Zealand looks forward to working with the new Director-General and building on his success in advancing the Organization's work program.

Son Excellence Madame Mariama CAMARA, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République de Guinée

C'est un grand honneur pour moi, au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République de Guinée, le Professeur Alpha Conde, et en mon nom personnel, de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée, à l'occasion de la 41^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Placée cette année sous le thème «La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: Migrations, agriculture et développement rural», cette session se tient dans un contexte marqué, en Guinée, par la volonté de transformation structurelle de notre économie et d'accélération de l'émergence du pays, en vue d'offrir de meilleures conditions de vie aux populations, et particulièrement aux jeunes et aux femmes.

Mais avant de poursuivre mon propos, je voudrais dire que nous avons bien apprécié les trois programmes des trois candidats, et je veux féliciter M. Qu Dongyu pour sa brillante élection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Le Gouvernement guinéen lui exprime, par ma voix, son soutien dans la conduite des grandes réformes déclinées dans son programme, enrichies des propositions des autres candidats, pour la réalisation à terme de nouvelles performances organisationnelles et opérationnelles de notre Organisation commune, la FAO, et pour l'atteinte des objectifs, dont l'éradication de la faim dans le monde.

C'est le moment de remercier également le Directeur général sortant, M. José Graziano da Silva, et de lui rendre hommage pour son dévouement constant en faveur d'une croissance agricole durable en vue d'éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Selon une enquête réalisée au sein de la CEDEAO, 84 pour cent des flux migratoires en Afrique de l'Ouest ont pour destination un autre pays de la sous-région. Il est vrai que certain de nos jeunes partent vers les lumières de l'Occident, souvent au péril de leur vie et de leur intégrité physique et morale. Mais lorsqu'on parle de migration, on doit se souvenir que mon pays, la Guinée, a longtemps accueilli des centaines de milliers de déplacés en provenance des pays voisins victimes de conflits violents. C'est ainsi que plus de 650 000 déplacés libériens et sierraléonais, pour ne citer que ceux-ci,

étaient venus se réfugier en Guinée, et à la même période environ 320 000 Guinéens se déplacèrent à l'intérieur du pays après avoir été touchés par ce même conflit, qui avait débordé des frontières au sud. Ces mouvements migratoires de l'intérieur du pays se sont accentués avec la présence en Guinée entre 2014 et 2015 de la maladie à virus Ebola.

Aujourd'hui encore, mon pays continue d'accueillir de nombreux ressortissants étrangers. Ces derniers s'orientent principalement vers les zones minières, où la dégradation de l'environnement prend des proportions inquiétantes. Les jeunes constituent l'essentiel de la population active agricole dans les zones rurales et sont le futur de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et des autres industries locales pour contribuer pleinement au développement de leur communauté. Il est impératif de réussir à maintenir cette présence vitale au centre du développement.

Nos différents gouvernements savent qu'il est primordial d'investir dans la jeunesse en matière d'éducation, de formation, d'emplois décents et productifs, de modernisation pour des conditions de vie plus attractives en vue d'endiguer le flux migratoire et maintenir les jeunes dans leur terroir.

En Guinée, avec 1161 cours d'eau et un réseau hydrographique dense de 6500 km, 23 bassins versants, dont 14 internationaux, et plus de 6 millions de terres arables, le secteur agricole est l'un des secteurs qui offre le plus d'opportunités pour accélérer la croissance économique. C'est pourquoi, le Gouvernement l'a placé au centre de ses priorités de développement et ambitionne de faire de la Guinée une puissance agricole émergente à moyen terme. Compte tenu du vaste inventaire des potentiels agroécologique, pastoral et halieutique et de son caractère fortement inclusif, il est le premier pourvoyeur d'emploi, avec plus de 70 pour cent de la population active, et le plus grand contributeur à la création de richesse du pays, avec plus de 20 pour cent du produit intérieur brut.

Pour autant, le secteur agricole de la Guinée demeure un atout relativement inexploité avec moins de cinq pour cent de terres arables cultivées et de nombreuses contraintes liées à la faiblesse des capacités financières, techniques et institutionnelles.

Grâce aux initiatives du Président de la République et à l'accompagnement de nos partenaires techniques et financiers, le monde rural a bénéficié, depuis 2011, d'une attention accrue qui lui a permis d'atteindre des résultats significatifs, notamment : la mise à disposition des intrants à des prix subventionnés, des programmes de désenclavement qui sont en cours, des zones de production et d'aménagement hydroagricoles, l'intensification des cultures vivrières, la relance des cultures de rente et d'exportation, entre autres, ainsi que la mécanisation progressive des opérations culturelles et l'installation de rizeries et d'unités de transformation, qui concourent progressivement à un début de modernisation de notre agriculture.

Afin de poursuivre et accentuer cette dynamique, les efforts de nos gouvernements et de la communauté internationale doivent permettre de consolider les acquis en renforçant l'appui à l'amélioration de la productivité agricole et la compétitivité des filières de production.

Le Gouvernement de la République de Guinée a fait le pari de bâtir sa stratégie de développement agricole autour des principales préoccupations des ruraux en se focalisant à moyen terme sur la mise en œuvre du plan national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Celui-ci est le pilier agricole référentiel du plan national de développement économique et social depuis 2016-2020 avec pour but de promouvoir le développement des différentes filières agricoles à forte valeur ajoutée, telles que le riz, l'anacarde, le palmier à huile, le café, le cacao, le sésame et le fonio. De même, des efforts non négligeables sont en cours, incluant les infrastructures et équipement de stockage, de transformation et de marché pour favoriser l'accès des producteurs aux avantages économiques contribuant ainsi à la stabilité sociale.

Pour conclure, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous réaffirmons la volonté du Gouvernement guinéen de renforcer la coopération avec la FAO pour une agriculture performante garantissant la sécurité alimentaire et une nutrition de qualité des populations.

His Excellency Ibrahim SHAHAHDEH, Minister for Agriculture and Environment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Original language Arabic)

Allow me to first to extend my deepest gratitude to, His Excellency Dr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, for the his efforts as he has led this Organization in an exceptional fashion over the past eight years in the field of agricultural development, achieving food security, preventing poverty and malnutrition, as well as in combatting famine in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Agenda 2030.

FAO's efforts were obvious and clear in all of the Member Countries including the developing countries and most importantly, my country, Jordan. We wish success to the newly elected Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu and his mandate to service the agricultural sector.

Agriculture all over the world, and specifically in Jordan, is a main pillar for socioeconomic and environmental development. Different countries in the world base their own agricultural strategies on such development by allocating additional resources to support the agricultural sector in spite of the limited nature of resources. In this regard, the Jordanian Government is granting greater attention to the development of agriculture on all levels, especially when it comes to food security, the health of citizens, environmental safety, as well as rural development. This sector constitutes a major economic basis for comprehensive rural and urban development through optimal exploitation of natural resources, creation of new job opportunities, achievement of industrial growth, increase of exports and self-reliance, prevention of internal migration, safeguarding resources, and meeting the requirements of sustainable development.

As such, the Government of Jordan is aware that agriculture is one of the main pillars of comprehensive development in all of its environmental, social and economic dimensions. In order to honour Jordan's international engagement in achieving the requirements of the SDG Agenda 2030, we have adopted a number of national strategies on sustainability and agricultural development, by concentrating on rural development and promoting our capacity to produce food, products and enhancing food security. We have also promoted the sustainable use of natural and agricultural resources without undermining the environment while, preserving our ecological systems and providing health protection for natural animal and plant resources, providing greater economic opportunities for agricultural producers and providing greater marketing processes. All while promoting value chains and achieving greater efficiency through irrigation.

With regards to water resources, Jordan is deemed as one of the worst countries in the world and suffers greatly from the impact of climate change and drought. Jordan's natural resources are at risk and as a result we are facing greater risks in the agricultural sector and this mainly impacts small famers. Therefore, promoting their resilience has become greatly urgent.

The Jordanian Government has worked on a number of multiple programs in the field of agriculture and in developing rural societies and communities to limit internal migration, in order to allow small farmers, the poor, namely woman led families, and family agriculture to have greater importance.

These projects and programs include small revenue generating projects that would allow families to meet some of their needs in terms of food and security according to their own level of production. These projects and programmes concentrate on the role of women, offering them soft loans to provide for the family and to have a dignified life. Soft loans for small families are provided in order to enhance their production and their livelihoods for their own families and for the communities. With these loans they hold specialized exhibitions in the different areas in the Kingdom, including households with women producers that provide for their own families, to develop administrative institutional frameworks within the Ministry of Agriculture, and that work on rural development and the promotion of the role of women in order to provide greater job opportunities for rural populations and women in particular.

In light of the situation in neighbouring countries, namely the same crisis that has entered as fear, and the ongoing negative implications on the Sustainable Development Agenda, with the presence of Syrian refugees whose numbers have reached about 1.3 million refugees including about 671 000 refugees who are registered. Knowing that more than 19 percent of them live within camps and in

originally vulnerable rural areas, which has constituted a greater pressure on natural resources, on job opportunities and achieving nutritional and food security for rural families.

The Jordanian Government, last February, has enacted the Syrian Crisis response plans for 2019 with a total cost of USD 2.4 billion and it was developed based on a participatory approach with a number of representatives from the different line of Ministries and a number of UN agencies, donor countries and NGOs. In addition, this plight is only partially noticed by the international community and this is why we need to see greater efforts to support the National Syrian Crisis Response Plan in order to be able to overcome the implications of this crisis in accordance with the objectives of FAO, and in order to achieve food security and to promote the levels of nutrition and better livelihoods.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you would only have to imagine that the number, or the population of your own countries have increased by 30 percent. Imagine what kind of implication this would have on your countries limited economic resources, infrastructure and the different financial costs that could be incurred as a result. In this regard, we have to promote the role of FAO in order to minimize the impact of climate change, and the risks affecting food and agriculture. I call on all donor countries to support small farmers around the world as they face great challenges threatening their own existence as farmers, producers of agriculture. I call on all donor countries to also contribute in filling the gaps in agriculture and agri-food production, and in providing small farmers with the latest supporting technologies.

As the Head of the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Organization, that represents 22 Ministers of Agriculture in the region, and that has its own specificities and faces its own challenges and unlimited opportunities, if we are able to complement our opportunities knowing that this Organization believes that there should be a high level of coordination and working on enhancing our common action and setting our own agricultural priorities.

To conclude, I would like to extend my thank you to all UN agencies and donor countries that have supported Jordan in facing all of the economic challenges.

His Excellency Jan Krzysztof ARDANOWSKI, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland (Original language Polish)

It is an honour for me to be able to participate in the FAO Plenary Session. I wish to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election to the position of Director-General of this Organization.

My country declares full support for the achievement of the ambitious goals that are ahead of FAO. One of the most important goals of FAO is to prevent hunger and poverty. To a larger extent, we can do it by developing agriculture and boosting food production with respect to nature and with rational and sustainable use of the Earth's resources.

The world community when collaborating in harmony is able to counteract hunger and malnutrition on the global scale. Without food there is no freedom and no sovereignty. Poland, a country for decades has suffered occupation and dominance of its most powerful neighbours, is particularly well aware of what it means to be in bondage and to have no political independence.

Our Plenary Session is devoted to one of the key challenges of modern times, migration and to the attempts made by agriculture and rural areas to face this challenge. My country, Poland, and other countries of the European Union (EU) are aware of the importance of this issue. This was reflected, amongst others, in the communications from the European Commission of November 2017, *The Future of Food and Farming*, where we find a direct reference to the migration issues.

Fully recognising the significance of this matter, Poland other European Union countries believe that the solution to the phenomenon of migration should be through the elimination of the underlying causes of this phenomenon. We are convinced that the knowledge gains and the projects supported by the common agricultural policy should be used to develop employment opportunities and income generating activities in the regions of origin and transit of legal migrants, including with the use of the Union's external investment plan.

We recognize that greater emphasis should be placed on pilot projects related to the training of young farmers; implemented with the participation of European farmers' organizations as well as the

European Union-Africa exchange programs. We see the need and opportunities of deepening cooperation in the field of agricultural research and innovation using appropriate EU policies and instruments for this purpose. Therefore, the European Commission is deepening strategic cooperation and substantive dialogue with the African Union on the issues relating to agriculture and rural development. In this way, we help this geographical region to develop its own agrifood sector and thus we try to limit and eliminate the need for potential immigrants to leave their homelands.

The countries of the African Region are one of the geographical priority areas for EU cooperation with developing countries. At the recent session of the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries Council, in April 2019, a separate item was devoted to cooperation with Africa. Views about the Report from the Task Force Rural Africa (TFRA): Africa Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation, were exchanged at the Council meeting. The assumption of the Report is that the short and long term recommendations should be adjusted to reflect the national and regional economic, social and political conditions of individual African countries. Poland considers this cooperation to be very purposeful and wants to act towards an active and mutually beneficial partner dialogue between the European Union and the African Union.

As an active member of the EU, Poland wants to develop mutually beneficial scientific, academic and expert cooperation, aimed at the exchange of knowledge in the fields of European policies seeking such Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) instruments, which will prove effective in African conditions, among others, by support for the financing of knowledge transfer, by helping to improve the quality of life, and by increasing employment in rural areas.

Poland, absolutely wishes to stress that development aid for developing countries must not use poverty instrumentally. That the assistance cannot be made dependent on the adoption of ideas, such as the philosophy of gender abortion or forced sterilisation, unacceptable to those nations and contradicting their local traditions.

Poland is ready to support the activities of African countries amongst others with expert knowledge gained in the area of rural development programs such as 'Leader', as well as the implementation of agricultural reforms, including the development of a strategy; framing of legislation in the agricultural sector, in particular with regard to support for the development of entrepreneurship and the implementation of innovations; as well as creating conditions for joint investments and eliminating barriers to market access, such as military conflicts, violence and corruption.

Poland, similarly to our partners from the European Union fully recognises the need to cooperate with developing partner countries from both the African Continent and other geographical areas within the broadly understood agricultural sector. We intend to use our mutual and growing experiencing in formulating the next multi-annual development cooperation program for the new period so that it forms part of the assumptions and provisions of the ambitious and universal 2030 Development Agenda.

The Honourable Dean JONAS, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda

For those of us in small island developing economies, we must constantly seek to sustainably and effectively modernise agriculture and maritime economy to improve production efficiency, achieve food security and profitably create additional business and job opportunities for our people.

These imperatives are at the core of successfully realising the Sustainable Development Goals. Policies and strategic interventions must be developed, and frameworks for implementation prioritized, to ensure that we accomplish these reforms by 2030.

It is an open secret that we cannot effect these reforms alone. South-South and Triangular partnerships that unlock financial and technical resources while simultaneously strengthening local institutions and building local capacity, must form the bedrock of our shared ambitions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Our collective commitment to achieving these goals must focus on increasing resilience to evidence based decision making, and innovative financing for investment in technology and human capital.

Agriculture represents about one percent of Antigua and Barbuda's GDP. Notwithstanding our limited land mass, we are committed to increasing agriculture to five percent of our GDP, creating opportunities for youth and women farmers, to profitably engage in agriculture in identified areas and becoming self sufficient in certain crops. We are currently developing programs using greenhouses and conducting research to inform our national policy.

The oceans are central to sustainable development globally and particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Antigua and Barbuda has a combined land mass of about 440km² and an exclusive economic zone of about 107 909 000km². We are now focusing attention on the requirements for developing sustainable resilient ocean beached blue economies, in a region where the ocean economy is estimated to generate USD 400 billion. This figure is equivalent to 14 to 27 percent of the estimated value of the global ocean economy.

One area that my government is promoting, is the development of a sustainable fish farming industry in Antigua and Barbuda. We are importing over USD 1 million of tilapia fish alone, yet the opportunity exists to significantly reduce this importation by producing and packaging this fish locally. With targeted investment we can transform this into an area which meets local demand but also produces fish for export.

The impact of natural disasters, climate change, pose the greatest threat to developing our agriculture and marine economies. The 2017 hurricane season remains one of the most compelling examples of just how significant a challenge is posed to our region by climate change. Hurricane Irma devastated Barbuda, wiping out 25 percent of our GDP in a few hours. On our sister island of Dominica, Hurricane Maria wiped out 226 percent of its GDP. The uninsured losses to the Caribbean region from Hurricane Irma alone were estimated to be between USD 7 billion and USD 15 billion, and the insured losses were between USD 40 billion and USD 85 billion.

Antigua and Barbuda has demonstrated leadership as champions for clean oceans. By not just settling for the status of being mere victims of climate change, in 2016 we pioneered the first ban on single use plastic bags and styrofoam in the Caribbean. We were among the first signatories of the Commonwealth Clean Ocean's Alliance. We seek to galvanise support to tackle plastic pollution.

While we are from different backgrounds and from different regions, and in various stages of agricultural and maritime development, we share one planet. I am confident that if we work together we can achieve the goals of food security, poverty elimination and, by extension, national and global security. Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to working FAO, after all, it is our vision for 2020.

His Excellency Abdulaziz bin Ahmed AL MALKI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to FAO (Original language Arabic)

I would first and foremost like to very warmly congratulate the new Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu and wish him full success in his new mission. I would also like to thank and express my high esteem to the candidates from the Republic of France and Georgia for their very valuable ideas and the efforts they made in the run up to this election.

I also thank, Dr José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General, for the praise worthy efforts he made at the service of this Organization and its noble humanitarian goals.

The challenges that agriculture is facing in global food security, and the sustainable management of natural resources are multi-dimensional challenges. Agriculture is inextricably linked to nature and is vulnerable to the transboundary changes it is witnessing today. In addition, despite the abundance of human, natural and economic resources in many regions of the world, there are other regions that suffer from different food crises, including the Near East and North Africa region, as well as the other countries in the Arab World.

The State of Qatar has bolstered its position in the international scene through sustainable development and through innovative ideas and solutions to protect the environment and its sustainability. We are also investing in innovation and modern practices across sectors. We commend the role of FAO in promoting and supporting sustainable development, and elaborating a strategy for world food security.

We believe that achieving food security in the State of Qatar will contribute to regional and international food security. For this reason, Qatar has established expert companies in agriculture, livestock and fisheries and has launched agriculture investment projects for private sector investors, as well as, a number of strategic projects for greenhouse vegetable production, and green fodder production, reusing treated water in order to attain self-sufficiency, and ensure safe food supplies. We are also using renewable energy as best practices to develop the agriculture sector, ensure the optimal use of the scarce natural resources available in our country, protect the environment, ensure food market stability, develop investments in agriculture and provide safeguards for the private sector to invest in agriculture.

We emphasize the need to face all severe threats and challenges due to climate change given their impact on water scarcity. This has a negative impact on crops, livestock, agriculture and aquaculture in many countries and leads to desertification, droughts and farmland degradation which makes many people vulnerable to malnutrition.

Qatar's strategy aims at achieving food security, and it is ranked first among Arab countries and 22 worldwide according to the Global Food Security Indicator (GFSI). Through its National Food Security Strategy, Qatar managed to face all threats, challenges and negative impacts by ensuring timely and quick provision of all necessary food products, drugs and primary resources.

We would like to pay tribute to this Organization for its leading role, its efforts and fruitful cooperation, with a great number of Member Countries, in order to achieve sustainable development and one of the main goals of this third millennium: eliminate poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and ensure global food security. This is the common goal we all strive to achieve.

Her Excellency Ms Olaug Vervik BOLLESTAD, Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Kingdom of Norway

Let me start by congratulating the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu. We look forward to cooperating with you.

To the outgoing Director-General, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, we thank you for the hard work and the delivered results, especially towards achieving Zero Hunger.

Human dignity is fundamental for all development. Poverty and human rights are at the heart of the Norwegian Government's Agenda for development. Here in FAO, I want to point out our support in fulfilling every human being's right to adequate food.

For years, hunger and malnutrition has been reduced, however this has changed in the last few years. Migration has increased, as an effect of poverty and hunger, and also because of war and conflict, and the effects of climate change. This heavily impacts food production and food safety. I am deeply concerned about this.

The spread of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is increasing. This reduces our access to effective cures for human and animal diseases. This is one of the greatest global health threats of our time. It is essential that we work for a reduced and for a more correct use of antibiotics. We must end the use of antibiotics as growth promoters and routine prophylaxis in animal food production.

The AMR challenge can only be solved through coordinated global action with a One Health approach. All relevant sectors must cooperate. We strongly support the scaling up of efforts through the cooperation between the Tripartite Plus organizations. Allow me, therefore to say, that we regret to note that the Conference resolution on AMR should have been more proactive. The goal must be to promote prudent and responsible use in order to minimize the threat of AMR and to ensure effective and life saving antibiotic drugs in the future, for both animals and humans.

The International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has been important for the global efforts to protect our seed diversity. In 2008, Norway established the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. After 11 years of operations, the Seed Vault is now a safe back up for more than one million seed samples from gene banks all over the world. Norway is also actively supporting the further realization of Farmers' Rights as recognized in the International Treaty.

Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty. We must address the entire food chain to achieve SDG 2, and the rest of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, I am happy to inform you that last Friday, the Norwegian Government launched a new action plan for sustainable food systems in Norwegian foreign and development policies. The main emphasis of the plan is to contribute to increased food security through sustainable food systems.

Norway is and will continue to be a strong supporter of multilateralism. We see the UN as the backbone of our global order. Presently, isolationism and protectionism challenge our efforts towards working for common solutions like the SDGs. Good cooperation is extremely important. We continue to emphasize that, on the ground, and FAO needs to cooperate with all relevant UN organizations. This could maximise the impact of actions and programmes to cope with irregular migration and other global challenges.

To end where I started, food is fundamental for human dignity. We are in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and still the number of hungry people is on the rise. We need to step up our efforts. One hundred and fifty one million children are stunted, and 151 million are too many.

Son Excellence Monsieur Gabriel MBAIROBE, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural de la République du Cameroun

Le Cameroun est honoré de prendre la parole aux présentes assises. Je saisis donc cette occasion pour féliciter le Secrétariat, au nom de la délégation que je conduis, et en mon nom personnel, de la parfaite organisation matérielle de la Conférence.

Continues in English

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu, the Director-General elect, for his brilliant election with a comfortable majority in the first round, as the Chief Executive of the FAO for the period 2019-2023, and to assure him of the overwhelming support of Cameroon to discharge his high responsibilities.

I wish also, along the same line, to congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva, who concludes, with this Conference, his second term as Director-General of FAO. Cameroon supported and accompanied him, in its own way, to fulfil his mission. This was done by ensuring that Cameroon was up-to-date with its regular financial contributions and through the revision of the Headquarters Agreement that created the Partnership and Liaison Office in Cameroon. Not to forget, its involvement in the Governing Bodies, including Chairing the Finance Committee, the regional groups, the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa on food standards, just to name but a few. We wish Dr José Graziano da Silva every success in his future activities.

Suite en français

Dans le cadre du débat général de cette 41^{ème} session de la Conférence, le thème central que nous traitons au titre du point «Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture» concerne «Migrations, agriculture et développement rural». Il s'agit d'un thème global et actuel. D'ailleurs, le rapport sur «La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture», qui a été préparé en guise de contribution à l'examen de ce thème, revient largement sur les enjeux de la question.

Depuis la nuit des temps, le phénomène migratoire a fortement rythmé la vie des humains. Le monde, tel que nous le connaissons aujourd'hui, s'est structuré grâce aux déplacements des peuples et des individus.

De nos jours, que ce soit des déplacements internes dans un même pays, ou des émigrations et immigrations, le phénomène s'observe sous le double prisme de la migration au plan économique et de la migration forcée comme conséquence de situations d'instabilité sociale et de crises de toutes sortes.

Très récemment, on a noté que les jeunes constituent le gros des migrants. En effet, l'aspiration de nombreux jeunes est d'accéder à une existence différente, une nouvelle vie, d'aller à l'aventure, hors de leur pays d'origine ou de la zone rurale dans laquelle ils ont toujours vécu.

Pour être plus proche de notre thème et trouver la relation étroite qui existe entre les migrations, l'agriculture et le développement rural, nous retenons que le phénomène de l'urbanisation est à

considérer en tandem avec celui des migrations rurales, considéré comme exode rural. En effet, l'exode rural a toujours conduit à vider les zones rurales de leur force de travail. Les jeunes quittent les villages et les activités rurales pour se lancer dans l'aventure de l'imaginaire de la ville.

En Afrique, la population devrait doubler d'ici 2050. Le flux urbain devrait rapidement augmenter la population urbaine, qui en arriverait à dépasser le milliard d'habitants. Par contre, les zones rurales pourraient connaître un essor différent, en perdant la main d'œuvre spécialisée dans d'autres domaines que l'agriculture, qui partirait pour les villes.

On sait en partie que ces migrations pourraient aboutir au développement d'une classe moyenne dans les villes. Par contre, on pourrait assister à une paupérisation accrue dans les zones rurales.

On reconnaît l'importance des programmes et politiques d'agriculture et de développement rural dans la création d'un environnement propice à l'exploitation du potentiel de développement des migrants ruraux, mais aussi dans l'optimisation des capacités productives dans les zones rurales dans l'optique de créer un mieux-être pour les populations qui y vivent.

Au cours des années, des programmes de développement rural ayant pour ambition d'apporter de meilleures conditions dans les zones rurales ont été mis en œuvre. Par exemple, l'idée des pôles de développement ruraux a fait son chemin dans beaucoup de pays. Ces pôles de développement soutenaient des programmes de diversification des activités, de mise en œuvre de politiques publiques en appui à la petite et moyenne agriculture.

Au Cameroun, des programmes de développement rural ayant pour ambition d'apporter de meilleures conditions de vie dans les zones rurales ont été mis en œuvre. Nous pouvons citer, entre autres, la création d'agropoles orientés vers des filières porteuses à forte valeur ajoutée, l'instauration de villages pionniers permettant aux jeunes filles et jeunes garçons d'avoir accès au foncier, la mise en place de programmes de promotion des jeunes entrepreneurs agro-pastoraux en milieu rural, financés par le FIDA, permettant aux jeunes femmes et hommes de développer des chaînes de valeurs.

Considérant que le phénomène des migrations, principalement celui de l'exode rural, ne peut être annihilé, les zones rurales ont néanmoins besoin de conserver, sinon une masse critique, du moins tout leur potentiel diversifié en matière de main d'œuvre et d'activités rurales. Pour ce faire, il est important de réfléchir sur des programmes inclusifs, notamment en direction des jeunes, qui intègrent toutes les capacités productives des migrants internes et externes.

Pour sa part, la FAO a un rôle important à jouer face à la migration. Nous l'encourageons donc à développer des programmes qui ciblent les conditions sociales et économiques et le renforcement de la résilience des communautés et de promotion des investissements porteurs dans les zones rurales.

His Excellency Hiromichi MATSUSHIMA, Vice Minister for International Affairs of Japan

It is my great honour to have the opportunity to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The theme this time is migration. Migration represents human history itself and it is a phenomenon caused by complicated factors. On this issue, a high-quality document has been prepared and I highly commend FAO's professional work.

Now let me begin by talking about Japan. It is highly industrialised, trade orientated and advancing in innovation by utilising IT. However, whilst you look back at its history, you will learn life's cultivation started 2 500 years ago by family farming, drawing water and creating villages. Then agricultural technology and manufacturing progressed. Internal migration increased giving life to the establishment of urban cities, commerce and industries.

Instead, problems such as aging and the depopulation of rural areas has emerged. How to develop and vitalise agriculture and rural areas has always been a challenge. Japan has faced similar problems as you. Therefore, today, in three points I would like to briefly explain Japan's policy evolution so far.

The first point: how to create employment. Fifty years ago, we started to promote the introduction of manufacturing in rural areas. In addition, in recent years, we are inviting a wide range of industries to rural areas. We have also encouraged farmers to become managers of the sixth industry, meaning

farmers engaging themselves in processing, distribution and sales. We are now facilitating a collaboration between welfare and agriculture, thereby enhancing the participation of disabled people in farming.

The second point: how to vitalise rural areas. From 30 years ago, Japan has promoted “Green Tourism”, and now we are advocating “Countryside Stay”, encouraging visitors and foreign travellers to stay in rural areas and enjoy local foods and activities. FAO has designated 11 sites in Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (GIAHS). At these sites, local products are branded, visitors increased, and rural communities vitalised. The GIAHS program enabled rural communities to gain their self-confidence and pride by recognizing the value of indigenous agricultural practices. Therefore Japan highly welcomes this program.

The third point: how to respond to depopulation and aging. The simple extension of past technologies cannot maintain or develop agriculture with fewer and aging farmers. Therefore, Japan is promoting smart agriculture, actively promoting the introduction of new technologies in the field, for example, automated self-driving tractors, drones and farm management systems using ICT.

Regarding these three points, we have exchanged views with 34 delegations, including FAO at the G20 Niigata Agricultural Ministers’ Meeting. The outcome of the discussion culminated in the Minister’s declaration and the Best Practices booklet. We intended to disseminate our experiences and knowledge thereby contributing to the global development of sustainable agriculture.

Now allow me to once again congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as the new Director-General. We are aware that Dr Qu with his interaction with Japan’s researchers has been engaged in research and administration for a long time in China, which is located in East Asia and embraces paddy field farming like in Japan. We look forward to Dr Qu’s leadership based on his experiences.

Japan wishes to continue its contribution through enhancing human resource contribution, such as the further participation of Japan’s experts in FAOs activities.

Together with Dr Qu and other relevant organizations toward that achievement of global food security and Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, we wish to invite Dr Qu together with African countries to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). We are looking forward to welcoming you and exchanging views on future collaboration between FAO and Japan.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr José Graziano da Silva for his dedication so far. Japan highly appreciates his achievements, including the scaling up of the GIAHS program. Japan hopes for the smoothest transition for the new Director-General, which will thereby enable FAO to seamlessly continue its engagement.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all of FAO Staff Members including General Service Staff Members and interpreters. Without your dedication, FAO cannot maintain its huge structure and its relevant role.

Her Excellency Jennie NILSSON, Minister for Rural Affairs of Kingdom of Sweden

With a continued increase of hungry in the world, rapid climate change and threats such as AMR, our work is even more important. We need to honor the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and we need to increase our efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I firmly believe that many of the solutions to our global challenges can be found in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We need to work together – across sectors and in partnership with all relevant stakeholders. I look forward to doing this together with you.

The challenges we are facing will have great impact on our world, not the least as causes for involuntary migration. I therefore welcome FAO’s Report and analysis.

Understanding migration in general, and rural migration in particular, is key when addressing development. A solid, evidence-based analysis is needed. For example, on the risks and patterns of climate induced migration or on the complexity of factors that enable people to stay or compel them to leave.

I welcome a discussion and an exchange on how we can maximise the positive effects of migration, and how we can harness the potential of migrants to be agents of development. Migrant groups are often living in poor conditions and are exposed to increased risks; climate shocks and protracted crisis add to their vulnerability. Focus on resilience and links between humanitarian efforts, peace, and development, must increase. This will enable people affected by forced migration and displacement, to restore their livelihoods and build their lives. We support the FAO in its role to bring vulnerable people out of poverty, and out of humanitarian dependency.

Rural development, better access to education, decent work, productive and income generating activities as well as sustainable livelihoods, are at the core of this work.

“Rural development policies that focus on the economic and social integration of migrants, resulting in outcomes that benefit both displaced people and their host areas” is therefore a particularly valuable recommendation in the Report.

Migration is an issue, which needs to be handled through international cooperation among States. Sweden stands firmly behind the goals and aims of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees. Furthermore, a rights perspective, including gender and age mainstreaming, and a focus on those left furthest behind, is a key priority for my Government.

Strengthening gender equality and women’s empowerment is one of the most important measures that can be taken to improve food security. Sweden has a longstanding commitment to this issue and we are happy to see the concrete changes in livelihoods that projects such as the Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment is making – an example of real UN cooperation that makes a difference in the field. We will follow with interest the implementation recommendation of the evaluation of FAO’s work on gender.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is without a doubt one of the greatest challenges to the 2030 Agenda. Sweden recognizes FAO’s dedication in addressing AMR, and we are happy that there is a declaration on AMR presented for decision by the Conference. To combat AMR, collective efforts are needed. We support FAO’s commitment to contribute to the joint work of the Tripartite Plus organizations .

In this context, we welcome the establishment of the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This initiative promotes the cross-sectoral collaboration that we think is needed. Sweden is firmly committed to the fight against AMR, and I am therefore delighted to announce that Sweden is preparing an increased allocation of approximately USD 2 million to fight against AMR.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr José Graziano da Silva, for all of his work and dedication to FAO.

I also want to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu and reaffirm Sweden’s commitment to FAO. Sweden will continue being a constructive partner and a friend of the multilateral system.

His Excellency Grisada BOONRACH, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand

As you know, migration has been caused by several factors, including socio-economic consequence, political instability, environmental degradation, and climate change. Forty years ago, Thailand experienced the migration crisis caused by political conflict and the Indo-China war in the region. Thousands of migrants escaped from conflict and civil war into neighboring countries. At that time, Thailand received support from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and from other international communities to handle the migration problem and help migrants re-settle in other countries.

Nowadays, the major cause of migration in Thailand is linked to socio-economic problems. People from neighboring countries continue migrating into Thailand to seek job opportunities including in agricultural, industrial, and service sectors.

The Government of Thailand provides humanitarian assistance and also implements measures for the control of illegal immigration, such as registration and issuance of work permits to labor migrants as a means to prevent illegal migration and human trafficking.

Since 2015, Thailand has built a new future for its fisheries and seafood industry through a national reform program to tackle with the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Thailand would like to express its sincere thanks to FAO, the European Union and the ILO for technical cooperation on IUU fishing and modern slavery.

According to the national policy on labour welfare, Thailand also grants permanent residence rights to immigrants who have lived in Thailand for more than 30 years and want to work in the country. Their children have the right to receive basic education and health care as Thai citizens. The Government of Thailand has received the collaborative support from UN Agencies and NGOs in implementing these measures.

Following the footsteps of the late King Rama IX, and His Majesty King Rama X, King Maha Vajiralongkorn's initiatives, the Royal Government of Thailand and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives under my supervision have successfully implemented various projects to improve food security, sustainable agriculture, rural development, and poverty reduction.

In addition, Thailand has worked in close collaboration with the Global Soil Partnership and FAO on sustainable soil and water management, to conserve and use biodiversity to promote food security. We emphasize that, it is important to consider shifting the soil Agenda into a formal and permanent body in FAO.

From the implementation of the above mentioned policies, we have learned many lessons. Therefore, we are pleased to welcome all of you here to visit Thailand in order to exchange our knowledge and initiate further collaboration.

Rural development and agriculture will bring several opportunities and employment to farmers, especially rural youth and women. This is one of the possible solutions for the migration problem.

I hope that the newly elected Director-General will build better policies on sustainable agriculture and rural development, and create constructive collaboration with Member Countries and other stakeholders.

The Honourable Audley Fitz SHAW, Minister for Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I would like to extend the heartiest congratulations to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons on assuming the important role of presiding over the 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

I wish to commend the Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, and his team on the efficiency of the proceedings of the Conference.

Once again I take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, on his successful campaign and election, we look forward to a successful term in office.

In line with our National Development Plan Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Jamaica's priorities for the agricultural sector include:

- sustainably increasing agricultural production and productivity through innovation, use of technology, infrastructural development and improved agricultural practices, as we seek to position ourselves for the knowledge and technologically driven Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- increasing and facilitating our access to local, regional and international markets, finance and appropriate infrastructure and technology;
- developing a climate-resilient agricultural sector through, *inter alia*, increasing the adoption of climate-smart resilient practices;
- achieving food and nutrition security; and
- strengthening the national framework for agricultural health and food safety.

We recognize and appreciate the technical assistance and support that FAO has provided to Jamaica and the Region, towards the achievement of several agricultural priorities. Among them:

- the development of the National School Feeding Programme, which is very important;

- improvement of Jamaica's food and nutrition security surveillance systems, as well as physical and economic access of our vulnerable population to healthy foods;
- improving mechanisms for the development of agricultural risk insurance tools;
- working towards the development of a Vulnerability Assessment tool in support of a Ten Year Climate Resilient Agriculture Sector Strategy in order to access funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and
- the execution of Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) in support of value chain development, capacity building and improved productivity and market access.

Over the next four years, Jamaica and the Region look forward to continued collaboration with FAO for the further development of the sector to move people from poverty to prosperity.

Currently, Jamaica faces major crises including the invasion of exotic pests and diseases that have been negatively impacting our agricultural production programme. We, therefore, wish to implore FAO to provide assistance in combating these specific threats that have the potential to completely wipe out significant livelihood on our island.

Some of these pests and diseases include Frosty Pod Rot disease, which causes low levels of production in Cocoa, and Citrus Greening disease, which continues to devastate Jamaica's citrus orchards resulting in heavy economic losses; it requires heavy scientific input, because Citrus Greening is a major disease affecting Florida in the United States.

Importantly, we wish to implore FAO to employ strategies to prevent the introduction and spread of the deadly Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 (TR-4) in bananas, and African swine fever in the Region.

Jamaica charges FAO to do much more, despite the many challenges, in:

- providing a greater level of staff support to Jamaica and the Region, and increased exposure and career opportunities for CARICOM nationals;
- provide a greater degree of funding through technical cooperation budgets to specifically address challenges similar to those I have identified; incidentally, I have noted that the level of funding for Technical Cooperation for the region has been in decline, and we want to turn that around;
- advance the introduction, adaptation and promulgation of climate-smart resilience technology and infrastructure across the Region;
- enhance capacity building in research, development and innovation of our national and regional agriculture-supporting institutions and youth engagement; and
- facilitate, encourage and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation and programming among CARICOM States.

FAO has been tremendously supportive of the development of the agriculture sector in Jamaica and across the region. We have enjoyed a meaningful partnership with the Organization and has been the beneficiary of many interventions. We continue to be extremely grateful to FAO and anticipate our continued collaboration towards a better world through hunger alleviation, poverty reduction and prosperity for all mankind.

We also seek the support of FAO in working more closely with multilateral financial institutions so that we can maximize our benefit in the Region.

The Honourable Jabulani Clement MABUZA, Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Eswatini

It is a great honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to address you at this very important Conference. First of all I want to start by extending the warm greetings to you all on behalf of their Majesties, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini. I thank all of you and those who have been part of this important Conference for the good work done to this date.

This Organization has a most important task than any other Organization, as it deals with issues of ensuring that the entire world is food secure. We all know that without food there is no life. However, it is unfortunate that every day we are faced with new challenges as we try to find solutions on how to

make every individual food secure. The effects of climate change, which has resulted in droughts, floods, new pests and diseases, needs our coordinated attention.

Agriculture in the Kingdom is characterised by a large number of smallholder farmers with very few large scale farmers. This means that we are predominantly in a subsistence production system. The consumption of processed products is high and increasing every day, yet there is little food processing and value addition taking place within our boundaries. We are still dependent on imports, even for our staple crops.

In recognition of the need to ensure food and nutrition security for our people, we have put in place programmes that are aimed at stimulating production especially in terms of increasing productivity per unit area. The programme focuses mainly on making farm inputs easily accessible to the farmer and on facilitating the marketing of end products. Our food prices are also not stable as they are influenced by high input costs, which are mainly imported.

In trying to address the issues raised above, a number of programmes have been developed in recent years. This has resulted in a paradigm shift towards commercialization and the agriculture sector is considered the backbone of the economy. The main commercial crops being sugar cane, fruits and vegetables. For livestock, it is mainly beef and poultry, which are at the commercial scale.

To support the commercialization drive, the Government has invested in creating an enabling environment through large-scale water projects. Currently, a number of potential water harvesting sites are being investigated with the aim of increasing areas under irrigation. This is mainly to address the issue of climate change that is having a serious effect on our rain fed production system. In addition, we are opening up to investors with an interest to embarking on agro-processing. We are seeing some positive results, and we hope to be a major player in the economy within a short period of time.

We are aware that we cannot go far if we do it alone and thus we need the support from our international friends. The Kingdom of Eswatini is very grateful for the support from our development partners and international friends and organizations, such as FAO. The new Government has recently unveiled a roadmap towards improving the country's economic situation.

Agriculture has been identified as the pillar of the economic revival and for that reason, we need more and more of your support than ever before. In this connection, we believe that if all programmes can be implemented in the rural areas, it would address the challenge of migration from rural to urban areas.

Lastly, following the call by the nation to be the leader in the economic revival, the Ministry has put in place a robust Action Plan which focuses on production for export markets and increased involvement of the private sector.

His Excellency Hee-seog Kwon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to Italy

I am presenting this statement on behalf of our Minister of Agriculture in my capacity as the Permanent Representative to FAO.

Mr Chairman, at the outset I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership the Conference will result in productive outcomes.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, and the Secretariat for their dedicated efforts toward global Zero Hunger. During his tenure, Dr da Silva has demonstrated outstanding stewardship in leading the Organization by example, and faithfully implementing tough mandates accorded to him. We will remember and cherish his achievements and legacy to continue the noble mission of FAO.

My delegation would like to convey our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu of the People's Republic of China on his election as the new Director-General to lead FAO for the next four years.

My delegation appreciates the tremendous efforts made by FAO and other international organizations and Member States to alleviate global hunger. Despite all these efforts, however, 1.8 billion of the

world's population is still suffering from chronic hunger. Unfortunately, due to the income gap between the urban and rural areas, those experiencing hunger and unstable food supply are concentrated in the rural areas. Against this backdrop, I believe it is meaningful to exchange views on the issue of urban and rural migration, its impact on agriculture and rural development, and to further explore new opportunities for cooperation among the Member States.

The rural population in the Republic of Korea has been increasing since 2015, thanks to the recent rise in the number of people returning to the farming and fishing villages. The trend is quite different from our common knowledge, that the rural areas are disappearing. Rather we are witnessing young people turning their eyes to the rural areas, pursuing "little but certain happiness" or a "balance between work and life." This is definitely a desirable trend for sustainable agriculture and rural communities.

However, in general, the living condition in the farming villages is very poor, compared to that of the urban areas. One out of ten people who returned to the farming villages is moving back to the cities. The major cause of this return is the lack of infrastructure and services, which are essential for the quality of life in the rural areas. Accordingly, the key agricultural and rural development policy objective of the Government is to improve the living condition of the rural villages. We aim to create rural areas where everybody can enjoy necessary services without inconvenience.

In order to achieve this objective, my Government will undertake three measures.

First, we will build more than 900 core facilities in the centers of the farming villages to supply basic services such as child care, healthcare and retail services, as well as integrated services including culture, education and jobs. Considering the nation wide minimum requirement for life support services and infrastructure, we will continue to identify and expand deficient infrastructure for the rural areas. At the end of 2018, 488 complexes were built or are under construction in these areas.

Second, we will create an environment to ensure stable housing for young farmers by expanding rental housing complexes for them in the farming villages. Furthermore, until next year, we plan to create four pilot housing complexes that are equipped with facilities for childcare, culture and leisure services, for which the young generation is in high demand.

Third, and not the least, we put the priority on creating various kinds of jobs in agriculture and rural areas to maintain vitality in the rural communities. We are making significant efforts at all levels to bring people and particularly the youth to farming villages. In this regard, we are trying to link the demands in the field of agriculture and rural areas with the employment of young people who can meet these demands, by establishing new licenses such as animal nursing technician, grain manager and forest leisure sports instructor. We are also creating jobs relating to regional resources and rural communities such as healing and care services.

When rural villages become livable, the overcrowded phenomenon in the cities will be mitigated. In return, the competitiveness of the cities as well as the quality of lives will improve. This will also bring vitality back to the farming villages, and lead to the promotion of balanced development for the entire country.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea remains open to the Member States' requests for cooperation in the agricultural and rural development. Based on our successful experiences, with agricultural and rural development, we will do our utmost to support the Member States in need by providing necessary assistance in technologies and infrastructure.

His Excellency Paulo VEIGA, Secretary of State for Maritime Economy of the Republic of Cabo Verde

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Cabo Verde, to greet all of you and thank FAO for inviting us to attend the 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva and his vast management team for their excellent work.

I'll take this opportunity to once again, congratulate Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu, for the term of office entrusted to him as the head of FAO. We are deeply convinced that he will be able to

put his vast knowledge and experience at the forefront of this Organization's noble mission. We wish him an excellent mandate in successfully leading FAO, addressing all the challenges arising from the 2030 Global Agenda, contributing to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and enabling all member countries to adapt to climate change and follow the path of sustainable development.

Cabo Verde is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), or as prefer a large ocean State in the Sahel's prolongation who faces enormous challenges. These include reducing the poverty rate, youth and women migration, guaranteeing food and nutritional security, as well as ensuring access to healthcare and securing the well being of its population. In addition, Cabo Verde also strives to tackle the impacts of climate change, developing resilience mechanisms to extreme meteorological and climate events such as droughts, which are increasingly frequent and prolonged.

Despite considerable progress, particularly in education, infrastructure, sanitation, health, food and nutritional security, our archipelagic country still needs strong international support to be able to further the goals of sustainable development since our country possesses scarce natural resources, including the most basic ones, such as water and soil.

Given the very specific limitations imposed by its small land size and insularity, Cabo Verde does not yet have the technical and financial capacity to meet the challenges it faces in its development. Thus, like other Small Island States, it counts on the special focus of FAO and other cooperation partners to maintain and accelerate its positive course towards its development of agriculture and fisheries.

In this regard, I would like to underline FAO's support in the field of blue economy: by bringing an innovative and integrated approach to issues related to coastal communities and the sea; its environment and resources in their various capacities; and, by ensuring the interdisciplinary between the various sectors promoting a balanced social and economic development.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our full willingness and commitment to fruitful cooperation, which enables FAO to become more involved in strengthening the capacity of countries to help eradicate poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition, thus in the concert of Nations, allowing us to achieve the goals of sustainable development. Therefore, we hereby endorse the recommendations proposed in document C 2019/2 regarding Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Honourable Vainetutai Rose TOKI BROWN, Minister of Agriculture of the Cook Islands

It is my honour to address you all today as the Minister responsible for Agriculture and the Head of the Delegation for the Cook Islands. On behalf of the people and Government of the Cook Islands, I extend a warm *Kia Orana* and *Meitaki maata* to FAO for facilitating this 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

May I also extend our congratulations to our new Director-General elect Dr Qu Dongyu and farewell to our outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva. I also acknowledge the two candidates that ran the race – “many will run the race, but only one will take the crown”. We wish you all the best in your tenure as Director-General and we look forward to working closely with you in unity for the benefit of our people.

Agriculture was once the foundation of the Cook Islands economy, it was the backbone of the country, however for so long the sector has been in decline, with virtually no growth recorded, and a decline in production, competitiveness and exports.

Contributing factors to this situation include outmigration, reduction in available arable land, an ageing farmer population, farm work force constraints and climate related extreme weather events, including longer drought periods and unusual seasonal trends. Agriculture is now, essentially, a part-time and subsistence driven sector.

In recent years, we have seen new demands and challenges on our available resources, loss of arable land, and the flourishing of alternative employment and business opportunities fuelled by a healthy tourism industry. This has challenged us to think outside the box.

Our Ministry of Agriculture's vision focuses on an approach that drives production to sustain our common livelihoods meet the social and cultural obligations of our people and society, by ensuring food security and nutrition. In addition, using the resources we have been blessed with, to effectively enhance the potential of agriculture to play a greater role in providing for our people and our economy.

We struggle with the imbalance of what is produced locally with what is imported. More specifically, our import bill for fresh produce equates to NZD 48 million annually.

Our vision seeks to unlock and tap into our potential, formulating new pathways to invest, and resource initiatives that will contribute to positive growth in the Agriculture sector. We aim to nurture and support young and emerging farmers, women in agriculture, and small medium enterprises by building capacity and developing mechanisms that will ensure sustainable outcomes for our Agriculture sector.

The Cook Islands, like many other Pacific Islands, are faced with extraordinary climate challenges. This demands that we build resilience, and we are doing so through the introduction of superior crop varieties resistant to pests and diseases, flooding and salt inundation, and heat resistant crops. We are establishing crop banks in our outer islands to ensure livelihood recovery and to support the re-establishment of agriculture practices, minimizing disruption to production from the impacts of climate change.

We are building our networks and forming close relationships. We support initiatives that seek to expand agricultural trade, exchanges in technology and technical services, and that support avenues for access to resources that will help us to achieve our vision.

We are engaging with our tourism industry as a development partner, to help foster growth in other sectors in our society. In addition, we welcome initiatives that will help build business platforms that involve farmer to market strategies, as it is our belief that private sector cooperation and support will underpin our ability to achieve our goals, as this cannot be achieved by Government alone.

Furthermore, all sectors, especially agriculture, must work in hand in hand with health to provide for a healthy population and reduce the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The Cook Islands is a small island Nation with an even smaller population size, surrounded by an immense ocean. Maintaining partnerships and a collaborative effort with all sectors of the economy, advocating and encouraging farming activities, to all people living in the Cook Islands, "from the soil to your table". I am certain our island Nation can curb outward migration and increase opportunities for growth in our agriculture sector.

This, is our vision to pursue and we can only achieve this with the support of FAO and our partners. No one should be left behind and, therefore, I implore, do not forget about my Small Island nation, the Cook Islands.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Nicolas HOUTONDJI AKAPO, Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosques y Medio Ambiente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Al tomar la palabra en este 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, quiero en primer lugar expresar en nombre del Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, nuestros sinceros agradecimientos al Director General de la FAO por la invitación, la buena acogida y la hospitalidad que estamos siendo objeto durante nuestra estancia en esta histórica ciudad de Roma.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para felicitar al Doctor Qu Dongyu por su brillante elección para dirigir nuestra Organización en los próximos cuatro años. Manifestamos nuestras felicitaciones al Dr. Don José Graziano da Silva por su buena gestión al frente de nuestra Organización que es la FAO, sobre todo por sus esfuerzos en acordar una mayor importancia a los fondos de cooperación técnica (TCP), por su importante política de ahorro, por eficiencia y eficacia, así como de mantener el presupuesto nominal sin conocer ningún aumento en los últimos años.

Este 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO se celebra en un momento en que la seguridad alimentaria mundial está conociendo una situación crítica debido al aumento de las personas

que sufren de hambre en el mundo porque, desde el año 2015, las personas hambrientas en el mundo han aumentado en más de 15 millones, debido principalmente a los conflictos armados y a los efectos del cambio climático, lo que ha provocado un exorbitante movimiento de las poblaciones. En efecto, la cuestión de la inmigración, los refugiados y los desplazados internos, es una situación que afecta negativamente a nuestra región, en particular, y al mundo en general.

Teniendo en cuenta que, según las estadísticas actuales, el 97 por ciento de los emigrantes y refugiados en el mundo se encuentran localizados en África y Asia principalmente. Podemos también destacar la escalofriante cifra de 13,5 millones de niños africanos que son desarraigados de sus familias como consecuencia de la inestabilidad política que origina los conflictos armados prolongados y el terrorismo, así como los efectos del cambio climático los cuales provocan el hambre, la pobreza y la miseria extrema, lo que obliga a esas personas a abandonar sus lugares de origen en busca de mejores condiciones de vida.

Debo informarles que nuestro Presidente, Su Excelencia Don Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Jefe de Estado y de Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, fue elegido por sus homólogos africanos en la pasada sesión ordinaria de la Cumbre de Jefes de Estados de la Unión Africana (UA), que tuvo lugar en Adís Abeba, como líder del tema del año 2019 concerniente a los refugiados, repatriados y personas internamente desplazadas. En este contexto, acaba de adoptar un importante plan de acción estratégico y una hoja de ruta sobre las acciones que se van a emprender para afrontar dicha cuestión.

El Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial valora en muy alto los esfuerzos que despliega la FAO en su constante trabajo por la búsqueda de mecanismos para lograr que todos los seres humanos puedan alimentarse correctamente. Sin embargo, desafortunadamente, estamos viviendo en un mundo en donde la brecha entre las personas sobrealimentadas y subalimentadas está creciendo de manera exponencial, por lo que aconsejamos a la FAO seguir realizando esfuerzos para lograr un equilibrio y equidad sobre dicha preocupante situación. En efecto, referente al caso concreto de nuestro país, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial practica la agricultura siendo generalmente en su mayoría una agricultura familiar con una alta participación de la mano de obra femenina desde la producción, la cosecha y la comercialización.

En este sentido mi Gobierno, aprovechando los beneficios provenientes del petróleo y gas, así como las oportunidades que nos brinda la propia naturaleza, está adoptando políticas en el área rural orientadas a la movilización de los recursos humanos sin distinción de género para fomentar una agricultura sostenible más rentable que permita al país aumentar su capacidad productiva para disminuir el alto índice de importación de producto alimenticio a la que hasta la fecha está sometida. La estrategia del desarrollo rural y la seguridad alimentaria adoptadas por el Gobierno están basadas en la formación de cooperativas y asociaciones rurales con el propósito de organizar la producción, la comercialización, la conservación y la transformación a fin de favorecer la transformación en el sector rural, lo cual desempeñaría un papel fundamental en la creación de las condiciones necesarias para lograr la seguridad alimentaria en nuestro país, generar ingresos a los productores al propio tiempo que frenaría el éxodo rural. Es decir, los desplazamientos de las personas desde los campos hacia las grandes ciudades.

Termino diciendo, por lo tanto, que reconocemos que el camino por recorrer es largo, las dificultades y los obstáculos son numerosos, por lo cual se necesita el esfuerzo de todos para afrontar este gran reto que es lograr la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional para todos, pero preservando el medio ambiente mundial.

His Excellency Saleh Hussein JEBUR, Minister for Agriculture, Inland Fisheries, and Forestry of the Republic of Iraq (Original language Arabic)

It is my pleasure to head the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, which is participating in this 41st Session of the FAO Conference, and I would like to convey to you the greetings of the Government of Iraq.

First and foremost, I would like to express to Dr José Graziano da Silva, my deep thanks for his excellent leadership of the Organization over the past few years, and he is now passing the baton to the

new Director-General. We recognise that the Organization achieved a great deal during his term on many levels, especially in terms of fighting poverty, hunger and the effects of climate change and also crises emanating from natural catastrophes and wars.

Food security is one of the most important challenges the international community will have to face for many reasons, one of them being a rise in population, a rise in the cost of living and a reduction in the production and productivity of livestock and plants. Another challenge is climate change throughout the world, which leads to environmental catastrophes, changes to the forms of agriculture, and this leads to changes in the availability of water in many countries.

In all countries agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to the economy. It is important to achieve food security through local food production, and to improve the agricultural sector in order to diversify the economy in an attempt to reduce poverty, and improve the balance of trade. We know that improving the agricultural sector directly and indirectly improves sectors that are related to it. We also know that developing the agricultural sector can reduce imports and create job opportunities.

The Ministry of Agriculture in the Republic of Iraq has tried to create real opportunities in the liberated areas in my country, with the assistance of national contributions, as well as, regional and international contributions. We know very well that local products and local production are better for the health of consumers and for the local economy.

We have achieved a great deal through putting in place plans which are adapted to the current phase we are in, and we have concentrated on some strategic crops. We have a national plan to develop the production of wheat, and to produce a higher grade of wheat seeds. We also have a program to develop yellow corn and rice, as well as, encouraging local varieties of vegetables. These actions have come as a result of international and local scientific studies.

FAO, through its representation in Iraq and its regional bureau, has helped the experts in our Ministries through training programs and projects, which have led to the transfer and adoption of some new techniques in aquaculture, for example using floating cages. This has contributed directly to increasing the availability of fish and a reduction in the prices of fish. In addition, FAO has helped by providing other techniques including the transfer of embryos from cows and the artificial insemination of cows.

We would like to congratulate Dr Qu, who was elected to become the new Director-General of FAO and we look forward to more cooperation and support for our agriculture and development plans that are sustainable.

Since we have put behind us decades of an emergency situation, we are receiving less development aid for our emergencies and less development to rebuild the agricultural sector in Iraq. We therefore need the transfer and adoption of technology. This requires support from FAO through more qualitative development projects and experts in order to increase the capabilities and skills of those working in the agricultural sector so that we can arrive at a sustainable agricultural sector in light of climate change. Lack of water coming from neighbouring countries is an example, with the exception of this year where there hasn't been a reduction of water coming from neighbouring countries.

Lastly, I wish this Conference success.

Mr W. M. M. B. WEERASEKARA, Commissioner General of Agrarian Development of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

I am delivering this statement on behalf and, at the expressed request of the Honorable P. Harrison, Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, who could not make his presence here today due to unforeseeable circumstances.

Let me convey the compliments of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Mithreepala Sirisena; the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickramasinghe, and greetings from the people of Sri Lanka.

Let me convey my personal wishes to the newly elected FAO Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu. We are confident that with your varied hands on experience in the field of agriculture, you will meet the expectations of FAO and particularly, benefit small island nations, such as Sri Lanka.

We also thank Dr José Graziano da Silva, the outgoing Director-General for his commitments and farsighted policies in the field of agriculture, enabling Sri Lanka to move from a lower to upper middle level nation.

I also wish to register our gratitude, at this Conference, to all our friendly nations for the unconditional heartiest support that was given to us during the recent Easter Sunday terrorist attack that took the lives of different ethnicities. Your support helped us bring Sri Lanka back to normalcy.

I am very pleased to address at the 41st Session of the FAO Conference and seize this opportunity to congratulate and thank FAO for organizing this Session focusing on “The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development”. A theme that is very relevant to my country.

We believe that the foundation for development in Sri Lanka is through agricultural development where over 80 percent of the population lives in semi urban and rural areas. My Ministry is fully committed to achieving this gigantic task by empowering the rural sector. However, many challenges lay ahead of us.

“The King Parakramabahu, the Great” who ruled Sri Lanka in 12th century said: “Not even a single drop of rain water should be permitted to flow to the ocean, without having given its full benefit to man”. To block water from flowing to the sea, the Kings of Sri Lanka constructed the Tank Cascade System in the dry zone. This is a true Sri Lankan and FAO, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GHIAS). This system is a perfect solution, as it is resilient to the floods and droughts that resulted from the climatic issues in the country.

The extreme drought in 2017 has shattered our food security status and affected the livelihood of thousands of farmers. In contrast, we had a bountiful harvest during the subsequent season in 2018 and 2019. However, today we are facing a serious drought. We appreciate the initiatives taken by FAO in restoring the historical Tank Cascade System as a world agricultural heritage site.

While continuing to improve on other agrarian, land and water management systems, including the rehabilitation of degradable agricultural land with FAO’s assistance, we are looking forward to building a climate resilient agricultural production system through a conservation oriented management and investment plan.

We have also had to face new threats, such as the invasion of the Fall Army Worm. However, with the support, especially from FAO, we were able to control this invasion without much damage.

We need to empower the producer, with better prices for their produce by adding value to their primary products, and by directing them to suitable markets, while minimizing the role of the middle-man.

Food without chemical residues, is the need for the day. We have embarked on a mission to make every farmer, a farmer who follows Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Furthermore, we are determined to reduce post harvest losses by providing necessary facilities to all players in the value chain.

FAO has assisted us in preparing our National Agricultural Policy document in keeping with the current developments. It has also helped us in many ways to improve the food security situation in the island, and particularly in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

Let me finally express my personal appreciation to all of you and, especially to your representatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka, who work very closely with my Ministry to achieve the said goals.

Son Excellence Monsieur Biendi MAGANGA MOUSSAVOU, Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la pêche et de l'alimentation de la République gabonaise

En prenant la parole au nom du Gabon, je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer toute la gratitude de ma délégation aux plus hautes autorités italiennes pour l'ensemble des dispositions qui ont été prises afin de rendre agréable notre séjour.

Je voudrais également saluer le Président de la Conférence et lui exprimer mes vifs et sincères encouragements pour son leadership dans la conduite des travaux.

À José Graziano da Silva, le Directeur général sortant, je voudrais réitérer toute notre admiration pour son magistère si plébiscité.

À Davit Kirvalidze, le candidat géorgien, mes félicitations pour le projet qu'il a su porter et défendre avec force.

À Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, la candidate française, j'adresse mes chaleureuses félicitations pour la campagne engagée, inlassable, alliant bon sens et une profonde humanité.

Somme toute, je ne doute pas un seul instant que le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO saura s'approprier l'essence même des propositions pertinentes formulées par ses concurrents, deux personnalités d'envergure pour réaliser concrètement son projet pour le FAO.

Je voudrais maintenant renouveler mes plus vives et chaleureuses félicitations à M. Qu Dongyu, dont la brillante élection a eu lieu à la tête de notre Organisation. Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur le Directeur général, de l'engagement de mon pays à soutenir votre action pendant votre mandat. Nos vœux de réussite vous accompagnent dans l'exercice de votre importante mission.

En Afrique, nos chefs d'État ont soutenu l'initiative PDDAA, le Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine, issue des Déclarations de Maputo et de Malabo, dans le cadre de l'Union africaine, et l'appropriation de cette initiative constituera en plus de votre longue expérience, un atout indéniable pour votre réussite.

Le thème de cette année, à savoir Migration, agriculture et développement rural est assurément un thème d'actualité qui interpelle mon pays, le Gabon, au plus haut point.

Le cas du Gabon est bien spécifique puisque sa population est essentiellement urbaine avec près de 80 pour cent concentrée principalement dans la capitale, Libreville.

La ville enregistre des flux issus à la fois de l'exode rural et de l'exode continental et je voudrais rappeler que le Gabon a moins de 2 millions d'habitants pour un territoire équivalent à la moitié de la France.

La programmation du développement agricole, et donc du développement rural, se heurte ainsi à la désertification des zones rurales et au vieillissement de la population qui y vit, une population qui pratique une agriculture traditionnelle de subsistance.

Bien que l'incidence de la faim dans mon pays ait été réduite de moitié depuis 2015, le Gabon est largement dépendant pour sa sécurité alimentaire d'importations représentant en proportion 80 pour cent de ses besoins de consommation et en valeur près d'un milliard d'USD, soit 3,3 pour cent du total des importations agricoles du continent tandis que le ratio de la population sur celle du continent est de 0,2 pour cent.

Les projections de la Banque africaine de développement, d'un point de vue continental, prévoient un accroissement des importations alimentaires du continent qui passeraient de 30 milliards d'USD à 105 milliards en 2030, ce qui est très alarmant.

Inutile de rappeler la fragilité monétaire que l'amenuisement de nos réserves de change, surtout en période de conjoncture défavorable des cours des matières premières, fait peser sur les pays et notamment sur la zone CEMAC, la Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale.

Inutile de préciser qu'envisager le retour des jeunes à la terre alors qu'ils sont habitués à la modernité et au confort, à l'électricité, à l'eau, au câble, à l'internet, à la santé, à l'éducation est un vrai défi.

Nous avons par conséquent décidé, conformément à la vision du Président de la République et Chef de l'État, Son Excellence Monsieur Ali Bongo Ondimba, déclinée dans le Plan stratégique Gabon émergent (PSGE), nous avons décidé donc de baser notre stratégie de développement agricole sur la mise en place de Zones agricoles à forte productivité (ZAP), qui sont des agropoles regroupant les différents segments des chaînes de valeurs agricoles et qui font non seulement la promotion d'une agriculture mécanisée, mais aussi l'agrégation des petits producteurs autour de l'agribusiness et de l'agroindustrie.

L'objectif de ce type d'organisation est de sédentariser les populations et de les fixer dans les centres de prospérité, où ils auront accès à un logement décent, à l'énergie, à l'eau, au conseil agricole et aux équipements agricoles modernes, tel qu'initié par le Programme GRAINE, notre programme phare en cours d'accélération.

Par ailleurs, pour combler notre déficit en main d'œuvre, le Gouvernement a entamé un vaste projet de réforme de la formation agricole, qui a abouti à la généralisation des filières agricoles dans tous les lycées techniques et centres de formation professionnelle, avec un accent particulier sur l'apprentissage et la formation professionnelle par alternance avec la forte implication du secteur privé.

En attendant que ces efforts produisent tous leurs effets, nous continuons de recourir à une main d'œuvre extérieure spécifique et qualifiée.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, la question migratoire est importante pour le développement agricole de notre pays.

Sur le plan international, nous accueillons avec une attention toute particulière des ressortissants de pays amis, qui arrivent en tant qu'opérateurs et migrants économiques ou réfugiés.

Ces migrations font partie intégrante du développement économique, social et humain, et permettent de réduire les inégalités tant à l'intérieur du pays qu'entre les pays.

C'est dans ce cadre que le Gabon, en partenariat avec la FAO, a élaboré son Cadre de programmation pays 2017-2019.

Aussi, par ma voix, le Gabon sollicite-t-il davantage l'appui de la FAO et la synergie des organisations des Nations Unies pour la mise place des actions programmées qui visent également l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

En ce qui concerne les attentes de mon pays, je tiens à réaffirmer ce qui suit.

Notre politique de développement rural vise à fixer les populations en leur apportant plus d'opportunités d'épanouissement tout en préservant l'environnement dans le cadre de la lutte contre les changements climatiques, notamment dans une gestion responsable de la cohabitation entre l'homme et la faune;

La mise en œuvre rigoureuse du PDDAA, issu des Déclarations de Maputo et de Malabo, qui nous paraît être la solution la plus adaptée pour garantir la transformation agricole africaine et le développement rural.

Nous souhaitons insister sur le fait que l'objectif des politiques relatives aux migrations doit être de faire de celles-ci un choix et non une nécessité, et de maximiser leurs incidences positives tout en réduisant autant que possible leurs incidences négatives.

Enfin, nous réaffirmons que la transformation agricole et le développement rural contribueront à stopper les flux migratoires des personnes désespérées en direction de l'Europe et des autres régions, car l'Afrique a besoin d'une main d'œuvre qualifiée et engagée pour lutter contre la précarité des femmes et des jeunes dans le cadre des ODD et relever le défi de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Son Excellence Monsieur Chérif OMARI, Ministre de l'agriculture, du développement rural et de la pêche de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire

Il m'est tout à fait agréable de participer avec vous, aujourd'hui, aux travaux de la 41^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO, cette Conférence, qui a pour sujet la situation internationale de la sécurité alimentaire et sa relation avec les migrations, l'agriculture et le développement rural.

Tout d'abord, je souhaiterais exprimer nos sincères remerciements à M. José Graziano da Silva pour l'excellente organisation de cette session. Je le remercie, par ailleurs, en mon nom propre et au nom du Gouvernement algérien pour tous les efforts qu'il a déployés au cours de ses deux mandats successifs au service du développement agricole et des régions rurales, renforçant la position de l'Organisation comme axe stratégique pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire et le développement de par le monde.

Je souhaiterais également exprimer mes chaleureuses félicitations à M. Qu, qui a été élu Directeur général au cours de cette session, lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses travaux et l'assurer de tout notre soutien. Je souhaite aussi féliciter les autres candidats pour leur noble compétitivité.

L'effort international pour mettre en place le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, ainsi que les différents défis concernant les changements climatiques, les crises économiques et sociales, nous poussent à travailler de manière collaborative pour trouver les solutions adéquates.

Nous savons que la pauvreté, la faim, la sous-alimentation sont une menace pour plusieurs régions du monde, et elles sont de plus compliquées par des situations sécuritaires, d'instabilité dues à des conflits et des guerres. Nous savons par ailleurs que ces différentes crises sont le moteur essentiel du phénomène migratoire et sont un frein au développement durable.

L'Algérie, au cours des dernières années, a fait un réel effort national pour un développement durable à travers une stratégie nationale pour le développement rural et l'agriculture. Nous avons élevé la production nationale, nous avons amélioré la situation de vie des habitants des régions rurales, tout en travaillant à la protection de l'environnement. Cette dynamique de développement a contribué à un développement fondamental du monde rural. Les conditions de vie se sont améliorées. Nous avons ouvert des voies, construit des routes dans les régions rurales. Nous avons garanti l'eau potable, le gaz naturel, l'électricité ainsi que les fibres optiques sur des milliers de kilomètres pour nos citoyens. Nous avons aussi mis en place un certain nombre de programmes pour construire écoles et centres de santé. Nous avons 1,5 millions d'unités de logements en milieu rural, et 12 000 micro-projets de proximité pour le développement rural, dont ont bénéficié plus de six millions de personnes.

L'intégration des jeunes et particulièrement des filles dans la vie active est essentielle pour le développement économique et social de l'Algérie. Nous avons œuvré pour la création de postes de travail à travers des investissements publics et privés pour la modernisation de l'élevage, de l'agriculture, pour un usage rationnel des ressources aquatiques et pour le développement des industries de transformation alimentaire. Ce sont les fondamentaux que nous avons adoptés, à travers des initiatives et une exploitation collaboratives, pour que l'agriculture et le développement rural ainsi que la pêche, qui sont des secteurs stratégiques, contribuent à la diversification de l'économie nationale et renforcent son rôle dans la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire.

Tous ces efforts pour lutter contre les raisons profondes de la migration et particulièrement la migration rurale, nous poussent à traiter de ces questions à travers le renouvellement de notre approche à l'innovation. Nous avons besoin par ailleurs d'une solidarité internationale de renforcement des collaborations pour appuyer les pays et les sociétés les plus fragiles à travers le transfert des technologies pour le secteur de l'agriculture, de la pêche, et dans ce cadre, je salue l'effort et l'appui apportés par les institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies, à leur tête la FAO, pour la stabilité et le développement de ces régions.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña Lorena AGUILAR REVELO, Viceministra de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de la República de Costa Rica

Es un honor dirigirme a Usted en este 41° período de sesiones de la, FAO, Organización cuya misión está destinada a mejorar la calidad de vida de millones de personas alrededor del mundo.

Estamos acá para reafirmar nuestro compromiso con la construcción de un mundo más justo, equitativo, seguro, sostenible y socialmente inclusivo en el que se atiendan las necesidades de todas las personas marginalizadas y las más vulnerables; y para trabajar en superar los retos que año tras año enfrenta la humanidad para crear bienestar para todos y todas, sin dejar a nadie atrás.

Hemos tenido asimismo el privilegio de elegir al nuevo Director General, en quien descansará la enorme responsabilidad de dirigir esta Organización en el umbral de un año en el que la comunidad internacional debe renovar sus compromisos en materia de acción climática, definir nuevos objetivos de biodiversidad y continuar la labor de implementar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Le deseamos al Doctor Qu Dongyu el mayor de los éxitos y le garantizamos el compromiso de esta pequeña República de Costa Rica en apoyarlo en esta ardua labor.

Asimismo, deseamos agradecerle al Doctor José Graziano da Silva por su valiosa gestión y entrega durante estos años y confiamos en que podremos seguir aprovechando su vasta experiencia y por su incansable trabajo en favor de las y los agricultores, jóvenes, mujeres y hombres valerosos, vitales para la prosperidad de la humanidad.

Este año nos reunimos también para dialogar sobre los impactos de la migración rural en la agricultura y el desarrollo de nuestros países. Hablamos de un fenómeno que trasciende fronteras, que representa un reto considerable para muchos países en vías de desarrollo y que hace tambalear la fortaleza institucional de muchos países, poniendo en entre dicho la legitimidad y la efectividad de las políticas que implementamos.

Con ejemplos dramáticos en la región de donde provengo, Centroamérica, donde miles y miles de hombres, mujeres, niños y niñas migran hacia el norte en busca de mejores oportunidades, sin la seguridad de encontrar prosperidad y dejando atrás no solamente la vida que han construido por años, sino sus tierras y sus sueños. Ante esto, mi Gobierno no puede más que solidarizarse y llamar la atención a todos y cada uno de nosotros, pues las razones de este triste y doloroso fenómeno descansa, en buena parte, en políticas agrícolas ineficaces, en desigualdades en cuanto al acceso y control de recursos y servicios y en sistemas ineficientes de tenencia de la tierra.

Lo que me llena de esperanza es que en las comunidades en donde las mujeres han sido plenamente reconocidas, los índices de migración son menores. Como bien lo han planteado las especialistas de género de esta Organización, si las mujeres tuvieran el mismo acceso a los recursos productivos que los hombres, podrían aumentar el rendimiento de su producción en un 20 o 30 por ciento - reducir el número de personas que pasan hambre en el mundo en un 12 -17 por ciento. Y estas son razones fundamentales por las cuales la FAO tiene que prestarle mayor atención a las políticas género-responsivas. Debemos invertir más en las mujeres para asegurar el bienestar de sus familias, sus comunidades y sus países y así evitar que miles y miles de personas valientes y trabajadoras tengan que guardar su vida entera en una bolsa de plástico y abandonar el fruto de años de trabajo, por un futuro incierto en un país desconocido.

Un artículo reciente del New York Times nos recuerda que el recurso global menos explotado no es el petróleo o el oro, sino la mente de niños y niñas con hambre, cada día se pierden millones de puntos de coeficiente intelectual (C.I.) por malnutrición y es por ellos que debemos actuar hoy.

Nueva evidencia señala un aumento en el hambre mundial y una reversión de tendencias después de un descenso prolongado. Para 2017, la cantidad de personas desnutridas aumentó a 821 personas , una de cada nueve personas en el mundo. Mientras que, en ante nuestros ojos, se venden hamburguesas por 300 USD o pagamos más de medio millón USD por una botella de vino.

Es por ello que la seguridad alimentaria de las familias rurales debe constituirse en un objetivo pivotal.

Costa Rica, consciente de la significancia de estos retos, propuso, con el apoyo de muchos países, el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Agricultura Familiar, con el cual asume el compromiso de

trabajar por el bienestar de los agricultores familiares, que son personas jóvenes y adultas que, como todos nosotros, luchan día a día por un mejor futuro para ellos y sus familias.

También agradecemos el apoyo brindado por la FAO a Costa Rica en su deseo por cristalizar iniciativas como el Día Internacional de la Inocuidad Alimentaria y cuya Declaración de Naciones Unidas lo estableció para celebrarse cada 7 de junio, siendo este 2019 la primera vez que se celebró.

“No olvidemos que ninguna cultura puede prosperar hasta que aprende que hay tanta dignidad en labrar un campo como en escribir un poema”.

Her Excellency Jaana HUSU-KALLIO, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Finland

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of Finland and our reappointed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, who unfortunately could not be here today.

The FAO 2018 State of Food and Agriculture Report on the links between migration, agriculture and rural development is indeed timely, and highlights one of the most burning international issues of our societies, that is undoubtedly also one of the key questions of sustainable development.

Creating opportunities for rural youth is of key importance. As long as rural areas are not able to provide economically viable sources of livelihood to enable people to climb out of poverty, there will be increasing pressure, especially on young people, to migrate. This underscores the importance of providing equal economic opportunities and access to services in rural areas.

Finland, currently known as the happiest nation on earth, also experienced this phenomenon. About 150 years ago, many hundreds of thousands of young people fled poverty to go to the Americas. Then later, in the 1960s and even in 1970s, hundreds of thousands of mostly rural residents migrated to our neighbouring country of Sweden in search for better job opportunities. The migration was part of a rapid transformation of our rural areas.

Nowadays, the situation has changed and some segments of our economy, including within agriculture, have become dependent on immigration, as our own human resources are now inadequate to meet our needs.

Migration in developing countries often goes together with the fact that women predominantly take responsibility for agriculture. When men leave, women stay and take an even larger role in food production. Signs of this development are clearly visible, especially in a number of African and Asian countries. This puts more pressure on guaranteeing equal opportunities for women farmers in terms of land and land use, access to resources and decision-making.

According to the FAO Report on migration, more migrants have moved regionally rather than from developing to developed countries. Furthermore, the most publicised migrants, namely international refugees, are almost entirely hosted by developing countries, with only a small fraction of them seeking asylum in high income countries.

The remittances that migrants send back to their families play a crucial role in development. This money is often invested in agriculture, or in sending boys and girls to school, or simply in eating food that is more nutritious. According to the World Bank, remittances are three times greater than development aid. This private money flow combined with public financing will significantly contribute to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Migration is a multifaceted issue. It is important to understand the variety of factors triggering and affecting migration. Social inequalities, societal unrest and conflicts, combined with feeble economic prospects often lead to forced migration. Legal frameworks and public policies can encourage or discourage migration through a variety of means.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development can address the root causes of migration. Additionally, the fight against climate change is of utmost importance. I am very proud of the ambitious climate objectives of the new Finnish Government, with its aim of Finland being a carbon neutral country by 2035. We all need to cut our greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, help people and their

livelihoods to adapt to the changing climate. Otherwise, only one option will be left for far too many people, and that is to leave their homes, without knowing if they will ever be able to return.

My final remark is to say something about what happened in the Green Room, because there was just a draft resolution of the Conference adopted concerning antimicrobial resistance. That is very important to my country. I just say one sentence from the resolution as my main message to you. It underlines the need to increase political and public awareness, high level engagement and leadership, to promote antimicrobial resistance awareness and that it can be addressed with a One Health approach at a local, national, regional and global level.

His Excellency Ulrich SEIDENBERGER, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to FAO

Germany congratulates Dr Qu Dongyu, once again, on his election as new Director-General and wishes him all the best for his forthcoming task.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend and applaud the outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva, for all the hard work and commitment to fighting hunger throughout his tenure in the last eight years.

We hope that the new Director-General will take up the huge global responsibility for strengthening the multilateral system for which Germany is highly committed to and we look forward to working closely with him.

We need a strong FAO, an FAO that is fit for a purpose and complementary in a synergistic UN system, in order to end world hunger, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG 2 and SDG 1, in realizing the right to food globally, and ensuring peace and stability.

To this end, Germany strongly advocates that FAO's unique core mandate as a knowledge Organization, and a provider of global public good, such as policy advice, standard setting and knowledge transfer, is strengthened. The main means for FAO to achieve this, is a highly qualified workforce. Therefore, we expect the new leadership to reintroduce a transparent and merit-based human resources policy.

As one of the most important donor countries, we stand ready to actively support FAO's new leadership to live up to these expectations. We are willing to intensify and expand the strategic partnership we already entertain with FAO.

Now turning more specifically to the topic of our debate, one has to acknowledge that ensuring security in today's world is complex. The lack of food is one of the causes and drivers of global conflicts and migration. Thus, the link between food insecurity and conflicts will become even more important in the future. In order to maintain or restore security, we have to think beyond traditional concepts.

A strong agricultural sector ensures food security and improves the living conditions of the local population. It also ensures economic growth, and thus value added. It opens up prospects for local people to stay in their homes, especially in rural areas. Strong agriculture is therefore an important part of civilian crisis prevention. Agriculture is the key for food security and serves as an anchor of stability in fragile States and crisis areas. Therefore, today's debate is key.

Germany welcomes FAO's commitment to further explore root causes of migration as well as analyzing the role of agriculture and food security as key in stabilizing living conditions around the world.

In the 2018 Report on the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), FAO already focused on the important issue of migration, agriculture and rural development and provides a comprehensive overview of the complexity of the topic. The Report shows that a major challenge lies in making migration a factor for successfully influencing social and economic development. It highlights, especially, the link between migration and agricultural and rural development.

Germany is willing to support further engagement in this regard through our bilateral project cooperation and thereby strengthening FAO's capacity as a knowledge based Organization. Finally, we have to bear in mind that ending hunger is not all, the nutritional status of the people is equally important. Therefore, Germany welcomes the Biennial theme 2020-2021 of FAO that is "Promoting healthy diets and prevention of obesity".

His Excellency Dun NIU, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to FAO

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am honoured to address all Member States and to extend my sincere thanks for you. Thank you for your support and the trust you put in China.

Our nation would like to express our commitment that we are going, as always, to work together with the Member States of FAO to make our due efforts and contributions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a specialised Organization of the UN in food and agriculture, FAO showed us the glorious mission to fight hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Fulfilling this mission requires both FAO to be firmly determined itself, and all Member States to be supportive and hard working. Therefore, I would like to reaffirm here, once again, that China commits itself to firmly support FAO in realising a world without hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Entering a new era, China, based on global national situations and agricultural realities, is implementing a strategy of rural factorisation, which insists on and prioritises agriculture and rural development.

While trying to improve itself, China is willing to support the global agricultural development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms. China is willing to work together with all Member States under the framework of the three agriculture and food related institutions in order to complete a cooperation concept, define cooperation priorities, strengthen cooperation mechanisms and engage in building a global and well connected partnership for better sharing of experiences and exchange of information.

I believe that through Member States' mutual efforts, we can surely align the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with countries' development strategies, regional and global development Agendas, whereby to generate a synergy for further outcomes and wellbeing for the world population, and to further contribute to building a community for the shared future of mankind.

Son Excellence Madame Delphine BORIONE, Ambassadrice et Représentante permanente de la France auprès de la FAO

Dans les pays du monde, le développement de territoires ruraux vivants et attractifs est une nécessité, bien sûr, pour produire l'alimentation dont les populations urbaines et rurales ont besoin, mais aussi pour relever le défi de l'emploi des jeunes arrivant de plus en plus nombreux sur le marché du travail, pour assurer le renouvellement des générations d'agriculteurs dans les pays où s'amplifie le vieillissement des exploitants agricoles ou pour répondre aux besoins des territoires ruraux qui connaissent des phénomènes de déprise agricole et d'exode rural, ou de migrations dans l'espoir de trouver un travail et une vie meilleure.

Je me félicite donc du thème choisi pour cette Conférence. C'est pleinement conscients de ces diverses problématiques que les ministres du développement du G7, sous présidence française, aborderont la question de l'emploi des jeunes ruraux au Sahel, dans le cadre plus large du Sommet de Biarritz du G7 consacré à la lutte contre les inégalités.

Le développement de filières rurales et la création de valeur ajoutée est nécessaire pour créer des emplois dans le secteur agricole, mais également tout au long de la chaîne alimentaire.

Les territoires ruraux pourraient ainsi retenir leurs forces vives qui ne seront plus contraintes à l'exil en recherche d'emplois, de revenus, redonnant ainsi aux populations le choix de leur avenir. C'est ce que nous proposons dans le Cadre commun du G7 pour la création d'emplois décents pour les jeunes ruraux du Sahel, qui sera soumis à l'adoption des ministres du développement le 4 juillet, et auquel la

FAO, tout comme le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) et le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) ont été invités.

Nous le savons, il faut investir plus, mais il faut également investir mieux, avec des objectifs clairs et partagés, de manière responsable.

Ces efforts de réinvestissement dans l'agriculture, publics comme privés, ne pourront porter leurs fruits que s'ils intègrent pleinement les dimensions de responsabilité sociale et environnementale, et respectent les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers et les Principes pour un investissement responsable (RAI) adoptés dans le cadre du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Il faut aussi encourager les investissements les plus à même de créer des emplois décents. Il est pour cela prioritaire de soutenir les agricultures familiales et d'offrir de nouvelles opportunités pour les jeunes, mais également donner toute leur place aux femmes. Elles souffrent encore trop de discriminations, mais elles sont aussi actrices du changement. Le changement que nous appelons de nos vœux. Et c'est pour cela que nous devons promouvoir leur rôle.

Enfin, les investissements doivent permettre de répondre aux défis de la sécurité alimentaire et de toutes les formes de malnutrition. Ils doivent également viser à limiter les impacts des changements climatiques sur la production alimentaire et engager la transition vers des systèmes alimentaires résilients et durables, prenant en compte la nutrition. Notre action s'intégrera ainsi dans le cadre de l'Accord de Paris et du Programme 2030, et vous savez l'engagement de mon pays et de l'Union européenne sur ces sujets.

C'est avec tous ces défis en tête que la France prendra dans quelques jours la présidence de la Plateforme sur les déplacements liés aux catastrophes naturelles et s'attellera, en impliquant davantage les États et ses partenaires au sein de cette Plateforme, à améliorer les réponses à ces phénomènes.

Enfin, il faut investir plus dans l'humain. Investir dans la jeunesse, en plaçant les formations adaptées aux contextes au cœur de notre action. Le digital est pour cela essentiel.

Sur tous ces sujets, la FAO a un rôle primordial à jouer.

Alors, je ne peux terminer cette allocution sans remercier et féliciter le Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva, pour son action à la tête de la FAO, et en particulier pour l'accent qu'il a mis sur la nécessaire transformation des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires vers plus de durabilité. Cette évolution qu'il a engrangée est fondamentale et ce legs restera dans l'histoire.

Je voudrais aussi, comme l'a fait notre Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation hier, féliciter M. Qu Dongyu. Nous attendons beaucoup de son mandat: transparence, inclusivité, redevabilité, efficacité. Sans compter la pleine mobilisation de toute l'expertise des femmes et des hommes qui constituent le personnel de la FAO. Je voudrais aussi maintenant féliciter et remercier tout le personnel de la FAO qui se dépense sans compter et apporte son expertise au service de la mission de l'Organisation.

Le monde regarde aujourd'hui le nouveau Directeur général élu et compte désormais sur lui pour que la FAO remplisse au mieux sa mission au service de tous, pour la sécurité alimentaire, pour la lutte contre la pauvreté et la lutte contre la faim, pour des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires durables, qui prennent en compte les changements climatiques et la préservation des ressources naturelles, ainsi que la qualité des régimes nutritionnels. Et cela, dans le plein respect des règles des Nations Unies et des principes du multilatéralisme auxquels nous sommes si attachés.

Je voudrais aussi remercier toutes les délégations qui ont voté pour Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, remercier aussi toutes celles qui ont évoqué aujourd'hui son engagement, son programme, ses compétences. Nous espérons que tout ce qu'elle a pu apporter à cette élection sera mis à profit par la FAO au bénéfice de toutes celles et de tous ceux qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition.

En conclusion, soyez assurés que la France est et restera aux côtés de la FAO et de sa nouvelle Direction générale pour relever tous ces défis.

His Excellency Ted MC KINNEY, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs for the United States Department of Agriculture of the United States of America

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to address you all today. It is an honour and a pleasure to join fellow Member States to find solutions to ultimately address our mission, which is to end global hunger. Again, I must thank Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his fine service during these many years, and to the General elect, Qu Donghu, for his election and know that we have his back and his support.

Global food insecurity is increasing and this is troubling. More than 821 million people around the world are undernourished. Crises, conflict, and extreme weather events are just some of the reasons people are going hungry. These factors combined with the larger challenge of feeding a growing population make FAO's work to strengthen global food security and nutrition, to decrease poverty, to improve agriculture productivity, and to expand opportunities for rural economic growth, even more urgent. The United States stands ready to work with FAO to tackle these challenges. Together, we, as Member States, can accomplish this through our joint commitment to shared goals.

Access and availability of food are critical components of addressing food security. As we have heard from many, it is not enough to have available food. Hunger will only continue if people cannot or do not have access to a sufficient amount affordable food. This is why trade is an essential factor in strengthening global food security. At the same time, international standards are the foundation for trade.

FAO is home to the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), two of the "three sisters" organizations that set standards for international trade, food safety, and plant and animal health. Indeed Codex, might be just one of the finest creations of global Governments.

Science based standards allow countries to participate in international trading systems with consistent rules providing a transparent and predictable playing field. As a crucial part of FAO's core mandate, we must prioritize the important standard setting work of these organizations. Standards are critical to trade and trade is critical to the success of our mission.

The utilization of science and technology is also critical to the success of our mission. Innovation is critical to helping the poorest and least developed regions in the world. FAO must help farmers adopt the innovations they need, be good stewards of the environment and facilitate economic opportunities. We have seen over the decades, even over millennia, the value of innovation in food and agriculture production. Let us sustain that.

The election of a new Director-General provides an opportunity for FAO to take stock in what it does right, and to identify areas that can be strengthened through new partnerships with the private sector. This is also an opportunity to return FAO to promoting all science based practices. This is the opportunity to make impartial data and analysis the foundation on which we, and our work stand.

All countries must work together to help feed the world.

Her Excellency Thi Bich Hue NGUYEN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to FAO

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to congratulate, His Excellency Dr José Graziano da Silva, for your excellent leadership and achievements that FAO has contributed to its Members during your term.

The Vietnamese delegation would also like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu who was elected as new FAO Director-General. I strongly believe that under your leadership, FAO will be more proactive to tackle global issues on food and agriculture in the context of climate change, continue efforts in reforming FAO systems and enhancing the South-South cooperation.

The Viet Nam delegation also welcomes the FAO Rapport on Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development and we look forward to further preparations on this matter.

Agricultural development, and ensuring food and nutrition security provides the vital basis for sustainable social and economic development in every country. In this connection, the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDG) for 2030 have been identified as key priorities of our new sustainable development agenda.

At present, agriculture in Viet Nam is facing many challenges such as smallholder scale and its low competitiveness due to low productivity, post-harvest loss and food waste, insufficient investment and severe impact caused by extreme weather events that intensified by climate change.

In June 2013, the Government of Viet Nam launched the Restructuring Programme on Agriculture Sector for the period 2011 to 2020, aiming toward more added values, sustainable development and Green Growth. Jointly, with the FAO Country Office in Viet Nam, we developed the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for the 2017-2021 period, focusing on four priority areas:

- increased food security and nutrition to tackle hunger, malnutrition and food safety concerns;
- sustainable development of the agricultural sector contributing to the National Green Growth Strategy and other strategies on improving natural resources management and environment protection;
- new rural development and sustainable poverty reduction; and
- enhancing resilience of communities to disasters and threats.

In the context of the changing climate and urbanization, poverty cannot be eradicated without strengthening the resilience of agriculture dependent livelihoods, especially of smallholder farmers, fisher folk, pastoralists and community foresters. Thus, we need to continue strengthening the resilience of our food systems and to adapt to the so call “new normal” for extreme weather. Helping farmers, especially poor smallholders, to adjust their production systems and practices to meet new challenging conditions requires much better access to appropriate technologies, knowledge, markets, et cetera.

In this regard, we would like to propose four priorities for FAO in the coming years.

Firstly, continue supporting countries to implement the CPF, focusing on improving engagement and benefits for smallholder farmers into agricultural value chains; improving food safety and nutrition for the poor and the rural community development; developing scenarios for future food and agriculture transformation.

Secondly, accelerate support and to bring the best global practices for institutional and capacity building for relevant stakeholders in risk based food control system and the food safety standards, while helping to promote market access and agricultural trade.

Thirdly, as a partner, FAO should assist member countries to mobilize and access financial resources such as climate facilities, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other sources.

Last but not least, given the importance of addressing disaster and climate change risks of agriculture to achieve Zero Hunger, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture transformation, FAO has a significant role for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the SDGs. Let me reiterate a message from the Hanoi Conference in March 2018, that the agriculture sector is in the unique position to move forward the implementation of these global frameworks, providing the foundation for Zero Hunger and sustainable development.

Despite budget constraints while dealing with global challenges, like disease outbreaks or natural disasters, we believe that FAO needs to accelerate its efforts in reforming and renovating for better effectiveness of its network among FAO country representations, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and FAO Headquarters, in order to meet the needs of all Members and the international community. It is also necessary to avoid overlaps with other reform processes in other UN agencies while making full use of FAO’s comparative advantages.

With its proactive role and well known expertise, we strongly believe that FAO will be steady on its road to reform, and further strengthen its position as leading technical role in worldwide food and agricultural activities.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, to thank the FAO, especially His Excellency José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, FAO staff and experts for their invaluable technical supports through TCP and global programmes to our country over the past years. Our sincere thanks also go to other international organizations and the donor community who have supported and extended precious assistance to Viet Nam's agriculture and rural development.

His Excellency Mohammad Hossein EMADI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I would like to appreciate Dr José Graziano da Silva for his efforts and leadership of FAO.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu once again for his election and formally confirm my Government's full support for him, for better results and performance of FAO, for the benefit of all respected Members. We believe that yesterday's election was a victory for all and showed how our solidarity is important for all of us, for better results and for a better performance of FAO.

On the Agenda Item Review of the State of Food and Agriculture, Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, Iran would like to appreciate FAO for their inclusion of migration issues as a strategy and high priority, and would like to highlight the following issues.

Iran believes that Review of the State of Food and Agriculture will contribute to better understanding the interconnectedness of the relationship between migration, agriculture and rural development. It is acknowledged that the key finding of these challenges is a specific policy, for the current speed of migration, agriculture and rural development, to ensure safe and regular migration. However, this mostly depends on the country's context, at a national level.

Iran is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants nationally and internationally. Iran is also the fifth largest refugee hosting country since 40 years ago, after the Cold War, and is facing new and numerous migration challenges. In Iran, like most other countries in the 1950s and 1960s, the conventional development approach was centralized, sectoral, industrial-based, top down and urban-oriented, and was the cause of massive rural migration, particularly because of the oil economy, which made this process much more rapid. In 1956, the rural population was 68 percent rural population. In 1976, it decreased to 54 percent and in 2016 it was almost 25 percent, with 75 percent of the population living in urban areas. This is one of the highest rates of migration in the Near East and Middle East area, and even Asia.

The rapid rate of rural and urban migration has brought multidimensional, complex opportunities and challenges. It causes irregularities in social and economic conditions, and the rapid physical expansion of cities, the rise of poverty and inadequate access to housing in urban cities or towns. Due to the change in the public approach since 1979, small family farming and rural development became the center of the Government's focus. There are many infrastructure activities for the rural population and rural development including education, electricity, access to fossil fuel, roads, renovations of village planning and housing, health and medical services and also ICT, and internet in rural areas.

During the last decade, the gross rate of migration from rural to urban areas has declined, and since 2011, there is an increase of the reverse kind of migration, from urban to rural. Now, we are facing a new challenge, a new chapter, a new paradigm of migration, which is completely different from the 1960s to 1990s.

The most important problem we are now facing is climate change. Drought, in particular, is the most influential factor for rural, and even urban migration, to the provincial capital. Alongside climate change we also have the issue of conflict, regional conflict. As I mentioned, Iran is the fifth biggest house of refugees and we are facing a lot of movement due to the war in the area and in the region.

Lastly, something which is actually under investigation in terms of its impact, are the unilateral unfair sanctions. These have created a lot of pressure on trade, on agriculture, on rural populations, and even the urban population, particularly those who are the poorest of the population. This is because such pressure goes to the poor, and not to the rich or the middle class.

Climate change is also influencing in two different ways. In the negative way, as a destructive force, unlike the earlier kind of migration. It affects the basic livelihood conditions of the population to leave their habitat in a destructive manner and it disturbs agriculture and food systems by changing basic production elements through the increase in natural disasters such as water scarcity, drought and sandstorms. This makes life and the production system completely destroyed.

In the end, and my final remarks, may I, again, renew the commitment of my country to support the implementation of policies with regarding migration in order to achieve sustainable agriculture, rural development goals, and in particular, poverty eradication by 2030, with FAO's new management team.

We hope we can reach our goals and targets if we work together and have solidarity together.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Carlos CABANAS GODINO, Representante Permanente Adjunto de España ante la FAO

En primer lugar, quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar la bienvenida al nuevo Director General de la FAO, Dr. Qu Dongyu.

Esperamos que, bajo su mandato, la FAO siga siendo un paradigma de transparencia y un referente a nivel mundial en cuestiones relativas a la alimentación, agricultura, silvicultura y pesca. Deseamos, y apoyamos, que continúe basando sus actuaciones en las lecciones aprendidas para enfrentarse al desafío de conseguir un mundo libre de hambre y malnutrición donde los sistemas agroalimentarios contribuyen, de forma sostenible, a mejorar los niveles de vida de todos, especialmente de los más desfavorecidos y a reducir las desigualdades. La FAO debe continuar haciendo esfuerzos para lograr mayores eficiencias en la gestión, por ejemplo, a través de una creciente colaboración con otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas (NNUU) y la utilización de servicios comunes. La igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer son igualmente prioritarias si queremos alcanzar el Hambre Cero. Todo ello sin olvidar la necesidad de fortalecer la lucha contra el acoso y el abuso sexual y seguir trabajando en defensa de los pueblos indígenas.

Asimismo, quisiéramos aprovechar la ocasión para agradecer al Dr. José Graziano da Silva por su dedicación a la FAO durante sus dos mandatos como Director General de la Organización liderando la lucha contra el hambre a nivel mundial.

Nos unimos a la preocupación general por los resultados del Informe sobre el Estado de la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición 2018. Se presentan datos que indican que la variabilidad climática y las condiciones extremas, en parte relacionadas con el cambio climático, incluso en ausencia de conflictos, ya están repercutiendo negativamente en la agricultura, la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en muchos países del mundo.

España está firmemente comprometida con la implantación del derecho a la alimentación. Muestra de ello es la reciente organización de la Primera Cumbre Parlamentaria Mundial contra el Hambre y la Malnutrición, celebrada en Madrid los días 29 y 30 de octubre de 2018.

Casi 200 legisladores de 80 países participaron en este encuentro organizado por las Cortes Generales con el apoyo de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo, la FAO y los Frentes Parlamentarios contra el hambre de América Latina y Caribe, con el fin de avanzar en el compromiso político para el logro del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2 (ODS 2).

Esperamos que el impulso creado por la Cumbre sea aprovechado.

El tema del debate general de la Conferencia, "Migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural", me lleva a destacar que la migración rural es un fenómeno que presenta tanto oportunidades como desafíos. La migración desde las zonas rurales no solo tiene consecuencias financieras, sino también sociales y culturales para las personas que abandonan sus regiones de origen, además de tener profundos efectos en el desarrollo rural, la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y la pobreza.

Las políticas relativas a la migración deben lograr que ésta sea una decisión voluntaria, basada en opciones reales, y no, en una necesidad. Para ello, es necesario ofrecer oportunidades alternativas

atractivas en las zonas rurales como la creación de empleo, incremento de ingresos y diversificación de las actividades.

Precisamente, para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y una nutrición adecuadas son claves, la agricultura familiar y los sistemas agroalimentarios resilientes, sostenibles y diversos en los que se mantenga un equilibrio en las dimensiones social, económica y medioambiental a lo largo de toda la cadena productiva, desde la producción hasta el consumo.

Además, la agricultura familiar ayuda a luchar contra el despoblamiento que afecta a la mayor parte de nuestras áreas rurales y contribuye al mantenimiento del equilibrio de las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible y a la cohesión territorial.

En este contexto de agricultura familiar y de sistemas agrícolas resilientes, tiene una gran importancia los Sistemas Importantes del Patrimonio Agrícola Mundial de la FAO (SIPAM).

Estos, además de proteger a muchos agricultores, están reconocidos a nivel internacional como sistemas productivos sostenibles y resilientes ligados a tradiciones, culturas ancestrales y paisajes estéticamente impresionantes.

Todo ello hace que las regiones declaradas SIPAM se conviertan en atractivas tanto para fijar a la población ya instalada como para atraer a nuevos habitantes, jóvenes, emprendedores y turistas que se beneficien de los servicios sociales, culturales, económicos y medioambientales que ofrece esta figura.

La figura SIPAM puede contribuir decisivamente a la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y, especialmente, de ODS tan importantes como el del fin de la pobreza, el de hambre cero, igualdad de género, y la lucha contra el cambio climático y otros.

En este ámbito, nos cabe la satisfacción de que las dos primeras candidaturas europeas que obtuvieron reconocimiento en noviembre de 2017 fueran españolas.

Debemos también involucrar a nuestras ciudades para continuar avanzando en la mejora en el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Un buen ejemplo es el Centro Mundial para la Alimentación Urbana Sostenible de la ciudad de Valencia.

Finalmente, quiero reiterar nuestro apoyo y disposición a trabajar conjuntamente con el nuevo Director General de FAO, Dr. Qu Dongyu, a favor del cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Now we come to the end of the day for this session and I would like to thank all of you for your kind participation and for the efforts that you made at country level.

Before I close the meeting, I wish to remind you that at the moment at the Sheikh Zayed Centre there is the side event hosted by the Netherlands on: “Real Action on Youth: Driving the Future of Agriculture”.

And for tomorrow morning at 8:30 another side event on Zero Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean on: “Turning commitment into action to achieve SDG 2”, will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre. We welcome all of you to attend these side events.

This brings us to the end of the Fifth Plenary Meeting. We will continue interventions on Item 10 tomorrow morning when we reconvene at 10:30.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18:28 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 28

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.28

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 June 2019

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 10:36 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 10 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 10.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)**

(C 2019/2; C 2019/12 Rev. 1)

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la sexta sesión plenaria. A continuación abordaremos el tema 10 del programa, *Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura*.

Quisiera dar las gracias al Sr. Andrea Cattaneo, Economista superior de la División de Economía del Desarrollo Agrícola, por su participación en la presente sesión.

Quiero recordar, por favor, que respetemos el uso del tiempo. Recuerdo que cada uno de los expositores tendrá cinco minutos. Tendrá allí un semáforo que irá controlando el tiempo; cuando la luz roja empiece a parpadear el tiempo se terminó y les pediría que por favor vayan redondeando su presentación a los efectos de cumplir con todo el programa. Hoy tenemos 19 expositores.

Statements by Heads of Delegation**Déclarations des chefs de délégation****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación**

Nicaragua, Seychelles, Namibia, Somalia, Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Chile, Sudan, Ukraine, Oman, Nepal, Canada, Indonesia, Malta, India, Italy, Peru, G77 and China Group

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Edward Francisco CENTENO GADEA, Ministro Agropecuario de la República de Nicaragua

Transmitimos un fraterno saludo del Presidente de la República de Nicaragua, Comandante Daniel José Ortega Saavedra, y de la Compañera Rosario Murillo. Felicidades al Dr. Qu Dongyu por su elección como Director General de esta Organización. Dr Qu, estamos seguros que su elección será exitosa y le expresamos nuestro apoyo; una FAO fuerte también depende del respaldo de todos los que la conformamos.

Agradecemos al Dr José Graziano da Silva por todos los esfuerzos realizados frente de esta Organización durante su mandato.

821 millones de seres humanos padecen hambre, cifra que es y debe ser inaceptable. Esto nos muestra del fracaso de un modelo injusto e inequitativo y que, para erradicar el hambre, necesitamos la evolución a un sistema económico mundial más solidario, más justo y equitativo. El Gobierno del Comandante Daniel Ortega, en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Humano, pone en la persona en el corazón de sus acciones que se expresan a través de políticas, planes y estrategias de desarrollo sostenible con la participación de mujeres y jóvenes con el objetivo de que las familias campesinas sean protagonistas del desarrollo socio-económico y cuenten como herramienta para compartir la pobreza y las desigualdades. Estas acciones están orientadas a garantizar el bien estar de los nicaragüenses y evitar la migración ocasionada por la pobreza.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua, en este sentido, ha reconocido que una condición primordial es la seguridad y la tenencia de las propiedades. Por ello, ha otorgado en este periodo más de 392 900 títulos de propiedades a las familias urbanas y rurales. Títulos que benefician directamente 1 600 000 nicaragüenses. De igual forma, en el proceso de restitución de derechos humanos de los pueblos indígenas, se han titulado 23 territorios en el caribe nicaragüense beneficiando a 39 000 familias originarias que tienen la certeza de sus propiedades.

La migración es parte de la historia universal, es un derecho de las personas que quieren a desplazarse en la búsqueda de la satisfacción de sus necesidades básicas fundamentales que no son alcanzadas debido a la pobreza. Sin embargo, cuando las causas que generan la migración interna e internacional son forzadas, la situación se vuelve insostenible. Por ello, el respecto entre las naciones, la estabilidad mundial, la paz social, el bien común y la esperanza en un mejor futuro, es indispensable para

garantizar a las familias, sobre todo a ellas del área rural que encuentren en su país el trabajo y la seguridad para vivir bien.

La implementación en nuestro país de iniciativas de respaldo a la actividad agrícola y, en momento, de inversión publico-privado para el desarrollo rural sostenible ha marcado avances trascendentales en el sector agropecuario, lo cual se ve reflejado en resultados concretos reconocidos a nivel internacional.

El en periodo 2010-2017, el producto interno bruto en Nicaragua logró un crecimiento pro medio 5.8% lo cual ha permitido avanzar los indicadores socio-economicos especialmente aquellos que garantizan la restitución de los derechos humanos fundamentales come el acceso a la salud, la educación, trabajo, vivienda, alimentación, servicios básicos, seguridad ciudadana y la paz que hemos disfrutado y que estamos empeñados en fortalecer y mantener.

Nuestro modelo socio-economico ha fortalecido los grupos sociales más vulnerables, logrado una reducción de la pobreza en general del 17,6 por ciento, pasando de 42,5 por ciento en el año 2009 a 24,9 por ciento en el año 2016 y la pobreza extrema de 17 por ciento a 6 por ciento. En este sentido la FAO ha reconocido que Nicaragua ha sido uno de los países que a nivel mundial con mejor desempeño en la reducción del hambre y la pobreza. Por lo cual, los nicaragüenses, nos sentimos muy orgullosos, aunque estamos conscientes que aún mucho trabajo que hacer pero estamos firmemente comprometidos con nuestro pueblo para que haya bien estar y prosperidad para todos.

Estos logros han sido alcanzados gracias a un modelo de desarrollo productivo que apoya la economía familiar creativa y emprendedora que aporta el 80 por ciento de los agro-alimentos, más del 60 por ciento del empleo y el 40 por ciento del producto interno bruto. Y por ello, la agricultura sigue permaneciendo como la principal actividad económica y fuente de empleo en la mayoría de los territorios rurales del país.

Somos autosuficientes en producción de alimentos básicos y durante la presidencia del Comandante Daniel Ortega la producción agropecuaria ha crecido un 66 por ciento. Esto ha sido logrado, entre otras cosas, por la implementación de diferentes programas que benefician a las familias rurales y que son encabezada, fundamentalmente, por mujeres.

Nicaragua ha sido reconocida a nivel mundial por el rol fundamental de las mujeres ubicándose como primer país de nuestra región, y el número cinco a nivel mundial, por igualdad de género. El programa en el campo ha fortalecido los conocimientos de los protagonistas de la agricultura familiar con el objetivo de incrementar la producción y productividades. Los jóvenes siguen los programas de aprendizaje juvenil con capacitación, asesoría técnica y financiamiento. Coincidiendo con el desafío rural de producir alimentos con el menor impacto ambiental posible, hemos respaldado alternativas de inversión a según un verdadero desarrollo rural sostenible que aporten a la lucha contra la pobreza creando oportunidad de desarrollo con respecto a la diversidad cultural y a la Madre Tierra.

Nicaragua es suscriptor de la Declaración por los Derechos de la Madre Tierra. Por lo tanto, no tenemos que olvidar que son precisamente los pequeños y medianos productores rurales los que generan los alimentos a todo el mundo y no es aceptable que lo que producen los alimentos y son generadores de riqueza son los más pobre de la humanidad.

Instamos a la FAO como organismo especializado a promover el desarrollo de capacidades en instituciones nacionales en línea con su visión estratégica en consideración con la prioridades nacionales.

Desde ahora, invitamos a los hermanos latinoamericanos y caribeños a la próxima Conferencia Regional de FAO a realizarse en Nicaragua en abril de 2020, la cual será una ocasión ideal para continuar construyendo un mundo con humanidad, paz y bien común.

His Excellency Charles BASTIENNE, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Republic of Seychelles

First of all, I would like to congratulate the new Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu upon his appointment to this auspicious position. I count on him to deliver on his promises to take the Organization to greater heights.

Equally, I would like to thank Dr Graziano da Silva, the outgoing FAO Director-General, for the great work he has done over the last eight years.

I bring greetings and best wishes from the Government and people of the Seychelles to each and every one meeting here today for a noble and universal cause. We stand here in solidarity. We seize the opportunities which we are presented with to make a difference to the lives of millions still plagued by hunger and malnutrition. We solemnly pledge to a world without hunger.

We will continue to work in harmony towards the goals of the Organization. A united front is vital to tackle the many challenges which we are confronted with, among them global warming and climate change.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) of the Indian Ocean, we are spared the miseries of people who migrate in search of better lives. We stand alongside those who are faced with such a trauma.

As much as world peace is a major ingredient which underlies the progress of mankind, each Member State invariably bears the responsibility of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the best of its ability.

However, the SIDS of the world face huge challenges which are disproportionate to their size. They are highly vulnerable to the many manmade and natural calamities both within and outside their frontiers. These strongly impact their natural resources. The natural resources of SIDS such as land, water and qualified human resources are most limited, hindering efforts towards a more appreciable level of food and nutritional security. Obesity and cardiovascular diseases plague our labour force. External food dependence in excess of 80 percent by weight gives a false sense of security.

Seychelles as a SIDS is nonetheless determined to make a difference in the lives of its people and to meet their aspirations of adequate food and good nutrition.

The launch of a Comprehensive Agriculture Plan in October 2018, does justice to the long Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process and the eventual National Agricultural Investment Plan. It crowns further the role of partnership towards meeting the SDGs.

I have set targets to raise national food production for both crops and livestock to meet 50 percent of national consumption by 2021. Currently, local production averages some 20 percent of the national consumption level. Progress will come with a helping hand.

I am very appreciative to our Organization for the portfolio of support through the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2018-2021, in addressing the many gaps in natural resources management towards a better national food and nutritional security. On this note, I call on FAO to relook at the current mode by which donor funds are being distributed and used for technical assistance, as I am sure that in many instances technical assistance does not get to fruition and remain as plans, as they do not impact directly on the lives of our people.

I am also thankful to the many international organizations present here today such as the IFAD, the European Union, the Kuwaiti and African Development Banks, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for their assistance.

I seek the blessing of the one up high, to garner our strength and endeavour towards the goals at hand. May we come back in two years to report on the positive progress that we have made towards meeting the SDGs.

The Honourable Alpheus !NARUSEB, Minister for Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia

Firstly, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you Mr Chairperson, for your election to preside over the proceedings of this Conference.

Secondly, allow me to congratulate the incoming Director-General for being elected to lead this Organization. We look forward to working with him, and we pledge our cooperation and support.

Let me equally thank the outgoing Director-General for his excellent work and for the visionary leadership that he provided to the Organization during his tenure.

This Conference is being held along the theme “*Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development*”. A theme that is indeed defeating given the current high levels of migration and its impact on agriculture and rural development. According to existing statistics, in 2017, there were 258 million international migrants of which 68.5 million people were forcefully displaced by conflict, while 23.5 million were displaced by climate related disasters.

The power to reduce forced migration, end climate induced migration, and related disasters are in our hands. All that is needed is political will, resources and proper planning. Experts are cautioning us that migration is a complex and dynamic phenomenon which can present challenges and opportunities. This means that in our search for solutions to migration, we should focus on the implementation of policies and strategies that maximize the benefits of migration and simultaneously concentrate on the implementation of those policies that minimize the drivers of migration. It has been proven that migration has the potential to play a critical role in agriculture and rural development. Our Government should therefore tap into and exploit this potential for the benefit of sustainable agriculture, and rural development. In turn, this will contribute to the reduction of involuntary migration of people from rural areas.

Implementing a combination of policies and strategies at different points along the dynamic spectrum of migration will not only fast track the realization of the aspirations of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, and the achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, however it will also complement its implementation and enhance the impact of our policies and programs on the promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development. Therefore, we should embrace the web of FAO on migration to achieve this objective.

We are meeting at a time when global statistics show that the number of hungry people in the world continues to be high with 821 million people who are under-nourished, and 130 million people who are experiencing acute hunger and require urgent emergency assistance. It is also documented that conflict and climate change related disasters are the main contributors to food insecurity and hunger.

This harsh reality is evident in our sub region where countries, including Namibia, just experienced El Niño induced droughts, while others experienced devastating floods and extreme weather conditions caused by cyclones, like Idai and Kenneth. The effects of the two cyclones resulted in the death of over 1 000 people, and the overwhelming destruction of agricultural and other economic infrastructures. Furthermore, the combined impact of the cyclones, floods and drought left 30 million people food insecure.

The frequent occurrence of these climate change related disasters is an indication that our journey towards the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the attainment of which goals will be protracted and full hurdles. That is critically slowing down our pace towards the achievement of SDG 2 and related goals. You will agree with me that the solutions that are required to end conflict and reduce the impact of climate change and conflict on agriculture and food security are within our reach.

Therefore, we should triple our efforts to end conflict and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Climate Change. In this regard, Namibia continues to implement climate friendly policies and programs. We have been implementing Climate Smart Agriculture initiatives with the assistance of FAO. In addition we have, jointly with the FAO, developed a new Country Programming Framework, which has recently been launched. Under this new project, Namibia is seeking FAO assistance in developing a disaster risk management strategy for agriculture. Once implemented this strategy is expected to build resilience in agriculture, particularly in rural areas, where the majority of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, allow me to express our gratitude to FAO for the support provided to Namibia in general, but in particular, the recent financial in kind contribution that FAO made towards our current drought relief program.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that Namibia remains committed to timely honor its obligation towards the FAO budget.

His Excellency Said HUSSEIN IID, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia

On the onset, let me congratulate the newly elected Director-General of FAO Dr Qu Dongyu. We look forward to working with him on the realisation of the Zero Hunger Agenda and all other FAO programmes.

I also pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General Dr Graziano da Silva for the leadership and hard work he has shown during his tenure as Director-General of FAO.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this august gathering focused on migration, agriculture and rural development. As you are aware, migration is a historical global phenomenon, which is very closely linked to stability, equal development and opportunities. Therefore, the theme of “*Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development*” is a timely one at this 41st Session of the FAO Conference, because they are all interlinked. Hence, to overcome the challenge they pose both individually and collectively to the world and turn them into the opportunities, it is critical to approach them holistically.

Somalia is a country which understands the impact and opportunities presented by rural migration and general migration across borders. As a recovering post-conflict state, our recent history teaches us that conflict is the greatest displacer of people, including in rural communities.

Similarly, conflict has led to great socio-economic and political difficulties in Somalia, which the Federal Government is now working tirelessly to reverse. Yet, we must recognise the challenges, benefits as well as costs, for migrants themselves and for societies in general.

Somalia, as many other African countries or developing countries, has the highest rates of urbanization in the world, because the rural population continues to migrate to cities for employment opportunities and better public services. Consequently, this creates a dire need for sufficient services and infrastructure. In addition, the conflict against the scourge of terrorism is generating an increasing amount of internally displaced persons (IDP), which adds to the demands and challenges that stem from rapid urbanization.

Somalia, like most African countries, has a youthful population, which is about 20 percent of the population, which is aged between 15 and 29. As a result, the dependency ratio is high and the strains on resources are acute, as demand for education, health care, housing, infrastructure and employment is elevated.

Internal migration today, is a global phenomenon, and the youth who lack opportunities in rural areas are moving on unprecedented scale. It is important to understand two important factors. Firstly, as a famous Somali saying: “The City lives depend on the countryside”. Secondly, unemployment and hopelessness can be a fertile ground for criminal organization, or lead into terror indoctrination and radicalisation.

Food security, employment opportunities and the protection of Somalia's beautiful natural resources and heritage depends the efforts of its farmers, herders and rural communities to produce sustainably for the rest of the country and protect the natural environment. Where once families farmed together, today many have been split by migration to the cities and even abroad, across seas.

This has a huge impact on the ability of the family to produce, especially, as most rely on traditional labour intensive farming techniques due to limited access to new technological farming processes and systems.

For Somalia, while migration from rural communities to urban centres has benefited a few, most people who have made this shift, and those they left behind, are experiencing socio-economic challenges due to limited opportunities in all major cities across Somalia.

We as policymakers must create an enabling environment through policies and through national and international partnerships to bring the promise of rural development to fruition.

We would not be doing ourselves justice in this Conference if we did not highlight the importance of addressing climate change as a matter of priority to advance rural development and community resilience.

Today, Somalia's rural communities regularly suffer from drought and the effects of climate change, which hurts their livelihoods, and has taken their lives through famines in the past. This is unacceptable given how much knowledge we collectively have on climate change and rural development. We need to work on strengthening the political will and cooperation to turn this knowledge and commitment into tangible solutions.

Through our National Development Plan, we are exploring ways to better coordinate these socioeconomic efforts alongside managing our environment, especially water resources, to offer opportunities to both urban and rural communities. This very attractive option will connect communities, strengthen resilience, grow the economy and, above all, promote sustainable development in rural areas.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Osmar BENITEZ, Ministro de Agricultura de la República Dominicana

En nombre del Gobierno de la República Dominicana queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por permitirnos un breve espacio en esta cuadragésima primera sesión de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO).

La FAO siempre ha sido un apoyo importante para nuestro país en los esfuerzos que encaminamos para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de la población, principalmente la población más vulnerable, la población más pobre.

El Gobierno dominicano ha ejecutado iniciativas dirigidas a fortalecer las políticas públicas que impulsan el desarrollo económico, social y ambiental del país, enfatizando la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de los segmentos menos favorecidos de la población.

República Dominicana ha colocado en el centro de sus objetivos estratégicos, mejorar las condiciones de vida de sus ciudadanos, poniendo especial atención en reducir la desigualdad que se evidencia entre las zonas rurales y urbanas en aspectos como la pobreza, el desempleo y el acceso a las oportunidades.

Las acciones ejecutadas han permitido alcanzar significativos avances en la lucha contra la pobreza general, lo que ha contribuido a reducir los niveles de pobreza general, de 43,2 por ciento a 22,8 por ciento en apenas 10 años, representando una disminución de casi el 50 por ciento.

Consistentemente, también hemos logrado reducir la condición de pobreza extrema en nuestra población al pasar de 12,8 por ciento a 2,9 por ciento en apenas siete años, reduciéndose en casi un 80% la pobreza extrema.

Revisando los datos publicados por el Estado de la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional en el Mundo de la FAO, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), encontramos que la República Dominicana, entre 1990 y 2016, redujo la población subalimentada de 34,3 por ciento a 12,3 por ciento, cumpliendo así con la Meta 1-C de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio de bajar en más de un 50 por ciento la subalimentación de la población indicada.

El Gobierno del Presidente Danilo Medina ha reforzado los nuevos compromisos asumidos en Naciones Unidas para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), enfatizando el Objetivo 2 dirigido a alcanzar Hambre Cero para el año 2030.

Con ese propósito, nuestro Gobierno ha establecido varios programas de apoyo a los sectores menos favorecidos.

En primer lugar, mediante una ley del Congreso de la República se promulgó un nuevo estamento jurídico, una Ley de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, Ley 589-16, que articula todas las acciones del Estado y la participación del sector privado para asegurar la disponibilidad de alimentos abundantes, nutritivos e inocuos para la población de menores ingresos y en condiciones de vulnerabilidad.

En segundo lugar, tenemos el Programa de Visitas Sorpresa, que fue presentado aquí, en este foro, en este mismo salón por nuestro Presidente en el pasado mes de febrero, donde llegamos a las más apartadas comunidades donde existen los mayores indicadores de pobreza para fomentar la asociatividad y el cooperativismo de pequeños agricultores y sus familias con el propósito de impulsar iniciativas productivas, generadoras de empleos y de nuevos ingresos.

Bajo este programa, hasta la fecha, el Gobierno, en los últimos siete años ha invertido más de 900 millones de dólares, mejorando la calidad de vida de más de 100.000 productores pequeños y creando más de 200.000 empleos en zonas que anteriormente no tenían esa oportunidad.

La FAO, el FIDA y el PMA, junto a otras organizaciones como el Banco Mundial, el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) y otras agencias del sistema multilateral y de cooperación de Gobiernos amigos, son colaboradores fundamentales en las políticas que hemos dispuesto para lograr los ODS para el año 2030. Creemos que estos programas son la base fundamental de la transformación de vida de gentes muy pobres que no tienen otra oportunidad.

Aprovechamos este espacio para valorar el trabajo formidable realizado por nuestro Director General saliente, el Doctor José Graziano Da Silva, a quien deseamos éxito y ventura en sus nuevas actividades.

De igual manera, en nombre de mi país, extendiendo las más sinceras congratulaciones al Dr Qu Dongyu por su elección como nuevo Director General y aprovechamos para invitarle a que nos acompañe en el lanzamiento oficial, para América Latina y el Caribe, del Programa “Decenio de la Agricultura Familiar 2019-2028” que organiza la FAO en la República Dominicana a partir del día 25 de agosto de este mismo año.

Son Excellence Monsieur Salifou OUÉDRAOGO, Ministre de l'agriculture et des aménagements hydro-agricoles du Burkina Faso

Il m'est très agréable, au nom du Gouvernement et du Peuple du Burkina Faso, de remercier la FAO pour toutes les dispositions qui ont été mises en œuvre afin de nous réunir ici, à Rome, à cette 41ème session de la Conférence de l'Organisation.

Je suis honoré de pouvoir vous livrer la contribution de mon pays au thème de notre Conférence, à savoir «La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: Migrations, agriculture et développement rural».

Mais avant d'en revenir à ce thème, dont l'importance n'est plus à démontrer, permettez-moi de saisir cette opportunité qui m'est offerte pour saluer d'une manière particulière le Directeur général sortant de la FAO, M. Graziano da Silva, et le féliciter pour la vision qui a conduit son action à la tête de l'Organisation pendant les huit années de son mandat. M. da Silva s'est engagé sans réserve pour la cause des populations qui souffrent le plus des changements climatiques et de la dégradation générale des conditions de production et d'alimentation dans le monde. M. da Silva, vous avez encore beaucoup à apporter au monde dans le cadre des stratégies de mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable, c'est pourquoi, le Burkina Faso, par ma voix, vous exprime des vœux de santé et de succès dans toutes vos entreprises futures.

Permettez-moi de traduire ici, les vives félicitations du Gouvernement et du Peuple du Burkina Faso à l'endroit de M. Qu Dongyu pour sa brillante nomination à la tête de la FAO. Je ne doute pas un instant que la confiance que la communauté internationale des États Membres de cette grande Organisation a placée en lui portera des fruits. L'accomplissement de sa noble mission permettra de relever les nombreux défis de notre planète en matière de développement d'une agriculture durable, respectueuse du climat et de l'environnement, de lutte contre la pauvreté, de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle en vue de parvenir aux objectifs «Faim zéro en 2025», de la Décennie de l'agriculture familiale en 2028, dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et des objectifs de développement durable.

Le thème de cette 41ème session de la Conférence de la FAO nous invite à réfléchir sur la question migratoire, en lien avec l'agriculture et le développement rural.

Le Burkina Faso est un pays de tradition migratoire à cause de son environnement en proie à la désertification et à cause de sa densité démographique. Les populations rurales ont toujours effectué des migrations saisonnières ou permanentes dans les pays voisins, et progressivement vers l'Afrique centrale, puis les pays du Golfe, l'Europe et les États-Unis. À cette émigration s'ajoute une migration interne de plus en plus forte poussant les populations des zones arides et semi-arides vers les territoires plus arrosés; ces dix dernières années, les populations actives, notamment des jeunes et des femmes, s'installent sur les sites aurifères, tandis que les problèmes sécuritaires liés aux attaques terroristes créent des déplacements sans précédent de populations du nord vers le centre du pays.

Les mouvements migratoires internes touchent plus de 11 000 personnes par an. Les migrations forcées des populations en proie à l'insécurité ont entraîné des déplacements internes de plus de 137 000 personnes. Le revenu tiré de l'agriculture par chaque famille se situe en moyenne entre 100 et 400 USD, celui de l'orpaillage par famille se situe entre 1150 et 4500 USD.

L'orpaillage se positionne cependant comme une menace pour l'agriculture familiale d'une part, parce qu'il pousse les jeunes à abandonner le travail agricole, et d'autre part parce que les activités d'orpaillage entraînent une dégradation profonde et dangereuse des sols et de l'environnement.

L'importance croissante des mouvements migratoires s'explique simplement par la situation économique, sociale et alimentaire défavorable et l'impératif pour nos populations d'améliorer leurs revenus et leurs conditions de vie. En effet, l'insécurité alimentaire globale atteint 42 pour cent des ménages ruraux.

Dans un tel contexte, la décision de migration apparaît comme une contrainte et non un libre choix. Le Gouvernement de mon pays, à travers le ministère en charge de l'agriculture, entend inverser cette tendance en prenant des mesures de valorisation de l'agriculture familiale et de l'entrepreneuriat agricole. Cela se matérialise par l'adoption d'un code d'investissement agro-sylvo-pastoral, qui offre des conditions attractives pour l'entrepreneuriat agricole, et l'adoption de décrets d'application de la Loi d'orientation agro-sylvo-pastorale, halieutique et faunique, qui octroie pour la première fois le statut d'agriculteurs professionnels aux acteurs du monde rural.

Nous sommes également engagés à: (i) développer et promouvoir un nouveau modèle d'exploitation agricole plus résilient et plus performant, pourvoyeur d'emplois agricoles décents aux populations rurales, notamment les jeunes et les femmes; (ii) mettre en place un mécanisme de gestion des risques par le développement de l'assurance agricole afin de contenir les pertes de production liées aux effets des changements climatiques; (iii) accorder un traitement privilégié aux femmes et aux jeunes dans la mise en œuvre des activités de subventions des intrants agricoles.

Toutes ces actions, déjà lancées, nous permettront, j'en suis convaincu, d'éradiquer les effets négatifs de la migration.

Avant de terminer mon propos, permettez-moi de réitérer au nom du Gouvernement et du Peuple du Burkina Faso, mes remerciements à nos partenaires, qui ont contribué en permanence à travers leurs appuis multiformes à l'opérationnalisation de notre politique agricole et alimentaire.

J'affirme l'entière disponibilité de mon pays à participer de manière active à la mise en œuvre des objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, pour un continent africain libéré de la faim et de la pauvreté d'ici à 2063.

Son Excellence Monsieur Hassan LAKKIS, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République libanaise

Je suis honoré de prendre la parole au nom du Liban en cette 41ème session de la Conférence de la FAO. J'aimerais remercier la FAO et lui exprimer notre gratitude pour ses efforts en matière d'agriculture et de sécurité alimentaire. Nous transmettons nos félicitations à M. Qu Dongyu, nouveau Directeur général, je lui souhaite plein succès dans sa mission et je salue également M. Enzo Benech, qui a été élu Président de la Conférence.

Notre thème pour cette 41ème session, «Migrations, agriculture et développement durable», revêt une importance particulière. Le Proche-Orient et le monde entier connaissent ces crises sous ses diverses formes et ses répercussions sur le plan économique, social et humain sur les pays d'émigrations et les

pays d'accueil. Il nous faut donc adopter des approches exceptionnelles afin d'absorber les répercussions et les défis résultant de cette crise.

Les déplacements, la migration, la migration interne sont tous des aspects différents de la mobilité démographique. Ces déplacements peuvent avoir lieu à l'intérieur d'un pays ou d'un pays à l'autre. Cependant, il faut faire une distinction entre ces formes de migrations et différencier leur traitement, car elles n'ont pas les mêmes conséquences.

Vous le savez, le Liban est entièrement concerné par ce phénomène et en est touché de plein fouet. À l'instar de ce que connaissent d'autres pays de la région, depuis sept ans le Liban a accueilli près de 1,5 millions de déplacés, ce qui représente le quart de sa population, et continue d'en recevoir.

Le Liban compte toujours sur la main-d'œuvre étrangère dans le secteur de l'agriculture et du bâtiment. Or, l'afflux d'un grand nombre de déplacés dans un délai très court a aggravé cette crise et cette main-d'œuvre étrangère est entrée en concurrence avec la main-d'œuvre locale, notamment les jeunes, ce qui a augmenté l'émigration des Libanais vers l'étranger.

Le coût de cette crise sur l'économie libanaise a dépassé les 18 millions d'USD tandis que le taux de chômage a augmenté, se traduisant par une augmentation des émigrés libanais. Ainsi annuellement l'on compte que près de 70 000 libanais quittent le pays. Ainsi, la responsabilité de la communauté internationale ne se limite pas à devoir empêcher la normalisation et l'institutionnalisation du phénomène des déplacements et de l'émigration, notamment ceux liés aux crises, mais elle se doit également de soutenir ces déplacés et de garantir un retour dans leur pays d'origine avec des conditions de vie décentes.

Nous comptons sur le soutien de la FAO et sur son rôle pivot dans le développement économique et social dans les pays hôtes, notamment à travers l'agriculture et dans le contexte post-crise. L'agriculture devrait attirer des investissements de manière à renforcer le développement et ne doit pas être une raison de l'immigration et du déplacement.

J'aimerais rappeler les accomplissements du Liban au cours de ces deux dernières années, grâce à la coopération au sein du secteur agricole libanais, ainsi qu'à sa coopération avec la FAO et d'autres organisations régionales et des pays donateurs, que nous remercions.

Nos efforts ont été déployés dans le secteur de l'agriculture, dans le secteur des chaînes de production agricole, dans le soutien aux petits agriculteurs, dans les bonnes pratiques agricoles et les activités de diffusion.

Nous rappelons que le Liban soutient le Code de conduite internationale dans l'utilisation et la gestion durable des engrais, et nous appelons à une utilisation raisonnée des engrais. Le Liban a également développé un système national de sécurité sanitaire des aliments et de détection de la contamination des aliments sur la base des risques encourus. Nous considérons qu'une alimentation sûre rime avec alimentation saine et nous promovons les régimes alimentaires sains, notamment les régimes alimentaires méditerranéens. Comme vous le savez, la diète méditerranéenne est considérée comme étant l'un des régimes alimentaires les plus sains au monde.

Enfin, nous promovons le rôle des jeunes et des femmes dans le milieu rural. Nous contribuons à leur renforcement et à leur autonomisation. Dans le secteur agricole, nous avons plusieurs programmes de développement des capacités et de soutien aux coopératives rurales et féminines.

Ces initiatives parmi d'autres montrent les efforts déployés afin de transformer le secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, dans notre pays. Il nous faut faire un saut qualitatif, en matière de développement. C'est pour cela que nous sommes attachés à la vision du développement du secteur agricole pour 2030, et nous sommes certains que cette vision pourra renforcer la capacité compétitive du secteur agricole libanais et garantir une gestion durable de l'agriculture dans nos pays de manière à soutenir nos communautés locales.

Nous saluons les efforts et la vision du Directeur général sortant, M. Graziano da Silva, et le remercions pour ses efforts, notamment envers le Liban.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Alfonso VARGAS, Subsecretario de Agricultura de la República de Chile

Junto con saludar a las autoridades y representantes de los Estados Miembros de la FAO, quiero compartir con ustedes lo que el Gobierno de Chile a través de su Ministerio de Agricultura, se encuentra realizando en relación al desafío de la Agenda 2030, en materia de desarrollo rural, migración y el nuevo escenario que enfrenta la agricultura.

Los países estamos sujetos a distintos procesos migratorios, entre ellos la migración rural, sabemos que debemos actuar de forma coordinada, en alianzas, y con políticas públicas coherentes con los contextos locales, regionales, binacionales y globales.

Chile aumentó su población extranjera en un 155 por ciento en 4 años, pasando de tener 490 000 personas migrantes en 2014 a más de 1 millón 250 000 en diciembre de 2018. Estos flujos migratorios se deben a diversas situaciones que hoy aquejan a nuestra región. Es por tal motivo, que la política migratoria de Chile es avanzar hacia una migración segura, ordenada, regular y responsable.

El Gobierno de Chile, recientemente estableció las bases para la nueva política y normativa migratoria del país. En este marco, son bienvenidos todos aquellos que con esfuerzo buscan una mejor calidad de vida y más oportunidades para ellos y sus familias. Muchos de ellos hoy trabajan en nuestros campos, y son un aporte relevante a nuestra actividad agrícola.

Es nuestro deber tutelar los derechos de esos trabajadores migratorios, de nuestros trabajadores, asegurando condiciones laborales dignas y un trabajo decente para todos, en línea con el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) número 8, de la Agenda 2030 y las directrices de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT).

La urbanización de la población es una realidad global, que se acrecienta en países en transición al desarrollo como Chile. Nuestro Gobierno, está consciente y busca soluciones para que las áreas rurales no se queden atrás. El trabajo en el campo junto con la incorporación de las nuevas tecnologías digitales, puede ser una opción de desarrollo para nuestros jóvenes, un medio de vida sostenible. Es por esto que Chile ha decidido abordar este desafío con una nueva mirada del desarrollo rural, a través de la promoción de un desarrollo integral (económico, social, ambiental y cultural), la colaboración de los sectores público, privado y de la sociedad civil y la integración con las áreas urbanas.

En este sentido, el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar que la FAO recientemente ha inaugurado, es una oportunidad para elaborar políticas públicas que den mayor acceso a mercado, inversión y financiamiento a los agricultores familiares. Los agricultores familiares están en el centro de las políticas que desarrolla nuestro ministerio.

Quiero aprovechar la oportunidad de agradecer, el apoyo y aprobación que ha tenido la iniciativa de celebrar el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras 2021 propuesto por Chile, que estamos seguros se sumará también a estos esfuerzos.

Nuestro programa de gobierno incorpora por primera vez una visión del desarrollo rural que se desmarca de la percepción generalizada de la ruralidad como sinónimo de atraso, y abre paso a un paradigma de oportunidades que respeta y promueve la diversidad de lugares donde habitar, la realización de actividades económicas vinculadas a los recursos naturales, el cuidado del medio ambiente, y la cultura y tradiciones que hablan del alma de Chile.

Hoy, cerca del 30 por ciento de los chilenos vive en comunas rurales, habitando más del 80 por ciento de nuestro territorio. Sin embargo, las brechas respecto a las zonas urbanas son aún muy altas, especialmente en cuanto a infraestructura, calidad de la salud, educación.

Es por esta razón, que el Gobierno ha decidido implementar una Política Nacional de Desarrollo Rural que busque mejorar la calidad de vida y el acceso a oportunidades de los habitantes rurales.

Hemos conformado un Comité de Ministros de Desarrollo Rural, una importante estructura para la toma de decisiones a nivel central.

También hemos creado el Departamento de Desarrollo Rural y se ha dado inicio a un Trabajo Piloto de Desarrollo Rural en el sur de Chile. Este programa Piloto nos ayudará a tener una mayor claridad sobre la implementación de esta política.

Hemos incorporado nuevos tópicos más acordes a la realidad nacional y mundial, como es el aporte de las mujeres en el mundo rural y los efectos del cambio climático.

También hemos licitado el diseño de un Sistema de Indicadores de Calidad de Vida en territorios rurales, y en conjunto con FAO Chile, hemos desarrollado además el estudio “Propuesta metodológica para la construcción de una tipología de territorios rurales”.

Un aspecto importante para la agricultura es la conservación de la biodiversidad, que no solo contribuye a mantener un desarrollo agrícola sostenible, sino también a una mayor y diversa oferta de alimentos. En esta línea, hemos establecido sitios que albergan Sistemas Importantes del Patrimonio Agrícola Nacional (SIPAN).

El desafío es enorme, y sabemos que necesitamos el compromiso de todos y todas para lograr caminar hacia un futuro con más oportunidades y que permita que cada uno encuentre el sentido de su vida en el lugar donde ha elegido vivir.

Quiero agradecer al Director General, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, por la excelente dirección y rumbo que la organización emprendió bajo su liderazgo. Le deseo lo mejor en su próximo desafío.

Saludo de la misma manera al nuevo Director General electo, Dr. Qu Dongyu, que iniciará funciones en agosto. Le deseamos de parte del Presidente Sebastián Piñera el mejor de los éxitos en esta gran responsabilidad que tenemos que cumplir.

Finalmente, no quiero dejar pasar esta oportunidad para destacar la próxima Vigésimoquinta Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas para el Cambio Climático – COP 25 – que se realizará en Santiago de Chile en diciembre de este año. Es sin duda uno de los foros más importantes, que permitirá que los países firmantes del Acuerdo de París puedan dialogar, discutir y comprometer acciones que permitan disminuir las emisiones de carbono, impulsando políticas activas para cuidar y proteger el planeta. La transformación del sector agrícola y el cuidado del medio ambiente deben ir de la mano, y son clave para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible.

Los esperamos a todos en la COP 25 en Santiago.

His Excellency Osman Mohamed Ali BABIKER, Under Secretary for Agriculture and Forests of the Republic of the Sudan (Original language Arabic)

I have the pleasure on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Sudan, to address this august Assembly, to confirm that Sudan is determined to cooperate with the FAO leadership, with all Member States, to achieve our common objective and to coordinate with other partners, such as other organizations, civil societies, the private sector and other development partners.

We would like to commend the efforts undertaken by the Organization to free the world from the yoke of hunger and malnutrition and to sustainably improve the quality of life of all people, including the poorest people. We recognize the efforts undertaken by the Organization untiringly, and also to cooperate with Member States in order to develop their agricultural sectors and to manage and use natural resources in a sustainable manner.

We hope that the Organization will continue to double its efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive rural and agricultural development, particularly in regions that are facing numerous and varied challenges.

Sudan assigned great importance to the agricultural sector. It is included in all of our national plans and strategies because we recognize the crucial contribution that this sector makes in achieving food and nutritional security, in eradicating poverty, and in addressing hunger. We have therefore allocated increased importance to the agricultural sector, in the form of a series of reforms that encourage the sustainable use of resources available in order to transform and modernize this sector.

We have developed laws that govern professions which enter into agricultural production and the livestock husbandry. We are looking at improved seeds that resist droughts, and particularly vegetable seeds. We are also working to counteract pests and diseases, including transboundary ones.

We are also aware of the negative impact of climate change. We are making a lot of efforts to counteract climate change however, we urgently need cooperation with other partners, in order to ensure that our population is capable of being resilient and to ensure that our agricultural sector can positively transform to benefit the rural areas that produce foodstuffs. There is also a need for necessary support to avoid extreme desertification in our country.

During recent years we have seen good examples in terms of support provided by the Organization to our country, and particularly in the form of support provided by other countries. For example, the Triangular Cooperation that we have with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection, which has worked with Sudan on a water resources project. We have also worked with international organizations in fighting against pests and in order to adopt certain postharvest techniques. We have cooperated with the Japanese, Korean and Turkish Development Agencies.

We would like to reiterate our commitment, which is unswerving on a national and regional level, to implement all cooperation projects with FAO. We hope that we will be able to unite our efforts and coordinate our vision in order to ensure that we can achieve sustainable lasting development and the flourishing of our agricultural sector. Thus, for a need to provide sufficient food to all people.

I would like to mention the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) that was held in our capital, Khartoum, from the 19 to 23 February 2018.

I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General Mr José Graziano da Silva for all of the efforts that he has undertaken in order to manage and guide the Organization and for his participation at the Regional Conference.

I would also like to greet the new Director-General and wish him every success and declare my country's firm intention to cooperate with him and congratulate the French and Georgian candidate who took part in the election.

Lastly, I would like to join in with other colleagues, who spoke before me, in wishing everyone the best of success and full cooperation with the Organization every time it is possible.

Her Excellency Olena KOVALOVA, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine

It's my honour and pleasure to address the distinguished audience of 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to express gratitude to the outgoing Director-General José Graziano da Silva for his commitment and leadership in the fight against hunger in the world.

On behalf of Ukraine, I am pleased to congratulate the newly elected Director-General and wish Dr Qu Dongyu all the best on his responsible and really important position in leading FAO and assisting Member Countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ukraine joined the Agenda 2030 and has launched an inclusive and comprehensive process of the SDGs implementation. I would like to emphasize the significant role of FAO in this process.

We are thankful to the organizers of the Conference for highlighting the close connection between migration, agriculture and rural development.

Migration is part of the development process, urbanization and de-urbanization, migration within countries and international migration. Migration caused economic, climate and security issues, have become a reality. Each country's case is individual. Ukraine faces migration nowadays and our country has undergone migration waves in the past centuries.

One third of Ukraine's population lives in rural areas, of which three million are employed in agriculture. The work of these people forms 15 percent of the country's GDP, and about 40 percent of the total exports from the country. It should be noted, that small and medium-sized producers in

agriculture account for half of agricultural output. There is direct dependence on the provision of agriculture with employees and migration processes.

We welcome the attention that FAO is giving to address migration issues, including the minimization of consequences on the one hand, and exploiting new opportunities, on the other hand. I am convinced that the following are priority tasks.

Firstly, the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas through rural development policy realization, and strengthening the economic capacity of local communities. It is important to take measures for solving socio-economic and environmental issues, to enhance proper maintenance and rational use of social, transport, communication and infrastructure in rural areas.

In Ukraine, with this aim the Rural Development Plan 2025 was adopted. It is a broad document that includes some measures and it also contains the measures for stimulation of off-farm activities. As well, within decentralization reform, both the budgetary system and the land relationship were changed. The local authorities in Ukraine receive more resources, however they also apprehended the consciousness of responsibility for local development.

Secondly, inclusive employment expansion in the agricultural sector, of course taking into account the gender dimension. Therefore, the issues of support for the small and medium agricultural entrepreneurship development, including family farming, are crucial. Ukraine welcomes the United Nations initiative to determine family farming as the strategic priority of the decade.

The agrarian policy of Ukraine is formed according the achievement of SDGs and three regional goals. Supporting the development of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is one of the key pillars. The concept of the development of farms, small and medium, provides appropriate measures and tools. It also fixes the minimum amount of the state support for these very purpose, without, however, any limitation of access to farmers to other State programmes. Today the SMEs budget is equal to one fifth of the total agricultural budget of Ukraine.

With the aim of creating jobs in agriculture, of course in rural areas, we are using some tools:

- priority of access to resources for SMEs;
- support of cooperative movement, value added chains development and market access;
- stimulation the of industries with a high level of employment and high added value, like horticulture, value products, livestock and the dairy and meat sector;
- assistance in adaptation to European Union standards;
- maintenance in access to information, new knowledge and new technologies, innovations; and,
- funding of young farmers.

FAO in Ukraine is actively involved in implementation of the SDGs, and once again, I would like to thank FAO for its efficient and fruitful work in Ukraine. I wish the Organization and the all Member Countries prosperity and Zero Hunger.

His Excellency Ahmed ALBAKRI, Under Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman (Original language Arabic)

At the outset and on behalf of the Delegation of the Sultanate of Oman taking part in the 41st Session of the FAO Conference, we would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu for his election at the helm of the FAO, wishing him all the success in his tasks.

The fallout of world phenomena on top of which climate change, gas heat emissions, land degradation, drought and desertification are still impacting negatively on the food production system, biodiversity and ecological diversity, especially in developing and the least developed countries. This requires determining responsibilities, assessing and reviewing plans that are to be implemented at the Regional Conferences of FAO, and around the world, in order to phase these phenomena, to limit its impact and to gradually address their fallout. This is a human responsibility incumbent on us all without any exception.

The current session focuses on issues relating to migration, agriculture and rural development. The Agenda includes items, some of which were discussed yesterday, and others which will be discussed in order to lead the way, to pave the way, to set up executive plans on the regional level in the fields of the world, food security, its relevant policies, and assessing the progress in this regard in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Fostering nutrition which is connected to consuming more fruits and vegetables and developing family food consumption patterns is important. Therefore, the report on the sustainable and systematic use and management of fertilizers, and the introduction of concepts on digital and smart agriculture in applications that can determine the required fertilizer levels to achieve the aspired production levels with the best return, is a matter of aspersions that we can all implement easily and with very good results on the ground.

Food production systems in the Sultanate of Oman are going systematically, with God's blessing, in achieving self-sufficiency of all the imports which used to be 41 percent in 2016 and has reached 58 percent in 2018. The volume of production in terms of plants, animals and fish, has risen from 3.2 million tons in 2017 to 3.8 million tons in 2018. This represents a growth rate of 17.2 percent.

The Government is working on the framework of economic diversification in fostering many sectorial projects that are connected to food security and investment in food security by supporting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in all the stages of production, manufacturing and marketing of foods, which create jobs for the Omani youth in different governorates around the Sultanate.

According to the Annual Food Security Index in 2019, Oman ranked third in the Arab world, and 29th worldwide out of 113 countries. The Sultanate also ranked first in the Arab world in terms of food availability in 2018.

In conclusion, we would like to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Dr José Graziano da Silva for his praiseworthy efforts, for his close follow up, and professional initiatives during his mandate at the helm of FAO, which has contributed towards enriching the progress of this State Organization, and we wish him success in his future endeavours. We also would like to thank all the staff at FAO headquarters in Rome and its Regional Office in Cairo and the office in Muscat for their ongoing cooperation and appreciated role.

Her Excellency Ram Kumari CHAUDHARY, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

It is an honour to represent Nepal at this Conference and share my views on various dimensions of agricultural development. I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson and other Members of the Bureau for your well-deserved election.

Nepal highly appreciates FAO's efforts in the sustainable development of rural agriculture and food security in Nepal. Nepal and FAO have completed 42 years of partnership and FAO continues to assist us in various areas, especially food and nutrition security, institutional and policy support, marketing competitiveness and conservation of natural resources and their utilization.

Currently FAO's cooperation is framed under a four year country strategy plan from 2019 to 2023. Agriculture and food security projects are under implementation to supply food and nutrition to women and children from small and marginalized farmer communities in the mid-Western and far-Western regions of Nepal.

FAO has also cooperated in the development and implementation of food and nutrition, safety and security reform programs, which are to be implemented from 2019 to 2023.

The earthquake affected eight districts in Nepal that ranked low in the Human Development Index. We have prepared implementation directives of best agricultural practices in Nepal with a view to initiating good agricultural practices and promoting quality food and agricultural products. In addition, FAO has supported us in environmental adaptation, quality food production, plant and animal quarantine efforts via FAO's technical assistance.

Promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015, has been conducive to the further development of the agricultural sector in our country. Nepal has recognized the right to food and food sovereignty as fundamental rights in that constitution. Relevant laws have been amended to implement and respect those rights. Nepal remains committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals relating to agriculture and food by 2030. For this, national agricultural policies and the Agricultural Development Strategy, including the Zero Hunger initiative, are part of our National Plan of Action and have been implemented.

For the sustainable development of the agricultural sector, to promote the welfare of farmers and to make agriculture an attractive, secure and decent profession, the Government of Nepal has implemented a 20 year Agricultural Development Strategy from 2015 to 2035. To realize the vision of a “Prosperous Nepal Happy Nepali”, the Government of Nepal has formulated a Fifteenth Periodic Plan and the Policies and Programs of fiscal year 2076/77 with a national commitment to self-reliance in major agricultural products and livestock within the coming years.

Nepal has created a conducive environment for investment in the agricultural sector. The Nepal Investment Summit, convened recently in Kathmandu, identifies the agricultural sector as a rewarding and an attractive sector for investment. Nepal is committed to promoting rural agriculture and empowering the small farmers to mitigate the negative impacts of unemployment and migration. These include addressing the gender gap, extreme urbanization and low agricultural productivity.

We believe that this Conference should be deliberating on these pressing issues, such as labour migration from agricultural and rural areas, reforming the living standards and income of rural people, and finding ways to effectively mobilize resources in favour of the Least Developed Countries.

Likewise, we hope that our deliberations will prove to be useful for the benefit of rural agriculture, smallholder farmers, and will also benefit rural women that shoulder the burden of agriculture when young men migrate.

I am confident that this Conference will be able to frame future strategies in the cross-cutting issues of migration, agriculture and rural development that are so useful to countries which are largely dependent on agriculture, countries such as Nepal. Conferences, such as this one, can do so much by focusing minds on important issues, and can do so much to improve the livelihoods of the farming communities. Nepal is very keen on improving those situations.

We hope that these deliberations in this Body will indeed be fruitful, will benefit the persons who are directly affected and recognize the role of rural agriculture in improving their lives. We place great trust that such policies will lead to concrete improvements and will positively affect the actual lives of the individuals who are counting on us. These are countries, such as my own country, or countries that have very large rural sectors and large population groups who depend, to a great extent, on us here to make progress and improve rural development.

His Excellency Frédéric SEPPEY, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Market and Industry Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-food of Canada

Au moment du passage de témoin d'un Directeur général à un autre, l'opportunité nous est offerte de réfléchir sur les défis globaux auxquels nous avons à faire face et comment la FAO peut influencer et répondre à ces défis.

Nos agriculteurs ont besoin d'innovation. Ils ont besoin de politiques et de réglementations qui soient adoptées sur la base de fondements scientifiques. Ils ont besoin de prévisibilité dans les échanges commerciaux, fondés sur le respect de la règle de droit et de normes internationales claires. La FAO joue et doit continuer à jouer un rôle de premier plan dans la satisfaction de ces besoins.

La science et l'innovation ont toujours joué un rôle central dans la performance exceptionnelle du Canada en agriculture. J'aimerais particulièrement traiter de deux initiatives canadiennes dans ce domaine.

La première est le concept de «Laboratoires vivants», une initiative internationale que le Canada est fier de mener en étroite collaboration avec ses partenaires au sein du G20.

Les «Laboratoires vivants» cherchent à accélérer l'adoption des meilleures pratiques et technologies agricoles par les agriculteurs. Le concept est de créer, dans les champs, un environnement de collaboration et de dialogue entre producteurs, travailleurs agricoles, agronomes et autres chercheurs, afin de co-développer des solutions durables pour augmenter la résilience des milieux agricoles et améliorer la performance agro-environnementale. De tels partenariats sont essentiels afin d'offrir le plus rapidement possible aux fermiers de nouveaux outils, technologies et pratiques agricoles.

Une autre initiative, dont le Canada n'est pas peu fier, est le travail de nos chercheurs, en étroite collaboration avec l'Agence spatiale canadienne, sur le suivi des milieux agricoles par l'utilisation de données satellitaires. Le 12 juin dernier, le Canada lançait une constellation de trois satellites RADARSAT, qui sont désormais à pied d'œuvre pour mesurer les changements climatiques, les modifications dans les conditions d'utilisation des sols, ainsi que l'impact de l'activité humaine sur l'environnement. De plus, la surveillance des niveaux d'hydratation dans la couche superficielle du couvert agricole génèrera un ensemble de données permettant à nos producteurs d'évaluer avec précision les propriétés de leurs champs et de leurs cultures, et ainsi de prendre les meilleures décisions possibles quant à l'optimisation de leur production tout en évitant au maximum la perte de ressources précieuses comme l'eau.

Continues in English

I would like to share with you Canada's perspective on three other important themes, namely gender equality, migration, and collaboration on emerging issues. Our approach to international development builds on our strong belief that empowerment of women and girls is a key engine for sustainable development, peace, and growth.

Canada was most honoured to host the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver earlier this month. It was the world's largest gathering on the health, rights and well-being of women and girls. Canada is investing 300 million dollars in the Equality Fund, the first global innovative platform where diverse partners can pool and leverage resources to close gender gaps. One-hundred million dollars was already mobilized, and, over the next 15 years, it is more than one billion dollars that will be mobilized to empower women and girls for lasting changes.

Canada is also very seized by the ongoing migration situation. Canada has always been a country of immigration. What Canada is today is in large part thanks to generations of immigrants who brought their hopes, dreams and skills to Canada, to build a diverse, tolerant and prosperous nation.

This tradition still guides us today. As reported last week by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, in 2018 alone, Canada has provided resettlement and a path towards citizenship to more than 28 000 refugees, more than 30 percent of all resettled refugees worldwide that year.

Among the programs that we have established over time to facilitate the integration of future Canadians, Canada recently implemented the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot with communities across Canada who create welcoming environments to support new immigrants staying in rural communities, where they can quickly become self-sufficient, and exercise their skills in agriculture and food production.

Finally, I must highlight the need to work collaboratively to address emerging issues affecting our agriculture production system. A good example is the need for international work to prevent the further spread of African Swine Fever. This is a most serious viral and deadly disease affecting pigs. It is highly contagious and is spreading rapidly through Asia and Europe. This is a major concern for Canada, as we are dependent on exports for 70 percent of our production. However, this disease has the potential to impact many more countries, farmers, and livelihoods. Canada is urging all countries to join the OIE and the FAO's efforts to build cooperation among countries to shape a global response to African Swine Fever.

In closing, I would like to encourage all of us to continue to work collaboratively at the FAO, especially in the areas of science, innovation, predictable trade and international standards.

His Excellency Momon RUSMONO, Acting Secretary General for the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia

At the outset, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating the newly elected Director-General of FAO for the next four years, His Excellency Dr Qu Dongyu. I extend my best wishes and pledge Indonesia's support to you and to the whole Organization.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey high appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr Graziano da Silva, for his strong leadership for the past eight years.

Align with this year's Conference theme, Indonesia has placed her strong concerns on the interrelationships between migration, agriculture, and rural development to food security and nutrition. In Indonesia, migration has long been seen as an important aspect of regional socio-economic development. It presents both opportunities and challenges.

On the positive side, the migrants send remittances to their relatives. In 2016, migrants overseas remitted almost USD 10 billion, equivalent to one percent of Indonesia's total GDP. This shows the significant contribution of remittances to poverty alleviation in rural areas.

However, on the negative side, migration has drained human resources in rural areas, particularly the youth; while the elderly have been left behind, those who are often reluctant to adopting innovation and technology to work on agriculture. Nearly 10 million Indonesians are estimated to be temporary internal migrants, while 7 percent of the total workforce are accounted as international migrants. It is hence the need to re-engage youth to agriculture is becoming crucial.

Similar to other developing nations, Indonesia also views challenges arising from climate change and lack of socio-economic incentives to work in the agricultural sector, as deep root causes of migration.

In the last five years, the Indonesian Government has developed a set of policies to improve income earning opportunities in rural areas, and attract the interest of youth in agriculture.

We implement concrete actions based on a modernized, innovative, and holistic approach. This includes changing existing policies, promoting regional development, building agricultural infrastructure and downstream industry, managing the supply chain, and providing agriculture insurance.

We have done numerous efforts in promoting gainful employment and entrepreneurship for youth through formal and informal education. For example, we established an Agricultural Polytechnic, which is based on vocational education, whose graduates are ready to enter the job market or become Agripreneurs. We provide internship program abroad, as well as better access to various domestic support, such as financial aids, modern technologies and digitalization. Through these, we manage to provide rural young millennial and farmers, including fishers, with more viable livelihood options to combat the root causes of migration.

Over the past five years, our efforts in an integrated manner, resulted in a remarkable reduction in the national poverty rate where it reached a single digit for the first time at 9.7 percent in 2018.

To conclude, on behalf of the Indonesian Government, I wish to commend and value highly the efforts of FAO through its Regional and Country Offices in addressing the migration challenges.

Indonesia renews her firm commitment to support the FAO's endeavor in eradicating poverty and food insecurity throughout the world.

Her Excellency Vanessa FRAZIER, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to FAO

I would like to start by thanking the outgoing Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva for his work over the past eight years, and welcome the new Director-General Elect, Dr Qu Dongyu and wish him luck for the challenging task ahead.

The new Director-General will be serving at a critical period and have an uphill battle negotiating with partners, the Member States, and stakeholders alike to ensure that FAO plays its part in contributing to meet the SDGs related to food and agriculture.

We recognise that our efforts need to be stepped up in order to fulfil such 2030 commitments. This primary economic sector is key in the provision of nourishment to ensure healthy living, and is the fulcrum if we want to end hunger. This means that we need to continue working to achieve more sustainable agriculture through the adaptation of sustainable practices that respect our ecosystem and our environment.

Our actions today will effect tomorrow's generation. The fact that the farming community is increasingly becoming an ageing population is a challenge we must seriously address. This poses a major global challenge for food security. Direction is needed towards policy and incentives that encourage technical progress and educate youths in the agricultural and horticultural fields. Take up of technology and innovation in agriculture should be significantly promoted in order to attract young investors to the sector.

In this context, I would like to welcome the launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. Through this initiative, women and youth will be given the importance they deserve. Small and family owned farms can be assisted through their inclusion and recognition as strong and important elements of society. Although scientific progress, economic interventions and international agreements positively affect rural development, nothing would be possible without the farmers themselves, as they are the ones who pass on the necessary skills to keep family farms alive and productive.

We acknowledge the notion that improving the agriculture sector, and developing rural areas will stem the need for migration. Even though studies have shown that because of legal and regular migration the world is richer as migrants become much more productive than they would be had they stayed home, one needs to also take into account that migration out of rural areas can have negative effects as active members of society, and skills in the agriculture sector, are lost.

With regard to Malta, the agricultural sector is mainly comprised of a "one man show" farming operation. Our farmers face a number of difficulties and limitations in relation to the size and fragmentation of land that reduces competitiveness. Notwithstanding, we support our farmers through the European Union funding from the Common Agricultural Policy to improve their competitiveness by assisting them in investments in physical assets, collaboration, farm development as well as payments to areas facing natural constraints. To mitigate these challenges, a ten-year agriculture policy, which was adopted by the Maltese Government last year, is being implemented with a view to attract more young farmers; promote the sustainability of farming activities; and ensure farmland is properly managed and maintained. This policy also recognises the role of agriculture work as a form of identity, which connects farmers to their ancestors through tradition.

These challenges have not held us back from investing in modern technology. As a small arid island, water scarcity is an overarching issue with particular linkages to the agricultural sector. In cognisance of our climatic conditions and our diseconomies of scale and the need to find alternative sources of water supply, Malta invested in New Water. The wastewater treated effluent is being polished into irrigated water and distributed to our farmers. So far, we are targeting only a segment of our farmers and plans are unfolding to increase access to more farmers.

Our vision for a better tomorrow will only become a reality if we all work together. Encouraging education and innovation in agriculture will lead to more sustainable rural areas, where people are not forced to leave their countries and where migration will become a choice.

There is no need to create any new international instruments to make this vision a reality. We have to use the tools that are readily available and use this Organization as a knowledge house and platform to provide us with good examples.

However, we have to act now. It is time to sow the seeds for a better future. Just like the farmers, we cannot expect to harvest the fruit of our labour tomorrow, however, we can be patient and keep working hard at it.

Her Excellency Reenat SANDHU, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to FAO

At the outset, I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General Dr Graziano da Silva for his leadership of FAO and welcome the new Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu.

The theme of “Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development”, for the 41st Session of the FAO Conference, has highlighted that migration is a growing and complex global phenomenon caused by multiple drivers. Country contexts vary, and therefore migration assumes different forms and presents different challenges and opportunities for migrants and societies.

FAO’s report on the State of Food and Agriculture in 2018 brought out a number of interesting facts about migration and its implications for agriculture and rural development. We hope that our discussions at this Conference, and the various perspectives presented by different countries on the subject, will help in generating a better understanding of migration, in order to develop appropriate policy responses to ensure that we are able to harness the benefits of migration while reducing its negative impacts.

In India, agriculture, with its allied sectors is the largest source of livelihood. Over 65 percent of our rural households depend primarily on agriculture, with 82 percent of farmers being small and marginal. This rural population, dependent on agriculture, contributes to high rates of internal migration, involving the movement of millions of people.

As India’s economy undergoes structural transformation, the movement of people in search of better employment opportunities, within and across the country, is inevitable. Due to emerging opportunities in other sectors, a large proportion of youth in rural areas, are moving out of agriculture. This decrease in agricultural population, coupled with aging farmers and increasing proportion of women in agriculture, is bound to impact the way agriculture is organized and its development.

We recognize that migration can contribute to agricultural development and improve food security and rural livelihoods, through remittances and transfer of knowledge. However, poor quality migration is creating problems for urban habitations, while not necessarily reducing the burden on rural areas. Low quality migration to urban areas suggests that rural households would still need to depend on farming to meet a part of their requirements as remittances will not be enough.

In India, temporary migration is very common among rural poor, who move for limited periods of time to seek employment in construction and other sectors in both urban and rural areas. Climate related risks such as cyclones, heavy rains, floods and droughts increase the vulnerability of agriculture, leading to loss of livelihoods and triggering migration. There is evidence linking decline in crop yields due to climate extremes and increase in internal migration.

Recognizing the impact of migration on agricultural development, the Government of India has introduced a number of policies and programmes to address the root causes of migration and harness the potential of rural migration for agricultural development.

This includes, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households, so that agricultural population stays in rural areas even during the years of rainfall failures, and rebuilds their livelihoods during good agricultural seasons.

The Government of India also runs a number of employment generation schemes like the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme and the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana. Several skill development programmes are also being implemented across various sectors to improve the employability of rural youth.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating that migration is a growing global and national phenomenon. When this is a choice, orderly and regularly, it can play an important role for sustainable agriculture and rural development. We look forward to benefiting from the diversity of views expressed during this Conference to harness the potential of migration.

His Excellency Franco MANZATO, Under Secretary to the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of the Republic of Italy (Original language Italian)

I would like to express to the newly elected Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu our greatest congratulations for the result achieved and the best wishes for a fruitful assignment.

I would also like to thank the other two candidates, Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle and Mr Davit Kirvalidze who, with their electoral campaign, have brought some issues of great interest, to all of our attention, that I think can be taken into account in FAO's strategy over the next four years.

To the incoming Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu, I say that as host country, Italy will be an ally of yours and commits to providing the greatest support to strengthening FAO.

In recent years we have witnessed a process of decentralization of FAO that has favoured the closeness and rapprochement with the Organization to the areas in the field. However, in order for this path to be effective, it has to guarantee the necessary and constant link with Headquarters, so as to enhance in the best possible way the assets of the Organization. This has to be complemented by the strategic role played by Rome as the Headquarters, and the enhancement of the technical knowhow and human resources at Headquarters.

The Italian Government is also ready to engage in an immediate discussion on issues of common interest. First and foremost, FAO has a fundamental supporting role in the Agenda 2030 and in the promotion of sustainable agriculture and we have to be able to complement or link agricultural productivity and the Zero Hunger objective, in respect to the environment and preservation of resources. This is a principle that must be upheld everywhere throughout the globe, both in developed and developing countries.

Italy has a great heritage in terms of agricultural biodiversity. FAO must continue to deploy efforts to help countries to preserve and restore biodiversity in their territory, which would give great value and uniqueness to their local products. In this respect, I would like to mention the work carried out within the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which has proven to be a valid tool in preserving biodiversity.

I would also like to recall the importance of promoting the economy of rural areas. The issue that we are focusing on at this Conference is of great relevance today. The connection between the development of territory and migration flows indicate that the migration emergency that we are witnessing throughout the globe requires a joint and collaborative effort between countries of origin, transit and destination. We have to implement policies that on the one hand bring about development in the countries of origin, and on the other, ensure the end of illegal trafficking and the settlement and regulation flows through agreements amongst countries. In this context, agriculture can be an instrument for the development of rural areas that is capable of fostering the creation of wealth, and consequently, reducing some of the causes underlying migration.

Another issue that FAO is already working on, and that I deem to be essential for the achievement of the goals under Agenda 2030, is family farming. The United Nations Decade of Family Farming can be a great opportunity to implement policies aimed at supporting an agricultural model that will ensure the production of food for humankind.

Regarding nutrition and food models, I would like to say that Italy is very attentive to the health of consumers and promotes balanced diets. Indeed, a Mediterranean diet is universally recognized as the model of a healthy diet. We are open to dialogue when it comes to food policies at a global level. However, I wish to underscore that with regards to nutrition, we believe that all choices must be based on scientific evidence. The links between cultural traditions and local products must be further enhanced and promoted. In this respect, I appreciate the initiative of the Italian representation to organize seminars on these issues starting in September and coinciding with the Tenth Anniversary of the UNESCO recognition of the Mediterranean diet.

I would like to close by making a reference to innovation and research, which we need to pay more attention to, if we want to rise to the challenges of the future. Farmers have to be able to tap into all the tools that science makes available to them to improve the productivity and sustainability of

agriculture. FAO must be right alongside countries to find solutions and make them accessible to all farmers

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO, Embajador y Representante Permanente del Perú ante la FAO

Permítame expresar en nombre de la delegación peruana el reconocimiento por el buen desarrollo de la Conferencia, bajo su conducción. También deseo agradecer a través suyo a la Secretaría de la Conferencia y transmitir mi saludo a todas las delegaciones participantes.

Es un honor dirigirme a ustedes en el marco de esta Conferencia bajo el tema que nos congrega: “El estado mundial de la alimentación y la agricultura: migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural”.

Mi país se encuentra profundamente comprometido con los objetivos de la FAO y del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y tradicionalmente ha promovido -como parte de su política exterior- diversas iniciativas en favor de los migrantes y el reconocimiento de sus aportes al desarrollo de las sociedades y economías que los acogen. En ese sentido respaldamos y felicitamos a la Secretaría por el informe que sobre esta materia nos ha presentado.

El Perú se ha caracterizado por ser un país emisor de migrantes; sin embargo, en los últimos dos años, nos hemos convertido también en un país receptor y de tránsito, acogiendo a más de 800 000 migrantes y refugiados y proveyendo para su mejor inserción laboral y social. Pese a ello, es la migración rural interna la que representa para nuestro país uno de los mayores desafíos.

Actualmente, el Perú cuenta con cerca de 32 millones de habitantes, de los cuales aproximadamente 7 millones se han movilizado desde las áreas rurales, principalmente a la capital y a otras áreas urbanas, así como hacia la Amazonía, donde la agricultura migratoria compromete la conservación de las áreas naturales.

La agricultura en el Perú es fuente principal de ingresos para 2,3 millones de familias que representan el 34 por ciento de los hogares peruanos, generando tan solo el 5 por ciento del producto bruto interno. Además, la agricultura es la principal fuente de medios de subsistencia para muchos de los hogares más pobres del país, por lo que resulta clave en la reducción de la pobreza, del hambre y la malnutrición.

En ese contexto, nuestra Política Agraria Nacional tiene como objetivos lograr el incremento sostenido de los ingresos y mejorar la calidad de vida de los productores agrarios, priorizando la agricultura familiar sobre la base de mayores capacidades y activos más productivos y promoviendo el uso sostenible de los recursos agrarios en el marco de procesos de creciente inclusión social y económica, con énfasis en la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional.

Dicha política implementa doce lineamientos estratégicos, entre ellos, el manejo sostenible de agua y suelos, el desarrollo forestal y de fauna silvestre, la innovación y tecnificación agraria, y la sanidad agraria e inocuidad alimentaria.

No obstante, el sector agrícola en el Perú enfrenta algunos desafíos tales como las altas tasas de pobreza en las zonas rurales, la predominancia de la agricultura de subsistencia, la escasa asociatividad, la insuficiente infraestructura, el limitado acceso al mercado y la vulnerabilidad de los sistemas de producción agrícola ante el cambio climático.

De otra parte, la seguridad alimentaria es una prioridad absoluta. Teniendo en cuenta que el 70% de los alimentos son proveídos por pequeños y medianos productores, el Gobierno promueve una reorientación estratégica basada en un enfoque de desarrollo territorial, con especial atención en la agricultura familiar.

En el Perú estamos convencidos del rol fundamental que tiene la agricultura en la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030, en la medida que contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria y a la nutrición, genera empleo, oportunidades y mejores condiciones de vida para las personas y dinamiza la economía del país, entre otros.

En el ámbito internacional, queremos expresar nuestro decidido apoyo a los objetivos del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar y su Plan de Acción Mundial.

En las últimas dos décadas, el Perú ha obtenido logros importantes en la reducción de la pobreza y de la pobreza extrema; sin embargo, persisten importantes bolsones de marginalidad social y económica en lugares remotos y de difícil acceso de nuestra geografía. Paralelamente los programas de cooperación técnica internacional se han visto considerablemente restringidos al haber alcanzado el país un nivel de renta media alta, quedando aún por superar importantes retos para alcanzar los ODS. En esa medida, el apoyo de la FAO resulta clave en la implementación de políticas públicas para lograr la inclusión productiva y social de la población más pobre, especialmente en las áreas rurales, con énfasis en programas de resiliencia y adaptación al cambio climático, acceso al financiamiento del Fondo Verde para el Clima (FVC) y una mayor cooperación Sur-Sur y nuevas oportunidades de cooperación triangular.

Por todo lo dicho, deseo expresar nuestro aprecio al actual Director General, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, por la excelente labor realizada y, en particular, por convertirse en un líder global en la lucha por alcanzar el Hambre Cero.

Deseo referirme finalmente a la importante elección del nuevo Director General que ha tenido lugar hace dos días y felicitar al Director General electo, el Dr. Qu Dongyu, a quien transmito en nombre del Gobierno de Perú el mayor deseo de éxito durante su gestión, que será también el éxito de todos los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización.

Her Excellency Natalina Edward MOU, Chairperson of the G77 and China

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva for his wise leadership. I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu the new Director-General of FAO.

South Sudan has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on Agenda Item 10, The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, and would like to highlight the following;

The group of G77 and China acknowledge the SOFA key findings of challenges and opportunities of migration in terms of economic, social and human development as a mean of reducing inequality both within and between countries. Rural migration constitutes a considerable portion of both internal and international migration flows. Policy coherence between migration, agriculture and rural development policies is essential to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. In consideration, countries in protracted crises, rural youth employment challenges, and countries of economic and demographic transition situation.

The Group reiterates that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is the main goal of the 2030 Agenda and remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

However, understanding contemporary migration, both international and internal, remains a challenge. The decision by people to migrate either within their own countries or across borders is influenced by an intricate set of factors. This SOFA report examines the complex interlinkages between migration, agriculture, food security and rural development and the factors that determine the decision of rural people to migrate; including economic factors, employment opportunities, conflict, poverty, hunger, environmental degradation and climate shocks.

In this regard, we stress the importance of FAO as a strategic partner to play a key role together with other sources of international resource mobilization to support the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and promote the right of peoples to development, as a key instrument to control migration flows, encouraging agriculture for both rural and urban youth.

We emphasize that migration related policies must aim at making migration a choice, not a necessity. They should consider both the benefits as well as the costs of this phenomenon, for the migrants themselves and for societies in general, which may lead to the definition of different priorities according to country contexts.

Therefore, it is imperative to address these challenges on the basis of common responsibility of all nations, genuine partnership and common understanding, in order to ensure that international

migrations can contribute to the development of both origin and destination countries maximizing the positive impacts, while minimizing the negative ones.

The Group of 77 is confident that this overview of the *State of Food and Agriculture* will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between migration and rural development. In doing so, it will help improve the work of Member States, the international community and United Nations agencies towards ensuring that international migrations contribute to the development of both sending and receiving countries while protecting the human rights of all migrants.

Many rural areas in the developing countries have poor levels of infrastructure development in roads, railways, waterways and air transport, which open up areas for prospective investors; provide access to markets and raw materials. The underdevelopment of these forms of infrastructures in rural areas is an indication of underdevelopment, and rural development policies must seriously address challenges in a broader sense.

It is important to enhance the contributions migrants make to the development of their rural areas of origin through remittances and in other ways. It is also important to recognise the skills that migrants bring into the economic system of Member States that contributes to economic growth and alleviation of poverty. Several policy areas can contribute, including facilitating and reducing the cost of sending remittances and promoting the investment of remittances in rural areas.

With these comments, the Group of 77 and China urges all Member States to renew their political will to address the challenges and opportunities of migration, both regular and irregular, in a balanced manner and to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration to achieve all SDGs by 2030, in particular SDG 1 on poverty eradication and SDG 2 on Zero Hunger.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de clausurar la sesión, me gustaría recordar a los delegados la celebración del acto paralelo sobre el Hambre Cero en Asia y el Pacífico titulado “El proceso hacia el logro del Hambre Cero/ODS 2 en Asia y el Pacífico”, que está funcionando desde las 12.30 horas en el Centro Sheikh Zayed.

Esto nos lleva al final de nuestra sesión matinal.

Continuaremos con las intervenciones respecto del tema 10 cuando reanudemos nuestro trabajo, esta tarde a partir de las 14.30 horas en punto.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12:48 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 48

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.48

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 June 2019

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 14.36 hours
Mr Ulrich Seidenberger,
Vice Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 14 h 36
sous la présidence du M. Ulrich Seidenberger
Vice Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima reunión a las 14.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Ulrich Seidenberger,
Vice Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)**

(C 2019/2; C 2019/12 Rev. 1)

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon. My name is Ulrich Seidenberger, I am the Vice Chairperson and I have the honour to chair this afternoon session. I call the Seventh Plenary Meeting to order.

We will now continue with Item 10, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to the Honorable Michael Pintard, Minister for Agriculture and Marine Resources for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Statements by Heads of Delegation**Déclarations des chefs de délégation****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación**

Bahamas, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Samoa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Singapore, Belize, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Argentina, Romania

The Honourable Michael PINTARD, Minister for Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

I bring you warm greetings from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Bahamas, I wish to extend thanks to Dr José Graziano da Silva for the tremendous selfless work he has done for a number of years here at FAO.

We would also like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu, on his visionary campaign and successful election. Under your dynamic leadership, the Bahamas and the Caribbean look forward to strengthening our partnership with FAO and Member Countries as we work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

The theme for this 41st Session of the FAO Conference is of particular interest to the Bahamas, an archipelagic nation and a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), especially since we are under tremendous pressure as a result of migration.

The 2010 census reports that between the years, 2000 and 2010, approximately 27 000 Bahamians migrated throughout the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. 43 percent of them settled in the capital, New Providence. This movement away from the rural communities, the outer islands, left behind a vast amount of arable land and maritime resources, which in turn, adversely affected the country's food and agricultural systems contributing to an increasing food import bill that now exceeds USD 750 million annually, and has consequently created food and nutrition insecurities within the Bahamas.

During the same period, 2000 to 2010, approximately 65 000 persons migrated to the Bahamas. Illegal immigrants from neighbouring Caribbean countries have entered the Bahamas, in part looking for a better livelihood and in other cases, with intentions of moving to the United States of America. Our Government, while sympathetic to their plight, are vigorously pursuing cross-border initiatives and negotiations, both in the region and internationally to see how we might contribute to strengthening regional economies which we believe will have an impact on slowing illegal migration.

Many of the SDGs crosscut the issue of migration and I am pleased to say that the Government of the Bahamas has recently appointed a unit that is seeking to track and monitor the progress we are making with respect to our SDG targets.

We are resolute that the Government of the Bahamas will make progress in concert with FAO and others in achieving food security. We are committed to reducing our high food import bill ensuring

that safe nutritious food reach our young people and adults. As a part of our fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and obesity, we intend to step up national action. We are similarly committed to non-food agriculture and the range of products that emerge from these efforts. We are resolute in ending poaching in our territorial waters and are daily fighting against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU).

Toward these objectives we are doing the following.

Firstly, we are constructing a strategic plan for the entire agriculture and marine resources sector.

Secondly, we are aggressively engaging our youth and young agribusiness persons to assist them with access to land, facilitating education, training and exploring pathways to funding, and of course exposing them to a range of employment opportunities in this sector. This summer, we are running three summer programmes on three different islands as a part of our newly launched Agriculture Youth Cadet Core Programme.

Thirdly, we appeal to FAO and Member Countries to work with the Bahamas as we seek to launch and in turn sustain our E-agriculture initiatives. We believe that the use of technology applications are key to the future development of our country's food and agriculture systems. Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are important and pivotal along all the food and agriculture value chains.

Training is extremely important to the Government of the Bahamas. Training of good agricultural practices is essential for sustainable food systems. As my Ministry is undergoing a review of the country's agricultural extension services, I am requesting that FAO increase its Farmer Field School programme, which has worked successfully around the world, and congratulations to the team, however we seek increased support, not just for the Bahamas, for the entire region.

Finally, I would like to briefly address the issue of climate change. The Bahamas was hit in 2015, 2016 and again in 2017 with Hurricanes Joaquin, Matthew and Irma which impacted the entire archipelago of the Bahamas at differing times. The damages from these hurricanes amounted to more than USD 700 million. These catastrophic events have continuously demonstrated how vulnerable we are to the impacts of climate change and the jeopardizing of the state of our food and nutrition security.

One of the islands that was devastated, Ragged Island, where my father is from, is an island that the Government intends to use as a model of a Green Island. It is our hope, that FAO and Member Countries that are interested to partner with us as we try and transform this island by using integrated agricultural production systems using an agro ecological model for sustainable development on the island.

In closing, I wish to thank the technical staff at FAO for their assistance with past and ongoing projects. I also wish to extend thanks to the Italian Government for hosting this wonderful event, you have an absolutely beautiful city, Rome, and it is my hope to see a bit more of the country before leaving.

Together we firmly believe in the Bahamas that we can create a movement to save lives through food security and empower marginalized persons by ensuring that they have sustainable livelihoods.

Son Excellence Monsieur Tshibangu KALALA, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République démocratique du Congo

C'est avec un réel plaisir que je prends la parole ce jour au nom de mon pays, la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), devant la 41^{ème} session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, ici, à Rome.

Je tiens d'abord à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour la compétence et le dévouement avec lesquels vous dirigez les travaux de la présente session. Je tiens également à adresser, au nom du Gouvernement congolais et en mon nom personnel, les félicitations les plus chaleureuses à M. Qu Dongyu pour sa brillante élection aux fonctions de Directeur général de la FAO, qui lui confère une grande légitimité afin d'agir et décider au nom de la FAO dans l'intérêt de toute l'humanité. Nous

lui souhaitons donc bonne chance et plein succès dans l'exercice de son mandat à la tête de la FAO avec le soutien de tous les pays du monde.

Permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour dire quelques mots sur les ressources naturelles et agricoles de mon pays et la contribution exceptionnelle qu'il peut apporter à la communauté internationale, à la solution des problèmes de la faim, de la malnutrition, de la sécurité alimentaire, du réchauffement de la planète et des changements climatiques.

La RDC a une superficie de 2 345 000 km², soit toute l'Europe occidentale. Elle possède 80 millions d'hectares de terres fertiles qui, selon les experts, peuvent permettre de nourrir plus de deux milliards d'êtres humains. La RDC détient le deuxième massif forestier du monde après la forêt d'Amazonie au Brésil, soit 160 millions d'hectares de forêts vierges. La forêt couvre 67 pour cent du territoire congolais, ce qui fait que la RDC est considérée comme le deuxième poumon de la planète concernant la protection de la biosphère et l'équilibre du climat.

Les réserves naturelles et les aires protégées pour la protection et la conservation de la biodiversité couvrent 15 pour cent du territoire congolais, l'objectif du Gouvernement étant d'atteindre 17 pour cent du territoire national.

La RDC possède également le réseau hydrographique le plus vaste du continent africain, qui fait d'elle le plus grand château d'eau d'Afrique. En ce qui concerne les énergies propres et renouvelables, la RDC possède environ 780 sites naturels bien inventoriés, sur lesquels on peut construire des barrages hydroélectrique, pour une capacité totale de près de 100 000 mégawatts. Le barrage d'Inga seul peut produire 44 000 mégawatts et éclairer toute l'Afrique, une partie de l'Asie et de l'Europe par le système d'interconnexion.

Le Congo a enfin l'énergie solaire en abondance, l'ensoleillement en RDC est en moyenne de 29°C par jour sur toute l'année. Aujourd'hui, la population congolaise est estimée à 85 millions d'habitants, dont 70 pour cent des jeunes de moins de 30 ans.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, avec ses ressources naturelles et agricoles abondantes, que je viens d'indiquer, la RDC est capable de produire un grand nombre de produits agricoles sur son territoire, de développer une agriculture durable, ainsi que des énergies propres et renouvelables, de lutter contre les émissions de gaz à effets de serre, de promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et de contribuer à l'atteinte de l'objectif numéro 2 des 17 objectifs de développement durable dans le monde, à savoir l'objectif «Faim zéro».

Pour réaliser les objectifs que je viens de citer, la RDC a besoin d'une vitamine spéciale pour nourrir une agriculture durable, écologique, créatrice de richesses et d'emplois, notamment pour les jeunes et les femmes. Cette vitamine spéciale pour prendre le terme utilisé par le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Qu Dongyu, s'appelle argent ou investissements publics et privés dans l'agriculture et l'agro-industrie. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement congolais, sous l'autorité et l'impulsion du Président de la République, chef de l'État, M. Félix Tshilombo Tshisekedi, exécute actuellement un programme agricole spécial, financé avec des fonds publics, à hauteur de 140 millions d'USD, en vue d'augmenter la production nationale de riz, de maïs et de manioc, avec pour but d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour ses trois produits de consommation de base au profit des populations congolaises. Mais dans un pays aussi vaste que toute l'Europe occidentale, 140 millions d'USD d'investissements publics, consacrés à l'agriculture, sont clairement insuffisants. Il faut donc prendre des mesures incitatives et spéciales pour attirer les investissements privés dans l'agriculture, qui est un secteur peu rentable et à haut risque.

C'est pourquoi nous lançons un appel au nouveau Directeur général, M. Qu Dongyu, à la nouvelle équipe dirigeante de la FAO et à la communauté internationale, pour soutenir les efforts du Gouvernement congolais sur les plans technique et financier, lui permettre de développer une agriculture écologique, durable, productive, créatrice de richesses et d'emplois, et d'apporter une contribution significative à la réalisation de l'objectif «Faim zéro» en République démocratique du Congo, en Afrique et dans le monde.

His Excellency Admad Fateh AL QADERI, Minister for Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic (Original language Arabic)

I have the honour to stand once again at the premises of FAO and participate in the meetings of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference dedicated to discussing food security issues, while staying ready to face challenges, food emergency situations, and finding active responses.

These meetings give us the chance to review the progress achieved in cooperation between the Organization and the Member Countries, to update the priorities related to food and agriculture under the emergency challenges, and to find the best practices for rural development, fighting hunger and providing food for everyone.

On this occasion, I would like to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva. I highly appreciate his efforts during his tenure as Director-General of the Organization. He was always concerned with our region and worried about achieving the objectives of the Organization by implementing several programs which had positive impacts and contributed to the achievement of our joint goals.

We have great hope, and belief in the new Management of this Organization to be highly responsible and do its best to eradicate hunger and poverty, and go on the same Organization track of humanitarian activities.

During the last few years, our planet witnessed big climate changes such as successive drought seasons causing a lack of water resources, expanding desertification, regression of green cover, and degradation of the whole environment. To find solutions for these problems, we have to prioritize cooperation and coordination with organizations. We have to work hard to benefit from the available resources aimed at achieving food security, reducing impacts of climate change in agriculture and water, by executing a series of integrated intervention packages, and managing water sustainably in order to ensure good, long term agricultural production and adaption to climate change.

Syria has achieved great agricultural development reaching innovative results especially in the fields of self-sufficiency, food security, rural women empowerment and others. However, unfortunately, the terrorist war and its negative impacts on Syria have constrained us and have stopped us from achieving the aimed development. This has led to the destruction of the whole production system and infrastructure, in research centres, and has deprived farmers from agricultural production inputs, which were provided free of charge or at subsidized prices.

Knowing that the agricultural sector in Syria is a private sector where the majority of lands are small holdings, owned by farmers themselves, nevertheless there are no private institutions providing these services. Thus, contributing to the rehabilitation of these institutions and centres is the only direct way to improve the livelihood of the affected farmers, help them have access to their production inputs, assist them to sustain stability, and perform their agricultural activities.

Syria has achieved much whilst facing the challenges imposed by the current situation and unilateral illegal sanctions that caused the increase of production inputs costs and food stuff prices. Today, our country is at the gates of recovery and rebuilding. Displaced people have started to return to their villages, and this year we witnessed the return of about 260 000 rural families, which is about one million and a half inhabitants in most of the governorates. Most farmers have returned to their villages and this increased the area of cultivated lands, which means that today, more than 800 000 hectares are cultivated. This puts a bigger responsibility on our shoulders because we need to support those farmers in resilience building efforts, and we need to help them resume their agricultural production activities.

The Government is doing its best to benefit farmers. It provides its support and considers farming as one of the main areas on which to focus. I would like to salute the efforts of FAO and in particular, the Country Office in Damascus. In the past few years, you and FAO have contributed to many projects and have guaranteed a quantum leap in the Syrian agricultural field. You have contributed in bringing farmers back to their farms and villages. We have been able to see the impact of your projects on poor farmers in Syria. I would like to also thank all donors who contributed to financing of those projects.

Last but not least, I would hope for the activities of this Conference to be crowned with success and I would hope for the decisions of this Conference to be translated into positive impacts on the world at

large. I would hope under the new Management to see better collaboration with Syria through activities, projects and assistance so that the agricultural sector in Syria can thrive and rural societies can be empowered, especially that rural women have a better status. We would hope for irrigation projects to be supported and we would hope as well for assistance to help ensure stability for farmers at large, for production to resumed and for livelihoods to become better.

His Excellency Othman Hussein FAID MUJLI, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of the Republic of Yemen (Original language Arabic)

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General elect Dr Qu Dongyu and I wish him all the best in his new endeavour. I would like to assure him of the collaboration between my country and FAO under his leadership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eradicate poverty together.

I would like to extend my words of gratitude to Dr José Graziano da Silva for the work he has done at FAO during his tenure.

This Conference is being held at a crucial time, when the world faces multiple and complex challenges that stand in the way of achieving the SDGs. Facing them would require a united front, prompt action, and an inclusive approach, especially since those challenges do not only impact a given country, they also have a spillover effect across the world, threatening global peace and security.

In Yemen, on top of all the global challenges impacting developing countries and their economies, we face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis due to the conflict provoked by the Houthi insurrectionist militias that has led to the deterioration of the political, economic and humanitarian situation. Infrastructure was destroyed, most notably the agricultural infrastructure, in a country where 60 percent of the population relies on the agricultural sector.

According to a joint FAO/WFP survey, this worsened the humanitarian situation and increased food insecurity particularly in rural areas. Sixty-seven per cent of the Yemeni population suffers from food insecurity. Although humanitarian assistance and emergency interventions have reduced this percentage to 53 percent, food security remains a critical challenge especially when considering that these insurrectionists refuse any calls for peace.

Our country faces a humanitarian disaster which only a united front can face. Unfortunately, Houthi insurrectionist militias have paralysed legitimate State institutions and have hindered humanitarian work, going as far as exploiting this crisis for political gains. The Yemeni Government has repeatedly pointed out this problem and warned about it since the early days of the insurrection.

The Republic of Yemen would like to strongly condemn these ongoing practices by the Houthi insurrectionist militias. They have stolen WFP food aid and have hampered humanitarian work. The Government holds those militias responsible for the decision taken by WFP on the 20 June to partially suspend its operation in Houthi controlled areas, particularly in the capital, Sana'a. This decision impacts about 850 000 vulnerable persons. UN Agencies and international organizations should strongly condemn these violations exerted by the Houthi insurrectionist militias and they should put pressure on them so that those practices can cease and UN humanitarian work can proceed unhindered.

Eradicating all forms of poverty and improving food security are our greatest challenges. If we are to achieve sustainable development by 2030, we need to tackle these challenges. On behalf of the Yemeni Government, I would like to reassert the need to act swiftly resorting to exceptional measures and strategies in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. We would like to stress the importance of capacity building and resilience building for farmers in countries suffering from protracted crises. My country is one of those.

The situation in Yemen unprecedented and requires a unified coordination among all UN Organizations, particularly its specialized agencies working on food, agriculture, relief and emergencies. Food producers should also see their resilience increase regardless of anything. A collaborative international effort proportional to the size of the disaster should gather donors under one umbrella. Needless to say, emphasis should be placed on an emergency humanitarian relief effort and on sustainable development in parallel.

I would like here to salute the joint work of FAO, WFP and IFAD and all other organizations. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to FAO for its work in Yemen, and thank all of the organizations and donor countries for their support on FAO's projects. Lastly, a word of thanks to the organizers of this Conference.

I hope that through this Conference we can achieve all of its noble objectives, namely, eradicating hunger and poverty and achieving sustainable development by strengthening food and agricultural systems across the world, and thus achieving the SDGs.

The Honourable Lopao'o Natanielu MUA, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Independent State of Samoa

I would like to start with a quote from the statement made by Ted Kennedy at the funeral of his brother Bobby Kennedy, and it goes like this: "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not." I have a lot of dreams about what agriculture can do for my country and my question is, can we do it?

I will now focus on the linkages between migration, agricultural and rural development in Samoa. Samoa has a GDP per capita of about USD 4 000 and a lower middle-income country status. Like other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), we are one of the least emitters and polluters. However, we are one of the most vulnerable to frequent and intense natural disasters resulting from climate change. Our households are also vulnerable to external shocks, particularly food and fuel price increases. Our economic transformation is constrained by a narrow, natural resource space, a small domestic market, limited exports, heavy reliance on imports and our geographical remoteness.

Agriculture is central to sustaining growth and ensuring inclusive transformation in Samoa. A high share of our labour force is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture and fisheries employ two thirds of our country's labour of force and provide the bulk of our limited exports, but contribute only ten percent of our GDP.

In addition to its contribution to household incomes and livelihoods, agriculture has a significant influence on nutrition and health outcomes, given our country's remoteness and high transport cost. Agriculture has historically been dominated by our village-based, mixed farming system grown on communally owned lands, which provide food for the village and some cash income, from occasional surplus, to funding households. Our village-based agricultural economy is changing rapidly, however, food consumption is now supplemented by imported processed foods and family incomes are boosted by migration and remittances. Nonetheless, all our rural households still grow some crops or raise some livestock and more than one half are encased in subsistence agriculture as their main activity.

Eighty percent of our population of about 200 000 people, are rural and 50 percent are young people. Securing employment is a challenge for our young Samoans, particularly, in rural areas. About 16 percent of our young people and 20 percent of our young women are unemployed, illustrating the lack of opportunities for them. Attracting our young people to agricultural education is hampered by their perception of our farming's low profitability. With limited opportunities and high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, our rural households rely on migration and remittances as a critical support for local consumption, and an import strategy for coping with risk. Samoa has one of the largest overseas diaspora groups in the Pacific. Around 30 000 Samoan born live overseas either permanently or under seasonal work programs in New Zealand and Australia.

Unfortunately, for our national development aspiration, our young people with higher levels of education and skills are the most likely to migrate. The increasing net of rural to urban migration and eventually international migration, mainly to New Zealand and Australia, resulting from the lack of development and employment opportunity in the agricultural sector compared to other sectors of our economy, such as tourism and other services, are due to better employment opportunities overseas and will continue to impede our national agricultural development plans.

In consideration of the aforesaid, our Government, via established and in the pipeline, public private partnership arrangements and financial assistance from our development partners, are formulating agricultural development incentives such as stimulus packages and matching grants for farming, to name a few. This is in order to induce our rural people to stay and farm their fertile lands for income

generation purposes, and thereby curb their rural to urban and international migrations for perceivably better employment and livelihood opportunities. This is very important for Samoa because without our young, educated and skilled people we will struggle to enhance and maintain our full security, increase import replacement, and expand our export markets.

In closing, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of our Government and our people to acknowledge with much appreciation the outgoing Director-General and our High Chief, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his excellent services to FAO and, in particular, the Pacific island countries. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours and I hope you come to Samoa soon.

I also wish to congratulate our incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu on behalf of Samoa on your election and look forward to working with you to realize FAO's long term plans for the development of agriculture in our Small Island Developing States in the Pacific Region. I further acknowledge the French and Georgian candidates for sharing their visions and aspirations with the wider Membership of FAO.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Jorge Alberto ARREAZA MONTSERRAT, Ministro del Poder Popular para las Relaciones Exteriores y Vicepresidente Sectorial de Soberanía Política, Seguridad y Paz de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

En nombre del pueblo de Venezuela, del Gobierno del Presidente Nicolás Maduro, queremos expresar nuestra gratitud por la relación que se ha desarrollado con la FAO a lo largo de los últimos años y agradecerle especialmente al Dr. José Graziano da Silva por su entrega, su disposición, su rigor y su preocupación por las grandes necesidades de alimentación y de producción de alimentos para la vida, para la salud en esta humanidad. Creemos que el aporte que ha hecho José Graziano da Silva quedará registrado para la historia y a partir de él podremos seguir construyendo.

Igualmente, felicitar al Director General electo, Dr. Qu Dongyu, y desearle, no solo los mejores éxitos, sino las mejores capacidades para ayudar a los países y para poder contemplar con ellos las mejores soluciones y desarrollar las potencialidades de cada región para poder garantizar la alimentación de los pueblos.

El compromiso de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, primero con los Objetivos del Milenio que fueron cumplidos en el ámbito de la alimentación, de la nutrición, la subnutrición, de manera temprana, antes del 2015, y ahora con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030, es absoluto. La Agenda 2030 es parte del Plan de la Patria de nuestro país. El Plan de la Patria que va de 2019, en esta nueva etapa, a 2025 fue construido y redactado a partir de los ODS y especialmente de aquellos vinculados a lo social, a las necesidades del pueblo venezolano.

Pero hay que partir de una realidad. Venezuela es un país productor de petróleo, de energía y se le impuso en el siglo XX un modelo: el modelo rentista petrolero. Se le instruyó entonces a quienes gobernaban Venezuela a producir exclusivamente el petróleo crudo, a exportarlo, ni siquiera a desarrollar aguas abajo la industria energética petrolera, sino a limitar la producción nacional a un rubro, a un producto. Esto hizo que un país que en el siglo XIX y hasta mediados del siglo XX fue fundamentalmente un país de producción agrícola, un país que exportó tradicionalmente cacao, café y otros rubros, cuya población fue fundamentalmente rural hasta los años 50 – entre 1950 y 1954 – abandonara entonces la producción agrícola. Se abandonaron los campos y se produjo una migración rural hacia la ciudad que aglomeró a la población venezolana que hoy sigue, lamentablemente, ese modelo inercial y nuestra población está fundamentalmente en la zona norte costera, hacia los puertos, hacia las grandes ciudades. Mientras que los campos, los grandes graneros de Venezuela, la producción agrícola y ganadera sigue con grandes dificultades.

El Comandante Hugo Chávez hizo grandes esfuerzos por revertir esta realidad; hizo una inversión histórica en sistemas de riego, en mecanización agrícola, en procesos de inversión, de crédito para la producción, a los productores privados y al pueblo organizado que produce en Venezuela.

El Presidente Nicolás Maduro, en el año 2016, advertía que ese modelo petrolero rentista se ha agotado; que ya no podemos seguir dependiendo de ese rubro. Y al desarrollar la Agenda Económica Bolivariana que tiene 15 motores productivos, el Presidente Maduro colocó como el primer motor de los 15 a la agricultura, a la producción agropecuaria en Venezuela. Y es así como seguimos haciendo

grandes esfuerzos. Pero hay que decirlo, esfuerzos en medio de una agresión; esfuerzos en el medio de eso que unilateralmente el Gobierno de Estados Unidos de América llama sanciones, sin tener moral o autoridad alguna para sancionar a ningún país. Pero que, en realidad han constituido un bloqueo, un bloqueo económico, un bloqueo comercial, un bloqueo financiero e incluso un bloqueo naval.

El pueblo cubano conoce bien esa realidad y le ha correspondido ahora a Venezuela. Han sido sancionadas, entre comillas, insisto...

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Excellency, as the Chairperson of this Plenary Session, allow me to remind you that all remarks should be addressed to the Chairperson and not to individual delegates or countries. The speaker must confine himself to the question under discussion, and should avoid personal remarks on a person's character that could attack the good name of an individual, Government or Nation. That should be avoided.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Jorge Alberto ARREAZA MONTSERRAT, Ministro del Poder Popular para las Relaciones Exteriores y Vicepresidente Sectorial de Soberanía Política, Seguridad y Paz de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Muchas gracias, pero hay verdades que no se pueden evitar. Nuestro país está sometido a un bloqueo.

Aquí mismo en Portugal en un banco está el dinero que debimos haber invertido en fertilizantes, en semillas para la producción de este año y no pudimos hacerlo porque están bloqueados más seis mil millones de euros en los bancos de Europa. Eso debemos denunciarlo aquí, este es el foro para denunciarlo. Y las Naciones Unidas deben alzar su voz contra las medidas unilaterales, coercitivas, ilegales que le hacen daño a los pueblos y que impiden que se pueda seguir abonando el terreno para poder darle salud, vida y satisfacer las necesidades de nuestro pueblo. Sin embargo, a pesar de ese bloqueo, nuestro compromiso es absoluto.

En el año 2016, se crearon los Comités Locales de Abastecimiento y Producción (CLAP), que atienden con una alimentación básica mensual o quincenal a 24 millones de personas; seis millones de hogares en Venezuela, y que su costo está subsidiado –bueno, el costo real de esa caja de alimentación supera los 20 USD y no llega a un USD lo que paga el pueblo, la familia, por esa caja. Más de 1 723 000 toneladas de alimentos fueron distribuidas en el año 2018, gracias a los CLAP. Siete millones han sido atendidos con paquetes complementarios de alimentos no perecederos. 94 000 personas se encuentran en 41 recintos penitenciarios y se les distribuye alimento. El Programa de Alimentación Escolar, a pesar de las sanciones y del bloqueo, ha aumentado. Hemos superado las 23 400 escuelas y hoy llegamos a más de 5,3 millones de niños y niñas que diariamente en su escuela reciben desayuno, almuerzo y merienda en Venezuela.

Y así, hemos continuado con la inversión. Creemos que la etapa de desarrollo que en materia agrícola ha alcanzado Venezuela debe mantenerse a pesar de la agresión. Por eso hacemos un llamado, así como en estos ocho años de gestión del Dr. José Graziano da Silva, incluso el Programa Regional de Cooperación Triangular Venezuela-FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (SANA) con Venezuela, el Programa de Cooperación se creó el Programa Hugo Chávez de Seguridad, Soberanía Alimentaria y Nutricional para la Zona del Caribe y del Norte de Suramérica, y creemos que podemos construir mucho más a partir de una relación profunda de cooperación técnica.

Insistimos, Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, con su permiso, este es el foro pertinente y oportuno para denunciar los ataques a los pueblos y, sobre todo, cuando esos ataques impiden que los pueblos puedan tener acceso a sus derechos más fundamentales como es la alimentación o la salud.

Mr Kok Thai LIM, Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Food Agency of the Republic of Singapore

I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as the new Director-General of FAO.

I will also like to extend my appreciation to Dr José Graziano da Silva for his able leadership of FAO over the past eight years.

It is an honor to be here with you for this important discussion. I would like to thank the FAO for the excellent work done on the 2018 State of Food and Agriculture Report and acknowledge its findings

on the various challenges and opportunities, of migration and how it can impact agriculture and rural development.

As the world's urban population grows, all of us will face the challenge of how to feed our urban populations sustainably. Traditional agricultures have long been the world's food basket. Countries and cities around the world depend on traditional agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock farming for our food. However, traditional agriculture faces challenges from the migration of populations to cities and climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates widespread declines in crop yields of up to 25 percent by 2050, while global food demand continues to increase. We will have to find solutions to overcome these challenges.

Singapore faces the challenges of feeding our city ever more acutely. We are heavily dependent on food imports for our supply, and have hardly any rural space. That is why we have begun looking for ways to supplement and support food production. Apart from the lack of land or sea spaces in Singapore, resources such as energy, water and labor, are also scarce and precious. We are therefore exploring innovative methods, such as urban food solutions that are land, energy, and cost effective, to ensure that there will be food available for all.

The constraints of Singapore mean that we would not be able to contribute to the world food basket via traditional agriculture. However, the advent of advanced technologies in recent years has made it possible for us to produce high yields of certain food in a cost efficient and price competitive manner. These urban food solutions include the use of unconventional and unutilized urban spaces, not usually thought of as farming spaces. Growing food in controlled environments also has the additional benefit of guarding against climate change and extreme weather. We hope that this could create employment and open exciting opportunities for a younger cohort of passionate, tech-savvy, agri-specialists. In the long run, urban food solutions may be able to complement traditional agriculture to sustain global food security for the global population.

Singapore is preparing itself for this. Since 1 April 2019, we have organized ourselves to bring all food related functions under the new Singapore Food Agency. This new agency is under the oversight of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. This organizational structure will enable us to co-create climate resilient, sustainable solutions with the industry and our research institutions.

We have also read that FAO and the World Bank are working on a report on Urban Food Solutions. It would be interesting to see how the findings by the World Bank can complement FAO's work in ensuring that food is available for all.

As Singapore advances on its food security journey, we look forward to becoming a "living lab" for food technologies and exploration of urban farming solutions. We hope that this will benefit not just Singapore, but supplement the world's food needs. Where feasible, we will be happy to collaborate with the FAO in this endeavour, as FAO has done related work such as in its Food for the Cities initiative.

His Excellency Mr José Eduardo ALPUCHE, Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture of Belize

Mr Vice Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to address this august body and let me congratulate you, and the Chairperson, for your election to the Chairpersonship of this 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

I must start by paying tribute to the sterling work of our outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva. His tireless work to reform FAO and at the same time refine the delivery of service to Member States must be commended. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

We must also congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his resounding mandate and welcome him as our new Director-General. We listened keenly to his vision for FAO and we look forward to an increased presence of FAO in the Caribbean Region as we confront and overcome the challenges facing our countries.

In the past my country received and absorbed one fifth of our population as refugees from sister countries of Central America. We still have a steady stream and of course we are watching the developing crisis in the region very closely.

We agree with the notion that migration should be a choice, not a necessity. We would therefore like to focus our brief remarks on a few critical elements required to create an environment where people want to remain and can earn an honest living; agriculture and food production have pivotal roles to play in this.

Our primary job must therefore be to create an environment where farmers can conduct business in a sustainable and profitable manner. To do this we must help to mitigate the risks and improve their chances of success. Climate variability and climate change, agriculture health and fair market access, are key areas, we believe, that require special attention.

Our region is very susceptible to devastating hurricanes that set our economies back every time when we are hit. Of course, agriculture and food production are most vulnerable to these weather events. In addition, the unpredictability of weather patterns now means it is not uncommon for us to experience drought and flooding in the same year. We have been working closely with the FAO, IFAD and many other agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFI's) to implement Climate Smart Agriculture policies and practices. One critical area requiring much more work, is to convince the IFI's to help us develop sustainable funding instruments for disaster recovery. These should allow our small farmers the access to direct financial assistance to recover from catastrophic events. Commercial agriculture insurance is too expensive and at the moment, no entity in a small country like Belize, can afford the premiums. It is an urgent matter requiring immediate attention as there as many other countries in similar situations as us.

Avian influenza, Early Mortality Syndrome in aquaculture, Tropical race 4 disease in bananas and African Swine Flu are only a few of the many serious agriculture health challenges we are all facing today. As a result of increased trade and passenger travel, these challenges are global. We have strong support from the OIE and our own regional and national agencies, but this issue still requires more support.

We believe FAO can play an enhanced role especially as it relates to mainstreaming biosecurity awareness and education. Like climate events, these agriculture health events can literally wipe out production overnight. However, with health events, even after production returns, regaining market access is challenging as countries remain wary of importation.

What is the point of producing if we can't sell our product at a viable price? We all hear this refrain from our farmers and food processors. While we have advanced tremendously in reforming our domestic markets, the production and international trade in agriculture products is still heavily subsidized and, in many cases, dumped into our open markets. This corresponds with increasing non-tariff barriers to export trade especially through private standards being applied. We should all avoid using market access as leverage in migration issues as it runs counter to the spirit of this 41st Session of the FAO Conference. We need fair trade terms that will allow our small producers to stay where they are and produce to earn an honest living. From this perspective we call on the FAO to reinsert itself in the trade agenda.

These are only some of the many areas where we could see the FAO leverage its tremendous influence to help us bring about meaningful change that will translates to increased socio/economic security for our rural population, increased rural development and the eventual lessening of forced migration.

Let us work tirelessly together to make migration a choice, not a necessity. Belize is ready to play its part.

Ms Ann Marie MOULTON, Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to FAO

Let me take this opportunity to extend a vote of thanks to the organizers of the Conference and convey our greetings to the all the distinguished delegates gathered here today. Indeed, it is an honour to be part of this auspicious gathering of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

I would like to congratulate the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, on his election. South Africa looks forward to working closely with him.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay our gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for providing excellent leadership in managing the affairs of this Organization during his tenure.

South Africa is truly grateful for FAO's unwavering commitment in fighting food insecurity. In our quest to fight poverty and hunger, South Africa has taken practical steps in addressing problems faced by small-scale farmers, whom we categorize as smallholder and subsistence farmers.

The agricultural and agro processing sector is important to the economy of my country, as noted by President Cyril Ramaphosa. It has the potential of generating more than one million jobs. Given the current climatic and food security challenges that South Africa is experiencing, we have entered into partnership with FAO on two Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) towards supporting both smallholder and subsistence farmers. These support interventions are addressing food security and drought challenges, especially targeting the most vulnerable households in our society.

The current partnerships aim to establish information management systems, supply of production inputs and capacity building for our people in particular, youth and women in rural areas.

South Africa is grateful for the efforts displayed by FAO in addressing challenges of smallholder farmers and family farmers. I am reminded of The International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers: Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which was hosted in Rome from 21 to 23 November 2018. We are appreciative of these efforts, as they touch our people's lives.

South Africa experiences most forms of migration, from international to internal migration. The country currently hosts a significant number of migrants from across the African continent. Over and above this, since the advent of democracy in 1994, internal rural migration to urban areas has become a new challenge that the Government has to face. The biggest drivers of these domestic migration flows are primarily unemployment, lack of infrastructure and poverty. In short, the drivers of these migrations are related to the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, which South Africa has put at the pinnacle of its Agenda.

South Africa is pleased to share that, in collaboration with FAO, the country has produced a National Food and Nutrition Security Plan. The Plan is premised on six Strategic Objectives that promote the role of food safety nets; health and nutrition; increased production, amongst others, and aims to reduce food insecurity.

The Plan seeks to promote sustainable food systems which are in alignment with the Ten-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). Targeted programmes at both National and Provincial spheres are in place to ensure success of this intervention. An example of the targeted support is the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) which focuses on increased production with priority given to youth, women and people with disabilities, in the interest of promoting gender equality. An outcome of such focused support is the creation of on-farm and off-farm employment.

In 2020, South Africa will chair the African Union. The South African Embassy in Rome will be responsible for coordinating the Africa Day celebrations during May 2020. Working with the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs), Missions accredited to the RBAs and the African Missions based in Rome, the Holy See and the Republic of Italy, we propose the coordination of events focused on promoting support for development in the agricultural sector in Africa.

Throughout the Conference, South Africa has called for a closer working relationship between the RBAs and the World Union of Wholesale Markets. This cooperation shall, in a simplistic, cost efficient and effective manner, provide access to global markets and lead to continuous improvements in the agricultural sector.

We are grateful that FAO chose to invite Madam Graça Machel to provide the keynote address for the McDougall Memorial Lecture on Saturday 22 June. Let us remember the key points from her lecture:

- no child should die of hunger;
- machine manufacturers and the agricultural sector should come together to produce tools to reduce the burden on the physical bodies of women in the agricultural sector;
- should we fail to eradicate hunger, we should prepare for our grandchildren to look us in the eye and tell us that we failed. Should we claim false success, we must prepare for our grandchildren to look us in the eye and tell us that we did fail and we did lie.

In conclusion, South Africa is committed to a prosperous Africa and a better world. I am confident that the outcomes of this elective Conference will help usher in a new chapter in relations between South Africa and FAO. In the coming decade, agriculture will be expected to play a crucial role in eliminating poverty, hunger and unemployment in the world, and South Africa looks forward to being a part of the solution.

Most importantly, we wish to thank each and every Staff Member at FAO and other UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). You are the backbone and the permanent institutional memory of these important international organizations. We thank you for your professionalism, dedication and support to Member States, keep it up.

His Excellency Mohammed Ahmed M. ALGHAMDI, Minister Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to express our gratitude to the FAO Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, as well as all of FAO's staff who have worked with him untiringly to provide a good organization of the Conference. We wish you every success and hope that this Conference will achieve the pre-set objectives. We hope that we can find more practical and science based solutions for sustainable agriculture and food security.

The Government of Saudi Arabia bears its responsibility and plays an active role at FAO and attaches a considerable importance to agricultural development and issues to do with food security as well as fresh drinking water, environmentally friendly measures, and works with Regional and International Organizations and institutions to this end. Indeed, strategies and programmes have been adopted to strengthen agricultural development in a sustainable manner to ensure that the Kingdom can achieve food self-sufficiency while preserving natural and environmental resources, through food security.

This year, Saudi Arabia implemented one of the greatest rural development programmes to support smallholder farmers in the domain of livestock husbandry, fisheries, and the agricultural industry. Saudi Arabia has done so in order to allow all farmers to seize opportunities to contribute to the agricultural sector in our rural landscapes, and thus to enhance their revenue and capitalize on their potential to contribute to food security.

An agreement was signed with FAO to provide technical assistance and guidance which are very high level elements, which are being provided.

Demographic growth in the world and the need for more food commodities means that we bear responsibility to the world. The agricultural sector has to provide food now and in the future. We are responsible for the adoption of all the necessary measures at all levels, national, regional and international. We are also responsible for the expansion of the means necessary to expand investment in the agricultural in a responsible fashion. We need to produce enough agricultural products.

Climate change as well as natural disasters are among the most devastating challenges for the sector. They have an impact on food security, therefore, all together, we should adopt measures which allow us to lighten the burden of natural disasters and to help us support developing countries as they face these challenges.

By way of conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would once again like to reiterate its determination to keep supporting FAO in its current and future efforts to achieve food security, to fight against hunger and poverty at all levels, national, regional and international.

We would also like to express our gratitude and deepest appreciation to His Excellency, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his efforts at the helm of FAO throughout his two mandates and for all

the efforts he has made, which reflect the considerable role that FAO plays in agricultural commodity production.

We would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu and we are looking forward to working with him. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue to support Dr Qu Dongyu and FAO so that the goals set by the Organization can be fulfilled and so that we can achieve a world free of hunger.

I would also like to thank you all for your efforts as well as those who have organized the Conference, and hope that the 41st Session of the FAO Conference will see the greatest of successes.

Mr Chun Sik JANG, Deputy Director-General of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu, the newly elected Director-General of FAO and wish him a successful tenure.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva for the efforts and contributions he made for the Organization.

The natural and geographical environment and the agricultural development situation of each country is different from one another. In order to ensure food security, it is important for the countries to work out agricultural policies that are best suited for their specific conditions.

At the same time, the activities and support of FAO should be elaborated and diversified to helping each Member State in establishing a proper strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, it is necessary for FAO to identify the contents of its assistance which can practically contribute to increasing the agricultural production of Member States and deliver them in a timely manner.

The DPRK Government set agriculture as a key sector for building an economic giant and is concentrating a nationwide investment on agriculture.

Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, in his policy speech made at the 1st session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, pointed out that the agricultural sector should pay special attention to solving the issues of seeds, fertilizers, water and securing the arable land, introducing scientific farming methods, and raising the rate of mechanization of farming work, and thus attain the grain production target set by the Government without fail.

For the present, the DPRK Government has set agriculture as one of the important sectors in implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development to be accomplished by 2020.

The Government is making efforts to put the agricultural sector to an advanced global standard and increase the sustainability of agricultural production by not only looking at today, but also looking far beyond. We are increasing the share of local production of chemical fertilizer and also expanding the network of disseminating the scientific farming methods to farmers. Consequently, substantial progress is being made in the field of animal husbandry, fruit farming and fisheries.

In conclusion, despite challenges and difficulties ahead of us, the DPRK Government will make positive contributions to the international efforts for the sustainable development of agriculture by increasing the crop production with our own efforts and technology.

The DPRK Government, in the future too, will strengthen the cooperation with FAO and its Member States in line with its ideal of foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship.

His Excellency Hans HOOGEVEEN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to FAO

On behalf of the Netherlands Government, I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu as the new Director-General of FAO. The Netherlands certainly wish to work closely with Dr Qu Dongyu as we have done also with his predecessor.

The Netherlands Government would like to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his leadership to achieve Zero Hunger over the last past eight years.

Yesterday, we had an event organized by the youth for the youth: *Real Action on Youth, Driving the Future of Agriculture*. I present you their voices:

“In my experience there are many talented young people who want to contribute to agriculture. When just one good entrepreneurial activity happens in the sector, it attracts young people in agriculture in rural areas”, stated by Nikki from India.

Gina from Mexico stated: “As a young dairy farmer, I take pride in being a steward of the land and my cattle and providing high quality milk that comes from humanely handled livestock.”

Nancy from Kenya stated: “We believe that granting youth control over decisions affecting lives especially in critical areas like agriculture, builds capacity in young people to take ownership for their lives and their communities.”

Yuckmila stated: “Empowering the youth in rural areas is a way to provide the youth what they need to remain where their roots are.”

“Working together makes arduous things simple, when youth are there, it becomes much simpler”, Amol stated from India.

“As a young farmer and rural teacher, I have seen first-hand the impact of sustainable agriculture in the achievement of food security and I believe rural youth play an important role in creating change”, Maycoo from Nicaragua stated.

“The future of the African continent is young and therefore policy determination has to reflect that through increased youth leadership and participation on all the relevant policies we can achieve Zero Hunger”, Mashiri from South Africa stated this.

Ruramiso from South Africa stated: “We as youth are the largest population in Africa and we are also the future of food security. Until our voices are heard, we remain insignificant to that future”.

With the strong support of FAO’s Management, an informal Youth Council for FAO, WFP and IFAD for Zero Hunger was launched yesterday to provide these voices with a platform. The informal Youth Council will provide an unique and invaluable platform for the youth and future leaders to proactively and constructively engage in our policies here in Rome to achieve Zero Hunger. They need your full support.

To conclude, last month we saw scholars, students and youth marching for climate change. Let’s support the youth to go marching for Zero Hunger in the near future.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña María Cristina BOLDORINI, Embajadora y Representante Permanente de la República Argentina ante la FAO

Me siento muy honrada de participar en representación de la República Argentina en esta sesión histórica, en la que hemos elegido al nuevo Director General de la FAO, el Dr. Qu Dongyu, a quien transmito el respaldo de mi país en su futura gestión.

Nos comprometemos a trabajar con el Dr. Dongyu a fin de abordar los importantes desafíos que la FAO tiene por delante.

En lo personal, quisiera hacer extensivo nuestro saludo y reconocimiento a todos los candidatos que participaron en el proceso de elección y, en particular, a las embajadoras de Francia e India por el infatigable trabajo que desarrollaron para promover las campañas de sus respectivos candidatos.

Una mención especial a la Sra. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, por ser la primera mujer que se presentó para conducir los destinos de esta Organización.

Es con gran satisfacción que pudimos constatar que todos los candidatos receptaron muy positivamente las inquietudes de los países de mi región.

Confiamos en avanzar con el Director General electo en un rol más activo de la FAO en América Latina y el Caribe, y en particular con atención en los países de renta media y renta media alta.

A continuación, deseo referirme a dos temas importantes.

Primero, el tema de la promoción de manera equilibrada y balanceada de todos los enfoques y herramientas para la agricultura sostenible, incluida la innovación tecnológica y la biotecnología.

En segundo lugar, un sistema de comercio internacional agrícola libre de distorsiones y restricciones sin la debida base científica.

El desarrollo agrícola argentino demuestra que la innovación tecnológica y, en particular, la biotecnología permite mejorar la calidad y la eficiencia del sector agropecuario.

Está comprobado que la biotecnología aumenta el rendimiento de la producción agrícola y su capacidad para disminuir el impacto ambiental.

En adición, permite un uso mucho más eficiente de los recursos como el agua, así como la mejora de propiedades nutrientes de productos alimenticios.

Deseo mencionar que la FAO ha renovado recientemente la designación de la Comisión Nacional Asesora de Biotecnología Agropecuaria de la República Argentina como centro de referencia en materia de bioseguridad, y esto nos permite prestar cooperación técnica a los países que así lo requieran.

Otro tema de interés es el de siembra directa, que ha generado un uso muy eficiente de los recursos como el suelo y el agua. Y quiero recordar que, en el año 2017, la FAO ha distinguido con el premio mundial de suelos “Glinka” a la Asociación argentina de productores de siembra directa.

Estas herramientas nos han permitido producir alimentos para 400 millones de personas, cuando somos un país de solo 40 millones de habitantes.

Sin duda, y haciendo alusión al tema fundamental de esta Conferencia, esto se traduce en nuevas posibilidades de desarrollo local que permiten alternativas de empleo, con un impacto positivo en el arraigo y la contención de las tendencias migratorias desde las zonas rurales a las ciudades y a otros países.

En segundo lugar, me refiero y quiero destacar que los esfuerzos para aumentar la producción y la productividad requieren de un sistema de comercio internacional agrícola abierto, transparente y equilibrado, que permita a los productores rurales acceder a los mercados internacionales y que garantice la remoción de subsidios distorsivos que ponen en peligro la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo.

Para finalizar, deseo reconocer el trabajo desarrollado en esta Organización por el Dr. José Graziano da Silva. Nosotros damos muchísima importancia a la descentralización, que ha permitido vincular a la FAO con la gente, a través del fortalecimiento de su presencia en el terreno.

Y también, un tema muy importante ha sido la promoción de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular.

Le deseamos al Dr. Graziano da Silva el mayor de los éxitos en su próxima etapa.

Mr Vlad MUSTACIOSU, Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to FAO

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

Let me first of all congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu. We wish him every success and look forward to continue working actively and constructively together in the coming years.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his commitment and hard work over the past eight years.

We thank FAO for the 2018 Report on the State of Food and Agriculture. The report offers valuable insights that help us to better understand the multiple sides of both internal and international migration.

We take note of the central messages of the report, including the opportunities and challenges presented by rural migration and, in this respect, acknowledge the importance of approaching rural migration in a multidimensional way. The policy priorities indeed may widely vary depending on the national and regional context.

In many parts of the world, agriculture is and will continue to be the main provider of jobs in rural areas. Increased sustainable investments, both public and private, are key to better unlock the great potential offered by the agrifood sector to create inclusive and sustainable growth, especially for the benefit of young people. Special attention should also be paid to family farmers.

More needs to be done to support them in terms of improving their limited access to land, funding, markets, training and technology. This would have an essential role in ensuring livelihood to rural people in their homes and thus preventing forced migration and tackling its root causes. In addition, it is also important to acknowledge the challenges that international migration can pose in particular for countries of transit and countries of destination.

We thank FAO again for preparing the SOFA 2018 Report and look forward to further discussions on this topic.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. That concludes the list of our speakers.

Before I close the meeting, I wish to remind delegates of the side event hosted by the Group of Friends of Biodiversity on “Biodiversity Matters”, taking place after the Plenary Meeting at 17:30 in the Sheik Zayed Centre.

Further, I wish to announce the Sheikh Zayed Medal Ceremony “Planting a Ghaf tree in celebration of the UAE Year of Tolerance 2019”, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, which will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre tomorrow morning starting at 9:00.

I wish to inform Members of the Drafting Committee of Commission I that the Committee will start its work tomorrow morning at 9:30 in the Mexico room number D211.

As concerns the Drafting Committee of Commission II, it will also start its work tomorrow morning at 9:30 in the Lebanon room, room number D209.

This brings us to the end of the Seventh Plenary Meeting for this afternoon. We will continue interventions on Item 10 tomorrow morning when we reconvene at 09:30 sharp.

Meeting adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 16:07 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.07

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
26 June 2019

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 10.31 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 10 h 31
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava reunión a las 10.31
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la octava sesión plenaria. A continuación le cederé la palabra a la Subsecretaria General para aportar alguna información.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to inform Members of the General Committee, that the meeting of the General Committee will convene at 14:30 hours in the Lebanon Room (Building D) instead of 14:00 as previously announced in the Daily Journal.

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)

(C 2019/2; C 2019/12 Rev. 1)

PRESIDENTE

Antes de proseguir con el tema 10, deseo informarles de que se ha recibido una solicitud de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO de pronunciar una declaración ante la Conferencia. Si la Conferencia está de acuerdo, propondría que esa declaración se pronuncie en el marco del tema 30, *Asuntos varios*. Podríamos programarla para esta mañana más tarde, después de que hayamos finalizado el debate general.

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia está de acuerdo con esta propuesta? Ya entonces es acordado.

Continuaremos ahora con el tema 10 del programa, *Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura*.

Deseo expresar mi agradecimiento al Sr. Marco Sánchez Cantillo, Director Adjunto de la División de Economía Agrícola y del Desarrollo (ESA), por participar en esta sesión.

Doy ahora la palabra al primer orador de esta mañana, su Excelencia la Sra. Zaha Waheed, Ministra de Pesca, Recursos Marinos y Agricultura de la República de Maldivas.

Statements by Heads of Delegation

Déclarations des chefs de délégation

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

Maldives, Lesotho, Tonga, Bangladesh, Belgium, Pakistan, United Kingdom, Colombia, Switzerland, Australia, Israel, Kenya, Timor Leste, the Holy See, Palestine, WHO/FCTC

The Honourable Zaha WAHEED, Minister for Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture of the Republic of Maldives

First of all, I would like to join other delegations by offering my congratulations to the ninth FAO Director-General Elect, Dr Qu Dongyu. It is my sincere wish that you will have a successful tenure as the Director-General.

To Dr José Graziano da Silva, we have all witnessed your strong commitment to foster the fisheries and agricultural sectors in Member Countries and to tackle issues of global food security and governance. I am sure that I am not alone in conveying gratitude for your outstanding leadership and dedication.

FAO and the Republic of Maldives have enjoyed a close and beneficial relationship for the past three decades and it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak a few words at the 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

The Maldives is a Small Island Developing Nation with a vast ocean area and therefore we are dependent on the ocean for sustainable development, food security, and livelihoods. Additionally, our economy and the well-being of our nation and the people are tied to the health and wealth of our natural environment. Due to our unique geography and natural environment, we face many challenges in both the fisheries and agriculture sectors.

The Maldives is a country with long history and tradition of fishing for tunas. For Maldivians, tuna fishing is not only a commercial activity, it is also our livelihood. Our pole and line method of harvesting is considered one of the most sustainable, cleanest and greenest methods of tuna fishing. This method is highly selective and people centric, supporting livelihoods in our island communities. In Maldives more than 20 percent of the total labour force is employed in the fisheries sector and Maldivians at present are the highest per capita consumers of fish at a global level. This no doubt describes the importance of the fisheries sector in the Maldives.

We are currently embarked on a policy of strengthening fisheries management through improving data capture, both oceanic and small scale fisheries, combating IUU through improved VMS and vessel licensing, and over hauling regulatory framework through new fisheries bill. A key area Maldives is working on is value addition to minimize export of raw materials and increase postharvest processing through facilitating local investments.

Our new policy directive is truly based on the broader vision of blue economy and maintaining the traditional island lifestyle of the Maldives. Our vision is a Maldives that thrives despite of its vulnerabilities and threats on the backbone of a blue economy. Additionally, we are addressing the need for diversification by establishing a mariculture sector. Under the assistance from the World Bank, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Program, which will produce fingerlings of key fisheries species. Our coastal fisheries, or what we call reef fisheries face unique challenges such as the degradation of coral reef habitats, global warming and the consequent coral bleaching, and overfishing of highly valued species. Managing these resources will be critical for meeting our SDG14 targets.

In regards to agriculture, we are fragmented by nature, as a small island atoll nation. There are huge challenges in the transportation of agricultural produce, and limited availability of reasonable farming land for agricultural activities. Although these are the major agro ecological constraints that the sector evolves and revolves around with, modern day farming in Maldives is sought to require technical precision, smart and focused capital investment galvanized with highly passionate and skilled workers in the sector.

Looking on to the theme of this year's Conference, Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, I note that Maldivian Agriculture employs international migrant labour, mainly from Bangladesh. The Maldivian government is keen to regulate this influx of expatriate labour, and works closely with local governments at grassroots level to provide a safe and secure working environment for foreign workers.

I wish to humbly thank FAO, for their immense contribution technical and financial, the Organization has played in shaping our agriculture.

FAO has helped develop our first ten year Agriculture Development Master Plan, which ends in 2020. A lot of investments in farming capacity enhancement, technical delivery and infrastructural development had branched through the first Agriculture Development Master Plan. As the first Plan is nearing to its end, we have started to work on another ten year Policy Document, also with the kind assistance from FAO. I would also like to thank the prompt post tsunami efforts by FAO in increasing the resilience of Maldivian agriculture.

Maldives is the poster child of the world, when it comes to Global Warming and Sea Level Rise. I have no doubt that, everybody in this Conference knows how fragile a vulnerable we are as a nation. Climate Change is one of the biggest threats to the national development and food security for all the countries present and is experienced by all today. Climate Resilience Smart Agricultural Initiatives are being explored in Maldives. Combined with the assistance of various development partners.

On behalf of my Government and President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, allow me to thank FAO for the assistance and the opportunities provided to develop our Fisheries and Agriculture sector, and assure you that Maldives will stand firm with FAO to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Honourable Mahala MOLAPO, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of the Lesotho

On behalf of His Majesty King Letsie III, FAO's Special Ambassador for Nutrition, the Government and People of the Kingdom of Lesotho, allow me to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his appointment as the new Director-General of FAO and to wish him well on his assignment. We also wish to reiterate

our unwavering support to him in the execution of his mandate to end hunger by the year 2030, and achieve the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

I also wish to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva who has done a sterling job during his terms at the helm of this Organization. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

The importance of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030 cannot be overemphasized, and this year's theme, Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, could not have come at a more opportune time. The state of food and agriculture is of paramount importance to the Kingdom of Lesotho and its people as a landlocked country, which relies on agricultural production for its livelihood.

Lesotho faces immense challenges related to the effects of climate change. The irregular weather patterns have adversely affected Lesotho's cropping season, which has inadvertently become shorter due to longer winters and shorter summers, long periods of droughts or heavy rainfall of which at times makes it impossible to plough. This has, therefore, led to the significant decrease in crop production.

This decrease mostly affects our rural population, which is dependent on agriculture. This has led to massive migration to the urban areas, thus overburdening the already overcharged financial resources in these areas. This migration caused by the negative impacts of climate change further extends into our neighbouring country, the Republic of South Africa, of which Lesotho is an enclave. Therefore, this means that for us, it cannot be business as usual. We need to upscale our efforts in mitigating climate change effects in rural areas by introducing Climate Smart Agriculture focusing on youth and women who are the back bone of agriculture in rural areas.

Lesotho is grateful to FAO for the Technical Assistance extended to us through the FAO Country Office. However, we realise the need for more cooperation in other areas to improve our work in water and rangeland management, land degradation and many other areas, including but not limited to, nutrition sensitive agriculture. In Lesotho we see the need to bring local needs to the center role of FAO and work together with FAO through its innovative solutions.

Lesotho welcomes the recommendations made in the 2018 report on The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development. We agree that despite the challenges that it presents, migration is indeed part and parcel of economic, social and human development. We however wish to reinforce our belief that countries should intensify their efforts to develop rural infrastructure, and create creative opportunities in rural areas in order to avoid migration.

As a country, Lesotho is implementing Smallholder Agriculture Development and Wool and Mohair Promotion projects, which are meant to improve the farmers living in the rural areas through establishing piggery projects, poultry projects, protected agriculture, seedling production, fruit drying production and the production of high quality fiber through production of improved breeds of Merino and Angora goats.

The Government is further assisting farmers through 50 percent subsidised agricultural inputs and primary tillage which have proven to be very costly to the farmers. In an attempt to ensure food production despite the challenging effects of climate change, the Government is also assisting farmers through the establishment of irrigation schemes meant to increase production of vegetables for local consumption and curb high food importation from outside the country.

We wish to conclude by stating that, Lesotho notes the budget challenges that FAO is faced with and we welcome the incoming Director-General's position to establish an Assistant Director-General for Resource Mobilisation as financial resources play a pivotal role in the work of FAO.

The Honourable Losaline MA'ASI, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forests of the Kingdom of Tonga

I am honoured to be here and to address the assembly on the status of agriculture development in Tonga.

The Kingdom of Tonga is an archipelago comprising 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited with land area of 750 km² scattered over 700 000 km² of the southern Pacific Ocean. Tonga has a population of 100 600 people. It is surrounded by Fiji and Wallis and Futuna to the northwest, Samoa to the northeast, Niue to the east, Kermadec, part of New Zealand, to the southwest, and New Caledonia and Vanuatu to the farther west. Tonga lies 1 800 km from the north of New Zealand.

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in Tonga. About 75 percent of Tonga's population lives in rural areas, with agriculture and fisheries as their main source of livelihoods. Agriculture, the primary sector, is significant to the Tongan economy contributing to 17 percent to Tonga's GDP, provides 44 percent of total exports, with agriculture on average contributing 83 percent, forestry contributing to three percent, fisheries contributing to 15 percent to the primary sector. Agriculture's contribution to GDP is based on agricultural exports and the domestic market sales.

Agricultural development in Tonga faces many challenges which I will now present.

On climate change, Tonga is second to Vanuatu in the world as most vulnerable to cyclones and disasters with increased intensity of category five cyclones. Climate change is a reality with hotter days, decreased rainfall and increased rise in sea level. Developing climate resilience agriculture is a real challenge in Tonga. Developing nutrient and carbon smart, water smart, seed smart, livestock smart, forestry smart, and market smart technologies will be vital for agriculture production in Tonga. Tonga will welcome joining the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture.

On soil management, Tonga is naturally blessed with very fertile soils but the reliance on fallow to regenerate fertility is becoming a problem since the fallow period is now shortened because of pressure on land and as a consequence productivity is declining in most places in Tonga. The decline in productivity is associated with soil organic matter depletion which is also associated with a cascade of secondary problems like increasing incidences of pests and diseases, soil structural degradation, declining soil water holding capacity and increasing soil loss. The increasing use of pesticides is quite alarming raising concerns of soil, ground water and air pollution. The Global Soil Partnership's (GSP) Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) is helping our region and Tonga will welcome FAO assistance in this area.

Pests and diseases are also a challenge to the agricultural development of Tonga. With agriculture in Tonga becoming more oriented towards monocropping, it has resulted in increasing pests and diseases, including weeds. This has resulted in the reliance on the use of pesticides such as insecticides, fungicides, nematicides and herbicides. Although Tonga is involved in the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, we need support in these areas.

Loss of biodiversity is another challenge. Agricultural development and demands for higher productivity has resulted in the promotion of a few resilient varieties of each of the major crops with the consequence of loss of many of the traditional varieties of traditional root crops. Land clearance for development, including agriculture, has also resulted in the loss of some of the forestry and traditional ornamental and medicinal plants. Unsustainable land preparation has also resulted in the loss of soil biodiversity. Some of the microbes responsible for good soil and nutrient management are being affected. This is a vital area for resilience agriculture and Tonga will welcome FAO assistance.

For higher production, good water management is needed and this is another challenge Tonga faces. Most of Tonga's agriculture is rain dependant, and is very susceptible to long droughts, which are increasing in frequency. Tonga will welcome assistance in water management for commercial crops.

On value chains, identifying marketable crops and developing a viable value chain is yet another challenge in the agricultural development of Tonga. Value chain analysis will help determine market systems in terms of their improved competitiveness, efficiency and reliability. Tonga will welcome assistance in value chain analysis.

The challenges on food and nutrition security, which we have strived to sustainably improve and to combat the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which commonly occurs. NCDs have become one of the greatest challenges for Tonga's health system, where food is a main contributor to these challenges. The population relies on food imports for consumption, especially meat. In strengthening import substitutions initiatives, we work on locally produced programmes with the

farming communities for fruits, food, home gardening, and livestock production. Women development programmes mobilize the inclusion of healthy eating nutrition programmes in home gardening activities throughout community development programmes.

Infrastructure is also a challenge that requires immediate attention, especially for exports facilities and for biosecurity requirements. Food safety is paramount for the wellbeing of our people but there is urgent need to have infrastructure in place, such as diagnostic laboratory.

Challenges in capacity building include strengthening and upskilling staff and farming communities to be able to implement Climate Smart Agriculture systems.

Finally, talking about migration, seasonal workers and semiskilled labour schemes also present challenges. This is currently implemented as a means to earn incomes by working in New Zealand or Australia for at least six months and returning the following year. The majority are youths and could be a threat to the sector, however, their time back at Tonga can be focused on agricultural production programmes to sustainably maintain their interest in agriculture as a source of livelihood within this period and in the long run with the availability of the land for them.

Despite these challenges that we face, Tonga and the Ministry have implemented strategies to reduce their impacts. As a small isolated island in the vast Pacific Ocean, we cannot do this alone. We have received the assistance of FAO and we need the strengthening of the partnership with FAO in alleviating these challenges in order to be able to contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Once again, Tonga wants to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for the eight years serving FAO Member Countries, including Tonga.

We are looking forward to work and support the new Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu in the years to come under his leadership.

Ms Sultana AFROZ, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division for the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

This is a great honour and privilege for me to represent the People's Republic of Bangladesh in this historic 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu, of China, for being elected as the new Director-General of this specialized UN Agency.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr José Graziano da Silva, for his immense commitment and dedication towards the hungry people around the globe.

Bangladesh acknowledges key findings from FAO's flagship 2018 report, The State of Food and Agriculture, and recognizes the central theme of the report Making Migration Work For All very pertinent, and time demanding when the number of hungry people are increasing in recent years around the globe due to manmade conflicts and climate change.

The Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream of building a nation, free from hunger and poverty. He could not fulfill his dream as he was brutally assassinated in 1975. His daughter, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, with her dynamic leadership, has been carrying forward his unfinished tasks. We are on the right track of development and have prepared Vision 2021 to become a middle income country by 2021. We want to become a developed country by 2041 and our Vision 2041 has been prepared to achieve this goal.

The country is moving ahead with a steady and stable economic growth maintaining sound macroeconomic stability. With an average GDP growth rate of more than seven percent during the last three years and surpassing eight percent growth rate in 2018 2019, it is becoming the fastest growing economy of the world. We are striving to achieve the double digit growth by 2023 and to create job opportunity for 15 million people in our country.

Bangladesh also achieved remarkable success in socioeconomic indicators. Poverty reduced to 21.8 percent in 2018, from 40 percent in 2005.

Bangladesh has shown an impressive performance in agriculture during the last decade with an average growth rate of 3.8 percent. We have become self-sufficient in food production as Bangladesh is the fourth largest rice producing country in the world and also secures the fourth position in aquaculture.

The Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared a “My Village, My Town” program under which “Village will be Town” with all modern civic and urban amenities made available in every village. Establishment of agricultural machinery service centres, workshops, developed infrastructure, potable water supply, modern health care, quality education, sanitation and waste management, power and energy supply, high speed internet connectivity, and others, will be expanded to every village.

All of you are aware that in order to achieve the SDG targets, cooperation among the development partners is important. The mechanization of agriculture, doubling of income, the profitability of smallholding farmers, the prevention of falling prices during harvesting period, policy and action research, value addition and agro-processing, bimodal marketing system, export development, agricultural insurance, and others, are the main areas of development cooperation in this sector.

FAO has made significant contributions to Bangladesh for the remarkable development of its agricultural sector. Still there are challenges to address where the support of FAO is indispensable.

We would like to refer to the 2018 report on The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) where it says that almost 85 percent of the international refugees are hosted by the developing countries. It is worth mentioning that since August 2017, 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingya people sought refuge in Bangladesh and this has drawn great concern to the global community. We request the global community to support by creating an enabling situation so that they can go back to their Motherland with proper dignity, honour and social justice.

We wish the grand success of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference and we look forward to the future role of FAO in greater outlook, with the wisdom and leadership of the new Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu.

Bangladesh, in principle, is committed and will continue its collaborative efforts with FAO towards a hunger and poverty free world.

His Excellency Frank CARRUET, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to FAO

Belgium congratulates Dr Qu Dongyu’s election as Director-General and wishes him every success in his new duties. Belgium is looking forward to collaborate with him to achieve a world with Zero Hunger.

We also thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his commitment throughout the past eight years.

Belgium applauds FAO for choosing the central theme of the 41st Session of the FAO Conference, which is devoted to the coherence between migration, agriculture and rural development. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity. International cooperation should address the structural drivers of large movements of people and create conditions that allow communities to live in peace and prosperity in their homelands. Belgium emphasizes the important role that FAO can play in addressing the root causes of internal and international migration and displacement, and in harnessing the developmental potential of migration, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction.

The contribution of returning migrants to rural areas can be enhanced by providing a conducive environment for business and investment and supporting migrants’ integration into local labour markets. Therefore, the Belgian Development Cooperation drastically shifted the focus towards the promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture.

From keeping farmers alive we switched to supporting farmers as entrepreneurs in society. In this regard, the empowerment of farmers, especially women and girls whose role as a dynamic actor should not be forgotten, is crucial. As food security continues to be major threat in Africa, we stress the importance of sustainable development in the least developed African countries.

FAO is a longstanding and important partner for Belgium. There are many areas where Belgium's and FAO's development visions align, especially on the shared belief in agriculture's unique position as a catalyst for rural development, job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable growth.

In the last biennium Belgium has deepened its engagement with FAO in a number of notable ways, including through a framework agreement signed in 2016. Furthermore, Belgium had very fruitful and results focused bilateral consultations with FAO and WFP, last December, including a Joint Session with the two organizations. This resulted in a concrete action plan to strengthen and deepen our future collaboration in view of reaching the SDG targets. In this regard, we want to emphasize the rights of those who are left behind, for instance, vulnerable people living in remote rural areas.

Furthermore, Belgium would like to stress that, if we want to achieve the Agenda 2030, the inclusion of the private sector and new ways of financing are key. We count on FAO to provide us with special knowledge and good practices concerning the development of a dynamic private sector within the agricultural sector.

To conclude, Belgium is proud to be one of the top ten FAO bilateral donors for voluntary contributions. Belgium always chooses the modalities that allow FAO to work in the most efficient way possible: multi-year commitment in the form of unrestricted voluntary contributions through the Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) and contributions to the FAO Special Fund for Emergency Activities (SFERA), to enable FAO to respond to humanitarian crises with enormous flexibility and speed. Belgium looks forward to continuing working with FAO in resilience and food crises, sustainable agriculture, and in developing improved mechanisms for flexible funding.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de proseguir, doy la palabra al Vicepresidente, Señor Thanawat Tiensin de Tailandia para que continúe la Presidencia de la Session.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It is my honour to take the Chair this morning and next I would now like to welcome His Excellency Nadeem Riyaz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Excellency Nadeem RIYAZ, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to FAO

Pakistan and FAO share a relationship spanning over six decades. We regard FAO as an important partner and appreciate its ongoing activities and support for development of our agricultural sector, educating all stakeholders, cross-sectoral coordination, and technical support for evidence-based policy making.

The Award we are receiving this year for controlling Foot and Mouth Disease in Pakistan, with the technical support of FAO, is an example of challenges that can be overcome through collaboration.

In Pakistan, the Agriculture Sector contributes approximately 18 percent of our GDP, employs nearly 40 percent of the labor force, and 70 percent of our exports. Nearly half of our population is, directly or indirectly, dependent on it for their livelihood.

Our landholdings have been fragmenting over the past few generations and land ownership remains highly concentrated; with an estimated 2 percent of households controlling, 30 percent of total cultivable land, and the remaining 98 percent with 70 percent of the land. We also have a significant number of landless farmers.

Water stress, need for rural innovation, developing entrepreneurial skills of marginalized and small farmers, enhancing agricultural productivity and social uplift of rural households are major challenges.

The present Government in Pakistan is focused on overcoming the challenges of poverty, income disparity, stunting growth, household food security, eradicating malnutrition, social uplift and better living conditions for the masses.

Agriculture remains on top of the Government agenda. The vision of the Prime Minister is to achieve accelerated agricultural growth by transforming our rural economy into a modern one based on innovations and best practices.

We are committed to improving the growth of the Agriculture Sector by providing an enabling environment for rural transformation through innovation and entrepreneurship including employment opportunities for the youth. We aim to achieve food security through crop diversification, sustainable practices and increased focus on research and development.

On climate change, the Government has taken a number of initiatives including the clean and green Pakistan program to deal with threats posed by climatic issues including natural disasters.

Pakistan together with FAO, hopes to continue and further expand its collaborative programs for climate resilient agriculture, water smart initiatives, long term disaster management and the prevention and control of livestock diseases.

The ongoing programs financed by FAO support Pakistan in our endeavours to achieve our priorities and to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are thankful to FAO for its valuable partnership and recognize the beneficial work of its Country Office in Islamabad. We look forward to our continued engagement.

Pakistan deeply appreciates the contributions of the outgoing Director- General Dr José Graziano da Silva who will always be remembered for his initiatives and leadership skills which guided the FAO over the last eight years. We wish him health and success in his future endeavours.

We also welcome the new Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu, and look forward to working closely with him.

Today, conflicts, migration, displacement and climate change impact food security, health and the living conditions of the masses. It is essential to tackle these issues in achieving Zero Hunger and making our planet safe for our future generations.

Let us all join hands to work towards achieving the objectives of FAO with renewed vigour under the vibrant leadership of the new Director-General

Her Excellency Terri SARCH Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to FAO

The United Kingdom is a strong supporter of the United Nations and a committed Member of FAO.

I would like to start by thanking the outgoing Director-General Dr José Graziano da Silva and wish him well for his next move.

Four years on from our joint commitment to the Global Goals, progress against SDG2 to end hunger is becoming even harder to achieve. More than 820 million people in the world are hungry today. We have a huge challenge to end hunger in the next ten years.

More than ever, the world needs FAO. Climate change threatens to drive the number of hungry people even higher, as water scarcity, droughts, floods, pests and diseases reduce productivity, in particular in Africa and Asia where the poorest rely heavily on farming to feed their families and earn their incomes.

FAO plays a critical role in fostering the international collaboration required to respond to these threats. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a pressing example of a cross-border threat that cannot be handled by countries working alone. Without international rules and action to reduce the use of antibiotics and maintain agricultural productivity, antibiotics will stop working. Developing countries will be the most adversely affected.

Now is an ideal time for FAO to recommit itself to prioritising global public goods that benefit all countries. This global approach is where some of the Organization's greatest achievements to date

have taken place, like eradicating rinderpest. It is this collaboration that is needed to meet the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The world needs an FAO that is fit-for-purpose. An FAO that is modern, open, and transparently managed. Where Member States are partners in governing bodies that support the Organization in delivering results. An Organization that holds itself to account.

We congratulate the newly elected Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu and look forward to working closely with him and all other Member States to ensure that FAO fulfils its mandate and steps up to provide the global leadership in the international system that is so urgently needed.

That is leadership in partnership with others. We need the UN system to be more than the sum of its parts. As the UN Secretary General has said, the 2030 Agenda requires bold changes to the UN Development System. We call on FAO to step up its engagement, particularly in the new generation of country teams, centred on UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that support national priorities to achieve inclusive economic development.

The State of Food and Agriculture report on Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development is the theme of this Conference. The report highlights the challenges and the opportunities that rural migration presents.

With the right policies, for example, the remittances that migrants send can promote investment. The flows are enormous: between 2015 and 2030, USD 6.5 trillion in remittances will be sent to low and middle income countries. The UK is committed to facilitating these private flows to be spent productively by making the process cheaper, more accessible and more secure.

Remittances are a crucial source of capital for developing countries. Remittance flows are also often a stable source of finance because they are less affected by the global economy. Sub-Saharan Africa received approximately USD 34 billion in remittances in 2016 from outside the continent. A further USD 15 billion flowed between countries in the region and approximately USD 5 billion of this was sent from the United Kingdom.

We encourage FAO Members to support the development of policies that facilitate the flow of remittances.

This Conference will also approve FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the 2020 to 2021 biennium. We welcome a focus on FAO's unique comparative advantages, including: combatting antimicrobial resistance; supporting countries in dealing with transboundary pests and diseases, such as Fall Armyworm; and providing technical assistance on food safety and plant health standards.

I will conclude this statement by assuring Conference that the United Kingdom will continue a strong supporter of FAO reform.

We look forward to working with the new Director-General and the other Members as FAO steps up to meet the increasing global challenges to delivering the Global Goals and leaving no one behind.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña Gloria Isabel RAMÍREZ, Embajadora y Representante Permanente de Colombia ante la FAO

Permítanme en primera instancia reconocer el legado del Dr. José Graziano da Silva, como Director General de esta Organización, por su liderazgo y trabajo comprometido durante los ocho años de su mandato.

Auguramos el mayor de los éxitos al recién electo Director General, Dr. Qu Dongyu, de cara a los desafíos de la Agenda 2030 para avanzar en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), por el papel y la contribución de la FAO en este sentido.

Es un honor para mí dirigirme a ustedes, en el marco de este importante periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia que tiene como eje "Migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural", una temática que reviste la mayor relevancia en el contexto actual, particularmente, para un país como Colombia que enfrenta actualmente grandes retos, no solo por el creciente flujo migratorio proveniente de Venezuela, sino por su carácter de país agrícola y con una de las mayores biodiversidades del mundo.

Como ustedes saben, Colombia ha asumido con el mayor compromiso, solidaridad y generosidad, la migración masiva de venezolanos hacia nuestro territorio, consecuencia directa del derrumbe económico del régimen de Nicolás Maduro. Tenemos a la fecha 1,3 millones de migrantes en nuestro país, un problema descomunal, solo comparable en dimensión y gravedad con el provocado por la guerra en Siria.

En este escenario agradecemos la respuesta solidaria de Naciones Unidas, FAO, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) entre otros organismos y hacemos un llamado para que nos sigan apoyando en la búsqueda de más ayuda para enfrentar esta crisis, pues como recordaba recientemente nuestro Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, la migración venezolana impacta gravemente en nuestra economía y en los sistemas de educación, salud, empleo y alimentación, y solo hemos recibido un poco más de 20 por ciento de los fondos a los que se comprometieron los organismos internacionales.

El Presidente Iván Duque está destinando todos los esfuerzos para resolver la problemática del campo colombiano, bajo la premisa de producir conservando y conservar produciendo.

Para impulsar el sector, elevar su productividad y disminuir la pobreza en el campo, puso en marcha múltiples iniciativas para las cuales destinó en el Plan de Desarrollo 20 por ciento de los recursos que invertirá el Gobierno hasta el año 2022. Vinculará 300 000 productores a un programa de agricultura por contrato basado en venta sin intermediación, recursos a la tasa comercial más barata del mercado y un programa de micro seguros en beneficio de nuestros campesinos. También estableció la meta de brindar acompañamiento a 550 000 productores con extensión agropecuaria; aumentar las exportaciones de origen agropecuario en 22 por ciento y generar condiciones para lograr un crecimiento anual del 4 por ciento para el sector agropecuario.

Por sus condiciones especiales de clima tropical, su ubicación estratégica en América Latina y su vocación ancestral, como acertadamente lo ha señalado esta Organización, Colombia se puede convertir en una despensa alimentaria para el mundo. El Gobierno del Presidente Iván Duque promueve proyectos productivos de gran escala para la cual ha establecido exención de impuestos por 10 años para las inversiones agropecuarias. Sectores como la producción de alimentos básicos, carne de cerdo y pollo y procesos industriales tienen grandes oportunidades para cumplir ese objetivo. La promoción y ayuda de la FAO es clave para lograr este objetivo. Un ejemplo lo ilustra nítidamente: en nuestro país se cultivan 500 000 hectáreas de arroz y tenemos casi 1,8 millones de hectáreas con alta posibilidad para explotar en ese cultivo.

Colombia continúa en la búsqueda de la paz, una empresa compleja y extremadamente difícil por los retos que se derivan de haber recibido del Gobierno anterior más de 200 000 hectáreas sembradas con coca y una dramática situación en temas como minería ilegal, devastación del territorio y proliferación de grupos de crimen organizado. El Gobierno ha concentrado los mayores esfuerzos en combatirlos con exitosos resultados, logrados por los hombres y mujeres de nuestras Fuerzas Militares y de Policía, muchos de los cuales entregan sus vidas en la defensa de la sociedad, por lo cual merecen el respeto y el reconocimiento de los colombianos y de la comunidad internacional.

Respecto al acuerdo con las FARC, interpretando la voluntad de la mayoría de los colombianos el Presidente Iván Duque busca en el ámbito político, que haya paz, pero sin impunidad. Que el narcotráfico y el secuestro no sean delitos conexos con rebelión. Que los autores de crímenes atroces no lleguen a la política sin antes pagar sus condenas. Que los delitos sexuales, en especial contra menores de edad, no sean amnistiables. Sin embargo, al mismo tiempo honra rigurosamente los acuerdos con los excombatientes que están cumpliendo a cabalidad sus compromisos.

Quisiéramos hacer referencia a una preocupación que en los últimos meses hemos tenido con relación a la colocación del precio del café (interno y externo) por debajo del margen mínimo de rentabilidad.

En este tema particular y a diferencia de unas condiciones de mercado donde la oferta y la demanda establecen las condiciones, tenemos un sector que depende en gran medida de la especulación y fluctuación de los precios en bolsa, así como intereses unilaterales de industriales encargados del procesamiento del café verde, donde los industriales son cada vez más prósperos mientras los productores deben vender sus productos por debajo del precio de producción.

Este tipo de fluctuaciones y tendencias incluso podrían llegar a afectar la seguridad alimentaria, pues se genera una disminución en la generación de ingresos y calidad de vida de nuestros pobladores rurales, no solo en Colombia, si no en de los diferentes países productores de este grano.

Los invito a generar frentes comunes en torno a la sostenibilidad también de la actividad agrícola y agropecuaria, que en todo caso pasa por la productividad, la competitividad, pero sobre todo por la rentabilidad que se deriva de este ejercicio y lo convierte en un instrumento de desarrollo y no de deterioro.

De otro lado y aquí también solicitamos apoyo de FAO. Colombia se ha convertido en un líder en el cultivo y comercialización de aceite de palma “sostenible” para el mercado global- sin afectar la frontera agrícola o causar deforestación, y asegurando la implementación de soluciones justas para temas asociados con conflictos de tierras y condiciones laborales, pero existen barreras y mitos, científicamente no argumentados que le hacen la guerra comercial al punto de lograr bajar los precios y satanizar su consumo, poniendo en riesgo su futuro y sostenibilidad.

Quisiera terminar esta intervención manifestando nuestro agradecimiento a la comunidad internacional en la estabilización y ahora consolidación de los territorios en Colombia y aprovechamos esta oportunidad para invitarlos a seguir apoyando este largo y complejo proceso, que tiene como prioridad el campo.

Finalmente, nos ponemos a su disposición para trabajar de manera articulada entre los gobiernos y la comunidad internacional en acciones que nos permitan seguir aportando al crecimiento y fortalecimiento de las zonas rurales del mundo, las cuales representan no solo el presente sino la sostenibilidad del futuro.

Son Excellence Monsieur François PYTHOUD, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la Suisse auprès de la FAO

Permettez-moi tout d’abord de féliciter M. Qu Dongyu pour son élection au poste de Directeur général et lui souhaiter plein succès dans sa nouvelle fonction.

Nous souhaitons également remercier M. José Graziano da Silva pour son engagement au service de l’Organisation et de la lutte contre la faim ces huit dernières années.

La FAO est un partenaire clé de la Suisse dans ses efforts pour améliorer la durabilité des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires, assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030.

Aujourd’hui encore, trop de personnes se couchent le ventre vide, ou souffrent d’obésité ou autre forme de malnutrition. Trop d’agricultrices, d’agriculteurs et de personnes vivant dans les zones rurales ont des revenus incertains, voient leurs moyens de subsistance menacés et, sans avenir, n’ont d’autre choix que d’émigrer.

C’est inacceptable. C’est l’expression d’un déséquilibre dans l’agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires.

Une action transformatrice est indispensable pour relever les défis complexes que posent l’agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire, le développement rural et la migration: nous devons adopter les principes de durabilité et placer l’agriculture – en tant que colonne vertébrale du développement rural – au cœur de l’action pour ne laisser personne de côté.

Le rôle de la FAO est et restera central à cet égard. La Suisse soutient la FAO dans ses efforts pour accélérer la transformation des systèmes agro-alimentaires en renforçant l’accent sur les femmes et les jeunes comme acteurs clés.

J’aimerais souligner quatre éléments qui, à notre avis, sont essentiels à cet égard.

Premièrement, des systèmes alimentaires durables: une approche plus intégrée et globale est nécessaire pour relever les défis d’aujourd’hui et de demain. Nous devons agir suivant une approche systémique sur toute la chaîne alimentaire jusqu’au consommateur afin de garantir des régimes alimentaires durables. Nous encourageons la FAO à poursuivre ses travaux et en particulier à prendre

l'initiative de faciliter l'élaboration de méthodologies et d'indicateurs pour mesurer la performance «durabilité» de tous les systèmes agro-alimentaires.

Deuxièmement, l'innovation: l'innovation est un moteur central qui contribue à transformer les systèmes agro-alimentaires et à assurer la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition durablement. La Suisse et la FAO ont lancé un prix de l'innovation pour encourager les initiatives inspirantes et concrètes en soutien aux systèmes agro-alimentaires durables. Ce prix sera attribué mercredi soir dans le Centre Cheikh Zayed, et vous êtes tous cordialement invités.

Troisièmement, les partenariats multipartites: des mécanismes puissants et orientés vers l'action pour parvenir à une interaction dynamique, mais systématique entre toutes les parties prenantes, des décideurs aux acteurs de terrain y compris le secteur privé. La FAO doit renforcer ces partenariats dans sa fonction d'incubateur, catalyseur, membre actif ou comme secrétariat. La FAO fait face à certains défis à cet égard. Nous espérons que, sous la nouvelle direction, elle les surmontera pour rendre ces partenariats pleinement opérationnels dans l'esprit de l'objectif de développement durable, ODD, 17.

Quatrièmement, l'intégration de la biodiversité: le premier rapport sur l'état de la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et le premier rapport global publié par IPBES l'ont confirmé. La biodiversité est en danger. Sans biodiversité pas de sécurité alimentaire. L'agriculture a besoin de biodiversité et inversement. La FAO doit élaborer un Plan d'action mondial sur la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Ce Plan sera une contribution clé et concrète au cadre global de la biodiversité après 2020. Elle soutiendra les États et tous les acteurs à intégrer la biodiversité dans chaque composante des systèmes agro-alimentaires.

Dans ce contexte, nous célébrons cette semaine le 15^e anniversaire de l'entrée en vigueur du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Les enjeux qui ont conduit à l'adoption du Traité par la Conférence sont toujours présents. Nous appelons dès lors toutes les parties contractantes à s'engager activement et pleinement dans les négociations en cours sur le renforcement de son système multilatéral. L'avenir de la sélection végétale dépend d'un système moderne et inclusif.

Encore une fois, la Suisse est prête à travailler avec la FAO, son nouveau Directeur général et ses Membres pour faire de la transformation vers des systèmes agro-alimentaires plus durables et vers un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition, où chaque personne est en mesure de choisir librement d'émigrer, une réalité.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to FAO

The Australian Minister for Agriculture was honoured to deliver the response to the Frank McDougall Lecture on the first day of the Conference on Saturday and to speak to this Conference's theme.

Australia would again like to congratulate the Director-General elect Dr Qu Dongyu and also thank the outgoing Director-General for his leadership over the last eight years.

Australia has been and will continue to be, committed to the work of the FAO. At a time when the global rules based order is under threat, strong multilateral cooperation is critical. FAO, as the only globally representative body dealing with food and agriculture issues, is the primary forum facilitating this cooperation in the agricultural sector, and all countries stand to benefit from its work.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide the framework for the international community to act to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Working to achieve these goals, especially to alleviate food insecurity and create resilient rural livelihoods, FAO must focus on its comparative advantages.

It must also strengthen and expand partnerships with other international organizations and the private sector and be responsive to the priorities of its Member Countries.

FAO is the United Nation's largest specialised agency, although it cannot be everything to everyone, and it must focus its attention on its strengths of technical capacity and international standard setting work.

FAO's provision of statistics and technical and policy advice, particularly to developing countries, helps governments to develop and grow their agriculture sectors and address the broader issues that affect food security. FAO also performs important normative and standard setting work for plant health and food safety, contributing to transparent and rules based global agricultural trade, which underpins rural livelihoods across the world—in developed and developing economies alike.

This work is being supported through FAO's decentralised offices. This network presents an opportunity to increase staff coverage across geographically dispersed regions such as the South-West Pacific, where animal and plant health standards, food security and nutrition are key priority areas needing technical assistance.

Given the immense scale of the challenges we face, FAO cannot work in isolation. As a provider of global public knowledge, with a core budget that has remained nominally flat for some time, FAO must find ways to sustainably fund its activities. This is where collaboration with other international organizations and partnerships, especially with the private sector, are essential.

By facilitating private sector participation, FAO can gain access not only to more financial resources, but also to entrepreneurship and new scientific and technological innovations. This collaboration will also create the potential to improve links between small-scale producers and value chains; expanding the development potential of agricultural production.

The election of a new Director-General provides an opportunity to shape the relationship between the FAO Secretariat and Member Countries, so that Members can drive the policy agenda in line with their national agricultural priorities.

Australia remains committed to its engagement with FAO, and looks forward to working with our new Director-General in the years ahead. We emphasise that FAO must continue to evolve and make efficient use of its resources so that it can help Member Countries respond to the significant global challenges we all face.

By focusing on its comparative advantages as a provider of technical and policy advice and an international standard setting body, and by collaborating with other international organizations and the private sector, FAO will be able to maximize its global impact.

Ms Maya FEDERMAN, Alternate Permanent Representative of the State of Israel to FAO

Let me start by congratulating Dr Qu Dongyu for his election as the new Director-General of FAO.

I would also like to thank Dr José Graziano da Silva for his commitment and work over the last eight years, and to wish him success in his future endeavours.

Achieving food security and ending hunger are at the core of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The severe effects of climate change on our ecosystems raise major challenges in the work towards achieving these goals, and our action is required in order to build resilience into agricultural production systems, and to ensure food security around the world.

The fundamental challenge that we are facing in the world today is children who are born into life with no future. Our global responsibility is to make sure that they will have a future, and we all must learn together the different ways to achieve it. In this way, we will be able to have an impact on migration, nationally and internationally, as well as on poverty, food security and social inclusion. By fostering entrepreneurial thinking as well as agricultural practices and solutions, we should be able to ensure the creation of new jobs and opportunities, and to enable a better future for them.

Over the last few years, although our abilities to produce more and better food have been expanded and developed, we have not witnessed a great change in the state of food security. Strengthening the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization together with the private sector and academia, and fostering entrepreneurship and innovative ways of thinking among smallholder farmers, are some crucial steps that we have to continue focusing on and strengthening in order to witness a significant change.

Over the last 71 years, the State of Israel has shifted from being a developing country to a developed one, while dealing with many challenges. Agriculture and food production in a semi-arid region was a

significant challenge that the new country had to face. Today, 71 years later, we are witnessing the great success of it. A success that we are obliged to share with others.

In alignment with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Israel promotes and engages in development cooperation on bilateral, trilateral and multilateral levels, as well as through South-South cooperation, sharing its experience and expertise that were accumulated over the years.

Israel invests in projects related to development and humanitarian assistance around the world through different channels. One of them is MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. MASHAV shares the knowledge that was accumulated in Israel in the last decades by sharing the knowhow through trainings, excellence centres and intensive work with governments. Since food security and migration are not stand alone issues, MASHAV focuses on bringing a holistic solution, while working on promoting gender equality and women empowerment, as well as social inclusion, inclusion of people with disabilities and youth, in order to strengthen the communities.

During these 71 years, Israel did not have the luxury of being afraid of failure. Our development depended on our perseverance, allowing our entrepreneurial culture to become a safe environment for trial and error. With determination to overcome barriers, Israel became a country of problem solvers, ready to look for the next great answer, and if it does not already exist, create it from thin air.

In Israel, we believe innovation is one of the most effective tools for sustainable development. As our story shows, empowerment builds prosperity; inclusion fosters progress; and investing in the next generation guarantees sustainability. Israel calls the Food and Agriculture Organization to encourage and implement tools for innovation, and act as a bridge between innovative solutions and funds, and the challenges that developed and developing countries are facing, based on local perceptions and needs. Through innovation we can have a strong impact on migration.

As Shimon Peres, our former President said, and I quote: "In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology."

The State of Israel remains committed to sharing its knowledge and expertise, and to continue its collaboration with FAO.

Her Excellency Ann ONYANGO, Secretary for the State Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation of the Republic of Kenya

Thank you, Chairman, for giving me this opportunity, on behalf of the Kenyan Government, to contribute on the important topic, The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development, at this 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

Once again and on behalf of the Republic of Kenya, I would like to express our warmest congratulations to the Director-General elect of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu. We reiterate the fact that the Kenyan Government will work with you and fully support your leadership. Indeed, Kenya appreciates the transformative ideas that have been shared and look forward to the implementation of the same under your leadership.

We also warmly appreciate Dr José Graziano da Silva for achieving great results over the eight years he has been at the helm of this Organization.

We are holding the 41st Session of the FAO Conference at a time when rising food and nutrition insecurity is a major concern globally. The situation has deteriorated more in the developing countries as per the report of the 2018 State of Food and Agriculture. We note that among other causes, the increasing conflicts and violence in several parts of the world, climate variability and exposure to more complex, frequent and intense climate extremes, has eroded the gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition.

The Report also gives a clear nexus between migration, agriculture and rural development as an important phenomenon contributing to economic development. My delegation, therefore, notes that policies should maximize the contribution of rural migration to economic and social development. As

a Government, we have deliberately focused on promoting employment opportunities in the agricultural value chains to address youth unemployment challenges by creating decent on- and off-farm employment opportunities in rural areas as a key in taming unnecessary migration of populations.

I am sure that our discussions throughout this Conference will be fruitful and will delve more deeply into these matters so that, as countries, we are better guided to provide needed help to the farming communities that face challenges of rising food and nutrition insecurity. We will also be guided to manage conflicts, deal with the negative impacts of rising food prices, and the threats of climate change and erratic weather.

The fight against poverty and hunger in Africa is becoming more challenging in view of the projected population of about 1.8 billion by the year 2050. This calls for us to continue to give priority to agriculture in our National Development Agenda and further intensify investment in this critical sector.

As with most African countries, agriculture is the leading sector of Kenya's economy and contributes 24 percent to the GDP. It provides employment to 80 percent of the population, and 50 percent to overall export earnings. It is a very important sector for food and nutrition security, job creation, economic development and improved livelihoods.

To ensure food and nutrition security for all Kenyans, the Government recently launched the Big 4 Agenda with food and nutrition security being a priority pillar. This strategy has adopted a value chain approach by targeting the main food security staples and addressing not only their production deficits, however, also ensuring that Kenyan farmers earn sufficient incomes. Further, the Government has developed a ten year Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy. Its aims include: a sustained increase in incomes for small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk; an increase in agriculture output and value addition; and a boost in food resilience in households.

The Government's agricultural policy is aimed at enhancing farm profitability and competitiveness through realizing the existing productivity potential of various enterprises while also creating an enabling environment for more investment along the value chain of various agricultural products.

Towards this, Kenya aspires to pursue and benefit from the core guiding principles of FAO including: enhanced access to production inputs to improve production and productivity; timely management of emerging pest and diseases; maintenance of soil, health and fertility; Climate Smart approaches to rural developments; and, the promotion of greater attention to risk and resilience in order to manage the environment.

Kenya is increasingly expanding partnerships between public and private sectors in order to maximize returns on investment and optimize benefits of new investment across the country. The Government has strengthened the legal and regulatory framework to facilitate the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), and increase value chain activities

The Government has put several strategies in place to target youth who form a high proportion of the population, and enhance specific affirmative action on Government procurement to 24 percent, so as to mainstream the productivity of youth run enterprises in economic development. These interventions targeting the youth will further curb high rural and urban migration.

As I conclude, I would like to emphasize the importance of working together as Member Nations in order to effectively respond to the rising challenges of food insecurity, food commodity price volatility and threats of climate change, and extreme natural disaster. We must continue to enhance our investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, and at the same time protect our natural resources.

At this juncture, I convey my appreciation to FAO for the important work that it continues to do in Kenya, in implementing a number of food security and rural development programmes in different parts of the country. Indeed, these programmes are making a positive contribution to food security and overall agricultural development.

His Excellency Egas DA COSTA FREITAS, Ambassador for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the Holy See

On behalf of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I would like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu.

We also congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva, the outgoing Director-General of the FAO for all of his achievements that he has achieved through this major institution of the FAO and that he has led for several years.

Timore-Leste is a small country that in the past, and still today, has suffered from hunger, climate change, and immigration, which in the past was referred to as displaced persons. We've also suffered from poverty, affecting our daily lives, differences between rural and urban areas, and we are still facing huge problems.

With the support of FAO at difficult times in Timor-Leste, we have managed to overcome some of these situations. Once again, we reiterate that Timor-Leste still requires FAO's presence in our country.

FAO is a major international forum and from our own experience it is resolving many problems, not just in my country, but, all over the world. We hope that the new, democratically elected Director-General will continue on this great work that has so far, been carried out by the previous Director-General because this work is still necessary.

Once again, I call upon FAO to continue to remain strong, to continue to showing the work of the mission of the church which is to work and always focus on men and women as the images of God.

Su Excelencia Monseñor Fernando CHICA ARELLANO, Nuncio Papal y Observador Permanente de la Santa Sede ante la FAO

Quisiera, en primer lugar, dirigir al Señor Presidente, Enzo Benech, mi más sincero agradecimiento por concederme la palabra y, al mismo tiempo, felicitarlo por su elección para dirigir las sesiones de esta Conferencia.

En esta ocasión, también me gustaría, en mi nombre y en el de la Santa Sede, dar las gracias al Dr. José Graziano da Silva por el esmerado trabajo realizado durante su mandato al frente de la Organización.

También deseo saludar con deferencia al Dr. Qu Dongyu para que su nombramiento como nuevo Director General se traduzca en una pujante fuerza que beneficie a la FAO en sus iniciativas por ayudar fundamentalmente a aquellas poblaciones que sufren por causa del hambre y la malnutrición.

El tema específico de este debate general: "Migración, agricultura y desarrollo rural", ofrece la oportunidad de fijar la atención en problemáticas de gran actualidad, cuyos protagonistas no son meras estadísticas, sino personas marcadas por el dolor y son seres humanos, como nosotros, pero que se ven obligados a abandonar sus tierras. Se marchan no por una libre elección, sino movidos por el desaliento y la desesperación, a menudo dictados por la imposibilidad de tener ese pan cotidiano que es parte integral del derecho fundamental a la vida.

El análisis de las cuestiones relacionadas con el círculo vicioso del hambre, de la emigración y de la pobreza no puede, ante todo, ignorar la centralidad de la agricultura. Esta desempeña un papel crucial en la dinámica del desarrollo sostenible de un país, constituyendo uno de los principales catalizadores a través de los cuales otras actividades económicas y sociales pueden encontrar un impulso efectivo.

Sin embargo, estudios recientes indican que, en los países de ingresos bajos o medios bajos, el desarrollo y el crecimiento de los ingresos normalmente conduce a un aumento de la migración y, solo cuando se alcanza un nivel de ingresos medio alto, los fenómenos migratorios disminuyen. Subrayan también que, antes de que un país alcance la estabilidad que permita a las personas ejercer su derecho a no emigrar, pueden transcurrir incluso décadas. Por tanto, es importante no sucumbir al error de pensar en el desarrollo, en particular en el desarrollo rural, simplemente como una herramienta útil para disminuir la migración, cuando en realidad es un derecho innegable y fundamental de cada ser humano. No es por tanto posible sustraerse, como tantas veces lo ha repetido el Papa Francisco, a la

obligación de acoger, proteger, promover e integrar a quienes llegan a diario de países en vías de desarrollo buscando una existencia más digna y serena.

Junto a las personas que emigran de un continente a otro, también hay que prestar atención a quienes se desplazan dentro de sus propios países. Se trata de personas que a menudo se trasladan de las zonas rurales a las urbanas. Sin embargo, al carecer de la necesaria preparación o de las habilidades profesionales requeridas en las ciudades se ven constreñidas a permanecer en el círculo vicioso de la pobreza. Es un doloroso fenómeno que afecta especialmente a ingentes multitudes de jóvenes que se sienten cada vez menos atraídos por las actividades agrícolas. Sin embargo, el desarrollo rural no puede prescindir de su valiosa contribución

A la luz de estas reflexiones, la delegación de la Santa Sede recuerda la importancia de fomentar una visión de la economía y la sociedad éticamente fundada. Solo de esta manera será posible formular decisiones y emprender acciones en cumplimiento de ese principio de solidaridad que se encuentra en la base de la coexistencia justa y pacífica entre las naciones y, por consiguiente, ofrecer un nuevo vigor al sistema multilateral, cuyo papel es imprescindible para alcanzar un desarrollo sostenible e integral que ponga en el centro a la persona humana. A través de este enfoque, la FAO podrá continuar siendo un punto de referencia para los retos que debe afrontar el sector agroalimentario.

No quiero concluir mi intervención sin recordar a las delegaciones aquí presentes, el encuentro que mañana, 27 de junio, tendrán los participantes en la Conferencia con su Santidad el Papa Francisco, siguiendo así una larga tradición que comenzó desde el inicio de la presencia de la FAO en la ciudad eterna.

His Excellency Omar FAKEH, Permanent Representative of Palestine to FAO (Original language Arabic)

I would first like to express my gratitude to Dr José Graziano da Silva, the outgoing Director-General, and all the staff of the FAO for the efforts that they exerted in the previous years to ensure the development of agriculture around the world.

I would also like to express my congratulations to our friend the elected Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, for assuming his responsibilities. We will all stand by him to ensure all the success in his tasks.

Palestine, as you all know, is committed, just like all other countries around the world, to the plans and objectives of FAO in achieving the agenda for sustainable development, and reaching a flourishing world free of hunger.

Unfortunately, the situation in Palestine is not the same as it is in other countries. There are many challenges and obstacles facing the advancement and development of agriculture, as well as economic development. All of this is reflected at the same time in other sectors including malnutrition.

There are obstacles that you all know, that we see on the ground, where resources are not allowed in, technologies, equipment are not allowed in to Palestine all of which are necessary for agriculture and for farmers.

There are also other obstacles that you are all aware of that even prevent farmers from reaching their lands, and this has a clear impact on their productivity and the agricultural sector as a whole. As well as, the degradation of the soil and the confiscation of land which reduces the land that is available for agriculture.

Israel still controls 60 percent of Palestinian lands. Those lands are not under Palestinian control, and 85 percent of natural resources are also not under Palestinian control. The productivity of the agricultural sector in Palestine is no more than 25 percent according to UNCTAD reports, and the agricultural sector in Palestine is a source of livelihood for 150 000 families.

Palestine exports 60 commodities to the world, which clearly indicates that Palestine has resources, has the human potential that will enable us to ensure the success of the sector to achieve development and advancement, and a future for our children and our people.

In conclusion, we would like to reconfirm that we are standing next to you hand in hand working together for a better world free of hunger and with a better future for the children of Palestine and the whole world.

Ms Maya FEDERMAN, Alternate Permanent Representative of the State of Israel

Israel calls FAO to keep its work professional, and to avoid any politicization in its work.

His Excellency Omar FAKEH, Permanent Representative of Palestine to FAO (Original language Arabic)

In the course of our statement, we had not, in any way, wished to politicize the work of the Organization. We simply explained the reality on the ground. We did not seek to politicize the situation and we always endeavour to seek that FAO act beyond the political realm.

Palestinian's are denied assistance, which is very important to Palestine and as such the Palestinian authorities do not wish to politicize the work this Organization does.

Sr. Porfirio PESTANA DE BARROS (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre lo que aconteció ayer en la tarde, durante la intervención de nuestro canciller, que fue interrumpido de manera bastante inusual, por usar un término menos duro, por parte del otro Vicepresidente.

Sin embargo observamos que la intervención de Colombia no solamente menciona nuestro país sino que menciona a nuestro Presidente, así que llamamos la atención sobre este aspecto porque pareciera que está siguiendo las instrucciones de los Estados Unidos de América, país que nos tiene bloqueado, situación que denunció nuestro Canciller, que paradójicamente, debido a eso no nos ha permitido asistir como tradicionalmente hemos hecho, a la población colombiana durante los últimos años que son más de 5 millones en Venezuela.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Conference takes note. Now I would like to move onto the next speaker.

Ms Carmen Willen, External Relations Officer of the Secretariat to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) contains a comprehensive range of multisectoral evidence-based measures that aim to reduce tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. At the same time, it also recognizes the need to promote economically viable alternatives to tobacco production as a way to prevent possible adverse social and economic impacts on populations whose livelihoods depend on the production of tobacco. Moreover, Parties to the Convention agreed to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons with respect to tobacco cultivation and manufacture.

Many countries derive additional revenue from growing, processing, managing and exporting tobacco. Such revenue must be weighed carefully against the social, health, economic and environmental harms that tobacco inflicts upon individuals and societies. It is worth noting, some tobacco producing countries are shifting crop production away from tobacco toward new sources of revenue. Such shifts can deliver widespread benefits to societies such as, providing workers with higher rates of return, increasing food security, improving the health of farmers by reducing their exposure to nicotine and pesticides, reducing industry exploitation of labour, keeping children in school, protecting the environment and, of course, improving the health of populations.

Recognizing these cross SDG benefits can spur habits and policy changes around tobacco production. Tobacco producing countries must be supported with technical guidance to transition. Innovative sources of financing alternative livelihoods, such as dedicating a portion of domestic tobacco tax revenues or using development impact bonds, should be explored.

The tobacco industry remains the biggest threat to the full implementation of the Convention. There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the interests of the industry and public health. The tobacco industry produces and promotes a product that has been proven to be addictive, to cause

diseases and death, and to give rise to a variety of social ills, including increased poverty. Therefore, we would like to stress that policies promoting economically sustainable alternative livelihoods should be protected from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines.

In line with decisions by the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC, the Secretariat looks forward to strengthening its existing collaboration with FAO and other international organizations with expertise in this area in order to facilitate a systematic and comprehensive approach to implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC.

To conclude, the Secretariat congratulates the Director-General elect Dr Qu Dongyu and looks forward to future collaboration.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Now we come to the end of Item 10, The Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. We have had three days of interventions in our general debate focusing on this Item.

Item 30. Any Other Matters

Point 30. Autres questions

Tema 30. Asuntos varios

Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

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

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

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to propose to move to Agenda Item 30 Any Other Matters.

As we agreed this morning, we would give the floor to Ms Eva Moller, Deputy General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff (UGSS), to deliver a statement on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies.

Ms Eva Moller, Deputy General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff (UGSS) of FAO and WFP, on behalf of the UGSS and the Association of Professionals in FAO (AP-in-FAO)

We are grateful for once again being given the opportunity to address the Conference. It is an honour for us to speak before you on behalf of the General Service (GS) and Professional Staff of FAO.

A few days ago, you elected a new Director-General, who will lead the Organization for the next four years. We wish to extend our congratulations to Dr Qu Dongyu on his election. We very much look forward to having a positive and constructive relationship with the new leadership of the Organization.

Our objective as Staff Representative Bodies is naturally to promote, protect and defend the individual and collective interests, rights and dignity of staff. However, this objective goes hand in hand with our commitment to FAO's mandate. We are convinced that good and constructive relationships between Management and staff are crucial to allow FAO to fulfil its mission of freeing the world from hunger and leaving no one behind, as called for by the 2030 Agenda.

The past eight years have been very hard on staff, due to lack of respect and recognition. We are therefore intent on working constructively with the new Management to rebuild trust and confidence. We must work together to make the Organization a better work place for all and at the same time more effective in carrying out its work. We are certain that a motivated workforce that is treated with respect, trust and dignity, coupled with strong, positive, trustful and effective Staff-Management relations, are in the interest not just of staff, but also of the Organization and its Member States.

Rebuilding staff morale and motivation is for us the overarching challenge today. With this in mind, there are many areas related to human resources management and conditions of service where we believe a new start is needed and significant progress can be made through constructive dialogue. I will only highlight some of the most significant.

Major changes and improvements are needed in the closely interlinked areas of recruitment, promotion and career development. Staff motivation has suffered due to the declining career opportunities as posts have been systematically downgraded or abolished when they become vacant. At the same time, recruitment and promotion decisions have become increasingly opaque and centralized in the Office of the Director-General.

A primary concern for the GS category in Headquarters is also the global recruitment of locally hired staff, which not only deprives highly performing staff in house of the chance of advancement, but also undermines the UN Common system principles.

A priority for us will be to ensure that recruitment and promotion procedures become fair and transparent again, based on clearly defined criteria and increased delegation of authority. This must include the reintroduction of a system of checks and balances so that staff can have faith in the various processes. Strengthened support to capacity development of staff will also contribute both to staff development and FAO's technical capacity, just as the performance management system should be improved to give staff the best coaching and the right tools to enhance their skills.

We expect to see a comprehensive review of the Geographic Mobility Programme for Regular Programme Professional Staff. In our view, the current programme and its implementation is affecting negatively both staff morale and welfare, and the technical capacity of the Organization, as documented in a survey conducted by the Association of Professionals in 2018. We hope that the review of the programme, following the request of 160th Session of the Council, will see proper involvement and consultation of staff representatives and will lead to a revised mobility programme that enhances the technical capacity of the Organization while reconciling this with the aspirations and circumstances of staff.

Improved mechanisms for internal justice and conflict resolution, in which staff can have confidence, constitute another important cornerstone of rebuilding staff morale. We look forward to the creation of an independent and effective ombudsman function. We hope that this, combined with revitalized support to mediation procedures, can go a long way towards resolving many of the work place related conflicts and grievances that do occur at FAO. However, this must be supplemented by a strengthening of the currently under resourced Appeals Committee and effective measures to deal with harassment in all its forms.

We recognize efforts made so far to put in place better policies to deal with sexual harassment, but effective implementation and adequate information to staff is paramount for creating a system in which staff can have trust. The same applies to whistle blower protection. Staff need to feel confident that they can come forward and report instances of misconduct, as is their duty, without fear of retaliation of any sort. Again, effective and trusted implementation is as critical as the policy itself.

Of great concern to us is also the excessive use of Temporary Assistance Pool staff and Consultants in functions that are in reality continuing in nature. We wish to see more staff and less non-staff, as the latter category is being abused and people who carry out core functions of the Organization are left fearful for their future employment and without security or dignified working conditions.

Already in 2012, the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System in one of its reports drew attention to the problem of excessive use of consultants and other non-staff personnel, stating *inter alia*: "... policies and regulations do not always provide clear criteria for the use of these human resources, and the implementation of the policies is a matter of concern from the perspective of fair and socially responsible employment practices, particularly when individuals are working for extended periods of time under short-term non-staff contracts."

Critical for the implementation of good human resources policies is an effective Office of Human Resources that is also able to enter into a constructive dialogue with the recognized staff representatives. We need to invest in our Office of Human Resources, enabling it to devise and implement effective, sensible and humane human resources policies and not just execute orders from the Office of the Director-General. It has to be able to support staff and effectively provide the assistance they need in terms of social security and protection.

We need to ensure that it has the staff, in terms of numbers and skills, and the resources to make this happen. We need an Office of Human Resources that positively recognizes Staff Representatives and that actively seeks and promotes consultation and participation with them. Fundamentally FAO is its staff. While our intention is to interact constructively with our Office of Human Resources on a continuous basis, we also look forward to a regular dialogue with our new Director-General to allow a direct exchange of views and concerns.

On a slightly different note, we deeply regret that WFP has decided to discontinue the cooperation with FAO and IFAD on medical coverage for their staff and do their own separate tender for a new medical insurance contract. We find this lack of cooperation between the Rome-Based Agencies inexplicable. Naturally, we are also very concerned that this decision may have negative bearings on the medical insurance premiums and coverage of staff and retirees. We trust, nevertheless, that in this regard FAO will not fail in its duty of care towards its current and former staff and their families.

To conclude, we, as Staff Representatives of FAO, very much hope that the upcoming term of our new Director-General will see positive and trustful cooperation and constructive consultation and dialogue between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies in all matters of common concern.

The Union of General Service Staff and the Association of Professionals in FAO are ready to work together with the new Management to rebuild a culture of trust, respect and dignity among all colleagues.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, before closing the meetings, I have some announcements that I would like to remind you about.

May I request that the seven Members of the General Committee, the Chairpersons and other Members that the Third Meeting of the General Committee will take place at 14:30 in the Lebanon Room (Building D).

I wish to inform all delegates that the FAO Awards Ceremony will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre at 17:30 this afternoon.

I also wish to remind delegates of the side event on Zero Hunger in Europe and Central Asia: Progress on food security and nutrition stagnates in Europe and Central Asia, taking place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre, after this Plenary Meeting, at 12:30.

With regards to tomorrow, Thursday, as we have a special function, for those who have requested to attend the Papal Audience tomorrow morning at the Vatican, please remember that the bus service provided to and from the Vatican will leave from FAO, Building A, at 09.15 and will return to FAO headquarters at approximately 12.30.

In addition, on Thursday, the side event on Zero Hunger in Near East and North Africa, The Arab Region toward Zero Hunger: Challenges and Opportunities, will take place. This side event will be held in the Sheikh Zayed Centre at 12:30, tomorrow.

This brings us to the end of today's Plenary meeting. We will reconvene tomorrow afternoon on 27 June at 14:30.

Now we come to the end of this meeting. I have a request from Argentina who would like to take the floor.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Simplemente para consultar. ¿La única manera para llegar mañana a la Audiencia Papal es yendo con el bus, o sea, todos los que vamos a ir a la audiencia tenemos que estar acá a las 9.15?

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

May I suggest that if you want to go there, we request all delegates to take the bus and leave FAO at 09.15. That would be the best choice for all of us.

Thank you very much for your active participation, the meeting is adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12:32 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.32

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
27 June 2019

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 14.31 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 14 h 31
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena reunión a las 14.31
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la novena sesión plenaria.

Third Report of the General Committee Troisième rapport de la réunion du Bureau de la Conférence Tercer informe del Comité General (C 2019/LIM/19)

El Comité General se reunió ayer y preparó sus informes tercero y cuarto. El tercer informe contiene propuestas sobre los siguientes temas: Elección de miembros del Consejo y Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización. El tercer informe del Comité General figura en el documento C 2019/LIM/19.

A continuación repasaré el informe sección por sección.

Sección A: Elección de miembros del Consejo.

¿Alguna de las delegaciones quiere realizar algún comentario al respecto?

Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada esta sección. Pasamos ahora a la siguiente sección.

Sección B: Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización.

¿Alguien desea relajar algún comentario al respecto de la sección B?

Si no hay ningún comentario, puedo declarar el tercer informe del Comité General aprobado.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Fourth Report of the General Committee Quatrième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence Cuarto informe del Comité General (C 2019/LIM/20)

A continuación, revisaré el cuarto informe del Comité General sección por sección.

Asegúrense de que tienen el documento C 2019/LIM/20.

El cuarto informe contiene propuestas sobre los siguientes temas: Nombramiento del Director General, Derechos de voto, Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Premio José Graziano da Silva por el Hambre Cero, y Concesión de premios.

Sección A: Nombramiento del Director General.

¿Alguna de las delegaciones desean formular algún comentario? Declaro aprobada la sección A.

Pasamos ahora a la siguiente sección B: Derechos de voto.

¿Alguna de las delegaciones desea formular algún comentario sobre esta sección? Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada esta sección, incluidas las resoluciones que figuran en los apéndices A y B.

Sección C: Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Esta sección contiene un proyecto de resolución que se completará después de la elección, que tendrá lugar mañana por la mañana.

¿Alguien desea formular algún comentario sobre esta sección? Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada esta sección.

Sección D: Premio José Graziano da Silva por el Hambre Cero.

¿Alguien desea formular algún comentario sobre esta sección? Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada esta sección.

Sección E: Concesión de premios.

¿Alguien desea formular algún comentario sobre esta sección? Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro aprobada esta sección y, de hecho, puedo declarar aprobado el cuarto informe del Comité General.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je suis entièrement d'accord avec le rapport, mais j'aimerais bien souligner la question du prix que nous avons approuvé sur la Faim zéro en hommage à M. Graziano da Silva. Je veux seulement souligner l'excellent travail que le Directeur général a fait pendant ses deux mandats, avec des réformes et des innovations dans l'Organisation afin de consacrer plus d'attention aux problèmes de la faim et de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde, qui continuent d'affliger une partie importante de la population du globe, en particulier les enfants.

La vie professionnelle de M. Graziano da Silva était directement liée au thème de l'alimentation et de la faim et le sera dans le futur, que ce soit dans son pays en Amérique latine, en Afrique ou dans le monde en général. Pour cette raison, Monsieur le Président, je ne peux pas être exhaustif, seulement pour dire que l'Angola se sent satisfait de l'œuvre de M. Graziano da Silva.

Item 25. Audited Accounts 2016-17 (Draft Resolution)

Point 25. Comptes vérifiés 2016–2017 (projet de résolution)

Tema 25. Cuentas comprobadas de 2016-17 (proyecto de resolución)

(C 2019/5 A; C 2019/5 B; C 2019/6 A; C 2019/6 B; C 2019/LIM/3)

PRESIDENTE

Quisiera ahora aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar las gracias a todos los miembros del Comité General por su contribución a la labor de la Conferencia y por el espíritu de cooperación y la buena voluntad que han caracterizado los debates.

Pasamos al tema 25, *Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2016 y 2017 (proyectos de resolución)*. Por favor, asegúrense de que tienen los documentos pertinentes: C 2019/5 A; C 2019/5 B; C 2019/6 A; C 2019/6 B; C 2019/LIM/3.

Invito a la Sra. Dilek Macit, Subdirectora General responsable del Departamento de Servicios Internos, a presentar este tema.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant Director-General Corporate Services Department)

I am pleased to introduce Item 25: *Audited Accounts 2016 and 2017*.

Documents C 2019/5 A and C 2019/6 A, contain the official Financial Statements of the Organization for the years 2016 and 2017 respectively, together with the opinion of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements.

Part B of the documents present the Report of the External Auditor for each year, typically referred to as the *Long Form Report*.

I am pleased to inform the Conference that, as in previous years, the External Auditor has expressed an unmodified opinion on the 2016 and 2017 Financial Statements of the Organization.

Furthermore, FAO issued a Statement on Internal Control (SIC) for the first time with the 2017 financial statements. The Statement on Internal Control provides specific assurance on the effectiveness of internal control in FAO.

The results and official accounts of 2016 were examined by the Finance Committee at its 169th Session in November 2017, and by the Council at its 158th Session in December 2017.

The results and official accounts of 2017 were examined by the Finance Committee at its 173rd Session in November 2018, and by the Council at its 160th Session in December 2018.

I am pleased to report that the Organization has made good progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations of the External Auditor since the 173rd Session of the Finance Committee in November 2018. Twenty seven out of the forty-five outstanding recommendations, amounting to 60 percent, have been implemented.

The Audited Accounts for 2016 and 2017 are now before you for adoption, by approval of the Draft Resolutions submitted by Council in document C 2019/LIM/3.

PRESIDENTE

¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra en relación a este tema?

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia desea aprobar las Cuentas comprobadas correspondientes a 2016-2017?

Así queda acordado y con esto doy por concluido el tema 25.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Item 26. Scale of Contributions 2020-21 (Draft Resolution)
Point 26. Barème des contributions 2020–21 (projet de résolution)
Tema 26. Escala de cuotas para 2020-21 (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2019/LIM/6; C 2019/INF/8)

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, la Sra. Dilek Macit se quedará con nosotros para presentar el siguiente tema, que es el número 26: *Escala de cuotas para 2020-21 (proyecto de resolución)*.

Los documentos pertinentes llevan las signaturas C 2019/LIM/6 y C 2019/INF/8. Pido a La Sra. Macit que presente este tema.

Ms Dilek MACIT (Assistant Director-General Corporate Services Department)

The document before you sets out the proposed FAO Scale of Contributions for the years 2020-2021. This was derived from the United Nations Scale of Assessments in force during 2019. The 2018 and 2019 Scale is also shown for comparison purposes.

The proposed 2020-21 Scale of Contributions was reviewed by the Finance Committee at its 175th Session in March 2019, and by the Council at its 161st Session in April 2019.

The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council on the Scale of Contributions for 2020-21, as presented in document C 2019/LIM/6.

PRESIDENTE

Ahora pongo a consideración si algún delegado desea tomar la palabra sobre este tema.

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia desea aprobar la resolución relativa a la escala de cuotas para 2020-21 que figura en el documento C 2019/LIM/6?

Si es así, queda aprobado. Así queda decidido y se cierra el tema 26.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

- Item 27. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization**
Point 27. Paiement par l'Union européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation
Tema 27. Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización
 (C 2019/LIM/7)

PRESIDENTE

Continuamos ahora con el tema 27, *Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización*.

Puesto que en el tercer informe del Comité General C 2019/LIM/19, aprobado por la Conferencia esta misma tarde, se aborda este asunto, propongo que pasemos al tema 28.

- Item 28. Other Administrative, Financial and Legal Matters**
Point 28. Autres questions administratives, financières et juridiques
Tema 28. Otros asuntos administrativos, financieros y jurídicos
 (C 2019/LIM/14)

PRESIDENTE

En relación con el tema 28, *Otros asuntos administrativos, financieros y jurídicos*, se presenta a la Conferencia, para su aprobación, un proyecto de resolución titulado *Enmiendas a la Convención por la cual se integra en el marco de la FAO a la Comisión Internacional del Álamo*, que figura en el documento C 2019/LIM/14.

¿Algunos de los presentes desean formular algún comentario?

Tengo una solicitud de la delegación de Portugal, pero previamente le voy a pasar la palabra a nuestro Asesor legal para hacer algún comentario.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document which is before this plenary meeting of the Conference is C 2019/LIM/14.

The document is an extract from the *Report of the 161st Session of the Council of April 2019* and contains a Draft Conference Resolution entitled *Amendments to the Convention Placing the International Poplar Commission within the Framework of FAO*.

The Convention Placing the International Poplar Commission within the Framework of FAO was approved by the Conference of FAO in November 1959. It is a Convention concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

Just a few words to say that the Draft Resolution before the Conference is the culmination of a long process of negotiation over a reform of the International Poplar Commission, which was initiated in 2012. This reform process included, *inter alia*, an extension of the species covered under the Convention, an enhanced role for National Commissions and an increased reliance on extra-budgetary resources.

The proposed amendments to the Convention were discussed and reviewed by the Poplar Commission itself on a number of past occasions, as well as by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and the Council. The proposed amendments were approved by the Commission at a Special Session held in Rome on 6 February of this year.

Under the provisions of the Convention, amendments to the Convention are to be adopted by the Commission and that is a matter for the Commission and its Members/the Contracting Parties. However,

they become effective only with the concurrence of the Conference of FAO and after the concurrence of the Conference.

This is the purpose of this Draft Conference Resolution.

As I understand it, the Resolution is fully consensual and I would ask the Conference, through you, to adopt the Resolution. There are no particular procedural conditions involved in this Draft Resolution, which is to be adopted by consensus.

PRESIDENTE

Ahora le voy a dar la palabra a la delegación de Portugal.

Mr Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

I am honoured for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Portugal.

We have no opposition to the proposal of the adoption of these amendments by the Conference, however, we would like to draw this Conference's attention to some issues arising from the Draft Resolution on the Amendments to the Convention for reforming the International Poplar Commission (IPC).

Since 1959, when the Commission was created, outstanding developments concerning forest related questions have occurred; namely, after the 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). In particular, the older unidimensional approaches have been replaced by comprehensive frameworks that are better suited to deal with the complex and multidimensional nature of global forest related issues.

It is now consensual that the importance to prevent further fragmentation and to enhance coordination among international organizations, institutions and instruments, in order to address forestry issues. In that context, the role of the Poplar Commission regarding the global forestry issues, FAO's work on forestry, and on the agroforestry systems in general, must be properly addressed.

On the other hand, the budgetary constraints and the limits of human resources in multilateral organizations, as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts and to look for synergies amongst related instruments should be noted.

In this sense, a more comprehensive streamlining and modernisation of the IPC could have happened. Maybe it is no longer justifiable to have a Commission with such characteristics but, instead, its integration in the regular FAO structure could better fit the objectives.

We will wait for further developments and for the opportunity to engage constructively in the reform process. In the meantime, we would like to raise the two following questions for your consideration:

1. What will be the agenda and the timeline to proceed with the reform of the International Poplar Commission?
2. Considering the dramatic changes in the Commission's scope included in the Resolution, we are wondering if Commission Membership must be confirmed by a new ratification process, or if current Membership is supposed to apply to the new Convention?

PRESIDENTE

Le voy a pasar la palabra a nuestro Asesor legal para que haga algún comentario.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Some of the observations that have been raised by the representative of Portugal are, essentially, of a policy nature and they would need to be addressed in the context of the Commission. These types of issues were discussed during the process of negotiation of the reform of the Commission and may have contributed to the fact that this process took some time.

This issue should be discussed more appropriately in the context of the Commission. What I can say is that the Membership of the Commission, as it stands at present, is not affected by the amendments.

Therefore, the current Membership, and the Parties to the Convention, are those which are listed on the FAO website. The Director-General is the depository of this Convention and I am aware that some discussions took place on the topics that have been raised. However, eventually, last February the Commission approved the amendments and we are seeking the concurrence of the Conference for the entry into force of these amendments.

PRESIDENTE

Entiendo que el tema está respondido. ¿Hay alguien más que quiera hacer algún comentario? Si no hay más comentarios este tema quedaría aprobado.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Deseo presentar a continuación un breve informe sobre la documentación de este período de sesiones. Para el 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia se han publicado 38 documentos principales, incluidos algunos anexos para la Web y un documento suplementario; se han publicado 26 documentos en la página web de la Conferencia con más de dos meses de antelación al comienzo del período de sesiones. En total, 33 documentos estaban disponibles en línea para la fecha de publicación, el 13 de mayo de 2019.

- Item 9. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee**
Point 9. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
Tema 9. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(C 2019/10)

PRESIDENTE

Continuaremos ahora con el tema 9.

El documento pertinente lleva la signatura C 2019/10.

Tiene ahora la palabra el Sr. Fernando Serván, Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos, para informar a la Conferencia acerca de las candidaturas.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Quiero presentar el tema de agenda, explicando que como se presenta en los documentos es tarea de la Conferencia nombrar representantes para el Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO y del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Cada dos años, la Conferencia nombra dos representantes y dos alternos para el ciclo que comienza el año siguiente por una duración de tres años.

En esta oportunidad, se invita a la Conferencia a que nombre para el Comité de Pensiones del Personal integrantes que desempeñarán funciones del 1 de enero de 2020 al 31 de diciembre de 2022, un miembro y un suplente, y lo mismo para el siguiente período del 1 de enero de 2021 al 31 de diciembre de 2023. En total son cuatro nombramientos.

Se han recibido a través de nuestra oficina nominaciones de diferentes candidatos pero entiendo que ha habido en estos días un acuerdo entre los miembros para asegurar una adecuada representación regional y cubrir las plazas pertinentes. Tengo entendido que el Presidente tiene esta información. En todo caso la puedo proporcionar yo si es necesario.

PRESIDENTE

Se solicita a la Conferencia que examine las candidaturas y que si las considera aceptables proceda al nombramiento de las personas designadas para que pasen a ser miembros y miembros suplentes del Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO.

¿Puedo considerar que la Conferencia no tiene objeciones en la lista de candidatos que se acaban de revisar?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gracias, así queda acordado y con esto se completa el tema 9.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

First of all, before taking a decision on this Item of the Agenda, would it be possible to read out the list of Members and alternates who we are appointing?

The document that we have does not present the names of the candidates.

PRESIDENTE

Para contestar a la solicitud de la delegación de la Federación de Rusia voy a pasar la palabra al Secretario General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will have the list of names that was requested by the Russian Federation shortly, which will be announced by the Chairperson at the end of this Plenary Session. They will also, duly, be published on the website.

PRESIDENTE

Me pide nuevamente la palabra la Federación de Rusia.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

From a procedural point of view, I do not fully understand how we can confirm a list of individuals being appointed to the Committee if we do not have their names before us. Maybe we should defer this Item on the agenda until we do have that list of names before us.

PRESIDENTE

Como respuesta a la inquietud de la Federación de Rusia, le reitero que el tema no está cerrado en este momento. Volveremos a tomar este tema en unos minutos.

Item 30. Any Other Matters

Point 30. Autres questions

Tema 30. Asuntos varios

Item 30.2 In Memoriam

Point 30.2 In Memoriam

Tema 30.2 In Memoriam

La Conferencia ha rendido tradicionalmente homenaje a los funcionarios que fallecieron en servicio activo desde el período de sesiones anterior.

A continuación, leeré los nombres de los funcionarios a quienes honraremos con un minuto de silencio.

Desde el último período de sesión de la Conferencia, han fallecido los siguientes funcionarios en servicio activo:

- Sra. Galina Chus
- Sr. Francisco Jose Gamarro
- Sr. Rajesh Thapa
- Sr. Ibrahima Niang

- Sr. Amadu Tidjane Sabali
- Sr. Fawzi Fakhri Ratib Karajeh
- Sr. El-Zein Mustafa Mustafa El-Muzamil
- Sr. Timothy Trant Martyn
- Sr. Patrick Oguru Otto
- Sra. Andrea Dolores Jordan
- Sr. Antonio Caravaggi Mazzonna
- Sr. Klaus Urban

La Organización también lamenta la pérdida de varios colegas estrechamente vinculados con la familia de la FAO que perdieron la vida trágicamente cuando un avión de pasajeros se estrelló cerca de Addis Abeba en marzo de este año.

La FAO perdió a los siguientes colegas en este terrible incidente:

- Sra. Joanna Toole
- Sra. Gachi De Luis
- Sr. Peter De Marsh
- Sra. Suzan Abul Farag
- Sra. Esmat Orensa
- Sra. María Pilar Buzzetti

Recordamos también a los siete miembros fallecidos del personal del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA). Compartimos el luto por su pérdida.

¿Puedo pedir a los Miembros de la Asamblea que se pongan de pie y guarden un minuto de silencio en homenaje a los funcionarios, colegas y amigos que fallecieron desde el último período de sesiones de la Conferencia, en 2017?

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

En relación con el tema *Asuntos varios*, también se ofrece a los delegados la oportunidad de tomar la palabra sobre un documento de información titulado *Tratados multilaterales depositados en poder del Director General C 2019/INF/5*.

¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra en relación con este documento?

¿Alguien desea intervenir en relación con el tema *Asuntos varios*?

Con esto se dará por concluido el tema 30.

Item 29. Date and Place of the 42nd Session of the Conference
Point 29. Date et lieu de la quarante deuxième session de la Conférence
Tema 29. Fecha y lugar del 42.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Esto nos lleva al último tema de nuestro programa para hoy, el número 29, "*Fecha y lugar del 42.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia*", que exige que esta fije las fechas de su próximo período de sesiones.

Las fechas propuestas para el próximo período de sesiones de la Conferencia son del lunes 12 de julio al viernes 16 de julio de 2021 en la sede de Roma.

¿Está de acuerdo la Conferencia con la propuesta de celebrar el 42.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO del lunes 12 de julio al viernes 16 de julio de 2021?

Sr. Marco Vinicio VARGAS PEREIRA (Costa Rica)

La delegación de Costa Rica, que presido en este momento, quisiera transmitir a usted, Señor Presidente, su deseo de que el mensaje de su Santidad el Papa Francisco a todos los delegados reunidos en la Sala Regia el día de hoy en horas de la mañana quede incorporado al *verbatim* del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Estoy seguro de que mis palabras encaran también el deseo, y la manera positiva de así acogerlo, de otras delegaciones aquí presentes.

PRESIDENTE

¿Está de acuerdo la Conferencia con la propuesta de celebrar el 42.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO del lunes 12 de julio al viernes 16 de julio de 2021 en Roma?

Así queda aprobado.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Item 9. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (continued)

Point 9. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (suite)

Tema 9. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (continuación)

(C 2019/10)

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, tal cual le prometimos hacia un momento a la delegación de la Federación de Rusia, vamos a volver al tema 9 y a tal efecto le voy a dar de vuelta la palabra al Señor Serván.

Sr. Fernando SERVÁN (Director de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos)

Se nos ha informado de que se han propuesto los siguientes candidatos en calidad de miembros y miembros suplentes en representación de la Conferencia de la FAO ante el Comité de Pensiones del Personal:

La Sra. Kelli Ketover, Representante Permanente Suplente de la Misión de los Estados Unidos de América ante los organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, en calidad de miembro desde el 1.º de enero de 2020 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2022;

El Sr. Anton Minaev, Representante Permanente Suplente de la Federación de Rusia ante la FAO, en calidad de miembro suplente desde el 1.º de enero de 2020 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2022;

La Excm. Sra. María Cristina Boldorini, Representante Permanente de la República Argentina ante la FAO, en calidad de miembro desde el 1.º de enero de 2021 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2023;

El Sr. Thanawat Tiensin, Representante Permanente de Tailandia ante la FAO, en calidad de miembro suplente desde el 1.º de enero de 2021 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2023.

PRESIDENTE

Entiendo que con esto estaría contestada la pregunta de la delegación de la Federación de Rusia.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

Thank you very much for responding so quickly and presenting the list. From our side, we would like to express gratitude to the representatives of all countries who have made the utmost efforts and

flexibility with a view of finding a compromise solution, allowing us to avoid an unnecessary vote on this issue. Personally, I would also like to thank the representatives of the Secretariat who provided assistance.

PRESIDENTE

Hemos avanzado rápido en la tarde de hoy, la idea es que sigamos avanzando en el temario. Yo les voy a proponer que tomemos cinco minutos, solamente un corte para ordenar la documentación y continuamos con la Plenaria.

Sr. Macro Vinicio VARGAS PEREIRA (Costa Rica)

En el tema 30 pedimos la palabra, pero parece que la Presidencia no se percibió que la habíamos pedido. Entonces, ya hice la petición, pero no hubo ninguna respuesta a la petición de esta delegación.

PRESIDENTE

Si perdón, tiene usted razón. Usted hizo un petitorio, es decir, incluir el mensaje de Papa Francisco en las actas literales de esta sesión. Entiendo que no habría problema, salvo que unos de los delegados desean expresarse y hacer algún comentario. Perdóneme, pero esto fue mi responsabilidad. Le pido disculpa.

Reitero, tomamos un corte de cinco minutos, ordenamos la documentación y continuamos con la Plenaria para seguir avanzando.

The meeting was suspended from 15:54 to 16:25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 54 à 16 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.54 a las 16.25

Item 24 (part of)	Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2020-21 (vote)
Point 24 (partiel)	Adoption du projet de résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2020-2021 (vote)
Tema 24 (en parte)	Aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2020-21 (votación)

(C 2019/II/REP)

PRESIDENTE

Procederemos ahora a la aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2020-2021.

Quisiera recordar que la Conferencia tiene la obligación reglamentaria de aprobar este proyecto de resolución mediante votación.

Por consiguiente, quiero invitar a la Subsecretaria General que explique cómo votará la Conferencia sobre la resolución presupuestaria, que figura en el documento C 2019/II/Draft Report en relación con el tema 24.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Article XVIII, Paragraph 5 of the Constitution, decisions on the level of the budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, Paragraph 7 and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) a nominal vote, which is a vote that records the names of the Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the vote cast is required. Votes cast means affirmative and negative votes, and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of the affirmative and negative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and votes against should be at least 98. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Before proceeding to a vote, it is necessary to check whether there is a quorum. In order to establish the quorum, could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As we have not reached the required quorum for this decision, for the moment the Chairperson would suggest that we move on to the next Agenda item and come back to this item later today or, perhaps, tomorrow.

Sra. Karla Gabriela SAMAYOA RECARI (Guatemala)

Quisiera solo aclarar que en la mañana se aprobó una agenda, es por eso que no hay quórum porque lo que se aprobó es que estas votaciones se iban a hacer el día de mañana. Entonces, la gente que va a venir a la Conferencia para votar tiene en su cabeza que esto, como dice la agenda, se va a ver mañana. Si hubiéramos querido hacer un cambio, se tuvo que haber hecho hoy al empezar la reunión y aprobar la Agenda. Por lo que mi delegación pide que el tema se vea mañana en la mañana, como debería de ser.

PRESIDENTE

Creo que no hay problema, es entendible. Al cerrar hace un rato, yo pregunté si había objeciones en continuar, entendí que no había pero si no hay quorum, usted tiene razón y no hay ningún problema.

Item 8. Election of Council Members
Point 8. Élection des membres du Conseil
Tema 8. Elección de miembros del Consejo
(C 2019/11)

PRESIDENTE

Seguiremos con el trabajo que teníamos previsto. Pasaremos ahora al tema 8 del programa: *Elección de miembros del Consejo*.

Tienen ante ustedes el documento C 2019/11 y el Diario que contiene un gráfico de los países designados por región y período electoral. Con arreglo al párrafo 10 (a), el artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización (RGO), si el número de candidatos no es superior al número de vacantes que deben cubrirse, la elección de los miembros del Consejo puede llevarse a cabo por claro consenso general.

Por consiguiente, propongo que llevemos a cabo la elección de los candidatos por claro consenso general cuando para una región no haya más candidatos que puestos vacantes.

Si ninguna delegación desea formular comentarios o pedir aclaraciones al respecto, procederemos a la elección.

Sra. Maria Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Simplemente para retomar lo mencionado por la delegada de Guatemala. Este tema, consulto, ¿no está previsto para ser considerado en la agenda de mañana? Es una consulta, retomando lo mencionado, porque a lo mejor hay delegaciones que querían estar presentes y no están. No quiero obstruir el funcionamiento de la Conferencia, pero me parece que estaba en la agenda mañana.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Just to speak in support of the observations made by Guatemala and Argentina, if we do decide to go forward, we are not objecting if colleagues adopt this by consensus, however, after it is adopted by consensus, the United States of America would like to take the floor.

PRESIDENTE

Tenemos aquí distintos planteos, es cierto, y habíamos dicho que hoy podríamos avanzar. La Presidencia no tiene ningún problema. Yo pongo a consideración de la Asamblea si este punto lo

quieren resolver ahora o quieren directamente dejarlo para mañana. Como ustedes quieran, yo lo pongo a consideración de ustedes. La Asamblea es soberana.

Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

Since the different regions proposed the exact number of countries as the places for the Council, we understand that we should be efficient in this Plenary and move ahead. We understand that the other item, as observed by the delegation of Guatemala, of course, requires a quorum and was not announced for this Session.

Therefore, we should either wait for quorum in this Session or, most probably, do so tomorrow morning. However, in terms of the elections to the Council, we understand that we have the same number of candidates for the places, therefore we could move ahead.

PRESIDENTE

Me parece que en aras de avanzar y terminar lo más rápido posible, nos complicamos un poco. La propuesta es que revisemos nuevamente el quorum y ver si lo tenemos en este momento. Han venido delegaciones nuevas. Si tenemos quorum, tomaremos luego la decisión si avanzamos o no pero, obviamente, necesitamos tener quorum si no, no es posible.

Por lo tanto, yo le sugeriría de vuelta a hacer el nuevo ejercicio, a ver cuál es el quorum que tenemos. Le pido a todas las delegaciones que pulsen el botón verde para identificar sus presencia y a ver cuál es el quorum que tenemos, así todos podemos estar tranquilos de que estamos respetando los protocolos que tenemos en la Plenaria.

Quorum confirmed
Quorum vérifié
Quorum confirmado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Creo que sí tenemos quorum ahora.

Pero de cualquier manera continuemos con el tema 8 del programa, que era el que estamos debatiendo. El otro ya lo dejamos, después decidimos qué hacemos.

Concretamente, la última palabra que se la di fue a Brasil y Brasil propuso que avanzáramos, por lo tanto, si no hay más delegaciones que quieran formular comentarios al respecto, procederemos a elegir.

Si no hay comentarios, lo damos por aprobado. Queda resuelto el tema 8.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

This is in connection with the recent consensus reached on FAO Council Members.

On instruction from my capital, we disassociate from consensus regarding the inclusion on the FAO Council of Cuba from 1 July 2020 until the end of the 43rd Conference.

The United States is concerned that Cuba continues to routinely disregard the fundamental freedoms and human rights of its citizens, relying on a range of tactics including harassment, physical threats, arbitrary arrests and detention, and other restrictions on the lawful movement and activity of peaceful activists, dissidents, journalists and other members of Cuba's independent society.

For these reasons, and others, the United States must disassociate from consensus on this issue as we do in all UN fora around the world.

PRESIDENTE

Terminamos el punto 8. Recibimos la aclaración de Estados Unidos de América. Estaríamos en condiciones de volver al punto anterior porque estamos con quorum. Deseo poner a su consideración, si ustedes están de acuerdo, en volver al punto anterior. Estamos con quorum suficiente.

Sra. Rebeca CUTIÉ CANCINO (Cuba)

En respuesta al delegado de Estados Unidos de América, le decimos que el Comité General ha examinado las candidaturas recibidas dentro del plazo y ha constatado la regularidad de las candidaturas siguientes.

Nosotros le recordamos a los Estados Unidos de América, que nos preocupa mucho que su gobierno cada vez ejerce más sanciones económicas arbitrarias, unilaterales contra más de 70 países del mundo, que tienen 800 bases militares en todo el mundo y que ejercen una hostilidad y una agresividad, y que se caracterizan, en sobre todo su gobierno, por violar el derecho a la alimentación. No estamos en el Consejo de Derechos Humanos y le pedimos no politizar este foro y esta Conferencia.

Si los Estados Unidos de América tuvieran una actitud civilizada, pudieran entablar negociaciones con Cuba a través del diálogo y la solución pacífica de los conflictos. A nosotros nos preocupa mucho la violación de los derechos humanos contra poblaciones negras y otras poblaciones dentro de los Estados Unidos de América, además de su mantenida hostilidad contra todos los países en desarrollo. Hay 70 países del mundo que tienen sanciones económicas unilaterales aplicadas por ese gobierno hostil que se caracteriza, sobre todo, por su injerencia en los asuntos internos de todos los Estados Miembros.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

No entiendo con qué autoridad moral los Estados Unidos de América se atreven a hablar de que en Cuba se violan los derechos humanos, como lo decía la compañera cubana, cuando ellos tienen más de 800 bases militares en todo el mundo donde están atropellando concretamente no solo a Cuba, sino a más de 70 países.

En el caso nuestro de Venezuela, nos tienen bloqueadas cuentas en todo el mundo y aquí en Europa contribuyen con los bancos presionándolos y donde tenemos más de 6 000 millones de EUR bloqueados en los bancos de los Estados Unidos de América también. Realmente, para nosotros esto es una cuestión que es totalmente inaceptable, como es igual para la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo, que están siendo sometidos.

Quisiera aprovechar para recordar aquella frase de Simón Bolívar en 1829 que decía: “Los Estados Unidos parecen destinados por la Providencia para plagar la América de miseria en nombre de la libertad.” Así que rechazamos totalmente las palabras del delegado de los Estados Unidos de América en contra de Cuba y pedimos a esta Conferencia que apruebe esto de una manera unánime, por supuesto, sin los Estados Unidos de América.

Item 24 (part of)	Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2020-21 (vote) (continued)
Point 24 (partiel)	Adoption du projet de résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2020-2021 (vote) (suite)
Tema 24 (en parte)	Aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2020-21 (votación) (continuación)

(C 2019/II/REP)

PRESIDENTE

Luego de estos comentarios, le pido al Plenario si está de acuerdo de volver al tema 24, en función de los planteos que hicieron de que estaban en el orden del día de ayer. Como tenemos mayoría, les pido

que se expresen si quieren tratarlo ahora, si esa sería la voluntad, solamente en aras de adelantar lo que se pueda en la reunión Plenaria.

Si hay algún comentario, les pido que lo hagan en este momento.

Si no hay comentarios, por lo tanto, entiendo que el Plenario aprueba que tratemos en este momento el tema 24 que tiene que ver con el Proyecto de resoluciones para las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2020 y 2021.

Necesitamos votar aquí, ya hicimos el ejercicio, le paso la palabra a la Subsecretaria General. ¿No sé si quieren retomar este tema, hacer un comentario más? Si no pasaríamos directamente a la votación.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Before proceeding to a vote, it is necessary to determine a quorum. Therefore, in order to establish the quorum, could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk?

PRESIDENTE

Por favor, les pido un poquito de atención. Estamos muy justos con el quorum. Hace un momento estábamos con quorum. En este momento no estamos llegando. Les pido a todos, por favor que presten atención, que opriman el botón verde, si alguno se olvidó de hacerlo.

Como ven en la pantalla, nos están faltando algunos para tener quorum y hace un momento lo teníamos. Capaz que se retiró alguna delegación. Pero por favor, pongamos un poco de atención a ver si efectivamente llegamos al quorum necesario. Nos está faltando una delegación que esté presente y que oprima el botón verde.

Los que llegaron, si pueden apretar el botón verde les agradecemos.

Quorum confirmed
Quorum vérifié
Quorum confirmado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

As we can see on the screen, there are at least 98 delegations present in the Plenary Hall. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution, set out in Document C 2019/II/Draft Report under Item 24.

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. Green, if they wish to vote in favour. Red if they wish to vote against. Yellow if they wish to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote
Vote
Votación

PRESIDENTE

Atención, según el quorum, nos está faltando un voto. Hay una delegación que aún no votó. Por favor, el que no haya votado, que lo haga a la brevedad posible.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Tengo dos delegaciones que me están pidiendo la palabra, la delegación de Panamá en primer lugar.

Sra. Angélica María JACOMA (Panama)

Desafortunadamente aquí hay delegaciones que no pudieron votar en esta resolución porque estaba programado para mañana. Me permito sugerir que para la próxima Conferencia si se piensa adelantar la sesión que, por favor, como mínimo se comunique a través de un correo electrónico para que estén todas las delegaciones presentes. Pues es una resolución muy importante y todos quisiéramos participar en la adopción de la misma.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Nigeria delayed voting because as the Chair of the Africa Regional Group, we had an issue raised in Commission I and, also, with the Drafting Committee of Commission I. That is that even though we support the adoption of this budget, we want the Conference to take note and be reminded that a proposal from the Africa Regional Conference should be considered so that the budget could be adjusted to accommodate the request to make sure that the Country Representatives of FAO to Africa be upgraded from P4 to P5 and above.

Sra. Karla Gabriela SAMAYOA RECARI (Guatemala)

Solo quisiéramos dejar la declaración que las mismas líneas de Panamá. Nos parece muy triste que el primer presupuesto del nuevo Director General sea aprobado con un voto mínimo y justo porque las delegaciones no estaban presentes. Creo que la próxima vez deberíamos tomar en cuenta mucha de la gente que hubiera votado a favor no está aquí creyendo que el único voto que se hace dentro de esta Conferencia iba a ser el día de mañana. Así que solo quisiéramos que quedará en actas.

Jemina Kokot MOENG (South Africa)

South Africa wants to align itself with the proposition from Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Region. The fact is that we are well represented in FAO, however, the focus should be on having more National Representatives placed at a better and senior levels. Hence, we want that to be noted in our support for the Budgetary Report.

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, le pido al Secretario General que lea los resultados. Deseo señalar que la hoja de resultados se incluirá en las actas literales de este período de sesiones.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Votes Cast:

98.

Votes for:

98.

Votes against:

0.

Abstentions:

0.

The Resolution is adopted.

PRESIDENTE

Queda así aprobada la resolución.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединённых Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

27/06/2019 04:59:32 PM

Vote on: Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2020-21
Vote sur:
Votación para:

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	98 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	66
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	98
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Niue, North Macedonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

 27/6/2019

Rule XII.3(c) RGO: Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Article XII.3(c) RGO: Sous réserve des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article XX de l'Acte constitutif, lorsqu'en vertu dudit acte ou du présent règlement une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des États Membres de l'Organisation. Si ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la proposition est considérée comme rejetée.

Artículo XII.3(c) RGO: Con sujeción a las disposiciones del párrafo 1 del Artículo XX de la Constitución, cuando esta o el presente Reglamento exijan para una decisión de la Conferencia una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos, el total de votos a favor o en contra deberá sumar más de la mitad de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Si no se cumplen estas condiciones, la propuesta se considerará rechazada.

Item 7. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council
Point 7. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
Tema 7. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo
 (C 2019/9)

PRESIDENTE

A continuación, seguiremos con el tema 7, *Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo*. Con arreglo al párrafo 2, del artículo 5 de la Constitución, la Conferencia nombra al Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Según se menciona en el documento C 2019/9 tenemos un candidato al puesto, a saber, el Señor Khalid Mehboob de Pakistán.

Con arreglo al párrafo 10.A del artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización (RGO), referente al quorum y los mecanismos de votación en las sesiones de la Conferencia y el Consejo.

Dado que solo hay un candidato para el puesto de Presidente Independiente del Consejo, propongo, teniendo también en cuenta la recomendación del Comité General, que la Conferencia nombre al único candidato, el Señor Khalid Mehboob, por aclamación.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Me siento muy complacido de felicitar al Señor Khalid Mehboob por su reelección para el puesto de Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Le deseo tenga éxito en la continuación de su buen trabajo en esta función tan exigente. ¿Desea alguna delegación tomar la palabra?

Mr Nadeem RIYAZ (Pakistan)

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all FAO Member States for their support in the re-election of Mr Khalid Mehboob as the Independent Chair of the FAO Council (ICC).

As you are all aware, Mr Mehboob has over 50 years of association with FAO. He is a walking encyclopaedia, having attended 25 Sessions of the FAO Conference. His knowledge, sagacity and wisdom are well known.

As the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Mehboob consistently and effectively facilitated consensus among the Membership of the Organization through his broad vision and strong leadership. His considerable experience enabled him to contribute effectively to the overall governance process of FAO and the FAO Council in particular. His achievements include notable improvements to the process of the FAO Council, implemented in line with consensus he facilitated among Members.

In line with his mandate as the ICC, he successfully chaired open ended working groups, friends of the Chair, and bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Over the last two years, he worked to increase Members' participation and contributed towards renewed and increased cooperation and trust among Member countries.

Mr Mehboob is a strong advocate of close collaboration among the RBAs. I am convinced that he will offer valuable advice to the new Director-General for the advancement of FAO to achieve its objectives. The re-election of Mr Mehboob is testimony to the confidence Member States have in his leadership and guidance abilities.

Thank you for this confidence. I am positive that you all will continue to support him over the coming two years in discharging his duties.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)

Thailand has the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia Group to pass to Mr Khalid Mehboob, our warm and sincere congratulations for his re-appointment as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

We are all aware of the task ahead to be achieved, by working together, by consensus, by productive dialogue and in the context of ongoing reform. We are thankful to him for maintaining this important task with his spirit, openness and negotiation skills as the Independent Chairperson of the Council for the last two years. With his outstanding performance in the past, we are highly confident that he will discharge his task and bring about positive contributions to the benefit of the Organization and the Member States to the best of his ability.

Finally, we wish him every success in his position and assure that he may count on the support and cooperation of the Asia Regional Group.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

The Europe Regional Group would like to congratulate Mr Mehboob for this re-election. We are happy to continue the very good collaboration with him and, especially, we would like to mention his active work in developing the Council's working methods.

We have had a very good discussion in the informal ICC meetings and we look forward to continuing this work. We wish him success in his work and the European Regional Group continues to support him very much.

PRESIDENTE

Señor Khalid Mehboob, ya lo felicité pero quiero ahora ofrecerle el uso de la palabra.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Independent Chair of the Council)

I am deeply honoured by the confidence you have placed in me today by electing me for a second term of office as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to all of you. Please allow me to also express my appreciation to my Government, the Government of Pakistan, for nominating me for this second mandate. The support you have expressed today reflects the unfailing cooperation and collaborative spirit that has characterized our work together over the past two years and I am most grateful to all of you for that.

It is also a challenge for me to fulfil your expectations. As I mentioned in my statement on Monday morning, my long history with FAO, both in various senior level positions and participation in the governing process of FAO, has provided me with first-hand experience and knowledge which will enable me to contribute towards the effective continuity between the outgoing Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva and the incoming Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu.

In my second term of office, I will continue to work towards consensus building through effective consultation and renewed and increased cooperation and trust among all FAO Members in order to contribute positively and effectively to the overall governance process of the Organization.

It will also build on the many achievements reached with regard to the improved working methods of the Council which have resulted in more effective and streamlined decision making during Sessions. These improvements have also notably led to increased Member involvement in agenda setting and increased and improved Member consultation on important governance issues.

Mr Chairperson, Rome-based Agency (RBA) collaboration will continue to be a priority for me, and I will positively support efforts for the increased collaboration and contribution towards the common goals of eradicating hunger and reducing poverty. I also look forward to continuing to actively participate in the preparation of the Annual Joint RBA Informal Meeting of the three Governing Bodies.

Finally, the many positive achievements during my first term of office were the fruit of joint efforts by all concerned, namely Members, the Chairpersons and Members of the Council, Committees and Chairpersons, and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

In particular, I wish to highlight the support provided by the Director-General José Graziano da Silva and for this, I am grateful. I look forward to continuing this positive relationship with Dr Qu Dongyu.

Looking to the future, I envisage our continued collective engagement in rising to the challenges placed before the Council. Once again, my most sincere appreciation to all of you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Onyoti ADIGO NYIKWEC (South Sudan)

On behalf of the Government of South Sudan, and on behalf of the G77 and China, I would also like to congratulate Mr Khalid Mehboob for his second term of office, which I think will add value to the Organization with his experience over the past year.

We will be very thankful and will cooperate with him and will be able to move forward for direct action on hunger and poverty among our people.

PRESIDENTE

Quiero especialmente y personalmente agradecerle el esfuerzo, la comprensión, por avanzar en esta reunión Plenaria del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Lo mismo, les pido a ustedes alguna disculpa por algún inconveniente por tratar de avanzar en la temática. Agradezco también a los funcionarios y quienes nos han ayudado en esto.

Con esto estamos concluyendo esta sesión plenaria. Nos volveríamos a encontrar aquí mañana a las 11.00 de la mañana con la adopción del informe del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia, así como la adopción de los informes de las dos Comisiones.

Nuevamente, les agradezco por el apoyo y la comprensión. Espero que tengan una feliz tarde. Nos vemos mañana a las once de la mañana. Se levanta la sesión.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 17:19 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 19

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.19

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE
CONFERENCIA

<p>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</p>
<p>TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>28 June 2019</p>

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 11:19 hours
Mr Enzo Benech,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 11 h 19
sous la présidence de M. Enzo Benech
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima reunión a las 11.19
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Enzo Benech,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la decima sesión plenaria. Esta mañana aprobaremos los informes de las Comisiones y del Pleno.

Asegúrense de que tienen los tres informes presentados para su aprobación:

El informe C 2019/REP del Pleno contiene los temas debatidos en las sesiones plenarias.

El informe C 2019/I/REP de la Comisión I contiene los temas correspondientes a la Comisión I.

El informe C 2019/II/REP de la Comisión II contiene los temas correspondientes a la Comisión II, incluido el tema 24, con la resolución sobre las Consignaciones Presupuestarias para 2020-2021 aprobada por la Conferencia ayer por la tarde.

Quisiera recordar a la Conferencia que las sugerencias de cambios de redacción en las versiones de los distintos idiomas, deberían transmitirse a la Secretaría después de la reunión.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I
(C 2019/I/PLENARY/REP)**

Ahora, quisiera invitar a la Presidenta de la Comisión I, Excelentísima Señora Marie-Therèse Sarch, del Reino Unido, a presentar el informe final de esa Comisión. Asegúrense de que tienen el informe C2019/I/REP relativo a los temas abordados en la Comisión I.

Ms Terri SARCH (Chairperson of Commission I)

It is a pleasure for me to speak to you on behalf of Commission I for the adoption of its report and I would like to thank you again for entrusting me with the responsibility of Chairing this Commission.

I would also like to thank all the Members for their interventions which led us to productive discussions on the many items on our Agenda. Let me highlight the spirit of consensus and mutual respect shown by Commission I during our debates. I would also like to thank Members for the concise nature of the conclusions we agreed upon.

With this, I present the report that was adopted by Commission I, with an amendment that is already reflected in Paragraph 1 of the report.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION II
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II
(C 2019/II/PLENARY/REP)**

PRESIDENTE

En cuanto al informe de la Comisión II, quisiera recordar a los delegados que la Conferencia aprobó la Resolución sobre las Consignaciones Presupuestarias para 2020-2021 en su 9ª Sesión Plenaria celebrada ayer.

Ahora, ruego al Presidente de la Comisión II, Señor Bommakanti Rajender, de la India, que presente el Informe final de esa Comisión. Asegúrense de que tienen el informe C 2019/II/REP.

Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (Chairperson of Commission II)

It has been an honour for me to have Chaired Commission II at the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. I would first like to thank the two Vice-Chairpersons of Commission II, Mr Inge Nordang from Norway and Ms Jeanne Dambendzet from Congo.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Mr Thomas Duffy from the United States of America, who successfully led the discussions of the Drafting Committee to reach consensus on all items of the report of the Commission. I extend my thanks to all the members of the Drafting Committee.

My sincere thanks go to all the Members of the Commission II who have contributed to making the work of the Commission a success.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat, Mr David McSherry and Mr Ahmed Jilani and the representatives of the FAO management who have supported us in our work.

Yesterday the report of Commission II was adopted by the Commission. It is now presented to the Conference for its adoption in document C 2019/II/REP.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF PLENARY
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME
(C 2019/PLENARY/REP)**

PRESIDENTE

Continuaremos ahora con los informes relativos a los temas examinados en el Pleno y que figuran en el documento C 2019/REP.

¿Alguna delegación desea tomar la palabra sobre la sección del informe relativa a los temas abordados en el Pleno?

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

I want to make some comments on the adoption yesterday with respect to having just the minimal number of people to vote for the budget, 98. Mr Chairperson, your dexterity, commitment and your robust way of conducting the meeting of the Conference have been exemplary and that is well acknowledged by Members.

Permit me to say that yesterday the last vote to reach the minimum number of 98 for the quorum was delayed by Nigeria because we still had some issues. Indeed with respect to staff deployed in Africa, it was finally agreed in Commission I and with the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee to include in the report, the request of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) that the grade for country representatives of FAO be set at P5 or above.

My concern is that the following should be included in the report: Although the Ambassadors of Argentina and Guatemala did suggest that more Members would have voted for the budget today if the original schedule had been kept, however, that did not happen. The possible insinuation would be that the incoming Director-General will start his mandate with a budget that was approved with the minimum possible votes. As it is, I want to humbly suggest that this scenario should be well reflected in the Report of the Conference so that it will not be misunderstood in the future.

M. Lamourdia THIOMBIANO (Burkina Faso)

L'observation du Burkina Faso porte sur le point 1 de la Commission I. La traduction de ce point 1 en français ne reflète pas le même contenu que la version anglaise. Je lis: «La Conférence a fait sien le rapport et a pris note des recommandations qui y figurent, ainsi que des interrogations soulevées au sujet de l'ancienneté des représentants de la FAO». Au lieu du terme «ancienneté», il faudrait inscrire «grade des représentants», parce qu'il y a une nuance quand même importante. Nous souhaiterions donc que cette observation puisse être prise en compte comme amendement à la version qui nous est présentée. Il en est de même pour les termes «classe P5», il s'agit de «grade P5».

PRESIDENTE

Para las dos delegaciones que hablaron les digo, a Nigeria, tomaremos debida cuenta de su preocupación y Burkina Faso que habla sobre dificultades sobre la traducción, nuestros servicios tomarán nota de eso y corregirán el texto.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Nous sommes satisfaits d'une manière globale de la manière dont vous dirigez notre Conférence et nous le sommes tous, car je ne pense pas que quelqu'un ne soit pas content d'avoir pu bénéficier d'une journée puisque nous terminerons certainement nos travaux avec un jour d'avance. C'est un élément important de la gestion du temps, dont nous vous sommes, Monsieur le Président, tout à fait gré.

Maintenant, je voudrais appuyer ce que le Nigéria a dit tout à l'heure, en y apportant des éléments complémentaires. Je pense que nous enverrions un mauvais message aux pays en disant que le Directeur général élu commencera son travail avec un budget adopté par le strict minimum, car, dans les pays, c'est seulement le rapport que l'on verra avec 98 Membres votants.

Ceci est inédit, Monsieur le Président, et je le dis en connaissance de cause. C'est bien un fait inédit que le budget ait été approuvé avec juste le quorum. Cela nous gêne, car ce message ira dans les capitales et n'est pas bon non plus pour le nouveau Directeur général élu. Nous souhaitons qu'il en soit fait mention, et je pense que le Nigéria l'a dit, dans le rapport de la Conférence: cette adoption, ce vote s'est ainsi fait parce que le point en question de l'ordre du jour a été avancé d'une journée, et qu'il a fallu travailler pour obtenir le quorum. Sans cette mention, Monsieur le Président, les États examineront le rapport dans sa formule brute et n'auront pas la possibilité d'analyser, de savoir ce qu'il s'est passé entretemps.

En ce qui concerne le commentaire du Burkina Faso, Monsieur le Président, ce n'est pas seulement une question de traduction, mais c'est le concept même qu'il faudrait retoucher. Nous ne parlons pas ici d'ancienneté, mais de grade ou de niveau d'ancienneté. Donc nous parlons bien de grade et nous pensons que cette correction sera faite au moment où nous recevrons le rapport final.

Cela dit, Monsieur le Président, nous tenons à vous féliciter pour la conduite de notre Conférence, que vous menez avec beaucoup de dextérité, et nous en sommes heureux.

PRESIDENTE

Lo mismo que las delegaciones anteriores, tomaremos debida nota de su preocupación. Entiendo que no hay comentarios.

Por lo tanto, quiero proponer que los informes de las Comisiones I y II y del Pleno se aprueben en bloque. Al no haber más comentarios, así queda decidido.

Report of Commision I adopted**Rapport de la Commission I adopté****Informe de la Comisión I aprobado****Report of Commision II adopted****Rapport de la Commission II adopté****Informe de la Comisión II aprobado****Report of the Plenary adopted****Rapport de la Plenièrè adopté****Informe de la Plenaria aprobado**

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I am sorry to intervene at this moment. I had understood that we were going through the Report of Commission I and II and I had not understood that we had already considered the Plenary Report for this morning.

But there is one issue that we would like to raise on behalf of Her Excellency, our Ambassador, Alexandra Bugailiskis who cannot be here today, but in her capacity as teller there is one issue that she would like to raise, which reflects an agreement that happened on Sunday. Looking at the Report of the Conference, that agreement is not reflected. It is under Item 6, *Appointment of the Director-General*. It is unclear to us.

It was unclear to us what the procedure was to have this reflected, but given that she was there and there was an agreement that this should be noted, we would like at this point to make an intervention and propose that the following wording be added under Item 6, probably under paragraph 2 or a new paragraph.

This would read: “The Conference notes that during the election for the position of Director-General of FAO on Sunday 23 June, one delegate ostensibly showed their ballot paper to the Plenary, thereby violating the secrecy of the vote under Rule XII, Paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization of FAO. It was recognised that this occurrence does not question the validity of the ballot.”

PRESIDENTE

Yo le pediría a Zimbabwe, en calidad de otro escrutador, que por favor nos dé su opinión acerca de este tema.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I would like to confirm that there was a discussion along the lines that has been indicated by Canada.

But I think it is also important to give the background which led to this conversation. This election has generated a lot of interest and excitement. Indeed, in the run up to it, there were a lot of concerns and claims, some openly expressed, some not so openly. This led to the revision of the Rules that we saw at the last minute to increase the protection of the secrecy of the ballot.

This is why, on the day of voting itself, you saw the tellers inspecting the booths. We were mindful that there were concerns that had been raised and we knew that on behalf of the Chairperson and the Conference itself, we had to make sure that the secrecy of the ballot was protected and guaranteed.

Now, when the delegate in question showed his ballot paper to the Conference, we acted very quickly. We prevented him from depositing that paper until we consulted among ourselves as tellers and the Elections Officer. We agreed that there were no measures that we could take against this delegate. The only possible action would have been to ask him to recast his vote which could have created a dynamic of its own.

Honestly, we had not anticipated this kind of conduct from a very senior delegate. We were surprised by it. Having moved beyond that, we then went to the counting room, we counted the ballots, certified our results and then the scrutineer appointed by the French candidate raised this issue.

We asked him if, in his opinion, the conduct of this voter or delegate had affected the outcome of the result. His answer was that, no, it had not, but he still wanted it to be reflected. And we said we could do that. I met with my very good friend, the Ambassador of France, yesterday to discuss this issue.

I explained to her why we had not brought up this matter before, on Sunday, when the vote took place. I said to her that the mandate of the tellers was very clear. It was to conduct the election, count the ballots and certify the results. Which we did. Point number one.

Point number two was that in terms of the Rules, there is no provision for the tellers to report to the Conference. That duty resides in the Chair of the Conference.

The third point is that the tellers do not write a report. We do not have a report as tellers, which would be facilitated as to report to Council even if there was a provision for that. Rather, what there is, is a

results sheet, which is kept by the Elections Officer. We announce the results to him and he enters these results on the sheet as follows.

Number of ballots:

192

Number of valid ballots:

191

Number of spoiled ballots:

0

Number of ballots that are abstentions:

1

Number of votes for China:

108

For France:

71

For Georgia:

12

These are the results that we gave him and he entered it on the result sheets, He gave the sheets to us, we signed them, and this was certified. They were put in an envelope, we escorted him here, he gave them to the Chairperson and they were announced. In addition, there was no scope whatsoever for us to report, and the Chair was also not available to see what had happened and could not report to the Conference.

Now the discussion yesterday also looked at the technicalities in view of the request by France to have this matter raised and endorsed in the verbatim. The first thing was to say, what is the complaint? The complaint was that the delegate violated the secrecy of the ballot.

This is a strong point, but I also explained that there is another side. The other side is to look at the reason why we have these laws. Who is the target, or the object, or the subject of these laws that are intended to protect the secrecy of the ballot?

Normally it is the voter himself. We ordinarily issue these laws to protect the voter against undue influence, against intimidation, against the fear of reprisals, so that the voter can vote freely and choose a person of his or her own choice.

Now, this protection was availed to all the voters. However, for reasons best known to himself, the delegate of this country decided not to enjoy the protection that was there. Maybe he felt that he did not need protection. Maybe he felt that he was not threatened by anybody. Maybe he felt he was okay, and this is why he acted as he did.

I also asked, on another point, who will be the complainant in this matter. As we say in law, *Locus Standi*, who is the complainant in this issue, and, to whom is the complaint being raised? Against the tellers, against the Chairperson of the Conference, against the Conference, or against the delegate? These issues remained unclear.

Therefore, at this point in time, I do not know who the complainant is and against whom this complaint is being raised. These are the issues that we have had to grapple with, however I can confirm that we had this conversation with the scrutineer appointed by the French candidate, to say, the conduct of this delegate did not affect the result of the results, and that we were prepared to raise it, however, there was no mechanism for us to raise it. Just to give you the background, Mr Chairperson.

PRESIDENTE

Hemos escuchado la información de nuestros dos escrutadores. ¿Alguien más quiere hacer uso de la palabra o este punto está suficientemente claro?

Canadá había hecho una solicitud de agregar un punto al informe, entiendo que no hay objeciones, asumiríamos eso y lo incluiríamos. Han aprobado ustedes el informe del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, lo que pone fin a nuestra labor sustantiva.

Lo que se ha presentado ante el Pleno es el resultado de la ardua labor de la Comisión I, la Comisión II y las sesiones Plenarias de este período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Por consiguiente, deseo dar las gracias a la Señora Sarch, Presidenta de la Comisión I y a toda la Mesa de la Comisión por la labor realizada. También quiero dar las gracias a la Señora Alestad de Kuwait que presidió el Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I, así como a todos los demás miembros de ese Comité.

Asimismo, deseo dar las gracias al Señor Rajender por su labor como Presidente de la Comisión II. También, quiero expresar mi agradecimiento al Señor Duffy de Estados Unidos de América, Presidente del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión II. Así como a todos los demás miembros de ese Comité.

Quisiera proponer un aplauso para sus valiosa contribución al éxito de este período de sesiones.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Deseo agradecer a todas las delegaciones presentes en la sala, su espíritu de cooperación que ha estado presente en todo momento durante los últimos siete días, así como la manera transparente y armoniosa en que han realizado los trabajos de la Conferencia. Espero que estén de acuerdo conmigo de que este período de sesiones ha resultado fructífero y que puedan sentirse orgullosos de los resultados tangibles que hemos logrado colectivamente gracias a su enfoque de trabajo en equipo, su claro sentido de cooperación, pragmatismo, paciencia y respeto mutuo.

Su actitud abierta y constructiva respecto de varios temas del programa facilitó mi trabajo. Se los agradezco y también les agradezco el apoyo que me han brindado. Como saben, el consenso es la marca distintiva de la cooperación y la solidaridad internacional.

En este período de sesiones se ha elegido al Señor Khalid Mehboob para desempeñar un mandato como nuestro Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Deseamos al Señor Mehboob éxito en su tarea.

Deseo manifestar un agradecimiento especial a los tres vicepresidentes de la Conferencia así como a los miembros del Comité General por su diligencia al examinar cuestiones sensibles, que permitió un funcionamiento sin dificultades de la Conferencia. También querría expresar mi agradecimiento a la Presidenta y a los miembros del Comité de Credenciales por sus valiosas contribuciones.

Deseo agradecer al Director General, a los directivos superiores de la FAO y al restante personal de la Secretaría el trabajo de preparación que han aportado para garantizar un buen funcionamiento del período de sesiones. También agradecemos la labor de los intérpretes, traductores, impresores, redactores de informe, el equipo de las actas literales, el personal de la FAO que ha trabajado entre bastidores, los mensajeros de sala y el personal de seguridad. A todos les agradecemos su apoyo.

Antes de clausurar esta última reunión del 41.º período de sesiones de la FAO, quisiera ahora darle la palabra al Director General para que nos dirija unas palabras de clausura.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Let me start by thanking all of you very much for taking part in this 41st Session of the FAO Conference. Attendance has been at record levels. During the week, 192 out of our 194 FAO Member Countries have been represented. This is a record number of Member participants in the FAO Conference.

We have also welcomed high level representatives from many international organizations and regional bodies. I have been particularly happy to see the presence of many people from civil society partners, NGOs and the private sector. I would like to think that this high attendance is indicative of the value that you place in FAO. It also reflects the growing realization of the important role that food and agriculture must play in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Many of the major issues related to healthy food systems, sustainable agricultural development and responsible environmental stewardship can only be addressed through joint work between countries and relevant partners. Solutions to most of these interconnected challenges also require an institutional capacity to orchestrate inter-sectoral responses drawing on a diverse range of skills.

FAO has the comparative advantage of being a neutral forum convening its Members and engaging its partners in addressing issues with transboundary dimensions as well as furnishing the necessary expertise. In a world in which tensions between nations and ideologies undermine progress towards a better future, you have set aside your differences and over the past ten days you have helped to make FAO more effective in responding to the many demands of our future work.

You have elected Dr Qu Dongyu as my successor as Director-General of FAO and you have approved our Programme of Work and Budget for the 2021 biennium. Dr Qu, I congratulate you once more on your appointment and let me also express a very warm welcome to you and your team.

I must tell you that Dr Qu has accepted our invitation to join FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, and the WHO in the launching of our SOFI 2019 during the high level political forum in the middle of July in New York. He will also join us, the Heads of the Rome-based Agencies in the meeting with the Secretary-General to present the proposal for a Food Summit for 2021.

I also welcome the attention given by Members to a strengthening results-based management in our PWB as well as aligning our programmes even further to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In my opening remarks at the beginning of the Conference I observed that our Members are constantly asking us to broaden the scope of our activities but have never matched their demands with increased contributions to the PWB. I do not dwell further on this matter but simply share the idea with you that it is perhaps part of a much bigger resource allocation problem that has to be addressed if we really want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am increasingly convinced, for example, that conventional policies aimed at keeping food prices low for consumers are contributing to perpetuate rural poverty and drive internal and external migration, and it is not helping to bring hunger numbers down. It also contributes to unhealthy eating and leads to gross under-investment in sustainable natural resources management. In fact, we need to address the dilemma between cheap ultra-processed food and the more expensive healthy and fresh food, particularly vegetables and fruits.

Governments have to find ways to increase and encourage the consumption of local fresh food, especially to tackle the growing levels of obesity. This could include, for example, taxes on unhealthy food products and more complete and understandable labelling for the consumers. I invite you to consider these issues in your food policy formulations in your own countries.

In my first address to Members back in 2012, I said that I would not be able to do anything unless we did it together. And working together we have transformed and strengthened this Organization in the last few years. I wanted to thank all Members for your support and guidance as well as for your criticisms over the last seven and a half years.

I also wish to express my gratitude to FAO staff for the strength of their commitment to the work of our Organization. I am aware that the prolonged period of reform that started before I took office caused some difficulties for some staff and their families. An example of this was the difficult decision to temporarily close the Commissary that was no longer in line with the purpose for which it was created.

Today, with pleasure, I would like to announce the re-opening of the Commissary starting in January 2020 with a new operating model that will guarantee the respect of the agreement between FAO and

the Italian authorities. We have finished all the negotiations and have already launched the tender to select a company that will be operating it.

Before concluding, allow me to touch a very personal note. I wish to pay my tribute to former President Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva. He showed the world by example that with commitment, leadership and a clear strategy, nations can quickly reduce the incidence of hunger and that doing so can also accelerate economic growth and reduce inequality.

Many countries are following the example of the Zero Hunger Programme as we can see in these five side events presented during this Conference. I hope that President Lula will soon be in conditions to help us again to campaign for Zero Hunger. I thank you all for the support and for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Distinguidos delegados, damas y caballeros, vamos a seguir con la ceremonia de juramento del cargo de Director General electo. Doy la palabra a continuación al Doctor Qu Dongyu.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT

Dear colleagues and brothers, Mr Graziano and the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Now I am going to deliver the oath in Chinese.

Continues in Chinese

I, Qu Dongyu, do solemnly swear, as a Citizen of the People's Republic of China, to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization. Qu Dongyu, 28 June 2019 in Rome.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

De esta forma concluye el juramento del cargo. En nombre de la Conferencia, deseo el mayor éxito al Doctor Qu Dongyu que asumirá laboriosa tarea como Director General de esta Organización única del Sistema de Naciones Unidas a partir del 1 de agosto de 2019.

En nombre de mi país, Uruguay, y en el mío propio, en el de los compañeros de la delegación que me acompañan aquí, les quiero manifestar el orgullo y el honor que ha representado presidir este Plenario. Lo hemos hecho lo mejor que pudimos. Agradezco a todos ustedes el esfuerzo y la comprensión y espero que el resultado del mismo sea el esperado para cada una de las delegaciones que estuvieron aquí.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Quisiera recordar que el 162.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO comenzará el lunes 1 de julio de 2019 en la Sala Roja a las 9.30 horas bajo la presidencia del Presidente Independiente del Consejo de FAO, el Señor Khalid Mehboob. Le deseo éxito en el desempeño de sus funciones.

Declaro clausurado el 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. A quienes viajaron largas distancias para llegar a esta bella ciudad de Roma, les deseo un regreso seguro y agradable a casa.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12:12 hours
La séance est levée à 12 h 12
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.12

ANNEX I Address of His Holiness Pope Francis
ANNEXE I Discours de Sa Sainteté le pape François
ANEXO I Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco
(C 2019/INF/12)

Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco a los participantes del 41.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, Sala Regia, Vaticano, la Ciudad del Vaticano, 27 junio 2019

Saludo al Presidente, el Señor Enzo Benech, a los honorables delegados de las diversas naciones y entidades, y a todos los presentes en esta cuadragésima primera sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO. De manera particular, quisiera dirigir mi saludo y mi reconocimiento al Director General, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, que dentro de pocas semanas terminará su servicio al frente de esta Organización. Gracias de corazón por su trabajo. Expreso mi felicitación por la elección del Director General de la FAO, Su Excelencia el Dr Qu Dongyu. Espero que con la ayuda de todos podamos seguir trabajando conjuntamente para profundizar e incrementar, con responsabilidad y determinación, los esfuerzos dirigidos a alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 1 y 2 (ODS) de la Agenda 2030 y así erradicar con mayor rapidez y con fuerza los complejos, graves e inaceptables flagelos del hambre y de la inseguridad alimentaria.

El objetivo Hambre Cero en el mundo es todavía un gran desafío, aun cuando se debe reconocer que en los últimos decenios se ha visto un gran avance. Para combatir la falta de alimento y de acceso al agua potable, es necesario actuar sobre las causas que las provocan. En el origen de este drama se halla sobre todo la falta de compasión, el desinterés de muchos y una escasa voluntad social y política a la hora de responder a las obligaciones internacionales.

La falta de alimento y de agua no es un asunto interno y exclusivo de los países más pobres y frágiles, sino que concierne a cada uno de nosotros, porque todos con nuestra actitud participamos de una u otra forma favoreciendo o frenando el sufrimiento de muchos hermanos nuestros (cf. Discurso a los miembros de la Federación Europea de Bancos de Alimentos, 18 mayo 2019). Todos estamos llamados a escuchar el grito desesperado de nuestros hermanos y a poner los medios para que puedan vivir, viendo respetados sus derechos más básicos.

Uno de los medios que está a nuestro alcance es la reducción del derroche de alimentos y de agua; para ello la educación y la sensibilización social es una inversión tanto a corto como a largo plazo; pues las nuevas generaciones pasarán este testigo a las futuras, sabiendo que este drama social no puede ser tolerado por más tiempo (cf. Carta enc. *Laudato si'*, 50).

Es evidente la conexión entre fragilidad ambiental, la inseguridad alimentaria y los movimientos migratorios. El aumento del número de refugiados en el mundo durante los últimos años —es impresionante la última estadística de las Naciones Unidas— nos ha demostrado que el problema de un país es el problema de toda la familia humana. Para ello se necesita promover un desarrollo agrícola en las regiones más vulnerables, fortaleciendo la resiliencia y la sostenibilidad del territorio. Y esto solo se logrará, por una parte, invirtiendo y desarrollando tecnologías, y por otra, ideando políticas innovadoras y solidarias para el desarrollo.

La FAO, como también otras organizaciones internacionales, son actores idóneos para coordinar medidas perentorias e incisivas que aseguren a todos, particularmente a los más pobres, el acceso a los bienes básicos. Estas entidades multilaterales deben estar acompañadas por el compromiso de los gobiernos, las empresas, el mundo académico, las instituciones de la sociedad civil y las personas individuales. El esfuerzo conjunto de todos logrará hacer realidad las metas y compromisos asumidos a través de programas y políticas que ayuden a la población local a adquirir responsabilidades con su propio país, con sus comunidades y, por último, con sus propias vidas.

Quiero concluir reafirmando el compromiso de la Santa Sede a cooperar con la FAO, apoyando el esfuerzo internacional hacia la eliminación del hambre en el mundo y garantizando un futuro mejor

para nuestro planeta y para la humanidad entera. Que Dios los bendiga en sus trabajos, en sus desvelos en favor de un auténtico progreso de nuestra gran familia humana. Muchas gracias.

Francisco Papa

ANNEX II Address by His Holiness Pope (translated into English)
ANNEXE II Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape François (traduit en anglais)
ANEXO II Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco (traducido al inglés)
(C 2019/INF/12)

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference, Sala Regia, Vatican, Vatican City, 27 June 2019 (translated into English)

I greet the Chairperson, Mr Enzo Benech, the distinguished delegates of the different nations and agencies, and all those taking part in this 41st Session of the FAO Conference.

In particular, I wish to convey my greetings and appreciation to the Director-General, Professor José Graziano da Silva, who, in a few weeks, will conclude his service to this Organization. My heartfelt thanks for your work. And I congratulate His Excellency Dr Qu Dongyu on his election as FAO Director-General. I am confident that, with the help and cooperation of all, we will continue to cooperate in expanding and increasing, with responsibility and commitment, the effort to attain Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 of the 2030 Agenda, and thus eliminate the complex, grave and unacceptable scourges of hunger and food insecurity with greater speed and efficacy.

The goal of Zero Hunger worldwide remains a great challenge, even if it must be acknowledged that great progress has been made in recent decades. In order to combat lack of food and access to drinkable water, there is a need to intervene on their underlying causes. The origin of this tragedy lies above all in a failure of compassion, the lack of interest on the part of many and a scant social and political will to honour international obligations.

Lack of food and water is not an internal and exclusive affair of the most poor and vulnerable countries, but one that concerns each of us. The approach we take makes us responsible, in one way or another, for increasing or alleviating the suffering of many of our brothers and sisters (cf. Address to the Members of the European Federation of Food Banks, 18 May 2019). We are all called to hear their desperate cry and to find ways of enabling them to remain alive and see their most basic rights respected.

One of these means, which is within our reach, is a reduction in the waste of food and of water. For this to happen, increased awareness of the problem and a greater sense of social responsibility will prove an investment, both short and long term. The younger generation will then pass on this witness to those yet to come, in the realization that this social tragedy can no longer be tolerated (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 50).

There is an evident link between environmental instability, food insecurity and migratory movements. The increased numbers of refugees throughout the world in recent years – the most recent UN statistics are striking – have shown us that one country's problem is a problem of the entire human family. For this reason, agricultural development needs to be promoted in the most vulnerable regions, strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the land. This can only be accomplished, on the one hand, by investing in the development of technology and, on the other, by coming up with innovative and solidary policies for development.

FAO and other international organizations are appropriate actors to coordinate necessary and decisive measures aimed at ensuring that all, particularly the poorest, have access to basic goods. These multilateral bodies need to be supported by the commitment of governments, businesses, academia, institutions of civil society and private individuals. Joint efforts by all will realize the goals and commitments already undertaken, through programmes and policies capable of helping local populations to grow in a sense of responsibility for their countries, communities and, ultimately, their own lives.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming the commitment of the Holy See to cooperate with FAO and to support the global effort to eliminate hunger in the world and to ensure a better future for our planet

and for mankind as a whole. May God bless you in your work and your devotion to the authentic progress of our great human family. Thank you very much.

Francis PP.